

'Govt busy in protecting interests of sugar mafia and wheat mafia'

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE; Pakistan Jamhoori League (PJL), Chairman Rana Zaman Saeed has said that end of problems lies in end of government. People who chanted slogan of New Pakistan gave nation crises after crises.

Government is busy in protecting interests of Sugar Mafia and Wheat Mafia. Nation shouldn't hope any good from people who take U-turns on every step.

According to details, he was talking to delegations of Pakistan Jamhoori League at his residence.

He said, people who boasted to get rid of crises within 90 days are just trying to save their own government. Government has been exposed before people. Government is only trying to eradicate poor people instead of poverty. Poor people have only option of suicide.

Holi celebrated by Hindu community in Bahawalpur, Cholistan

BAHAWALPUR: Hindu community residing in Bahawalpur and different villages of Cholistan celebrated Holi here on Sunday. The celebrations were started the previous evening and the members of the Hindu community sprayed colours on each other. However, coronavirus SOPs were observed during celebrations.

Holi is a spring festival, also known as the festival of colours or the festival of sharing love.

It is an ancient Hindu religious festival that has become popular with non-Hindus in many parts of South Asia, as well as people of other communities outside Asia.

The festival was celebrated by Balkimi Hindus in Bahawalpur and Bheel and Mangwal Hindu communities in different villages of Cholistan. —APP

ANF Punjab arrest two drug-smugglers

LAHORE: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Punjab arrested two drug-smugglers and recovered high quality charas and opium worth thousands of rupees from them. As per details, the ANF officials saw a suspected vehicle at Canal Road bus stop near The Mall road. During checking of secret cavities of the vehicle, the officials recovered 12-kg charas and 4-kg opium. They arrested two accused, Ayaz Muhammad and Zareen Khan, of Sawat. A case has been registered against them and started investigation. —APP



LAHORE: Female labourers sorts out good quality of garlic at Vegetable Market.

IWMB team confiscates 40kg illegally hunted fish at Rawal Lake

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) has confiscated around 40 kilogrammes of illegally hunted fish at the Rawal Lake along with important equipment used within the area falling under Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP).

A senior official of IWMB told APP that the raid and hunting team conducted a successful operation against illegal fish hunters near Rawal Lake within the MHNP area.

He said, "Such activity destroy the whole pond ecosystem and is a serious threat for aquatic life." The items confiscated, along with 40kg fish, by the team included a Large Battery, one Boat Paddle, one Fishing net round with stand, one Palas and a small transformer with electric wire.

During the raid, he said no individual was apprehended whereas the raid and hunting team was trying their best to reach at the culprits for further necessary action.

To a question, he said the illegal hunting of fish in such water bodies was destroying the aquaculture necessary for fish breeding and its sustainable growth. He added that no one would be allowed to hurt the most vulnerable ecosystem as it was hard to restore for aquatic life inhabiting in the Rawal Lake. —APP

Positive corona patients increasing immensely: CM

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has said that number of positive corona patients is increasing immensely due to the third wave of Covid-19.

Following the government's guidelines for curbing corona is in the best interest of the public. He said that people can only protect themselves by following the SOPs. He stressed that citizens should make mask a compulsory part of their lives. Adopting the preventive measures is an effective way to deal with corona, Usman Buzdar added.

He said that effective and timely measures have been taken by the incumbent government to deal with Coronavirus. He urged the people to play their due role and cooperate with the government. The government will continue to take more steps to safeguard the lives of the people as extraordinary circumstances demand extraordinary steps.

More strict restrictions can be imposed for safeguarding the lives of the people. In the last 24 hours, 2823 new cases of corona have been reported in Punjab and claims lives of 6227 patients so far in Punjab. During the last 24 hours 39 people have been died in Punjab due to corona. A total of 3755082 corona tests have been conducted so far, besides 19377 corona tests in Punjab.

Says PDM meets its logical end: Usman Buzdar has said that the honest leadership of PM Imran Khan is taking the country on the road to progress and prosperity. He further stated that former rulers have become the picture of disgrace. He said that the PDM, which puts national interests aside, has met its logical end.

Those who create hurdles in national development were failed in past and will meet the same fate in future as well. The present government believes in public the people and will complete its tenure. The conspiratorial elements will get nothing as the government will respond to the opposition's negative politics through public service, he concluded.

Expresses sorrow over loss of precious lives in traffic accident near Sadhoke: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has expressed a deep sense of sorrow and grief over the loss of precious human lives in a traffic accident near Sadhoke. The chief minister extended heartfelt sympathies and condolence and directed the administration to provide the best medical facilities to the injured. Usman Buzdar has sought a report of the accident.

Greets Hindu community on Holi: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has greeted Hindu community on Holi and said that this festival of joy and happiness promotes brotherhood, unity and affection.

Sharing each other's joys will spread the message of brotherhood, love and peace. He said that all minorities in Pakistan have complete religious freedom and protection and they enjoy equal rights in Pakistan. People of all religions including Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus, Christians and Parsis are citizens of this country.

The Hindu community of Pakistan has played a vital role in the progress and prosperity of the country. The Hindu community in Pakistan is respectable to us. He said that minorities have been included in the mainstream by providing them equal opportunities of progress and development.

We should spread the message of brotherhood, tolerance and peace by sharing each other's joys and happiness.

A talk with Prime Minister

Low-budget schools suffer the most setback due schools closure — II



Mudassar Qadeer

In my humble opinion, government alone cannot afford the burden of the entire education sector therefore, it seems all the more essential to involve the stakeholders in private sector and strive together towards the betterment of the education system in the country. I believe that government in collaboration with private institutions can do wonders

when both work in harmony. Further, I would like to present my viewpoint that the government should not consider the private school associations as mere complainants rather their concerns and suggestions should be seen in good light.

We, the representatives of private sector educational establishments, are not only the stakeholders but also benefactors of this country and the education system in it. We demand that the authorities appoint someone who can work as a coordinator between the school owners and those in authority to convey our concerns and recommendations to the honourable Prime Minister. Mr. Prime Minister should also take up the issues relating education personally while avoiding the sole focus on the data that reaches him through his ministers or other official.

It is known to every sagacious person that the sole purpose of these officials to seek appreciation for their achievements and they definitely

don't want anyone to notice the loopholes in their decisions and steps. As general public do not have access to those in authoritative position, their concerns do not reach them and are left unattended and untaken care of. I, on behalf of Serving Schools Association and my other counterparts, request the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Imran Khan Niazi to make sure to have a meeting with all the stakeholders so that he can assess the situation and call his ministers to account regarding the problems faced by low-budget schools and their representatives.

The PM has is also requested to give the Private Schools Association an opportunity to sit and talk with the Chief Minister of the Punjab. This way, the school representatives will be able to discuss their issues in person and strive to some solution to all the issues facing private sector at the time.

The writer is free-lance contributor (Concluded)

Shab-e-Barat, the night of fortune and salvation being observed today

ISLAMABAD: Shab-e-Barat, the night of fortune, repentance and divine blessings for Muslims will be observed today (Monday) - the night between day 14 and 15 of Sha'ban — the eighth month of the Islamic calendar, with the pledge to strictly follow Covid-19 guidelines and maintain social distance by avoiding large gatherings. Shab-e-Barat, considered to be the holiest night of the Islamic calendar, is devoted to pleading for forgiveness for the past year and good fortune for the coming year.

Shab-e-Baraat, the night of praising Allah, is observed 15 days before the start of the Holy month of fasting Ramadan-ul-Mubarak. The Arabic term Laylat al-Barat means the quality of being guileless and without guile or deception, Muslims believe that on Shab-e-Barat, God writes their destinies for the coming year, after taking into account their past actions. This is why the night is spent in asking for his mercy for any transgression. In addition to that, judgments for awarding blessings and Rizq (Livelihood) to the believers are also made and prayers of the believers are answered and accepted. For ascetic Muslims, this is the day of "divine benediction", and, therefore, they offer prayers and fast, which is said to have greater acceptance from God. Faithfuls lit electric lights, candles or even oil lamps right from evening to whole night.

Shab-e-Barat, a great advantage of Muslims is known as Laylat-un-Nisfe min Sha'aban in the Arab world. Different countries have different ways of celebrating this day and each has a different name for it. Nisf Shaban is known as Shab-e-Barat in South Asia, especially in Sub-continent, Lailatul Barat in Arabic, Nisfu Syaban (Malam Nisfu Syaban) in Indonesia and Malaysia and Berat Kandili in Turkey. Sweets like halwa, savaiyyan (vermicelli) are prepared and shared with neighbours, friends and relatives in the memory of those who fam-



ily members, relatives and friends who died, while some prepare sweet dishes and flat bread to distribute among poor. Flowers are also placed on graves of the deceased family members besides offering 'Fatihah' for them.

In various places, it is a common practice to offer prayers to Allah for forgiveness on behalf of the deceased. This is why people also visit graves of their loved ones, and offer prayers and light candles at the graves. According to some traditions, people light candles and scent sticks on the graves and seek Allah's blessings for the souls of their departed kin. Some people also fast on the day after the Shab-e-Barat night prayers, while others hand out food and gifts to their neighbours, and the poor. The mosque administrations of twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi have already started preparations to celebrate the occasion and to facilitate worshippers by strictly following Covid-19 SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) guidelines. Many faithful have planned to throng the mosques to offer special prayers (Nawafil and Shabina) during the whole night. Various gatherings included Mahafil-e-Na'at have also been arranged by different mosques by following Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) against Covid-19 to mark the holy night and win divine blessings. —APP

Pakistan to become first int'l cricket side to tour Zimbabwe post Covid-19 outbreak

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Pakistan will become the first men's international cricket side to play in Zimbabwe in the post-Covid-19 era when they announced the schedule of their two Test and three T20I series.

The Pakistan side will arrive in Harare from Johannesburg on 17 April, where the five matches will take place from 21 April to 11 May with the T20Is to start at 1400 PST and the two Tests will commence at 1230 Pakistan Standard Time.

After the T20Is on 21, 23 and 25 April, Babar Azam's side will play Zimbabwe in two Tests, the first of which will begin on 29 April. This will mark the first instance of the two sides facing off in the pinnacle format of the game since September 2013. This was also Pakistan's last Test on Zimbabwean soil.

The second Test will commence on 7 May. Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, Pakistan men's cricket sides have toured England and New Zealand, besides hosting Zimbabwe and South Africa. Pakistan Shaheens also toured New Zealand alongside the



men's side, while the women's sides visited South Africa and Zimbabwe, the tour that was curtailed due to suspension in flight operations. Next month, Pakistan U19 squad will tour Bangladesh for a four-day and five 50-over-side matches.

This underscores the Pakistan Cricket Board's commitment to play an active role in ensuring that international cricket remains on track in these challenging and uncertain times. Director - International Cricket, Zakir Khan said here on Sunday: "The Pakistan Cricket Board has been at the forefront of the revival of international cricket in the post-Covid-19 world and the tour of Zimbabwe is another step in

that direction. We have always maintained that cricket and Covid-19 can co-exist in a safe and secure environment, and we continue to demonstrate this to ensure the game develops and flourishes in these difficult and challenging times.

"The tour of our men's side at the back of our women's team first-ever visit of Zimbabwe is a testimony that the two boards - the PCB and Zimbabwe Cricket - enjoy excellent relations and are always ready to lend support to each other. "Our cricket sides have always enjoyed visiting and playing cricket in Zimbabwe, and though our fans and followers will be unable to watch live-action, I am sure they will continue to support both the sides and their favourite cricketers like they have done since May 2020 through digital media." Pakistan enjoy 100 per cent win percentage against Zimbabwe in T20Is with victories in all 14 matches. Pakistan have won 10 of the 17 Tests against Zimbabwe with four ending in draw and three in wins for Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe last hosted an international series - a two-Test series against Sri Lanka - in January 2020.

Addl DC Revenue visits Tehsil Chunian Reviews facilities, cleaning, staff attendance, implementation of corona SOPs

From Our Staff Correspondent

KASUR: Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Abid Hussain Bhatti visited Tehsil Chunian and there he reviewed the facilities, cleaning, staff attendance and implementation of corona sops to the citizens at the land record center.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to resolve the legitimate functions of the public on a priority basis and strictly implement the sops issued by the government in view of the third wave of corona virus.

In addition, he also visited the general market Allahabad to review the prices and availability of essen-

tial items. They checked the availability of rate lists at the shops, the stock of flour and sugar. Five shopkeepers fined three thousand rupees for illegal profits.

DC Kasur inaugurates polio campaign: Deputy Commissioner Kasur Asia Gul has inaugurated polio campaign by vaccinating children in DHQ Hospital Kasur.

On this occasion, Chief Executive Officer Health Authority Dr Iqbal Javid, program director DHDC Dr Imtiaz Ahmed Aulakh, MS Dr. Laiq Chaudhry, Pakistan Tehreek-E-Insaf leader Hafiz Ehsan Ahmed, Qaisar Ayub Sheikh, doctors and others were also present. Deputy Commissioner said on the occasion that the anti-polio campaign in the district is starting from

March 29, which will continue till April 2. During the campaign, 0.5 million 41 thousand 336 children aged five years will be vaccinated. For the success of the campaign, 117 UC MOs, 313 area incharge, 1381 mobile teams, 131 focus teams, 74 transit teams and 3444 polio workers will be charged and government sops will be implemented in every case regarding the prevention of corona during the campaign. The Deputy Commissioner said that in the light of the directions of Chief Minister Punjab, the district administration will utilize all resources for the success of the polio campaign. In this campaign, the department of health will also serve the department of health, social welfare, population welfare