

## Babar Azam to miss Christchurch Test

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Pakistan men's national team captain Babar Azam will miss the second Test against New Zealand, which commences at the Hagley Oval from today (Sunday).

In his absence, Mohammad Rizwan will lead the side. Babar had a full-fledge training session yesterday but felt slight pain in his thumb, following which, the team management has opted against taking any risk.

Babar had to sit out the three-T20I series and the first Test, at Mount Maunganui, after he fractured his right thumb during a net session in the lead-up to the white-ball series. Team Doctor Dr Sohail Saleem said on Saturday: "We have seen improvement in Babar Azam's injury but he is yet to fully recover."

"The medical team is constantly reviewing his injury and we are hopeful he will be available for the home series against South Africa." Pakistan squad for the second Test against New Zealand: Mohammad Rizwan (captain, wicketkeeper), Abid Ali, Azhar Ali, Faheem Ashraf, Fawad Alam, Haris Sohail, Imran Butt, Mohammad Abbas, Naseem Shah, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shan Masood, Sohail Khan, Yasir Shah and Zafar Gohar.

## 'Kasur 11th on child abuse Index' in province; 220 cases reported in 2020

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: District Kasur earned bad name due to rampant child abuse incidents but the police has taken up revolutionary measures to curb the violence and all 220 reported cases of child abuse in 2020 were pursued actively. DPO Kasur Imran Kishwer said this while talking to APP here on Saturday, and added that Kasur ranked eleventh on child abuse Index in the province.

He said that all those accused in child abuse and harassment cases in the district were caught and their challans were presented in the court. However, he explained that as many as 26 complaints against child abuse were found to be false and their FIRs were quashed. The ugly crimes related to child abuse and harassment can be discouraged and curbed successfully with active.

## PU awards PhD degree to Aysha Hanif

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab University has awarded PhD degree to Aysha Hanif D/o Muhammad Hanif in the subject of South Asian Studies (Specialization in Geography) after approval of her thesis entitled 'Identification of Ecosystem Services in Big Cities of Pakistan: A Case Study of Lahore'.



LAHORE: A youngest street vendor along with a child sells the face masks at the Ring Road. —Online

# 2021 will bring a lot of happiness to homeless people: CM

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The year 2021 will bring glad tidings for the people. Punjab government, according to the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan, has started implementing the agenda of equal development for all cities of Punjab including Lahore.

The year 2021 will bring a lot of happiness for the homeless people as the Punjab government is launching an unprecedented project in the housing sector under which 35 thousand apartments will be constructed on 8 thousand kanals of land.

In the first phase 4 thousand apartments are being set up in LDA city and this project will cost Rs 40 billion.

Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has directed to complete the initial proceeding of the housing project at the earliest. Chief Minister Usman Buzdar while taking a keen interest in plying electric buses in the city has sought an immediate report from the transport department about this project. This project will result in a visible decrease in environmental pollution as well as introducing positive change in transport culture will

also eradicate smog from the city.

This is the main reason that the government is considering to launch this project in other cities as well.

On the instructions of the Punjab Chief Minister and according to his vision of equal development, projects worth billions of rupees are being launched in Lahore, the major city of Punjab. In order to provide modern and quality healthcare facilities, a state-of-the-art one thousand bed hospital on Ferozpur road will prove to be a gift for Lahorites from the incumbent government. Two overhead bridges and two underpasses will be constructed for the smooth flow of traffic of Lahore.

A project of setting up a modern bus terminal at Thokar Niaz Baig is being started. Similarly, ten underground water tanks will be constructed for the storage and timely drainage of rainwater.

Usman Buzdar expressed sheer determination for the real development of Lahore in 2021 and said that no stone will be left unturned for the beautification of the megacity and the heart of Punjab. Usman Buzdar said that the government is intended to bring the neglected areas of the

past at par with other cities. He said that despite spending billions of rupees in the near past a big portion of the population of Lahore is still not getting the benefit of development. He said that spending the national exchequer without determining the actual problems is equal to waste national resources.

He said that PTI government has a clear vision for solving the residential problems of the people. He said that the government will not befool the people by launching self-projected and exhibitory projects.

CM performs official engagements despite being in self-isolation: Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar is performing his official engagements despite being in self-isolation. Usman Buzdar while expressing gratitude thanked Allah Almighty that he is recovering day by day.

However, I am facing physical weakness due to Covid-19, he added. Usman Buzdar disclosed that his medical reports are satisfactory and there is a hope of early recovery. He said that he did not postpone discharging official affairs of Punjab not even for an hour.

## Govt actively working to curb coronavirus permanently: Firdous

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Special Assistant to CM Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan in a statement said that number of corona patients has exceeded to 139341. 15582 corona tests were conducted on Saturday in Punjab out of which 733 tests were resulted positive.

She further disclosed that 43 corona affectees died during last 24 hours in Punjab.

She said that the number of active corona patients in Punjab has reached 11,131 whereas the death toll has exceeded to 4085. More than 2472892 corona tests have so far been conducted in Punjab, she mentioned. Firdous Ashiq Awan said that government is actively working for curbing the coronavirus permanently which is not possible without public support and cooperation. Mask, social distancing and precautionary measures can not only protect us from the disease but also save from economic crunches. 2021 will prove to be a prosperous year and the complete eradication of corona.

## LDA demolishes illegal buildings in Johar Town

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore Development Authority (LDA) Town Planning Wing Zone-V squad Saturday demolished various illegal commercial buildings in Johar Town area.

According to an LDA spokesperson, the Authority demolished an illegal restaurant on plot number 12, Block D-1, another restaurant on plot number 19 GCP Society in Johar Town, and various illegal shops at PIA Road.

The LDA also demolished an illegal restaurant on plot number 445 and 456 block G-1 and various shops in Block E, an illegal restaurant on plot number 443 and 62 blocks F and B, respectively in Johar Town.

During the operation, police officials were also present.

## PR will not refund online tickets after train departure

LAHORE: The Pakistan Railways (PR) has made it clear that no refund will be given on any kind of e-ticket after the departure of trains.

In a statement issued by a PR spokesperson here on Saturday, the railways will not refund any amount on tickets, booked in advance through all online services like website, mobile account, Jazz cash, Easypaisa, UBL Omni or any other online book.



LAHORE: People sit around the wooden fire to keep themselves warm. —Online

## Police nab 254 gang members in 2020

KHANEWAL: District police had arrested 254 members of 79 dangerous gangs during the last year 2020.

The looted items worth over Rs 50 million was also recovered from arrested accused by tracing 380 cases.

As many as 19 blind murder cases were also solved during the above said period. Similarly, 2518 proclaimed offenders including 299 of A category and 2219 of B category were also arrested.

The district police had also got lodged 1175 cases against illegal weapon holders while recovered 20 Kalashnikovs, 922 pistols, 48 rifles, 123 guns, 50 revolvers and 3960 bullets. 1226 cases were also got lodged against drug peddlers and recovered 1025 kilograms hashish, 196 kilograms heroin, 28 kg opium, 320 gram ice, over 16 kgs hashish (bhung), 25949 liters liquor and also unearthed 90 distilleries.

## ED LAC visits Garrison Education System campus

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The ED Lahore Arts Council (LAC) visited the office of Farhan Akhtar, Maj Gen (retired), Chairman, Lahore Garrison Education System (LGES) with Alhamra team on Saturday.

The purpose of meeting was to discuss matters of mutual interests and a discussion regarding a MoU for encouraging male, female students studying into Garrison Academies, schools as well as intercolleges regarding visual & performing arts.

Brig Muhammad Javed Shahid, Secretary LGES attended meeting as well.

The Secretary added that LGES dates back to 1950 and currently 24,000 students are studying into the purpose



built campuses equipped with all the facilities.

The Chairman expressed his deep appreciation for a greater exposure, access and participation with Alhamra's collaboration.

The Chairman further expressed his determination to make children studying into LGES more creative through an encouragement of their talent and harness it through a proper exposure.

The Chairman as well as Secretary of LGES expressed their wish to move ahead with a proposed MoU regarding promotion & projection of their brilliant students for a greater exposure, access and participation with Alhamra's collaboration.

The Alhamra team assured them that the proposed MoU will help Alhamra and the LGES into achieving their mutual objectives through collaboration. Souvenirs were exchanged at the end.

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## Indian farmers protest

Dr Zeeshan Khan

For most of the world, every place and country is recognized for its different things ranging from its culture, people, language, food, history, landscape to other worth remembering things.



But when India was remembered in the past, its Hindi Film Industry that is also called Bollywood used to pop into head. Even Indian secularism was highlighted and at times ethnic diversity was one of the main things to appreciate.

Though in recent times, circumstances have changed at world stage regarding Indian image. Hindutva regime actually changed things entirely. Good news about India has ceased from quite sometimes. After the rise of Modi and RSS backed regime, global presence of India has tarnished a lot. The new hassle is Indian farmers protests. The protests began in September when tens of thousands of farmers from different states of India and especially from Indian Punjab left their homes and took to streets to protest against the farm reforms passed by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) headed by Narendra Modi. Actually, farmers are afraid that the legislation will eventually dismantle India's regulated markets. These steps would stop the government from purchasing wheat and rice at guaranteed prices

leaving farmers to negotiate with private buyers.

In fact, the recently enforced farm reforms have left many farmers in troubled waters. In India, agriculture makes up approximately 15 per cent of \$2.9 trillion economy and employs about half of world second largest population of 1.3 billion people. Farmers are trying to call the government to repeal the legislation and retain mandatory government purchases among other demands. Although it can be a stimulus to only add to the disturbing rash of farmers suicides across India.

Furthermore, with more than one month of ongoing protests, rage is rampantly increasing and even protesters are being confronted with water canons, tear-gas and baton charge. Moreover, protesters are not in mood of calling off the protests and calling the BJP government promises regarding the farm reforms just exploitation of poor farmers. More than six rounds of talks have failed between protesters and BJP government.

Many farmers have even burnt their fields in defiance of anti pollution laws. While PM Narendra Modi is trying to overhaul the way many of country's 146 million farms do business but with no approval from farmers community.

In the meantime, protests are spreading beyond New Delhi in the Southern states of Kerala and in the North Eastern state of Assam. Additionally, sugar farmers in Uttar Pradesh have set a protest camp in

solidarity with fellow farmers. Times are hard but farmers are determined to protest. Their fertile lands of myriad acres are turning into barren lands due to anti-farmers policies of BJP government.

Meanwhile, farmers fear of lower prices even less than half when small farms will be taken over by renowned corporate giants. Farmers are showing their resentment by burning stubble without being afraid of pollution focused Indian government Ordinance prescribing prison, a fine of up to about \$135,000 or both. New Delhi's air quality is also suffering already and a third wave of corona virus is haunting all too.

This stubble burning defiance is contributing to the pollution which is severely choking New Delhi and the rest of Northern India.

According to CM Arvind Kejriwal the three agricultural reforms were passed from Upper House which is Rajya Sabha without following any voting procedure.

Even European Union Disinfo lab reports published between December 9 and 11 have exposed the Indian fake news and disinformation network that how India was exploiting local media across world. World leaders, artists and organisations have also voiced concerns for farmers especially Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also included himself in this cause.

The writer is an analyst, commentator, human rights activist, content fighter and contributor to the Op-Ed

## Addl DC (Revenue) visits land record centre Chunian

From Our Staff Correspondent

KASUR: Additional Deputy Commissioner Kasur (Revenue) Abid Hussain Bhatti visited the land record center Chunian and inspected the record, corona SOPs and checked facilities, cleaning and staff attendance given to the citizens.

Additional DC discovered about problems at the land record centre on the occasion and issued orders to resolve them on the occasion. Additional DC directed that Corona sops should be strictly implemented and provides maximum facilities to the people. All staff should perform their duty with honesty and dutifulness, providing all facilities at the land record center to the public should be ensured in every case and no negligence will be tolerated in this regard.

Police arrest 505 criminals suspects: Police arrested 505 criminal suspects including 13 robber gangs involved in dozens of serious incidents during December, the possession of millions rupees worth of goods and modern weapons were recovered. According to Kasur police's PRO Sajid Hussain, police took emergency measures for the arrest of



criminals involved in serious crimes during December, taking action against criminal wanted, 121 dangerous criminals involved in serious cases such as murder, robbery and road robbery, while 38 judicial officials were arrested, 43 'A' category wanted were also included, as well as 45 suspects of 13 dangerous robber gang involved in dozens of serious incidents arrested and recovered precious goods worth 6.8 million rupees from their possession and modern illegal weapons. 57 cases were traced from the arrests of the suspects. Similarly, crackdown against the drug dealers arrested 99 notorious drug dealers and seized 44 kilograms of

marijuana, 2599 liters of alcohol and 140 liters of iron from their possession. A Kalashnikov, 10 rifles, 16 guns, 01 carbines and 129 pistols were recovered from the possession of 160 suspects while crackdown against the illegal weapons. 9 raids were carried out on gambling bases and 42 suspects were arrested by red hands and thousands of money was recovered. Crackdown against the kites, 956 kites was recovered from the capture of 13 suspects. DPO Imran Kishwar said that crackdown against criminals, robbers, drug dealers, criminals and criminals will continue on a daily basis to ensure the safety of citizens.