

Minimum 23:°C
Maximum 29:°C
Sunset 05:59pm
Sunrise 05:54am
(Tomorrow)

LAHORE

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Saturday, September 24, 2022



FAJAR.....	04:41 AM
ZOHAR.....	11:55 PM
ASR.....	4:14 PM
MAGRIB.....	05:57 PM
ISHA.....	04:18 PM

Quick Read

LDA will be made public service dept in true sense: Aslam

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Senior Provincial Minister Mian Aslam Iqbal late Thursday paid a surprise visit to the LDA office and reviewed the grievance redressal process of the people at the Facilitation Centre. The senior provincial minister himself heard the problems of the citizens and issued orders to the relevant authorities on the spot to solve some of the problems. Complainants thanked Senior Provincial Minister Mian Aslam Iqbal for speedy redressal of people's grievances.

Senior Provincial Minister Mian Aslam Iqbal while instructing the officers of LDA said that the officers of the organisation should be proactive to resolve the grievances of the people. He said that LDA will be made a public service department in the true sense and the purpose of my sudden visits is to provide immediate relief to the people. Issues related to LDA's own schemes are improving day by day. Grievances related to private housing schemes will also be redressed soon, he added. The senior provincial minister said that the officer who comes to the office late or obstructs the legitimate work of the people, action will be taken against them.

PHA plants 600 fruity saplings in Iqbal Park

LAHORE: The Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) planted more than 600 fruity trees and saplings at Greater Iqbal Park under its ongoing 'Shining and Green Lahore' campaign, here on Friday.

As many as 600 saplings of cassia, 20 saplings of teak and 20 saplings of cordia were planted during the plantation activity. PHA Director General Zeeshan Javed said that joint efforts were needed to cope with environmental challenges as none can handle the situation, adding that everyone should play its due role and plant maximum saplings and trees in their premises. —APP

Flood victims are passing through very difficult times: Governor

Bright future of country is related to education, says Baligh

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A delegation of students of a school run by a welfare organisation called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore today. Governor Punjab welcomed the students representing the four provinces to the Governor House.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the bright future of the country is related to education. He stated that Pakistan Muslim League-N has always prioritised the education sector. Addressing the students, he said that you are lucky to have the opportunity to get education. Governor Punjab asked the student to concentrate on their studies and inculcate the habit of book reading. He asked the students to develop high moral values in themselves. Governor Punjab said that the purpose

of acquiring knowledge is to serve humanity. Talking about the situation caused by the flash floods, Governor Punjab said that the flood victims are passing through very difficult times. He said that the floods have also affected hundreds of schools and the education of millions of children has been interrupted. Governor Punjab said that this is time to stand with our flood affected brothers and sisters. He told the students that on this occasion even small help is very important and they should contribute in helping the flood affected. Meanwhile, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman in his message on the occasion of World Sign Day said that it is a day to show solidarity with the hearing and speech impaired persons.

Governor donates personal books to library
Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman on Thursday donated all personal



books, received as gifts, to the historic Governor's House library. The books include poetry collections, fiction, novels and religious books especially children literature and books on climate change provided by Idara-e-Taleem-Aghai and others.

Balighur Rehman believes the staff of the Governor's House, employees and students of the school should benefit from the books.

The Governor Punjab has provided 60 gifted books to the historical library of Governor House Punjab that are kept there along



LAHORE: Commuters make their way during heavy rain. —Online

PU DGS organises seminar



By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab University Department of Gender Studies (DGS) on Friday organised a seminar on 'Gender Violence: Causes and Problems'. On this occasion, Chairperson DGS Prof Dr Raa'na Malik, Director Women Protection Authority Irshad Waheed, Muhammad Ali Mazari from Ministry of Human Rights, Director of Mumkin Alliance Umbreen Fatima, analyst Salman Abid, faculty members and students participated.

In her address, Dr Raa'na Malik said that women play a fundamental role in the development of the country and ending sexual violence is the need of the hour. He thanked the speakers for providing excellent information. Umbreen Fatima shed light on Mumkin Alliance's work on legislation on sexual violence while Irshad Waheed briefed about the aims and objectives of the Women Protection Authority.

PPMJ of PGMI gets HEC recognition

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Post-Graduate Medical Institute's Online Medical Journal (PPMJ) got recognition from the Higher Education Commission. This Medical Journal proved to be very helpful in promoting the educational and research activities of young doctors.

Principal Prof. Dr. Muhammad Al-freel Zafar says that the Higher Education Commission has recognized the importance and usefulness of PGMI's online medical magazine and attaching it with the Commission, it is an honor for PGMI and its faculty members. Prof. Al Freed Zafar said that the medical journal published on the platform of PGMI, the research papers of professors and health professionals which are the essence of their long professional life are included in the magazine which is on this website ppmj.org.pk are easily available.

A large number of young doctors from all over the world are benefiting from this facility.

Food crisis looming, as country already facing 2.6m wheat crunch before floods: PIAF

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Pakistan Industrial & Traders Associations Front (PIAF) Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has warned that a food security crisis is looming, as the deadly floods have damaged rice, cotton and vegetables crops widely, besides the threat of wheat planting in the coming months, asking the government to mobilise resources for immediate response in this regard.

PIAF Chairman Faheem Ur Rehman Saigol observed that a food crisis could be imminent followed by the floods, which have caused widespread devastation, calling the government to improve governance, besides adopting austerity measures to control losses.

He said that global prices of kitchen staples soared following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, driving food inflation to a record. The catastrophic flood, which is estimated to

cost the economy \$30-40 billion, is another hit to Pakistan that's already battling an economic crisis.

He said that the agricultural sector is in turmoil because the cotton crop and vegetables are completely wiped out in many key areas.

Faheem Saigol said that our country, one of the most vulnerable globally to climate change, has seen the highest rainfall in at least three decades. About a third of the country is currently flooded. As much as half of cotton crop has been damaged by torrential rains of Pakistan—the fifth-largest cotton producer, accounting for five percent of global output. The damage could further shrink the world's cotton supply.

The PIAF Chairman said that food costs have jumped in the country, with tomatoes surging five times and onions tripling since last month and it is good that steps are being taken to import vegetables and other items from Iran and Afghanistan. He said that the

World Food Program is working to expand food assistance, aiming to reach about half a million people in the badly-hit provinces of Balochistan and Sindh. However, distributions are hampered as floodwaters are restricting access across the country, as more than 100 bridges and about 3,000 kilometers of roads have been damaged or destroyed, almost 800,000 farm animals have perished, and two million acres of crops and orchards have been hit.

Pakistan already has one of the fastest inflation rates in the region, with consumer price gains rising to a 14-year high of almost 27 percent. Sowing next year's wheat crop, which starts in October, will be another challenge, as the country was facing a wheat shortage of about 2.6 million tons even before the floods.

He asked the government to identify priority needs, including food security, agriculture and livestock, health, water, sanitation, hy-

giene, shelter, and nonfood items.

The country's agricultural sector has been hit the hardest with the finance ministry also recently warning that production of major crops would be affected due to the floods. He said 100 percent of the cotton crop in Sindh, which accounts for 30 percent of the crop in Pakistan, has been destroyed, which amounts to losses of at least \$1 billion, which will cascade through the economy, he said.

He said it might take five years to rebuild and rehabilitate the flood-hit areas, which might face an acute challenge of food shortage.

He said that the whole business community stands with the people of Pakistan during these difficult times, as we are committed to working with the government and other development partners to help Pakistan overcome the devastating impact of this natural disaster and provide immediate relief to affected families.

NESPAK ranked on US-based ENR Magazine top global firms list

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: National Engineering Services Pakistan (NESPAK), under the leadership of Managing Director Dr. Tahir Masood, has been ranked for the fourth consecutive year on ENR (Engineering News-Record) Magazine Top International/Global Construction Management/Program Management Firms list, published as part of the ENR Top International/Global Contractors feature in the August 2022 issue of ENR, a US-based ranking magazine.

The ranking has been published in the latest issue of the magazine and NESPAK has been ranked 13 this year among the top 20 Non-US firms in total global construction management and program management.

National Engineering Services Pakistan was envisioned by its founders as an organisation free from foreign

dependence and capable of delivering the highest quality in the field of engineering consultancy. It was envisaged as an institution which had to lead the consultancy market of Pakistan and compete abroad with excellence.

Time has proved that National Engineering Services Pakistan has succeeded in fulfilling its objectives to a large extent owing to the unprecedented struggle offered by its professional brigade who left no stone unturned to achieve their stated aims. At present, National Engineering Services Pakistan is not only playing a lead role in the consultancy services for the construction of two mega hydropower projects i.e., Mohmand Dam and Diamer Basha Dam Projects. Till to date, National Engineering Services Pakistan has provided consultancy services in 39 countries and has proved itself as an international player in the engineering consultancy world.



LAHORE: Activists of Aafia Movement hold a protest for release Dr. Aafia Siddiqui outside the Lahore Press Club. —Online