

Boost in tourism sector to create employment in Shangla: Yusufzai

From Our Staff Correspondent

SHANGLA: Provincial Minister for Labor and Culture, Shaukat Yusufzai said that by focusing on tourism sector of Shangla district, employment would be created here as the area has stunning recreational places for tourism lovers. Work on link roads to tourist resorts, he said was underway that would not only boost tourism activity but also create scores of employment opportunities for locals. To put Shangla on path of progress, he said, was my mission. He was talking to media persons after inauguration of a hospital in Pir Khana union council here that would cost Rs 50.43 million and benefit the people of largest union council of Shangla. At the occasion PTI Malakand

President, Fazal Hakeem, Chief of Pir Khana Builders, Haji Noorul Amin, Haji Sakhir Rehman, PTI District President Waqar Ahmad Khan, Chairman District Zakat Committee, Syed Abrar, PTI District Secretary General, Habibur Rehman and scores of PTI office bearers and locals were present. Shaukat Yusufzai said all the tourists' resorts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were being reopened with strict implementation of SOPs for coronavirus as we were bearing losses of billions of rupees after closure of tourists' spots due to corona protocol. The Minister also inaugurated projects worth millions of rupees in his constituency. He went on foot to visit newly discovered tourists' spot in Kandao Sar and suburb areas of Shangla and also took along media persons

for coverage of these beautiful places to show it to the rest of the world. Local people gathered around the Minister and appraised him about area problems. Shaukat said Shangla has numerous picnic resorts but unfortunately no heed was paid towards the development of these places in past. He said Chief Minister KP was paying extra attention towards uplift of tourist resorts of the province and road networks for tourism purposes was being uplifted to make access of tourists more easy to these areas. The locals highly appreciated the Minister for inauguration of the much needed hospital in Pir Khana and thanked him for his personnel interest and efforts made for the uplift of the area people.



HYDERABAD: A woman cleans wheat husks at her work place.

Int'l virtual gathering held in honour of poet Mazhar Laghari

KARACHI: The ninth session of the educational and literary online series initiated by Ramesh Raja and Manzoor Ujjan was held in honour of enlightened progressive poet and columnist Mazhar Laghari. Famous intellectuals and writers Jami Chandio, Husain Jarwar, Mahesh Kumar, Nadeem Ahmar from Canada, Dr Khushal Kalani from USA, Taslim Mazhar from Netherlands, Kaka Singh from Germany, Danish Parnar from Hungary, Zeeshan Jatoti from Russia, Manzoor Sethar from Bahrain, Dodo Khathian from Dubai and other learned friends shed light on the art and thought of Mazhar Laghari. While young artist Saeed Abid Phul got the praise by singing the poetry of Mazhar Laghari. According to the details, introducing the guest poet, Ramesh Raja said that Mazhar Laghari is a writer who believes in quality and not quantity, he reads more and writes less but the best. His poetry is a confluence of global and local trends. Favorite and preferred columnist and poet of all progressive and liberal people of Pakistan. Expressing his views in this global virtual evening, the guest poet Mazhar Laghari said, "Literature should not only be a reflection of society but also a means of harmonizing the masses with new ways of awakening. The responsibility of the poet goes far beyond the order and art of rhyme and lineage but the writer should be pro public and should write on public issues and sufferings". Talking about the current situation and happenings in Sindh, he said that "the problem of Sindh is mostly of class. Yes, the feudal are responsible for all the destruction, they are looting more than ever by keeping their share and that of their masters, and their nominal public account-

bility is now becoming less and less". Explaining the solution to the dangers of extremism facing Sindh, he said that not with extremism, but with tolerance, we can all live together in peace. Such experiences have been done by the West in the recent past and are in peace. We have a history of centuries on this issue which must be understood and tolerance must be maintained. Insulting religions, ideologies, culture and human beings are an animal act, such acts in Sindh are external transplantation. Protecting and preserving the historical heritage, traditions and culture should be the foremost social duty of today's writer. Talking about his poetry, he said that my poetry is against the monarchy and capitalism and for the oppressed class especially the peasants, laborers and working men and women. In the environment of propagating the government ideologies by so called intellectuals, there is little hope that this poetry will reach to the masses directly but Ramesh Raja, Manzoor Ujjan and his colleagues who are making this effort are commendable. Talking about the social role of the writer, he said that in this age of modern digital videography, there is no room for haste and temporary attitudes; U-turners and non-serious writers. I am ideologically steadfast and agree with and adhere to every word and letter of my old poetry. Asked about politics and poetry, he said that poetry has done its job, but if politics works in the right direction. On this occasion, progressive intellectual Jami Chandio said that Mazhar's poetry is a true story of the sufferings of people and also documents the struggle of the revolutionary people of Sindh. —AFP

SBBWUP to start online classes from today

PESHAWAR: Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University Peshawar (SBBWUP) in a meeting of Academic Council approved 377 courses and announced that regular Online Classes would start from today (Monday). A special meeting of Academic Council was held the other day under the chairmanship of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Razia Sultana besides three external members including Prof. Dr. Zia ul Qayyum Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad. Dr. Muhammad Mohsin Khan Director Institute of Management Sciences Peshawar, Dr. Saleem ur Rehman Vice Chancellor Sarhad University of Science and Information Technology Peshawar attended the meeting. The Vice Chancellor Dr. Razia Sultana and members of Academic Council briefed the external members for Online Readiness on different aspects of the program like

quality of courses, library, technology and faculty training. The guidelines regarding online education for teaching, admission, examination, evaluation of performance and monitoring have been developed and placed before the council for consideration and approval. In addition to this total of 377 courses being offered in different disciplines of university were placed before the Council for certification. The council ensured all the guidelines and necessary parameters for online education and found as per criteria advised by Higher Education Commission (HEC). The Council approved all the provided guidelines and 377 courses for Online Classes with minor modifications and corrections. In the wake of uncertain situation due to the Covid-19 lockdown, the universities have been asked by HEC to prepare themselves to trans-

ition to online classes and online interaction as quickly as possible and to complete course work of the current semesters. **Coronavirus cases reaches 1,034 in Sargodha division** As many as 1034 confirmed coronavirus cases have so far been reported in Sargodha division, of whom, 24 lost their lives while 472 patients recovered. Talking to the media here on Sunday, Director Health Dr Rana Muhammad Hayyat said that 6551 persons were quarantined, out of which, the report of 392 were found negative and 77 were positive for COVID-19. While, 1040 tableeghi people were found negative for coronavirus and 216 were found positive who have been sent to their homes after recovering. He said that 529 locals were found positive with coronavirus, out of which 23 were healthcare professionals, 47 policemen and two prisoners.

Police chief in Atlanta resigns after officer fatally shot African American man

ATLANTA: The police chief in the US city of Atlanta resigned after an officer fatally shot a black man during an arrest, the mayor said, with the new killing injecting fresh anger into protests against racism and police brutality. Demonstrators blocked an interstate highway and set alight the Wendy's where 27-year-old Rayshard Brooks was killed late Saturday. This came hours after Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms announced the resignation of police chief Erika Shields. "I do not believe that this was justified use of deadly force and have called for the immediate termination of the officer," Bottoms said at a news conference. Protesters rally against racial inequality and the police shooting death of Rayshard Brooks, in Atlanta, Georgia. Brooks had been asleep in his car at a Wendy's fast food restaurant drive-through late Friday, and employees called police to complain he was blocking other customers, an official report said. He failed a so-



briety test and resisted when police tried to arrest him, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation said. Surveillance video showed "that during a physical struggle with officers, Brooks obtained one of the officer's Tasers and began to flee from the scene", the report continued. "Officers pursued Brooks on foot and during the chase, Brooks turned and pointed the Taser at the officer. The officer fired his weapon, striking Brooks," it stated. Brooks was taken to a hospital but died after surgery, it said, adding that one officer was injured. Dozens of protesters gathered by

late afternoon around the spot south of downtown where the man was shot and killed. An Atlanta police spokesperson identified the police officer who carried out the shooting as Garrett Rolfe. He was dismissed from the force on Saturday, while the second officer was placed on administrative duty, according to ABC News. Protesters rally against racial inequality and the police shooting death of Rayshard Brooks, in Atlanta, Georgia, U.S. —AFP

Britain reviews distancing rules, could ease COVID-19 quarantine

LONDON: Britain is urgently reviewing its social distancing rule and might be able to relax quarantine for travellers to help its economy recover from a COVID-19 crisis collapse, the country's finance minister Rishi Sunak said. Progress in tackling the coronavirus pandemic meant Britain was able to take a "fresh look" at the two-metre rule, which many employers have said will make it harder to get back up to speed after the lockdown, Sunak said. Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government, which says it has always followed scientific advice in its handling of the pandemic, faces the difficult balancing act of reviv-



ing the economy without allowing a second wave of coronavirus cases. Britain has the third highest number of coronavirus deaths after the United States and Brazil, some-

thing critics of the government say reflects its response to the crisis. "It's important that we look at it comprehensively, in the round, and that's what we will do urgently," Sunak told Sky News about the social distancing rule, adding that preliminary work had already begun. Reducing the distance people must keep apart from each other would mean three quarters of pubs could reopen, rather than about one third with a two-metre rule. Sunak also said the government could make changes to a 14-day quarantine for people coming into the country, such as the introduction of travel corridors with specific countries. —AFP

Doge's Palace reopens as tourists flock back to Venice

VENICE: After three months of empty squares and alleys and gondoliers stranded on dry land, Venice sprang back to life as tourists flocked back to the city for the reopening of the Doge's Palace. Hundreds of Italians and foreigners lined up for more than 300 metres (yards) in Saint Mark's Square, in front of the Ducal Palace. A local news agency said a thousand internet bookings had been recorded for the reopening day. "There were people queuing at 8am this morning and, to be honest, it's just what we were hoping for," Maria Cristina Gribaudo, president of the Venice Civic Museums Foundation, told AFP. "It's a very strong emotion, like the first day of school," she explained. The gondoliers are back in action as tourists flock back to Venice. The gondoliers are back in action as tourists flock back to Venice. —AFP

Mexico reports 3,494 new COVID-19 cases as tourists return to beaches

MEXICO CITY: Mexico's health ministry reported 3,494 new confirmed coronavirus infections along with 424 additional fatalities, bringing the total in the country to 142,690 cases and 16,872 deaths. The government has said the real number of infected people is likely significantly higher than the official count. It has not stopped foreign visitors from visiting Mexico's Caribbean coast, with its popular beaches gradually reopening to tourism with new sanitary measures in place. "I've been stuck in New York City in

my apartment for three months, so I decided that on the beach somewhere open was probably a good call," said web designer Sam Leon, 31, after arriving Saturday at the airport of famed resort town Cancun. Others were similarly undeterred, even as Mexico reported record infection levels in recent days and in certain areas is at the peak of the pandemic. "We travel all the time ... we're really not super concerned," said Canadian national Brad Kendall, 32, who lives in Panama. He had been in Mexico City with his wife last March when Panama put the



Trump addresses West Point grads but largely ducks controversies



WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump addressed the new graduating class of the West Point military academy, praising the "righteous glory of the American warrior" but largely side-stepping recent controversies over racial unrest and the military's role in putting it down. "America is the greatest country in human history," Trump told the 1,107 newly minted second lieutenants as they sat, well-spaced, under a bright sun on the parade ground of the US Military Academy. But he made no direct mention of the recent racial turmoil and only glancingly referred to recent dissent from top military figures over his threat to employ active duty troops to put down protests. Trump's closest mention came when he said, "I also want to thank the men and women of our National Guard" for responding to "challenges from hurricanes and natural disasters to ensuring peace, safety and the constitutional rule of law on our streets." The president, who was introduced by the academy's first black superintendent, Lieutenant General Darryl Williams, also referred only passingly to the nation's racial challenges. "The army was at the forefront of ending the terrible injustice of segregation," he said, and it was West Point graduates who led the fight in the Civil War to "end the evil of slavery." Trump did not mention that one West Point barracks still bears the name of General Robert E Lee, who led the break-away Confederate forces during that war, which brought an end to slavery. Trump has rejected recent demands to rename US military bases bearing the names of Confederate officers. Tensions between Trump and the military had soared since he threatened to call out active duty troops to put down sometimes violent protests when racial turmoil broke out recently. Defense Secretary Mark Esper took the exceptional step of publicly denouncing such use of the troops. —Reuters

Thousands in Switzerland march against racism

GENEVA: Thousands of demonstrators marched in cities and towns across Switzerland on Saturday (June 13) to denounce racism and police brutality in the wake of the death of George Floyd in the United States. Despite rules in place banning gatherings of more than 300 people to prevent the spread of COVID-19, several cities saw huge crowds come out to join a growing global movement denouncing racism and disproportionate police violence against black and brown people. In the biggest demonstration, more than 10,000 people, most of them dressed in black, protested in Switzerland's largest city Zurich, according to police. The protesters marched through the city centre, holding up posters with slogans like "Black Lives Matter", "Racism is a Pandemic Too", and "I Can't Breathe", referring to Floyd's death in Minneapolis on May 25, after a white officer pressed his knee on his neck for nearly nine minutes. Police said the Zurich demonstration was largely peaceful, but that it had been marred in the late afternoon by a few hundred people headed by known members of the radical leftwing autonomous scene who threw rocks, bottles and other objects at police. —AFP