

Higher education to change destiny of nation: PHEC Chief

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Higher Education Commission Chairman Professor Dr Shahid Munir has said that promoting higher education is the most important need of the hour to bring Pakistan into the ranks of developed countries. He expressed these views while addressing the 13th Post-Graduate Students' Conference (PGSC) organized by Punjab University Institute of Education and Research on the topic of 'Transformation of Higher Education: Theory to Skills'. Director Institute of Education and Research Prof Dr Rafaqat Ali Akbar, Conference Secretary Prof Dr. Muhammad Shahid Farooq, senior faculty members and MPhil / PhD scholars participated in the event.

In his address, Dr Shahid Munir said that the purpose of universities was to create new knowledge keeping in mind modern trends because good institutions could bring positive change in the society. He said that like the developed countries, the developing countries should also take steps for the development of human resources.

He said that the culture of entrepreneurship should be promoted to curb unemployment. He said that institutions move forward by appointing faculty on merit. He said that research work that was designed to meet the needs of the society should be encouraged. He said that our forefathers made a lot of sacrifices to establish Pakistan and now we have to work together to make it prosperous. He said that for the promotion of higher education, it was necessary to have a faculty development program and academic freedom should also be ensured. Appreciating the efforts of organizers of the conference, he said that such activities increase the abilities of students.

ANF recovers 227 drug filled capsules at Islamabad Int'l Airport; arrests two accused

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in two operations conducted at Islamabad International Airport on Thursday recovered 227 narcotics-filled capsules from the possession of two accused.

According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, in an operation, ANF recovered 102 Ice-filled capsules from the possession of Kashif, going to Doha while in second operation, ANF recovered 125 heroin-filled capsules from the possession of Nabi Gul, going to Dubai. Two cases have been registered against the accused while further investigations were under process.



LAHORE: A vendor sells national flags alongside a road at Baghbanpura.

Police to finalise tight security arrangements for Independence Day

RAWALPINDI: As the nation is all set to celebrate its 75th Independence Day on Sunday, Rawalpindi district police are finalizing arrangements to beef up security on Jashan-e-Azadi while enhanced number of cops would be deployed under the security plan devised for Independence Day.

According to a Rawalpindi District Police spokesman, the authorities concerned on the directives of Inspector General of Police, Punjab Faisal Shahkar had beefed up security in Rawalpindi city and Murree. The Police personnel had been directed to launch a crackdown against traffic disruptors in the form of one-wheelers. The Rawalpindi police, under their security plan, have decided to deploy enhanced number of cops in the district on August 13 and 14. Special security arrangements would also be made in the hill station of Murree which is expected to be thronged by thousands of visitors from across the country particularly Punjab and KPK on Independence Day. Special police pickets would also be set up to check lawbreakers in Murree. In Rawalpindi city, enhanced number of cops would be deployed to beef up the security. They would be supported by members of the Elite Force, Women Police officers and officials from the special branch. Special temporary pickets would also be set up for snap checking and for cordoning off sensitive areas. —APP

Minorities enjoy equal rights in Pakistan, face discrimination in India: Chohan

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Spokesperson for Punjab Chief Minister and Minister Fayyaz-ul-Hassan Chohan has said that minorities enjoy equal rights in Pakistan, but they face severe discrimination in India.

He was speaking at a function organised by the Unique Group of Institutions and the Department of Human Rights and Minorities Affairs here on Thursday, in connection with observance of the National Day of Minorities in the country. He said all Pakistanis should perform their duties for development and prosperity of the country without indulging in any prejudices of religion, race, and sects and keeping themselves above extremism.

The CM's spokesperson said all Pakistanis have equal rights and they should pay respect to each other to form a welfare and peaceful society.



Chairman Unique Group of Institutions Prof Abdul Mannan Khurram said that minorities had never felt that they had been discrimination against and left alone in all sectors and all spheres of life. He said people belonging to different religions live here and they all were equal Pakistanis.

He said that the minorities were given representation even in national flag.

Minority Punjab Assembly Member Mahindar Pall Singh told the audience that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, addressing the Constituent Assembly on August 11, 1947, had made it clear in absolute terms that all Pakistanis would be equal citizens and they would be free to spend their lives according to their religious beliefs. The state would never exploit them and discriminate against them on the basis of their religions, cast and creed, he added.

Convenor for Human Rights Jacqueline T., speaking at the function, said they were thankful to God that they were citizens of Pakistan. She said all minorities enjoy complete freedom in the country.

Amarnath Randhawa, member Pakistan Hindu Mandar Management Committee, addressing the audience, said that the role of minorities was important in creation of Pakistan. He said his forefathers openly supported Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in securing a separate country.

Chairman Union Council 246 Asif Khokhar and Vice Chairman Union Group Afeef Ashraf Siddiqui also addressed the participants.

Rector Unique Group Prof Amjad Ali Khan, Director Unique Group Prof Waseem Anwar Chaudhry, and Manager Promotions, Sports and Admin Prof Riaz-ul-Haq, teachers and a large number of students also attended the function.



LAHORE: National flower Jasmine with rain drops as another spell of vigorous monsoon starts.

Basic facilities to masses top priority, says Minister

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Revenue Nawabzada Mansoor Ahmad Khan said that all basic facilities including education, health and infrastructure would be provided to end the backwardness of the district.

He said that every possible step would be taken for the welfare of the people across the district under the leadership of Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhary Pervaiz Elahi. He was talking to various delegations of notables at his residence on Thursday. The provincial minister said that the work would continue on the ongoing projects of construction and development in the district, and new projects for public welfare would also be started.

Revenue department was being developed on modern lines; rural revenue centers had been established at the mouza level, while the centres would be upgraded soon and all the facilities would be provided to save the people of remote areas from traveling to Muzaffargarh city, he added. He further said that the law and order situation had been very good throughout the district during Muharram because of peaceful people, Ulema, police and district administration. He congratulated the police and the district administration for maintaining peace throughout the district.

I try not to make records, but help my team record victories: Babar Azam

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Pakistan all formats skipper Babar Azam has said that his main target is not to make records but help his side strike victory in every given match.

Addressing a press conference here at the Gaddafi Stadium on Thursday, Babar Azam said: "I am grateful to Allah Almighty for the feats I have been earning one after another. My main aim always remains to register victories for my team and this also helps in creating and breaking records. Being a captain, I don't have this aim to improve or make new records but to lead my side in an exemplary way and contribute in such a way that may guide my team to score a victory in every game."

Regarding the selected team, Pakistan captain said best possible side was selected as there is not enough time to change the team now.

The record breaking batsman of modern day cricket said that players should believe in their



arch-rivals. "We always try to play it like a normal match, but yes, there is definitely different pressure on us," the skipper said. "There is pressure, but we tried to keep ourselves calm in the T20 World Cup and will definitely be aiming not to come under not pressure," he added.

Babar Azam and opening partner Mohammad Rizwan then returned to knock off the target with 13 balls to go and recorded Pakistan's maiden win against India in a World Cup in their 13th attempt and appearance.

Replying to a query about possible changes to the squad, the skipper said that the players have been picked keeping the "best" interest of the team in mind. "The selection committee has picked up the best squad and hopefully, it will be utilised in the best possible manner to produce good results. Hopefully, every individual will perform and play his due role that will surely help us give the best results against the Netherlands as well as in the T20 Asia Cup.

AJK to hold LG polls on Sept 28

MUZAFFARABAD: The Election Commission of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (EC-AJK) on Thursday announced schedule for local bodies elections after 30 years, according to which polling will be held on September 28.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Justice (Retd) Abdul Rasheed Sulehria accompanying with two other members of the commission announced the schedule in a press conference here.

According to the schedule, nomination papers will be filed 15th to 22nd of August before returning officers while scrutiny of the papers will be conducted on 23rd of August and list of validly nominated candidate will be published on the same day. Last date for filing appeals before the appellate tribunal against acceptance or rejection of nomination papers has been fixed 25th of August while hearing of appeals and decisions will be announced on 26th and 27th of August and last date for withdrawal of nomination papers has been fixed 29th of August before 2:00 pm after which final list of contesting candidates will be published on the same day.

Electoral symbols to contesting candidates will be allotted on August 30 and polling will be conducted on September 28 after one month time for electioneering.

Seasonal nullahs, streams flooded as torrential rains hit parts of AJK

Seasonal nullahs and streams be-

sides rivers flowing in Azad Jammu Kashmir, including in Mirpur division, were flooded after the upper reaches - besides various ground parts of the state lashed with first heavies rainfall since the wee hours on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the AJK State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) has warned people dwelling close to the seasonal nullahs and streams to refrain from visiting the flooded ponds, rivers and streams as the main spell of the torrential rains has begun in various parts of the State.

Mirpur district and outskirts lashed with much awaited cats and dogs rains that kicked off the advent of the monsoon rains which also hit various other parts of Azad Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday.

According to details, various parts of the AJK state lashed with torrential rains that played havoc in various areas including Mirpur district causing partial loss to the material - especially in the News City and various adjoining slums in various parts of this district, official sources confirmed.

Mirpur went in the grip of heavy rainfall since about the last midnight of day breaking the hot spell to a greater extent besides turning various low-lying areas into ponds and seasonal nullahs flooded with the rainy water. The rain continued intermittently till Wednesday afternoon. The rains partially affected the electricity, roads and telecommuni-

cation system in certain areas of the Mirpur division comprising Kotli, Mirpur and Bhimbher districts, according to the reports. There are also reports of uprooting of trees, hoardings and electricity poles at several places in the division and adjoining areas because of the wind storm which lasted for over an hour.

The torrential rains coupled with speedy wind storm hit various parts of the city partially affecting the daily life. The low-lying Mirpur-Kotli Highway and other city streets inundated with heavy rainy water that badly disturbed the vehicular traffic for several hours. The rainy water also entered the road-side buildings in thickly populated low lying residential sectors including Sangoat and other areas located close to this side of the Mangla lake.

Some incidents of land sliding were also reported in various sectors of the recently developed The New City in Mirpur, housing the Mangla dam affectees. It caused cracks in several residential buildings in the New City, dwellers said adding, the road traffic was also disturbed because of land sliding in various sectors on the model city.

The laborers engaged in the construction work as well as the kiln owners were also considered to be the most affected community because of the torrential rains in the area which were much expected to be continued in the ground as well as the upper reaches of AJK during the next 24 hours. —Agencies

Down with ego, rise over self

Parvez Jamil

Too very tough and rough and ask and so very difficult and daunting a task it is to even think of or ponder over the so very dire need of the hour calling "Down with ego, rise over self".

What a horrendous and magnanimous challenge to the grace and dignity of our leaders and statesmen, if any! As such, why, when, how and where trend-setters are so very rampantly stubborn on vanities, obstinate on values, procrustinate on promises, the net result nose-dive ominously minus zero amid vociferous alarms of sheer helplessness over the dim, dull, dreary, dampened, if not dark horizon.

How such so very leaderless and rudderless crises leave helpless and hapless masses and followers in a lurch with the bowl of the commoners begging to save them from soaring and roaring unbridled and uncontrollable inflation, poverty, hunger, disease, law and order situation indeed?! Ray of hope at the end of the tunnel may sense, sound and seem idealism, if not labeled as fantastic, sarcastic and



bombastic! Amid dreads and facts of the dark and stark reality of our bewitched and bewildered political scenario and with none and nothing to lose, how about eulogizing!

Please do imagine, eulogize, fantasize, with nothing and none to risk, we, over and above back-biting, infighting, leg-pulling, mud-slinging, nationwide to worldwide, natural one family of sharing and caring, comprising grandparents, parents, children and grandchildren. Nothing like one Allah-made, original and natural bond and affinity, nationwide and world-wide, head of family, symbol and model of guidance and help for the family before insights and instincts of craftiness and cunningness surface and nurture to corruption and disruption. Whichever the utopia and whatever the idealism, one thing is for sure, the adolescent side of a leader or statesman desperately needs to grow into emotional maturity, penetrative thinking and seriousness of purpose. If status quo is not changed from the child-mindset of a would-be leader followers like today go astray, hoodwinked and exploited to untold miseries, agonies and sufferings amid vociferous alarms of helplessness.

The writer contributes to print and electronic media on national and international affairs.