

'Ehsas Kafalat Programme above all political affiliations'

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: PTI MNA Dr Semin Bukhari has said that Ehsas Kafalat Programme is above all political affiliations. Prime Minister Imran Khan is himself looking after all arrangements. Awarding 12,000 each to more than 1 crore families is big step towards making Pakistan welfare state. Role of police, Army, administration and all institutions in war on corona in appreciable. Federal and Provincial governments are taking all steps to provide relief to people. Fighting against corona along with poverty and unemployment is biggest challenge for us. 22 crore people are united against corona. Dr Semin Bukhari said, in her statement, issued on Sunday that Federal and Provincial governments are taking all steps to provide relief to people. Inclusion of millions of youth in tiger force is testament that our youth cares for humanity. It is also responsibility of people to adopt precautions. Whole word is praising actions of Prime Minister Imran Khan. All promises made with people will be fulfilled

PU announces all Pakistan online Qirat, Naat competitions

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab University has announced All Pakistan Online Qirat and Naat competition in which people from every nook and corner of the country can participate. On the directions of PU Vice-Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmad, heads of various departments are launching online competitions of co-curricular and sports activities and offering free online courses in order to provide a platform to all Pakistanis to engage themselves in positive activities at home under prevailing situation. PU Student Affairs Director Prof Dr Muhammad Shafiq has issued online schedule for participation in the competitions. There are three age-wise categories for participants i.e. 8 to 15, 16 to 30 and above 30 years. The first prize will be Rs 30 thousand, second prize would be Rs 20 thousand and third prize will be Rs 15 thousand. The participants from all over Pakistan can register themselves on a link available on Punjab University's official website i.e. www.pu.edu.pk till May 1, 2020.



LAHORE: A worker prepares traditional curtains at his workplace. —APP

Effective protective measures being taken against coronavirus: Sarwar

Says thousands of people will be infected by coronavirus in absence of precautionary and safety measures at mosques

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar has said that thousands of people will be infected by coronavirus in the absence of precautionary and safety measures at mosques. And God forbid, if it happens so, the history will not pardon anyone. Ulama and respective mosque administration have the responsibility to cooperate with police and all other government departments in implementing protective measures including social distancing. Ulama and the whole nation has to understand that corona pandemic is not vanishing and it will rather heighten in days to come for which we have to get prepare right now. He was speaking to Badshahi Mosque Khateeb Maulana

Abdul Khabeer Azad, Pir Nazim Hussain Shah and others in a meeting at Governor House Lahore on Sunday. Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said that federal and provincial governments are taking effective protective measures against corona pandemic and also taking difficult decision, because it is our responsibility to save 220 million Pakistanis from corona. With all sincerity and having complete consensus with Ulama, we have formulated policy regarding Ramadan-ul-Mobarak, and God forbid, mosque administration and people do not follow this policy, it will have dire consequences as thousands of people may affect from this pandemic that is why we do not have to show laxity in this regard even for a moment. I had opposed Iran and Afghanistan war

because anybody, who involved in wrong decision, is equally responsible for loss of human lives. Now Ulama should ensure 100 per cent implementation on government policy that has been evolved with their consensus and save the people from this dreadful pandemic. The entire nation must take corona-led situation seriously so as to protect themselves and others from coronavirus. Governor Punjab said that government is standing by the poor families who lost their livelihood due corona crisis. Federal Government is distributing Rs 144 billion among 12.5 million deserving families and the affected people are being supported/helped out without having political affiliation into consideration. He said we are ensuring merit and transparency in the relief and aid process through digital system.

Virus: Police continue to ensure safety measures

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: In compliance with the directions of Punjab Government to extend the partial lockdown in the city, Lahore Police continued to ensure safety measures including strict implementation on Section-144 to contain the unnecessary movement of the public in the city during the partial lockdown imposed by Punjab Government in wake of impending Coronavirus. Lahore Police Operations Wing has set up special pickets in different areas of the city to contain people from unnecessary movement. DIG Operations Rai Babar Saeed informed that as many as 2052 FIRs have been registered against persons involved in violations of sections 144. More than one lakh 67 thousands 480 citizens have been checked at these pickets till now since the lock down whereas more than 01 lakh 56 thousands 940 persons have been asked to contain their unnecessary movement in the city and go back to their homes. More than 4220 citizens involved in were release afterwards taking warranty bonds as not to move again in city unnecessarily. As many as 146270 vehicles including 82652 motorcycles, 29505 cars, 22231 rickshaws, 4084 taxis and 7798 bigger vehicles were stopped on pickets and vehicles owners were issued warnings for unnecessary movement in the city. DIG Operations Lahore Rai Babar Saeed said that Lahore Police has provided foolproof security to the persons quarantined at different places and special teams comprising Police officers and Jawans have been constituted, well equipped with safety measures and kits including masks, gloves, sanitizers for this purpose. DIG Operations has made appeal with the citizens to cooperate with police and other Law Enforcement Agencies, refrain from any unnecessary movement in the city.



FAPUASA, PUASA condemn HEC for anti-research policies

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Federation of All Pakistan Universities Academic Staff Association and Punjab University Academic Staff Association have condemned Higher Education Commission of Pakistan Chairman Dr Tariq Banuri and his team for launching policies that are discouraging research culture in Pakistani universities. In this regard, an online meeting of representatives of both associations was held on Sunday. FAPUASA Punjab President Prof Dr Mumtaz Anwar Chaudhry, PUASA Secretary Javed Sami and other office-bearers participated in the meeting. Addressing the meeting, Prof Dr Mumtaz Anwar Chaudhry, Javed Sami and others termed the HEC's new policy of research journals, to be implemented from June 2020, needless and disheartening for academics and researchers as the policy seriously undermined the education and research endeavors in the country. They said that the incumbent chairman of HEC and his team were deliberately trying to shut down local research journals and, under a specific agenda, and are planning to further cease the already dilapidated research work in the country, which will not be allowed by the FA-

PUASA Punjab and PUASA. They said that as a result of this new anti-research policy, Pakistani teachers and research scholars would be forced to publish only in international research journals, instead of local research journals, for which they will not only be required to pay huge amounts in foreign currency but also have to wait several years for a publication. The statement said that this anti-research and anti-national policy would result in the closure of local research journals that have been publishing for years and worked extremely hard to achieve different categories recognized by HEC; however, from June 2020 onwards only research articles published in international journals, indexed in Scopus and JCR, will be recognized for promotion and others purposes. They said that throughout the world, especially in our neighboring countries, opportunities are created for their universities and research scholars by standardizing domestic research and local journals, leading to significant achievements in research and teaching at the national level. They demanded that this anti-education notification should be instantly withdrawn, and HEC should immediately notify minutes of meetings of subcommittees of local journals held in January- February 2020.



LAHORE: A group of people play cards to pass their time while sitting along the rail track. —APP

Proper food supply ends panic buying, grocery shortage

The Business Report

LAHORE: No dearth of edibles and other grocery items anywhere in Punjab while panic-buying by people has over after they realized that government is ensuring proper food supply even during the lockdown for maintaining social distancing, the only way to control coronavirus pandemic. Wheat flour, sugar, ghee, cooking oil, pulses and other edibles are now available in abundance, and now-a-days pulses prices are much lower when compared with price list five months back. Utility Store Corporation (USC) also increased range of grocery and other daily use items in its retail stores to the satisfaction of customers' needs. Government is providing wheat to flour millers as per their demands. Lahore Super Markets Association (LSMA) Secretary General Imran Saleemi, Utility Stores Corporation (USC) Zonal Manager Lahore Faizan Hameed and former President of Pakistan Flour Mills Association (PFMA) Khaleeq Arshad confirmed these facts on Sunday. LSMA Secretary General said though prices of grocery items are fluctuating on daily basis, the prices of pulses are well below the price list five months ago. To a question, he said, there was uncertainty when first 10-day lockdown started on March 25 and "We have experienced panic buying, and customers' rush at supermarkets increased manifolds, however the situation got normal gradually." The supermarkets again flood with customers following another 10-day extension in lockdown till April 14 because people were presuming complete lockdown or curfew like situation next. But with current extension

in lockdown (April 15 to 25), the people finally realized that government is ensuring uninterrupted food supply even during lockdown aimed at maintaining social distancing to control pandemic coronavirus virus, and now super markets' situation is quite normal, while every item is available in abundance, he maintained. To another question, Imran Saleemi said, "Around 15 days ago, we were not taking orders of ration packages (for the poor families) by philanthropists and welfare organizations as at that time, catering to even regular customers was an uphill task for us due to over-crowding at stores. Secondly, we were running short of labourers/workers as everyone of them was leaving us as their families were calling them back home. However, today no dearth of grocery and other items and each and everything is normal, and we are now also receiving orders of ration packs for the families under financial crunch in the corona-led situation. I am completing 6600 rations packs' order by Sarwar Foundation, and these packs also include 20 to 25 thousand kilogram of pulses." LSMA Secretary General Imran Saleemi however called for rescheduling timing of super markets from 10am to 10pm instead of 9am to 5pm during lockdown period, citing that grocery ranging over 100,000 items needs more time for shopping as each customer carries a lengthy list of items to shop for. "The people are usually get up late in the morning and by the time they come out, its 2pm, and it becomes difficult for storekeepers to deal with such a large number of customers within last three hours. It also creates a situation for the store managers to get ensured anti-corona SOPs by the customers,"

he argued. Saleemi claimed that supermarkets are strictly adhering to SOPs by the government for protecting the customers and stores' staff from coronavirus. USC Zonal Manager Lahore Faizan Hameed said that they have no issue with 9am to 5pm timing during lockdown, because people also adjust their time accordingly. Since the government expanded the scope of utility stores, he said, Utility Store Corporation (USC) has also increased range of grocery and other daily use items in its retail stores to the satisfaction of customers' needs and "today, our customer find almost everything of his/her grocery list at our stores and at subsidized rate." To a question, he said, utility stores were selling sugar at Rs 68 per/kg and similarly 20kg wheat flour bag is available at Rs 800. "Of course, we are strictly implementing government's advisory/guideline to protect our customers and staff from dreadful virus of corona," he confirmed. Former PFMA President Khaleeq Arshad said that demand and supply ratio of wheat flour in the market was better now, as fresh wheat was also being grinded by the flour millers. Now-a-days, government is procuring the wheat to complete 4.5 million tons target therefore the miller has no access to buy wheat commodity direct from the growers. However Food Department is providing demand-based wheat to flour mills by issuing 72 hour permit to respective miller. To a question, he said that flour mills will be able to purchase the commodity direct from the growers soon after the government completes its wheat procurement target of this year.

Five criminal including two POs held; valuables, weapons recovered

From Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Criminal Investigation Agency of Islamabad Police has arrested five persons of involved in dacoities, house burglaries and recovered gold ornaments, valuables and weapons from their possession a police spokesman said. A special team under supervision of DSP CIA Hakim Khan arrested five accused including two proclaimed offenders. They have been identified Aslam, Ghulam Mustafa, Noman Naseem, Akram and Imatiz Khan. Police team also recovered gold ornaments, wrist watches, mobile phones, valuables and weapons from their possession. During the preliminary investigation, they confessed their involvement in incidents of burglaries in various areas of Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

400 patients recover from COVID-19: DC

From Our Staff Reporter

SUKKUR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Sukkur, Rana Adil Taswar on Sunday said that over four hundred people kept at Yousif Masjid (Tablighi Markaz), converted in quarantine centre in the city had been recovered from the COVID-19. The patients recovered at the centre being sent to their homes, he added. The Deputy Commissioner said that recovered patients being allowed to go home after they tested negative for COVID-19. Earlier on April 10, another 70 individuals kept in the quarantine facility had been declared fit and healthy after spending more than 14 days there. The DC said a total of 40 pilgrims currently in the facility had been tested out of which 30 tested negative for coronavirus. 70 pilgrims who had been declared healthy had departed for their homes, he maintained.