

Azfar Ahsan, Founder, CEO Nutshell Group receives "Global Visionary Award"

By Our Staff Reporter



LAHORE: Muhammad Azfar Ahsan, Founder and CEO Nutshell Group, and Founder Corporate Pakistan Group, received the "Global Visionary Award for Global Connectivity of Businesses and Communities" by the BSV Blockchain Association at a convention held in Dubai.

He is the first Pakistani businessman to have received this recognition at the Global Blockchain Convention – a global platform to highlight new blockchain innovations, big ecosystem announcements, new product launches, technology updates, keynote speeches, panels, and fireside chats from global blockchain leaders. Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan said that global recognition from this prestigious forum was an honor for Pakistan and Pakistani businessmen. He urged fellow Pakistanis to explore innovative, new trends of emerging opportunities in business and investment in order to keep the country at par with global dynamics. He said we are already on the right path. Pakistan was performing well in the domain of knowledge and technology output among the regional countries as its ranking in the Global Innovation Index had improved from 137th in 2013 to 99th in 2021.

This year, the Global Blockchain Convention had more than 120 international speakers and 1,000+ delegates from over 50 countries.

NTRC launches road safety training

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: National Transport Research Centre (NTRC) on Thursday launched an interactive awareness training programme on road safety for school children in the Federal Capital.

A research team of NTRC headed by research officer Humna Hamid visited The Play School situated at sector F-8. They shared the interactive contents on road safety methods, road crossing and safe use of vehicles; specifically designed for school children at primary level. The Play School management appreciated the initiative of NTRC, and urged that the interactive contents on road safety for higher classes may also be designed.



LAHORE: A view of the massive smoke rising from a factory along the Ring Road, causing environmental pollution. —Online

MWMC identifies 207 neglected areas for cleaning under Clean Punjab

MULTAN: Multan Waste Management Company (MWMC) has identified 207 neglected areas of the city for cleanliness under the Clean Punjab campaign.

While formulating a strategy to make the Clean Punjab Campaign more effective in Multan, data on new areas were collected from four zones of the city including 64 of Zone One, 79 in Zone Two, 34 in Zone Three, and 30 in Zone Four. These neglected areas include slums and backward localities.

CEO MWMC Muhammad Farooq Dogar while elaborating on the new strategy said that the neglected areas were being made zero waste in phases and special cleanliness squads had started implementing the schedule.

He said cleanliness of graveyards, shrines, mosques, and worship places of minorities was also part of the campaign while government buildings, hospitals, and medical centers would be thoroughly cleaned.

Muhammad Farooq Dogar said that

under the "Clean Punjab Campaign", historical and public places were also being cleaned.

ACE court awards life imprisonment to three accused

Special judge of Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) court Sargodha Shahzad Hussain Thursday awarded life imprisonment to three accused including 'naib tehsildar' and 'patwari' in a government land occupation case.

According to ACE spokesman, the department Sargodha got information that naib tehsildar Sibtal-ul-Hassan and Patwari Habibullah had transferred the government land on the name of Muhammad Yousaf, resident of chak 75- SB through forgery. Regional director anti-corruption Asma Ijaz took action and ordered inquiry against them.

During the inquiry, the charges against the accused were proved and a case was registered against them in Anti-corruption police station Sargodha.

The team presented the challan in the

court and after completing arguments, learned judge Shahzad Hussain awarded 20-years life imprisonment to each naib tehsildar Sibtal-ul-Hassan shah, patwari Habibullah and Rs 500,000 fine and 15-years life imprisonment to accused Muhammad Yusaf along with fine Rs 300,000. The convicted were shifted to District Jail Sargodha.

Six dead, 899 injured in 796 road traffic crashes in Punjab

The Punjab Emergency Service (Rescue 1122) responded to 796 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. In these RTCs 06 people died, whereas 899 were injured. Out of this 544 people were seriously injured who were shifted to different hospitals. Whereas, 355 minor injured victims were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of Hospitals.

The majority (68%) involved Motorbikes, therefore effective enforcement of traffic laws and lane discipline are essen-

Non-maintenance of vehicles main reason for accidents

From Our Staff Correspondent

VEHARI: One of the reasons for accidents is not regular maintenance of vehicles until the vehicle breaks down we do not pay attention to the maintenance of the vehicle said by Superintendent of Patrolling Police Madam Huma Naseeb.

According to the details, Superintendent of Patrolling Police Madam Huma Naseeb while talking to media said that by adhering to the golden rules the rate of accidents can be reduced to a great extent. Check-ups, checking for reasons for shortage of brake oil, change of gear oil and change of tires etc. Traffic awareness campaign is going on and on daily basis in-charge Education Assistant Sub-Inspector Rauf Hassan in all institutions especially universities, colleges, schools. And also conducting lectures, workshops and seminars on awareness campaigns in public places, the main purpose of which is to raise awareness among the citizens about the prevention of accidents and observance of traffic rules. In the current situation, avoid the heatwave yourself and help others to avoid it.

tial to reduce an increasing the number of Road Traffic Crashes.

Further, the analysis showed those 434 drivers, 23 underage drivers, 104 pedestrians, and 367 passengers were among the victims of these road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 187 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 238 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by 64 Faisalabad with 68 victims and at third Multan with 59 RTCs and 61 victims.

The details further reveal that 905 victims were affected by road traffic crashes including 767 males & 138 females, while the age group of the victims shows that 184 were under 18 years of age, 459 were between 18 and 40 years and rest of the 262 victims were reported above 40 years of age. According to the data 725 motorbikes, 66 auto-rickshaws, 83 motorcars, 19 vans, 03 passenger buses, 12 trucks and 83 other types of auto vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in aforesaid road traffic accidents.

PU, SBBWU sign MoU

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab University and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University (SBBWU), Peshawar have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop academic cooperation in the areas of education, research and other sectors through achieving a closer relationship. In this regard, a signing ceremony for memorandum of understanding (MoU) was organized at the Vice Chancellor's office in which PU Vice Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed Akhtar, SBBWU's Dr Naseem Akhtar, Director External Linkages Dr Sobia Khuram, Associate Professor Dr Muhammad Ali and others participated in the event.

Both the universities agreed to coordinate for joint research projects, organization of joint academic activities such as academic conferences, cooperative lectures, seminars, symposia and exchange of academic publications and other information. RSGCRL-PU scientist stressed 'above regional politics plan' for depleting groundwater



in Pakistan Dr Khalid Mahmood, Co-PI of Remote Sensing, GIS and Climatic Research Lab (RSGCRL), National Center of GIS and Space Applications, has participated in United Nations Conference held in Ghana, representing Pakistan and Inter-Islamic Network on Space Science and Technology (ISNET).

During his talk, Dr. Khalid Mahmood highlighted the issue of depleting groundwater in Pakistan, and identified diversion of the natural courses of water by India as the root cause of burgeoning groundwater depletion rates.

Workshop for Hajj pilgrims held

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Ministry of Religious Affairs and Inter-religious Harmony, Government of Pakistan and Directorate of Hajj, Lahore, jointly organized a workshop for Hajj pilgrims on administrative matters at Al-Hamra Arts Council here on Thursday.

Director of Hajj Punjab Rehan Abbas Khokhar, Deputy Director of Hajj Punjab Muhammad Mujeeb Shah, Younis Mughal, Al-lama Imran Bashir, Qari Abdul Wahid Qureshi briefed the pilgrims about various administrative matters during the five-day program, said official spokesperson.

Secy forfeitures XEN 5-year service

MULTAN: Five-year service of an Executive Engineer (XEN) of Public Health Engineering (PHE) was seized under PEEDA Act while another XEN was exonerated of charges against him after an inquiry.

"The Competent Authority in exercise of powers vested in me under section 13 of Punjab Employees, Efficiency, Discipline and Accountability Act, 2006 after hearing accused hereby impose minor penalty of Reduction to five lower stages in pay scale under Section 4(l) (a) (iv) of PEEDA Act, 2006, upon Shoaib Fayyaz Executive Engineer PHE, Division-I, DG Khan." —APP

Crowdfunding training project for civil society organisations in Pakistan

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are valuable development partners that help to promote citizen participation, enhance sustainability, and alleviate poverty to accelerate progress towards the Agenda 2030.

However, access to finance remains one of the main challenges for CSOs and NGOs.

This obstacle is to a large extent associated with the lack of information on different funding mechanisms, the weak visibility of CSOs projects, and their campaigns shared with potential donors. Filling this gap, the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are launching the Tadamon Crowdfunding Academy in Pakistan.

The program is going to be run online in partnership with Kaya platform, a global learning platform of the Humanitarian Leadership Academy, and Cirrus Pakistan. This online training programme will enable civil society organizations (CSOs) to learn how to raise funds using digital crowdfunding platforms.

The mission of the program is to provide visibility to CSOs' projects and activities, support them to have better access to alternative finance, and connect them to potential partners and supporters. To invite CSOs to apply for the Tadamon Crowdfunding Academy and help them with the application process, UNDP Pakistan and Cirrus – the local implementing partner, conducted a webinar on "How to Crowdfund Your CSO in Pakistan" on 19th May 2022.

During the webinar, Assistant Resident Representative/Chief Development Policy Unit at UNDP Pakistan, Ms Ammara Durrani talked about digital transformation, "The Fourth and Fifth Industrial Revolutions have transformed the way we live, learn, work, and stay connected for better opportunities, and we must leverage these transformations to improve and amplify the impact of our work. UNDP's digital strategy of 2022-2025 captures this opportunity of digital connectivity and transformation, as it opens up a multitude of possibilities, like crowdfunding and alternative financing mechanisms, as provided by this initiative."

The CSOs that get selected for training will also participate in launching their own crowdfunding campaign using e-learning tools and knowledge provided.

The training is designed to be interactive and engaging, whereas the modules cover the key steps in designing a crowdfunding project – from building a campaign and communications strategy to learning how to set your financial goals, storytelling and preparing visuals and videos. The program brings together national and global experts in crowdfunding, media/PR relations, social media copywriting, design and much more.

"The civil society in Pakistan has been playing a significant role in Pakistan's development progress for several decades. Being the local implementing partner for Tadamon Crowdfunding Academy is our chance to give back to these change-makers and we look forward to this opportunity of learning and growing with the CSOs in Pakistan as we work on rolling out their crowdfunding campaigns at a mass level." Ms. Ayesha J. Shahid, Chief Strategy Officer, Cirrus.

Acceptance of COVID-19 vaccine in Pakistan

Ajwa Asif

The very first allegation on the Covid 19 vaccine not only scared us but also raised various questions bewildering us in the world of "Vaccine or No Vaccine?"

Not only this, myths and conspiracies about covid-19 vaccination i.e.

The COVID-19 vaccine includes a tracking device as a video was shared thousands of times on Facebook makes false claims about the products of syringe maker Apject Systems of America, which has a contract with the government to provide medical-grade injection devices for vaccines. People not only trusted this but also thought that Covid was basically a conspiracy made by USA against China to shatter their economy and success.

But on the contrary, another rumor was that covid was emerged in Wuhan a city of China due to some non-edible ingredients of Bat soup. I know all these myths are very much lame but not to my surprise everyone was convinced by it.

Writing about covid and its vaccination is by now a piece of cake as there is a lot to write-the facts and figures to convey it to masses. But the actual hurdle is to interview people and get survey forms filled by them. In today's world, no one has time to bother as to what others are thinking or what they want. Hence to get answers out of the people was my difficult task to achieve, but I did it anyways. I was left out in the cold and was ignored by many, most of them were from educated background and did not want to answer or fill my survey form regarding covid-19 and its vaccination. Despite that I managed to get few responses in form of interview and most of the response through surveys. The results were quite evident at first glimpse as everyone followed each other's answers, but the view changed after I shifted to interview and got my forms filled from a lower-class background who were not that much edu-

cated. You must be wondering what's new in this topic and why are we discussing it every then and now.

So basically, after taking interviews and getting the survey done, almost 60 percent of the people who belong to age group of 18-24 were convinced about the fact that covid was real and not a myth or a stunt done by government to get foreign funds. Adding more into it, the lack of effective treatment for COVID-19 and the contagious nature have created a need for active immunization through immediate vaccination. Moreover, countries with fragile economies cannot benefit from an overly extensive lockdown, therefore, vaccination is particularly vital in such settings. While vaccine production is itself a challenge, convincing people to vaccinate is another big problem. Vaccine hesitancy, which is quite prevalent in South Asia, including many parts of Pakistan, is when people pursue the pros and cons of a vaccine, leading to either complete rejection or delayed acceptance of the vaccine despite its easy provision.

Similarly, when I asked almost 9.7 percent of the people who were not vaccinated the reason for them to avoid vaccination, this is what they said: "I don't trust the vaccines as they were developed very quickly". In another context, few people also had a point of view that "Covid-19 is a mild disease and not dangerous to get vaccine/medicine. Other option such as "my relative told me not to get vaccinated or I will wait for another vaccine" were not chosen by any of the masses except few. Furthermore, when we inquired people about whether they would choose home remedies such as using "Sana Makhi kehwa" or "drinking hot water with cinnamon and honey" or "by placing peeled onion and garlic in your socks for the warmth".

They replied with a big YES as primarily they all were afraid of vaccine and other antibiotics.

However, this school of thought of using various homemade treatment

changed over the period of 1.5 years. As, people got notified through TV channels and through dissemination of the message to get corona vaccine via ring tones. The pie chart given below is evidence to show the visible change, as 59.4% people choose vaccine over home remedies, whereas 31.3% of the people were unsure about their views.

In this study, 85.8% of respondents reflected a positive attitude towards the COVID19 vaccination.

This positive attitude towards the COVID-19 vaccination was further found to have a significant relation with vaccine acceptance. It was seen that the participants with a monthly family income of more than Pkr50000 had a better COVID-19 vaccine acceptance rate (78%).

Likewise, lower-income groups were less willing to take the vaccine.

One of this vaccine rejection amongst lower class could be that they are not well-educated and doesn't have enough knowledge about things going around them, so they could really react to it or take measure for it.

To sum up, the acceptance of vaccine amongst Pakistani people and why they were hesitant at first place; the factors against the acceptance of the COVID-19 vaccine include low levels of formal education and family income.

People are willing to vaccinate themselves for their protection and as a precautionary measure.

The challenges anticipated in a successful vaccination program should be overcome by a collective approach of health professionals, social workers, the government, and the general population. Healthcare professionals should highlight the significance and the government should bear the expenses of vaccines and should keep on circulating the public service message so people will not forget the importance and the need of being vaccinated.

The writer is a student of software engineering from FAST Lahore.

Violent protesters torture cops in different districts of the province during long march

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: During the long march, Punjab police carried out their duties in all the districts of the province with full awareness of duty and during this time, angry protesters in different districts inflicted severe torture on the police personnel.

According to details, during the long march, 3 Punjab police personnel on duty in different districts of the province were martyred while 100 personnel were injured. A Punjab police spokesman said that one officer was martyred while on duty in Lahore while two officers were martyred in Attock. Constable Kamal Ahmed was shot dead in Lahore while two officers Mudassar Abbas and Muhammad Javed were on duty in Attock. They were martyred when the bus over-



turned. Constable Mudassar Abbas hails from Faisalabad while Muhammad Javed hails from Sialkot. During the long march duty, 34 personnel were injured in Lahore, 48 in Attock, 9 in Sargodha and several in Mianwali, Rawalpindi, Jhelum and other cities. The angry protesters smashed 11 police vehicles, damaged valuables, government property worth crores of rupees and snatched weapons including two SMGs. However, the police personnel continued to perform their duties diligently.