

SNGPL Peshawar Region Task Force raids report for July 2020

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Sui Northern Gas Peshawar Region in its continued extensive Task force activities has carried out multiple raids and inspection exercises during July 2020 in Peshawar City, Kohat, Bannu, Lakki, DI Khan,Charsadda and their sub areas.

During the month of July, Task Force plugged 375 Direct/underground Connections plugged, replaced 441 suspected dom meters replaced, disconnected 28 connections on misuse for commercial purposes, lodged an FIR and submitted 7 requests for FIR.

All main rivers flow normal, says FFC

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) Thursday said all main rivers including Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej continue to flow normal.

According to daily FFC report, current level of Tarbela reservoir is 1462.58 feet. It has 87.42 feet storage space is still available. Mangla reservoir at present has 12.70 feet storage space available.

At present moist currents from the Arabian Sea are penetrating into upper parts of Pakistan upto 5000 feet with Seasonal Low continues to prevail over Northern Balochistan as reported by Flood Forecasting Division,(FFD) Lahore. The FFD, Lahore has predicted scattered thunderstorm/rain of Moderate Intensity with a few heavy falls over Rawalpindi, Sargodha, Gujranwala, & Lahore Divisions of Punjab and Malakand, Hazara, Peshawar, Kohat, Bannu & D.I. Khan Divisions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including upper catchments of all the major rivers of Indus River System during the next 24 hours.

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LAHORE: Vice-Chairman LDA, S.M Imran chairs the governing body meeting of LDA.

Rs 58.61 billion LDA, subordinate agencies' budget approved

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Governing Body of Lahore Development Authority (LDA) approved annual budget of LDA and its subordinate agencies, WASA and TEPA, for the fiscal year 2020-21.

Total resources of LDA (U.D Wing), WASA and TEPA have been estimated as Rs 58.61 billion out of which Rs 32.45 billion have been earmarked for development works.

Vice-Chairman LDA S.M. Imran presided the meeting of governing body which was attended by Members of Provincial Assembly Sadia Sohail Rana, Malik Mukhtar Ahmad and Muhammad Atif. Other members of Governing Body Vice-Chairman, WASA, Sheikh Intiaz Mahmood, Major (ret), Syed Burhan Ali, Engineer Amir Qureshi, Director General LDA Ahmad Aziz Tarar, Managing Director WASA Syed Zahid Aziz as well as representatives of P&D, Housing, Local Government, Finance Department and Commissioner Lahore also participated in the meeting.

Total resources of LDA (UD Wing) during the fiscal year 2020-21 have been estimated at Rs39.52 billion while development expenditure during this period will be Rs 25.87 billion.

This development expenditure includes (i) Rs 17.52 billion through LDA's own

sources and (ii) Rs 8.34 billion to be provided by the Punjab Government for executing various development projects under Annual Development Programme and deposit works.

An amount of Rs 8.74 billion has been allocated through LDA's own sources for carrying out development works in LDA housing schemes.

This includes Rs 400 million for LDA Avenue-I, Rs 35 million for construction of road network, water supply and sewerage in Finance & Trade Centre, Johar Town, Rs 8.16 billion for LDA City, and Rs. 90 million as lump sum provision for development projects in different LDA housing schemes.

A sum of Rs. 3.43 billion has been allocated for construction of different buildings. This amount includes Rs. two billion for construction of apartments for government employees in LDA City, Rs one billion for construction of apartments in districts of Sheikupura, Nankana Sahib and Kasur, Rs 50 million for additional construction work at Park & Shop Plaza, Moon Market, Allama Iqbal Town, Rs. 100 million for construction of apartments in Finance and Trade Centre and another Rs. 100 million for construction of official residences for LDA employees. A sum of Rs3 billion has been allocated for other development schemes including Rs 500 million for preparation of Integrated

Strategic Master Plan of Lahore, Rs 150 million for improving Green Cover in Lahore, Rs. 130.62 million for Development and Implementation of Integrated Computerized Systems for LDA, Rs 100 million for construction of pedestrian bridges at different locations in Lahore city. A sum of Rs 310 million has been reserved for completing on-going priority works.

A sum of Rs 2.11 billion will be spent for completing on-going development schemes of LDA including Rs 970 million for construction of underpass at Firdous Market, Rs 333 million for establishment of Entertainment Park in Johar Town, Rs 450 million for construction of Walk and Shop Arena Johar Town, Rs 200 million for construction of missing links of Structure Plan Roads and Rs 17 million for remodeling of all underpasses on Canal Road. A sum of Rs 7.9 billion has also been allocated for carrying out civil and allied works of OLMT Project.

WASA will have a total of Rs 17.98 billion at its disposal whereas its expenditure has been estimated as Rs 20.81 billion. A sum of Rs 6.44 billion will be spent on development projects of sewerage and sanitation system.

TEPA will have a total of Rs. 1.11 billion at its disposal whereas its expenditure has been estimated as Rs 438.4 million including development works costing Rs.

COVID-19 claims 20 lives, infects 498 others: CM Sindh

KARACHI: As many as 20 patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 2,209 and 498 others contracted with the virus lifting the tally to 120896.

This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here from CM House on Thursday.

Syed Murad Ali Shah said that 20 more patients lost their lives while struggling against the virus lifting the death toll to 2209 that constituted 1.8 percent death rate.

He added that 689 more patients recovered raising the number of patients cured so far to 110233 that constituted 91 percent recovery rate. Syed Murad Ali Shah said that 10842 samples were tested against which 498 cases were detected that constituted five percent current detection rate.

So far 748481 tests have been conducted which detected 120,896 cases all over Sindh that came to 16 percent overall detection rate.

According to the CM Sindh, currently 8454 patients are under treatment, of them 7954 in home isolation, 12 at Isolation Centers and 488 at different hospitals. Currently the condition of 399 patients are stated to be critical while 67 patients have been shifted to ventilators.

The chief minister said that out of 498 new cases of coronavirus, 261 have been detected from Karachi, they include 18 from South, 51 Korangi, 50 East, 31 Central, and 24 each from Malir and West.

He added that Sukkur has 38 new cases, Shikarpur 24, Kashmore 19, Khairpur 18, Shaheed Benazirabad and Hyderabad 14 each, Badin 10, Mirpurkhas and Ghotki nine each, Dadu and Jamshoro eight each, Larkana and Naushehroferoze seven each, Jacobabad and Thatta four each and Sujawal two. The Sindh Chief Minister urged the people of Sindh to be cautious during Eid-ul Azha and save themselves from the COVID-19 infection.

PR to operate five special trains on Eid

LAHORE: The Pakistan Railways has decided to run an additional the 5th Eid special train besides four others to facilitate people.

According to the PR spokesperson on Thursday, the decision was taken due to heavy rush on Eid.

The 5th train will be operated between Rawalpindi and Karachi City via Lalamusa, Lahore, Khanewal, Bahawalpur, Rahimyar Khan, Rohri and Tando Adam which will leave for Rawalpindi at 5:00pm on August 5 which would reach Karachi City on the next day at 7:45pm.

It is pertinent to mention here that the PR has already announced to operate four special trains on Eidul Azha.



LAHORE: A man is busy in tying his sacrificial animal in front of his house at Shadbagh ahead of Eid-ul-Azha. —Online

PTI govt working tirelessly to root out corruption: CM

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The PTI government was working tirelessly to root out corruption from the country.

This was stated by Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar in a statement issued here on Thursday.

He asserted that the incumbent government had promoted the norm of transparency in government affairs and expressed satisfaction that the PTI's zero-tolerance policy towards corruption had yielded positive results.

The government had taken several measures to eliminate corruption and promote a culture of merit and transparency, he said. The credit of decreasing corruption and promotion of the culture of transparency went to the incumbent government, the CM added. During the previous tenures, corruption and plunder ravaged the country and corrupt elements took personal benefits. There was no room for corrupt elements in the new Pakistan as a transparent Pakistan was the agenda of the incumbent government, he said. It was satisfying that transparent policies of the PTI-led government were also acknowledged internationally, Usman Buzdar said.

The CM reiterated that the PTI had come to power with the agenda of accountability of the corrupt and vowed that it would be accomplished. Pakistan would achieve destination of progress and prosperity under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, he concluded.

Approves expansion of rainwater's storage project

Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar on Thursday approved expansion of rainwater's underground storage project in other districts which would made stored utilized for horticulture and drinking purposes after purification.

He was chairing a meeting at his office to review the performance of the housing department. The Chief Minister approved to gradually expand the project to other districts and directed the housing department to take steps in this regard. He said the underground storage tank facility at Lawrence Road was very useful as it can store 1.4 million gallon water for subsequent use.

The Chief Minister said that a new sewerage line would be constructed from Larek Colony to Gulshan Ravi at an estimated cost of Rs 14 billion.

Meanwhile, the government was also working on a surface water treatment plant in the provincial metropolis with a cost of around Rs 21 billion, he added.

He said, a business plan has been devised so that WASA could operate according to new requirements. A horticulture academy would also be set up in Lahore to train the people about the intricate art of garden cultivation and management, he said. He directed that construction of houses under the Naya Pakistan Housing Programme should be started soon and the private sector would be provided with every necessary facility in this regard.

Crypto currency emerging as a new trend

Omer Sajid

What began as a small malady in a London-sized town, is now a global pandemic across the world.

What seemed so minute, and thus as brief as the condensing of ice, tuned out to be an almost inextinguishable embryos that took the world by surprise – caught us off guard. The devastation of this tragedy can be further understood by statistics, and it's as simple as this: a disease broke out in 0.00016% of the world and, in a total time of time of 5 months, now affects more than 70% of the world. Yes, it is a bare fact that the implications of this now-declared "severe acute respiratory syndrome" were gravely underestimated.

In the economic world, solely, it has impacted the share markets in the US, India, China, and Europe.

Albeit rare assets are generally viewed as sheltered in all stock exchanges, there has been some fluctuation in the value of various metals in the past few months.

Viewing the bullish-run of the bitcoin in the past, here are a few facts. The bit coin valued a total of around US\$900 back in January if 2017. (Bear in mind that 2017 was the first year the bitcoin saw a huge rise in value). Around May, the value rose to around US\$2000, and by the end of the year the value climbed all the way up to around US\$15,000.

However, the value or the nature of the Bitcoin can best be described as that of a "highly inflated helium balloon", that filled up to its brink in



2017, but popped shortly after.

Many thought this was the end of this new Bitcoin hype, but in light of recent events – the pandemic – Bitcoin is back in the bullish run again, putting investors into double minded thoughts. To best understand this scenario, take yourself as an investor. A brimming, elite, affluent investor is panicking over the fall in stocks, and liquid assets over the past few months.

What would be your safest bet? Would you not buy some bitcoin? Is this a delusion? Or this a safe haven? I firmly believe that this "reality" has been feeding into the value of Bitcoin and the facts back up this theory. Conclusively, due to this belief and other determining factors, the price fluctuated between US\$4,9975 and US\$10,000, until it popped back up to US\$10,500 in June, showing how cryptocurrency is emerging as a new

trend. Recently, UNICEF, global children's charity, announced its investment in this new currency. It looks forward to expanding this to help children all over the world in their fight against COVID-19.

It is to invest 125 ethers (equivalent to around \$28,500) in eight companies from seven different parts of the world as art of its "CryptoFund", aimed at curbing global problems.

Binance has climbed up the ranks of crypto-currencies, becoming the world's largest crypto exchange currency, within 180 days of its existence. These shifts in trends coupled with huge economies starting to lean towards cryptocurrency are the possible beginning of a new era.

This generation truly is yet to see many paradigm shifts in its time.

The writer is a student at Aitchison College, Lahore

Kashmiris to observe Aug 5 as 'Youm-e-Istehsal'

The Business Report

MIRPUR: Brisk preparations were afoot by Jammu & Kashmir people living at both sides of LOC (line of control) and rest of the world to observe August 5 as "Youm e Istehsal" as a mark of extreme protest on the eve of first anniversary of the Indian sinister act of revoking special status of the internationally-acknowledged disputed Jammu Kashmir State through the abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A of the Indian constitution this day last year.

"Like across Pakistan and Azad Jammu Kashmir the day will also be marked with protest processions and rallies to be held the world over including United States, European countries including United Kingdom to register extreme indignation the Indian nefarious action of abrogation of the special status of disputed J&K State besides to express complete solidarity with the people of occupied Kashmir and to condemn to Indian government's illegal action to change the special status of the Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK)", said Raja Sikander Khan, Chairman Global Pakistan Kashmir Suprem Council (GPKSC). Addressing quarterly meeting of the GPKSC at its head quarter in

London on Thursday speakers including the Chairman of the organization Raja Sikander Khan, President Kaala Khan and other senior executive members of the organization appealed to the masses including millions of Kashmiri expatriates settled in various parts of the world including those living in the UK to highlight the Indian atrocities and human rights violations in IOK through social and print media.

Raja Sikander Khan said that a major demonstration against the Indian sinister acts the world-acknowledged disputed Jammu Kashmir state, will be staged by Kashmiris in front of the Indian High Commission in London on August 5 to apprise external peace and freedom-loving nations of the world the negative repercussions of the Indian nefarious unilateral action of August 5 last year stabbing the special status of the disputed Jammu Kashmir state in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir State, the message said.

Hundreds of the leaders of all Pakistani and Kashmir political, religious and people belonging to all walks of life settled in UK and other European countries will participate in the protest procession to apprise the external world of the true black face of India involved in abusing the humanity.

SMEDA launches knowledge sharing programme

LAHORE: The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) has launched a 'Knowledge Sharing Programme' to enhance expertise of its officials for SME development in the country.

According to a spokesperson here on Thursday, Under the programme, presentations were being organized every week on SME related research topics for SMEDA team by its resource persons. In this regard, the Policy & Planning Division has been assigned responsibility of coordinating the activity on regular basis.

'India a terrorist country'

From Our Staff Correspondent

VEHARI: The holocaust of minorities in India is continuing said by Babar Sulaheri Central President Youth Assembly for Human Rights.

He further said, according to a twice-released report by the United Nations Human Rights Council, India is a terrorist country that has not only carried out holocausts in Kashmir, but also promoted state terrorism. India is not eligible to be elected as Permanent Member of the Security Council. He said that real face of India should be exposed