

### 3 dead, 505 injured in 475 road traffic crashes in Punjab

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Punjab Emergency Service (Rescue 1122) responded to 475 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 36 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. In these RTCs 03 people died, whereas 505 were injured. Out of this, 279 people were seriously injured who were shifted to different hospitals. Whereas, 223 minor injured victims were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of Hospitals.

The majority (84%) involved Motorbikes, therefore effective enforcement of traffic laws and lane discipline are essential to reduce this an increasing number of Road Traffic Crashes. Further, the analysis showed that 232 drivers, 24 underage drivers, 57 pedestrians, and 216 passengers were among the victims of these road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 95 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 93 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by 29 in Faisalabad with 31 victims and at third Multan with 54 RTCs and 57 victims.

The details further reveal that 505 victims were affected by road traffic crashes including 426 males & 79 females, while the age group of the victims shows that 78 were under 18 years of age, 284 were between 18 and 40 years and rest of the 143 victims were reported above 40 years of age. According to the data 382 motorbikes, 71 auto-rickshaws, 71 motorcars, 17 vans, 6 passenger buses, 17 trucks and 56 other types of auto vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in aforesaid road traffic accidents.

### 'Hoarding will not be tolerated in Kasur'

From Our Staff Correspondent



KASUR: Price Control Magistrate Muhammad Amir Gujjar while talking to media said that hoarding and blending Mafia not entitled to any discount artificial inflation will be dealt with iron hands, providing relief to public is part of our duty it will not tolerate any kind of. He said that traders and shopkeepers should provide goods at government rates, rate lists should be displayed in prominent places and white boards should be installed on shops so that the rates of the rate list issued on a daily basis should be clearly written, so that the public can get information about the prices of goods and buy items according to the rates set by the public.



LAHORE: Activists of Pakistan Sunni Tehreek shouting slogans during protest rally in favour of their demands.

## People, not me, helped Imran become PM: Sarwar

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said on Sunday that people, party and political struggle of 22 years aided Imran Khan become Prime Minister of the country and it was not him who helped him achieve the glory.

Talking to the media during the inauguration of 20 water filtration plants under Punjab Aab-e-Pak Authority (PAPA) here at the Governor's House, he said that only one person cannot help someone to be elected Member National Assembly (MNA), let alone Prime Minister of the country, adding that Pakistan was a democracy where representatives were elected through the power of vote. "I am proud of being part of the struggle of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for real democracy and mobilizing workers all over Punjab", he responded, adding that PTI won general elections 2018 and Imran Khan became Prime Minister as a result.

He further clarified that he didn't claim to have helped Mohtarma Shaheed Benazir

Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif become prime minister of the country, adding that he never asserted so. Disassociating himself from another news item attributed to him, Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar, in response to a query, said that my statement regarding extension in tenure of the Army Chief had nothing to do with reality, urging all political parties to keep the armed forces away from politics. The Governor said that armed forces were fighting the war against terrorism and they had full support of the 220 million Pakistanis, adding that we will defeat our enemies on every front.

Replying to a query on the upcoming Local Government (LG) elections, he said the PTI was united under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan and, overcoming challenges of inflation, PTI would not only win the LG elections in Punjab but Imran Khan would also be re-elected Prime Minister for the second term.

To a question, Sarwar said strengthening the democratic system was collective responsibility of all political and religious parties in the country, adding that PTI had

strengthened all institutions including the parliament and strength of parliament lies in a strong democracy. Regarding Punjab Aab-e-Pak Authority (PAPA), Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar, who is patron of the authority, said more than 1200 projects of Punjab Aab-e-Pak Authority would be completed by March 2022, adding that clean drinking water would be available to 150 million people in the province with the support of NGOs. He said another 51 filtration plants would be installed in Gujrat with the support of philanthropists while various clean drinking water projects under the Punjab Aab-e-Pak Authority would be inaugurated in Multan. "Providing clean drinking water to the people is my mission in life and I will continue to work in collaboration with the NGOs and philanthropists to achieve this", he remarked. Provincial Minister for local government Mian Mehmood-ur-Rasheed, Member Punjab Assembly Malik Nadeem Bara, Chairman PAPA Dr. Shakeel Ahmed, Ahsanullah Waqas of Al-Khidmat Foundation and others were also present on the occasion.

### CTO visits Murree to check traffic arrangements

RAWALPINDI: Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi Sunday visited Murree to review traffic arrangements in view of snowfall at the hill station. During his visit, he issued necessary instructions to the staff posted at the checkpoints at the entrances of Murree. CTO urged the tourists to avoid wrong parking, double lines and taking selfies in the middle of the road. He told that Murree has a parking capacity of about 3500 vehicles.

He said that additional traffic wardens have been deployed to facilitate the tourists. He advised the tourists obey traffic rules and avoid over-speeding. He suggested the motorists to keep their vehicles fit before travelling to hill stations. The CTP has devised a proper traffic plan to ensure smooth flow of traffic and also requested the masses to cooperate with the police. Rawalpindi Police Radio Station 88.6, traffic police and all the official pages would also provide awareness to the citizens about the severity of the weather and rush situation in Murree. He said citizens might contact the helpline number 051-9269200 in case of any emergency or to get guidance. He advised the vehicle owners to avoid closing vehicles' windows while using heaters. Motorists should use chain on the tires of the vehicles as it is slippery on the road during snowfall, he suggested. Awareness pamphlets were also distributed among the tourists and banners were exhibited on the highways and entrances of Murree, the CTO remarked.

### Three dead, 505 injured in 475 road accidents in Punjab

LAHORE: At least three people were killed and 505 injured in 475 road accidents in all 36 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Of whom, 279 people were seriously injured who were shifted to different hospitals, whereas, 223 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by rescue medical teams. Analysis showed that 232 drivers, 24 underage drivers, 57 pedestrians, and 216 passengers were among the victims of road crashes. Statistics show that 95 road accidents were reported in Lahore which affected 93 people placing the provincial capital at top of the list followed by 29 in Faisalabad with 31 victims and at third Multan with 54 road accidents and 57 victims. According to the data, 382 motorbikes, 71 auto-rickshaws, 71 motorcars, 17 vans, 6 passenger buses, 17 trucks and 56 other types of auto vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in the road accidents. —APP



LAHORE: A view of accumulated rain water after the rain at Sheranwala Gate.

## People of S Punjab real affectees of hollow promises: Khawar

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Punjab on Information and Spokesperson to the Punjab Government Hasaan Khawar has said that the people of South Punjab are the real affectees of hollow promises, intentional hypocrisy and duplicitous policies of PML-N and PPP regarding creation of South Punjab province.

He said that these two parties were equally complicit in criminally increasing the sense of deprivation of the people of this region. Hasaan Khawar further said that for the first time in the political history of the province, Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar laid a network of genuine development works in South Punjab without any discrimination and gave people of this region their due. PTI government is changing the fate of South Punjab with establishment of hospitals, universities, industrial estates and development projects. The allocated budget of South Punjab has been ring fenced to be spent in South Punjab only, he said. He further stated that the South Punjab Secretariat was a great gift of the PTI government to the people here and was an important step towards the establishment of South Punjab province. Hassan Khawar said that if PML-N and PPP are sincere



with the people of South Punjab, they should practically demonstrate that instead of dillydallying.

**Govt utilizing available resources for country's progress:**

**Ansar:** Provincial Minister for Labour and Manpower Ansar Majeed Khan said on Sunday the Pakistan Tehreek Insaaf (PTI) government was utilizing all available resources for the progress and prosperity of the country. Chairing a review meeting of city development package and schemes here at DC office, he said that officers of the district administration should perform their duties diligently. The minister urged the officers of building department to ensure the utilization of funds on the ongoing projects in a transparent manner so that projects could be completed in

time. He said that no compromise would be tolerated on material standard and completion of the schemes.

The meeting reviewed the expenditure and pace of work on 22 schemes under the city development package.

The meeting was informed the cost of Govt Associate College for Girls 49-NB had been estimated at Rs 165 million, for which, steps were being taken for the release of funds while Rs 18.6 million had been spent on the construction of Park in Chak no 47-NB.

The meeting was further informed that Rs 7.8 million had so far been spent on water supply scheme in Cheema Colony, while another Rs 20 million would soon be released for the scheme. The meeting was informed that so far Rs 19.1 million had been spent on water supply and sanitation schemes of the city, Rs 18.6 million on one scheme of local government, Rs 80 million on two schemes of metropolitan corporation, Rs 65.8 million on schemes of construction and expansion of 12 roads and more than Rs 2.3 million had been spent on three urban development schemes. Provincial Minister Ansar Majeed Khan assured that WASA would soon be established in Sargodha. DC Muhammad Asghar Joyia and officers of departments concerned were also present.

## Winter tourism flourishes in KP as Galiyat attracts snowfall lovers

NATHIAGALI: The winter tourism has started flourishing in upper areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where its most scenic Galiyat, Kaghan, Kalam and Malam Jabba attracted tourists, adventure sports and snowfall lovers in droves.

Nathiagali, a scenic hilly station of Galiyat in Abbottabad has witnessed an influx of tourists, snowfall and trout fish lovers on weekend arrived from width and breadth of Pakistan especially, from Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Following the Met Office's snowfall forecast for weekend, the domestic tourists along with families thronged to Nathiagali, Dongagali, Ayubia, Bagnotar and Thandyani where they enjoyed light to moderate snowfall with erratic rainfalls over the snow-clad mountains along with cool breezes taking them into a state of ecstasy. The snow-clad mountain peaks of Mukshpuri and Miranjani on western Himalayan hills near Nathiagali are centre of attraction of tourists and snowfall lovers. Ayubia-Nathiagali, Donga Gali-Ayubia and Mukshpuri Top are the most frequented sites where local guides and horse riders are seen moving around to make a quick buck. "Nathiagali is my favorite winter hilly station due to its diverse features, easy accessibility, pollution free cool weather and trout fish amid snowfall. No hill station carries more natural and mountainous beauty in the world than Nathiagali," said Zee-shan Khan, a tourist from Nowshera district while talking to APP on Sunday. He said trout fish amid snowfall has doubled my joy at Galiyat. "Three years ago, when I came to Galiyat for snowfall, I used car tyre chains for movement. This time, my journey was comfortable due to an effective snow clearance operations by the Galiyat Development Authority and District Administration," he said. He maintained that high charges by private hotels could negatively impact the total intake of tourists to scenic sites of Nathiagali, Ayubia, Dongali, Harnoi, Bagnotar and Thandyani.

But now one can hope for ameliorating the situation of accommodation problem following the government decision to construct a state-of-the-art five star hotel at Nathiagali with an estimated cost of USD 25 million.

Spokesman of KP Tourism Department told APP that four integrated tourism zones (ITZ) at Mankial Swat, Thandyani Abbottabad, Ganol Manshehra and Madak-lasht Lower Chitral would be developed and its master plan to be presented to the World Bank for implementation soon. He said there are six plans and programmes for uplift of ITZ Thandyani comprising a 428-room hotel and a resort for tourists while five projects are for infrastructure and other facilities, adding Thandyani zone would be established on 640 kanal.

"Eight projects are for development of Ganol tourism zone, including a 218-room hotel and a resort while five projects are for infrastructure and other facilities," he said, adding Ganol zone would be established on 480 kanal. Seven projects were sketched for ITZ Mankial in Swat on 754 kanal where a 71-room hotel and a resort would be constructed besides five projects were presented for infrastructure and other facilities.

For ITZ Madaklasht in Lower Chitral to be constructed on 540 kanal, he said there were eight projects, including construction of a 382-room hotel and a resort while five projects were for infrastructure and other facilities. As result of Government's pro tourism policies, a record 2.77 million tourists had visited Swat, Chitral, Nathiagali Abbottabad, Kaghan and Naran during vacations of Eid ul Azha last year. These tourism activities

in large scale generated wealth in KP where over Rs 66 billion businesses were made and Rs 27 billion earned by local people only from tourism during three holidays of Eid ul Azha.

To address the problem of accommodation and control overcharging by hotels in Hazara and Malakand Divisions, the KP government had planned a unique "Stay Home" project under which loans on easy terms and conditions from the Bank of Khyber would be provided to people of tourist areas for construction of at least one quality room as per Government design for comfortable stay of tourists. Tourists would pay rent and meal charges during their stay in said room to its owner, he added. Camping pods constructed by KP government at Bambor of Kalash Valley in Chitral, Shaheed Sir, Allai Battagram, Mahban and Malka in Buner district had attracted a substantial number of tourists especially to Malakand and Hazara divisions during last summer.

The spokesman said 10 new tourists sites had been identified in KP where new camping pods at Jarogo waterfall, Solatar and Kalam in Swat, Lashkargaz Broghal and Solarspot in Chitral, Kumrat in Dir Upper, Alpuri in Shangla, Samana Top in Hangu, Larum Top and Bin Shahi in Dir Lower would be setup. Colonial-era walking tracks including Nathiagali-Thandyani, Thandyani-Satto- Mahnoor and Kaghan-Saiful Malook-Anso in Manshehra are improved. Besides establishment of three new ski resorts in Kaghan, Chitral and Swat, he said four new hill stations including two in Kaghan, one each in Chitral and Abbottabad would be developed to reduce visitors load on existing tourist destinations and promote skiing sports. Work on KP Integrated Tourism Development Project (KPTDP) amounting to Rs 2,667.428 million, Integrated Tourism Development Project (KITE) amounting to Rs 3,000 million and Rs 500 million for development of Galiyat Development Authority (GDA) expedited. Under the KITE project, a container based facilitation centre was being constructed at Chitral, Abbottabad, Manshehra and Dir Upper to provide emergency assistance to tourists. As many as Rs 4655.134 million is being spent on construction of access roads in remote areas of Hazara division, Rs 320 million on development of camping pods, Rs 500 million on construction of jeepable tracks in tourists' areas and a seven kilometres long pony track between Saiful Malook and Ansoo lakes. Following successful completion of the 81 kilometres Swat Motorway (Phase-I) from Karnal Sher Khan interchange Swabi to Chakdara Lower Dir with an estimated cost of Rs34 billion, the incumbent government has taken a principle decision to construct Swat Motorway Phase-II from Chakdara to Madain to open up the entire Malakand division for tourists.

Managing Director, Pakhtunkhwa Highway Authority, Engineer Amir Durrani told APP that Swat Motorway Phase -II would be completed with an estimated cost of Rs38 billion. He said work order for construction of 80 kilometer Swat Motorway-II is in process and its groundbreaking would be arranged soon. Similarly, work on the 360 kilometres Peshawar-D.I.Khan Motorway was in advanced stage that would be completed at an estimated cost of Rs 261.6 billion. Engr Amir said Dir Motorway having 29 kilometres length from Chakdara Lower Dir to Rabaat Upper Dir with a proposed cost of Rs38.9 billion had been approved. Kaghan Development Authority (KDA) had been re-activated by the KP Government and has approved