

Minimum 28:°C
Maximum 37:°C
Sunset 07:09pm
Sunrise 05:09am
(Tomorrow)

LAHORE

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SCSTSI delegation calls on Governor

Economic uplift, basic amenities top priority of govt: Baligh

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A delegation of Sargodha Chamber of Small Traders and Industries (SCSTSI) led by Founder President (SCSTSI) Sheikh Asif Iqbal called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman at the Governor House, Lahore, on Friday. The meeting was attended by businessmen representing the SMEs sector from different cities.

Talking on the occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman said that national stability, economic development and provision of basic amenities to the people is the top priority of the present government. He said that despite the economic challenges, the government is taking steps to provide favourable opportunities to business community. He said that all businesses are very important even if it is a small shop. He said that business not only promotes socio-economic



development but also provides employment opportunities to millions of people. He further said that the government is well aware of the problems faced by the business community and steps are being taken to provide them maximum relief.

Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman said that the SME Sector has an im-

portant role to play in the national economy. He said that the government was promoting solar panels to meet the energy shortage. The Governor Punjab said that it was very important for the universities to liaise with the SMEs and he would also give instructions to the Vice Chancellors of the universities in this regard. He said that the government be-

lieves in formulating transparent policies for the welfare of the people. The Governor Punjab said that continuity of beneficial policies is very important for the development of the economy.

On the occasion, Sheikh Asif Iqbal said that SMEs account for 85% of the national economy and with the patronage of the government, SMEs can play an important role in the development of the national economy. Ahmed Mehmood Bhatti said that giving solar panels on easy installments would end the energy crisis.

Mehr Riaz said that one million people connected with the hotel industry should be given industry status. After the meeting, Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman also presented First SMEs Best Achievement Awards to the businessmen representing the SMEs sector for their outstanding performance.



FAJAR.....03:32 AM
ZOHAR.....12:09 PM
ASR.....5:02 PM
MAGRIB.....07:08 PM
ISHA.....08:44 PM

Quick Read

PFA introduces new rules against adulteration mafia

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) has rolled up its sleeves to battle the challenges of food adulteration, unhygienic eateries, substandard food, misbranding and counterfeiting in the food industry.

In this regard, PFA Director General Shoaib Khan Jadoon has issued new guidelines for the PFA watchdogs.

The Director General PFA directed officers and filed staff to take strict legal action against violators without any discrimination.

According to the notification, PFA will immediately confiscate all equipment tools, vehicles, machinery, plants and gadgets which to be used for the production, facilitation and transportation of adulterated food.

Further, PFA will lodge an FIR against the persons involved in the manufacturing, packing, supplying, transportation and selling of the contaminated food along with all the facilitators.

The raiding teams will also submit a tractability report to the Additional Director General (Operations) on action taken within a week. While ADG operations will take action in the light of the traceability report after consultation with the legal wing, the notification said.

He said that guidelines were issued to the operations, vigilance and concerned wings of PFA for effective operations to ensure food safety standards and quality in Punjab. He said that the utmost priority of the authority is to ensure the implementation of PFA law at any cost.

DG has appealed citizens to join hands with PFA to eliminate food adulteration from Punjab.

PSCA, WASA join hands for monsoon drainage

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) and Water & Sanitation Agency (WASA) on Friday joined hands for the ongoing monsoon season. PSCA will continuously update WASA officials about rain water and open drains. WASA has deputed officials in the office of Punjab Safe Cities Authority to monitor current situation and take timely action to remove accumulated rainwater with the help of safe cities cameras.

The officials will perform duty from PSCA integrated command control and communication center (PPIC3) in three shifts.

On this occasion, Chief Operating Officer PSCA Muhammad Kamran Khan said that, PSCA is providing rain water pictures to WASA officials. PSCA cameras will help WASA to monitor the city areas in Monsoon season to clear roads. PSCA will also help to detect the manhole covers through cameras. He further said that Punjab Safe Cities Authority is providing all possible support to the concerned department.



LAHORE: Commuters on their way during monsoon rain. —Online

Rs.16.19 million relief provided to women on Ombudsman orders

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: On the orders of Ombudsman Punjab Maj. (r) Azam Suleman Khan, legal relief of Rs.16.19 million has been provided to women applicants of different districts in their cases.

A spokesman for the office of the Ombudsman Punjab disclosed in a statement issued on Friday that Hanifaan Bibi of Faisalabad and Nigina Kausar of Narowal have been given Rs.19 lakh each as financial aid while Sakina Bibi of Lahore secured a legal relief of Rs.16 lac in her case.

The spokesman added that Rs.9.5 lac is paid to one Salma Bibi of Sargodha and another applicant namely Madiha Afzal from Sheikhpura is given a financial relief valued at eight lakh rupees by the concerned provincial government department.

As a result of action taken by Ombudsman Punjab in family pension cases, the spokesman explained that Naseem Akhtar of Faisalabad got Rs.2,27,000, Parveen Akhtar of Attock received Rs.2,94,642, Iqbal Bano of Rahim Yar Khan is paid Rs.5,37,507 and Nuzhat Shaheen of Khushab gained Rs.6,33,243

as a widowed daughter while Saima Naureen of Islamabad fetched arrears worth Rs.10,95,306 in addition to the issuance of family pension after she approached the ombudsman's office for securing her legal right.

Meanwhile, the remaining pension amount valued at Rs.10,19,920 has been given to Sakina Bibi of Muzaffargarh and the remaining insurance amount of Rs.1.5 lac has also been delivered to Amina Bibi of Bahawalpur after her application to the ombudsman's office, the spokesman counted.

The spokesperson further said that Shazia Parveen of Jhelum has been paid the remaining emoluments worth Rs.21,66,680 of her late husband. Job arrears amounting to Rs.6,18,001 have been given to Gujrat's Farzana Kausar along with the creation of an OSD post after the involvement of the ombudsman's office. Abida Bibi of Vehari and the co-wife of her late husband were jointly issued Rs.23,04,288 as emoluments, the spokesman concluded.

The plaintiffs have thanked the Office of Ombudsman Punjab for upholding their legal rights.

District admin should report any possible flood situation

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: General Provincial Disaster Management Director Authority Faisal Farid said that according to the Meteorological Department, there is a possibility of thundershowers and torrential rains in different parts of Bahawalpur and DG Khan Division. He said that from July 15 to 17 Rawalpindi, Sargodha, Multan, Gujranwala, Lahore, Faisalabad and Sahiwal divisions as well as upper areas of all major rivers are forecast to receive thundershowers in the hilly areas of DG Khan Division from July 15 to 17.

Extreme levels of flood danger were announced in all parts of Bahawalpur Division and DG Khan Division on Friday morning. The DGP DMA while instructing the district administration of Punjab said that the district administration should immediately report any possible flood situation. Make sure to choose a place to move people to safer places. Ensure arrangements for immediate relocation of temporary relief camps / safe places to the residents of the affected areas if required, District Heads make necessary arrangements for the provision of cooked food by the district administration in the relief camps and floods in urban areas.

Ensure timely availability of all required machinery / dewatering sets to avoid floods. He said that in order to save the people from infectious diseases, the health department should mobilize medical teams to provide first aid to flood victims and rain. Ensure spraying of medicinal sprays on specific areas to prevent water borne diseases.

During the rainy season, the WAPDA department should make necessary arrangements on an emergency basis. The traffic police should ensure the availability of roads even during the rainy season, so that the flow of traffic on the roads is not affected due to rain water. Ensure arrangements and adhere to precautionary measures, and ensure the safety of citizens' lives and property.

Price of tomatoes, gram pulse, other food items go down

LAHORE: The prices of various food items went down during the week ending on July 14 as compared to the previous week, according to the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) data released by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) here Friday.

According to the data, the food commodities that witnessed decrease in prices on Week-on-Week (WoW) basis included tomatoes, the prices of which declined by 24.55 percent.

The other food products that witnessed decrease in prices included, bananas (2.82%), gram pulse (0.67%), LPG (0.46%) and mustard oil (0.05%). On Year-on-Year (YoY) basis, the commodities that witnessed decrease in prices during the week compared to corresponding week of last year included chillies powdered (43.42%), sugar (15.13%), gur (2.41%) and pulse moong (2.09%).

On the other hand, the items that witnessed increase in prices on WoW

basis included, potatoes (4.72%), chicken (4.45%), cooked daal (1.43%), rice Irri 6/9 (1.17%), rice basmati (broken) (1.14%), vegetable ghee 2.5 kg (1.12%), gur (1.08%), curd (1.07%) and washing soap (1.59%).

On YoY basis, the commodities that witnessed increase in prices included diesel (141.46%), petrol (119.61%), onions (89.33%), pulse Masoor (88.60%), vegetable ghee 1 kg (78.92%), mustard oil (75.72%), cooking oil 5 litre (73.01%), vegetable ghee 2.5 kg (72.44%), washing soap (59.93%), chicken (52.61%), gents sponge chappal (52.21%), pulse gram (51.14%), garlic (40.54%), LPG (39.95%) and pulse mash (31.01%). During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 29 (56.86%) items increased and 05 (9.81%) items decreased and 17 (33.33%) items remained stable. The overall SPI based weekly inflation for the week ended on July 15 wit-

nessed a nominal increase of 0.01 per cent for the combined income group as compared to the previous week. The SPI for the week under review in the above mentioned group was recorded at 200.55 points against 200.53 points registered in the previous week. The weekly SPI with base year 2015-16=100 is covering 17 urban centers and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

The Sensitive Price Indicator for the lowest consumption group up to Rs17,732 witnessed 0.34 percent decrease and went down from 206.23 points in last week to 206.12 points during the week under review.

The SPI for the consumption groups from Rs17,732-22,888 decreased by 0.03 percent whereas it remained stagnant for groups from Rs22,889-29,517. The SPI for consumptions groups from Rs29,518-44,175 and above Rs44,175 increased by 0.02 percent and 0.01 percent respectively. —APP



LAHORE: A view of rain water accumulated at Greater Iqbal Park in front of Badshahi Mosque.