

Medium level flood likely in River Jhelum at Mangla: FFD

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Flood Forecasting Division (FFD), Lahore has predicted sharp peaks upto Medium level flood in River Jhelum at Mangla (upstream) during the next 24 hours. All rivers of Indus River System are presently flowing in Normal Flow Condition.

In view of much higher water level of Mangla reservoir (Today's 1227.00 feet Vs 1174.00 feet last year), the Mangla Dam Management, Flood Mitigation Committee, IRSA and FFD, Lahore are required to ensure round-the-clock monitoring and exercise top most vigilance. At present, Westerly Wave trough continues to prevail over Northern parts of Pakistan with Marked Seasonal Low over Northern Balochistan. FFD, Lahore has reported incursion of Arabian Sea's moist currents into upper parts of Pakistan upto 5000 feet.

For the next 24 hours, FFD, Lahore forecast predicts likelihood of scattered to widespread wind thunderstorm/rain with Heavy Falls at isolated places and Very Heavy Falls at few places over Multan, Bahawalpur, D.G. Khan & Sargodha Divisions of Punjab and D.I. Khan Division of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, besides Northeastern Balochistan. Additionally during the same period, scattered wind thunderstorm/rain of moderate intensity with few Heavy Falls are also expected over Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Lahore & Sahiwal Divisions (Punjab) and Malakand, Hazara, Peshawar, Kohat & Bannu Divisions (KP), besides over upper catchments of all the major rivers.

For the ensuing 36 hours, under the influence of prevailing weather system, besides sharp peaks upto Medium level in River Jhelum at Mangla (Para-3 above), Light to Moderate flooding in the Nullahs of Rivers Ravi & Chenab, Moderate flooding in Hill Torrents of D.G. Khan Division and urban flooding in Multan District is expected. Punjab, KP, AJ&K and GB have experienced fairly good rains during the past 24 hour.

IGP Prisons condoles death of Umar Hayat Gondal

By Our Staff Correspondent

LAHORE: Inspector General Police (Prisons) Mirza Shahid Saleem Baig has expressed a deep sense of sorrow and grief over the death of ex-superintendent prisons Umar Hayat Gondal. In a statement issued here on Tuesday, he extended sympathies to the bereaved family. Shahid Baig prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage and strength to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss with equanimity.



LAHORE: A view of under construction paved ditch for accumulating 15 thousands cans water on Larnce Road as constructed by WASA for agriculture purpose. —Online

Buzdar approves national park over 8,740 acre land at Kheri Murat

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The provincial cabinet which met at CM Office on Tuesday under the chair of Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar approved issuance of notification of establishment of national park over an area of 8740 acre at Kheri Murat near Fateh Jang and another park at Pabbi near Kharian over 38874 acres. The Lal Suhanra National Park Bahawalpur will also be expanded with an area of one lac, 62 thousand and 567 acres.

The meeting also approved to expand the scope of Walled City of Lahore Authority to the whole of the province along with giving in-principle approval to renaming it as Walled City and Heritage Area Authority Punjab. Probation of Offenders Amendment Act, 2020 was approved along with the approval of Punjab Payroll Act, 2020 and Punjab Good Conduct Prisoners Probation Release Amendment Act, 2020. Approval in the rules and regulations of Mines and Oilfields and Mineral Development (Government Control) Act, 1948 was also given. Similarly, signing of a MoU between Chinese city Qingdao and Faisalabad Municipal Corporation Administration was approved for bilateral exchange of delegations. Meanwhile, the cabinet approved amendments in section 6 of PEPPRA Act, 2009 along with the approval of amendments in rules 12 and 59 of Punjab Procurement Rules, 2014 (Amended 2019). The constitution of a committee under the Finance Minister for appointment of permanent President/CEO of Punjab Provincial Cooperatives Bank Ltd was given approval along with the approval of matters pertaining to the appointment of officers for local governments. Approval of presenting the annual report of provincial ombudsman for the year 2018 before Punjab Assembly was approved along with approval of rules and regulations for the appointment of Chairperson Child Protection and Welfare Bureau. The meeting also approved a draft law for tabling a resolution in the Punjab assembly relating to Namoos-e-Risalat (PBUH). Similarly, approval was granted to scrap the requirement of 100 rupee stamp paper on sale of registered motor cars and transfer of registration under article 23 (C) of schedule 1 of Stamp Act, 1899. The proceedings of 30th and 31st cabinet meetings were endorsed along with the approval of decisions made in the 27th meeting of the standing cabinet committee for legislation.

The CM stated that necessary reforms have been introduced in the probation and payroll system by setting up probation and parole service to improve the arrangements. Steps taken for overcoming price-hike have yielded positive results and rates of basic food items in Punjab are less than other provinces.

Governor orders probe into affairs of private varsities

-Sets up six members committee to review quality of education and provision of facilities in sub-campuses

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Universities Chancellor Governor Punjab Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar has constituted a six-member inquiry committee headed by Quaid-e-Azam University Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Muhammad Ali to review the quality of education and provision of facilities in the sub-campuses of private universities.

According to a statement issued by Governor House on Tuesday, Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar ordered an inquiry into the affairs of private universities across the province under the chairmanship of Vice Chancellor of Quaid-e-Azam University Prof Dr Muhammad Ali.

Other members of the committee include Prof. Dr. Asghar Zaidi, Vice Chancellor, Government College University, Lahore, Dr. Bushra, Vice Chancellor, Lahore College for Women University, Dr. Raheel Siddiqui, Special Secretary, Higher Education and Director, P&D, Punjab Higher Education. The commission will also include Noman Maqbool Rao.

The committee will conduct a thorough inquiry into all the issues of private universities and submit its report to the Governor Punjab in two months.

Talking about this, Governor Punjab Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar said that the present government believes in merit because where there is no merit and transparency there is no danger of destruction.

He said that the students are the future

of our country. It is our responsibility to ensure the provision of quality education to them as well as all private universities across Punjab. There are sub-campuses in which an inquiry committee has been set up to thoroughly check the facilities provided to the students and the quality of education.

He said that all the facts regarding these sub-campuses will come to light where required as per the constitution action will be taken.

Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said that it is also the responsibility of the universities to ensure the provision of facilities and quality of education in their sub-campuses as per the directions of the Higher Education Commission and we have a clear policy that Negligence will not be tolerated

Sahiwal coal-fired plant ahead of Cos in virus control

TABARAK ULLAH

Sahiwal coal-fired power plant is one of the largest power producing thermal power plant in Pakistan being operated by Huaneng Shandong Ruyi (Pakistan) Energy Private Limited (HSR). Where it provides power to the national grid of Pakistan, it is also involved in corporate social responsibility activities for local villagers by opening a Technical Training School.

COVID-19 emerged from China with its epicenter in Wuhan in December 2020. It affected all the countries in the World. Till now, more than 260,000 people in Pakistan have been affected and more than 5500 Pakistani have lost their lives in this pandemic. Every sector of life has been affected.

Holy Prophet (PBUH) advised more than 1450 years ago, "If you hear of a plague in a land, then do not go into it. If it happens in land where you are, then do not go out of it." Anyone who acted upon the above advice, succeeded either to get oneself safe from the pandemic or save others from getting infected. Keeping in view the idea that isolation is the best prevention, the Chinese government took extraordinary measures of lockdown in whole China and was the first country to get out of this pandemic danger. Following the same idea, the Chinese administration of the Sahiwal coal-fired power plant had been more cautious about COVID-19 precautions since the pandemic

started spreading in China.

Before the Pakistan Government issued its SOPs for COVID-19, Sahiwal coal-fired power plant implemented more strict SOPs in the power plant for the safety of all employees residing inside. Special lectures regarding precautions for COVID-19 were delivered by the medical team of the plant to create awareness among the employees.

The company provided face masks to everyone and it is compulsory to wear masks at all public places. Door handles are sanitized every day. Hand washes and hand sanitizers are given to all departments. The temperature of every employee is checked several



times a day before entering to office and mess. The mess sitting arrangement has been changed such that the distance between the chairs is set more than one meter. The eating plates are washed and sterilized above 100 degrees Celsius. Social distancing is being implemented strictly.

The gym, swimming pool, and sports complex are locked. In a nutshell, the company is doing every possible effort to keep its employees safe and sound. It's just due to these efforts that none of the employees has got affected by corona to date.

After the Pakistan government confirmed the first case of

COVID-19 in Pakistan, the production area of the power plant went into complete lockdown. No outsiders were allowed to come inside the production area to give a safe environment to Chinese and Pakistani employees.

Many companies in Pakistan are not paying salaries to its employees timely while HSR is not only paying the salaries in time to all employees who are at the site, working from the home or have left the site because of some emergency but giving extra COVID bonus to the Pakistani employees working at the site for their encouragement.

Company leadership started a campaign to contribute to PM COVID Fund.

All Chinese and Pakistani employees of HSR donated to this fund-raising campaign. The funds were then collectively transferred to PM COVID Fund online account.

In these difficult times, HSR didn't forget the local villagers who lost their jobs because of lockdown. HSR distributed one month ration among the families of many local villagers.

Overall, HSR is doing its best in implementing SOPs for COVID, facilitating its employees in this difficult time, caring about the local community living near the power plant premises and last but not the least, contributing to PM COVID Fund to support Pakistan government in time of financial crisis.

The writer is employee of HSR and contributing to production of green energy for Pakistan.

15 shopkeepers arrested over violation of coronavirus SOPs

From Our Staff Correspondent

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Police have arrested 15 persons over violations of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and preventive measures announced by the Punjab government to prevent spread of the coronavirus.

According to a police spokesman, Sadiqabad police on the directives of CPO Rawalpindi Muhammad Ahsan Younas conducted raids in different areas in their jurisdiction and checked violation of SOPs issued by the Punjab government. Police arrested 15 shopkeepers namely Muhammad Khursheed, Muhammad Zafar, Tamoor Ali, Kamran, Javed Amjid, Muhammad Aqib, Muhammad Adnan, Muhammad Arif, Sher Khan, Tamoor Iqbal, Arif, Dawood Ahmed, Shahid, Nisar and Danial. He said, the operation against the violators would continue and the violators would be sent behind the bars. He said, Rawalpindi district police were trying to implement directives and SOPs in letter and spirit.

DG for setting up of E-Khidmut centre at MDA soon

From Our Staff Correspondent

MULTAN: Multan Development Authority (MDA) DG Agha Muhammad Ali Abbas directed the official concerned to establish E-Khidmut centre soon. During a visit to one window operation along with ADG Chaudhary Muhammad Anwar, he said that the centre would facilitate people under one roof.

He informed that Multanites would have building, planning, approval of maps for private house schemes and other facilities under one roof. The clients would be able to apply from their homes for compensation certificate, land conversion, building plan approval, private housing scheme approval and NOC for traffic through E-Khidmut centre, he informed. The DG said a senior officer would be deputed at the centre to process the applications immediately, adding that the officer would also upload the status of the application at the website of the E-Khidmat Centre.

Owners of four illegal petrol pumps held

From Our Staff Correspondent

MULTAN: The district administration arrested four persons for operating illegal petrol pumps and also imposed fine of Rs 100,000 on them. According to official sources, under supervision of Assistant Commissioner Sadar Shehzad Mahboob, the district administration's teams conducted raids at Nawabpur road.

Pakistan Kisan Ittehad to hold sit-in in Islamabad on August



By Our Staff Correspondent

VEHARI: Pakistan Kisan Ittehad Central Chairman Chaudhry Muhammad Anwar Group, Central Coordinator Malik Zulfiqar Awan, Tehsil President Mian Tahir Mahmood Kamboh chaired a meeting at the office Vehari Pakistan Kisan Ittehad in which all district members attended the meeting and decided to hold a full scale protest sit-in in Islamabad on August 12.

The problems of the farmers which are the unit rate of tube well should be at 5:35 paise, reduce the prices of fertilizers, seeds and medicines and abolish the token system of subsidy.

Arrears due to farmers should be eliminated. The government has procured wheat from the farmers at Rs. 1400 per quintal. The people should also be given Rs 1400 per quintal and not Rs 2000 per quintal and also eliminate illegal cases against farmers and emergency action should be taken against fake pesticide seed mafia. Farmers should be represented in government policy making, interest on agricultural loans should be in accordance with the existing policy of SBP. Shincheonji Church of Jesus to

work with Korea Centers for Disease to tackle virus Shincheonji Church of Jesus showed the intention to 'Korea Centers for Disease Control & Cured patients for the development of COVID-19 vaccines and medicines. After that, it took sometimes to find ways for donating plasma on a large scale, said by faraz ul Haq Bhatti Information Secretary Pakistan for Shincheonji Church of Jesus.

5,000 saplings target: DPO District Police Officer (DPO), Vehari Ahsanullah Chohan said, we will plant over five thousands Sapling with forest Deptt under the Clean and Green Pakistan Campaign.

He further said, by this campaign, public will aware about the benefits of tree plantation. This will provide us good health and healthy atmosphere and this campaign to guide it for promote it, DPO Vehari also planted tree in their DPO Office to start this campaign of tree plantation and SP Investigation Matiullah Khan and DSP HQ Falak Sher Bhatti also planted tree in office to further promote it, This will continue in police offices, Police Lines and other police stations.

Ajoka to present Manto Online

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Ajoka Institute is presenting a unique online theatre production, Manto Online, on July 24. The play will be produced on Zoom and live-streamed on Facebook. This is the first time that a theatre play will be presented live online in Pakistan. The play is directed by Nirvaan Nadeem and will be presented by the online acting class students of Ajoka. Ajoka Institute director Nirvaan Nadeem said "It is a bold experiment and we are all very excited about it. It is a message from Ajoka and the theatre community that we will not surrender to Corona crisis and the show will go on, come what may". He said, "this is the first of many Ajoka productions in coming months, on ground and online. The performance will start at 7 pm on Friday 24 July on Facebook and will then be repeated on YouTube and Instagram.

Rain with thundershowers expected

LAHORE: Rain coupled with wind-thundershowers is expected in most parts of the province including provincial capital during next 24 hour. According to synoptic situation, monsoon currents are penetrating in upper and central parts of the country.

According to Meteorological department, rain/wind-thundershowers are expected in Rawalpindi, Murree, Jhelum, Attock, Chakwal, Mianwali, Sargodha, Khushab, Narowal, Sialkot, Gujrat, Gujranwala, Hafizabad, Mandi Bahauddin, Lahore, Sheikhupura, Kasur, Jhang, Faisalabad, Toba Tek Singh, Okara and Sahiwal. While, isolated heavy falls are also expected in Lahore, Kasur, Shekupra, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Jhelum, Gujranwala, Sargodha, Sialkot and Narowal. Dust-storm/isolated rain-thundershower is also expected in Multan, D.G.Khan, Rahim Yar Khan, Rajanpur, Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, Layyah and Bhakkar.

During past 24 hours, rain occurred in most parts of the province including Jhelum 89mm, Kasur 84mm, Noorpur Thal 70mm, Sargodha 66mm, Okara 52mm, Faisalabad 51mm, Multan 49mm, Lahore (City 41mm, Airport 28mm), Murree 43mm, Khanewal 42mm, Rawalpindi (Chaklala 35mm, Shamsabad 8), Sahiwal 34mm, Bahawalnagar 32mm, Joharabad 25mm, Jhang 24mm, Sialkot 19mm, Bhakkar 18mm, Islamabad (Saidpur 21mm, Golra, Zero Point 16mm, Bokra 6, Airport 2), Bahawalpur 16mm, Hafizabad 12mm, Attock 11mm, Toba Tek Singh 9, Gujranwala 7, Kot Addu 4, Mandi Bahauddin 3, Layyah 2, DG Khan 1mm. Maximum and minimum temperature was recorded in the city as 28 & 23 centigrade, respectively on Tuesday. —APP