

Depalpur citizens not getting cheap sugar, ghee and flour at Utility Stores

The Business Report

DEPALPUR: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, despite giving billions of rupees subsidy on utility stores, the citizens of Depalpur complained of not getting cheap sugar, ghee and flour.

According to details, the citizens have been complaining to media that the Utility Stores Corporation of Pakistan has not serving the deserving poor masses. Now they have demanded of the top officials that subsidized items continue to be sold at all the utility stores in Depalpur to the customers. At the utility stores located in the area could be seen long lines in extreme hot weather and citizens return home empty handed. On the other hand, selling substandard and local brand ghee and cooking oil continued to be seen. Authorized officials of Okara are unable to take action in this regard while the people are being harassed. Subsidies have been given on various food items but the management of utility stores has not been able to implement the decision at most of the utility stores in Depalpur Tehsil.

Five of a family killed in roof collapse incident

LAHORE: Five member of a family including two women were killed while one another sustained injuries when a wall of a house collapsed due to strong winds and heavy down-pour in Awan market, bank stop area last night.

According to the Rescue 1122, the family members were sleeping when suddenly the wall of house collapsed.

Consequently, five people- Shabbir, Sharjeel, Nofal, Musarat, and Amna died while Bilal sustained injuries. The Rescue 1122 teams reached the spot and retrieved the bodies and injured from the debris. The injured was shifted to the hospital. —APP

EPD chief orders controlling pollution

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Director General of Environmental Protection Department (EPD) Umbreen Sajid formed anti-smog teams in Lahore, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Sheikhupura and Kasur. The DG Environment directed all the members to ensure prevention of all kinds of pollution and no negligence would be tolerated in this regard.

Deputy Director Lahore Ali Ejaz, Deputy Director Gujranwala Wasim Ahmed Cheema, Deputy Director Sheikhupura Zafar Iqbal, Deputy Director Muhammad Imtiaz and Assistant Director Kasur Muhammad Nazim will perform their duties as conveners.



LAHORE: Students take keen interest in Female Degree Show 2022 at Department of Art and Design Kinnaird College.

Imran played no role in removal from FATF grey list: Murtaza

LAHORE: Punjab Senior Minister and Parliamentary Leader PPP Syed Hassan Murtaza has said that former prime minister Imran Khan cannot take credit for Pakistan's removal from the FATF grey list.

In a statement issued here on Friday, he said that "Khan should stop changing colours like a chameleon because he was responsible of pushing Pakistan towards bankruptcy and global isolation".

Hassan Murtaza said the nation knew that Pakistan was standing on the brink of default due to Imran Khan and there was no role of the PTI in removal of the country from the FATF grey list.

He said that Imran Khan broke the agreement with the IMF which was against the country. He said that PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, in his capacity as the foreign minister, was trying to get Pakistan out of isolation.

Moonis Elahi files written reply in FIA
PML-Q leader and MNA Moonis Elahi has filed one page written reply in FIA.

According to sources Moonis Elahi appeared before FIA for the second time and filed one page written reply. Moonis Elahi said in his reply he does not know Nawaz Bhatti and Mazhar Abbas. He says on oath he is

not involved in any financial corruption. The allegations leveled in FIR are false and baseless. I got share of sugar mills as per law and filed returns too. Online

Legal notice to governor for holding PA session in Aiwan-e-Iqbal

A legal notice has been issued to governor Punjab Baligh ur Rehman for holding budget session in Aiwan-e-Iqbal.

According to private TV channel, the legal notice has been sent to governor Punjab by PTI MPA Zunaib Umair through Azhar Siddique on the matter of holding Punjab Assembly (PA) budget session in Aiwan-e-Iqbal. PTI

MPA took the plea PA session was summoned illegally and unconstitutionally. Owing to this step of governor assembly divided into two parts.

This was mentioned in the notice governor issued these orders through ordinance by overstepping his powers. As per Supreme Court orders such orders had no legal standing. Governor intervention in administrative powers and matters is illegal. Governor should withdraw his illegal and unconstitutional orders. A copy of the notice has been sent to President Arif Alvi requesting him to remove governor Punjab from his post. —Agencies

On Ombudsman orders Rs.44.29m relief provided to 32 complainants

From Our Staff Correspondent

MINCHINABAD: On the orders of Ombudsman Punjab Maj (R) Azam Suleman Khan, a total financial relief valuing Rs.44.29 million has been provided to 32 complainants of various districts, including Lahore, Gujranwala, Rahim Yar Khan, Bahawalpur, Vehari, Multan, Faisalabad, Hafizabad, Bahawalnagar, Sahiwal, Toba Tek Singh, Mianwali, Mandi Bahauddin, Dera Ghazi Khan, Multan, Sargodha, Sheikhupura and Gujrat.

A spokesman of the office of ombudsman Punjab announced this in a statement issued here on Friday. The spokesman also stated that the complaints were related to different departments, including education, irrigation, health, buildings, solicitor's office, agriculture, WASA, labour, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Municipal Corporation Faisalabad, collector (consolidation) Multan, ADC (R) TT Singh, executive engineer highways division Mianwali, AC Malakwal, district accounts office, Punjab Workers Welfare Board and District Benevolent Fund Board. This relief has been provided to the applicants against their complaints relating to non-provision of financial assistance, family pension, leave encashment, marriage grant, monthly grant, gratuity, arrears of salary, the release of monthly pension.

Tariq Aziz remembered on his 2nd death anniversary

LAHORE:

Renowned radio and television host, film star, poet, and writer Tariq Aziz was remembered on his 2nd death anniversary on Friday.

He was born on April 28, 1936, in Jalandhar. After the partition, his family migrated to Pakistan and settled in Sahiwal, Radio Pakistan reported. Tariq Aziz started his career with Radio Pakistan in the 1960s and later became Pakistan's first television host.

He became popular from his famous program Neelam Ghar which started in 1974 and was later renamed Tariq Aziz Show which continued for four decades. He appeared in various movies including Chiragh Kahan Roshni Kahan, Salgirah, Qasam Us Waqt Ki, Katar, Haar Gaya Insaan and Insaniyat. He was awarded the Pride of Performance Award by the Government of Pakistan in 1994 for his services to the entertainment industry. Tariq Aziz died in Lahore on June 17, 2020, at the age of 84. —APP



PayFast by APPS first Fintech in Pakistan to Partner with Visa



LAHORE: PayFast by APPS ("PayFast") is proud to become the first fintech in Pakistan to partner with international payments leader Visa through Cybersource. The nature of the partnership sees Cybersource offering its robust and dynamic digital payment solution suite to PayFast. It includes E-commerce checkout, digital merchant platform, Fraud Management, and SoftPOS. This initiative paves the path for PayFast to offer a dynamic and secure payment gateway with user friendly UI/UX, thereby helping businesses to offer the acceptance of online payments through debit and credit cards.

The partnership serves as a milestone that advances PayFast's commitment to bring the company, and Pakistan, to the forefront of the regional fintech landscape. The State Bank licensed and regulated PSO/PSP envisions to extend its reach across international borders, starting with the MENA region.

Further, the integration helps expand PayFast's Soft-Pos initiative, which will greatly enhance digital payment acceptance for merchants of all sizes by introducing fast, secure, and cost-effective solutions for them to collect online payments. Currently, POS penetration in Pakistan is staggeringly low, with just over 90,000 POS terminals deployed nationwide compared to the millions of merchants in the market. One of the major reasons is the high setup costs that prevent acquirers to serve medium or small sized businesses. As the trend of contactless payments has grown worldwide by over 40 percent in the past two years, merchants will benefit from a simple, secure, and affordable digital solution to drive sales and maximize their revenue potential. —PR

By integrating Cybersource, PayFast can offer the ease, affordability, and speed of integration with SoftPos to its merchants. —PR

1.2m people killed globally in 2019 by Super Bug

Dr. Shabbir Ahmed Pharm.D (Rph)

A recent study by researchers of University of Washington & University of Oxford revealed that more than 1.2 million people died in 2019 from antimicrobial resistance induced "super bug". Ratio is higher than the historic infectious diseases i.e. HIV/AIDS & malaria which killed

860000 & 640000 people that year respectively, in comparison covid killed an estimated 3.5 million people in 2021.

The analysis of 204 countries & territories published in "LANCET" is the first comprehensive study of global impact of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). A post antibiotic era is predicted by researchers where "Super Bug" induced death tolls will 10million / annum by 2050, we are already far closer to that figure than we thought, the study's Co-author Chris Murray describes.

"Super bug" are Bacteria which have gradually evolved to have a resistance to antibiotic that were over prescribed or in-correctly used. W.H.O warned that none of the 43 antibiotics in development or recently approved medicines were enough to combat Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). The Fatality is much greater than the past studies by WHO which suggested the problem caused 700,000 deaths/ year. In England alone 5,000 deaths every year are estimated due to Antimicrobial resistance.

For 204 countries & territories study used the Predictive statistical modelling to produce the estimates of AMR burden for all locations including for locations with no data.

Researchers came to the estimate by analyzing 47 million records, which included previous studies on "SUPER BUG" as well as hospitals and health authority surveillance system designed to track Antibiotic resistant infections. They then used this data to also make estimates on the number of deaths that could have been prevented if the

"Super Bug" had been susceptible to antibiotics. Diseases Burden was estimated in two ways: Death caused directly by AMR (i.e. deaths that would not have occurred had the infections been drug susceptible and therefore more treatable.) and deaths associated with AMR i.e. (where a drug resistance infections was implicated in deaths, but resistance itself may or may not have been the death cause).

The analysis shows AMR was directly responsible for an estimated 1.27 million deaths worldwide and associated with an estimated 4.95 million deaths in 2019.

The deaths per Head of population due to "Super Bugs" were highest in Sub-Saharan region like Africa at 24 death/100000 populations & 22 deaths/100000 populations respectively. This was followed by south Asia, which includes countries like India and Pakistan recorded 22 deaths/100000 where have less developed health infrastructure. But death ratios were still significant in higher income countries like U.K. 13 deaths/100000.

This graph shows the combined direct and associated deaths from antibiotic-resistant bacteria per global region measured in the new research.

Africa and South Asia had the greatest number of deaths per 100,000 people, however Western European countries like, the UK, still recorded a significantly high number of fatalities Drug resistance in Lower respiratory tract infection such as Pneumonia had the greatest impact on AMR disease burden, causing more than 400000 deaths & associated with more than 1.5 million deaths.

Drug resistance in blood stream infections which can lead to the life threatening condition "sepsis" cause around 370,000 and associated with nearly 1.5 million deaths. Drug resistance in intra-abdominal infections commonly caused by appendicitis led directly to around 210,000 deaths and associated with around 800,000.

AMR effected all age groups i.e. young children were found to be at particularly higher risk with around one in five deaths attributable to AMR occurring in children under aged five.

This was followed by intra-abdominal infections, urinary tract infections (UTIs), tuberculosis, skin infections, central nervous system infections, typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, and invasive non-typhoidal Salmonella infections (TF-PF-iNTS), diarrhoea, cardiac infections, and bone infections). Of 23 pathogens studied drug resistance in six alone (E. coli, Staph Aureus, K. pneumoniae, S-pneumoniae A-baumanni & p-aeroginosa) Led already to 929000 deaths and was associated with 3.57 million. One pathogen drug combination methicillin resistance staph aureus or MSRA directly caused more than 100000 deaths in 2019. While six more caused between 50000 to 100000 deaths.

Among all pathogens resistance to two important classes of antibiotics, which often considered the first choice against severe infection i.e. Fluoroquinolones & Beta-lactam antibiotics (penicillin) responsible for more than an estimated 70 percent of deaths caused by antimicrobial resistance.

The Author and Co-Author of the study emphasized on prompt action for controlling the outbreak of antimicrobial resistance by using the data & facts revealed in their study. They also acknowledged some of the limitations in their studies i.e. limited availability of data for some parts of the world. There were also regional differences in the types of Super-Bug responsible for the most deaths identified in study.

Combating such alarming health care situation by intervening the Anti-microbial stewardship is really the need of time prior to post-antibiotic era World Health Organisation have laid down 10-points stewardship interventions.

The writer is a freelance

7 dead, 964 hurt in 909 traffic accident

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Punjab Emergency Service Department (PESD) Responded to 909 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. In these RTCs 07 people died, whereas 964 were injured. Out of this 545 people were seriously injured who were shifted to different hospitals. Whereas, 419 minor injured victims were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of Hospitals.

The majority (70%) involved Motorbikes, therefore effective enforcement of traffic laws and lane discipline are essential to reduce this an increasing the number of Road Traffic Crashes. Further, the analysis showed that 473 drivers, 28 underage drivers, 104 pedestrians, and 394 passengers were among the victims of these road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 229 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 234 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by 80 Faisalabad in with 87 victims.

Daniyal Aziz being shifted to Services Hospital

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leader Daniyal Aziz is being shifted to Services Hospital here after he sustained severe injuries due to his car having a collision with a truck near Shakargarh, Narowal.

According to rescue officials, the PML-N leader had his arm fractured in the accident and was moved to District Headquarters Hospital Narowal, while a man also died in this road crash.

Later, Daniyal Aziz was being shifted to Services Hospital as his lungs were damaged and he was facing breathing issues. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Punjab Hamza Shahbaz also sought a report from Commissioner Gujranwala Division and RPO Gujranwala about the traffic accident in which Daniyal Aziz got injured near Shakargarh. —APP

Polio eradication awareness seminar held at the University of Okara

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The University of Okara, in collaboration with the UNICEF Pakistan, organized a seminar on 'Polio Eradication Awareness'. The speakers including Furqan Shabbir and Ahmad Seroosh from the UNICEF and Taimoor Abdullah from Nutrition International discussed the current scenario of Polio cases in Pakistan, certain misconceptions that were hindering the effective immunization campaigns and possible solutions. A large number of faculty members and students participated in the seminar.

The event was chaired by the Director, Institute of Pure & Applied Zoology (IPAZ), Prof Dr Muhammad Wajid.

In his address, Dr Wajid thanked the Vice Chancellor, Prof Dr Muhammad



Zakria Zakar, for providing his faculty the opportunity to bring core issues of public health into academic debate. He advised the participants to support the efforts of government in this national noble cause in order get rid of Poliomyelitis from Pakistan. Furqan Shabbir urged the participants to help raise awareness and advocacy regarding Oral Polio Vaccination (OPV) in respective communities and rectification of misconceptions in this regard

to achieve the goal of Polio Free Pakistan.

According to the UNICEF Pakistan, Pakistan is one of three remaining polio-endemic countries in the world, along with Afghanistan and Nigeria. However, since the launch of the Pakistan's Polio Eradication Programme in 1994, there has been a massive decline in polio cases in Pakistan from approximately 20,000 every year in the early 1990s to only eight cases in 2018.

Ombudsman provides Rs 44.29m financial relief to 32

By Our Staff Reporter

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accounts office, Punjab Workers Welfare Board and district benevolent fund board.

This relief has been provided to the applicants against their complaints relating to non-provision of financial assistance, family pension, leave encashment, marriage grant, monthly grant, gratuity, arrears of salary, the release of monthly pension, and reimbursement of CDRs, the spokesman added.

Meanwhile, the ombudsman office interacted to settle the eight-year-old issue of the widow of C&W department Mianwali's employee to help release a financial grant valuing four lac rupees.

An applicant from Gujranwala namely Syeda Tahira Yasmeen has especially thanked the ombudsman office for its proactive role in the release of long-standing dues of her late husband who died during service.

The total value of the released emoluments is over 5.6 million rupees, the spokesman concluded.