

Crops cultivated with sewage water over 20 acres land destroyed

By Our Staff Correspondent

PESHAWAR: District government Peshawar Monday destroyed crops cultivated over 20 acres of land by using sewage water for irrigation purpose in the provincial metropolis.

According to a press statement issued here, the crackdown was launched in pursuance of directives of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government issued by Chief Minister Mahmood Khan. All assistant commissioners supervised the crackdown launched in different areas of the city and in its suburban areas. Crops destroyed in areas included Charsadda Road, Interior city, Zaryab Colony and some suburban localities.

DC issues advisory to meet challenge of coronavirus

By Our Staff Correspondent

JHANG: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Tahir Wattoo has issued advisory for officers and employees of different departments to cope with the impending threat of corona virus pandemic.

As per advisory, all officials have been directed to use tissue papers in cold or cough and discard the tissue paper after using it. He directed to wear gloves during using a combined computer, key board, fax, telephone. He further directed to use masks while travelling in a public transport. Biometric attendance should not be continued. He further directed to wash hands with soap after every 3 to 4 hours.

Commissioner for ensuring implementation of govt instructions

By Our Staff Correspondent

SARGODHA: Commissioner Sargodha Division Dr. Farah Masood has directed the DC's of four district of division to be ensured the implementation on government instruction regarding corona virus.

While presiding a meeting of DC's of all four districts regarding corona virus she said, a strict action must be taken against people violating the government instruction under section 144. She directed to set up quarantine and Isolation wards in the entire four districts and also directed the health department Sargodha to immediately establish quarantine containing 50 beds in Sargodha. Commissioner has banned all type of vacation of CEO's, Doctors, paramedical staff and other staff. She emphasized the need to utilize disaster management's funds to ensure availability of essential equipment including ventilators and mask in all four districts of division.

2.830Kgs Hashish seized, 4 arrested

Police have arrested four accused and recovered narcotics and weapons from them. Police spokesman Monday said that during continued drive against drug pushers and criminals team of Jhal Chakriya police station have conducted raids at various place and arrested 4 accused recovering 2.830 kilograms Hashish and 1 Pistols 30 bore from them.

KP Govt allows exemption on procurement

By Our Staff Correspondent

PESHAWAR: The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Monday accorded exemption to procuring WHO approved injection Meglumine Antimonite for Leishmaniasis cases through WHO from its principal firm. A notification issued by Health Department here said that the decision has been taken in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 14(1)(i) of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Procurement Regulatory Authority Act, 2012, adding that the exemption has been given



ISLAMABAD: Policeman personnel monitor of body temperature of an employee of Supreme Court on entry gate outside Supreme Court. —Online

AJK PM orders immediate steps to combat conornavirus threat

The Business Report

MIRPUR (AJK): Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan on Monday directed authorities to take several immediate stringent measures to effectively deal with the increasing threat of coronavirus pandemic in the state.

He directed the concerned quarters to make quarantine arrangements at the newly constructed PM House in the State's metropolis for the suspected patients of the deadly virus.

The newly constructed PM house was built at a cost of Rs 780 million as the previous one was devastated in the earthquake 2005. The project of the construction of Prime Minister House was also among the other reconstruction projects in quake hit areas of the state.

Raja Farooq Haider after being elected as prime minister, refused to be shifted into the new PM house saying that such palace did not suits to the prime minister of the base camp of the Kashmir liberation movement. Later, the prime minister reserved the same building for the Cancer Hospital in the capital city, which after technical inspection declared unsuitable for it. It is pertinent to mention here that Raja Farooq Haider Khan who recently gone through his eye-surgery was continu-

ously attending the meetings related to the pandemic and monitoring the reports in that regard. Meanwhile, the government has step up its efforts for screening the travelers to the AJK at all entry points. The prime minister directed concerned quarters to maintain ban on public gatherings, wedding ceremonies and other festivals and fairs for three weeks time period. All private and public-sector educational institutions and seminars across AJK have been closed for three weeks.

Accused remand extended till April 10

An Accountability Court (AC) here on Monday extended the judicial remand of accused Khurshid Anwar Jamali till April 10, in mega money laundering and fake accounts reference.

Accountability Court (AC) conducted hearing against the accused in fake accounts reference lodged by National Accountability Bureau (NAB). The accused was produced before the trial court. At the outset of hearing, the NAB prosecutor apprised the judge regarding the progress into the investigation from Jamali. After this, the court extended the remand of accused till next hearing.

IBA for following govt precautionary measures

The Islamabad Bar Association (IBA) on Monday continued its strike on the

second consecutive day in line with precautionary measures taken by the government due to coronavirus.

IBA President Zafar Khokhar said the association had decided to follow the government directions seriously to avoid crowd in 'kachehri' premises.

He said the bar would take all possible precautionary measures to protect the lives of its members. He appealed the members of IBA to avoid public gatherings and crowd in line with precautionary measures. He said no lawyer would appear before courts on this day in this regard.

RCB hygiene check: 20 notices issued to food outlets

The Food Branch of Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) on Monday issued 20 notices to food outlets for unhygienic and poor cleanliness conditions. According to RCB spokesman, a total of 32 food samples were collected which were sent to lab for quality test while fines amounting to Rs 100,000 were also imposed on the rules violators.

The cases of substandard food items were also sent to the court of the cantonment magistrate which imposed fines on the rules violators.

Food Inspectors on the directive of the Cantonment Executive Officer conducted surprise visits of different markets including Saddar, Allahabad,

Peshawar Road and other areas and inspected cleanliness condition with quality of food items at 57 food outlets.

In order to ensure supply of quality food items to the residents, he said, the teams were conducting raids at food outlets in different areas on daily basis.

5-day anti-polio drive starts in high risk areas

A five-day anti-polio campaign Monday kicked off in high risk of the Rawalpindi Municipal and Rawalpindi and Chaklala Cantonment Board areas to cover more than 454,000 children below five years of age.

In-charge anti-polio drive Chaudary Muhammad Hussain informed that the immunization campaign was in full swing. Under the drive, polio teams were being visiting 89 union councils of the district including 46 union councils of the city, 28 union councils of Rawalpindi and Chaklala Cantonment Boards and 15 union councils of rural areas of Tehsil Rawalpindi which had been declared high-risk areas.

He said the purpose for launching the special drive was the presence of Mono type 2 polio virus in union council Girja, tehsil Rawalpindi. The in-charge advised parents to come forward and play their role in ensuring vaccination of their children to eliminate the disease from society.

Seven Corona quarantine centres introduced

By Our Staff Correspondent

KHANEWAL: District administration established seven corona quarantine in wake of possible threat of corona virus, here on Monday.

Similarly, 13 isolation ward are also introduced as precautionary measures. The persons, who recently came from other countries, would be kept in quarantine centres.

According to official sources, no cases of corona virus was observed across the district. According to Deputy Commissioner Agha Zaheer Abbas Sherazi, section 144 has been imposed across the district and gathering of four or more than four persons was banned. Earlier, a delegation of Chemists met the Deputy Commissioner. They assured that there would be not increase in prices of Hand Sanitizers or face masks.

National Polio drive starts in five districts

By Our Staff Correspondent

LARKANA: National Polio Campaign for polio eradication, being observed to make Pakistan a polio free country, was started from Monday throughout Larkana, Kambar - Shahdadkot, Shikarpur, Jacobabad and Kandhot-Kashmore districts of Larkana division upto March 22.

The teams visiting door-to-door, remote and far-flung areas of the Five Districts to administer Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) to the 1178600 children up to age of five years.

The District Health Departments Larkana, Kamber-Shahdadkot, Shikarpur, Jacobabad and Kandhot-Kashmore districts have deputed more than 3160 mobile and fixed teams who will visit every house in the five districts of the Larkana region and administered Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) to the children upto five years age. Mobile Anti-polio teams visited Schools, bus stands and railway stations and also went door-to-door to give anti-polio drops to the children, in remote/far-flung areas, rural and urban areas of five districts to accomplish the task.

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Transport Dept launches virus awareness

By Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Transport Owais Shah on Monday said that an awareness campaign has been launched to prevent Coronavirus in all the districts including Karachi, Larkana, Sukkur, Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Khairpur, Nowsherozero, to protect drivers, passengers and conductors from the pandemic.

In a statement, the Minister said that awareness about the methods of hand washing and hygiene was being provided to the masses through pamphlets, besides, the citizens were being informed about the use of sanitizers while free face masks are also being distributed.

Transgenic Technology vital for enhancing cotton production: Dr Zahid

By Our Staff Correspondent

MULTAN: Director Central Cotton Research Institute (CCRI) Zahid Mehmood Chaudhary, said that transgenic technology was vital for promotion of cotton in the country.

Under this technology, new varieties of cotton could have high resistance against climate change and similarly there would be more productivity, he said in a statement issued here.

He said that federal government constituted a special committee to work on promotion of cotton. He said that he was also part of the committee.

Cotton Commissioner Dr Khalid Abdullah is also member of the 13 members committee, he added.

The committee would deliberate different ways and means to enhance cotton production in the country. New genes of cotton would be developed. The new varieties could also deliver amid shortage of water. Similarly, the new varieties under Transgenic Technology would offer more production, he stated.

Punjab seeks proposals on territorial jurisdiction of KSDA

Punjab government has sent a letter to newly notified Koh-e-Suleman Development Authority (KSDA) seeking proposals for declaration of its territorial jurisdiction for development of tribal belt on and along Suleman Mountain Ranges stretching from DG Khan to Rajanpur

districts.

It may be noted that KSDA was notified after Fort Monroe Development Authority (FMDA) was renamed as KSDA through amendment in the Fort Monroe Development Authority (FMDA) Amendment Act, 2019, in Jan 2020.

In response to the directive, the Director General KSDA has sent a letter to heads of all wings of KSDA to submit proposals for inclusion of new areas besides proposals for SNE/Budget 2020-21 for recruitment of more staff.

An official said that KSDA would have jurisdiction over tribal areas of districts Dera Ghazi Khan and Rajanpur and an exercise has been launched

to develop the mountainous areas scenic spots and other important sites to promote tourism to Koh-e-Suleman.

FMDA was set up to develop Fort Monroe, the only hill station in South Punjab, some 85 kilometres away from DG Khan city near Punjab-Balochistan boundary, as a tourism attraction.

It is located 6470 feet above the sea level and attracts tourists in summer season for its peasant weather.

However, later it was renamed as Koh-e-Suleman Development Authority (KSDA) through an Act of Punjab Assembly to benefit all the tribal people living in the mountainous area from Taunsa Sharif in DG Khan to Rajanpur.

PHC verdict suspended to inform PML-N stalwart Amir Muqam ten days before arrest

By Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Monday suspended the Peshawar High Court (PHC) verdict to inform Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Amir Muqam ten days before his arrest.

The court suspended the PHC verdict on the assurance of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) for non-issuance of arrest warrant. A three-member bench of the apex court headed by Justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprised Justice Faisal Arab and Justice Qazi Muhammad Amin Ahmed, heard the case regarding issuance of arrest warrant of Amir Muqam in assets beyond means case.

During the course of proceedings, the NAB prosecutor said the bureau did not intend to arrest Amir Muqam in assets

case. He said the PHC had directed the NAB to inform Amir Muqam ten days before his arrest. He said the PHC decision was against the law.

He said the PHC announced verdict on the basis of the interim order of the SC Supreme Court. Justice Qazi Muhammad Amin asked why Amir Muqam was fearing if NAB was not interested to arrest him. He asked Amir Muqam to think positively. The NAB prosecutor said Amir Muqam was on bail in other case while the bureau had not issued arrest warrant in assets beyond means case. Later, hearing of the case was adjourned till date in office.

ATC adjourns judge video leak scandal hearing till 24th

An Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Monday adjourned the hearing of a case pertaining to the controversial video leak of

accountability court judge Arshad Malik till March 24. The hearing was resumed by the ATC judge Raja Jawad Abbas Hassan. The court was informed that Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Tayyab Shah was unable to attend the proceeding due to illness and urged to adjourn the hearing. To this, the court accepted and adjourned the hearing till March 24. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) had already produced the complete challan of the case before the court in which Mian Tariq Mehmood, Hafiz Raza, Nadir Khan and Hamza Butt were nominated accused. It is worth mentioning that three accused Nasir Janjua, Ghulam Jillani and Khurram Yusaf had already been acquitted by the court in the matter. The FIA had also filed a fresh plea in ATC seeking permission from the court to arrest all such accused again for investigation.



ISLAMABAD: Students walk out of school due to school close, as Punjab government has issued orders to keep close all educational institutions, Parks, Cinema Houses and other public gathering places till next order. —Online