



Minimum 22°C  
Maximum 37°C  
Sunset 06:10pm  
Sunrise 05:40am  
(Today)



FAJAR .....04:15 AM  
ZOHAR.....12:05 PM  
ASR.....5:00 PM  
MAGRIB.....06:20 PM  
ISHA .....8:15 PM

## Quick Read

World Immunisation Week being observed from April 24 to 30



LAHORE: Like other parts of the globe, the World Immunization Week is being observed in Pakistan from April 24 to 30 to highlight the importance of vaccination against serious diseases. In a message here on Sunday, Director General Health Services Punjab Dr Haroon Jahangir said that this year, slogan of the week is "Long Life For All." He urged the teachers, parents and all citizens to ensure vaccination of themselves and the children against the diseases. He said hundreds of children died due to neglecting vaccination even in the country. He said that vaccines were available free of cost across the country so every child should have been vaccinated so that children could enjoy healthy and long life.

7 dead, 889 injured in Punjab road accidents

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: At least seven persons were killed and 889 others injured in 864 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours. As many as 525 seriously injured people were shifted to different hospitals while 364 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by rescue medical teams. The analysis showed that 436 drivers, 34 underage drivers, 104 pedestrians and 356 passengers were among the victims of the road crashes. The statistics show that 215 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 220 persons, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by 68 in Gujranwala with 70 victims and at third Multan with 58 accidents and 60 victims. According to the data, 773 motorbikes, 71 auto-rickshaws, 103 motorcars, 23 vans, eight passenger buses, 26 trucks and 73 other types of vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in these road accidents.



LAHORE: Women buying artificial jewellery for ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.

-World Immunisation Week 2022 begins

## Punjab moving towards complete digitalisation of immunisation data

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab has geared up awareness activities on vaccination and immunization in all 36 districts as part of the World Immunisation Week 2022 that is being commemorated world over from 24th to 30th April.

The Expanded Programme on Immunization Punjab has chalked out a comprehensive plan to use the opportunity and highlight the use of vaccines as key intervention to save lives against vaccine preventable diseases.

In his message, Secretary Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department Imran Sikander Baloch said that improving vaccination coverage through innovative solutions was the foremost priority of the P&SH Department.

"Access to a basic lifesaving intervention like vaccination, can save many young lives. We have to ensure that the benefits of immunization are

### Vaccination is most cost effective public health intervention: DG Health

evenly shared by all.

The P&SH department is taking all out measures to ensure that all populations, especially the poorest and the most marginalized, have equitable access to immunization services.

Our target is to remove bottlenecks and improve quality of services."

Punjab Government is committed to fill all vacant posts in due course of time including vaccinators to increase the access & immunization coverage.

The theme for 2022 is "Long Life for All; In pursuit of a long life well lived". The ultimate goal of World Immunization Week is for more people – and their communities – to be protected from vaccine-preventable diseases. The UN Sustainable Development Goal 3.2.1 envisions an end of preventable

deaths of newborns and under-5 children by 2030.

Director General Health Services Punjab Dr. Haroon Jahangir Khan said that the World Immunization Week 2022 was also an opportunity to increase demand through active engagement of a wide range of stakeholders.

He said, "Vaccines not only prevent deaths but also reduce illness and disability, with wide-ranging health, social and economic impacts. Between 2010 and 2018, 23 million deaths globally were averted with measles vaccine alone."

Director EPI Punjab, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed Awan said that Punjab provides free vaccination for 12 vaccine preventable diseases including childhood TB, Polio, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Hepatitis B, Hib Pneumo-

nia, Meningitis, Typhoid, Rota-related diarrhoea, Measles and rubella which are administered through EPI outreach and fixed centres across the province. He said Punjab introduced two new antigens, Hepatitis birth dose and DTP Booster in Routine Immunization schedule.

He also said that the challenge of coverage in slums and underserved urban areas is being met by establishing a new EPI center through Public Private Partnership with PPA, PMA & Family Physicians association, recruiting new vaccinators, Mobile vaccination and creating mass awareness.

He said that the program is introducing innovative strategies to increase coverage in south districts as well as in five mega urban districts. He also appreciated the role of partners and donors like UNICEF, WHO, GAVI & BMGF for extending their technical, financial and in-kind support for immunization programs in Punjab.

## 'Earth Day reminds to protect environment, restore damaged ecosystems'

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The 52nd Earth Day reminds us to fully protect the environment with the highest degree of dedication and restoration of the gradually damaged ecosystems and live a sustainable healthy life on the planet.

Addressing a seminar on "Invest in our Planet" as chief guest held in collaboration with the college of Earth and Environmental Sciences (CEES) Punjab University and Model Steel in Lahore on Sunday to celebrate the Earth Day, Meher Kashif Younis, former senior Vice President Lahore Chamber said event is observed every year to demonstrate full fledged unwavering and unflinching support for environment protection.

He said this is the moment to change it all- the busi-

ness climate, the political climate and how we take action on climate? He said now is time to fully display the valour to preserve and protect our health, our families and our livelihoods, according to a press release issued here. He cautioned that it's going to take all of us and everyone from all segments of the society accounted for partnership for planet. He said "we have been witnessing a spurt of climate events over the last one decade or more that have badly affected millions of people from extreme heat to flash floods and the covid 19 is also linked to our ecosystems.

Principal CEES Prof Dr Sajid Rashid Ahmad Gujjar said "the healthier our ecosystems are, the healthier is planet — and its people, restoring our damaged ecosystems, will help to end abject poverty, combat cli-

mate change and prevent mass extinction but we will only succeed if everyone plays a part" he added.

He said this year's theme of day "Invest in our planet" is mainly focused on activities that promote a partnership among businesses, government and citizens for urgent action towards environmental protection in order to ensure a sustainable future.

He said we should celebrate the day by taking part in activities like picking up litter and plant trees to make our world and life a happier place to live in. He said "Climate change, man-made change to nature that disrupt biodiversity such as deforestation, land-use-change, intensified agriculture and livestock production or the growing illegal wildlife trade, can accelerate the pace of destruction of the planet" he concluded.



LAHORE: Mozang Chungi, a home to pigeons.

## 'Medical students urged to fulfill their professional, social responsibilities'

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Industrial revolution, infrastructure development of rich countries and expansion of the housing sector, deforestation has been greatly reduced which has devastating effects on our environment.

Today, the whole world is facing global warming due to which glaciers are melting rapidly, rains and lack of water in crops are facing severe drought which has also raised food security concerns.

These views were expressed by Post Graduate Medical Institute & Lahore General Hospital Principal Prof. Dr. Muhammad Al-freid Zafar while giving a lecture to medical students on the topic of "Invest in our Planet". He urged upon the medical students to fulfill their professional education

as well as social responsibilities while emphasizing the importance of earth protection in their sphere of influence and family friends.

He added that it is the need of the hour to highlight and raise awareness of the environmental health in human life so that the trend of tree planting should be promoted among the people to save the land from becoming barren. Similarly toxic gases in the air, traffic pressure and its pollution should also be controlled to save the people from diseases by controlling smog as well. Principal PGMI highlighted that climate change is harmful to human health which creating new diseases while epidemics are also on the rise. Due to deforestation, innumerable species of animals and birds have become extinct and our earth is facing imbalance. He appealed to

the media, civil society and the young generation to play their full role for the promotion of tree planting and also to plant a tree on the day of their birthday so that Pakistan would look green and people be safe from diseases also. Prof. Al-freid pointed out that in order to maintain the ecological balance, we must take individual and collective efforts for which serious steps at the national and international level are essential.

He said that in order to protect the earth, everyone has to take part in tree plantations and protect them afterwards also. Prof. Al-freid said that the natural beauty of recreational places is being also badly damaged due to cutting of hills for recreational purposes and hotels/resorts, other construction works in hilly areas.