

Minimum 28:°C
Maximum 24:°C
Sunset 07:10pm
Sunrise 04:58am
(Tomorrow)



FAJAR.....	03:33 AM
ZOHAR.....	12:03 PM
ASR.....	5:15 PM
MAGRIB.....	07:10 PM
ISHA.....	08:30 PM

Quick Read

1,592 expats complaints resolved in three months, says Khadim

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Commissioner Overseas Pakistanis Commission, Punjab, Syed Khadim Abbas, has said that 1592 complaints of Overseas Pakistanis have been resolved during the last three months. He said that all possible steps are being taken with the help of relevant departments so that expats could get maximum relief. He expressed these views while presiding over a weekly performance meeting held at OPC Punjab here on Friday. Earlier all the dealing officer presented their weekly performance reports in the meeting and most of the complaints in the meeting were related to Revenue, Police, Prosecution departments and qabza mafia.

The Commissioner reviewed the resolved complaints with their ID Numbers and appreciated the dealing officers especially the Director Admin and his team for the excellent performance. He directed the officers to update the OPC website, while the dealing officers should contact the Additional Deputy Commissioners Revenue of all the districts and submit a report after reviewing the complaints regarding the resolution of the problems of overseas Pakistanis.

He said that the performance of OPC Punjab was linked to the immediate solution of the problems of overseas Pakistanis.

He clarified that overseas Pakistanis are a valuable asset of the country and the services of overseas Pakistanis for strengthening the national economy cannot be forgotten and that is why OPC is working day and night to solve their problems.

The meeting was also attended by Director Admin OPC Tanveer Majid, Director Revenue Aslam Ramey, Deputy Directors and Dealing Officers.

Pre-monsoon spell to continue till Tuesday: Met Office

LAHORE: The Met Office says it is in liaison with relevant civic agencies including WASA to tackle and avert flooding in the wake of ongoing pre-monsoon spell.

This was stated by Director General Pakistan Meteorological Department Mahr Sahibzad Khan in an exclusive interview with Radio Pakistan's News and Current Affairs Channel on Friday.

He said there are chances of urban flooding in some areas where rain above 40 mm continues for more than one hour.

DG Met Office said that the current rain spell will continue intermittently till Tuesday and will not only help cut down scorching temperatures but also provide relief to farmers especially cotton and sugarcane growers.

Giving details of the rain in different areas, the DG Met office said so far Jhang district received maximum rain- 81 mm, Chaklala 46 mm, Zero point Islamabad 35 mm, Golra 41 mm, Gujranwala 25 mm and Lahore 17 mm. —Online

Vehari Chamber of Commerce and Industry delegation calls on Governor Govt committed to steer country out of financial crisis: Baligh

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A delegation of the Vehari Chamber of Commerce and Industry led by its President Sheikh Muhammad Naeem Pasha called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman at the Governor House, Lahore, on Friday. Among those who met were former President Hafiz Mahmood Ahmed Shad, Vice President Chaudhry Haseeb Sarwar, besides executive members and others. The delegation apprised the Governor of Punjab of the problems being faced by the Vehari Chamber.

Talking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman said that promotion of business activities was essential for strengthening the economy of the country. He said that the present government was committed to steer the country out of current financial crisis despite having less resources and more problems by ensuring the best use of resources, adding that all resources are being utilized for the development of country. He said that he was happy that the first delegation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry from South Punjab had come for a meeting.



He said that a delegation of Federal Chamber of Commerce and Industry called on him recently, adding that he conveyed their recommendations to the government for resolving their issues. He said that as the constitutional head of the province, it was his responsibility to forward the recommendations for the solution of their problems to the concerned authorities.

Governor Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman said that the business community is playing an important role in the economy of the country as well as in the philanthropic work which is commendable. He said that the government has given a balanced budget to all sections of the society in spite of difficult circumstances.

On this occasion, the delegation apprised the Governor of Punjab of various problems faced by them including land for Vehari chamber, provision of gas, electricity, dual carriageway and other issues.

The Governor assured them to convey their concerns and recommendations to the concerned quarters. The delegation appreciated the government's move to abolish general sales tax on seed in the budget.



LAHORE: Children play in the accumulated rain water.

'Kamli' team addresses seminar at PU

By Our Staff Reporter



LAHORE: Punjab University College of Art and Design Department of Graphic Design Israr Chishti, Director postgraduate Research Centre of Creative Arts Prof Dr Bilal Ahmad, Film Director Sarmad Khoosat, faculty members and a large number of students were present. In his address, Israr Chishti said that art students must watch films as it was the medium of art intellectuals and introduced new ways of thinking.

On this occasion Chairman Department of Graphic Design Israr Chishti, Director postgraduate Research Centre of Creative Arts Prof Dr Bilal Ahmad, Film Director Sarmad Khoosat, faculty members and a large number of students were present. In his address, Israr Chishti said that art students must watch films as it was the medium of art intellectuals and introduced new ways of thinking.

Sarmad Khoosat said that film was a combination of all arts but it's the story that grabs the attention of the people. He said that films could get fame without star cast as well. Dr Ahmad Bilal said that Kamli was an open ended film that leaved the audience with a lot of questions and that's what a film or an art work should do.

"It should not provide us with answers but to provoke us to think and to engage us with new questions," he added. In the end, the students have asked interesting and thought provoking questions.

PU CoP conducts workshop

Punjab University College of Pharmacy (PU CoP) in collaboration with Novo Nordisk Pakistan conducted workshop on "empowering future pharmacists for effective prevention and management of diabetes" for the final year students of Pharmacy. On this occasion twenty five "Diabetes Ambassadors" were selected based on assessment. These ambassadors will be trained further with requisite knowledge on practical management of diabetes, patient counseling with focus on better prevention, management and help them carifying myths around diabetes.

Hardworking, dutiful and capable officers valuable asset of Police, says IG

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Inspector General of Punjab Police, Rao Sardar Ali Khan, has said that hardworking, dutiful and capable officers are a valuable asset of Punjab Police who made mechanism of public service delivery better and faster track. IG Punjab said that AIG Legal Saif Al Murtaza is also one of those officers who has fulfilled every responsibility given to him in his professional career. Rao Sardar Ali Khan said that Saif-ul-Murtaza as AIG Legal has



making an important role in making the Human Rights Cell more active and due to his hard work, citizens have got immediate relief in many cases. He expressed these views while addressing a farewell ceremony at Central Police Office on occasion of retirement of AIG Legal Saif Al Murtaza.

Additional IGs, DIGs and AIGs attended the ceremony organized by IG Punjab. AIG Legal Saif Al Murtaza (HRC) got retired from the police service after completing his tenure.

Other officers present on the occasion also lauded the professional services of AIG Saif Al Murtaza and said that Saif Al Murtaza has rendered excellent services while supervising the legal affairs of Punjab Police. AIG Saif Al Murtaza thanked IG Punjab Rao Sardar Ali Khan for organizing the farewell ceremony.

He also paid thanks to his seniors and juniors for cooperation and guidance due to which he reminded successful in performing his professional duties.

AIG Saif Al Murtaza said that even after retirement my liaison with the police department would be maintained and my services would always be available whenever needed.

At the end of the ceremony, IG Punjab Rao Sardar Ali Khan presented honorary souvenirs and commemorative shields to AIG Saif al-Murtaza.

Molecular identification of herpetofauna from Punjab

Saira Malik, Arshad Javid

Amphibian and reptiles are very important part of aquatic and terrestrial food chains. They act as biological control agents and also serve as environmental indicators to predict changes in climate. These creatures also have religious, aesthetic, cultural and economic values. However, in Pakistan, the amphibians and reptiles remained unexplored. Overall, 195 reptiles and 24 amphibians are reported so far from Pakistan. Amphibian and reptilian species of Pakistan are mostly overlooked and are hardly studied. Despite the fact that advancement in molecular biology is helpful in sorting out the relatedness and differentiations among cryptic species fewer studies have been conducted in Pakistan regarding molecular characterization of herpetofauna. Present study was therefore planned to evaluate the effectiveness of mitochondrial DNA genes

(COI, Cytb and 16S rRNA) in identification of herpetofauna and detection of possible new or subspecies diversity from study area.

During the present survey, a total of 26 species of amphibians and reptiles were captured from study area. Out of these, two toads, two frogs, 10 lizards, 10 snake and two turtles species were captured. Total genomic DNA was extracted from whole blood and preserved tissues by phenol-chloroform method. The 16S rRNA primers successfully amplified DNA of common toad (Duttaphrynus stomaticus), Indian bull frog (Hoplobatrachustigerinus), skittering frog (Euphylystiscyanophlyactis), Indian spiny tailed lizard (Saarahardwickii), oriental rat snake (Ptyas mucosa) and Indian wolf snake (Lycodonaulicus) while COI primers set successfully amplified DNA of common toad (Duttaphrynus stomaticus), skittering frog (Euphylystiscyanophlyactis), Indian flapshell turtle (Lissemys punctata), garden lizard

(Calotes versicolor), house gecko (Hemidactylus brookii), racer snake (Platycephrhorachis), buff striped keel back (Amphiesmastolatum), Indian wolf snake (Lycodonaulicus) and Indian cobra (Naja naja).

During present study, DNA of Uromastyx hardwickii was amplified and sequenced using 16S rRNA primer set. The obtained DNA sequence has shown reliable and clear species identification. It can be concluded from present study that different mtDNA genes such as 16S rRNA, Cytochrome C Oxidase I (COI), cytochrome b (Cytb) used for the molecular identification of reptiles. These genes can find out the intraspecific and interspecific variations of reptiles. 16S rRNA and Cytochrome c oxidase I (COI) genes are better in identification of herpetofauna as compared to cytochrome b (Cytb) gene.

The writers are freelance contributors



LAHORE: A worker repaint traffic lines on the road.