

**Percentage of Thalassemia patients stands at 8.1 in Baloch population**

QUETTA: An alarming increase of Thalassemia disease has been witnessed in Balochistan during the last few years as the percentage of the disease among the Baloch population stands at 8.1 and 5.6 in the Pashtun dominated areas.

"The health experts are continuously suggesting proper legislation in this connection to diminish the hazard of inherited disease," Parliamentary Secretary Law and Parliamentary Affairs Dr Rubaba Khan Buledi said on Saturday.

In her message with regards to World Thalassemia Day, she noted that about one thousand children are born with Thalassemia in Balochistan every year.

"According to the available data, one lakh children are suffering from this disease in Pakistan at present, while another five thousand children are being diagnosed with this disease every year", Dr. Rubaba added.

Dr Rubaba Khan shared that the situation of this disease is getting worse in Balochistan, the largest province of Pakistan in terms of area, adding that the disease was becoming more and more prevalent among the Baloch and Pashtun tribes of the province. In Baloch majority areas, the rate is recorded at 8.1% while in Pashtun majority areas it is 5.6%.

Dr Buledi further explained that it is an inherited disease, which is transmitted from parents to children through genes. "Experts in Pakistan are proposing legislation to test each person before marriage so that people with Thalassemia minor genes do not get married to each other, thus reducing the number of new Thalassemia patients. —APP

**Woman crushed to death, two injured in road mishap**

BUREWALA: A woman was crushed to death while another two including a woman sustained serious injuries in a collision between a motorcycle and a speeding car near Chatta Meel stop Burewala on Saturday.

According to Rescue 1122 sources, Muhammad Hassan resident of Kot Sadaat was returning home on motorcycle along with two women of his family Kalsoom Bibi w/o Naseer Ahmed and Norran Bibi. All of a sudden, a speeding car collided with the motorcycle near Chatta Meel. Resultantly, they sustained serious injuries and shifted to Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Burewala by Rescue 1122.

One injured Kalsoom Bibi was referred to Nisthar Hospital Multan due to critical condition but she succumbed to injuries on the way to Multan. Police concerned have started the investigations into the incident, however, the driver of the car managed to escape from the scene. —APP



LAHORE: Police personnel remove tinted papers from a vehicle at Faisal Chowk. —Online

**— Incidents of desecration of corpse**

**CS orders early arrest of culprits in Gujrat, Okara incidents**

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: On the direction of Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz, the provincial government has decided to take effective measures to improve the security and management of graveyards in the wake of incidents of desecration of dead bodies in Okara and Gujrat.

The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Punjab Chief Secretary Kamran Ali Afzal at the Civil Secretariat here on Saturday. The Chief Secretary directed the relevant officers to arrest the culprits and prosecute them as per law.

He said that a database of fingerprints of criminals should be prepared in the Punjab Forensic Science Agency (PFSA) with the help of police.

Inspector General of Police Punjab Rao Sardar Ali Khan said that the graveyards were becoming hotbeds of crime due to inattention. He asked the RPOs that police officers should also keep an eye on grave-

**Says Punjab to deploy watchmen in graveyards**

yards during patrols.

The meeting decided to form management committees and deploy watchmen for the security of graveyards.

The participants also agreed on a proposal to enhance the punishment for the crime of desecration of a corpse.

The Chief Secretary directed that immediate steps be taken to prevent inhumane acts like desecration of dead bodies.

He asked the Deputy Commissioners to extend cooperation to the local government department to improve the manage-



ment of graveyards in the districts.

He said that the Shehr-e-Khamoshan Authority would be made fully functional.

The Additional Chief Secretary (Home), IG Police, secretaries of local government, prosecution, DG Punjab Forensic Science Agency and officers concerned attended the meeting while all the divisional commissioners and RPOs participated through video link.

**SHOs, other police officers transferred**

SIALKOT: District Police Officer (DPO) Sialkot Muhammad Hassan Iqbal has transferred Station House Officers (SHOs) and other officers in the district and posted them at different police stations.

According to a police spokesperson, the DPO transferred Inspector Muhammed Iqbal Khan from Saddar Police Station Sialkot to Reserve Inspector Police Lines, Sub-Inspector Muhammed Owais from Police Station Head Marala to Saddar Police Station Sialkot, Sub-Inspector Irshad Ahmed from Motra Police Station to Police Station Head Marala, Inspector Khurram Shehzad from Airport Police Station to DIB Cell Sialkot, Sub-Inspector Muhammed Saeed from Police Station Civil Lines to In-charge Security Branch, Sub-Inspector Abdul Rehman from In-charge Security Branch to Police Station Civil Lines, Sub-Inspector Nasir Yaqoob from In-charge Post Oora Saddar Sialkot to Airport Police Station. —APP

**Notorious robber gang busted, looted valuables recovered**

MULTAN: Police busted a notorious robber gang and arrested three criminals including the ring leader besides recovering looted valuables from their possession during a special operation launched here on Saturday.

According to police sources, three unidentified armed robbers entered into Tayaba Mobile Shop situated at Kaati Maar road in premises of Delhi Gate police on March 05. The criminals held hostage the shop owner Barkat Ali at gun point and looted Rs 45,000 cash and 21 mobile phones. They also shot him injured when he tried to resist the robbery bid.

Taking notice of the issue, City Police Officer (CPO) Khurram Shahzad Haider formed a special team led by SP City Division Ahmed Nawaz Shah to arrest the criminals.

The police team busted Ali Raza gang and arrested three members of the gang including the ring leader Ali Raza, Muhammad Atif and Muhammad Shoaib. The police traced 13 robbery cases from the arrested criminals and recovered looted valuables including cash Rs 350,000, four motorcycles and 11 mobile phones from their possession. Two pistols 30-bore and rounds have also been recovered from the criminals, police sources added. —APP

**14 held over wheelie-doing**

SIALKOT: Police have arrested 14 young men on the charge of wheelie-doing in Sialkot district. According to police spokesperson, those arrested were identified as Noman, Hammad, Rashid, Safarish, Dawood, Umer, Abdul Quyyum, Zaman, Rehman, Sulman, Waqas, Ali, Taimoor and Ameer Hamza. The police also impounded their motorcycles. The police registered cases against the accused and sent them behind bars. —APP



LAHORE: Children enjoy in a water pond of local park during a hot day.

**Tourists urged to avoid wrong, double parking in Murree**

RAWALPINDI: The Tehsil Administration and City Traffic Police (CTP) of Murree were utilizing all available resources to resolve traffic issues and avoid traffic mess on the city roads while Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi Tahir Farooq urged the tourists to avoid wrong and double parking which would help ensure smooth flow of traffic.

According to a district administration spokesman, the CTP on the directives of Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Noor ul Amin Mengal and Regional Police Officer, Rawalpindi Ashfaq Ahmed Khan had issued summer traffic plan for Murree to facilitate the tourists and avoiding traffic jams.

The 360 Traffic Wardens deployed in Murree had been directed to work hard for facilitating tourists, he added.

The DC also urged the tourists to observe traffic rules for resolving traffic issues and avoid traffic jams on roads of Murree.

The CTP is implementing a special summer traffic plan devised for the tourist resort, he said adding that Murree was most attractive resort for the tourists and all-out efforts were being made to resolve the traffic problems.

Special teams have been formed to facilitate the tourists and resolve their problems if any in Murree, he said and added that parking of the vehicles was not being allowed outside the parking areas.

The spokesman informed that single, double parking was not being allowed on roads except designated parking places.

Several roads including Bank Road, GPO Chowk to Kashmir Point,

Hall Road, Lalazar to Kashmir Point, View Fourth Road, View Fourth Road to GPO Chowk, Guldana Road, GPO Chowk to Guldana Chowk, Dilkusha Road, Imtiaz Shaheed road to Lari Adda via Dilkusha hotel, Cecil Road, Imtiaz Shaheed Road to Cart road via Cecil Apartments, and Pindi Point were declared one-way to ensure smooth flow of traffic. He said main control room had been set up at Jinnah Hall in Unit office Murree, which could be contacted at 051-9269015-16-18 besides Highway control room 051-9269189 and Traffic Police control room 051-9269200. Rawalpindi district police had launched Murree Tourism Police for the convenience and protection of the tourists. Patriata and Pahguari Police Stations had also been made functional for the safety and service of citizens and tourists, he added. —APP

**56 power pilferers nabbed in a day in South Punjab**

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO) have caught 56 power pilferers during separate operations launched throughout the South Punjab in a day, MEPCO official said on Saturday.

MEPCO teams accompanying task forces raided different places in Multan, Vehari, Sahiwal, Rahimyar Khan, Muzaffargarh, Bahawalnagar, Khanewal, and Dera Ghazi Khan and detected theft of 118,000 electricity units.

A sum of over Rs 1.6 million fine was imposed while FIR was registered against three of them over involvement in tampering with body of meters, direct supply, installing loop in meters, slowing down meters, meter dead stop and meter screen wash.

**11 arrested for selling, flying kites**

SIALKOT: Police have arrested 11 persons for selling and flying kites in Sialkot district.

According to details, the district police launched a crackdown on kite sellers and flyers and conducted raids in different localities of Sialkot district. The police recovered 1,740 kites of different sizes, and 107 string rolls from kite sellers and flyers including Samar, Umair, Saleem, Shehzad, Raza, Ilyas, Sajjad, Imran, Luqman, Saddique and Rashid. —APP

**KP on verge of wheat flour crisis, says Rambil Gul**

PESHAWAR: President Atta Dealers Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rambil Gul Saturday said that the flour from Punjab has not been coming to the province since April 18 and most of the Atta dealers ran out of stocks.

He said this while talking to the media here, further warning that Atta crisis will come in a few days. —APP

**Pakistan's farmers must adopt climate-smart agricultural practices**

By Our Special Correspondent

LAHORE: Director Climate change programme of a Pakistani NGO Potohar Organisation for Development Advocacy (PODA) and a former researcher of Beijing university of agriculture Dr Adnan Arshad has said that Pakistan's farmers must be better informed to adopt climate-smart agricultural practices to reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs) emission from agriculture.

Dr Adnan Arshad is one of the top 130 worldwide climatologists who were invited to attend three day International Conference on "Zero Greenhouse Emission in High Productive Agriculture" held under the auspices of Aarhus University from May 3 to

5 at Copenhagen in Denmark.

He further said in his speech in the conference that countries like Pakistan existing knowledge and production technologies are the significant contributor to anthropogenic global warming and reducing agricultural emissions, largely methane and nitrous oxide could play a significant role in climate change mitigation along with new and improved technologies and collaborative mechanisms.

Moreover, ministries must pay attention to upscale the functioning through mapping and regular inventories of GHGs emission from all kinds of agricultural systems of the country, he added. He also stated that greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture originate from livestock, manure, soils,

land use and fossil fuels.

He claimed that society is increasingly successful in reducing emissions from non-agricultural sectors and within a few years, agriculture will be the sector with the largest greenhouse gas emissions, unless new production systems and technologies are introduced.

He told the participants of the conference that we should build the capacities of end-users mainly small farmers particularly women and youth to improve understanding about how novel technologies and management of agricultural systems can lessen emissions at farm and landscape scales. He said the current heat waves in Pakistan and India are the evidence of high rate of GHGs trapping heat into the local climate.



LAHORE: A vendor sells traditional sharbat at Garhi Shahu. —Online

**PMD advises public to avoid unnecessary exposure to direct sunlight**

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Pakistan Meteorological Department has issued heat-wave warning for the Sunday May 8 and advised public to avoid unnecessary exposure to direct sunlight. The spokesperson said that due to high pressure day temperatures are likely to remain 7-9 °C above normal in upper Punjab, Islamabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir. He further said that day temperatures are likely to remain 6-8 °C above normal in upper and Central Sindh, Central and Southern Punjab and parts of Balochistan. The spokesperson said very hot and dry weather may cause water stress on water reservoirs, crops, vegetables and orchards. High temperature in the country, he said, would also increase the demand of energy. High temperatures, he said, is likely to increase the base flow in the rivers during the next week and farmers had been advised to manage crop water accordingly.