

# PM's Panagah revives centuries old traditions of Mughal Empire

The Business Report

**ISLAMABAD:** The Panagah or Shelter Homes a much praised initiative of Prime Minister Imran Khan has revived the centuries old traditions of Mughal Empire that introduced the concept of sarai or resting place, modern day shelter homes, extending food and shelter to travelers and destitute people alike with dignity and comfort.

The Prime Minister Imran Khan introduced this programme with the vision to provide livable shelter for poor, impoverished masses including labourers, daily waged workers and homeless people spending their nights under open skies living a pathetic and miserable life. The Panagah is not only a living place rather two times quality meal in an excellent manner. The idea of shelter homes for poor and needy masses by the incumbent government has appeared to be successful and becoming eminent among the labour class and well-off people alike coming to the Capital

from different regions of the country including Rawalpindi and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

The majority of people taking shelters in Panagahs are daily waged labourers, poor class and homeless persons. Muhammad Farooq Butt, a UK based overseas national hailing from Lahore told APP that during his visa renewal issue during the second wave of the pandemic getting a hotel for one night was becoming difficult for a person with limited resources. "An average hotel is simply offering a room for one night stay at Rs3,000 to Rs5,000 minimum which appears not to be too dear but it gets difficult for a person facing job layoff and no livelihood source due to pandemic-forced closures to afford while travelling to other cities especially the Capital," he added. Butt said it was quite astonishing to see such a wonderful arrangement at the Panagah of the Capital as there were neat and clean beds, charpoys and also quality food for its dwellers.

"I reached the Capital at night and

entered a Panagah just to see the arrangements if it was livable as I did not want to go to a hotel to stay for a night because there was limited amount of money I had in hand and also had to manage my return in," he said with contented smile and expression of satisfaction. He added that there could be thousands of differences with the present government's policies and decisions but the Panagah initiative was the well conceived and implemented project of the Prime Minister. The PTI government had established five shelter homes in Islamabad and Rawalpindi and in KP to provide a secure place for homeless people who used to sleep on roads or footpaths and to help them spending night in freezing temperatures during Winter season.

An official in the district administration Masood Shah told APP that such homes will protect the people from extreme weather conditions and chilling temperatures and so far, this project is functioning in Islamabad, Punjab, and KP.



ISLAMABAD: Christian devotees attend a Palm Sunday service at the local church.

## 'Anti-polio drive not to be compromised despite COVID-19'

From Our Staff Correspondent

**RAWALPINDI:** District Health Authority Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr Faiza Kanwal has said that an effective micro plan has been devised for five day anti-polio campaign being commenced from March 29.

Talking to mediapersons, she said during the campaign 2964 polio teams including 307 fixed points, 129 transit points, 240 Union council medical officers and 663 area incharges would administer polio drops to above 885,000 children less than five years in all tehsils of the district.

Dr Faiza said anti-polio drive would not be compromised despite prevailing COVID-19 situation and SOP's regarding C-19 would be implemented in letter and spirit to ensure safety during the drive while wearing of face masks and use of sanitizer would also be mandatory for polio teams. The CEO said as the environmental water samples had tested positive for polio virus for last one year there is need to take more effective steps to make the country free from polio virus. She said polio was a national issue and it is the responsibility of all to play an effective role to make the country Polio free. "The parents should cooperate with special teams so that the set target could be achieved," she added.

**First-ever sanctuary for stray dogs set up in Islamabad**

Dr Inam Abdul Ghani, a volunteer from Islamabad, has come forward to provide shelter and medical care to

stray dogs as a ban has been imposed on their culling by the city managers, recently.

He sets up the first-ever sanctuary for stray dogs in Chontra village, located in outskirts of the federal capital, to provide them care and shelter.

Giving details about the initiative, Dr Ghani told the media that earlier, such facilities were only existed in Karachi and Lahore, but now Islamabad also had a set-up, which was one of its kinds. Explaining his human-canine bonding, the volunteer said he was providing care to stray dogs for the last 15 years as he had great association with them since his childhood. He said initially, he used to bring ill stray dogs to his home for providing medical treatment and shelter, but later on, "I felt that there is need to set up a dedicated facility for such animal and then I decided to open a shelter for them."

Dr Ghani added that he established the first shelter in Rawat some four years ago to rehabilitate the reported stray animals. To a query, he said so far, 50 adult dogs and 20 puppies were given shelter at the facility, established in Islamabad. Most of the puppies at the shelter were those whose mothers were culled by the local authorities. He added that the puppies were given to people as 'guard dogs' after grooming. Dr Ghani also hailed the district administration's decision for banning the dog shooting in the federal capital and implementing the court's order which underscored humane ways for controlling stray dogs population.

## Ancient arts of calligraphy, Kashikari need govt patronage

From Our Staff Correspondent

**ISLAMABAD:** There was a time when ancient arts of calligraphy and Kashikari could lead artists to Royal Courts and earn them bounties in addition to fame and respect. But the technological advancements and rising machines dominance gradually diminished this art that once enjoyed a sound vocational status.

There exist artists who adapted to the changing scenario and were able to exploit technology to promote the arts giving it a new look. But such examples are rare. Noted calligrapher Rashid Siyal is among such forward looking souls, however, he too believes these arts are now under the threat of extinction and may soon run into oblivion. "It takes a lot of pain and days of work to create a piece of

art but you cannot keep your kitchen running with your creative work" Rashid Siyal told APP.

The 5000 years old city of Multan had always remained a hub of fine arts and its artists and craftsmen proved their mettle all over the world. The world acclaimed monument, Taj Mehel, is a big example as many calligraphers, artisans and masons from Multan participated in its construction. Art of calligraphy started taking roots and flourished magnanimously after emergence of Islam in this area following the arrival of Muhammad Bin Qasim. It became so popular that artists from parts of the world reached Multan, Delhi and Lahore. Calligraphers wrote Quran Pak in different scripts, making it pass through a long evolutionary stylistic journey from Kufic

script to modern Nasakh and to Nastaliq scripts. The stylistic evolution led to introduction of Qamri script and Gulzari script and a lot of styles of Kufic script came to the fore. The evolutionary journey of scripts and uniqueness of style was stunning.

Emperor Babar was himself a calligrapher par excellence and he invented Babri script from Nasakh. The calligraphic art of Nauman Bin Saeed Ansari Hirati Multani in Kufic script was still visible on old mosques of Multan in Kashikari. A calligrapher Mullah Qadeem Bin Hassan Multani was the Royal calligrapher in the court of emperor Akbar-e-Azam. His contemporary calligrapher Mir Abdullah Multani was famous for his art from Multan to Delhi.

## 2 tugboats speed to Egypt's Suez Canal as shippers avoid it

**SUEZ, Egypt:** Two additional tugboats sped to Egypt's Suez Canal to aid efforts to free a skyscraper-sized container ship wedged for days across the crucial waterway, even as major shippers increasingly divert their boats out of fear the vessel may take even longer to free.

The massive Ever Given, a Panama-flagged, Japanese-owned ship that carries cargo between Asia and Europe, got stuck on Tuesday in a single-lane stretch of the canal.

In the time since, authorities have been unable to remove the vessel and traffic through the canal — valued at more than US\$9 billion a day — has been halted, further disrupting a global shipping network already strained by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Dutch-flagged Alp Guard and the Italian-flagged Carlo Magno, called in to help tugboats already there, reached the Red Sea near the city of Suez early on Sunday, satellite data from MarineTraffic.com showed.

The tugboats will nudge the 400m-long Ever Given as dredgers continue to vacuum up sand from underneath the vessel and mud caked to its port side, said Bernhard Schulte Shipmanagement, which manages the Ever Given.

Ever Given, a Panama-flagged



cargo ship, that is wedged across the Suez Canal and blocking traffic in the vital waterway is seen on Mar 27, 2021.

On Saturday, the head of the Suez Canal Authority told journalists that strong winds were "not the only cause" for the Ever Given running aground, appearing to push back against conflicting assessments offered by others. Lieutenant-General Osama Rabei said an investigation was ongoing but did not rule out human or technical error.

Bernhard Schulte Shipmanagement maintains that their "initial investigations rule out any mechanical or engine failure as a cause of the grounding". However, at least one initial report suggested a "blackout" struck the hulking vessel carrying around 20,000 containers at the time of the incident.

Rabei said he remained hopeful that dredging could free the ship without having to resort to removing its cargo, but added that "we are in a difficult situation, it's a bad incident".

Asked about when they expected to free the vessel and reopen the canal, he said: "I can't say because I do not know."

Shoel Kisen Kaisha, the company that owns the vessel, said it was considering removing containers if other refloating efforts failed. The Ever Given is wedged about 6km north of the canal's Red Sea entrance near the city of Suez. —AP

## Australia's Nine network hit by suspected cyber attack

**SYDNEY:** Australian broadcaster Nine Entertainment was unable to air its news bulletin from its Sydney headquarters due to "technical difficulties" which a source with knowledge of the matter blamed on a suspected cyber attack.

Nine's Weekend Today show which runs from 7am to 1pm did not go to air. In a statement, Channel Nine said it was "responding to technical issues" affecting its live broadcasting.

"At this stage we're working through the impacts and will provide updates as we resolve the systems."

The network, which owns the Sydney Morning Herald (SMH) and The Age newspapers, did not confirm the cyber attack. But the source who did not want to be identified as he was not allowed to speak to media said Nine management had informed staff members that a "malicious" cyber attack was suspected.

Nine is now trying to get a news bulletin out through Melbourne "using a server that hasn't been compromised", the source told Reuters.

The Australian Financial Review which is also owned



by Nine, also reported that the media house was likely the target of a suspected cyber attack, the effects of which could last beyond Sunday.

The suspected attack also disrupted operations at Nine's publishing business, with Internet access unavailable at its Sydney headquarters while some publishing tools were also down, the AFR reported.

Nine said its coverage of the National Rugby League season, 6pm news bulletins and evening news programme 60 Minutes would go ahead as normal. —AP

### Bolsonaro ordered to pay compensation to journalist

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has been ordered to pay compensation to a journalist for making degrading remarks against her, according to a court document obtained by AFP.

According to the decision by a Sao Paulo court, Bolsonaro will have to pay 20,000 reais (about US\$3,500) to Patricia Campos Mello, a reporter with the respected daily Folha de S. Paulo.

The judge ruled in a Mar 16 decision that the far-right leader had "damaged the honor of the complainant, causing moral damage."

Bolsonaro can appeal the decision. The circumstances of the case date back to February 2020, when Bolsonaro insinuated that Campos Mello had offered sex to a source in exchange for negative information about him.

Campos Mello wrote several investigative stories on an organisation that slandered Bolsonaro's opponents on WhatsApp during his 2018 presidential campaign. Sponsored by Wing Joo Loong A traditional herb, packaged for modern lifestyles Cheong Kwan Jang's Korean red ginseng comes in convenient capsules, tonics and pouches. —Reuters

### Cities worldwide turn off their lights to mark Earth Hour

**SINGAPORE:** Cities around the world were turning off their lights for Earth Hour, with this year's event highlighting the link between the destruction of nature and increasing outbreaks of diseases like COVID-19.

Starting off the event, at 8:30pm the skylines of Asian metropolises from Singapore to Hong Kong went dark, as did landmarks including Sydney Opera House.

The annual event calls for action on climate change and the environment, and this year, organisers said they want to highlight the link between the destruction of the natural world and the increasing incidence of diseases — such as COVID-19 — making the leap from animals to humans. Experts believe human activity such as widespread deforestation, destruction of animals' habitats and climate change are spurring this increase, and warn more pandemics could occur if nothing is done.

"Whether it is a decline in pollinators, fewer fish in the ocean and rivers, disappearing forests or the wider loss of biodiversity, the evidence is mounting that nature is in free fall," said Marco Lambertini, director general of the WWF, which organises Earth Hour.

"And this is because of the way we live our lives and run our economies."

"Protecting nature is our moral responsibility but losing it also increases our vulnerability to pandemics, accelerates climate change, and threatens our food security." The Sydney Opera House also switched its lights off to mark the event The Sydney Opera House also switched its lights off to mark the event AFP/Steven Saphore. —AFP

### Belarus police detain protesters

**MINSK:** Police in Belarus detained more than 100 people, including five journalists, a rights group said, as the opposition resumed rallies against strongman Alexander Lukashenko.

Protests erupted in the ex-Soviet country last August after Lukashenko claimed a sixth presidential term in a vote the opposition and Western diplomats said was rigged.

But they died down over the winter in the wake of a violent crackdown that saw thousands of protesters detained, several killed and hundreds receive lengthy prison sentences over the unrest. The opposition Telegram channel Nexta that mobilises and coordinates protesters had called for a "second wave" of rallies to kick off on Saturday. The Viasna human rights group said law enforcement officers had detained at least 110 people, including five journalists, across the country. Almost all opposition leaders have either been arrested or forced to leave, notably Svetlana Tikhonovskaya, who fled to Lithuania shortly after the August vote. A group that represents the Polish minority in Belarus has also been singled out by police. —AP

### COURT NOTICE

**In the Court of Muhammad Yasin Civil Judge/Judge Family Court Gujranwala.**

Suit For Dissolution of marriage on the base of khula. Title Arooj shahzadi vs Usman ali . Notice To Usman Ali s/o Muhammad Afzal caste Rana r/o Faisal Colony street number 1 Tatlay Aali Tehsil Noshehra virkan District Gujranwala. At Present Abroad. Whereas the service of the defendant is not going to be effected through ordinary means ,So the service of defendant be effected through Proclamation in the newspaper. You above named defendant is directed to appear in the court in person or through counsel on 23/03/2021 at 9:00am failing which ex party proceedings shall be initiated against you . Given under my hand and the seal of this court. Muhammad yasin civil judge /Judge Family Court, Gu-

## US demonstrators rally nationwide against violence



**NEW YORK:** Hundreds of demonstrators gathered in New York's Queens borough to demand an end to anti-Asian violence, part of a national day of action following deadly mass shootings at Asian-owned spas in Atlanta.

Organizers held rallies in some 60 US cities including the Georgia metropolis along with San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, Detroit and Portland.

"We're one year into this pandemic and anti-Asian violence has only intensified," said Judi Chang, a representative of the anti-war, anti-racism ANSWER coalition behind the demonstrations.

Like many organizers, Chang attributed the spike in anti-Asian sentiment to political rhetoric that casts China as a threat.

"Everyone I know who is Asian has been a victim of violence or harassment, assault," she told AFP in New York. "We get spat at, we get yelled at. We get stared at, people move away when we come."

The March 16 gun rampage left eight people dead, including six women of Asian descent, triggering alarm and grief nationwide along with fear over a rise in pandemic-era hate crimes. —AFP