



QUETTA: An old labour waiting for some work to earn money for his family.

Crackdown against profiteering launched

1,600 fined for overcharging in Ramadan

From Our Staff correspondent

KARACHI: The Sindh Bureau of Supply (SBS) and Prices Department fined as many as 1600 shopkeepers for overcharging masses and for not displaying the official price lists across the province in first 6 days of the holy month of Ramadan.

Special Assistant to Sindh Chief Minister on Bureau of Supply and Prices Department Dr Khatu Mal on Thursday said that the officers of the department along with the price magistrates in a crackdown against profiteering, challaned 1600 shopkeepers and imposed fines of over Rs. 3 million, according to a news release.

He said that around 8300 groceries shops, fruit and vegetables sellers and chicken and meat sellers and other edible items were checked.

The Special Assistant to Sindh Chief Minister said that the strict actions will be taken against profiteering, hoarding and sale of substandard

quality items. During last 24 hours in Karachi Division alone, 89 profiteers were challaned and fined with Rs. 408,000/- while 300 profiteers from other districts of the province were fined with over Rs. 200,000/-. Dr Khatu Mal said that complaint cell established under the department remain active from 9 a.m. to Ifaar timings. Citizens can contact the complaint center at 021-99244608 or email at bspadprices@gmail.com.

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Corpse of missing girl found, police nabs suspected killer: A minor girl who went missing on Wednesday was found dead in Quaid Park on Autobahn road in the wee hours of Thursday.

According to the GOR police, the suspected killer, who was already caught by police- himself led the police where he raped and killed 9 year old daughter of Shamshad Odho.

The police shifted the body to Liaquat University Hospital for post-mortem whose report is still awaited. The girl's uncle Irshad Ali Odho on Wednesday registered FIR at GOR police station nominating Siddique Bengali son of Shamsuddin as the suspect.

Odho stated that he saw Bengali taking her niece along with him in the morning. He added that when he stopped and asked his niece where she was going then she told that they were going to buy clothes and shoe.

According to Odho, he then headed to his brother Shamshad's home where they spent over 90 minutes before they were gripped by the worry that the girl had not returned. After searching her at the residence of Siddique in Bengali Colony where the suspect was also not present they searched her in other places in the area before reporting the incidence to the police. After lodging complaint the police began hunt for Siddique, who was detained by Wednesday night.

'Teleschool' channel a revolutionary step towards online education

The Business Report

ISLAMABAD: The government's landmark initiative 'Teleschool' channel is being cheered across the people of all walks of life including educationists, civil society, academicians and students of the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

Talking to mediapersons on Thursday, they termed it a revolutionary step towards online education, which was now the future of world amid the situation created due to novel coronavirus pandemic. Teleschool, a dedicated channel for online education of school and intermediate level classes, was termed as a major facility for the students at their doorsteps, they added. They said the objective of the project was to mitigate loss, faced by students, from kindergarten (KG) class to intermediate, due to closure of schools till May 31, across the country.

"Prime Minister Imran Khan and his enterprising team had come forward with the much needed initiative in this crucial time especially for students," Irshad Begum, a government school teacher said while lauding the project.

"I was really worried how to compensate for the loss, caused to my students once they resumed their studies after a significantly long break with every chance to have forgotten what they were taught," she said mentioning that she was equally concerned about her three primary school going grand children. Shahnaz Riaz, mother of a 16-year-old student of tenth class said previously there was no provision to ensure that disruption, caused at the expense of thousands of school and college going students could be addressed.

"We knew about online classes but had no resources to

arrange the same for our children, however, now with the dedicated channel I am confident that loss would be mitigated," she said. It was equally a major relief for most of the mothers, according to them, could now keep their children engaged in constructive activities and ensure that they may no more remain emotionally disturbed due to a major change in their routine life. Atif Idrees said COVID-19 was a global pandemic that had its impact on each and every sphere of human life and it needed management at micro levels that had been duly recognized by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government. An educationist Ali Ahmad said if the initiative carried on with prudence, it would help to cater millions of out of school children, including those belonging to remote areas. People from different walks of life were unanimous in their opinion that the national broadcast education channel needed to be adequately promoted and projected so as to raise public awareness about it and also to sensitize its relevance for the future of their children and also for those interested in adult education.

RCB conducts anti-corona spray operation: In an effort to disinfect the Cantt areas, Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) once again conducted anti-coronavirus spray operation in the different parts of the city. According to RCB spokesman, the squad of the department sprayed different areas and several public places including Qasim Abad, Westridge, Dariabad, Aziz Abad, Quaid-i-Azam Colony, Mohalla Saffadar Abad, Dhoke Syedan, Farooq Naqar and Dhoke Mustakeem. He said that anti-coronavirus spray operation was conducted following the directions of Cantonment Executive Officer, RCB, Muhammad Umar Farooq Ali Malik and

UNHCR donates medical equipment to Children Hospital in Quetta

QUETTA: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Refugee Agency provided state-of-the-art medical equipment to Children Hospital Quetta as part of its ongoing work to support the Provincial Government and improve public health care services in Balochistan's hospitals. The equipment valued at Rs.7 million includes a fully automated chemistry analyzer, an instrument used for the biochemical testing of total bilirubin, urea, creatinine, liver function, cholesterol, uric acid, triglyceride and calcium in patients.

With this new instrument, the hospital will offer free testing to the most needy Pakistanis and Afghans. Biochemical testing in private laboratories would otherwise cost around Rs.2,000. "This is the fastest testing machine in Balochistan, with the capacity of testing 60 patients per hour. This machine is very productive which eases the ever-increasing pressures on time," said the Medical Superintendent of the Children Hospital, Dr. Sher Ahmed Saktzai.

The Head of UNHCR's Sub-Office in Quetta, Mr. Zephania Amuri, said, "UNHCR not only aims to

strengthen the public health care system but also to support the refugee and Pakistani community at this difficult time." He added that although the coronavirus outbreak has disrupted some activities, UNHCR in Pakistan is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic while also continuing its core programme in support of the Provincial Government Health Department, and the refugee and host communities.

Reference against local government officers filed: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan has filed a reference against the officers of the Balochistan Local Government Department under the Anti Money Laundering Act and NAO here. During the investigation into the case, it was revealed that the Local Government district Shirani's officers including Saifullah Qaisrani, Assistant Director, Khawaja Khan, Assistant Engineer and Ashraf Khan, Senior Clerk by using the banking channel received kickback money from the contractors executing government uplift scheme in district Shirani. The banking transaction was made in the personal salaried account of Senior Clerk Ashraf Khan instead of government account after the completion of the government uplift schemes.

Another Bollywood legend gone: Rishi Kapoor dies at 67



MUMBAI: Rishi Kapoor, one of India's most loved film actors, best known for his romantic roles, has died. He was 67.

Kapoor was admitted to a Mumbai hospital. "He is suffering from cancer and he has some breathing problem, so he has been admitted to the hospital," his brother Randhir told Indian media on Wednesday. Kapoor died on Thurs-

day morning, a day after the death of another Indian star, Irrfan Khan.

Kapoor was first diagnosed with cancer in 2018, and received treatment initially in the US, before returning to India late in 2019. He has been hospitalised in India several times since with a variety of complications.

Despite his health problems, Kapoor recently announced that he would co-

star with Deepika Padukone in a remake of Hollywood hit The Intern. But his regular social media activity has gone quiet since the beginning of April.

After a cameo in his father Raj Kapoor's 1955 Shree 420, Kapoor debuted as a child actor in his father Raj Kapoor's 1970 magnum opus Mera Naam Joker. His first film as a romantic lead was in 1973's "Bobby," also directed by Raj Kapoor. In recent years, he transitioned to playing character roles. His most recent on screen appearance was in Bollywood comedy 102 Not Out, opposite his regular screen partner Amitabh Bachchan.

Bachchan tweeted: "He's GONE .. ! Rishi Kapoor .. gone .. just passed away .. I am destroyed !" Priyanka Chopra also mourned the loss with a post on Instagram. She wrote: "My heart is so heavy. This is the end of an era. #Rishisir your candid heart and immeasurable talent will never be encountered again. Such a privilege to have known you even a little bit." —



Zoom admits it does not have 300 million daily users

SAN JOSE, California: Zoom video conferencing app does not have 300 million daily active users, the company admitted on Thursday to the Verge, saying it "unintentionally" referred to daily meeting participants as users in a blog post. The Zoom blog from Apr 22, in which the video conferencing app announced a 50 per cent jump in users over three weeks, has now been edited to say that the company had surpassed "300 million daily Zoom meeting participants" instead of "more than 300 million daily users". "When we realised this error, we adjusted the wording to 'participants'," the company told the Verge, adding, "this was a genuine oversight on our part". —Reuters

China 'will do anything it can' for him to lose re-election race: Trump



WASHINGTON: United States President Donald Trump said that he believes China's handling of the COVID-19 is proof that Beijing "will do anything it can" to make him lose his re-election bid in November. In an interview with Reuters in the Oval Office, Trump said he was looking at different options in terms of consequences for China over the virus. "I can do a lot," he said. Trump has been heaping blame on China for a global pandemic that has killed at least 60,000 people in the United States, and thrown the US economy into a deep recession, putting in jeopardy his hopes for another four-year term.

The Republican president, often accused of not acting early enough to prepare the United States for the spread of the virus, said he believed China should have been more active in letting the world know about the coronavirus much sooner. Asked whether he was considering the use of tariffs or even debt write-offs for China, Trump would not offer specifics. "There are many things I can do," he said. "We're looking for what happened." "China will do anything they can to have me lose this race," said Trump. He said he believes Beijing wants his Democratic opponent, Joe Biden, to win the race to ease the pressure Trump has placed on China over trade and other issues. "They're constantly using public relations to try to make it like they're innocent parties," he said of Chinese officials.

He said the trade deal that he concluded with Chinese President Xi Jinping aimed at reducing chronic US trade deficits with China had been "upset very badly" by the economic fallout from the virus. A senior Trump administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said on Wednesday that an informal "truce" in the war of words that Trump and Xi essentially agreed to in a phone call in late March now appeared to be over. —Reuters

Greta Thunberg gives \$100,000 to UNICEF during virus

UNITED NATIONS: Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg has donated a \$100,000 to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) during the COVID-19 pandemic, the organisation said Thursday. The amount was the prize money that Thunberg had won from a Danish foundation. "Like the climate crisis, the coronavirus pandemic is a child rights crisis," Thunberg, 17, was quoted as saying in the UNICEF statement. "It will affect all children, now and in the long term, but vulnerable groups will be impacted the most," she added. "I'm asking everyone to step up and join me in support of UNICEF's vital work to save children's lives, to protect health and continue education." The Danish anti-poverty non-governmental organization, Human Act, will match the \$100,000 donation, the statement added. UNICEF said the funds would give it a boost as it struggles to support children impacted by anti-virus lockdowns and school closures, particularly in the fields of "food shortages, strained health care systems, violence and lost education." Thunberg said at the end of March that she had "likely" contracted the coronavirus, after experiencing several symptoms after a trip to central Europe. —AFP



Queen Elizabeth impressed with William, Kate over work ethic amid COVID-19

LONDON: COVID-19 took over the globe since the beginning of 2020, however it appears Prince William and Kate Middleton are not letting it deter them from maintaining calmness amid these troubling times.

Prince William and Kate Middleton are taking on the current workload with dignity and grace.

According to a report by US Weekly, the Queen is elated over the way the couple is handling all affairs in these troubling times and has complimented their work ethic time and time again during personal video calls.

A source close to the palace stated, "The wonderful thing about Kate and William is that they remain focused

and calm even during their most challenging times. Meanwhile With COVID-19 spreading like wildfire, Prince William and Kate Middleton have reportedly been feeling the impact left by Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's exit from the royal family. During an interview with The Sun, royal expert Ingrid Seward, editor-in-chief of Majesty magazine, spoke about the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and their newly added responsibilities amid COVID-19.

"They feel almost wholly responsible as they are the only influential ones young enough to be out there at the moment apart from Sophie and Edward and The Princess Royal," Seward explained. —Agencies



Singapore COVID-19 cases cross 16,000 mark, with 528 more

SINGAPORE: Singapore reported 528 new COVID-19 cases as of noon on Thursday bringing the national tally to 16,169. The vast majority of the new cases are work permit holders residing in foreign worker dormitories, the Ministry of Health (MOH) said in its daily update of preliminary figures. Six cases are Singaporeans or permanent residents.

"We are still working through the details of the cases, and further updates will be shared via the MOH press release that will be issued tonight," the ministry added. Law and Home Affairs Minister K Shanmugam on Wednesday said that some people are deliberately spreading fake videos to "foment trouble" in foreign worker dormitories.

These videos can lead to serious law and order incidents, he said, adding that the authorities were watching individuals who spread the videos "very carefully" and will charge them if a crime was committed. His comments came as hundreds of thousands of foreign workers have been barred from leaving their dorms to curb the spread of COVID-19, as they make up the majority of Singapore's new cases each day. —CNA