

PSCA e-ticketing online payment to be started soon

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) decided to launch online payment system for e-tickets in collaboration with the Finance department in the wake of coronavirus.

After the launching of online e-payment system, citizens would no longer have to line up at banks for payment of e-challans, a spokesman for PSCA told APP here on Saturday. The citizens could pay e-challan through Punjab e-pay online mobile application.

PSCA spokesperson said that electronic payments could be made through ATM, easy paisa, Jazz cash and online banking by using Punjab e-pay app. The constraints of manual payment were settled by taking advantage of modern technology which would facilitate citizens to pay their e-challan. An electronic payment would also facilitate real-time information. Meanwhile, the spokesperson said that Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) received 212,152 calls at 15 emergency helpline during the month of November, out of which, 129,293 calls were considered hoaxes/irrelevant and 43,054 calls, with genuine concerns and the Dispatch Control Center (DCC) generated cases for further action.

However, 24,659 calls received were related to seeking information and 5,107 calls for traffic management & city traffic police help.

The PSCA lost and found center set its mark high this month, contributing to the recovery of 11 missing persons, four vehicles, 180 motorbikes and three auto-rickshaws, the spokesperson said. He said that Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) was determined to extend its services and cooperation with law enforcement agencies and all others in need, whenever required.

KP TEVTA kicks up employment drive

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (KP-TEVTA) initiated its employment drive for the youth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the field of vocational education and training. In this connection, a total of five job fairs and three orientation sessions have been scheduled in which two job fairs held at GATTC Hayatabad and GTVC Boys Gulbahaar simultaneously said a press release issued on Saturday. Several industrial representatives and TVET pass-outs in numerous trades and technologies participated in the events. Speaking on the occasion, MD KP Technical Education and Vocational Training



LAHORE: Special Assistant to CM Punjab on Information and Broadcasting Firdous Ashiq Awan breaks tiles with punch during ceremony in connection with the World Special Children Day.

Firdous for creating ease in lives of differently-abled people

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Special Assistant to Chief Minister (SACM) Punjab on Information Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan Friday said that it was a responsibility of healthy people to create ease in the lives of differently-abled people.

Addressing an event, organised in connection with the World Disability Day under the aegis of Hum Mashal-e-Rah Foundation here, she said that Prime Minister Imran Khan had always talked about disenfranchised segments of society.

Dr Firdous said that the mission of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government was to uplift the downtrodden and weaker sections of society as all the government policies revolve around them. She said that respect and service to these differently-abled people was a social responsibility and obligation. She said that Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar initiated different projects on the pattern of Riaseat-e-Madina and recently inaugurated Bahi-

mat Buzurg programme for welfare of weak and elderly people. She added that the first-ever special education policy had been approved in the history of the province under which a comprehensive strategy had been evolved for providing education, health and other facilities to differently-abled children.

She said that around 585 teachers had been recruited in special education department through Punjab Public Service Commission. She mentioned that the government had provided 51 buses at a cost of Rs 330 million this financial year whereas 12 buses were provided last year to provide free travel facility to special students. She said that the government had set up nine new special education centres in Muzaffargarh, Rawalpindi, Bhakkar, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Sheikhpura, Khanewal and Layyah.

Moreover, secondary schools for girls have been set up in Sahiwal and Bahawalpur and degree colleges in Sar-

godha and DG Khan as well.

The government has also upgraded special education institutions in 14 districts of Punjab, she informed. She said that free books had been provided in the libraries of 147 special education institutes of the province at a cost of Rs 4 million.

Modern courses were being introduced for special children to provide information technology and forensic science education to these children so that they may become useful citizens of the society, she added. She said that the Punjab government was providing free books to special students with a monthly stipend of Rs 800 besides pick-and-drop facility, uniforms and hostel facility. Later, addressing the media, Dr Firdous said that the PTI has entered into the corridors of power in a constitutional way and its government can't be toppled by mere wishes of Maryam Nawaz. She said that the entire PDM leadership was morally handicapped.

Mehfil-e-Milad held at residence of Auqaf Minister

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A Mehfil-e-Milad was held at the residence of Punjab Auqaf Minister Syed Saeedul Hassan Shah here on Saturday.

According to the Auqaf department sources, the minister recited the Holy Quran and presented Naat Sharif. Al-Sheikh Fazal bin Muhammad, who arrived from Tunisia, attended the ceremony as the chief guest who also delivered a special lecture on the glorious life of the last Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

Other Naat Khawans also presented a number of Naats. At the end, dua was offered for peace, progress and prosperity of the country besides eliminating coronavirus pandemic.

Performance of ETPB lauded

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A meeting of Zonal administrators across the province was held at Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) office here on Saturday.

Federal Secretary for Religious Affairs Sardar Ijaz Ahmad chaired the meeting while ETPB Chairman Dr Amer Ahmad besides other officers attended. Chairman board while briefing the federal secretary told that further improvement was brought in recovery and different properties in number of hundreds were brought in rentnet. Due to which first time, board income was increased well.

Federal Secretary while appreciating the performance of trust board said that strict action would be taken against illegal occupants on the land of trust board and properties. In this connection, help would be taken from deputy commissioner concerned, district police and administration. He said the federal govt would provide fully cooperation in this regard.

FFA dumps 2,920 litre adulterated milk

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: PFA, launching grand operation, claimed to have dumped 2,920 litre adulterated milk being supplied through six small containers on different routes here on Saturday.

A total of 8290 litres milk were checked at 40 vehicles through lactometer by the experts on the occasion. "Some 34 milk vehicles were cleared as pure, while six found to be mixed up with urea fertilizers and other chemicals" DG PFA Rafiqat Ali told.

International Volunteer Day observed across country

The Business Report

LAHORE: International Volunteer Day was observed across the country on Saturday to acknowledge the services of volunteers especially who contributed for the well being of those affected during the COVID pandemic.

The day was marked through organizing online sessions, programs and roundtables by different public and private organizations and departments under this year's theme: "Together We Can Through Volunteering". The volunteers independently and associated with different organizations and groups played a crucial role since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country through extending support to the vulnerable communities.

The day gives an opportunity to all for paying tribute to the front line volunteers who served the communities risking their own lives.

Chairman, Pakistan Red Crescent Society, Abrar ul Haq in his video message on International Volunteer day said the youth volunteers are backbone of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society. The society is contributing through imparting life saving skills to the youth and conducting first aid courses to motivate motivating

them to save lives and donate blood.

"We are going to initiate a new drive for the youth volunteers through offering membership. The youth will be prepared to cope with any disaster or calamity. They will be given proper training and incentives for joining this cause", he said.

"The biggest incentive is the satisfaction you get by saving someone's life", he said while urging the youth of Pakistan to become a part of the PRCS team. International Volunteer Day is an occasion for all to promote volunteerism, encourage governments to support volunteer efforts and recognise volunteer contributions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals at local, national and international levels.

The volunteers have been at the forefront of medical, community and societal responses when the COVID-19 pandemic has ravaged across the world. The International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development (5 December), more commonly referred to as International Volunteer Day (IVD), is an international observance mandated by the UN General Assembly in 1985.

Fatima Gobi Ventures first batch of Cos for Techxila fund I Pakistani venture capital firm Fatima Gobi Ventures has announced

the five startups that have received funding from their maiden fund, Techxila Fund I, which was announced late last year.

The companies boast experienced founders in their management teams and operate in a variety of industries from e-commerce, travel, FinTech SaaS and logistics.

All of these startups are driven to give Pakistani consumers and businesses a boost with their own individual products and services in spite of the current economic uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Helping the local ecosystem grow, five startups that Fatima Gobi Ventures is backing are outlined below.

Tajir is the first Y-Combinator startup based in Pakistan, Tajir is a B2B marketplace. Through their platform, stores can order inventory, receive on-demand delivery services as well as enjoy transparent and competitive prices. The company essentially takes a process that usually consumes a dozen hours weekly and reduces it to a few minutes. On the supplier side, manufacturers, wholesalers and distributors can directly sell their products to kirana stores via Tajir while enjoying greater sales at higher margins with zero additional investment. Founded by brothers Babar and Ismail Khan in 2019, the company's vision is to

ACCA sees a trust deficit

LAHORE: Governments around the world have faced challenges with public procurement due to the COVID-19 crisis, testing their ability and capacity to react quickly and efficiently to deliver life-saving goods and services to the public, asserts a new research report from ACCA (the Association of Chartered Accountants) New Models of Public Procurement: A Tool For Sustainable Recovery.

Surveying finance professionals from both the public and private sector in over 90 markets including South Asia, ACCA's research identifies a trust deficit between public sector buyers and private sector suppliers. Globally, only 41 per cent of private sector respondents believe the public sector can be trusted to uphold its side of the deal, compared with 60 per cent of public sector respondents stating they trust their private sector counterparts.

According to the 136 respondents across South Asia, including Pakistan, the top three challenges faced are bribery and corruption (81 per cent); underdeveloped e-Procurement systems (45 per cent) and poor payment practices by government (41 per cent). Findings also reveal that just 22 per cent of South Asia respondents said the quality of public services was good, compared with 77 per cent in the Middle East and 65 per cent of respondents in North America and Europe.

When asked about policy objectives for evaluating public procurement, fair dealing with all bidders and suppliers was viewed as important (63 per cent), followed by transparency to the public (62 per cent) and promoting ethical practices (57 per cent). And to cope with the post COVID-19 recovery, 62 per cent said that governments should introduce procurement strategies that increase transparency in the bid selection process, with 61 per cent saying better digital solutions are needed for the whole procurement cycle and 54 per cent want to see more innovative approaches to public service delivery. —PR

Effect of hatchery based interventions on broiler performance



RAO MUHAMMAD KASHIF YAMEEN

Modern poultry integrators have made strides to create a highly efficient system for hatching quality chicks and to get optimum growth performance from these chicks. Management practices have been so much optimized that it is little or no space for further research, however, there is enough vacuum to optimize the hatching facilities to enhance the broilers' production. Each hatching facility can produce almost a million chicks regularly.

Essentially, the responsibility of incubating and hatching has been alleviated from the hen and put in the hands of hatchery managers with incredible machinery/incubators. Incubator played a significant role in the improvement of the commercial poultry industry and helped to produce a huge number of day-old chicks (DOCs) uniformly with better hatchability compared to the natural hatching process.

Light provision during incubation is reported as a valuable strategy that can help in improving hatchability, quality of chicks, and decrease hatch window. It is also reported that Patio strategies at hatchery may help improve the chick quality due to the least deprivation of feed and water. However, to recommend such practices to industry a very precise database is

needed through well planned and properly executed experiments and the present experiment is also an effort in the same direction.

Providing light during the incubation period may show positive effects on hatching traits of eggs from different broiler genotypes and early feeding and watering may improve the performance and welfare of broiler as compared to conventional hatching systems.

Department of Poultry Production, University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences has been playing a central role in introducing and developing new technologies in poultry field. A recent study in the context of above background was conducted by RAO MUHAMMAD KASHIF YAMEEN. Yameen is a PhD scholar in this



department. He conducted his research under the supervision of well-known poultry scientist "Dr. Jibran Hussain". The research conducted by Yameen focused on incubating the eggs under light provision. During the research, 2,250 eggs from three broiler strains (750 eggs from each of same age breeders) were incubated under three different light durations. The first treatment was the incubation under total darkness where no light was able to penetrate the assigned section of the machine. In the second treatment, eggs were incubated at 12

hours of lightness and 12 hours of darkness.

In the third treatment, the eggs received lightness of 24 hours. The results of the experiment showed that the total pull-out time of the hatch can be reduced by incubating the eggs at 12 hours of light. Hatching traits were considerably improved if the eggs were provided with a light period of 12 hours.

Meat production potential was much more improved when 12 hours of light was provided during the incubation showing higher growth rate and better FCR in these birds.

However, the gait score was not affected with the provision of light among the treatments. The meat quality was better when 12 hours of intermittent light during incubation was provided. Blood biochemistry was improved at 12 hours of light duration. While describing the results of current study, Dr. Jibran Hussain remarks were: "Hatchery managers and ultimately farmers can get maximum performance from broilers by adopting these advanced hatchery and housing practices".

In today's era of competition as the modern research has introduced many advanced techniques for hatchery and housing practices so that birds may be able to perform up to their maximum genetic potential.

Every practice adopted at hatchery and farm level shows its influence on newly hatched chicks and finally throughout birds' life span so its need of the time to adopt advanced scientific techniques for maximum profit. ■

The writer is PhD scholar, University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore



LAHORE: A farmers family is busy in harvesting sweet potatoes from field during foggy weather.