

210 community development schemes completed

From Our Staff Correspondent

MULTAN: Development Director Waqas Khan Khakwani Monday said 210 schemes had been completed under phase-I of the community development initiatives with a cost of Rs 1.87 billion.

He said this while presiding over a meeting to review the pace of progress on 248 community development schemes phase-I for which provincial government had released Rs two billion.

Khakwani ordered the officials to ensure completion of all the remaining schemes by June 15 and asked them to submit PC-4 with the office of commissioner upon completion of each scheme. The meeting was attended by officials from different departments.

New study reveals long-term effects of disasters on children

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A new working paper uses a survey conducted four years after Pakistan's 2005 earthquake to measure how the disaster affected children's human capital accumulation, including their health and learning outcomes, and whether welfare packages counteracted the disaster's effects.

As the current situation mirrors the impacts of the earthquake, but on a much larger scale, the findings of the paper have implications for how we respond to the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The evidence suggests that we should prepare to assess children when they return to school so that we can teach them at the level of their current ability.

Two cops held for taking bribe

From Our Staff Correspondent

SARGODHA: Anti corruption establishment police on Monday arrested an ASI and a constable on the charge of taking bribe.

According to ACE sources, Nazim Ali resident of Chak No 43-NB submitted an application to DPO Sargodha, in which, he alleged that ASI Muhammad Ashraf ASI and constable Qamar Sajjad of Cantt Police Station detained him illegally and released him after taking Rs 265,000. The DPO Sargodha after an investigation, referred the case to anti-corruption establishment (ACE) for legal action. The ACE arrested Muhammad Ashraf ASI and Qamar Sajjad Constable of Cantt Police Station Sargodha and started investigation.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Shafiqat Mahmood in a meeting with ulema ul Madaris at Aiwan-e-Iqbal complex. —Online

India committing worst genocide of Kashmiris in Held Kashmir: Governor

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: International Virtual Kashmir Conference was addressed by several participants on Monday, who said that extremists were rampant in India due to which not only Kashmir but also all the minorities living in India have become insecure.

India is committing genocide of Kashmir. Issuance of domicile to non-Kashmiri Hindus under new domicile law is a sinister plan to turn Kashmiris into a minority in Kashmir.

Pakistan is standing by people of Jammu and Kashmir in their struggle for right to self-determination.

According to details, conference was organised by Jammu and Kashmir Movement for Right to Self Determination International was addressed by Governor

Punjab Mohammad Sarwar, President Azad Kashmir Sardar Masood Ahmed Khan, Pakistani High Commissioner in Britain Nafees Zakaria, Chairman Movement for Right to Self-determination Raja Najabat, British MP Naz Shah, Lord Nazir Ahmed, Sardar Narendara Singh, Ali Raza Syed and others.

Governor Punjab Mohammad Sarwar while addressing the conference at Governor House Lahore said, independence is internationally recognised right of people of Kashmir.

Gun Barrel cannot deprive them of their right to self-determination.

India is committing worst Genocide in Kashmir to reduce native population into minority. If international community keeps silence, it will be detrimental for regional and global peace.

International community must take one

step ahead to stop brutality of Narendara Modi. Democracy and Human Rights have been tarnished in India due to Narendara Modi. President of AJK, Sardar Masood said that India is killing innocent Kashmiris in huge numbers everyday and labeling innocent youth as militants.

Jingoism of Modi is increasing day by day since he has taken oath as Prime Minister of India.

Prime Minister Imran Khan is arguing case of Kashmiris on every forum. India is trying to diverting global attention away from her atrocities by wrongly labeling Kashmiri people as terrorists.

India must understand that she can't suppress voice of Kashmiri people. He said, I am also thankful to Governor of Punjab, Mohammad Sarwar, for arguing case of Kashmir on every forum.

Corona testing labs to be established in Dir, Chitral, Bajaur: Shafiullah

From Our Staff Correspondent

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister on Anti-Corruption and Provincial Inspection Team Malik Shafiullah Khan Monday said all the available resources were being utilized to ensure the safety of lives from coronavirus pandemic.

He expressed these views while addressing a review meeting held on coronavirus pandemic here in his office which was attended by the officials of district administration and local departments.

He said the funds were being provided by the government to enhance the capacity of corona testing across the province.

He said the Corona Testing Laboratory at Timergarah would start functioning from June 15 while the facility was also being provided in other areas including Lower, Upper Dir, Upper Chitral and Bajaur districts for timely diagnosis of the deadly virus. The special assistant appealed to the people to follow the SOPs set by the government to contain coronavirus, adding, the government was doing its level best to provide maximum facilities to the people.

Economies prioritise payment digitisation best placed for GDP growth

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Countries that prioritize digitized payment economies are better placed to mitigate the associated adverse impact of unemployment, financial exclusion, fraud, theft, cost of cash, and corruption.

This was the key takeaway of a new MasterCard white paper titled 'Cashing Out: Economic Growth through Payment Digitization'. In an analysis that demonstrates the high economic cost of cash prevalence, MasterCard estimates that cost to be at 3.2% to 4.5% of global GDP. These points to an opportunity for countries to increase GDP by growing a digital payments economy to benefit from access to jobs, more robust commercial activity, streamlined business loans, and the reduced cost of operating cash.

The white paper also revealed that higher card use in 70 countries, representing 90% of the world's GDP, contributed an additional US\$296 billion to consumption.[1] The study found that each 1% increase in use of digital payments produced an average annual increase of US\$104 billion in the consumption of goods and serv-

ices, representing a 0.04% increase in GDP in developed markets and a 0.02% increase in developing ones.

Elias Aad, Vice President and Head of Government Business - MENA at MasterCard, said: "It has been encouraging to see the impact of our work and the success of our methodology. By engaging governments primarily on a strategic level to make the right recommendations, and ultimately providing the needed solutions to develop their digital payments economies, we are helping pave the way to economic growth and citizen well-being. The white paper highlights how all these positive outcomes connect together."

Bringing unbanked and underbanked people into the financial system vastly improves livelihoods and correlates with a greater ease of doing business and improved financial literacy. In 2015, MasterCard made a commitment to reach 500 million people previously excluded from financial services by the end of 2020, thereby moving closer to a world beyond cash. MasterCard recently achieved that goal through more than 350 innovative programs across 80 countries, and has subsequently dou-

bled down on its original commitment, pledging to include another 500 million people by 2025 to reach a total of 1 billion individuals.

673 road accidents reported in Punjab during 24 hours

As many as 673 road accidents were reported in Punjab, in which, seven people were killed while 771 sustained injuries during the last 24 hours.

According to Punjab Emergency Service (PES) sources, 598 motorcycles, 86 rickshaws, 62 cars, 20 vans, five buses, 21 trucks and 99 other vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in the accidents.

Out of the total injured, 450 people were serious injured who were shifted to different hospitals, whereas, 321 minor injured were treated on the spot by rescue medical teams. As many 290 drivers, 23 underage drivers, 120 pedestrians, and 368 passengers were among the victims of road accidents. Statistics show that 112 accidents were reported in Lahore during the same period, due to which 128 persons were affected showing the provincial capital at top of the list followed by 55 in Multan with 67 victims.

Punjab govt upgrades 1,227 elementary schools to high level

By K A Mian

LAHORE: As many as 1227 elementary schools have been upgraded to a high level in all 36 districts of Punjab by the School Education Department (SED) in the larger public interest here on Monday.

This decision was made in a meeting about reforms in the school education sector chaired by Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar held at his office here on Monday. The Minister School Education, Murad Raas, Secretary School Education Sara Aslam and others attended the meeting.

In this regard, a notification of up-gradation of all these schools has also been issued by the School Education Department. According to the notification a copy of which is available with The Business, the services of existing teachers of upgraded schools would be utilized to start 9th and 10th classes in these schools. The sanctioned numbers of employees (SNE) as per prescribed norm would be provided to these schools by the School Education Department till two next academic sessions w.e.f. the date of issuance of the notification. It further stated that the senior-most teachers including male



and female of the upgraded schools would perform as officiating the Headmaster and Headmistresses and DDOs of the upgraded schools.

The meeting was told that a total of 1,227 elementary schools have been upgraded by the incumbent Punjab government without spending any penny. The CM told the participants that 606 girls' schools and 621 boys' schools would be upgraded in the province and some 3315 surplus teachers of elementary schools would continue to serve in the upgraded schools. The 3,933 additional classrooms in elementary schools would be utilized for secondary classes. He assured that additional teaching staff would not be transferred anywhere and they would continue to serve in the same schools.

Thus, the government has saved Rs16 billion by utilizing available resources. The CM announced that more than one lakh students would

get benefit from up-gradation of elementary schools to secondary level. The elementary schools, consisting of nine-classes and six-teachers, would be upgraded. The secondary schools would also be upgraded to higher secondary level in the second phase, he added.

Murad Raas told that SOPs for schools are being devised and the students would be given masks. He said that handwashing arrangements and availability of sanitizers would also be ensured in schools.

He maintained that the PEF partner schools' 50 per cent dues, up to the month of May, had already been paid. He said that 1,000 classrooms had also been constructed in different schools in various districts. Under this project, a total of 2,000 classrooms would be built. The minister school Education announced that a Danish school to be soon inaugurated in Vehari district.

Proposed bill regarding hotel industry reviewed

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A meeting chaired by Advisor to Chief Minister Punjab on Tourism, Asif Mehmood reviewed proposed bill regarding Hotel Industry and compulsory registration of hotels and motels.

Managing Director Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab (TDCP) Muhammad Tanveer Jabbar and Deputy Secretary (Admin) Sports and Tourism Tasneem Ali Khan were also present during the meeting. Advisor on Tourism pointed out that there were 700 hotels and motels registered in Punjab. "To promote tourism all hotels and motels would be registered with Tourism Department phase wise", vowed the Advisor. He also emphasized the need of registration of rental services saying that without absence of proper mechanism many problems were being faced. "We have, said the Advisor, a clear vision of Prime Minister of Pakistan and Chief Minister Punjab which can work as guideline for the promotion of tourism". He said that registration of vehicles working through online cab services is the need of the hour. "There should be separate vehicles to operate tourists", suggested the Advisor. He directed that current tourism laws should be amended to deal the challenges. He vowed that tourist spots would be made operational in the wake of corona crises. During the meeting MD TDCP Muhammad Tanveer Jabbar said that local tourism along with foreigners' tourism would be encouraged. To enhance working capability of Tourism Department proposal establishment of Punjab Tourism Authority and Tourism Police were also under consideration.

Infinix Note 7 Speed King, now comes in 4GB/64GB

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Infinix, a premium online-driven smartphone brand designed for the young generation, following the success of Note 7 now the Infinix Note 7 also comes in 4GB RAM and 64GB ROM in more attractive price of Rs 24,999.

With 48MP Quad Rear Camera, capable of shooting high detailed pictures and videos, MediaTek Helio G70 chipset & a 6.95" HD+ Infinity-O display. The Note 7 series consists of three variants i.e. 6GB+128GB (Rs.28,999), 4GB+128GB (Rs.26,999) and newly added option of 4GB+64GB. Infinix Note 7 is available on XPark, Daraz and stores near you in 3 mesmerizing colors such as, Forest Green, Aether Black and Bolivia Blue with subtle patterns in the reflective back.

Note 7 boasts with 48MP Quad Camera, allowing users to create ultra-high-resolution photos & videos under a diverse range of lighting conditions. No matter whether it is a beautiful sunset, a backlight street view, a selfie or even high-lights from a night out, the camera is able to capture it all-- with crystal clear clarity and lifelike beauty. "At Infinix, we are highly committed to our consumers and providing them with the best of the experiences through our cutting-edge devices. —PR



41 homeless drug addicts' dead bodies found in May

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Dr Syed Zulfiqar Hussain Consultant anti-drugs and narcotics campaign and prevention expert said on Monday that 41 homeless drug addicts' dead bodies found in May 2020 in Lahore due to overdose and shortage of drugs, shortage of food and water, living with miserable condition and majority of them is unknown and homeless drug addicts have been recovered in main areas of Lahore, more than 65 percent drug addicts less than 40 year and about 35 percent drug addicts more than 40.

Syed Zulfiqar Hussain Consultant Anti Drugs/Narcotics Campaign and Prevention Expert were talking to media about Report on Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) dead bodies in May, the report prepared by Drug Advisory Training Hub (DATH) & YOCFAN. Mr. Adeel Rashid, Murtaza Saddiqui and Syed Mohsin also present on the occasion.

Hussain said that a large number of homeless young people are using



hard and soft drugs on footpaths, gardens and different major roads in the various part of the city due to lock down and food, water and also living with miserable condition. 120 clusters where people are using drugs and inject the heroin mixed with water in the city of Lahore without any fear, he added. This is alarming situation for those who lost their children due to drug addiction and a large number of drug addicts settled on roads, parks and gardens because non availability of treatment facilities on government and private hospitals.

Syed Zulfiqar Hussain said that most of areas are very high risky for addiction in Lahore where dead bod-

ies of unknown homeless drug addicts are being found due to overdose of drugs, poor hygienic condition and not eating proper food. These are following areas like Data Darbar, Bhatti Gate, Gawal Mandi, Mustafabad, Shafiqi Abad, Tabbi City, Mochi Gate, Masti Gate, Misri Shah, Shadman, Lari Ada etc., Hussain said that parents can play vital role to curb the menace of drug addiction in their children's because people have no time to give proper attention to our children's. Govt. should established new treatment centers in the whole province and food packs and water will more distribute to drug addicts.