

School Education Secretary visits Mian Plaza Model Bazaar

LAHORE: Punjab School Education Secretary Sarah Aslam Friday visited Mian Plaza Model Bazaar and reviewed arrangements made for the visitors.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Asghar Joia also accompanied her and briefed her about the facilities being provided to the visitors by the district administration. He briefed the secretary about flour demand and stock.

The ADC said that sugar, beans, flour and other edible were available in sufficient stock in the market and there was no shortage of any item. He also said that vegetables and fruits were also available in fresh stock. The secretary appreciated the district administration's officers for ensuring better arrangements for the public and maintaining social distancing in the wake of coronavirus. Assistant Commissioner (Railwind) Adnan Rashid was accompanied them during the visit. —APP

OLMT passes witness test by owner reps

LAHORE: With the joint efforts of China and Pakistan, the integrated test and commissioning for Orange Line Metro Train project, constructed by CR-NOR-INCO, passed the witness test by project owner's representatives (NESPAK & CEC) the other day in Lahore. This marked the satisfactory completion of related scope of work as per the EPC contract which included electrical and mechanical (E&M) installations, system commissioning, test & commissioning and test run.



The confirmation of installation quality as well as system and linkage functioning by the project owner laid a solid foundation for O&M handover of the project, which is of utmost importance for the project to smoothly proceed towards its public launch. —PR



LAHORE: Workers stand in front of information desk at Railway Station during a government-imposed nationwide lockdown as a preventive measure against the COVID-19 coronavirus.

Anti-corona steps, roadmap of phase-wise easing of lockdown reviewed

Violation of business-related SOPs not to be tolerated: CM

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar chaired a meeting on Friday which was attended by Corps Commander, Lahore Lt-Gen. Majid Ehsan, GOC 10-Division Maj. Gen. Aniq ur Rehman Malik, DG Rangers Punjab Maj. Gen. Aamir Majeed, Chief Secretary Jawwad Rafique Malik, IG Police Shoaib Dastagir, ACS (Home), Commissioner Lahore, secretaries of health, food, agriculture and information departments, CCPO Lahore and medical experts.

The meeting took a detailed review of anti-coronavirus steps and future roadmap of phase-wise easing of lockdown. It expressed concern over the increase in the number of coronavirus cases in Lahore and decided to devise a separate policy to overcome its spread in the provincial

metropolis. A committee, constituted under ACS (Home), will formulate recommendations in this regard. The meeting decided to utilise every resource to prevent the spread of coronavirus besides reviewing progress made on wheat procurement campaign. It was decided that violation of business-related SOPs will not be tolerated while easing the lockdown and indiscriminate action will be initiated in case of any violation. The meeting also paid tributes to the services of doctors and paramedics.

Corps Commander Lt. Gen Majid Ehsan reiterated the commitment of continuing all-out assistance to the Punjab government and added that army is standing with the people in this hour of trial. He observed that implementation on a separate line of action is necessary keeping in view the prevailing situation of Lahore city. The chief minister stated that

the decision of phase-wise easing of lockdown has been made with collective consultation and permission of opening small markets and shops will be allowed after their zoning. The business houses, resuming their activities, will have to ensure compliance of SOPs while Punjab has achieved the daily testing capacity of six thousand, he said. So far, 1.17 lakh people have been tested in Punjab, he said and added that smart sampling has also been started, adding that 214, out of 4100, have been tested positive.

The CM maintained that public cooperation is essential to defeating the coronavirus and the citizens will have to be socially responsible to remain safe from this pandemic. He appealed to the citizens to avoid going out needlessly adding that Pak army has always supported the nation during difficult times. The polit-

ical and military leadership are amicably dealing with the coronavirus challenge in collaboration with the citizens, he added. The CM further told that 27 lakh tons of wheat have been purchased while the food department has an overall stock of 29 lakh tons of wheat. 86 per cent gunny bags have been issued to the farmers and indiscriminate action is in progress for illegally hoarding wheat.

Approval has been granted to include wheat in the anti-hoarding ordinance, he added. The meeting expressed satisfaction over progress in wheat procurement and the CM thanked the military leadership for extending cooperation to deal with the coronavirus pandemic.

Wheat procurement target will be achieved: Chief Minister Usman Buzdar said that wheat procurement target of 45 lakh metric tons will be achieved.

LPC demands care of COVID-19 hit journalist

LAHORE: The Lahore Press Club (LPC) body has demanded the government ensure special look after of senior journalist, Shahid Ali Farrukh, who has been admitted to the Punjab Kidney and Liver Institute (PKLI) after being declared a COVID-19 positive by doctors.

LPC President Arshad Ansari demanded formation of a medical board to look after the journalist. He said that more than 40 media workers had been infected with COVID-19 so far and admitted to different hospitals of the city. He said the government should fulfill its promise of providing special healthcare facilities to the media workers suffering from coronavirus besides financial support to them. —APP

'Collective efforts vital to tackle community crisis'

LAHORE: Special Assistant to PM on Youth Affairs Usman Dar said that in case of community crisis, collective efforts were made by community to get rid of it.

He said this while addressing a press conference here on Friday. He said that almost one million youth got registered in 'Tiger Force', adding that 82000 youth got themselves registered from Lahore.

Usman Dar said that MPAs would distribute ration to 5000 deserving families, adding that 'Tiger Force' had been given duty to ensure provision of ration to the needy people at their door step. Volunteers of 'Tiger Force' were also working in the field hospitals, he added. He further said that registration of unemployed labourers was also underway.

MCL disinfects 2,598 points in City

LAHORE: In an effort to disinfect the city areas, the Metropolitan Corporation Lahore (MCL) Friday sprayed chlorinated water at 2,598 points in the city including hospitals, bus stands, offices, streets, markets, public places and main roads to prevent spread of coronavirus.

The chlorinated water spray operation was conducted following the directions of Commissioner Lahore Saif Anjum. Various squads of the department disinfected overall around 50-km of the city areas, said a spokesperson here. —APP

Rescue 1122 starts observing Road Safety Week

83pc road accidents associated with motorbikes: Dr Rizwan

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Director-General Emergency Services Punjab, Dr Rizwan Naseer said that there has been an alarming increase in the number of road traffic crashes in Punjab as Rescue 1122 alone managed an average of 943 road traffic crashes daily in Punjab.

This shows that every 1.6 minutes there is a road traffic crash resulting in average 9 deaths and average 540 serious injuries daily in Punjab.

Unfortunately, around 83 percent of these road traffic crashes involve motorcycles causing a huge socio-economic impact on society, he said. Director-General Rescue Services emphasized that this alarming increase has necessitated to review the contributing factors of road traffic crashes and identify the gaps in the implementation of road safety laws. He shared these views while presiding over a meeting of UN-Global Road Safety Week from 8-14 May 2020, held at Rescue Headquarters here on Friday.

All Heads of Wing of Headquarters and Academy attended the meeting. They also paid rich tribute to all those emergency responders include rescuers, police, medical professionals, and others who deal with the traumatic aftermath of road crashes daily.

While reviewing the emergency data of 2019, DG Rescue Punjab said that

Rescue Service has responded over 2.4 million road traffic crashes since its inception in October 2004.

In 2019, a total of 344104 road traffic crashes occurred and 3346 people died in those accidents. Besides that 197065 victims were reported seriously injured last year. The Director-General

Rescue Punjab expressed that road traffic crashes can be reduced significantly by adopting some necessary safety measures by the public, which includes driving a motorcycle with a maximum speed limit of 50 km/hr, always drive a motorcycle in extreme left lane, wear properly strapped helmet and use side

Uni Lever pays tribute to LWMC workers in wake of COVID 19

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A four-member delegation of Uni Lever Pakistan visited Lahore Waste Management Company Head office, on Friday. The delegate was consisted of Senior Area Manager Lahore Faheem Ahmed Soomro, TM GT Kanita Ashfaq, STM GT Lahore Muhammad Asim Khan, and STM Wall's Haseeb Waqas.

The delegation met Deputy Managing Director Lahore Waste Management Company Tariq Hussain Bhatti and acknowledged the tireless efforts of LWMC especially during COVID 19.

In recognition to exceptional services by LWMC reps of Uni Lever Pakistan distributed gifts among sanitary workers as a token of appreciation and saluted them for facilitating the citizens on the front line against the current crisis.

Deputy Managing Director LWMC said that company has been working day and night to maintain cleanliness in the city and making extra ordinary arrangements to combat this pandemic.

He added that workers are the asset of the company and we are looking after our workers very well as we have distributed all necessary PPE's among them and give immediate medical relief if any of the workers is found sick. Uni Lever Pakistan and LWMC agreed to work in close coordination in future.

Pre-marital test, care can make society free of thalassemia

We will achieve 4.5m metric tons wheat target soon, says Aleem

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Senior Minister Punjab Abdul Aleem Khan, while visiting Sundas Foundation as a chief guest on the eve of World Thalassaemia Day, said that pre-marital tests and awareness among the citizens can make the society thalassaemia free. He assured that the Punjab Assembly would expedite legislation on thalassaemia and he will play his role as well.

Senior Minister Abdul Aleem Khan appreciated the services rendered by Sundas Foundation for children with Thalassaemia in six major cities of Punjab and said that it is a great contribution towards ailing humanity.

He presented a check for financial assistance from his pocket and assured

his all out cooperation to this noble institution working for the great cause. Abdul Aleem Khan said that children of thalassaemia and their parents face the same test and it is the individual and collective responsibility of all of us to minimize their problems.

Aleem Khan appealed to Pakistanis at home and abroad to play their role in preventing thalassaemia and put their share by paying and spending their zakat, donations and charity on the good deeds of Sundas Foundation.

On the occasion, Senior Minister Abdul Aleem Khan distributed gifts to the children who came to Sundas foundation for blood transfusion, inquired about their well-being and prayed for their speedy recovery.

Leading anchorperson Sohail War-

raich, Asif Affan and Director of Sundas Foundation Yasin Khan were also present on the occasion.

Later, talking to the media, Senior Punjab Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that the current situation in Corona has also increased the problems of children with thalassaemia, adding that the Government has eased the lockdown by taking care of social distance. He said that there was a danger of corona as long as every citizen did not play his role.

Replying to a question, Senior Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that 60 percent target of wheat procurement in Punjab has been achieved. In general, especially in South Punjab, there has been a bumper crop of wheat and In Sha Allah we will achieve our target 4.5 million metric tons very soon.

Right to demonstrate cannot be pressed

Malik Muhammad Aslam Awan

It is very depressing to observe that the doctors and paramedics are being treated with inhuman attitude. Obviously they were demanding their just right to be equipped with essentials required for the treatment of pandemic patients. The doctors and paramedics have dual responsibility to save humanity as well as themselves, for the days to come. COVID-19 is a deadly virus, which cannot be thwarted without properly equipping the doctors and paramedics, otherwise the risks of being victims of deadly virus would be beyond imagination and calculation.

How can we afford to let the saviors to be vulnerable to become easy victims? Thinking in terms of such scenario, one shivers with fear to be named as savage. Are we going back to the age of savagery, devoid of sense of pity and shame? Why we have become so cruel as to think only for ourselves and treat the vital elements of society as surplus creatures. The pandemics, natural calamities, scarcity of water as well as natural resources, eatables, edibles and earthquakes are the clarion calls and signals of nature to make amends the ruthless lacunas in human behaviour.

To treat the patients of coronavirus without essential safeguarding kits con-

voice to reveal the real figures of allocated money and the demand of fair use of public kitty. We in 'near past' had witnessed the uproar and frequent repetition of screen episodes of the heaps of wealth recovered by the NAB from the illegal custody of the so called patriotic politicians of Sindh and Balochistan. The mindset of the politicians has been developed on the most chanted slogan of Goebbels' 'speak a lie so frequently as to develop and seem a clear truth.'

The underlying truth behind the whole episode is the fact that the feudal mindset is reluctant to assimilate the universal reality that all segments of society have their rights 'which the constitution of Pakistan and universal code of ethics grant them to enjoy' even in war or health emergencies.

Feudal lords have strong grip in remote areas of Baluchistan, Sindh, even in Punjab and KP. We have gained independence from the Hindutva and British Viceroy but those trained by the Viceroy and his tyrannical mindset still persist in our independent society and the country to pull us back to same fate of pre-independence era; the fate our brethren are facing in India. ■

Power players along with other state actors even don't bear a dissenting

The writer is author of a book on politics, columnist, freelance



LAHORE: Central General Secretary All Pakistan Anjuman Tajran Naem Meer addresses a press conference at the Lahore Press Club.