

Traffic awareness walk held in Shafiqabad

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Ring Road Police along with TRSF and Atlas Honda Aipsev int organized a seminar and awareness walk in the area of Bandar Road Shafiqabad under the auspices of the 6th UN Global Road Safety Week.

The slogan of the campaign is "Streets for Life". The event was attended by DSP Ring Road Mian Imtiaz-ur-Rehman, TRSF Chairman Khurshidul Zaman Khoshkhal, Aipsev International Representative Ali Nawaz, Atlas Honda Safety Manager Asif Ghauri, representatives of transport companies.



The message was given to make oneself and other cities safer by following the traffic rules. Attendees were given special lectures based on traffic rules and also distributed pamphlets based on traffic rules. Attendees were well aware of the traffic rules and appreciated them. After the seminar, a special walk will be organized which was conveying the message of following traffic rules while driving on the road to the whole world. He said that we should prove to be a civilized nation by abiding by the traffic laws while traveling on the road. The organization TRSF is playing a key role. Citizens should also feel responsible and protect their lives and the lives of other citizens by following the traffic laws.

Do not let students suffer for choosing Cambridge

LAHORE: Pakistan Education Council (PEC), the representational body of leading private schools of Pakistan has expressed their concern over the educational decisions regarding the examinations, taken by the government of Pakistan.

PEC in their statement has made it clear that the decision to postpone exams of Cambridge O Level till October 2021 has put the academic progress of thousands of students at stake. These students will not only lose their motivation to study, but they will also lose the chances of getting admissions in FSc colleges. They will miss out on the precious academic time needed for the rigorous and challenging Intermediate and A level studies.

Imran Masood, the President of Pakistan Education Council said, "We appreciate the concerns of the government regarding the use of School Assessed Grades (SAGs). —PR



LAHORE: Labourers clean the Catholic Church building.

Punjab gov't's efforts lauded for restoration of historical heritages

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Deputy Head of Mission Hungary Embassy Tivadar Takacs has praised efforts of Punjab government for restoration of heritage.

He extended this acknowledgement while meeting with Secretary Tourism and Archaeology Department (TAD) Ehsan Bhatta here in his office. The Hungarian diplomat said that experts from his country were working hard to restore the splendourous work of great artist August Shoffett's paintings in Sikh Gallery, Lahore Fort. "Governor Punjab will grace the inaugural ceremony of exhibition of paintings once restored", said Mr. Takacs.

Hungarian August Shoffett visited the court of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and created many masterpieces on his request. 170 years old paintings were vulnerable to many risks. To preserve the historic treasure trove Punjab Tourism Department and Archaeology Directorate along with Walled City Lahore Authority (WCLA) and Bank of Punjab launched a joint venture for restoration of work of Hungarian Painter.

Secretary TAD particularly thanked the Ambassador of Hungary Mr. Bela Fazekas for taking keen interest in this project. "Restored paintings would be great addition in Sikh Gallery at Lahore Fort", observed the Secretary. Deputy Head of Mission hoped that remaining 20 percent work will also be completed soon. On this occasion, Director General Archaeology Ilyas Gill commended the spirit of Hungarian artisans working at Lahore Fort. Matters of mutual interest and prospects of training to local artists by Hungarian experts were also discussed during the meeting. Ehsan Bhatta presented the diplomat with Archaeology Directorate's newsletter and Souvenir.

Vaccination of above 30 years of age people begins in Punjab

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Punjab government on Saturday kicked off coronavirus vaccination of people age group from 30 to 39 years. The Punjab health department is administering Chinese Sinovac vaccine to citizens.

The health department has set up several vaccination centres in the provincial capital and the rest of the province to facilitate the citizens. The citizens of above 30 year of age have been asked to send their CNIC number at 1166 and visit the nearest vaccination centre with the verification code received along with the message for vaccination. The Punjab health department has also advised the citizens to come to the vaccination centres on the giving date to avoid any inconvenience.

400 contract employees of WASA regularized, says Mahmood

— Housing Minister distributes regularization letters

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: More than 400 contract employees of Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Lahore have been regularized. Minister for Housing & Urban Development Punjab Mian Mahmood-ul-Rasheed distributed regularization letters among the contract employees during a ceremony held at WASA Head Office.

Vice-Chairman Sheikh Imtiaz Mahmood, Managing Director Syed Zahid Aziz, DMD Muhammad Tanveer and other concerned officers were also present on this occasion. Mian Mahmood-ul-Rasheed congratulated the employees and gave the credit to VC and MD WASA of regularizing the service of contract employees from BPS 1 to 15 in 13 different

categories.

He further stated that WASA management is taking effective measures for the betterment and welfare of the employees. He said that in the past decisions of recruitment and promotion were taken on the basis of the lists prepared by political leaders. He said that PTI government instead of "dang-tapao-policy" promoted merit and transparency in the public offices and WASA is the best example of this fact. He lauded the efforts of WASA Lahore in providing sanitation and drainage facilities to the Lahorites during the last 3 years.

VC WASA Sheikh Imtiaz Mahmood said that in the past, it was the practice to dismiss contract employees on change of government and employees were made permanent through bribery. The incumbent government has eliminated this prac-

tice and adopted a merit-based policy for the strengthening of the institutions. Transparency has also been adopted while regularizing the services of 400 employees.

MD Syed Zahid Aziz also congratulated the employees and said that WASA Lahore has taken revolutionary steps for their welfare. All the success achieved by WASA Lahore was not possible without the cooperation and support of the political leadership. Mian Mahmood-ul-Rasheed extended his full support to the management of the WASA. Meanwhile, Wasa MD Syed Zahid Aziz gave Minister Housing a briefing on the newly introduced Online Complaint Management system. The system will directly monitor public grievances, the Minister congratulated the WASA administration for launching/introducing the modern system.



LAHORE: A worker prepares a part of room-cooler with khas at his workplace.

Pakistan to provide support to Gaza reconstruction, says Ashrafi

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Pakistan would extend all possible support to the reconstruction efforts in Gaza, and cooperate with Palestine, Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi said Saturday.

Talking to Arab media, he said Prime Minister Imran Khan himself was in constant touch with the latest situation in Palestine.

The important government functionaries were also active on the situation of Palestine on the instructions of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has represented not only the Pakistani nation but also the entire Muslim Ummah in the United Nations. All Islamic countries including Pakistan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Turkey must unite on Kashmir and Palestine issues. "We were in touch with the governments and embassies of Palestine and Egypt as we have intimate relationships with Palestine," he concluded.

Anti-Dengue Day observed

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The district administration on Saturday observed anti-dengue day with an aim to create awareness among people about adopting prevention measures against dengue virus.

In this regard, walks were arranged in different parts of the city besides carried out anti-dengue activities. An awareness walk was held at Deputy Commissioner's office led by DC Muddasir Riaz Malik while officers of different department including NGOs and civil society participated in the walk.

The participants were carrying banners, poster inscribed with different slogans about safety measures from dengue mosquitoes. The DC said that steps

were being taken for the elimination of dengue larva, however, the cooperation of citizens was imperative in this regard. He maintained that surveillance of all suspected places, spots including graveyards, tire shop, shops of old items etc where dengue larva could get growth was being carried out. Meanwhile, dengue awareness walks were also arranged in Wahga zone and Shalimar zone under the supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner General Shahid Abbas Kathia.

Dengue surveillance being carried out in city
Anti-dengue drive launched by the district administration is in full swing as surveillance is being carried out at various points in the provincial capital. Additional Deputy

Commissioner (General) Shahid Abbas Kathia on Saturday visited Bata factory, Batapur at Wahga zone, where he checked staff working in streets for indoor surveillance.

He observed the attendance and performance of dengue squad deputed at field duty in the area. For making better arrangements to prevent dengue, it was necessary for the public to cooperate with the administration and field staff, he said and added that citizens should keep their houses clean and leave no place wet or with stagnant water. Meanwhile, Assistant Commissioner Shalimar Mansoor Ahmed Qazi inspected anti-dengue arrangements at Union Council UC-18. AC City Fizan Ahmed visited UC-80 and directed the field staff to intensify dengue surveillance in the area.

IRSA releases 192,300 cusecs water

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Saturday released 192,300 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 176,900 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1403.89 feet, which was 19.89 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 56,100 and 70,000 cusecs respectively.

Film based on Pakistan's Kushti and Kabaddi matches to premiere at Dubai's film fest

Zain Khan

Kabaddi and Kushti are the Asian forms of wrestling which are very popular in the Indo-Pak subcontinent over the centuries.

In Pakistan, there are annual kabaddi and kushti formal matches arranged at different levels, especially at Punjab and some regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The Gujranwala district of Punjab is considered as the main hub of sports like these and it has produced globally recognised and famous pehlwan (wrestlers).

But these sports are slowly losing its popularity and are going out of the limelight because of lack of support, as the organisers of these games have low or no financial resources to properly advertise the events. Beside this, they do not have funds even to arrange good venues and offer reasonable awards to the winners of the contest. Despite these issues and barriers, whenever there is a kabaddi or kushti match, hundreds of people are coming to watch and enjoy these matches and it is one of the good characteristics of these games that it always attract a large number of crowd from nearby localities which shows that despite ignorance these games are still very much popular among the people of Pakistan.

Like all the other games, training is the most important part of these games which needs time, proper diet, financial support and government back up, but no government or private organisation has supported these traditional games and its players because of which these games are losing their glamour and popularity.

According to Muswer Khan who plays kabaddi on national and do-



mestic level, no government had supported them nor they were given any attention and that was the reason that these games are losing its popularity in Pakistan.

He elaborated that government must pay attention towards the revival of these games and should provide financial support to these games otherwise these games would be disappeared from the society which was not a good sign. Talking about the lack of facilities he said, "We don't have any basic facilities and this is the reason that I have established a separate spot for my daily training on my own expenses and I spend almost 4 hours daily while exercising along with my other friends." Like all the other games, training is the most important part of this game which needs time, proper diet, financial support and government back up, but no government or private organisation has supported these traditional games and the players because of which these games are losing their glamour and popularity. In this backdrop, a Pakistani-American filmmaker is endeavouring to fetch financial support for Pakistani kabaddi and kushti from Pakistan

and non-government as well as international organisations for the revival of these traditional or folk sports. Zain Khan has earlier produced many popular documentaries including 'A Sufi Shrine' and 'Inside the Azadi March'. This correspondent is also a broadcast journalist for an international digital news channel, said that they were active in Lollywood since long, as his first feature film under Zain Khan Films came out in 1990s titled 'Maidan-e-Jang' and starred Reema Khan and Sultan Rahi.

This correspondent now focusing on highlighting the social issues and will soon come up with documentaries on topics like women right to inheritance; challenge to girls education; reasons behind prostitution in the country." This correspondent said that he wants to bring the matter of Pakistani wrestling to international limelight through an international film fair and beside DIFF he would for other international film contests including the Oscars awards in future.

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Punjab gov't releases Rs3b for Nishtar-2, Mother & Childcare Hospital, Nadrabad flyover

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab government has released funds over Rs three billions for ongoing projects of Nishtar 2, Mother & Childcare hospital and Nadrabad flyovers.

This was disclosed in a meeting jointly chaired by Provincial Minister for Energy Dr Akhtar Malik, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs Aamir Dogar and Senator Aon Abbas Bappy, here on Saturday. MNAs Ibrahim Khan, Ahmed Hassan Dehr, Makhdoom Zain Qureshi and some other local parliamentarians from Punjab Assembly also joined the meeting. Dr Akhtar Malik remarked that

provision of civic facilities to masses was top priority of the incumbent government. Aamir Dogar also observed that citizens would avail benefits of some more uplift schemes in upcoming budget. Senator Aon Abbas Bappy suggested parliamentarians to constitute special monitoring committees to check uplift work in their respective areas. Makhdoom Zain Qureshi maintained that regular meetings should be held to review pace of the ongoing projects. MNAs Ahmed Hassan Dehr and Ibrahim Khan stressed to expedite work on the schemes.

Deputy Commissioner Ali Shehzad stated that enough funds were available for Nishtar-2. He also informed

that Rs 2 billion were released for Nishtar-2 project. Similarly, funds to the tune of Rs 800 million for Nadrabad flyover and Rs 200 million for Mother and Childcare Hospital were also released by the Punjab government. Overall, the work on 169 schemes of annual development programme was heading forward with rapid pace. So far, Rs 5.23 billions have been spent. Under Social Action Programme-III, 138 uplift schemes are in progress, he stated. Similarly, under special development package (SDP), they have approved work on another 52 schemes. The Deputy Commissioner also informed that they had initiated 228 projects under SDP in different areas of the district.