

Various development schemes approved in PDWP Forum

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** The Punjab Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) approved seven development schemes of various sectors with an estimated cost of Rs. 15,265.775 million.

These schemes were approved in the meeting of Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) of current fiscal year 2021-22 presided over by Chairman Planning & Development Board Abdullah Khan Sumbal.

The approved development schemes included Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring System in Punjab (DLI-2-PGDP) at the cost of Rs. 2,670.000 million, Development of Missing Environmental Quality Standards and Revision of Existing Standards (PC-II) at the cost of Rs. 75.000 million, Construction of Judicial Complex (Courts Block) at Nankana Sahib at the cost of Rs. 980.200 million and Mega Sewerage & Tuff Tile scheme Municipal Committee Uch Sharif District Bahawalpur at the cost of Rs. 600.000 million, Establishment of Centers of Excellence for Wheat, Rice, Sugarcane and Maize & Millets at the cost of Rs. 8,065.603 million, Cage Fish Culture Cluster Development Project (Revised) at the cost of Rs. 1,474.867 million and Rehabilitation & Improvement of Saggian Road, Lahore at the cost of Rs. 1400.105 million.

Provincial Secretary P&D Mujahid Sherdil, all Members of the Planning & Development Board, Provincial Secretaries of concerned departments, and other senior representatives of the relevant Provincial Departments also attended the meeting.

Hamza slams govt for hike in power tariffs

**LAHORE:** Opposition leader in the Punjab Assembly Hamza Shehbaz on Friday condemned the government for increasing inflation and said that it was 'torturing masses' by increasing electricity prices.

In a statement issued on Friday, Hamza said that the government will mint more money from the poor people by enhancing power tariffs. He said that circular debt has been doubled during PTI government's first three years.

"Increasing electricity prices is sheer injustice" Hamza said, adding that the government's incompetency and inflation had bribed people.

He said that people must remember that Prime Minister Imran Khan was personally involved in increasing inflation and other economic turmoil.

He said that a gas shortage was also looming but government hadn't planned anything yet to overcome it. —Online



**LAHORE:** A vendor displays badges to attract the customers in connection with Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH).

Austrian businessmen assure support in GSP plus status

Pak, Hungary agree to enhance ties in various fields: Sarwar

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar held meetings with Hungarian Ministers, Foreign Office officials, members of the European Parliament and representatives of the Austrian business community who assured support to Pakistan in the GSP plus status. Pakistan and Hungary agreed to enhance ties in various fields including higher education.

According to a statement issued from Governor House Lahore, Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar arrived in Hungary on Friday during his visit to Europe where he was received at the airport by Hungarian government officials and Pakistani Ambassador Ejaz Ahmed. A large number of overseas Pakistanis were also present.

On his arrival in Hungary, Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar also met the Secretary General of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry Tristan Azbej, member of European parliament for Hungary Ernő Scheller Baross, Member of the European Parliament for Hungary, Gergely Gulyás and other Ministers and the Austrian businessmen. Meetings were also held with the business community to discuss the extension of GSP Plus status, Pakistan-Hungary and Austria relations, bilateral trade and other issues were discussed during the meeting.

Talking to media after the meetings, Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said that Pakistan believes in strengthening its relations with Hungary. He said that Hungary's assurance of full cooperation to Pakistan is extension of

GSP Plus status augurs well for the country. He said that the Hungarian diplomatic team is also working hard to promote bilateral relations in Pakistan. Punjab Governor stressed on the exchange of delegations between Pakistan and Hungary, adding that concrete steps will be taken for the exchange of delegations for the bringing the two countries closer.

Chaudhry Sarwar said that minorities are safe in Pakistan and all measures are being taken to protect their lives and property, adding that quotas have been allocated to minorities in all educational institutions of Pakistan. He said that it is a Kartarpur Corridor is a historic step of Pakistan. He also said that during his visit to Europe, Pakistan's stance on the issue of extension of GSP Plus status has been welcomed.

realme C21Y promises quick performance, lag-free gaming with Unisoc T610 processor

**LAHORE:** The fastest growing smartphone brand in Pakistan and around the world, realme has a few surprises up its sleeves. Recently, realme became the best-selling smartphone brand on Daraz during the month of September. This achievement was fueled mainly because of realme's C-Series superstar realme C25s which sold like hot cakes during the realme Super September Shopping Week. Riding the wave of C-Series' popularity, here's another device by realme that has performed exceptionally well – the realme C21Y. The device is now available all over Pakistan for Rs 21,999 bringing faster performance, lag-free gaming and a seamless user experience all together – thanks to its Unisoc T610 powerful processor.

realme C21Y comes with the perfect upgrade of Unisoc T610, which is an octa-core 12nm processor clocking up to 1.8GHz speed. The processor gives a single-core performance bumped by more than 45 percent compared with competing products(SD665) and a multi-core performance increased by more than 25% (compared to MTK G35, GeekBench test results) using advanced 12nm technology. This makes the entire usability of realme C21Y faster, smoother and better with its flagship DynamicIQ architecture design.

realme C21Y makes all your memories easier to capture, with the 13MP AI Triple Camera. This camera gives you the perfect opportunity to capture images zoomed 4x. Now all your power outings will become easier with the realme C21Y's camera, as it allows you to get brighter images in low-lights and dark surroundings.



Our phone devices are our lifelines, that much can't be disputed. With the realme C21Y device, you get a battery of 5,000 mAh. This mighty battery allows you to keep on using your phone without the fear of low battery at a critical time. Listening to music, gaming, taking pictures can now be done with peace of mind of the battery not giving up on us at the last minute.

The realme C21Y was a hot favourite amongst realme fans during the flash sale, and you can get yours for Rs 21,999 now that

Common man problems and the govt policies

Mamoona Hussain



Pakistan is a country where more than 70 percent population is living below the poverty line. Its economy is facing adverse condition due to a lot of reasons. They include: Over population, bad governance and low literacy level. Other serious problem is the neglected attitude of world powers toward our country. There is lack of systematized infrastructure within the state. There is almost a consensus that major economic challenges facing Pakistan are rising poverty and unemployment, inflation, heavy external and domestic indebtedness, high fiscal deficit and low investment. Now under the present situation, Pakistan faces these challenges but major challenge is now economic crisis due to Covid-19 and bad infrastructure, bad governance and weak economic policies. I would like to focus today on a question which is upper most in every body's mind: why have not things improved during the last three years according to the popular expectation? The PTI government gave the high-level expectations to the people of Pakistan but after coming into power, their all slogans proved like bubbles of water. Bad governance is still major issue in the country. Many political leaders have their bank accounts in foreign countries. The PTI claimed that they will bring back the looted money of their country from other countries but they have also failed to do this job. In spite this, the UK courts clear Shahbaz Sharif. If this government has no solid proof against him than why they wasted the time and money? The government has failed to control the prices of common daily use items, petrol prices and the upward trend of dollar against rupee. Due to this situation, the PTI has lost his image in public.

Our major business men and political persons have invested in other countries. The own the companies and have shares in such highly devel-

oped states. This is the kind of insincerity towards the nation. Moreover our political leaders have unbalanced attitude towards the state. Few regions are highly neglected regions. This thing is creating and impatience within state. Public need changes in Pakistan but remember it if we need changes in Pakistan firstly our leaders must be patriotic for all country. There is still need of pure democracy within the state. We should be confident of leaders selected by nation.

First decade of 1990s was a lost decade as far as Pakistan's economic development was concerned. Frequent political changes and lack of continuity in policies, poor governance and the last May 1998,

Development had together created very difficult economic conditions in the country by October 1999.

Per capita economic growth rates had sided to 1- 1.5 percent investment rates had declined from 20 percent to 15 percent of the GDP, poverty had doubled from 17 percent to 34 percent, external debt had doubled from \$18 billion to \$ 36 billion, debt servicing had risen to a level where it claimed 56 percent of revenue, fiscal was averaging about six percent of the GDP.

As far as if we take a look of the PTI government's performance, the common man of this country is very disappointed from this government performance. He doesn't know what are the reasons behind the inflation and petrol prices but they compare it with the past governments. Common man has no concern with the policies of government polices he is looking only for his needs. In this scenario, he is not satisfied and government has badly failed to control the prices of the daily used items. In 2021 PTI Government has revised the prices of gas and electricity, it is also extra burden on the common man.

There has also been a decline in the unit value of Pakistan exports while favourable domestic policies and aggressive entrepreneurs can bring about increase in the quantity and quality of exportable goods. They have no control on prices they can fetch. These prices are determined in

the international market. The narrow export structure under which two thirds of our exports are cotton and textile based doesn't allow new and nontraditional exports to offset the deterioration in the unit value of textile exports, while the cynics and pessimists may keep on moaning about the lack of an exportable surplus in the country the fact is that the exportable surplus has been generated by the formers and businessman of this country, but the depressed world prices have not allowed this to be translated into hire export earnings. Another factor that has not so far helped us, is the non resumption of foreign direct investment inflows at the level. We had envisaged hubco dispute has only recently been resolved removing a long standing irritant to foreign investors, oil and gas and IT investments have just began to be finalized and will take some time to materialized in the mean while there have been some disinvestments for global strategic non economic reasons which were beyond the control of Pakistan's economic managers.

To conclude the gap between expectations and the actual economic performance can be explained by a number of factors but the constraint imposed by global environment including the conditionalities of IMF, the inability of our key economic institutions in implementing the policies and unanticipated external development are principal factors. This doesn't mean that we would like to absolve ourselves of the mistakes. We have made or you should ignore the shortcomings in our decision-making but I can assure you that if this has happened it is purely international because our commitment and dedication to turn thing around for the betterment of the country is as strong and fierce as any on else. This PTI government came in ruling in the name of change but unfortunately the change has seen in transfers of police officers and secretaries. If the PTI government wants to win next coming elections, then they have to give relief to the common man.

*The writer is a free lance contributor*

Afghan national gang held, cash, valuables found

**MARDAN:** The Mardan police have arrested four members of inter-provincial Afghan refugee gang and recovered stolen gold ornaments, cell phone, cash and other valuables, a senior police officer said.

Addressing a news conference district police officer (DPO) Dr. Zahidullah Khan told the media that robbery incidents were occurring in the limits of Sheikh Maltoo Town police station. He added that police started an investigation into the incidents. He added that police arrested four members of an inter-provincial Afghan gang identified as Naqibullah, Sadiqullah, Hamidullah, Abdul Zahir residents of refugees Akora Khattak and Noor-ul-Anwar residents of Swabi. DPO added that police also recovered 5 tola gold ornaments, 3 mobile phones, 50,000 cash and two motorbikes and two pistols used in the incidents.

DPO further told the media that police also arrested a motorbike thief identified as Jan Mohammad resident of Fatma road and recovered 16 motorbikes from him. —Online

Special SOPs issued for various sectors to cope with corona situation

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** With the special efforts of Secretary Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department Imran Sikan-dar Baloch, the province-wide vaccination campaign is successfully moving towards its goals. Special SOPs have been issued for various sectors in view of the growing corona situation across the province.

A new record of vaccination across Punjab, a record number of vaccinations are being carried out on a daily basis. It is imperative that all people over the age of 12 should be vaccinated immediately. There are currently a total of 636 vaccination centers in operation. Vaccination campaign is successfully underway at all vaccination centers across the province.

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During the last 24 hours

284 new cases were reported from across the province. So far, the total number of cases has reached 437,330 Besides, 412,399 patients have fully recovered in the whole province, bringing the total number of active cases to 12,113 till date. In recent 24 hours, 3 death are recorded in Lahore whereas 13 deaths have been reported in Punjab. During the last 24 hours, 18,015 tests are conducted making a total of 7,647,049 tests.

During last 24 hours, 156 positive Covid-19 cases have been reported in Lahore, 21 in Multan, 15 in Rawalpindi, 9 in Gujranwala, 8 in Faisalabad and Rahim Yar Khan, 6 in Toba Tek Singh, Sialkot, 5 in Vehari and Sheikhpura, 4 in Mandi Bahawudin, Muzzafargarh and Okara, 3 in Khanewal Mianwali, Chakwal and Bahawalpur.

Yesterday, the overall positive rate of Covid-19 was recorded at 1.6 percent in all the cities of the province, while Lahore

recorded a positive rate of 3.7 percent, 1.1 percent in Rawalpindi, 2.0 percent in Faisalabad, 1.6 percent in Multan and 0.6 percent in Gujranwala.

While Talking about ongoing COVID-19 vaccination drive, Secretary Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department said that, "Frequently increase corona case in Punjab is a matter of concern. In such epidemic conditions, vaccination is the only and effective treatment against corona."

He further added, "It is Pleasant that a large number of citizens are increasingly participating in the vaccination campaign there is no shortage of vaccinations anywhere in the province. There is ample stock of vaccines at all centers while the future more vaccines have been ordered to meet the needs. "Citizens are urged to immediately vaccinate all people over the age of 15 and ensure implementation of SOPs so that we

Supplementation of Nano-Selenium and prebiotics improve broiler health, meat quality

Dr Hafiz Faseehur Rehman and Prof Dr Hafsa Zaneb

**B**roiler chicken welfare is under increasing scrutiny due to welfare concerns regarding growth rate and the space provided to individual birds i.e. stocking density. To improve profitability, farmers are interested in raising greater number of birds in a limited space, which needs a consensus to be achieved regarding the strategies that can help provide nutritious and healthy broiler products to the consumers.

To understand these interactions, University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Lahore recently conducted a research. National Research Programme for universities, Higher Education Commission (NRPU-HEC) sponsored this research for investigating usefulness of nutritional supplementation in mitigating the stress cause by Higher Stocking Density

(HSD) in broilers, without compromising the profits of the producers/farmers. The researchers used the novel approach of nanotechnology for creating nutritional supplements for broilers. They created Selenium nanoparticles (SeNPs) and supplemented them along with Mannan-oligotoc saccharide (MOS), a prebiotic, in HSD stressed broilers. During the 42-day long trial, the broilers were sampled twice to assess the effectiveness of supplementation on growth performance, development of gastro-intestinal tract, bone and meat quality. They observed that supplementing HSD stressed broiler diet with SeNP-MOS improved broiler growth, feed intake and the efficiency with which the broilers utilized their feed.

The final body weight of market-age broilers also improved with the help of SeNP-MOS supplementation. Supplementation of SeNP-MOS also enhanced the structure and function

of broiler intestines which are responsible for nutrient absorption. This led to more nutrients available for muscle and bone development. The bone development led to better movement and skeletal development. Similarly, muscle development translated into more marketable meat.

The SeNP-MOS supplemented HSD-stressed broiler meat was juicier than the HSD broilers who were given non-supplemented feed. The findings of the project led to conclusion that SeNP-MOS combination is a suitable supplementation for the stress that may arise from rearing broilers on high stocking density. It also gives opportunity to broiler farmers to raise more number of birds in limited farming space without compromising broiler health and meat quality.

*The writers belong to the University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences Lahore (UVAS).*

Govt responsible for dengue spread, blames PML-N

**LAHORE:** Pakistan Muslims league-Nawaz (PML-N) spokesperson Maryam Aurangzeb has said that Imran Khan and Buzdar are responsible for the rapid spread of dengue virus across the country.

She said that Shahbaz Sharif had prepared a plan for prevention from dengue. Government couldn't even implement that plan.

In her statement she said that the SOP's should be implemented immediately. The people are losing their lives but the apathetic government has not been able to take timely sprays and other measures. The increasing level of Dengue cases across the country is a result of government incompetence and criminal negligence.

The government has not taken any steps to protect the people.

The PML-N spokesperson further said that the people have been left at the mercy of the situation, after inflation, dengue and diseases are taking the lives of the people and the government is absent. —Online