

PHC issues notices to 3 labs for conducting serological tests

LAHORE: The Punjab Healthcare Commission on Friday issued notices to three laboratories for conducting serological tests for detecting Covid-19.

The PHC got the information that the Shaikat Khanum Laboratory, Chughtai Laboratory and Genome Lab were conducting the Serological tests for detecting Covid-19, which was in contravention to the directions, issued earlier by the PHC and provincial health department. The respective administrations of these laboratories have been directed to appear before the Commission. Also, these centres have been stopped again from conducting the Serological tests for Covid-19. —Online

Steps being taken to eradicate locust from Sindh: Governor Imran

KARACHI: Governor Imran Ismail has said that Prime Minister Ehsaas Program is a big social programme of the history and special attention has been given to ensure transparency on the distribution of cash money in four categories of the program.

According to media reports he said while talking to a delegation of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf leaders, who called on Governor Sindh Imran Ismail at governor house in Karachi.

During the meeting the distribution of cash money under the four categories of Ehsaas Program, the attack of locust in the province and steps of federal government to eradicate locust and other mutual interest matters were discussed. On this occasion, Governor Imran Ismail said that all out steps are being taken by federal government to eradicate locust and federal government will not leave alone the farmers of the province in this difficult situation. —Online

Rain expected in parts of Punjab

LAHORE: Rain with wind-thunderstorm and hailstorm is expected in various parts of the province including provincial capital during the next 24 hours.

According to synoptic situation, a westerly wave is affecting upper and central parts of the country and may persist till Tuesday.

According to Meteorological Department, rain with wind-thunderstorm is expected in Potohar region Sargohda, Mianwali, Bhakkar, Layyah, Khushab, Hafizabad, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Sialkot, Narowal, Lahore, Sheikhpura, Faisalabad, Jhang, Tolna Tek Singh, Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur, Rahim Yar Khan, Multan, Bahawalpur, Khanewal, Sahiwal and Okara. —APP



LAHORE: A view of expired vegetables laying at Singhpura Fruit and Vegetable Market, requires the attention of concern authorities. —Online

Governor visits home of Anum Khan for condolence

People not ready to take virus seriously: Sarwar

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar has said that Coronavirus is not disappearing. It is getting intense day-by-day. Mortality rate is also increasing. Despite inflation in cases, people are not ready to take it seriously.

He warned that if such situation persists, health system of Pakistan will not be able to bear the brunt of increasing cases. He added, Prime Minister has decided to make public inquiry reports of all previous plane crash incidents. We will not only ensure transparent inquiry of incident, but will also reveal culprits before nation.

He was addressing media after condolence visit of bereaved family of Anum Khan who embraced martyrdom in plane crash incident in Karachi. He also announced that government will provide financial assistance to family of late Anum Khan. Governor Punjab, while expressing sorrow on loss of precious lives, said that government, as per promise, is doing free and fair investigation. Prime Minister has chaired meeting in Islamabad to review

ongoing inquiry. He made it clear that everyone responsible for incident will have to face the music.

He added, Pakistan had been dismembered in 1971 and Hamood Ur Rehman commission report ascertained liability, but it was not published. We have decided to start publishing all reports of plane crash incidents. We are making it clear since day one that opening of markets don't mean corona virus has ended. We need to take extra precautionary measures because corona virus cases are inflating.

If effluents want to protect their wealth, they have to give the poor their right: Siraj

Ameer, Jamaat e Islami, Pakistan, Senator Sirajul Haq, has said that if the affluent people wanted to protect their wealth, they would have to give the poor the right to live.

He said that a system in which poor were crushed economically and the wealth of the rich multiplied within days, was not acceptable at all. He was talking to JI Kisan leader Arsalan Khan Khakwani, who called on him at Mansooro.

Stating that Islam did not allow concentration of wealth in a few hands, Sirajul Haq said that Pakistan's real issue was not the dearth of resources. Instead, it was the inequitable distribution of resources besides the concentration of wealth in a few hands. Islam, he said, enjoined the circulation of wealth. However, he said, that the people who remained in power in the country, had been increasing their wealth through unfair use of their political and official influence. He said the government did not have any mechanism to recover the plundered wealth because if the plunderers were still sitting in the government, who would take them to accountability.

Sirajul Haq said the JI wanted across the board accountability and an interest free economic system in which the poor and the rich were provided equal opportunities to earn. He said that till the time the workers were made partners in the profits of profit earning institutions/ factories and the farmers were made partners in the farm produce, the plight of the workers and the farmers would not improve. —Online

Officers warned against negligence in price control

LAHORE : The provision of daily-use commodities to people at the prices fixed by the government is the prime responsibility of administrative officers and any negligence in this regard will not be tolerated at all.

These views were expressed by the Provincial Minister for Industries Mian Aslam Iqbal while addressing a meeting held to review the mechanism of pricing of edibles and steps being taken to eradicate locusts in the province.

Minister for Agriculture Malik Noaman Ahmad Langrial, Chief Secretary Punjab Jawad Rafique Malik, Senior Member Board of Revenue Babar Hayat Tarar, administrative secretaries of various departments and officers concerned attended the meeting whereas divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners participated through video link.

The meeting reviewed the strategy for fixing prices of daily-use commodities, especially 10 essential food items, and deliberated on a proposal to fix prices of ghee, sugar flour, pulses, fruits, vegetables, chicken, mutton, and beef etc quarterly. It was decided that a committee would be set up to prepare recommendations on the mechanism to determine the prices of commodities every quarter.

The Chief Secretary asked the officers to keep a strict check on the prices of eatables even after Ramadan. Price lists should be displayed prominently and shops of violators should be sealed, he directed.

Later, the meeting reviewed the latest situation of locusts in the province and expressed satisfaction over the steps being taken for the eradication of the pest. The Chief Secretary was informed that timely measures helped protect crops on a vast area from swarms of locusts.

It was decided that the vehicles of different departments that are not in use due to coronavirus restrictions would be utilized in the ongoing locust combat operation and help will also be sought from Lambardars, patwaris, mosques prayer leaders (imams) and local communities to bring locusts under control.

Senior Member Board of Revenue Babar Hayat Tarar briefed the meeting that Locust Combat Operation is underway in the affected areas of the province and so far about 147,000 hectares have been sprayed and surveillance of 75,463 hectares in the affected districts have been completed. He said that a sufficient quantity of pesticides is available in stocks and it is being provided as per requirement.

He said that 64 vehicle-mounted sprayers, 868 power, and 317 manual spray machines are being used for spraying pesticides while 244 survey, 965 other vehicles, and necessary machinery are also in use. —Online

Education hindrances in pandemic

By Pervaiz Ali Khaskheli

COVID-19 has changed way of life and has badly hit economy and education of the world. Under-developed countries are facing more challenges than developed nations. If we look at the education in COVID-19 pandemic situation, world level research shows that more than 370 million students are not going to educational institutions on account of temporary closure by government. Nearly 90 percent leaners are affected worldwide due to the closure. Thus, the education system of Pakistan especially Sindh province is undergoing by dint of this pandemic time. Provincial government has decided to keep educational institutions close for a long time.

This decision of government must be reviewed because keeping educational institutions close is not solution of stopping spread of COVID-19 but finding substitute is the need of time. Pakistan doesn't has satisfactory literacy rate in the world. According to UNESCO report Pakistan has 5.5 million children out of school, 60 percent of whom are girls. Only five percent poorest females and 25 percent poorest males complete lower secondary education. There are on average 56 students for every trained teacher in the country. Furthermore, One in four young people can't read. Unfortunately, only half of all government schools have toilets. Approximately, 49 percent of grade -5 pupils could read a sentence in Eng-

lish. There are roughly 68000 private schools in Pakistan and according to an estimate 45 percent in 2020, number of children are enrolled in private schools. Likewise, many teachers are engaged to earn livelihoods in private schools. Private schools don't pay sufficient salaries to teacher staff. In many schools, teachers are degree holders but their salaries are between Rs 15,000 to 20,000 or so.

Teachers of private schools cannot make both ends meet due to inflation. For a labour minimum wage of 40 hours per week is 13,000 to 14,000 but a teacher works 48 to 50 hours per week in a school. Teachers aren't paying enough to fulfill their needs in common situations. In low category schools, teachers' income is between 2,000 to 10,000 that is pocket money of upper class children. It is private teacher who makes engineers, doctors, businessmen, soldiers, and other officers. In spite of this, he is not admired in good words. There are two categories of private schools. Some schools are in big cities like Karachi and Hyderabad and other are in backward areas. Children of upper middle class families are getting education in the first category schools and they pay fees in time but the second category schools face financial crisis in daily routine. Since parents of children belong to labour class so they can't pay fees in due date. For labour class lives their lives hand to mouth and pandemic time is a curse for them. On the one hand, small businesses has crashed in lockdown and on the other hand there is burden of fees on them. Therefore, lower middle class is not in the position to afford schools dues. Similarly, second category

schools will face a lot of hindrances in fees collection. In a result, these schools will fire out teachers.

Government should solve this problem by releasing funds for private teachers and order private schools not to take dues from lower income children's parents. There is also panic among university students because HEC has bound all universities to teach students with the help of online classes. University students are not promoted to next semester without examination like primary to higher secondary students who have been promoted to next classes without taking examinations. All university students are not able to learn with the help of online classes. Since all students don't have laptop and internet access. Those students who live in rural areas, are facing problem by dint of poor internet quality. Apart from the internet access, data packages are costly so they can't afford. The plan of online classes is fail and it is as, as to snatch the basic right of education from poor. Government should give Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to educational institutions. Schools, colleges, universities and other institutions can began teaching processes by focusing on social distance in institutions. They can divide students into two groups. Thus, first group can get education in three days of week and other group will be able learn in next three days of week. It is lame process of education but something is better than nothing.

The writer is a M.Phil student and lecturer in English in a private college of Tando Muhammad Khan Sindh and translator of three books from English to Sindhi



LAHORE: People enjoy a nap under the shadow of a bridge near Jail Road.

NPT marks Yaum-e-Takbeer with traditional zeal and fervour

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Yaum-e-Takbeer is an important milestone of our national life, as Pakistan became militarily undefeatable on this very day. The Indian provocation is on the rise on the Line of Control (LoC) by the Modi government and Indian politicians are threatening to attack Azad Kashmir openly. We resolve on the Yaum-e-Takbeer to teach India a befitting lesson if it took any step against the unity and security of Pakistan. Shooting down the Indian drone by Pakistan army speaks a volume about our military skills.

These views were expressed by the speakers at a webinar organised by the Nazaria-e-Pakistan Trust (NPT) on Thursday, which was broadcast live on its face book page and YouTube channel.

In his address, Chairman NPT and former President of Pakistan Muhammad Rafique Tarar said the Yaum-e-Takbeer is a day of pride for Pakistanis, as we made it clear to the world on this day at large that there would be no compromise on our independence and self-respect. He said the then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif did not bother about the world pressure and carried out nuclear tests to make Pakistan the very first nuclear state of the Muslim World. He said the Bhartia Janta Party (BJP) was ruling India at that time like it is ruling now. He said the pivotal point of this party is the enmity against the Muslims. He urged both the civil and military leadership to make it clear to the UN and international powers that Pakistan would not hesitate to use the option of nuclear arsenals in case India made aggression against us. India would be responsible for the horrible results of the situation, he warned.

Former Judge of the Supreme Court Justice (Retd) Khalilur-Rehman Khan said May 28 is the day of national pride for us, which would always be remembered by us. Rather, it is an important milestone for the whole of the Muslim World. This day demands from us to become united for national defence, development and prosperity and let no one to impede our path to progress, he added.

Chief Editor Daily Pakistan Mujibur-Rehman Shami said Pakistan took the option of carrying out nuclear tests to strike a balance against the military might of India. He said Z A Bhutto had founded the nuclear programme of Pakistan, which was carried forward by General Zia-ul-

Haq and Nawaz Sharif held nuclear tests. He said the people of Pakistan proposed the government to name May 28 as Yaum-e-Takbeer, which was honoured by the government. He also paid glowing tributes to civil and military leadership, engineers, scientists and Dr. Abdul Qadeer for their selfless efforts to equip Pakistan with nuclear technology. He urged the nation to keep unity among its ranks and move forward.

Senator Mushahid Hussain said India would have not thought twice before attacking us in case Pakistan had not carried out nuclear tests on May 28. He said he had also advised Nawaz Sharif to carry out nuclear tests after India did so on May 11, 1998. He said Nawaz Sharif had consulted various political parties, followed by a meeting of Defence Committee to evolve a consensus. He said there was a broad-based consensus on carrying out nuclear tests at that time.

Chief Editor Daily Sahafat Khushnud Au Khan said the whole of the Muslim world had celebrated the conducting of nuclear tests by Pakistan and sweet shops in Bangladesh were empty of stocks. He said Pakistan's nuclear bomb is not a threat to anyone in the world. India is fearful of our nuclear programme and it has full idea of the nuclear capability of Pakistan.

Group Editor Daily Dunya Salman Ghani said holding of nuclear tests was a reflection of the aspirations of the people of Pakistan. Majid Nizami was in full support of nuclear tests and had warned Nawaz Sharif to be ready to face public wrath in case he did not carry out the tests. He said today's Pakistan is different from that of 1970s. He said India knows that Pakistan's nuclear programme is more effective than her programme. He urged the people to become a nation to face the evil designs of India.

Chief News Editor Daily Nawa-i-Waqt Dilawar Ch said the day 28th May has proven the potential of Pakistani nation. He said the role of Majid Nizami in making Pakistan a nuclear power would be written with golden words. Every Pakistani appreciates his role, he added.

Secretary General NPT Shahid Rasheed said Pakistan became undefeatable on this day. He said the objective of celebrating this day is to pay tributes to our political and military leadership, which achieved this success and turned Pakistan into the very first nuclear power of the Muslim World.



LAHORE: Children enjoy in swings at Baghanpura, in provincial capital. —Online