

‘Rejected parties join hands to save their interests’

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Chairman Punjab Zakat & Ushr Council Ch Bilal Ejaz has said that all rejected political parties had gathered to protect their own interests as they had nothing to do with people’s problems.

The people of the country had recognized politics of these parties which were only getting united to defend their looted wealth, he said this while talking to APP on Saturday. Commenting on the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)’s public gathering in Gujranwala, he said all parties of the opposition could not attract good number of participants despite big claims. He said a thin participation of people was evident that these parties had lost support and confidence of people.

Bilal Ejaz said the PTI government was not afraid of unnatural alliance of the opposition as people were supporting the PTI-led government which would complete its five years term.

PDM leaders gather to protect corruption: Nakai

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Communication and Works Sardar Muhammad Asif Nakai said on Saturday the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)’s public gathering in Gujranwala was meant to protect its corruption and misdeeds. Commenting on the (PDM) public gathering, he said that Maryam Nawaz Sharif and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari were trying to protect the corruption of their fathers and were least interested in the welfare of the common man. Those who speak against national institutions were harming the national interest and had nothing to do with the democratic values, he added.



LAHORE: Devotees touch the model coffin of Hazrat Imam Haasan (RA) as a religious gesture during the procession at Bibi Pak Daman. —Online

Opposition’s agenda being exposed to nation: Governor —Says those who have conspired to weaken Pakistan's Armed Forces cannot be benevolent to nation

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar has said that those who have conspired to weaken Pakistan's Armed Forces cannot be benevolent to the nation.

He said that 220 million Pakistanis stand united with their defence institutions, the opposition's agenda is being exposed to the nation and the whole nation rejects this agenda.

He was addressing a seminar on "Shaheed Hakeem Saeed's Life and Services" on Saturday and was talking to the media. Justice (retired), Nazir Ahmad Ghazi, Justice (retired), Nasira Javaid Iqbal, Amjad Islam Amjad and DGPR Muhammad Aslam Dogar and others were present on this occasion.

Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said that the opposition is fighting for political and personal interests instead of protecting the national interests. By criticizing the national institutions, the opposition is proving that they do not care about the national interest but their own interests. The public will not let the intentions of opposition succeed in any case, he added.

Replying to a question, the Governor of Punjab said that the people have rejected the protest of the opposition. No matter how many meetings they hold, the government is not under their pressure and the general elections in the country will be held in 2023 and the people of Pakistan also stand by the government's statement and the government will continue its mission of serving the nation.

He said that protest was the right of the opposi-

tion but the path taken by the opposition against the institutions would not be tolerated under any circumstances and the rule of law would be ensured in all cases.

Addressing the function, Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said that the whole life and deeds of Hakeem Saeed are like an open book.

He became Governor and Minister but his relationship with medicine did not end.

The way he has been serving humanity is a great example and his services will always be remembered in history. Shaheed Hakeem Mohammad Saeed is a true man who came to Pakistan from India with a single intention and he worked day and night for the survival of Pakistan and progress of his beloved homeland. People like him are born once in centuries.

One confirmed, 707 suspected dengue cases reported

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A confirmed while 707 suspected dengue cases were reported in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

Primary & Secondary Health-care Department said here on Saturday the confirmed case of dengue virus was reported from Lahore. All suspected cases of dengue have been kept in surveillance and their tests are being conducted.

Since January to uptil now, 110 cases of confirmed dengue cases were reported in the province, of them, 102 patients were discharged after recovery while 8 patients of dengue virus were under treatment. Owing to effective measures by the government, no death was reported due to dengue virus this year.

Dengue surveillance underway in City

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: An anti-dengue drive initiated by the district administration is in full swing under which surveillance is being carried out at various points in the provincial capital.

Assistant Commissioner Model Town Zeeshan Nasirullah Ranjha on Saturday visited Union Council (UC) 107 Rehman Pura, where he checked staff working in streets for indoor surveillance. He directed the teams to gear up pace of anti-dengue spray process.

Meanwhile, Assistant Commissioner Raiwind Adnan Rasheed visited UC-116 Johar Town and Assistant Commissioner Shalimar Mahndi Maloof visited UC-33 and 37 to review measures pertaining to dengue larva surveillance. Assistant Commissioner Cantt Marzia Saleem visited UC-02 Walton Cantonment to inspect anti dengue arrangements. The officers also inspected the attendance and performance of the staff deputed on field duty.

Combination of traditional, modern farming techniques essential for sustainable agriculture, security

The Business Report

MULTAN: The excessive use of pesticides and fertilizers for last few decades has not only affected the environment but damaged fertility of soil.

The agricultural soil has become very much weak and unable to produce required or expected yield. Our agriculture sector utterly ignored presence of organic matter (animal dung, tree leaves, crops remains etc) in the soil. Lack of organic matter has destroyed soil fertility. Fertilizers and pesticides could contribute better results only; in case the soil has sufficient organic matter. However, constant use of pesticides and fertilizers has poisoned soil and it is a major reason behind decline in production of different crops, especially wheat, cotton, sugarcane, rice and vegetables.

According to agriculture experts, there should be at least five to six percent organic matter in the soil for achieving handsome production. Unfortunately, our agriculture sector ignored organic matter for last many years. Resultantly, soil contained 0.5 percent of organic material only, which is not only weakening soil health but also damaging farmers economically, ultimately loss to country's economy.

Dean Faculty of Agriculture and Environment Science, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture Multan (MNS-UAM), Dr Shafqat Saeed told APP, the regular use of pesticides and fertilizers poisoned our soil. Although, fertilizers and pesticides are considered important but in case of weak soil, these could not produce better yield. There was dire need to maintain

presence of organic matters in soil. When fertilizers were applied in any field, it made special bond with organic matter and thus help in contributing more production. If soil lacks organic material, then fertilizers lose its efficacy because it could not built any bond in soil, which was essential for fertility of soil, Dr Shafqat Saeed explained.

"We have to limit chemical intervention in our agriculture sector. Europe is returning to organic farming now a days, so we will have to promote organic farming along with use of modern agriculture tools or machineries," he remarked.

Dr Shafqat added "Pakistan is among those countries severely affected by climate changes. Sudden high, low temperatures, unexpected rainfall, changing seasons of crop sowing and harvesting are also big challenges. So, we have to move to smart farming for sustainable agriculture in the country. Smart farming means combination of both traditional as well as modern farming techniques. Modern farming techniques also referred to efficient use of available resources. For health of soil, the agriculture sector should follow traditional methods. However, modern technology should be utilized for sowing, harvesting, grading, marketing and some other necessary operations of crops."

About excessive use of pesticides, Dr Shafqat Saeed stated that pesticides put negative impact on environment. The low use of pesticides would surely help improving ecosystem, said Shafqat adding that they should also promote artificial intelligence for achieving goal of sustainable agriculture, he suggested. The agriculture expert

quoted example of Amazon forest and stated that there was natural system. Fertilizers and pesticides were never used in the forest but it was only natural system which maintained the fertility of the forest. Best ecosystem is also vital for human health, he noted.

Director Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) MNS-UAM, Dr Zulfiqar advocated applying of traditional as well as modern farming techniques for sustainable agriculture. "We cannot ignore traditional as well as modern farming techniques. Combination of both techniques is essential to get handsome production". For soil health and its fertility, he supported traditional style farming. However, for crops preparation, he proposed use of modern technologies including artificial intelligence, weather information and modern tools. For example, weather information is very much important in decision making for any farmer.

Dr Zulfiqar remarked that they had to pay focus on soil health. The farming sector would have to discourage excessive use of pesticides and fertilizers. Similarly, crop rotation policy should also be introduced, he stated adding that our farmers were cultivating same crops repeatedly. They should cultivate crops on rotation basis as it would surely help maintaining soil fertility as well as keeping pest attack away from crops. He quoted example of cotton and stated that crop was sown repeatedly and it resulted into consistent attack of pest especially pink bollworms. He proposed that farmers should cultivate some other crops, contrary to last year crop in particular fields.

UVAS holds seminar on small ruminant project

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS) Lahore in collaboration with the Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research (ACIAR) and the University of Melbourne

Australia organized a seminar on small ruminant project update 'Enhancing Small Ruminant

Production to Benefit Farming Families in Sindh and Punjab' here on Saturday in the city campus.

UVAS Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Nasim Ahmad presided over the seminar while various participants joined the seminar online and face to face, UVAS faculty members,

master students, representative from Livestock Dairy Development Board, Islamabad, Small Ruminant Project team (Punjab & Sindh) and small holder farmers ACIAR Pakistan were attended.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Dr Nasim Ahmad emphasized that small ruminant was the major component of the small holder farming system. He said such seminars were important for project visibility and knowledge sharing. Research findings would lead to measure the solicited impact of the project interventions on smallholder farming families, he added. Small Ruminant team presented the findings of research activities conducted in Chakwal, Bhakkar, Rajanpur,

Tharparker, Badin and TandoAllahyar. Dr Rebecca Doyle and Dr Angus Campbell (Project Leaders) shared the future strategies and support resources for improved growth and management of young and adult goats/sheep, value chain interventions and extension material on the issues that are grounded in research and inclusive of the needs of all members of small ruminant farming families. The Project was supported by Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research (ACIAR). This project was implemented by the UVAS and the University of Melbourne, Australia which aims to enhance the small ruminant production to benefit farming families in Sindh and Punjab.



LAHORE: A fruit seller waits for customer at his road side setup. —Online

Opposition stages protests to protect its corruption: Mehmood

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Housing and Urban Development Mian Mehmood-ur-Rasheed said the opposition had nothing to do with public problems as they only staged protests to protect their corruption and money laundering. In a statement issued here on Saturday, he said that looters and plunders were gathered under the umbrella of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM). He added opposition's designs would be foiled.

The minister maintained that opposition was trying to hatch conspiracies against national institutions, adding that the corrupt mafia wanted to bring people on the streets to get NRO. He mentioned that the government did not create any hurdle in the PDM's public gathering in Gujranwala. He said Pakistan would continue its journey towards a stable economy in the next three years under the magnificent leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan. He said people of Pakistan had given a mandate to Prime Minister Imran Khan for eradication of corruption and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government would expose corrupt elements of the country at every cost.

Punjab govt closely monitoring wheat, sugar situation

LAHORE: The Punjab government is closely monitoring wheat and sugar situation in the province to ensure smooth provision of these commodities to people at government fixed rates. Official sources said here on Saturday that Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar recently presided over a meeting, in which, decision was taken to fix minimum price of sugarcane as Rs 200 per maund. Approval had also been given in the meeting to start sugarcane crushing season in south Punjab districts from November 10. The meeting was told that crushing season in other districts of Punjab would start from November 15. The incumbent government had made these decisions to avoid sugar shortage and in the larger interest of the people, sources added. Agriculture department sources told APP that this year, wheat crop would be cultivated on 17,000,000 acres of land in Punjab from which more than 26,000,000 tonnes of wheat yield was expected. —Correspondent