

Filtration plants made functional

From Our Staff Correspondent

MINCHINABAD: The Bahawalpur administration has re-functionalized seven filtration plants to provide clean drinking water to the locals.

This action has been taken in compliance with the own-motion notice of Ombudsman Punjab Maj (r) Azam Suleman Khan over a news item about the public problems after the closure of the filtration plant in the Head Pan-nad area. In a statement issued on Wednesday, the spokesman reported that the police department has punished T/SI Hasan Ejaz with confiscation of two years of service for misuse of authority.

This action has been taken on the complaint of one Altaf Ahmad of Multan to the Office of the Ombudsman Punjab. Meanwhile, the spokesman noted that the Narowal administration has collected Rs.27,15,320 as an approval plan and commercialization fees from private under-construction hospitals along with initiation of legal action. This action has been taken on the application of Qadeer Ahmad who approached the ombudsman office for the same.

The primary & secondary healthcare dept issued a warning to Admin Officer Muhammad Waqas of the DHQ hospital Nankana Sahib while one-year increments of ward servant/ record keepers Ali Abid and Niaz Ahmad have been stopped under Peeda Act, 2006. This action has been taken on the complaint of Muhammad Usman of Nankana Sahib district, the spokesman added. Separately, as a result of the departmental action on the complaint of Muhammad Yunis of Kasur who approached the ombudsman office to redress his grievance, one year increment of the accused Muhammad Shahzad SCO has been stopped along with the punishment of not being posted in Kasur district for one year, while the Assistant Director Qaiser Shafiq has been warned to be cautious, concluded the spokesman.

IGP takes notice of firing at PTI chief

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Faisal Shahkar on Thursday took notice of firing incident in which Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan and other party leaders got injured in Wazirabad.

The IGP sought a report from Regional Police Officer (RPO) Gujrat and directed the DPO Gujrat to reach the spot immediately.

He ordered for investigating the incident from various aspects and bring the culprits involved in the incident to the justice.



LAHORE: Students read books at a book stall during Shair-e-Mashriq Allama Muhammad Iqbal books exhibition on the eve of Iqbal Day celebration ceremony. —Online

Coca-Cola Company brings global Fuzetea iced-tea brand to Pakistan



LAHORE: The Coca-Cola Company has launched the iced-tea category in Pakistan with its billion-dollar ready-to-drink (RTD) brand, Fuzetea. This launch marks a brand-new addition to the diverse Coca-Cola portfolio in Pakistan and underlines the company's commitment to further investing in the country.

Fuzetea is a unique fusion of tea extracts and fruit flavors which delivers a fresh, indulging, contemporary taste, offering a refreshing alternative within the beverage category. The tea extract in Fuzetea comes from 100% sustainably sourced tea leaves. Launched in 2012, Fuzetea saw accelerated growth to billion-dollar status in less than three years and is currently available in 89 countries worldwide.

255 cases of dengue fever reported in Punjab

— Total of 15,561 cases of dengue virus reported so far during current year while 22 people died of virus and 967 patients are under treatment

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: About 255 cases of dengue virus were reported in Punjab on Thursday while no death was observed.

According to the health department, a total of 15,561 cases of the dengue virus have been reported so far during the current year while 22 people died of the virus and 967 patients are under treatment in different hospitals of the province. The Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department reported 107 cases of dengue in Lahore, 38 in Rawalpindi, 25 in Gujranwala, 38 in Multan, five in Kasur, 14 in Faisalabad, eight in Sheikhupura, two each in Sialkot, Khanewal, Gujrat, Pakpattan, Sahiwal, Muzaffargarh, Sargodha, one each in Dera Ghazi Khan, Chakwal, Narowal, Okara, Rahim Yar Khan and Toba Tek Singh. An anti-dengue squad under the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department eliminated dengue larvae at 1,163 places in the province during daily based surveillance. The squad

Secretary orders arrangements for wheat cultivation on 16.5m acres

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Agriculture Secretary Ahmad Aziz Tarar has directed the relevant authorities to utilise all resources for ensuring wheat cultivation on 16.5 million acres of land in Punjab during the ongoing month.

He presided over an online meeting of directors and deputy directors of the Agriculture Extension Wing on Thursday. Meeting also reviewed the wheat cultivation situation. The meeting was told that 64 per cent wheat cultivation in rain-fed areas had been completed and the process of wheat cultivation in irrigated areas was in progress. The secretary said there was need to accelerate the process of wheat cultivation in paddy areas so that timely cultivation of wheat could be completed on maximum area in Punjab. He said that the field staff of the Agriculture Extension should perform their duties to ensure timely cultivation of wheat and also guide farmers in every possible way. The agriculture secretary said that farmers in flood-affected areas were being provided free seeds of selected varieties of wheat, while in other areas, 0.9 million bags of certified seeds of selected varieties were being provided at Rs 1,200 per bag besides provision of subsidy on herbicides. Apart from this, the support price of wheat had been increased to Rs 3,000 per 40 kg before the sowing of wheat so that the cultivation of wheat could be made profitable for the farmers, he added. The secretary said that wheat production competitions should be organised at provincial, division and tehsil levels this year to encourage farmers for wheat cultivation. Punjab Task Force Additional Secretary Muhammad Shabbir Ahmad Khan, Agriculture Extension DG Dr Anjum Ali, Crop Reporting DG Abdul Qayyum, Agriculture Information Director Muhammad Rafiq Akhtar participated in the meeting while all directors.

conducted surveillance at 401,999 indoor and 116,281 outdoor places to detect dengue larvae. The health department urged people to adopt precautionary measures and keep their environment clean and dry to protect themselves from dengue.



LAHORE: A vendor arranges water chestnut on his pushcart to attract customers for selling purpose.

VIS Credit Rating Company assigns Initial Entity Rating to SNGPL

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: VIS Credit Rating Company Ltd Assigns Initial Entity Rating to SNGPL. VIS Credit Rating Company Ltd has issued a press release today regarding assigning of credit rating to SNGPL. Long term and short-term credit rating has been enhanced from AA- and A1 to AA+ and A1+ respectively. The improvement in credit rating is indicative of improvement in financial health and operations of the Company.

Our Country is faced with unprecedented economic challenges and financial constraints however the Company has been able to achieve this important milestone due to the untiring effort of the Board of Directors.

OPC chief flays attack on Imran

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Overseas Pakistanis Commission (OPC) Punjab Vice-Chairperson Tariq Mehmood-ul-Hasan strongly condemned the murderous attack on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan and said that there should be an immediate inquiry into the incident.

He said that Pakistanis living abroad and the entire nation were praying for recovery of Imran Khan and others injured in the attack.

Punjab govt taking all possible measures to protect children from polio

By Rizwan Asghar

KASUR: Under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Maham Asif Malik, a meeting regarding anti-polio campaign and dengue prevention was held in DC Committee Room yesterday. CEO Health Dr. Azhar Abbas Naqvi, Assistant Commissioner UT Tahrim Rana, Secretary DRTA Hafiz Usman Ahmed, MSDHQ Dr. Laeeq Chaudhry, District Manager PHFMC Shakeel Ahmed Cheema, Entomologist Muhammad Khurram were present in the meeting. Ibrahim, District Population Welfare Officer Chaudhry Israr Anjum, DO Industries Muhammad Shafiq, Assistant Director Fisheries Maher Mouz Aslam, DHO Dr Hafeezur Rahman, PMA President Dr Muhammad Khalid, WHO Representative, Focal Person Polio Muhammad Ramzan and other officers participated. The meeting was held in the briefing that the anti-polio campaign is being held in Kasur district from 21 to 25 November 2022, in which a total of 7 lakh 6 thousand 734 children under five years of age have been set as a target to



be vaccinated against polio. For which 578 area in-charges, 3025 mobile teams, 131 faxed teams, 74 transit teams have been formed in 135 union councils. Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue said that the Punjab government is taking all possible measures to protect children from polio and the whole nation is united against polio for future generations.

Martyrdom of senior journalist Arshad Sharif an irreparable loss

Kasur Tehreek-e-Insaf leader of Kasur district and hopeful National Assembly NA131 Kasur Haji Maqsood Sabir Ansari has said that the martyrdom of senior journalist and well-known anchor person Arshad Sharif is an irreparable loss for the entire nation. Suppressing is the function of Yazidism. He said that Arshad Sharif was a very sincere, loyal and humanitarian journalist, the irreparable damage caused to journalism by his martyrdom can never be recovered. Arshad Sharif

was a great journalist who went to the borders of Pakistan and organized programs without caring about his life.

Grant of Rs5 lakh issued to widow

On the orders of provincial ombudsman Punjab, a death grant of five lakh rupees has been issued to the widow by the Department of Workers Welfare Funds.

According to details, Salma Bibi, widow of Muhammad Habib Sukna Badhoki, Tehsil Chunion, applied in the office of the provincial ombudsman that I submitted the application for death grant to the Welfare Workers Board Lahore on 20 December 2019 with all the necessary documents, but I was not given the death grant by the department was not paid, on which the provincial ombudsman took action and ordered the concerned department to pay the death grant as soon as possible. After the approval of the authority, Director Labor Welfare Lahore South has released five lakh rupees to the

Impact of social media

Khudadad Usman Virk

It is almost impossible to live nowadays without a video being recorded in your vicinity that is about to be shared online, a tweet going out to represent the various mood swings we go through or even a protest being organized through the use of hashtags and circulation of posts. Social media is a powerful tool that can either make

or break you. Humans are still granted the novelty of choice. The use of social media depends entirely on you and your interpretation of its importance in your life. 100 years ago today nobody could have predicted that you could make a living staying at home and the most intensive task of the day would probably be removing the blanket from your warm feet. Comfort is a luxury that social media has granted us through its

various means of money making ventures should you choose to indulge in it. Small business owners who do not yet own their own outlet, have found success by promoting their product through social media alone. It helps them reach their target audience, through smart inbuilt software that directs the consumer towards something that they might be interested in, through their recent search history on the app and their liked posts.

Serious companies, organizations and sports teams have their own dedicated social media teams responsible for promoting their brand towards a global audience as the potential of revenue is unlimited. You are bound to buy a product that you are repeatedly shown on your feed and it is an important market strat-

egy for aspiring businesses.

The sudden surge of the use of social media brought with it an increase of exposure on current affairs and local news. This enabled those voices to be heard that were suppressed, caged and hidden in the face of tyranny. Social media has become a platform of change and innovation, responsible for helping millions in need. Recently the floods in Pakistan received global support through Instagram, Facebook and Twitter, where people were able to donate money, food, clothing and the basic necessities that we take for granted all by the single click of a button.

Representation for such communities is vital as it broadens your horizons and gives you a perspective that humbles you. There is an opportunity provided to get to know new people and be able to network with them, this was witnessed during the global pandemic when we are well caged inside our own homes but connected through these social media platforms. Excess of something is always dangerous and harmful, likewise as the generation is progressing, people especially the youth are spending way too much time staring at a screen. Either it is surfing the web, posting pictures on multiple social media platforms or just mindlessly scrolling. Time is of the essence and the constant use of social media takes up hours of one's day. This takes away the time a student could be productive in and be a benefactor to his society. The usage of Social media without any regulation leads to depression and anxiety by showing unrealistic expectations of life which ultimately is the major factor contributing to mental health issues. What we see is really not true but the mind can only believe what

the eyes see. Models and influencers set unrealistic expectations on a young mind and unconsciously develop a need to change the way they look, sound or feel. As much as social media is a contributor towards social awareness and change, it is as dangerous a tool for racists, abusers and malevolent people to project their hate towards someone vulnerable. Athletes of color are widely criticized when they perform below par but the criticism is aimed at their background rather than their sporting prowess.

Athletes such as Marcus Rashford, Jadon Sancho and Bukayo Saka are victims of such horrid abuse. Their comments section was filled with racist remarks and hashtags on Twitter were trending with each tweet in 2 hurling abuse at them and their race. Lack of censorship and poor regulation leads to such instances and authorities should be more vigilant as these comments invariably affect the mental state of the victim. Time and balance are the two most difficult things to have control over, yet they are both the things that we do control." Catherine Pulsifer

In life balance is essential and we must be mindful of the time we spend staring at social media. Preventive measures should be exercised, such as time limits on your apps to limit the time you spend staring at social media. Being aware of the intent you have on spending that time on social media is vital as it determines whether the time spent was productive or not. All in all, Social Media platforms have positive and negative effects but both the factors are dependent on one's usage.

The writer is a freelance contributor

Pakistan keep slim World Cup hopes alive with South Africa win

LAHORE: Pakistan kept their slim Twenty20 World Cup hopes alive with a 33-run win over South Africa in a dramatic rain-affected match at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Thursday. South Africa, who are still on course for the semi-finals, came out blazing after a rain delay saw their initial target of 186 adjusted down to 142, meaning they needed 73 runs in five overs. But the asking rate was too much and they finished on 108-9 at the end of a captivating match that had a bit of everything, from bad weather to good bowling and dropped catches. Their win means Pakistan can still reach the World Cup semi-finals if they win their last match against Bangladesh and other results go their way, according to a report received from Sydney.

But they must rely on both India and South Africa losing their final games.

Earlier, Iftikhar Ahmed and Shadab Khan rescued Pakistan with the bat with a superb 82-run partnership. Iftikhar, who came to the crease with Pakistan in big trouble at 43-4, scored 51 off 35 balls and Shadab blazed 52 from 22 as Pakistan finished their innings at 185-9.

Pakistan had looked headed for a certain early exit from the tournament as the South African seam attack tore through the top order.

But Iftikhar stayed firm, sharing a 52-run partnership with Mohammad Nawaz before he and Shadab took the much-vaunted South African attack apart, taking the score from 95-5 to 177-6.

After finishing strongly with the bat, the Pakistanis began well with the ball, Quinton de Kock chipping Shaheen Afridi to Mohammad Harris at midwicket for a duck on the last ball of the first over. —APP