

Funds of Rs39.714m released for Zakat

BAHAWALPUR: Funds of Rs. 39.714 million have been released for the registered deserving people for Zakat. In this regard, texts messages for receiving Rs. 9,000 per person will be issued to 4126 deserving people.

On the direction of the Punjab government Zakat and Ushr Punjab Lahore, District Zakat Committee Bahawalpur has released funds of Rs. 39.714 million for 4341 registered Zakat deserving people.

According to Chairman District Zakat Committee Bahawalpur Malik Ahmad Nawaz Nangana, the message of Rs. 9,000 to the deserving people under the General Guzara Allowance and Rs. 12,000 to the blind people will be issued through Telenor Easy Paisa service (3737). If the franchisee deducts the service charges, they should be immediately reported to the district office, he told. He directed the chairmen of the local Zakat committees to act on merits properly while selecting the deserving persons. —APP

123 power pilferers nabbed

MULTAN: Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO) have caught 123 power pilferers during separate operations launched throughout the South Punjab in a day, MEPCO official said on Sunday.

MEPCO teams accompanying task forces raided different places in Multan, Vehari, Sahiwal, Rahimyar Khan, Muzaffargarh, Bahawalnagar, Khanewal, and DG Khan and detected theft of 2.64,000 electricity units.

A sum of over Rs 2.8 million fine was imposed while four cases were lodged against power pilferers over Involvement in tampering with body of meters, direct supply, installing loop in meters, slowing down meters, meter dead stop and meter screen wash. —APP

ANF recovers over 43 kg narcotics; arrests seven

LAHORE: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) conducted four operations in different areas of the country during last 24 hours and recovered over 43 kg narcotics including 42.600 kg charras, 133 grams heroin and 553 grams Ice besides netting seven accused.

According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, ANF Sindh and ANF Intelligence conducted a raid near Karachi Malir-15 and held three drug smugglers namely Abdullah Siddiqui, Abdul Raheem and Syed Fasihullah on recovery of nine kg charras.

In another operation, ANF Peshawar and ANF Intelligence recovered 98 capsules containing 553 grams Ice and 133 grams heroin from a passenger namely Muhammad Rasool resident of Khyber. —APP



LAHORE: Farmers harvest wheat crop with old method at rural area.

MD WASA directs officials to work hard to prevent dengue

RAWALPINDI: Managing Director, Water and Sanitation Authority (WASA) Rawalpindi Raja Shaukat Mahmood has directed the officials of the authority to work hard to prevent dengue.

According to a WASA spokesman, the authority was creating awareness among people about the danger of dengue and all possible preventive measures were being taken to cope with this disease.

He informed that WASA was working in collaboration with the Rawalpindi District Administration as well as District Health Department to control and prevent dengue.

Taking measures, WASA had constituted seven working teams in Rawal Town and Potohar Town, which works on daily basis to eliminate the dengue larvae in Rawalpindi city.

Similarly, accumulated water in streets and roads were sucked through sucking and jet machines, he added.

Moreover, the sewerage staff was also working on cleaning drains and small outlets besides manholes to improve drainage system in order to prevent the disease.

WASA employees were well trained by the health department and possess the capability of differentiating between larvae and dengue mosquitoes, he informed.

Working in the field, the field staff if detects larvae from any house, it is removed and the house is supplied clean drinking water through water tankers, he said.

A regular survey of houses, drains, roofs, lawns etc, is made by WASA staff. Old, rubbish goods and tyres are removed from streets, residential colonies to prevent spread of dengue, he added. —APP

Hamza 11th Old Ravian to serve as Punjab CM: GCU VC

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: It is, indeed, a moment of pride for the Government College University (GCU) Lahore as an institution that Hamza Shehbaz Sharif is the 11th Old Ravian to serve as the Chief Minister of Punjab.

This was stated by GCU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr Syed Asghar Zaidi on Sunday, while extending good wishes to CM Hamza on his election.

The first chief minister of the province, Nawab Iftikhar Hussain Khan Mamdot, 1947-1949, was also an alumnus of the Government College Lahore, while other eminent chief ministers Mian Mumtaz Daultana, Malik Feroze Khan Noon, Malik Khuda Baksh Bucha, Muhammad Hanif Ramay, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Dost Muhammad Khosa, Najam Sethi, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Prof Hassan Askari Rizvi were also Old Ravians.



The VC said they had high hopes from the young chief minister for much-needed reforms and development of the education sector in the province. He also said they were looking forward to hosting the new chief minister at his alma mater soon. Prof Zaidi said that political affilia-



tions did not matter for educational institutions like the Government College University, but it had always been a moment of great pride for the university when its former students are appointed to prestigious positions in Pakistan and abroad. He said alumni achievements bring great laurels to their alma mater.

45,174 corona patients recovered in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI: As many as 45,174 COVID-19 patients had been discharged after getting treatment from the district's health facilities, out of which 41,672 were Rawalpindi's residents and 3,502 were from other districts.

According to data shared by the district health authority here on Sunday, one more case was reported during the last 24 hours in the district from Potohar town.

The report said that two patients were admitted to the city hospitals, including the Holy Family and Bilal Hospital. In addition, it updated that 46,530 patients had tested positive so far since the pandemic, 43,027 belonging to Rawalpindi and 3,503 from the outside district. Presently, around 23 were quarantined, including 21 homes and two isolation. The report further updated that 6,785,579 people, including 44,710 health workers, had jabbed themselves



LAHORE: A vendor packs vermicelli (sawaiyan) ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr at his workplace.

Citizens for expansion of health services at PIMS emergency department

ISLAMABAD: Citizens of the federal capital on Sunday demanded of the authorities concerned to immediately expand the emergency department with more staff to provide timely and proper medical care to the patients at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS).

According to them, the health authorities should increase services at the accident and emergency department of the hospital to manage the maximum number of patients as a large number of patients visit the PIMS emergency daily and face hardships due to the unavailability of adequate services.

They said that only limited beds were available at the wards situated in the emergency department, where not only the staff was limited, but there was an acute shortage of medicines as well besides testing equipment. They asked to take notice of the frequent absence of senior doctors and non-observance of the duty-roster by the medical and the non-medical staff at the emergency unit. They said there should be a monitoring mechanism to check whether the duty staff observed their duties or not. Mateen Khan, a patient, alleged that senior doctors

mostly remained absent from their duties while only postgraduate (PG) doctors, who were studying there, ran the affairs of the most sensitive unit of the hospital.

He added that due to the limited knowledge and experience, the PGs could not satisfy the patients having serious medical complications. They even could not properly treat patients with minor medical issues and mostly referred the serious patients to other hospitals.

Zaheer Abbas, another patient, said due to the non-professional attitude of the staff in the emergency, the patients faced several hardships, particularly those who are in a very critical condition.

Sometimes patients at the emergency department, he said, needed immediate response from expert doctors, but only general physicians were found there and the specialist doctors could not reach the ward on time. Another patient, Abbas Ali, demanded the deployment of sufficient staff, including medical and para-medical staff, at the emergency wards in order to deliver better services to the patients.

He said, keeping in view the serious nature of the section, only well-trained medical and non-med-

ical staff, who know the standard operating procedures (SOPs) and all other procedures, should be assigned to the PIMS emergency wards.

Imran Waseem, the brother of a patient, said the hospital needed the latest centralized cooling system as many serious patients needed specific room temperature for healing of injuries and even for operations in the operation theatres but no one was taking care of this important matter. When contacted, the hospital official said that postgraduate doctors who are fourth-year medical students having enough skills properly looked after the patients in the emergency wards while the registrar and other senior doctors also examined the patients. He dispelled the impression of any shortage of medicine or staff at the hospital's accident and emergency department and said that medicines were available in sufficient quality to meet the daily requirements. He said that the hospital management had started training sessions with medical practitioners to improve their communication skills with patients and attendants. He said that a sufficient number of doctors performed duties at the emergency wards. —APP

PAT says to participate in Punjab, Sindh LG polls fully

LAHORE: A meeting of Pakistan Awami Tehreek (PAT), held at Central Secretariat Model Town on Sunday, will participate in local bodies elections in 17 districts of Punjab and Sindh with full political force.

The meeting was chaired by PAT Secretary General Khurram Nawaz Gandapur and attended by central, provincial and district officials of the PAT.

Giving instructions to the party officials and workers, Gandapur said that preparations for the local bodies elections should be started. The PAT officials and workers should start public relations campaign immediately so that the message of Tehreek could reach every house. —APP

Two held for flying, selling kites

SIALKOTE: Police have arrested two persons for selling and flying kites in Sialkot district.

According to details, police conducted a raid near Darbar Shah Malik Wali area of Ugoki police station and arrested a kite-seller Rehman. The police recovered 680 kites from his possession. Meanwhile, police recovered four kites and two string rolls from a kite-flyer from Babe Di Beri area of Nikapura area. Police sent the accused behind bars after registering separate cases in this regard. —APP

Traders set commodities at fire amid sky rocketing goods prices in Ramazan

ISLAMABAD: The prices of household and daily use commodities have sky rocketed in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad during the month of Ramazan leaving the consumers at the mercy of gluttonous traders minting money from the masses.

The fruits and vegetables sellers were selling green grocery at exaggerated rates and openly flouting the prices set by the market committees of the twin cities. However, the milkmen had made self assumed increase in the prices of milk and yogurt.

The cloth and garments prices were also made doubled by the sellers without any reason before Eid shopping that forced the people to opt for window shopping.

The market committee prices for potato was ranging from Rs 25 to Rs 32 whereas in open market or city shops it was sold for Rs 55 per kilogram. The tomato was sold for Rs 120 to Rs150 where the official price was set at Rs 75 to Rs 90. The prices of onion was ranging from Rs40 to Rs 57 and the local sellers were selling at Rs 80 to Rs 110. The prices for ginger

and garlic as per market committee list was set at Rs 190 and Rs 355 per kg respectively where ginger was sold for Rs 400 and garlic for Rs 650. The Kala Kullu apple's price was set for Rs 242 which was sold Rs 400 and the local apple was sold for Rs 300 against its set price of Rs 165 per kg. The local banana was sold for Rs 300 against its set price of Rs 200.

The desi water melon was sold for Rs 250 against the set price of Rs105 per kg. Strawberry was sold for Rs 400 against the set price of Rs 277 per kg. Similarly, the milkmen were selling yogurt at Rs 160 to Rs 170 against the official price of Rs 140 per kg. The milk prices were increased to Rs 140 per liter against the set price of Rs 120 per litre.

The district administrations of the twin cities have established proper teams to check and control the prices of the commodities.

The cloth and garments markets were also imposing the prices of various pullovers of their own will.

The unstitched clothes were starting from Rs 4,000 which were earlier

sold for Rs 1,800 to Rs 2,000 for male where female's garments were sold for Rs 3,500 to Rs 7,000 on average whereas these varieties included branded and locally manufactured variety.

The tailors had also stopped booking for sewing clothes to mint money and were demanding wages of their own desire. On average female cloth tailor was sewing a suit for Rs 600 to Rs 800 and was now charging Rs 1,200 owing to the Eid season. The male tailors were also follow suiting their counterparts and were charging Rs 1500 to Rs 1800 against the earlier wages of Rs 800 to Rs 1000.

The people have demanded the district administrations to clampdown against the profiteers that were making it difficult for the middle income masses to meet their needs in the holy month of Ramazan.

When contacted the quarters concerned, the officials remained unavailable to provide their versions on the issue whereas they had earlier issued notifications for price control committees tasked to contain the price hike. —APP

Railways to hand over residential colonies to DISCOs, K-Electric to minimise line losses

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has planned to hand over its residential colonies to Distribution Companies (DISCOs) and Karachi-Electric for direct billing to minimize impact of difference of tariff and line losses on electricity bills. "It is estimated that total amount of Rs.1800 million annually will be saved by the Pakistan Railways after completion of the project," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. As of now, he said that total 8856 residences out of 26874 have been shifted on direct billing by DISCOs.

He said that a Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) project of solarization of 181 stations was also under process. It was estimated that total amount of Rs.395million annually would be saved after completion of project. A part from 181 stations, he said that Pakistan Railways has planned to shift its whole infrastructure on

solar power. In this regard, an Un-Solicited Proposal (USP) was under consideration for solarization of Railways infrastructure. The official said that it was estimated that the total amount of Rs.1000 million annually would be saved after approval and execution of USP. He said that Pakistan Railways was trying its utmost to improve the punctuality of the trains and every train was being monitored and every detention of train was reviewed and rectified.

To facilitate passengers, the official said that a mobile application-Pakrail live has also been launched for real time tracking of the trains. Due to close monitoring of trains at Divisional, Headquarters and Ministry level, the punctuality of trains has improved from 63 percent in financial year 2019-20 to over 80 percent in financial Year 2020-21, he added. —APP