

Third anniversary of first un-insarag certified rescue team in South Asia

Ms Deeba Shahnaz Akhter



The 31st October 2019 was the day, when Winston Chang from United Nations (UN) INSARAG Secretariat made the official announcement at the Governor House that Today "Pakistan Rescue Team stands tall amongst the world elite as officially United Nations Classified Urban Search & Rescue Team", this was a milestone achievement as International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) is the official certifying body of the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) for International Search & Rescue Teams. Becoming part of the Global Network in the field of disaster response is a milestone achievement for the country and after this classification, Pakistan Rescue Team of Emergency Services Academy Rescue 1122 Lahore Pakistan is certified by UN-INSARAG to conduct search and rescue operations anywhere in the world. Congratulations to all for this International achievement.

It is further added that after this achievement Pakistan Rescue Team of Emergency Services Academy (Rescue 1122) Lahore has also become the first UN-INSARAG Certified Team in South Asia. PRT has become a great honor for Pakistan, the professional capacity of the country for training of other countries in the country and South Asia region and international disaster response. Today on 31st October Pakistan Rescue Team has completed three years of its UN certification and celebrating its 3rd anniversary.

On this special day we would like to recall Final Evolution of the Rescue Team that was carried out by a team of

United Nations International Classifiers from Austria, England, Germany, Switzerland, Morocco, Jordan, and United Nations – INSARAG Secretariat in Geneva. The team of classifiers included Mr Peter Goxharaj, Christian Resch, Thomas Nesensohn, Amjad Al-Huniti, Soufian Samghouli, Winston Chang Wei Shen, Robert John Norman, and Sean Moore came to Lahore from 28th to 31st October 2019, evaluated different phases from documentations review to the end of the exercise during a 36 hours Simulation Exercise.

The process of Final 36 hrs Evaluation for INSARAG External Classification (IEC) was a complete simulation exercise about the procedure from Team preparation to travel and deployment in another country and conduct of search and rescue operation in the affected country.

All steps from disaster alert, team activation, pre-deployment process including team registration, medical screening, logistic issuance, and team briefing, mobilization, and custom and immigration check of the Team to reach the affected country, coordination meetings with local authorities, set up of Reception/Departure Center to facilitate all teams coming for help the affected country, Establishment of Base of Operation (BoO) to start the operation, Wide Area Assessment/ Search and started Rescue Operation including concrete cutting, breaching, horizontal approach rescue, crane opera-

tion, field amputation, rope rescue extraction from confined space, vertical shoring, Debriefing and Demobilization of the Team were performed as per international guidelines.

The selected member of the team also performed the role of Urban Search and Rescue Coordination Cell (UCC) as United Nations members to centrally deploy the different teams coming for assistance. During all these functions different injects were given by Exercise Control to check the team professionalism and understanding of the assignments as per INSARAG guidelines. All members were under observation.

The collective and tireless efforts of the Team Commander Dr. Rizwan Naseer, Team Leader Dr. Farhan Khalid, Exercise Controllers, all squad leaders, and team members globally raised the flag of Pakistan after international achievement Pakistan Rescue Team highly acknowledges and appreciates the selfless services of Mr. Edward G Pearn first Team mentor from England and the efforts of all international experts from different countries for capacity building of Team. The support of Government of the Pakistan, Punjab, NDMA Pakistan, UN-OCHA PAKISTAN, UN-OCHA INSARAG Secretariat, UNDSS, SDC, and all concerned organizations is also highly acknowledged. The team is celebrating the 3rd Anniversary with another initiative of the National Accreditation Program to establish 36 Light Search and Rescue Team as per UN-INSARAG standards. Happy 3rd Anniversary to Pakistan Rescue Team and best wishes for the mission to save more lives with professional excellence.

The writer is a member of



LAHORE: A labourer carries shoe boxes on hand-cart on his way to a road. —Online

267 dengue cases reported in Punjab

— All suspected cases of dengue virus kept in surveillance and their tests being conducted

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Another 267 people fell victim to dengue virus in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

According to the health department, a total of 14,453 dengue cases were reported during the current year while 18 people lost their lives and 1125 patients were

under treatment in different hospitals of the province. Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare department reported 110 cases in Lahore, 55 in Rawalpindi, 26 in Gujranwala, 27 in Multan, 6 in Kasur, 8 in Faisalabad, 8 in Sheikhupura, 3 in Sialkot, 2 in Sahiwal, 2 in Bahawalnagar, 01 in Nankana Sahib, 01 in Bahawalpur, 01 in Mandi Bahauddin, 01 in Chin-

iot, 01 in Khushab, 02 in Dera Ghazi Khan, 02 in Chakwal, 02 in Hafizabad, 02 in Attock, 03 in Okara and 4 cases in Sargodha during the last 24 hours.

All the suspected cases of dengue virus have been kept in surveillance and their tests were being conducted. The anti-dengue squad destroyed dengue larvae at 1151 places in the province during continuous daily based surveillance.

The anti-dengue squad conducted surveillance at 392,115 indoor and 102,152 outdoor places to detect dengue larvae during the last 24 hours.

The P&SHD urged the people to adopt precautionary measures and keep their environment clean and dry to protect themselves from dengue.

Cabinet's Standing Committee reviews law and order situation in province

Cabinet's Standing Committee on Law and Order (SCLO) in its meeting reviewed the overall law and order situation in the province, particularly the security arrangements for PTI's on-going long march.

The meeting held at the Civil Secretariat was presided over by Provincial Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Environmental Protection and Cooperatives Mohammad Basharat Raja through a video link from Rawalpindi. Chief Secretary, Inspector General Punjab Police, CCPO Lahore, concerned Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and other officers also attended.

Chairman Committee

Muhammad Basharat Raja said that there should be no lapse in security measures for the long march of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). "On directions from Chief Minister Punjab Ch Pervez Elahi the meeting of SCLO would be convened every day until the conclusion of long march", he told.

He said that the long march will pass through the districts of Lahore, Sheikhupura, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Gujrat, Wazirabad, Jhelum and Rawalpindi. "Police and administrative officers of relevant districts should keep close liaison for better results", said the chair. Raja said that 30,000 police officers and officials have been deployed for the security of the long march.

Saidpur village: A major tourist destination in Islamabad

Ghaania Usman

Saidpur Village is a major tourist destination located in Islamabad. It hosts a wide array of religious and cultural heritage. The area was inhabited by Muslims, Hindus, and Sikhs before 1947. The village land was acquired by the Capital Development Authority (CDA) in the late '70s. The major historical buildings on site are a Mandir, a Sikh temple, and a Dharamshala. During 2006-2008, the village went through a major renovation, with the aim of making Saidpur a "Model Tourist Village". It is important to appreciate that this renovation played a major role in developing Saidpur village. It is now a highly popular tourist spot that has received visits from many officials such as the Prime Minister, Army Chief, and various other delegates and foreign diplomats.

In recent years, there is not sufficient attention being given to tourist spots that hold great significance. Sites that hold religious importance for minority groups often suffer from a lack of correct resources or enough funds and recognition from the government. Saidpur Village is one of these sites. The area has not been properly restored for a while and remains poverty-ridden where locals lack access to jobs.

The natural beauty of Saidpur village serves as a major source of attraction for tourists. The site is situated on the slope of Margalla hills in the midst of a lot of greenery. Due to the rapid increase in the population of the area, this natural beauty is slowly being lost. Large-scale deforestation is being carried out to meet the energy needs of the increasing population. As a result, air pollution has increased and the quality of life has declined. This environmental harm has caused the natural appeal of the area for tourists to be damaged. The renovation of Saidpur Village in 2006-2008 played a significant role in making it a highly visited tourist destination. However, since then the village has not been through any renovation or restoration. The majority of the popu-

lation lacks access to basic utilities such as electricity, water, and gas. Such utilities remain restricted to only a percentage of the population. Other infrastructural problems include a lack of furniture to accommodate old or immobilized people. Pottery shops are a major source of attraction and an integral part of the local culture. Many people used to make earnings through local arts and crafts shops. Some of this pottery is from pre-partition times and holds great historical importance. These shops have been pushed far away from the tourist attractions. Here, they lack a sufficient amount of space to display pottery items such as mechanical clay trains and fountains. Shop owners need more exposed spaces that are accessible to tourists. Saidpur village was a place of fusion of three different cultures. Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs lived together in the area which is reflected in the living styles of the people. Even now, Saidpur village receives a diverse range of tourists. However, there is a lack of facilities to accommodate Hindu and Sikh tourists, despite the major attractions being specific to their culture. Tour guides do not have enough information on the religious context of these sites. They also do not have access to scriptures that might be relevant to the area. There is a language barrier between the tourists and tour guides.

To deal with these issues, local officials have asked for more government support and management. This is required to bring the cultural, religious, and historical significance of Saidpur Village to the forefront. Through investing in higher advertisements to increase awareness, the site will be able to receive even more tourists than it already does, thus bringing greater returns. Furthermore, there is a large bakra mandi outside the entrance of the village, situated next to a primary school. This has been constructed illegally without any permits. According to locals, the mandi gives a bad impression of the village to tourists and international delegations. Waste is dumped right next to the entrance of

the area which causes a putrid smell to develop. This encroachment problem should be looked into and it must be ensured that the locals who have been residing in this area before the creation of Islamabad are accommodated. Locals recommend the imposition of stronger fines and stricter government enforcement of the law. Forestation is required to preserve the natural beauty of the area. Systems for protecting newly planted trees and preventing deforestation are also necessary. To deal with encroachment and the resulting pollution, there should be great government management and stronger fines for those who cut down trees or seize land from surrounding areas of the village. In regard to infrastructural issues, there is a dire need to ensure the provision of basic utilities.

Sewage and sanitation systems need to be improved and developed. Pottery shops and arts and crafts shops should be maintained and given more open exposed spaces. More funding also needs to be given for the maintenance of the historical sites. For more religious tolerance and inclusion, the training of local officials is necessary to allow better accommodation for tourists from different religious and cultural backgrounds. Not only should the existing tour guides be properly informed, but individuals who belong to the relevant religions should be appointed as tour guides.

Alongside this, it is required for the government to aid more towards supporting the locals that live in this area. There is a need for ensuring a higher standard of living and stable income for households. The rapidly increasing population is proving to create immense overcrowding. Next to this, since the youth of this village is very well-educated and literate, the government should look into providing employment for them. Those with arts and crafts or pottery shops should also be looked after to stabilize their income and also to create greater appeal for tourists.

The writer is a freelance contributor

Man wanted in double murder arrested

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested a man wanted in double murder case in the jurisdiction of Rawat Police station, informed police spokesman here on Saturday. During course of action, police held accused named Irfan involved in double murder case occurred in Rawat. The accused along with other accomplices had killed Ahmed Nawaz and Nauman due to old enmity.

After committing the crime, the accused fled from the scene.

The case was registered on the complaint of the brother of the deceased Ahmed Nawaz. Police said, the accused partner Hanif has already been arrested and challaned in the case. SP Saddar appreciated police team for arresting the wanted accused adding that the accused will be challaned with concrete evidence and punished according to law. —APP

1,200 kites seized

SIALKOT: Police on Saturday seized 1200 kites and other paraphernalia from five people at Akbarabad Chowk near vegetable market.

A team of Kotwali police intercepted Muhammad Javed at Akbarabad Chowk and seized kites, twine and other material from his possession. On his lead, the police raided at a factory and arrested 4 people including the owner of factory and recovered kites and other ma-

Punjab govt spending billions of rupees in health sector

By Mansab Ali Bhatti Rajpoot

KASUR: A medical rap held doctors hostage at Rural Health Center Allahabad in the outskirts of Kasur on Saturday.

It has been said that the Punjab government is spending billions of rupees in the name of health, but its benefits are not reaching the public, which is a great tragedy.

On the last day, a local senior journalist agreed to go to the hospital. Instead of checking the patients, a well-known hotel in Lahore was enjoying the salt'n pepper meal in the closed room, which was packed with medical rap food while the patient was waiting for a helpless doctor. The patients said that both the hospital's X-ray machine and the ECG machine are bad for a long time and there is no facility for any kind of operation in the hospital.

According to the sources, in the presence of the Nursing staff in the hospital, the sweeper inject the patients instead of giving duty to the duty doctor at night, instead of giving duty to the duty doctor, the senior journalist said that a few days ago, my sister illness was damaged and RHC was brought to Allahabad at



two o'clock in the night, there was no doctor, but you had to do a private check. Local citizens have demanded Deputy Commissioner, Chief Executive Officer and District Officer health that despite spending billions of rupees, do not give health facilities to the public, then the government hospital should be closed.

District administration puts ban on crop residue

District administration district Kasur paddy (Munji) rice announces ban on crop residue, says that burning the residue in the fields is likely to increase smog, which is why the residue will be sentenced to fifty thousand rupees fine and two years imprisonment.

According to the details, paddy (Monji) crop harvesting is continuing in Kasur district as well as in Kasur, smoke rising after harvesting is likely to in-

crease, and in view of this, the district administration has informed the farmers that if anyone fires the remains of paddy (Monji), a case will be filed against him and can face imprisonment of up to fifty thousand rupees fines and two years in this regard.

Dengue squad completely fails in Kasur

Dengue squad has been completely disabled in Kasur, while the nation's million rupees monthly spending squad could not spray mosquitoes for several months, on the other hand, flights like dengue mosquitoes are on the rise throughout the city.

Mosquitoes have not been sprayed for a long time, due to which the breeding of mosquitoes is growing very fast, especially dengue mosquitoes are getting abundant and dengue mosquitoes are being seen in Kasur city and nearby.

Dengue squad Kasur

Euro Village Festival to boost people to people contacts: Amir Muqam

ISLAMABAD: The Advisor to Prime Minister for Political, Public Affairs, National Heritage & Culture Engr Amir Muqam on Saturday termed the Euro Village Festival at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) as an effort to not only boost Pakistan's relations with European Union but also boost people to people contacts

The festival has been organized after 3 years post-Covid 19. Today marks the 60th year of EU-Pak partnership since it began in 1962. EU and Pakistan are two friends that enjoy long term relationship based on trust, cooperation and common agenda of peace and good of mankind, he said while addressing the participants in the festival.

PM's aide said culture is a great tool in emerging trends of economy and peace building measures. We expect that more displays of the ties between partners shall be brought forth in future. The EU's role has always been found that of a partner in dialogue, allowing Pakistan to find its way and devise its own formula for democratic consolidation.

The Advisor assured that EU that Pakistan is a vibrant democracy with a strong commitment to human rights where youth, women and civil society are key players. Pakistanis are a nation that is most resilient and grateful to its supporters. Under the current leadership of Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Pakistan, Prime Minister of Pakistan will honor its commitments with its people and international partners helping in promoting real democracy. —APP

Over 100 lawyers donate blood at Pakistan Sweet Home donation camp

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Sweet Home Blood Bank and Zamrad Khan on Saturday organised a blood donation camp in District Bar Rawalpindi with an aim to save innocent lives.

More than 100 lawyer's actively participated in the great cause of saving innocent lives by donating their blood. On the occasion, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pakistan Sweet Home Zamrad Khan, Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Captain (R) Shoaib Ali along with Additional Deputy Commissioner Abdullah Mehmood visited the blood camp and encouraged the lawyers who donated blood.

Speaking on the occasion, Zamard Khan said that he was grateful to the District Bar Rawalpindi, which has honored him with immense response, as a large number of lawyers came to donate their blood on his call.

"I appeal to all judges and other lawyers to support me in this noble cause to serve humanity." He quoted that saving one life was equal to saving all humanity. Khan also paid tribute to the lawyers community adding that this showed the commitment and ample proof of love for humanity. "Donating blood is a great perpetual charity and an act of worship. We will not leave innocent children fighting with thalassaemia, hemophilia and blood cancer alone and will continue our mission till the last breath." "If I have to travel all over Pakistan for these children, I will go from city to city and collect blood donations for them," he remarked.

Pakistan Sweet Home is not only serving the lives of thousands of orphans but also the hope of millions of innocent children who are constantly in dire need of blood donations. —APP