

Minimum 19:°C
Maximum 32:°C
Sunset 06:14pm
Sunrise 06:07am
(Tomorrow)

LAHORE

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Saturday, March 20, 2021



FAJAR.....	04:45 AM
ZOHAR.....	12:10 PM
ASR.....	4:31 PM
MAGRIB.....	06:14 PM
ISHA.....	07:35 PM

Quick Read

2,17,637 senior citizens, front line workers inoculated with vaccine

LAHORE: As many as 2,17,637 coronavirus vaccine jabs have been administered to senior citizens and front-line health workers in Punjab so far under the vaccination drive.

According to health department on Friday, as many as 107,793 frontline healthcare workers got first dose of the vaccine, while 34,621 workers received the second dose during the anti coronavirus vaccination campaign in the province.

In the second phase of the vaccination drive, senior citizens, above the age of 60 years, were receiving vaccine. So far 75,223 senior citizens have been vaccinated in the province. Health department registered 5,23,008 senior citizens for vaccination and verification message was sent to 291,511 citizens so far in Punjab. It is pertinent to mention here that the public was willingly getting vaccinated and expressed satisfaction on the arrangements made by the authorities. —APP

Four development schemes worth Rs 34.468b approved

LAHORE: The Punjab Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) on Friday approved four development schemes of various sectors with an estimated cost of Rs 34.468 billion.

The schemes were approved in the 29th PDWP meeting of current fiscal year, presided over by Planning & Development Board (P&DB) Chairman Abdullah Khan Sumbal. The schemes included as National Program for Improvement of Watercourses in Pakistan Phase-II (SMART, DLI-11) at the cost of Rs 28,697.46 million, Prime Minister Health Initiative (Revised) at the cost of Rs 2,631.012 million, Construction of Mahota Dam (Revised) at the cost of Rs 2,804.660 million and Strengthening of Program Coordination Unit (PCU) under Punjab Green Development Program (PGDP) in P&D Board, Punjab (PC-II) at the cost of Rs 335.33 million.

45 shops sealed over SOPs

LAHORE: The district administration sealed 45 shops, restaurants, marriage halls and imposed Rs 74,000 fine on violation of coronavirus related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) here on Friday.

According to a spokesperson for the district administration, Assistant Commissioner Cantt Zeeshan Ranjha sealed 13 shops and imposed fine Rs 20,000 for SOPs violation in his jurisdiction.

AC Model Town Ibrahim Arbab sealed various shops in Barkat Market while AC City Fizan Ahmed sealed 13 shops, two marriage halls and two restaurants in his jurisdiction. AC Shalimar Mansoor Ahmed Qazi sealed 15 shops and stores in Shalimar area and imposed a fine of Rs 54,000 on violators. The teams also inspected public and private transport vehicles and issued warnings to transporters and drivers to follow coronavirus SOPs strictly. Meanwhile, Assistant Commissioner Cantt Zeeshan Ranjha sealed Rahat Bakers and Sweets in Cantt area for not following the corona related SOPs. —APP

PM Imran has no personal or political agenda: Sarwar



By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar has said that Prime Minister Imran Khan has no personal or political agenda, he wants to safeguard the interest of the nation and put Pakistan on the development path. Naya Pakistan Housing Scheme is the government's gift for the low-income sections of the population. The world is also acknowledging Pakistan's achievements on the economic front and Pakistan is gaining its lost glory in the world by successfully advancing in every field.

Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar in a tweet and statement on Friday said that the PTI government under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan is taking prac-

tical steps to uplift the underprivileged. Through the Naya Pakistan Housing Scheme, the government is providing homes to the homeless and there is no doubt that owning a house is no less than a blessing for anyone and the government will use all its resources to make this initiative a success. Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said that due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, the major countries of the world, including the United States, suffered the worst

economic crisis, but due to the successful strategy of the government of Pakistan, we not only managed to contain Coronavirus, but despite the economic challenges we provided 12000 rupees per family to 1 crore deserving families, adding that we will continue to provide relief to the masses.

Governor Punjab, Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar, said that ever since PTI came to power, there was talk of economic bankruptcy

but the government through successful economic policies steered the country out of the economic crisis and overcame the current account deficit successfully. Today, all the economic institutions of the world are also acknowledging the economic stability and development of Pakistan. He expressed hope that Pakistan will reclaim its lost place in the world under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

1m children to be enrolled in current campaign: Raas

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for School Education Dr Murad Raas said on Friday that in the first 45 days of the enrollment drive, 246,000 children had been enrolled in schools.

He said this while addressing a press conference, along with Special Assistant to Chief Minister (SACM) Punjab on Information Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan here.

He said that under the current enrollment drive, the target of enrolling one million children would be achieved.

Dr Murad Raas said that during the last four months, the School Education Department asked parents to provide B-Farm of their children, adding that so far 92 per cent of B-farms of children had been provided by the parents.

The minister said that all B-farms would be verified from the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA). He said that 'Mera School Programme' was an initiative for all those citizens who wanted to see improvement in country's educational system. He said that missing facilities would be provided in schools under the Mera School Programme.

In Nov 2020, registration process of private school was

launched, and till now more than 50,000 applications for registration of private schools had been received through online school registration system (PEPRIS or Private Education Provider Registration and Information System), he added.

Dr Murad said digitalization process of the School Education Department was under way.

Earlier, SACM Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan said that through a uniform curriculum across country, a class-based education system would be eliminated. She said, "Awareness can be created only through education." She said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government was reviving education department with the help of technology.

The SACM said that coronavirus infection rate had gone beyond 8 per cent which was alarming. She appealed to people to follow the standard operating procedures (SOPs) to stay safe from COVID-19 pandemic.

To a question, she said that those who use politics for personal motives would face the same fate which Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) had faced. Prime Minister Imran Khan had started the second innings which was aimed at country's economic development, she added.



LAHORE: A man visits her mother at Bagh-e-Jinnah on wheel chair during pleasant weather. —Online

PIAF for strengthening agri sector as food import bill inflating

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Association Front Chairman Mian Nauman Kabir has called for strengthening the agriculture sector, as the import bill of eatables has inflated by over 50% to \$5.35 billion during the first eight months of 2020-21 to bridge the shortfall in domestic production of agriculture produce.

The PIAF Chairman, in a joint statement with vice chairman Javed Siddiqi, observed the country needs to enhance the areas of research to encourage indigenous technological innovations and modernize its agriculture sector, as this has the potential source of employment for the people of the country. Moreover, the higher food import bill

due to lower domestic produce will also trigger trade deficit, causing uneasiness on the external side for the government. He said that the share of food items in the total import bill has now reached 15.76% this year, making the country dependent on imports to ensure food security.

Mian Nauman Kabir said that the trade deficit is widening as the overall import bill of the country has been on the rise since November last year, mainly due to an increase in the import bill of food items.

Mian Nauman said that the food import bill of all products posted a growth in value and quantity during the period under review, a clear indication of shortage in domestic production. Within food group import, the major contribution came

from wheat, sugar, edible oil, spices, tea and pulses. Edible oil import witnessed a substantial increase during the period under review in quantity, value and per value terms.

Mian Nauman Kabir said that Pakistan needs to move from traditional to modern agriculture to overcome its trade deficit and meet its socio-economic targets. He noted that during 2008 to 2018 Pakistan agriculture production increased by 56 percent against the average increase of 72% in the South Asian region, while the average rise was more than 90% in the lower middle-income countries. He was of the view that Pakistan can quickly embark on the road of rapid development and get rid of poverty and backwardness by fo-

cus on its agriculture sector.

To improve export capacity, the most important thing is to accelerate the development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, especially the construction of the nine special economic zones in the second stage, so that Pakistan can enter the track of rapid economic development, and strive to realize the industrialization and modernization of the nation. Pakistan is an agricultural country, and agriculture is the life-line of Pakistan's economy.

The development of Pakistan's agriculture is behind the world and South Asia, as it has not realized the leap from traditional agriculture to modern agriculture, and has not realized the mechanization, scale production, technicalities and modernization of agriculture.

PU launches olive tree plantation drive

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab University has launched olive tree plantation campaign. In this regard, PU Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Muhammad Saleem Mazhar planted an olive tree. On this occasion, Chairman Hall Council Prof Dr Abid Hussain Choudhary, Resident Officer-II Jalil Tariq, senior journalist Ashraf Sharif and employees were present.

Addressing the ceremony, Prof Dr Muhammad Saleem Mazhar said that Punjab University was playing its role according to the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan to make Pakistan green. Jalil Tariq said that we are planting fruits tree under the green to orchard campaign.

He also thanked senior journalist for donating hundred olive plants to PU. Sharif said that olive tree remains fruitful till 1500 years.

UET VC inaugurates tree plantation

LAHORE: The University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Friday launched a tree plantation campaign in the main campus.

UET Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Syed Mansoor Sarwar inaugurated the campaign by planting a tree.

Later, registrar, director student affairs, senior warden, PRO, deans, chairmen, and teachers also planted trees.

On the occasion, Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Syed Mansoor Sarwar said that being environment friendly, trees provide life to all living beings. He stressed upon the need to increase the number and conservation of plants.

He encouraged all faculty and students to plant trees and try to persuade others to join the good cause. —APP

Fall of nations

Malik Muhammad Aslam Awan

Since the creation of Universe and inception of living on the earth uncountable civilizations came into being and flourished for long but ultimately smashed within no time. Extinction of civilizations was mainly due to the fact that they violated the divine laws. Allah Almighty had given all civilised nations a code of ethics, those who violated the divine laws were given too much time to abandon bad habits, those who remained adamant in their negative, nonsense and rubbish habits were awarded with severe punishments.

Fall of nations have many causes, which can be traced in their ultimate ruin. Economic progress is always considered the success of a nation but divine principles are reverse. Ethics, principles, righteous code plays a pivotal role in the success of

a nation, Quom-e-Aad, Quom-e-Samood, Quom-e-Loot and Quom-e-Nooh, etc, are magnificent examples to enumerate the nations, who met the fate of those who disobeyed the divine injunctions. Having a critical glance over the gloomy fate of those nations, one would arrive at the conclusion that lasciviousness and satirical instincts of those nations were the main cause of their debacle-extinction in toto.

Our country finds its ideological basis on the oneness of Allah almighty and belief on the Last Holy Prophet (PBUH) that his Shariah is exclusively binding on all the followers of Islam. So long as we will remain stuck to the Islamic principles, we will remain the blessed nation but as soon as we start defying the Islamic values, we will go headway down to prostrate to worldly gains.

After the advent of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) Islam emerged as the single largest hori-

zontal fact. The illiterate Arabs, illumined by Islamic teachings spread all round the globe to illumine the human mind with the sparking light of Islamic teachings. Before the advent of Holy Prophet (PBUH), the Arabs used to bury their daughters alive to save their pride and honour. They were under the oblivious thought that daughters cause harm to their ancestors, prestige and the birth of a daughter in their house is a shameful matter. After the death of father, the son used to marry the widows of his father. Womenfolk were treated as animals, the ownership of whose was transferrable as property – bequeathed by their forefathers.

Islam endowed the women the rights equal to that of men. Islam prohibits its followers to treat womenfolk like animals. As mother, Islam declared that "Heaven is under the feet of mother" and as daughter women deserve most revered placed. As sister, she is so

respectful and at the highest pedestal of honour. Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) held his daughter, Fatima, in highest esteem and declared that she is the "Sardar" of the women of Heaven. Women even in all relations as mother, as daughter, as sister is the most respectful and stands at highest peak of honour.

Intermittently some women come out of their safe heavens to shout at public places that they are the champions of women rights and would take women rights by force. They hail from disgruntled families shout forcefully that women be liberated to do whatever they like.

Actually they are quiet ignorant of the fact that Islam through the Last Prophet (PBUH) had endowed women with the highest pedestal of honour and respect, that no other religion of the world had ever endowed. Actually those disgruntled segments of society do not want respect, they work under a specific agenda to spread their lascivious

habits in society. They don't want respect for womenfolk but throw down them from the place of honour and make women having no respect. In the West despite all liberties women don't have honour and a large number of women don't marry a man and give birth to children, and such children don't know who are their fathers and what are their rights in society. Such children live like animals, work like donkeys and have discontented asleep, have no pride in their dynastic trail.

Nations always stand firm on ethical and religious foundation to continue for long. Disgruntled segments of society especially dissipated women are transgressing natural laws, which are ample guarantee to safeguard the societal firm texture. Their satyriasis belief is most likely to seriously damage the norms of society, on which the strong building of culture stands firmly. Analytical survey of the rise

and fall of nations reveal that strong nations have firm belief on laws of nature and breakage of laws of nature cause fall of that nation, which don't care to follow the principles of piety, fair play, justice, equity. Nudity and shameless living don't contribute to vitals of humanity rather a savage life, or the life of caves and Stone Age, where human beings lived and copulated like animals, having no family trails.

It is the law of nature that everything sooner or later retreat to its origin, vice-oriented people relapse into perversion and the gender having decent origin stand firm on the principles bestowed by the Creator of the Universe – Allah Almighty, the omniscient, the omnipotent, the omnipresent, who is always here to guide the virtuous and pious people, who will have their eternal abode in Heavens.

The writer is a journalist, author of English Book on current affairs