

Minimum 28:°C
Maximum 40:°C
Sunset 06:44pm
Sunrise 05:16am
(Tomorrow)

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Tuesday, May 3, 2022



FAJAR.....03:25 AM
ZOHAR.....12:00 PM
ASR.....4:45 PM
MAGRIB.....06:43 PM
ISHA.....08:08 PM

Quick Read

CM Hamza chairs important meeting over health sector

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz chaired an important meeting with the health department in which he directed the hospitals to take necessary steps to provide all kinds of facilities to common people.

According to details, the Chief Minister of Punjab also directed the health sector that the common man should get full respect in the government hospitals.

Hamza Shahbaz further ordered that a comprehensive plan should be prepared in which free medicine to the people should be provided.

The Chief Minister also said that the anti-dengue teams should also be mobilized.

It merits mention here that, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has given a major order regarding health sector orders that in all the government hospitals, all across Punjab will be provided with free medicine.

Shehbaz Sharif also announced that the patients in the government hospitals should not be charged any fees for any kind of treatment they receive.

The Prime Minister further ordered that the cancer patients should also be given free medicine in all government hospitals all across the province. —DNA

18 dead, 900 injured in 849 road traffic crashes in Punjab

By our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Punjab Emergency Service Department responded to 849 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours.

In these RTCs 18 people died, whereas 900 were injured. Out of this 573 people were seriously injured who were shifted to different hospitals. Whereas, 327 minor injured victims were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of Hospitals.

The majority (73%) involved Motorbikes, therefore effective enforcement of traffic laws and lane discipline are essential to reduce this an increasing number of Road Traffic Crashes.

Further, the analysis showed that 405 drivers, 31 underage drivers, 85 pedestrians, and 428 passengers were among the victims of these road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 92 RTCs were reported in Multan which affected 101 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by 78 Faisalabad with 86 victims and at third Gujranwala with 69 RTCs and 66 victims.

The details further reveal that 918 victims were affected by road traffic crashes including 739 males & 179 females, while the age group of the victims shows that 170 were under 18 years of age, 461 were between 18 and 40 years and rest of the 287 victims were reported above 40 years of age. According to the data 768 motorbikes, 67 autorickshaws, 78 motorcars, 16 vans, 08 passenger buses, 07 trucks and 94 other types of auto vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in aforesaid road traffic accidents.

CM opens Markaz-e-Tadrees-ul-Quran and Hadith at Kot Lakhpat Jail

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Hamza Shahbaz has announced to enhance the salary of sepoys working in jails. CM Punjab visited Kot Lakhpat jail Monday and inaugurated Markaz-e-Tadrees ul Quran and Hadith in security ward No 2 in the jail.

Hamza Shahbaz announced to remit jail sentence of the prisoners by two months besides distributing gifts among the prisoners.

Announcing to increase the salary of jail sepoys Hamza Shahbaz said jail sepoys will now get the salaries at par with police sepoys.

CM Punjab Hamza Shahbaz spent 22 months as prisoner in security ward No 2 in Kot Lakhpat jail Lahore.



Hamza announces to remit jail sentence of prisoners by two months; enhances salary of jail sepoys

U19 City Cricket Association tournament schedule announced

LAHORE: Ninety-three sides will be in action across the country in the U19 City Cricket Association Tournament 2022-23 from 21 May to 4 June.

The 50-over tournament has been designed to provide young players with an opportunity to not only impress the selectors for the upcoming PCB U19 three-day and one-day tournaments, but it will provide them a chance to feature in the inaugural Pakistan Junior League which is all set to take place in Lahore from 1 to 15 October. According to the event format, each City Cricket Association, depending on the number of cities in that association, will be split into groups with each Cricket Association to ultimately have a champion.

Balochistan comprise 13 City Cricket Associations, Central Punjab 16, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 19, Northern 11, Sindh 17 and Southern Punjab 14.

However, as per past practice, the three

Lahore Zones will have two sides each, which takes the grand total of sides participating in the tournament to 93.

Balochistan, Northern and Southern Punjab CCAs have been split into three groups each.

The three table toppers will compete in a triangular series and the side with most points will be adjudged winner.

Teams in Central Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh will be divided into four groups each. Each Cricket Associations' group leaders will play knockout rounds to determine a champion side.

The tournament will be covered digitally and with the live scores available on CricHQ.

The squads of all the 93 sides will be announced in due course. —APP



LAHORE: A large number of passengers ready to depart for return home to spend Eid holidays with their loved ones. —Online

Five drug peddlers held, three distilleries unearthed

KHANEWAL: Police have arrested five notorious drug peddlers and unearthed three distilleries, besides recovering drugs from their possession during a special crackdown launched in premises of Kacha Khue police station on Monday.

In line with special directives of District Police Officer (DPO) Syed Nadeem Abbas, the

Kacha Khue police under the supervision of DSP Mehr Waseem Sial launched a crackdown against drug peddlers.

The police team arrested five drug peddlers Mubashir Shah, Aftab Shah, Javed, Abid and Abdul Aziz.

The police have also unearthed three distilleries and recovered 25 kg hashish, 6.250 kg opium, 120 gram heroin, 975 litre liquor, empty bottles and fake labels during the crackdown.

Separate cases have been registered against the criminals, police sources added. —APP

Sugar price declines in open market

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The sugar prices Monday saw a decline in open market as the 50-kg sugar pack price has been slashed by Rs250 in Lahore's Akbari Mandi (open market).

The price of sugar decreased by Rs5 per kg to reach at Rs85/kg in the open market.

Pertinent to note that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had placed a ban on the sugar export soon after taking office.

On the other hand, subsidized ghee and cooking oil that were supposed to be available in Eid holidays are now completely wiped out from the Utility Stores Corporation outlets.

A number of citizens told that they have been bringing CNIC to the utility stores but could not find the ghee and cooking oil to their utter disappointment for the last 15 days. People have urged the government to look into the matter of unavailability of oil and ghee at the Utility stores branches.

Kanika Kapoor responds to Hadiqa Kiani's claim of Boohey Barian's theft

By our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: In the most unexpected twist to this peculiar saga, Kanika Kapoor has responded to Hadiqa Kiani claiming that her song "Boohey Barian" was stolen, with regards to a rendition performed by the Indian artist, posted on Saregama Music's YouTube channel.

Hadiqa Kiani recently took to her stories to address the "theft" of her song. Kanika Kapoor's rendition of Boohey Barian, titled Buhe Baariyan, became the focal point of Hadiqa's anger. Posted on Saregama Music's YouTube channel, the song has credited Gourov Dasgupta and Shruti Rane as composers, with lyrics being credited to Kunwar Juneja. Hadiqa Kiani was not been mentioned anywhere.



Now, it's no secret that in 1998, Hadiqa Kiani released her second album, Roshni, that featured Boohey Barian as the sixth single on the album, and it is still considered to be one of the most well-known Pakistani songs.

As a result, with the involve-

ment of Hadiqa Kiani, director Nabeel Qureshi, and Indian digital platform Diet Sabya, the conversation catapulted into Hadiqa Kiani clarifying that the rights to the song have not been sold, and Kanika Kapoor's version can, therefore, be considered the theft of the song in question.

In an interview with Times of India, Kanika Kapoor has issued a statement, claiming that while she and everyone she knows are huge fans of music from Pakistan, Afghanistan, North of India and Punjab, "it is just sad that there is so much hatred on a topic, which we don't even know what is right and what is wrong."

She goes on to state the following: "I mean, for me, we made an original song Juneja ji has written the song, Shruti has composed this

song with Gourov Dasgupta, and have used a line of an old Punjabi folk song that being heard. So actually it is not a cover version, it's a new song completely.

If anyone listens to this and it's just a little hook line, we used from an old Punjabi folk song, which I have seen more than 60 versions of on YouTube." Kanika Kapoor then claims to not know where the song comes from or originated, and doubles down on the fact that Saregama is a "respectable" label. "None of us have any intention of stealing anybody's work or not crediting anybody. And if they feel that way, then it makes us very sad and we feel very sorry. But to be honest, we also find out because none of us know the truth behind copyright."

HEC scholarships making students' dreams come true

LAHORE: Born and raised in a poor family in Athara Hazari, District Jhang, Muhammad Usman, 21, thought he was doomed to give up his dream of attaining higher education due to his financial background.

With the death of his father, when Usman was just an intermediate, he thought it was all over for him, as there was nobody after his father to support him for higher studies at any reputed university of the country.

"When I passed my intermediate exams I had mixed feelings. I was excited but at the same time I was sad. I knew I did not have resources to fulfill my dream of higher education," Usman recalled.

Since, there was a will and definitely there could have been a way and this way was found through the Higher Education Commission's (HEC) indigenous scholarship scheme and he got enrolled in BS Political Science program at Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad.

"Thanks God, HEC was there to materialize my dream. I'm availing this scholarship opportunity and am sure that completion of my education would avenues for me to financially support my family," Usman re-

marked.

Like Usman, there had been thousands of other students in the past, who suffered due to financial constraints. But, now the HEC stands by them in fulfillment of their dreams of higher education.

Esha, the daughter of a poor farmer from Muridke Lahore said it was her desire to study at Quaid-i-Azam University but could not due to financial constraints.

"With my father's income, we could hardly run our house and it seemed that as our desires for higher education would die down with the time," she said.

"But, we did not give up and continue looking for avenues for support. Then, fortunately the HEC scholarship scheme came our way as a ray of hope," Esha revealed. "I secured 4 CGPA and now looking forward to new destinations through my dedication and hardwork."

Muhammad Naveed Tahir, a Ph.D. scholar at the Institute of Soil and Environmental Sciences, University of Agriculture Faisalabad is another beneficiary of the scholarship scheme like thousands others across the country.

A couple of decade back sometimes very brilliant student had to discontinue their education due to paucity of resources. Then instead of emerging as scholars, many among them had to live with low grade jobs.

But, then with the introduction of Higher Education Commission in Pakistan, the students and those in-service who desired higher education were facilitated through different programs.

"I could have settled after my MS, had there been no HEC indigenous scholarship scheme," said Naveed Tahir, a resident of Shakargarh, District Narowal. "This three years' scholarship is covering all my expenses. I'm grateful to HEC for offering me the scholarship."

It is not only the students who benefit from this scheme, but the faculty members and teachers also see it as 'a welcoming step' by the HEC.

"Merit based national and international scholarships had changed the lives of thousands of students," stated Assistant Professor International Relations Quaid-i-Azam University Dr. Samar Iqbal.

"This initiative is equally beneficial for de-

serving students all across the country no matter they hail from developed areas or the remote areas of Balochistan, Waziristan, Sindh, South Punjab and AJK," he added.

Director General Scholarships HEC Aysha Ikram says that since 2002, the HEC had been offering scholarships for undergraduate, MS, Ph.D. and Post-doctoral studies at national and international universities.

"The main objective of our initiatives was to create qualified manpower for different sectors, with a particular focus on capacity building of our educational institutions," she said. "The HEC is also engaged with its international partners to maintain the cost and quality issues."

Furthermore, she said, the students from low income families are supported through need-based scholarship with the support of the government finances as well as foreign and local donors and the HEC had so far reached to 30,000 such students since the launch of program.

The HEC has 13 international scholarship programs and 07 local scholarship programs at both the undergraduate and post-graduate level as HEC also offers 04 needs based and

05 special initiatives scholarship programs for the students, Ayesha said.

The HEC has initiated National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE) with an aim to improve quality of teaching, research and governance in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the country.

"The NAHE provides support in individual and institutional level capacity enhancement and empowering education institutions to self-regulate and deliver quality learning for faculty," said Rector NAHE, Dr. Shaheen Sardar Ali. Besides its other initiatives, the China Study Center by HEC at Karakoram International University (KIU) would also help enhance academic and research ties with China including teacher-student exchange programs and joint training, conferences and workshops. The HEC is also focusing important issues like harassment and drugs abuse at educational institutions as it is diligently working on new strategies to provide a drug-free environment. Moreover, it has also launched e-courses on 'Protection against Sexual Harassment' and 'Policy for Students with Disabilities' at Higher Education Institutions to make Pakistani universities safer