

14 killed, 1,035 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE: At least 14 persons were killed and 1,035 others injured in 989 road traffic crashes in Punjab during the last 24 hours, according to the Rescue-1122 report issued here on Friday.

As many as 594 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals while 441 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams.

The analysis showed that 504 drivers, 42 underage drivers, 146 pedestrians and 399 passengers were among the victims of the road accidents.

The statistics showed that 262 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 275 persons, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by 80 in Faisalabad with 88 victims, and at third Multan with 63 accidents and 67 victims.

According to the data, 884 motorbikes, 76 auto-rickshaws, 110 motorcars, 23 vans, six passenger buses, 27 trucks and 92 other types of vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in these road accidents. —APP

Commissioner inspects route of mourning procession

LAHORE: Commissioner Lahore Division Capt (ret) Usman Younis on Friday inspected the route of main procession of Youm-e-Shahadat Hazrat Ali (AS) and reviewed the security and municipal arrangements.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Lahore Umar Sher Chattha, DIG Operations Dr Abid Khan accompanied him.

The authorities were briefed on the arrangements for the main procession which will be taken out from Mubarak Heveli and culminate at Karbala Gamay Shah after passing through its traditional route.

During the briefing it was informed that along with the cameras of Punjab Safe City Authority (PSCA), additional cameras would also be installed and more than 4,000 police officers and personnel would perform duties for the security of main procession.

It was further briefed that the route of the main procession would be exempted from load shedding.

Additional generators would also be available. The commissioner directed all allied departments to ensure last moment inspection of the route for the sake of foolproof security. —APP



LAHORE: Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique addresses press conference at the Railway Headquarter. —Online

Govt to focus on restoration of institutions: Khwaja Saad

LAHORE: Railways Minister Khwaja Saad Rafique has said that the coalition government will focus on restoration of badly handled institutions till completion of its constitutional term.

Addressing a press conference here at the PR headquarters on Friday, he said that incompetence, inexperience, incapability, vindictiveness, bad governance and arrogance of Imran Khan was the main cause of his ouster from the government, and his political allies and own party people decided to change the government.

He said that all those people who decided to oppose Imran were known and loyal Pakistani citizens. The minister said that Imran was an incompetent person, who knew only foul language. "He targeted not only opposition but also barred civil servants from performing their duties," Saad said.

The minister said that a nuclear power with the population of 220 million people could not be run on the basis of vindictiveness. He said that Imran had attempted to prove the opposition leadership thieves, then tried to declare them anti-Muslims and

now he was trying to declare his opponents as traitors. "What is your achievement for the country for which the international powers would hatch a conspiracy against you," he questioned Imran Khan.

Kh Saad said that it was Imran Niazi who had gifted Kashmir to India; it was Imran who declared his meeting with former US president Trump as winning of the World Cup and it was also Imran who launched a campaign against Pakistan-based London Mayor Sadiq Khan. However, he said the government would not take any steps against Imran Khan, as it would just do its work for rebuilding the country.

"Yes, we will respond democratically instead of using dirty or foul language against our opponents," he added. To a question, he said that Imran should go to the Supreme Court with proofs if the letter he claimed was true. He said Imran Khan planned a conspiracy against himself with the support of 'black magic', adding that everybody knew where the bribe money taken for posting and transfers was being deposited. "Who sold out precious gifts of

Toshkhana?" he questioned.

The minister alleged that Imran wasted about Rs1 billion on helicopter for traveling few kilometres between Bani Gala and the Prime Minister's House.

To a question, he said that the incumbent government did not believe in arresting anybody as the role of executive was to run the country; however, implementation on law was the job of courts. To another question about National Accountability Bureau (NAB), he said in his personal point of view, NAB should be abolished and its employees should be adjusted in other departments. However, it was not possible now as the decisions should be made through mutual understanding among the coalition partners. He said that major reforms would surely be made in the NAB draconian laws in near future.

Kh Saad said that the government of Nawaz Sharif had been toppled due to his firm stand on nuclear tests in 1998 first and on second time due to his efforts for introducing China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). —APP

Qureshi, Asad, Afridi meet Elahi, decide to continue working together

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Shahryar Afridi and Asad Qaiser called on Punjab Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Parvez Elahi on Friday.

Former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi along with Shahryar Afridi held a meeting with Elahi and discussed the political situation. Pakistan Muslim League Quaid (PML-Q) leader Chaudhry Parvez Elahi told the former ministers about the details of the incident in the Punjab Assembly in which he was injured.

In the meeting, both the parties—the PTI and the PML-Q—agreed to continue their political alliance and work together in future too.

Separately, a meeting between Speaker Ch Parvez Elahi and former Speaker of National Assembly Asad Qaiser was also held on Friday.

Asad Qaiser said that Imran Khan has sincerely appreciated Chaudhry Parvez Elahi's decision of standing with him in a difficult time when all other allies have been left. —DNA

DIG Operations visits route of main procession

LAHORE: DIG Operation Wing Lahore Dr Muhammad Abid Khan visited the main route of the Youm-e-Ali (RA) procession.

SP City and other security officials also accompanied the DIG. He met the administration of the main procession and discussed security arrangements.

Representatives of the Shia community expressed satisfaction on the planned security arrangements.

According to the security plan, 5,000 officials of the Lahore Police would perform security duty.

Ten SPs, 25 SDPOs, 80 SHOs, 374 upper subordinates would be part of the security team.

As many as 258 streets on the main route of 5km distance would remain closed with barbed wires.

Snipers would be deployed on the rooftops on the route. Mobile-phone service would partially be suspended for a specific time period.

Parking arrangements have been made for vehicles.

The DIG said that patrolling of Elite Force, Dolphin Squad and PRU will also be ensured in the surroundings of the procession. —APP



KARACHI: Jubilee life Insurance holds iftar dinner at Dar-ul-Sukun for physically and mentally challenged children and elderly.

DC inspects quality of fruits, vegetables at Ramadan Bazar

LAHORE: Deputy Commissioner Lahore Umar Sher Chatha Friday visited Ramadan bazaar at Mian Plaza Johar Town to inspect arrangements and quality of fruits, vegetables and other items there.

Assistant Commissioner Raiwind Hamid Rashid, officials of market committee, and other relevant staff were also present.

The DC inspected food stalls, flour, sugar, chicken, and agriculture fair price shops at the special bazaar.

He said that food items would be sold at low rates in Ramadan bazaar.

He said that price control magistrates should work actively throughout the district.

The deputy commissioner said that 13 items including apples, bananas, dates, lemons, okra, pumpkins, tomatoes, potatoes, onions, garlic, lentils, and gram flour have been subsidised at the agriculture fair price shop.

He said that the prices of food items should be displayed properly and cleanliness arrangements should be made properly in Ramadan bazaars.

Umar Chattha directed the in-charge of Ramadan bazar and other staff members to perform their duties. —APP

IG orders for foolproof security of Hazrat Ali (RA) Day majalis, rallies

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Inspector General of Police Punjab Rao Sardar Ali Khan has said that all available resources should be utilized to provide three-tier foolproof security for processions and Majalis on the occasion of 21st Ramadan, Martyrdom Day of Hazrat Ali (RA) across the province. RPOs, DPOs should personally supervise security arrangements for Hazrat Ali (R.A) Day. IG Punjab said that during security arrangements, police teams should maintain close coordination with Special Branch, CTD and other law-enforcement agencies and there should be no delay in strict legal action against display of weapons, violation of Loudspeaker Act or attempt for breach of peace. Rao Sardar Ali Khan said that search, sweep, intelligence based combing operations should be continued on daily basis in the vicinity of routes and places of sensitive processions and Majalis while supervisory officers should give effective briefing to the security personnel on duty sensitivity. IG Punjab directed that snipers be deployed on roofs of buildings along the procession routes as well as

commandos in plain clothes along the procession route. Rao Sardar Ali Khan said that CCTV monitoring and video recording should be ensured for the security of sensitive processions and Majalis in all cases. Similarly, female police personnel should be deployed for checking the female mourners.

These instructions were issued to supervisory officers while presiding over a meeting with respect to security day of Hazrat Ali (RA) Day.

Spokesperson of Punjab Police said that 868 majalis and 234 processions would be held in all the districts of the province on the occasion of Hazrat Ali's (RA) Martyrdom Day. In this regard, more than 33,000 police officers and volunteers would perform security duties. Spokesperson Punjab Police said that the security personnel included 396 gazetted officers, 634 inspectors, 1305 sub-inspectors, 2176 asis, 1442 head constables, 18861 constables while 2649 police national volunteers, 267 special police officers, 3953 male volunteers and 1317 women. Spokesperson Punjab Police said that the main procession in the provincial capital Lahore would start from Mubarak

Haveli and end at Karbala Gamay Shah for which more than 5,000 security personnel including 10 SPs, 25 SDPOs, 80 SHOs, 374 Upper Subordinates, 208 Ladies Police will carry out security duty. The control room of Safe City Authority, Central Police Office and Deputy Commissioner's Office will be continuously monitored. IG Punjab stressed that complete lighting should be arranged in the buildings and routes of processions and majalis in collaboration with the district administration and the presence of ambulance and rescue teams should be ensured at the venues of Majalis and processions for emergencies. Rao Sardar Ali Khan directed that during security arrangements, regular liaison should be maintained with the organisers of meetings and processions and members of peace committees and the system of checking of citizens and vehicles at entrances and exits of cities should be made more efficient. IG Punjab further said that search, sweep, combing and intelligence based operations should be expedited in urban areas of all districts as well as in slums and action should be taken against landlords and tenants for violating the

POA announces names of athletes for scholarships for Paris 2024 Olympics

LAHORE: On the recommendation of Pakistan Olympic Association (POA), the IOC Olympic Solidarity has awarded Olympic Scholarships to a dozen Pakistani Athletes for training and preparation for the Summer Olympic Games Paris 2024.

This programme has been designed for the elite athletes who are training, and attempting to qualify, for the Summer Olympic Games Paris 2024, said Mohammad Khalid Mahmood, Secretary, POA here on Friday. The Olympic scholarships have been started and the athletes will be paid from 1 January 2022 and will be divided into separate

terms running for a four-month period each until 31 August 2024. Each athlete will be awarded USD650 per month scholarship for preparation of the Summer Olympic Games Paris 2024.

"Soon as the Contracts/Agreement of the Scholarship are signed by the athletes and National Federation, NOC Pakistan and OS, the scholarship will be activated," said the POA official. Following athletes have been awarded the scholarships in their respective disciplines:-

Arshad Nadeem, Athletics; Mahoor Shahzad, Badminton; Usman Chand, Shooting; Gulfam Joseph, Shooting; Anna Ibtisam, Shooting;

Kishmala Talat, Shooting; Rasham Gull, Shooting; Jehanara Nabi, Swimming; Perniya Zaman Khan, Table Tennis; Muhammad Nooh Dastgir Butt, Weightlifting; Muhammad Bilal, Wrestling; Muhammad Inam, Wrestling.

He said Lt Gen (ret) Syed Arif Hasan, President Pakistan Olympic Association, has congratulated and wished all athletes and respective National Federation/Services / Departments a very successful training and preparation venture to qualify for the Summer Olympic Games Paris 2024. He appreciated the POA Secretariat for getting this job done well in time. —APP

US to help Pak become important trade, logistics hub, says Gibilisco

LAHORE: Acting US Consul General in Lahore Kathleen Gibilisco has said that the United States (US) will continue helping Pakistan become an important regional trade and logistics hub.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the 'Pakistan-Kyrgyz Republic - Trade and Investment Forum' at a local hotel here on Friday, she said the US supports improving Pakistan's trade volumes, particularly with Central Asian Republics through USAID's Pakistan Regional Economic Integration Activity (PREIA). The forum was organised jointly by

the USAID, Ministry of Commerce, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), and Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic in Pakistan. USAID's PREIA is a seven-year initiative that aims to promote development in Pakistan's trade sector with focus on Pakistan's regional integration with Central Asian Republics.

Kyrgyz Ambassador to Pakistan Totaiev Ulanbek Asankulovich and Director General (DG) Trade Development Authority of Pakistan Shahzad Ahmed Khan Rajput represented their respective countries.

Ms. Gibilisco said the project as-

sists Pakistani and Central Asian businesses by supporting trade promotion initiatives, organizing trade exhibitions and business forums, facilitating bilateral trade deals and partnerships, and increasing awareness of untapped opportunities for trade and investment between countries. "This year marks 75 years of US-Pakistan bilateral relations. During this time, our partnership has grown in many areas, and we look forward to building on our successes and expanding trade and investment ties and opportunities within the region," noted the Acting Consul Gen-

PFA stops production of juice factory over food adulteration

LAHORE: The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) has stopped the production of a famous juice manufacturing unit over adulteration during a raid on a factory on Sheikhpura road.

On Friday, the food safety team (FST) discarded more than 16,200 litre expired mango pulp, apple drinks and other juices during the raid.

PFA Director General Shoaib Khan Jadoon said that juices were being produced with different artificial flavours and prohibited chemicals that cause health issues for consumers, especially for children.

He said the food authority is strictly monitoring the food industry to ensure the provision of safe, healthy and unadulterated food items in the market of Punjab. He further said PFA will deal with an iron hand with the enemies of public health who use prohibited, expired and substandard ingredients in the preparation of food. He has urged people to prefer homemade fresh juices and vegetables instead of consuming ready-made food. —Online