

Strict security on Yom-e- Shahadat Hazrat Ali's main procession: Usman

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Commissioner Lahore Capt. (Retd) Muhammad Usman said that three to four security layers would be ensured on Yom e shahadat Hazrat Ali's main procession in Lahore and all departments would pay final visit to the routes under the headship of DC Lahore.

After reviewing the security and municipal arrangements, the commissioner Lahore issued instructions and said that all the encroachments on the 6 km route from Mubarak Haveli to Karbala Gamay Shah should be removed immediately.

Commissioner Lahore was also briefed today on the arrangements for the main procession of Hazrat Ali's Martyrdom Day. It was informed in the briefing that along with the cameras of Punjab Safe City Authority, additional cameras would also be installed. It was briefed that more than 4,000 police officers and personnel would perform security duties in the main procession. It was further stated in the briefing that the route of the main procession would be exempted from load shedding. Additional generators would also be available.

A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Commissioner Lahore Capt. (retd) Muhammad Usman in Commissioner Committee Room today to review the arrangements regarding the day of martyrdom of Hazrat Ali. The meeting was briefed by DC Lahore Omar Sher Chatha and police officers while all DCs and DPOs participated through video link.

ACE raids in Punjab districts, 4 held including employees of Revenue Department

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Anti-Corruption Establishment Punjab (ACE) has arrested four persons including employees of the Revenue Department during operations in Rawalpindi, Gujrat, Jhang and Faisalabad and also recovered bribe money. According to the spokesperson, during operation in Rawalpindi, Patwari Muhammad Shehzad was arrested while accepting bribe. Accused Muhammad Shehzad took Rs. 40,000 bribe from the complainant.

Patwari Tauseef Hussain from Gujrat was arrested through Trap Red. The accused received a bribe of Rs 60,000 from a citizen, a case has been registered against the delinquent in Anti-Corruption Police Station Gujrat, tainted notes were also recovered during the operation.

Muharrar, Mohammad Zaman was arrested from Jhang for accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000. Mohammad Zaman had already taken Rs. 40,000 bribe from the complainant and demanded another ten thousand rupees as illegal gratification.



LAHORE: An ariel view of the Badami Bagh fruit market as a large number of vendors takes part in bidding to buy water melons on whole sale prices. —Online

Maximum relief to be given to people: Chief Secretary

— Reviews implementation on Ramazan package

LAHORE: Chief Secretary Punjab Kamran Ali Afzal on Thursday presided over a meeting to review the implementation of the Ramzan package and availability of essential commodities, especially flour and sugar.

The meeting also deliberated on various proposals for providing a subsidy on ghee in Ramzan bazaars.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary said that the purpose of establishing Ramzan bazaars was to provide maximum relief to people. He said that everything including flour and sugar was available in abundance in Ramzan bazaars while agriculture fair price shops had been set up to provide vegetables and fruits at discounted rates.

Secretary Industries Wasif Khursheed gave a detailed briefing to the meeting. He said that on the direction of the Prime Minister, a 10 kg bag of flour was available at Rs. 400 throughout the province



while sugar was selling at Rs. 75 per kg in Ramzan bazaars. He said that about 0.6 million people daily benefit from 317 Ramzan bazaars established across the province. The administrative secretaries of food, finance, livestock, and information, commissioner Lahore, director-general public relations, and officers concerned attended the meeting.

First session of Development Talks Series on agriculture sector held

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: First session of Development Talks Series (#PnDDDevTalks) on Agriculture sector was held under the chairmanship of Chairman P&D Board Mr. Abdullah Khan Sumbal in Planning & Development Board.

The objective of the talks was to include the inputs of agriculture and private stakeholders in the ADP Formulation 2022-23 to support the agriculture sector. Top agriculturist, progressive farmers, representatives of national agricultural institutes from all over Punjab and govt representatives participated in the session.

UBL declares Profit Before Tax of Rs. 15.8 billion

KARACHI: The UBL has declared Profit Before Tax (PBT) of Rs. 15.8 billion for the quarter ended March 31, 2022, which represents an increase of 30 percent in the bottom line. Earnings per Share (EPS) was measured at Rs. 7.78 (Q1'21: Rs. 6.05). The Bank maintained the healthy payouts to its shareholders with the first dividend of the year declared at Rs. 5.0 per share. UBL's capital base remains strong as the Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) stood at 21.7 percent as at Mar'22, an excess of 9.2 percent over regulatory minimum requirements.

The Bank's gross revenues stood at Rs. 28.3 billion, growing by 25 percent, driven by the buildup in the deposit base over last year, healthy loan growth and well positioned investment portfolio. Non-markup income was recorded at Rs. 6.8 billion for Q1'22, up 17 percent as all major fee based revenues depicted a solid pick up in business with strong growth in foreign exchange flows. The cost to income ratio further improved to 42 percent from 44 percent last year. Provisioning expense remained controlled with enhanced risk vigilance and strong focus on recoveries across both domestic and international.

One of the largest branch networks in Pakistan serving a customer base of over 10 million UBL remains one of largest private banks in Pakistan with a branch network of 1,340 branches spread across both urban and rural geographies and 1,439 ATMs across the country. The physical network is well supported by the industry's leading Digital Banking services and our branchless banking proposition UBL Omni which serves even in the remotest locations across Pakistan. Our strength is an increasing and diverse customer base nationwide, as we continue to build on our agenda of financial inclusion and providing access to finance across all segments of society. Domestic deposits averaged Rs. 1.5 trillion for Q1'22, with strong growth of 11 percent in current accounts and a very profitable CASA ratio of 88 percent. The Bank continues to expand its customer base, particularly within current deposits, as it on-boarded 162,000 new current account relationships in the first quarter.

UBL active participant in all economic initiatives of the Government of Pakistan and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). We are one of the key partners in the SBP's Roshan Digital initiative, having opened over 78,000 accounts, with inflows of over \$532 million. The Bank continues to play its role in the "Mera Pakistan Mera Ghar" initiative, with disbursements of Rs. 3.5 billion. Furthermore, we are at the forefront of the Kamyab Jawab program, with disbursements over Rs. 2.5 billion, supporting the needs of upcoming young entrepreneurs all across Pakistan. —PR



LAHORE: Shopkeepers display boxes of sweets outside their shop to attract customers. —Online

Kashmir remembers Iqbal on 84th death anniversary

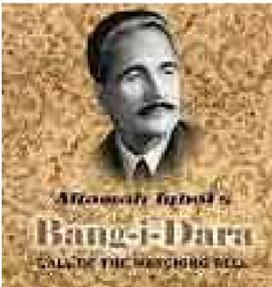
MIRPUR: Azad Jammu & Kashmir Thursday observed 84th death anniversary of Kashmir-origin poet philosopher Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal with the renewal of pledge to continue their just and principled struggle for liberation of occupied Jammu & Kashmir from the unlawful manacles of the forced Indian rule.

Various cultural, political and social organizations hosted impressive ceremonies comprising seminars in various AJK cities to highlight the services rendered by the great visionary of 20th century and to pay homage to the Poet of the East.

Special congregations comprising a grand poetic sittings (Mahaafil e Mushaira) to mark the death anniversary of Allama Iqbal besides to pay tribute to the poet philosopher were held in various parts of AJK. The poets and the scholars on this occasion highlighted the importance of high intellect and pen of the poet philosopher Allama Iqbal for the betterment, uplift, self respect and sovereignty of the humanity and human values in line with the teachings of Islam and the Islamic values.

The participants emphasized the need of acting upon the sayings of the poet philosopher who envisioned the idea of the emergence of separate home land of the Muslims of South Asia Pakistan, for maintaining the sovereignty, integrity, progress and prosperity of the country.

The participants also offered Fateha for the departed soul praying



for the solidarity, integrity and prosperity of the country besides for the early success of the Kashmiris struggle for freedom of Indian Illegally occupied Jammu & Kashmir.

In Mirpur, the speakers paid glorious tributes to the poet philosopher at a special ceremony hosted jointly by Kashmiri NGO Jinnah Foundation of Jammu & Kashmir to mark the death anniversary of the poet of the east with due respect and honour with the Jinnah Foundation J&K and eminent Kashmiri Physician Dr. Amin Chaudhry held at the Jinnah Hospital Complex. It was attended among others by renowned physician-cum-research scholar Dr. Khalid Yousaf, renowned writer of books on social issues and humanity Raja Ejaz Salim, Altaf Hamid Rao, Sohrab Ahmed Khan, Ali Akhter Salim, Muhammad Imran, Latif Ghous and others. The speakers paid tributes to the Kashmir-born world-fame poet of the

east Allama Iqbal in acknowledge his services for floating the idea of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the sub-continent - which later emerged in the name of Islam under the dynamic sole leadership of Quaid - e - Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Paying tributes Iqbal, who mobilized the Muslims of subcontinent through his poetry for an independent Islamic country, the Jinnah Foundation Chief Dr. Amin Chaudhry said that Pakistan could achieve a clear distinction in political, economic, social and religious spheres if we follow the thought and philosophy of great poet, Allama Muhammad Iqbal in true spirit.

He said though Allama Iqbal's dream about emergence of separate homeland for the Muslim population of the subcontinent - the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was materialized under the great sole leadership of Quaid-e-Azam in 1947 by creating Pakistan, we could not achieve the level of thoughts and actions as desired by the great poet and the father of the nation.

He said that the basis of Iqbal's philosophy was Islam and according to him, the fundamentals of Islamic model were the people, independence and conscience.

"According to Allama Iqbal, Islamic society had no room for the monarchy and religious headship and even he disliked these", Dr. Amin recalled the sayings of the poet philosopher. —APP

ADC reviews situation of dengue in Bahawalpur district

BAHAWALPUR: Additional Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur Samira Rabbani chaired the meeting of the District Emergency Response Committee for Anti-Dengue was held in the committee room of the Deputy Commissioner's Office on Thursday.

The meeting reviewed the steps taken for the prevention of dengue. CEO Health, DHO (Preventive Services) Dr. Khalid Mahmood Arain, DHO Dr. Khalid Channar, Deputy District Health Officers, and officers of relevant departments were present on the occasion.

The additional deputy commissioner said that awareness should be raised among the people to keep them safe from dengue.

He said that officers and staff of departments concerned should play their role in the prevention of dengue. He directed that vector surveillance should be carried out on daily basis. Indoor and outdoor teams should work properly in the field. The coverage of hotspots' surveillance should be increased to 100 percent. Android user activities should be further increased.

11,834 fine tickets issued for not fastening seat belt

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has so far issued 11,834 fine tickets to motorists for not fastening seat belts and 4,263 for using mobile phones during drive during ongoing year.

Following the directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Ahsan Younis, a special campaign was underway to check violations while various squads headed by Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Mazhar Iqbal were performing duties at main roads of the city and taking action against the violators, said a news release on Thursday. —APP

'OPC Punjab providing day-and-night services without discrimination'

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Commissioner Overseas Pakistanis Commission (OPC) Punjab Syed Khadim Abbas has said that 1470 complaints of Overseas Pakistanis have been resolved during the last ten weeks.

He further said that Overseas Pakistanis are the national asset of our country and solution of their problems is our top priority. He expressed these views while presiding over a weekly performance meeting held here today at OPC Punjab. Earlier, all the dealing officers presented their weekly performance re-

port in the meeting. The meeting was informed that a total of 1470 complaints of overseas Pakistanis have been resolved during the last ten weeks while the target of 2000 resolved complaints was set by for the three months till May 1.

Most of complaints were related to the Revenue, Police, Prosecution departments and Qabza Mafia. The Commissioner also reviewed the resolved complaints with their ID numbers and appreciated the performance of the dealing officers. On this occasion, he said that OPC Punjab is known all over the world for providing services to overseas Pakistanis under one roof.

He clarified that Overseas Pakistanis are undoubtedly the best ambassadors of the country and OPC Punjab is their own state institution which is rendering services day and night for the expats. He said that any Overseas Pakistani can easily avail the services of OPC Punjab without any discrimination. The meeting was attended by Director General OPC Ishaatullah Khan Niazi, Director Admin OPC Tanveer Majid, Director Legal OPC Raja Zubair, Director Police Matters OPC Intiaz Ahmed, Director Revenue and PC Aslam-Rame, Deputy Director Zavar and other dealing officers.

PU teachers reject ASA's protest call

LAHORE: The teachers of Punjab University from all the campuses have overwhelmingly rejected the protest call given by Academic Staff Association to boycott classes, considering the move based on "hidden" and "personal" agenda and all the activities of the university were held as per routine.

In a press statement, PU spokesman Khuram Shahzad has said that out of more than 1,000 teachers of Punjab University, only around 30 teachers gathered outside the Vice Chancellor's office to record their so-called protest. He said that the Thursday happenings had proved that PUASA was doing negative politics and did not enjoy the confidence of teachers' community anymore. He said that PU Vice Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmad had visited various departments, institutes, centres, colleges and schools where classes were being held as per schedule. He said that the footage of those visits had also been released to the media as video evidence. He said that semester examinations, Quran Quiz at Hailey College, poster competitions with Punjab AIDS Control Program and other co-curricular activities were also organized as scheduled. He said that all the students performed lab tests and did their research work in laboratories as per routine. The spokesman said that the attendance of students in the departmental libraries was as usual. He said university teachers had rejected ASA's protest call which carried a secret agenda. The spokesman said that PU teachers are con-

scious and have understood the negative politics of ASA under the prevailing scenario. The spokesman said that apparently the PUASA was demanding some benefits, most of which have already been resolved by PU administration at its end, but behind the scene they have some other ulterior motives and the administration understood who was controlling ASA's strings. Reacting over the apparent demands of ASA, the spokesman said that it was the PU VC who talked to the Punjab Governor and other high ups to provide disparity reduction allowance to not only PU but all the universities in Punjab. Due to PU VC's efforts, Punjab Cabinet approved DRA for the university employees across the province. He said that PU VC in the meeting of Senate categorically announced that the DRA would be provided to the employees from June 2021 and forwarded meeting minutes for approval of the governor in time. The spokesman said that in the four-year tenure of the vice chancellor, PU had seen the most progressive years and all the long-standing issues of the teachers had been solved. The spokesman said that the administration had made unprecedented promotions and appointments which the university had never witnessed in the past. The spokesman said that the number of professors and associate professors had never crossed the figure of 70 and 85 respectively and now the university had for the first time more than 150 each professors and associate professors. —APP