

Traders for easing lockdown on Saturday, Sunday ahead of Eidul Azha

From Our Staff Correspondent

MULTAN: Tanzeem Tajraan Pakistan Chairman Khawaja Suleman Siddique Wednesday urged the provincial government to ease lockdown and sought permission for business activities on Saturday and Sunday to avoid citizens gathering in bazaars ahead of Eidul Azha.

He, in a statement, said the traders community was witnessing lukewarm response of the shoppers and even they could not manage the daily expenses of their own.

Similarly, electricity and gas load-shedding were also creating hurdles in conducting smooth business activities. He assured that the traders would operate their business as per standard operating procedures policy.

WASA employees call off protest movement for two days

From Our Staff Correspondent

HYDERABAD: The employees of Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) here Wednesday called off protest movement for two days on assurance of a local leader of ruling Pakistan People's Party.

The district president PPP Hyderabad Sagheer Ahmed Qureshi also visited hunger strike camp organized by HDA employees Union outside press club and assured that the government had decided to resolve genuine issues of WASA employees as early as possible.

On the assurance made by the PPP leader, Wasa employees have put off their protest movement for two days and warned if salaries and pension had not been paid they would again start a protest movement till acceptance of demands. Earlier, protesting employees led by HDA Employees Union leaders Aijaz Hussain, Niaz Hussain Chandio and others also demanded early payment of outstanding salaries and pension before Eid-ul- Azha. They were staging a token hunger strike since several days against non payment of salaries and pension. Union leaders said salaries and pension of WASA employees were not being paid since the last seven months due to which their families were facing financial hardship. They warned that if salaries and pension could not be paid before Eid they would have no other option but to suspend the city's water supply and sewerage system as a protest. They also demanded of the Sindh Chief Minister, Commissioner Hyderabad and HDA and WASA management to resolve their genuine issues by releasing outstanding salaries so that they could be able to celebrate Eid-ul-Adha like other employees.



LAHORE: Members of the Punjab Education Foundation lodge a sit-in protest in favour of their demands at the Faisal Chowk. —Online

Govt believes in strengthening all institutions including Parliament: Governor

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Deputy Chairman Senate Saleem Mandviwala called on Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar while Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said that the government believes in strengthening all institutions including Parliament.

According to details, Deputy Chairman Senate Saleem Mandviwala met Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar at Governor House Lahore on Wednesday. The political situation in county, corona and other issues were discussed during the meeting.

Governor Punjab said that the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan is taking steps for the development, strength and prosperity of the country.

The country is facing other challenges including economic issues due to corona. To unite is the only way to counter such a dangerous epidemic.

He said that the government was ensuring transparency and merit to



strengthen other institutions including Parliament as the strengthening of institutions would strengthen Pakistan. Despite the most difficult economic conditions, the government was able to improve the lives of the people without any political distinction under the Ehsas program. We will not leave the poor people alone. Opposition parties should also give up their protest attitude and play their positive role inside and outside the parliament. Whatever the opposition suggests for the development and prosperity of the country the government will welcome him.

Deputy Chairman Senate Saleem Mandviwala said that we always play our role for the strengthening of parliament and democracy and will continue to play our full role for the strengthening of democracy.

On the occasion, Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar and Deputy Chairman Senate Saleem Mandviwala appealed to the people to follow the SOPs to protect the cattle markets

Balochistan govt launches digitisation of public services

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Balochistan government has approved the installation of E-Filing System in public offices to improve public services and allocated Rs 50 million for promoting digital business and entrepreneur.

The work was initially started in information technology department which would be extended to other departments of the province, an official of the Balochistan government told APP.

The service delivery of the government would be efficient, accessible and convenient with the installation of e-filing system in the province, he said.

He added that the government has initiated the work on the digitization of laws to provide online legal services to masses while the digitalizing of over 1300 laws has been completed.

The government has been establishing Information Technology (IT) centers in five more districts to promote IT education in remote areas of the province.

Keeping in view the importance of information technology in education, Balochistan government would appoint IT teachers in 450 high schools across the province.

The official said that Rs 50 million were allocated for the promotion of Digi Biz (digital business), Freelancing and Entrepreneurship in the province.

The government has been working to launch Emerging Digital Balochistan (Mobile Apps Portal) to facilitate people through online digital contents.

Railway land worth Rs5.8m retrieved

From Our Staff Correspondent

MULTAN: The Pakistan Railways (PR) have raided at Layyah and Ahsanpur and retrieved 28 marla land worth Rs 5.8 million from land grabbers in two separate operations launched here on Wednesday.

According to railways department spokesperson, in line with special directives of Divisional Superintendent (DS) Railways Shoaib Adil, department teams conducting operations against land grabbers on daily basis to retrieve land. The special team led by IOW Muzaffargarh Muhammad Azhar Khan raided at Layyah and Ahsanpur. The team retrieved 22 marla and four marla land worth Rs 5.3 million and five lakh respectively.

It is pertinent to mention here that the department teams had recovered department land of worth Rs 100 million during the last two months, sources added. DS Shoaib Adil has directed team to continue operation against land grabbers without any discrimination.

Rainforest-cover declines

Experts warn severity of climate change

Dr Saeed Ahmed Ali

LAHORE: Rainforests are one of the main natural factors that regulate and maintain climate change impact, weather patterns including amount of CO₂, in an area abundant with forest cover.

Forest experts believe that globally, a significant increase in mean-surface-temperature was a major consequence of rapid industrialization and urbanization, due to which deforestation was occurring at a rapid pace. Many parts of the world including Pakistan had witnessed rapid and unchecked cutting down of rainforest cover, which resulted in the worst disasters, during the past many decades. Noted forest expert Mirza Sarwat Baig told APP that massive deforestation could have a direct impact on the environment and the consequences of severity of climate change on agriculture, biodiversity and water would be manifold, if maximum area of land would not be brought under forest cover. Replying to a query Baig said that the rainforests of Pakistan reflect great edaphic, physiographic and climatic contrasts in the country.

He said, "We should give awareness to the masses that rainforests were essential for the conservation of biodiversity and water resource management. Expressing concern over fast deforestation, Mirza Sarwat Baig said that the government should evolve a comprehensive strategy and a concise plan to control tree cutting which was the major reason for the environmental degradation. Noted environmentalist and forest expert Dr Mehmood Khalid Qamar said that fast deforestation in the country was causing climate hazards, adding rain-

forests decline was an existential threat that demands urgent and result oriented action." "If all formations and communities start with concern, we can overcome tree cutting," says Qamar. He mentioned that tree cutting was the main cause of rising temperatures around the globe, which had a direct impact on melting of glaciers, rise in sea-level, frequent floods, increase in mean-surface-temperatures and a higher frequency of droughts and expanding desertification.

The climate change-related disasters, particularly riverine and flash floods, were causing billion dollars of losses annually in economic damages, most of them related to clean drinking water, irrigation, education, public health, energy and public infrastructure sectors, he said. Meanwhile, it may be mentioned here that United Nations Messenger of Peace Jane Goodall Inst has recently introduced a new global effort uniting people of all faiths to end tropical deforestation (of rainforests), around the globe. It is pertinent to mention here that UN has initiated a declaration move namely 'Faiths for Forests,' which is a global 'invitation to all faith-based organizations, networks and places of worship, round the world to take the practical steps in the movement to end destruction of the planet's rainforests and join advocate for climate justice. 'We begin from a place of profound concern for the state of the world's rainforests, which are a sacred trust, an irreplaceable gift and essential to life on Earth,' said a document of the UN Declaration on rainforests. "We commit to raise awareness about the deforestation crisis within our communities, places of worship and

congregations as an expression of our care for the Earth and to advance religious teaching and education that reflects a moral commitment to protect rainforests. We will make ending deforestation a high spiritual calling," it said. The National Environment Information System (NEIMS) in its report had revealed that the natural forest cover of Pakistan had reduced from 3.59 million hectares to 3.32m hectares at an average rate of 27,000 hectares annually. It may be mentioned here that NEIMS is a project of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for Pakistan to study and research on the environment, eco-degradation and its impact, biodiversity in plains, forests, mountains, threatened flora, fauna and various animal species.

The report highlighted that only 4.72m hectares or 3.36 per cent of its land mass was covered with forests, as there had been a declining forestation trend since 2000. Forests are home of around 70 to 90 terrestrial species which are found there having widespread economic and medicinal uses, in which most benefits are still unknown to mankind, it said.

The natural resources were decreasing at such an alarming speed that all the forest area would be consumed within the next five years, the report observed.

According to the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) fifth assessment report, human developmental projects and deforestation activity was responsible for the unsustainable calamities around the globe.

The writer is working with the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP)

'Digital solutions proved effective to contain COVID-19'

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque Wednesday said that digital solutions proved effective to contain COVID-19 in the country.

"It is very satisfactory that now the coronavirus cases were declining in the country and the things were coming in the control," he expressed these views during a briefing on initiatives of National Information Technology Board (NITB) along with National Command and Operations Center (NCO) to stop the spread of coronavirus through the use of information technology.

He appreciated NITB and NCO for jointly working in fight against COVID-19 pandemic and said that during current crisis of coronavirus, NCO was the focus of people's expectations, said a news release.

He also paid tributes to Pakistan Army who played a very important role in current crisis. The minister said the ministry provided platforms to run the affairs of institutions and departments and for public awareness through technology.

"Though the budget of Ministry of IT is limited but its performance is exemplary" he added. He said Prime Minister's decision for smart lockdown played very important role in stopping the spread of the coronavirus. Earlier, NITB CEO Shahbhat Ali Shah briefed the minister about the NITB's projects including Apps, dashboard and portals. Ministry of IT Secretary Shoaib Ahmed Siddiqui and other senior officers were also present in the meeting.

All main rivers run normal: FFC

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has said that presently all main rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi & Sutlej) are flowing normal right from respective catchments upto Kotri Barrage.

According to daily FFC report on Wednesday water level in Mangla reservoir is appreciably higher compared to last year (1227.85 feet Vs 1175.40 feet). River Jhelum at Mangla upstream experienced a peak inflow close to Medium Flood (107,000 cusecs) at 1200 hours yesterday. As reported by Flood Forecasting Division (FFD), Lahore, presently Arabian Sea's weak moist currents are penetrating into upper parts of Pakistan upto 3000 feet with Seasonal Low continues to prevail over Northern Balochistan.

Trough of Westerly Wave earlier over Northern parts of the country has moved Eastwards, thus its impact on Pakistan is reduced. For the ensuing 24 hours, isolated thunderstorm/ rain may occur over Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Eastern Balochistan, Gilgit Baltistan and upper catchments of all the major rivers, besides, mild flows in the Hill Torrents of D.G. Khan Division are expected.

Samsung launches New Galaxy A31 with higher quality at affordable price

LAHORE: Galaxy A31 comes with the promise of trust and quality of Samsung at a very attractive price. With the Galaxy A series, Samsung aims to bring meaningful innovation to all its consumers.

With the Galaxy A31, Samsung is giving you even more ways to capture and share your experiences. It is an embodiment of premium features, offered with a very reasonable price tag. This device is specially designed for a generation that wants to express themselves to the world and look good doing it – anytime, anywhere. Galaxy A31 comes with a multi-purpose Quad camera that has all the tools you need to capture your moments, no matter how big or small. Equipped with an FHD, an immersive Infinity-U display, Dolby Atmos and a powerful 5,000 mAh battery, the device lets you work, stream, and game all day long in luxury.

The Galaxy A31 comes with a large uninterrupted 6.4-inch FHD+ Super AMOLED Infinity-U display, with a wide 20:9 aspect ratio which covers your screen from edge to edge. The vibrant colour expression alongside a captivating full-screen viewing, and a Dolby Atmos 3D surround-sound, provide an immersive experience for streaming and gaming.

Featuring a multi-purpose 48 MP quad rear camera, Galaxy A31 allows you to be the storyteller you have always wanted. The main camera on Galaxy A31 lets you shoot hi-resolution images and videos with utmost clarity. The ultimate 8MP Ultra

Wide camera, with its 123 degree field of view, lets you capture more. The 5MP Macro camera lets you take refined close-ups, while the 5MP Depth camera allows you to take Live Focus shots that make the subject always stands out.

With the 20 MP Front Camera, you can now amp up your selfie game. It lets you be the center of attention with the Live Focus feature.

Galaxy A31 comes with 5000 mAh battery that gives you a video playback time of up to 22 hours to let you stream, share and game much more. It also comes with 15W fast charging for when you're running low on power; a quick 30-minute charge can keep you going all day.

An advanced Octa-core processor and 4GB of RAM deliver smooth and efficient multitasking performance. Download more and delete less with 128GB internal storage. You can add even more with a 512GB microSD card- practically apt for unlimited downloads.

Level up on the Galaxy A31 with the in-built Artificial Intelligence-based Game Booster that automatically optimizes your settings to give you the best possible mobile gaming experience. You can also cut distractions and up your game with a dedicated interface and easy-to-reach menu

In addition, Galaxy A31 comes with high-tech biometric authentication. The On-Screen Fingerprint scanner recognizes your unique fingerprint, so you are the only one who can au-

Blind murder case solved, two arrested: SP

By Atif Ishaq

SAHIWAL: Sahiwal police traced a blind murder case and arrested killer involved in it, Superintendent of Police (SP) Investigation Shahida Noreen said in press conference here on Wednesday.

She said that DPO Ameer Taimour ordered to trace blind murders case in area of Fate Sher police station.

She said that in the light of DPO Ameer



Taimour orders a special team was constituted. SP said that police had initially filed a report against unidentified suspects for murdering as there was no clue.

This team collected the evidences about the incident and managed to ar-

rest an accused Muhammad Umair S/O Ghulam Murtaza and Ubaida Salfi S/O Allah Yar. Further investigation is underway from the nabbed accused.

She has said that Sahiwal Police has fulfilled its professional responsibilities with full devotion and dedication and its efforts to overcome terrorism, crimes and apprehend the culprits besides maintaining law and order are highly commendable.

She said that working with honesty is the only way to accomplish one's dreams. Police is most important part of any society as this department is responsible for protection of honour, lives and properties of public and maintaining law and order.

Pak community school at Abu Dhabi may get e-learning facility

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) Thursday hinted at introducing the e-learning operation at the Pakistani Community School of Abu Dhabi by September 2020.

The move was aimed at imparting quality education to expatriates children in foreign land.

"E-learning facility extended to Pakistanis community school in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Same will also be extended to Pakistani community school in Abu Dhabi by September 2020," the OPF said in a tweet. Talking to APP, a senior officer of the OPF said the department had made all the arrangements for installation of e-learning operation at the community school of Abu Dhabi. However, the initiative was being deferred on the request of the school's authori-