

MNA's pre-arrest bail extended

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court extended pre-arrest bail of PML-N MNA Barjees Tahir till Sept 8 in an inquiry of assets beyond means by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). Tahir, also a former federal minister, said in his petition that the NAB had already closed the impugned inquiry against him in 2003. However, he said, the bureau again issued him a call-up notice in 2019 to appear in the same inquiry. He said the NAB unlawfully converted a complaint into an investigation against him and there were apprehensions of his arrest. The NAB had told the court all legal requirements had been met before initiating the inquiry against the petitioner. It said the petitioner was asked to justify his assets after a thorough investigation and details collected from all relevant departments.

On another petition by PML-N MNA Mohsin Shahnawaz Ranjha, the court summoned additional prosecutor of the NAB on August 12. Ranjha also challenged an inquiry of alleged assets beyond means against him. Ranjha through a counsel stated that the NAB had been issuing call-up notices to him in the impugned inquiry. He said the petitioner made several requests to the bureau in writing to furnish him details of the complaint and allegations against him, however, nothing had been provided to him. The counsel said all assets and properties owned by the petitioner were declared in the tax documents. He alleged that the bureau initiated the inquiry against the petitioner on political consideration. He asked the court to set aside the call-up notices and the inquiry being unlawful.

51 shops sealed

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The district administration during an operation in the provincial capital on Monday sealed 51 shops and imposed Rs 17,800 fine over violation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). A spokesperson for the city district administration said that violation of the SOPs would not be tolerated and all shops and markets violating the orders in this regard would be sealed.

PEF new chairman

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: MPA Sardar Aftab Akbar has been elected as a new chairman of the Punjab Education Foundation (PEF). The first meeting of the newly-constituted Board of Governors (BoGs) of the PEF was held in which the members through a consensus elected Sardar Aftab Akbar as chairman of the PEF.



LAHORE: People purchasing wooden bases for meat cutting on local road as ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

Supremacy of constitution, law to be ensured in: Sarwar

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar has said that for the first time in Pakistan's history the government is taking action against mafias.

Prime Minister Imran Khan has no personal agenda and his only mission is the progress and prosperity of Pakistan. The only way to protect ourselves from coronavirus is to celebrate Eid with simplicity. According to details, Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar was talking to different delegations on Tuesday in Governor House.

He also visited the residence of Federal Interior Minister Ejaz Shah and Member of PTI Wajid Azeem to offer his condolences on the sad demise of Ejaz Shah's brother Ahmad Hassan and Wajid Azeem's father. He also offered Fateha for the departed souls and prayed for strength for the bereaved families. Addressing different delegations in



Governor House, Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said that the PTI government is proving practically that the supremacy of constitution and laws will be ensured in Pakistan. We are the very first government who is taking strict action against mafias who were looting the public.

We are safeguarding public interests, he added. Governor Punjab said that we are strengthening national institutions by eliminating political interference from them. We are diligently working to make Pakistan strong and progressive.

The purpose of all governmental policies is to provide relief to the public. We are standing by the poor during the Co-

rona Pandemic and the Ehsas Programme has been launched in order to mitigate the suffering of low-income and vulnerable sections of the population. Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said that the corona situation can go out of control due to negligence of the public in observing government SOPs on Eid ul Adha and Muharram ul Haram.

Eid should be celebrated with simplicity in order to avoid a spike in Coronavirus cases in the country. Sooner we get rid of corona, the better it will be for Pakistan's economy. He further added that strict observance of SOPs in cattle markets is needed for the hour.

The exemplary role of NDMA in curbing Coronavirus spread will always be remembered. All of us will have to defeat Coronavirus with a joint effort. Talking about China Pakistan Economic Corridor CPEC, Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said that it will bring progress and prosperity in Pakistan.

Telenor offers subsidised internet bundle to enable DigiSkill trainees

LAHORE: Enabling the youth by connecting them to what matters most, Telenor Pakistan has joined hands with Ministry of Information & Technology (MoIT) and Virtual University (VU) to introduce subsidised internet packages for students of DigiSkills Program.

DigiSkills is an online training program that seeks to empower the youth with skills that are in-demand. The collaboration will enable the students to 'learn and earn' in the free-lance market.

With the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown in the country, Telenor Pakistan feels strongly about creating ease of access for e-education and enabling students to capitalize on the opportunities to continue their learning journey. Telenor Pakistan's collaboration with the program means that students can have easy access to internet to continue their learning journey.

"With increased focus on online mediums of learning and digital education, Telenor Pakistan has stepped forward to provide subsidised access to DigiSkills online resources to ensure that the students' learning curve keeps growing," said Kamal Ahmed, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Telenor Pakistan. "Online learning opens up a world of opportunities from the comfort and safety of home.

By ensuring affordable access to the DigiSkills platform, we are enabling the country's youth to get on with the new norm and help establish a digital economy."

Telenor Pakistan subscribers who are enrolled in DigiSkills program can subscribe to this special internet bundle through avoucher containing electronic codes and strings that will be sent by DigiSkills.pk.

"DigiSkills.pk is a landmark national level program that is enabling our youth and masses to learn and earn online. Not only it is aligned with the government's vision of creating livelihood opportunities, but it is also enhancing Pakistan's digital economy. It is heartening to see responsible corporate like Telenor Pakistan joining hands with us in our journey towards a prosperous digital Pakistan," said Dr. Zafar M. Alvi, Project Director, DigiSkills.

During this time, with an increase in focus on e-learning opportunities, Telenor Pakistan has remained at the forefront not only to provide access to these means but it has also actively contributed towards developing the online education ecosystem through strategic partnerships to promote skills for a digital future. Earlier Telenor Pakistan has also provided 1,000 free LinkedIn learning licenses to eligible individuals who are on the lookout for a job to help them up-skill and grow in their relevant fields. —PR

'Awareness key to controlling hepatitis

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The World Hepatitis Day 2020 is an important opportunity to remind ourselves about the huge health impact of viral hepatitis in Pakistan.

"Several hepatitis viruses are endemic in Pakistan including Hepatitis A, B, C and E. This is associated with significant morbidity as well as socioeconomic consequences. As per World Health Organisation (WHO) approximately 12 million people are living with Hepatitis B or C in Pakistan," said Dr Shahana Shahid, Consultant in Gastroenterology & General Medicine at Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, on the occasion of World Hepatitis Day.

She added: "Hepatitis A and E mostly cause a self-limiting illness. However, these are transmitted by consuming contaminated food and water and can cause significant outbreaks. It is important to reduce risk of infection by consuming clean drinking water and practicing good food and hand hygiene."

"Hepatitis B and C are of particular concern; every year approximately 150,000 new people are infected with these viruses in Pakistan. Both Hepatitis B and C can cause a chronic infection leading to

liver damage and scarring called cirrhosis, liver cancer as well as liver failure and death. In the early stage of infection, people may not have any symptoms and therefore it is common for people not to be aware that they carry the virus or have the disease," she said.

Talking about the situation in



Pakistan, she said: "In 2020, the theme of World Hepatitis Day is a 'Hepatitis Free Future'. While the prevalence of viral hepatitis in Pakistan is staggering and of concern, there is hope for achieving this virus free future.

There is a very effective vaccination available for Hepatitis B and this has been part of the childhood Expanded Immunization Programme since 2009. As a result Hepatitis B vaccination should be offered to all children as part of their childhood vaccination programme. For people who do develop chronic Hepatitis B infection there are ef-

fective anti-virals available to control the infection and reduce the chances of developing liver disease. There is currently no vaccine available for Hepatitis C. However, there is highly efficacious treatment with very high cure rates following just three months of treatment with oral tablets. This treatment is usually very well tolerated with few side effects." Dr Shahana also put emphasis on the need of public awareness on this issue. She was of the view that alongside vaccination and treatment programmes, it is also important to raise community awareness to reduce risk of transmission. Hepatitis B and C are transmitted through contact with contaminated blood. In Pakistan, this is most commonly associated with re-used syringes and surgical equipment as well as re-used blades at barbers. It is very important that injectable medication is appropriately used and sterile syringes and instruments are used in healthcare settings.

Dr Shahana said at Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (SKMCH&RC), latest diagnostic facilities as well as clinical expertise to diagnose and manage patients with liver disease including viral hepatitis are comprehensively available.

Open court again starts working for quick resolution of public issues at CPO

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: As per directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP), Punjab Shoaib Dastagir, an open court has been reopened and restarted its working for quick resolution of trouble and issues of the citizens at Central Police Office in which AIG complaints Muhammad Naveed listened to the problems of citizens and issued orders on the spot for their resolution.

In an open court which was held under strict following of Corona SOPs, the applicants came from Lahore, Nankana and Kasur and other districts who presented their complaints with respect to their problems. On the complaint of Zahida Noor who came from Nankana, AIG complaints called to Bara Ghar, Nankana and directed him to resolve the issue of land possessed by Zahida Noor Bibi immediately and submit the report to central police office within 10 days. Taking action on a complaint submitted by citizen from Lahore namely Sultan, AIG complaints called SDPO South cantonment, Lahore and directed to quickly resolve the issue.

Likewise, overall orders were issued upon applications of 25 different citizens.

AIG complaints Muhammad Naveed while discussing told that as per vision of IG Punjab Shoaib Dastagir, provision of justice to citizens and timely resolution of their problems is top priority of Punjab Police. In this regard, open court restarted its working at central police office which was held suspended since past few months due to corona pandemic and lock down and now it will be held regularly. He further said that except open court, citizens may register their complaints via phone, sms and email and by uploading complaint form from Punjab Police website and by sitting at their home, they can register their complaints by filling the said form on 8787 IGP complaint center which will be resolved within fixed deadline as per devised SOPs.

Court adjourns hearing of assets case against Hamza

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: An accountability court on Tuesday adjourned hearing of assets beyond means and money laundering case against PML-N leader Hamza Shabbaz till August 10. The court directed the NAB for filing a reference as soon as possible. The duty judge conducted the case proceedings. The jail authorities did not produce Hamza before the court due to COVID-19 protocol. The bureau had alleged that Hamza Shabbaz committed money laundering and amassed assets beyond his known sources of income.

Perveen desires hepatitis-free Pakistan

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the University of Health Sciences (UHS), Pakistan Society of Internal Medicine (PSIM) and Sarwar Foundation on Tuesday, regarding setting up of free medical camps in the country with special focus on screening the people for Hepatitis B and hepatitis C, two forms of hepatitis that can become chronic and lead to serious liver damage without treatment.

The Punjab Governor's wife, Begum Perveen Sarwar and UHS VC Prof. Javed Akram signed the agreement.

Talking to media persons on the occasion, Prof. Javed Akram said that the Sarwar Foundation (SF) was doing a great job by providing the poor people access to quality healthcare and clean drinking water in the province. He announced that free medical camps would be set up across the country in collaboration with the foundation.

He further said that whenever the Sarwar Foundation wanted to set up a medical camp anywhere in the country, UHS and PSIM would provide doctors and other medical facilities there.

Prof Javed Akram welcomed the decision of Smart Lockdown by the government.

"Many precious lives were lost due to negligence on Eid-ul-Fitr", said Prof. Javed Akram adding that the desire for new clothes and new shoes lead to the death of thousands of people all over the country.

While attributing the tripartite agreement to World Hepatitis Day, UHS VC said that hepatitis was on the rise in the country. "About 10 per cent of the population in Pakistan is infected with hepatitis B and C and there are millions of people who do not even know they have hepatitis", he added. Prof. Javed Akram further said that one million people would be screened in the next one year through the medical camps under the agreement.

PA adjourned till August 7

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Assembly (PA) session on Tuesday was adjourned till August 7 as per the parliamentary rules to accommodate for the Eid-ul-Azha holidays and smart lockdown announced by the Punjab government from July 28 till August 6.

The opposition had opposed the adjournment of the House for such a long period but the Panel of Chairman Mian Shafi Muhammad, who was in chair clarified that the decision was in line with the parliamentary rules while the members would not get TA/DA and other allowance during the break. He further said the adjournment was also aimed at completing 100 days of the parliamentary year of the assembly.

Earlier, Punjab Assembly session started two hours nine minutes behind its scheduled time of

2 p.m. with Panel of Chairman Mian Shafi Muhammad in the chair. The day's agenda pertained to questions relating to the Information and Culture department. Parliamentary Secretary Nadeem Qureshi responded to the questions by the lawmakers. To a question, the parliamentary secretary on Information told the lawmakers that the government was mulling opening the theaters and cinemas after the Eid-ul-Azha holidays. To another question, he said the Punjab government had launched Artist Support Fund and the artists would be provided monthly support of 5,000 rupees after the scrutiny process.

Opposition Leader Hamza Shehbaz Sharif attended the session after Production Orders by the Speaker PA Chaudhry Perveen Elahi. Hamza Shehbaz is in NAB custody in the assets beyond means case.



LAHORE: People busy in buying spices from shop as ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.