

Minimum 19:°C
Maximum 36:°C
Sunset 05:50pm
Sunrise 06:04am
(Today)

LAHORE

www.thebusiness.com.pk

Monday, October 19, 2020

Dozens of shops gutted in Hafeez Centre

LCCI condemns fire incident at Hafeez Centre



By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Dozens of shops were gutted when fire broke out in Hafeez Centre, Gulberg here on Sunday morning.

Computers, laptops and other valuables worth millions of rupees were reduced to ashes due to fire. A spokesman for the Rescue-1122 said the fire ignited due to short circuiting which engulfed the first floor of

Hafeez centre and later it engulfed the third and fourth floor.

About twenty fire fighting vehicles and more than 60 rescuers were busy in extinguishing fire till the filing of this report. However, no loss of life was reported in the inferno. Deputy Commissioner Mudassar Riaz and senior police officers reached the spot and supervised the rescue operation.

Meanwhile, the Lahore Chamber of

Commerce and Industry (LCCI) has strongly condemned the huge financial losses caused by a fire at Hafeez Centre.

In a statement on Sunday, LCCI President Mian Tariq Misbah, Senior Vice President Nasir Hameed Khan and Vice President Tahir Manzoor Chaudhry condemned the fire at Hafeez Centre and expressed sorrow over the loss of property and demanded the government compensate

the traders. They said that they stood by the traders of Hafeez Centre and would raise their voice at every forum and would strongly demand the government to correct their losses by identifying them.

They said that Hafeez Centre was an important and big commercial center of Lahore in which small and big traders do businesses, it was impossible to recover from the damage caused by this fire.



Quick Read

10 to 15 more Sunday bazars for Lahore soon: Yasmin

Says Magistrates must visit markets daily to monitor pricing trends

By Our staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid said here on Saturday that a stringent Price Control Mechanism is being introduced to control the process of essentials.

Chairing a very important meeting of the Price Control Committee at Nadir Hall of the Deputy Commissioner's office, the Minister Health said a comprehensive strategy to control prices of essentials is being introduced. Present in the meeting were Deputy Commissioner Lahore Mudassar Riaz Malik, Assistant Commissioners and officials of the concerned departments.

The DC Lahore gave a briefing to the Minister about Price Control Mechanism. The Minister said prices of essential items like potato, tomato, ginger, garlic and others must be kept under control. She said monitoring of prices must be enhanced in 10 Sunday Bazars of Lahore and 10 to 15 more Sunday Bazars must be added in the city.

The Minister said, "All Assistant Commissioners must personally visit Sunday Bazars, ensure putting a break at hike in prices. All Magistrates must visit fruits and wholesale markets daily to keep close eye at trends in pricing.

Making life easy for common people must be our ultimate goal. The meeting to review prices will be called regularly. We must ensure implementation of Corona SOPs as well. We are making all out efforts to ensure supply of essentials at affordable prices. Hoarders and profiteers must be taken to task. Those committing food adulteration deserve no sympathy and strict action must be taken against them."

Musical night titled "Color Rave Festival" to be held on 24th

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A musical night blended with beautiful tunes titled "Color Rave Festival", arranged by Maha Event Management, will be held to enthrall the music lovers on October 24 at Open Air Theater Shakar Parian. Emerging singers and famous Tik Tokers will fire up the stage with their outstanding performances, an official said. The event will also include much more activities including, Water balloons, Color War, Unlimited dance, Live Singin, Live Dj's performance and games. Well known singer Faizan Haider will fire the stage with his melodious voice and outstanding performance. Different restaurants will also place stalls of continental, Chinese and desi food.

He said that it would be a family ambience event that has specifically been arranged to enhance the musical activities and provide healthy entertainment to citizens.

No one can be allowed to disgrace our institutions: CM

By Our staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has strongly condemned the attempt of the opposition for making national institutions controversial for their narrow political interests. No one can be allowed to disgrace our institutions as they are our pride. He said that strong institutions guarantee stable democracy.

He said that the opposition is trying to cut down the tree which is providing shadow to them. Institutions are the pride and identity of the nation and their enemies are the enemies of the nation. He said that those who are making hue and cry will remain do so and government will continue to work for the progress and prosperity of the people.

The Chief Minister said that the flop show of Gujranwala is a lesson for the opposition as the people have totally rejected their call. He further maintained that people have given their decision against the politics of anarchy as the opposition parties have completely forgotten the national interest and hatched the conspiracy against the institution in their speeches.

Opposition leaders should regain their senses as the opposition has tarnished its own image by engaging itself in the politics of chaos and anarchy. The opposition should repent from their negative politics. Rejected elements once again got rejection from the people in their first public gathering, he concluded.

Problem of Baluchistan students resolved: Due to the personal interest of Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar, the problem of Baluchistan students studying in vari-



ous universities of Punjab regarding expenditures has been resolved. The Chief Minister directed Addl Chief Secretary Higher Education to resolve the issues of Baluchistan student at the earliest. On the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Addl Chief Secretary contacted the Baluchistan government on which the Baluchistan government has approved to allocate Rs. 2 crore for Baloch students studying in Punjab.

These funds will be spent on the educational expenses of Baloch students in the new academic year. While, the Punjab government will pay the expenses of 142 Baloch students studying at Bahauddin Zakaria University Multan till 2023. He further maintained that Baluch students studying in Punjab are very close to his heart. He said that government has resolved the problem of Baloch students on priority basis before and will do so in future as well. Punjab as an elder brother is always available for Baloch students.

Seeks report from about fire eruption in Hafeez Centre: Buzdar has sought a report from the administration about the fire eruption in Hafeez Centre and directed to inquire about this incident. Soon after receiving the

information about this incident, the CM directed all the concerned authorities of administration and Rescue 1122 to use all available resources for extinguishing fire. He directed to rescue those who were stuck on the roof immediately. On the directions of the Chief Minister, administrative officers and officials of Rescue 1122 reached on the spot and supervised the rescue operation and safely evacuated the people from the roof. Usman Buzdar was remain in constant liaison with Commissioner Lahore Division and officials of Rescue 1122 and personally monitored the rescue operation. On the instructions of the CM, Dr Yasmeen Rashid and Mian Khalid Mahmood reached on the spot and supervise the relief activities. Usman Buzdar directed to further accelerate the rescue operation and said that relief operation should be conducted whole heartedly to prevent further spread of fire. All necessary resources should be utilized in this regard, he added. Usman Buzdar said that the cause of the fire eruption in Hafeez Centre will be determined and surfaced. The CM said that he is aggrieved over the loss of traders and instructions have been issued to make estimate about the loss. We will review the losses of the traders and take steps to compensate them.

Expresses deep sense of sorrow and grief over loss of precious human lives: Buzdar has expressed deep sense of sorrow and grief over the loss of precious human lives in a bus accident on Gilgit Skardu Road due to land sliding. Usman Buzdar extended heart sympathies and condolence with the bereaved family members of the deceased and said Punjab government equally share their grief and stand be-

Punjab Govt upgrades nursing service structure

Grants them with scholarships & higher education for betterment of nursing community

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: First time in the history of the medical field government of Punjab has taken steps regarding upgradation of nursing service structure, granting scholarships & higher education for the betterment of the nursing community to provide quality healthcare and medical facilities to the patients in all the hospitals of Punjab.

These views were expressed by Principal Post Graduate Medical Institute & Lahore General Hospital Prof. Dr. Sardar Muhammad Al-freed Zafar said that these steps are the most important for the nursing community which not only promotes the development of nurses but also strengthen healthcare facilities for general patients.

He added that after the steps taken by the Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar and Provincial Health Minister Dr. Yasmin Rashid has taken personal interest and given priority to the field of nursing. Principal PGMI lauded that the entire nursing community is grateful to the Punjab Govt. for the in-principle approval of scholarships

for M.Phil and Ph.D in the field of Nursing and hoped that now nurses will work more hard for the service of patients.

While commenting, Principal PGMI said that there is no doubt that the role of nurses in the medical field is the backbone and a better working environment was essential for them. There will be an opportunity to streamline the affairs of medical education through foreign scholarships for nurses and degrees from colleges after FSC which will increase their confidence as well. Prof Al-freed said that creating facilities for nurses would help in ensuring quality healthcare and it will directly benefit the patients also.

He said that sending nurses abroad on scholarships, solving the problem of hostels and their accommodation and providing better medical education to nurses are commendable initiatives on which CM Punjab and Health Minister on which they both deserve congratulations. Nurses will continue to fulfill the mission of service to humanity and accomplish their responsibilities day and night alongside the doctors, he concluded.

Parliamentarians call to end child marriage in Punjab

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A number of parliamentarians from two major political parties and officials from the government departments resolved to increase the minimum age of marriage for girls in Punjab from 16 to 18 years and make National Identity Card a mandatory document as an evidence of age at the time of marriage.

They also announced to support a relevant Amendment Act which is pending in the Punjab Assembly and waiting for the approval.

This was announced during a "multi stakeholder dialogue on ending child marriage in Punjab," which was held by Bargad a leading youth development organization in commemoration of the International Day of the Child Girl. Parliamentarians, government officials and representatives of civil society organizations, religious leaders and youth organizations attended the dialogue including MPAs Sadia Sohail Rana,

Sumaira Bukhari, Bushra Anjum Butt and Uzma Kardar, and representatives of School Education, Human Rights and Minority Affairs, Population Welfare, Women Development departments, Punjab Institute of Languages, Arts and Culture, The Punjab Commission on the Status of Women and Punjab Safe City Authority. Noor Imran moderated its proceedings while Salma Butt was the resource person.

MPA Sadia Sohail said early age marriage is an evil and must be eliminated from Punjab.

She further said that early age marriage is harmful to health and overall wellbeing of girls who are married at very young age as they are not physically or emotionally ready to take responsibilities. According to MPA Uzma Kardar the ID card must be a mandatory document at the time of marriage for Pakistani nationals whereas passport for foreign nationals because without this people will still keep showing a 10 year old girl as 16 or 18 to

avoid punishment or hurdle by law enforcement agencies. MPA Bushra Butt ensured to pursue the legislative bill laying in the Punjab Assembly which proposes increase in age for marriage of girls in The Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929.

MPA Sumaira Bukhari said that the female MPAs fully agree that legislative amendment to The Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929 should be approved as early as possible.

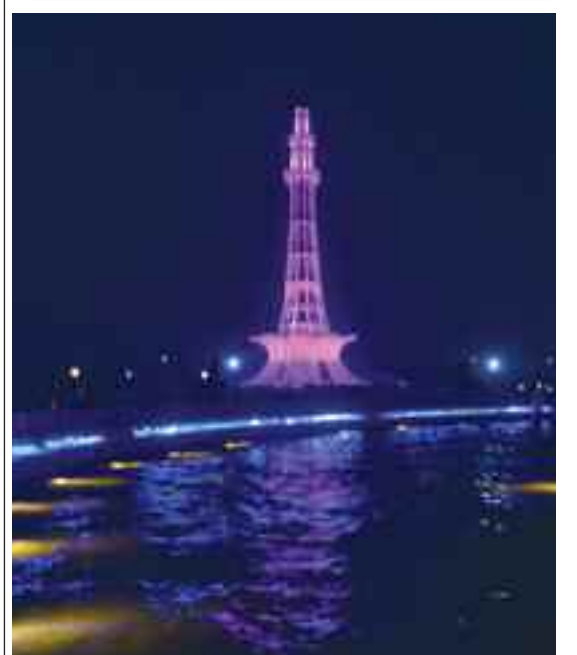
Muhammad Hafiz Rafiz Rashid, Director, Ubaid-Ullah Sindhi Foundation and a religious leader explained the religious perspective. He said that the marriage is an agreement between two adult and mature persons.

How a minor can consent to have a marriage agreement? SP Muhammad Asim Jasra from Punjab Safe City Authority emphasized the need of social awareness about early age marriage issue and suggested changes in education system in Punjab to address this issue. He also highlighted gaps in im-

plementation of The Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929 (amended in 2013 and increased the age of marriage for girls to 18) in Sindh and proposed strategies to mitigate those gaps in Punjab once the legislative bill is approved in the assembly and becomes law.

Sajeel Naveed, Director, Punjab Women Development Department said that the age of child marriage is not merely a number or figure, it is linked with culture, social and economic health and wellbeing of our society. Fatima Jamal, Strategic Consultant, Punjab School Education Department said legislation is key to change and emphasized early age marriage should be made as a cognizable offense.

The participants were also presented with results of an online petition initiated by a 14 years girl Nawal. 22,700 persons have endorsed this petition so far demanding the government to increase the minimum age of marriage for girls in Punjab from 16 to 18 years. She aims to collect 50,000 signatures before



LAHORE: A view of historical Minar-e-Pakistan turns pink for breast cancer awareness, organized by Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital.