

POST MetroLite

MONDAY, MAY 10, 2010

Drinking water schemes completed in FR Kohat

B-2

Thalassemia centre to be established at BVH

B-2

Govt urged to set up mini-estate for cutlery products in Wazirabad

B-2

Hospitals canteens fleecing people

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE: Throwing all ethics to the winds, canteens and cafeterias inside public hospitals and colleges in the city are fleecing students, patients and their attendants by selling low quality food items at exorbitant rates as the medical institutions authorities' sleep.

While the available food stuff and other grocery at the shops and canteens cost much less outside the medical colleges and hospitals precincts, the same items are sold at

higher prices in the hospital stores. The difference in rates is even more than two times in some cases.

A survey by The Post of Mayo Hospital, Lady Wallingdon, Mian Munchi Hospital, King Edward Medical College, Services Institute of Medical Sciences, Lahore General Hospital, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Punjab Institute of Cardiology and Services Hospital revealed that the unhygienic food items and low quality grocery were actually being sold at much higher prices as compared to those sold outside. It also

revealed that the mineral water sold inside was manufactured by those companies which were either banned by the court or unregistered with the authority in connivance with the officials offering them a good margin.

A bottle of half liter of branded mineral water is sold at Rs 25 while the similar bottle being sold Rs 15 outside the hospital. A cup of low quality tea is sold at Rs 20 in the PIC, while it was available at Rs 10 outside. Almost all major hospitals are involved in this practice. The medical students complained there are

unhygienic conditions with flies everywhere in the cafeterias located inside the colleges. There is broken furniture and no proper sitting places there. They further said medical institutes' administrations do not heed to the complaints for improving the situation. Sources revealed that the contractors of the cafeterias and canteens inside the hospitals premises have to pay a hefty sum to the hospitals authorities to get the contracts. In some cases it amounted to more than Rs 20 lakh.

Relatives of some patients said they

were aware of the fact that the food stuffs being sold at exorbitant prices here. "But we cannot do anything as we have to travel a long distance to approach other outlets outside the hospitals. "While this is all going on under the nose of the authorities", says another relative.

The Young Doctors Association has also pointed out poor standard of canteens in public sector hospitals and colleges in this regard invited CM for a cup of tea at the canteen of Mayo Hospital/King Edward Medical University.

CDA incurs loss of Rs 1.26b

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority has incurred a loss of Rs1.26 billion for illegally expanding the commercial area in a sector and beneficiary in the whole episode is a private housing society (PHS).

A report of the Auditor General of Pakistan reveals that the CDA's department of Planning Wing stretched the commercial area up to thirteen percent in E-11 sector during 2009 to benefit a private housing society. This caused a loss of Rs 1.26 billion rupees to the civic authority.

It has been disclosed in the report that the Capital

Development Authority cannot allocate more than five percent of the total area in a sector for commercial purposes under its own rules laid down in 1992. Nonetheless, high-ranking officials of CDA's planning wing allocated 13 percent of the total area for commercial purposes, violating civic body's own rules and regulations.

Meanwhile, CDA, in a written reply has informed Auditor General of Pakistan that the civic body is working in collaboration with a private housing society in E-11 sector and both hold equal stakes in the sector. Thus, there is a provision in civic body's rules of increasing the commercial area up to 13 %.

Six-month old girl burnt alive

MUHAMMAD IMRAN KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Temporary camps setup by vagabonds in the area of Police station Warsi Khan caught fire resulting in burnt to death of a 6 months old baby girl and leaving the parents and 2 years old girl swear injured.

According to Warsi Khan Police it was an incident and no criminal act that caught the unlucky family. On report police and emergency handling organizations reached the spot and extinguished the fire. Police registered the case for further enquiry.

Drive against fake degree holders

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government after surfacing of fake degrees scandals has decided to take stern measures after scrutinizing all the inductions in Government Service during last 10 years. The federal government has decided a scrutiny campaign against those who were inducted in previous 10 years especially those who hold fake degrees and on the basis of which they got government employment.

Reliable sources have revealed that the government after finding fake degree cases not only will deal the culprits with iron hands but also will find those who were involved in the induction process.

Special children to open painting exhibition

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE: Special children will inaugurate a major solo exhibition of selected artwork of Pakistani artist of international repute Jimmy Engineer here on May 15.

His huge life-long selected artwork exhibition "For the eyes only" is scheduled to be held at the Reivers Gallery in Gulberg which will continue for the benefit of art lovers, collectors, artists and students for a fortnight till May 29.

Jimmy, in a chat with the scribe, said the welfare of physically handicapped and mentally retarded children was dear to his heart and he was ready to do anything to bring smiles to their faces.

For the last many years, he has organised fun, food and awareness programmes for special children in Karachi, Lahore and elsewhere, he said, adding special children and none else are the chief guests on all these occasions. These programmes are also intended to create greater awareness in society at large that physically handicapped and mentally retarded children need special attention, care, love and affection of parents and other people to try to lead normal life as merely calling them special children is not enough, he added.



ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Sri Lanka holding gold championship trophy, while Ambassador of Argentina looks on. - PHOTO BY MUDASSAR RAJA

Studio-5 show enthral audience

SIBGHATULLAH VIRK

ISLAMABAD: The summer fashion and cultural show 2010 of young models took the audience to an enthralling ride and got lot of appreciation at the National Art Gallery (NAG) Islamabad organized by Studio Five. More than six hundred peoples witnessed the show, which also presented the catwalk, bride and fashion show, and some

good songs sing by Mohsin Raza and Halima Sharar as well as wonderful comparing by Zafar Awan. Dozens of young models including Iqra Qayyum, Mishi Khan, Maria Naem, Iqra Fahim, Eman Bukhari, Maria Farzana, Sadia Pervaz, Hania Kanwal, Noman, Atif and Shahzad performed superior in the show. The event revolved around various segments related to men's fashion around the

globe, starting off with music mainly comprising of its different facets.

Meanwhile talking to this scribe the young artists are very hopeful about current wave of terrorism would be defeated and peace would be restored in the country. Zafar Awan, Eman Bukhari and Mishi Khan said that terrorists had been advancing the foreign agenda but they were exposed as they targeted the educational institutions and mosques. They said that our armed forces are fully capable to counter terrorism and the artist's community fully supports our armed forces.

Fozia Iftikhar, who is the chairperson of studio five said that we are providing a platform to the young talent to show their expression of talent and abilities. She said they are facing lot of problems but we hope that the ministry of culture and Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) will support us to introduce new talent from the twin cities.



29 suspects arrested in Rawalpindi

ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police on Sunday arrested 29 persons during search operations in various areas of the city, a police spokesman said.

Gola, Tarnol, Margallah, Aabpara and Secretariat police stations conducted search operation in their respective areas and nabbed 29 suspects.

Their whereabouts are being investigated. SSP Islamabad Tahir Alam Khan has asked all SDPOs and SHOs to conduct effective patrolling in their respective jurisdictions and keep vigilant against suspicious elements.

He has also ordered to check hotels, inn, under construction plazas, green belts and make every possible effort to arrest criminals.

Education directorate working without DG

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The federal directorate of education (FDE) is functioning without a permanent director general for the last three months while the ministry of education has given its additional charge to Dr. Shaheen Khan, Chairperson of Federal Board of Education. Due to workload in the federal board, Shaheen Khan is unable pay proper attention

work of Federal Directorate of Education.

According to details, no DG has been appointed in the directorate for the last three months while the ministry of education has given its additional charge to Dr. Shaheen Khan, Chairperson of Federal Board of Education. Due to workload in the federal board, Shaheen Khan is unable pay proper attention

towards the directorate's matters.

The state of affairs have put at risk the future of two hundred and fifty thousand students studying in 424 schools run by the federal government. FDE staff does not observe office timings and wishfully attend the office. Teachers and other people travelling from far-flung areas are facing lethargy of the FDE

officers who do not bother to listen to their complaints. No person is allowed to enter the premises of the director before 12.00 noon.

It is worth mentioning here that 424 schools and colleges are functioning under the aegis of Federal directorate of education and about two hundred and fifty thousand students are enrolled in the institutions.

Mother's Day celebrated

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: People across the country shared their sentiments and express profound love for their mothers on Mother's Day celebrated on Sunday.

Mother's Day was celebrated to honor all mothers and express gratitude for the hardships they bear in bringing up a child.

Like every year, the day was marked with the old spirit and enthusiasm and public and private organizations as well as schools arranged colourful programmes in connection with the Mother's Day celebrations. Children conveyed good wishes and prayers to their mothers for a happy life in future. Electronic media presented different plays and shows to highlight the importance of the day and recognize the amazing role of the mothers. Mothers are actually the guiding force and are responsible for developing the character and personality of a child.

Mothers shape the lives of children and the Mothers Day is the opportunity to pay tribute to them for their contribution. The tradition of Mothers Day started with the ancient Greeks who celebrated their annual spring festival in honor of Rhea, the mother of many Gods and Goddesses in the Greek mythology. Ancient Romans too celebrated a spring festival by the name of Hilaria in honor of Cybele, a mother goddess, some 250 years before Christ was born. Mothers Day is celebrated with lot of enthusiasm in over 46 countries across the globe. Though Mothers Day celebrations take place at different times in the world but what is remarkably same are the feelings with which people celebrate Mothers Day.

IN BRIEF District Attorneys training begins today

ISLAMABAD: Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan, Justice Rahmat Hussain Jaffer will inaugurate one-week training course for District Attorneys/ Deputy District Attorneys here at the Federal Judicial Academy (FJA), on Monday. Seventeen District Attorneys/ Deputy District Attorneys hailing from all four provinces including Gilgit-Baltistan will participate in the training course titled "District Attorneys and Management of Civil cases" said Hashim Abro, spokesman of the FJA.

Hashim Abro told that, besides faculty members, a galaxy of noted resource persons both from legal-judicial fraternity and other allied domains will deliver lectures and present their presentations to enlighten the learned participants. The resource persons/speakers include: Justice (Retd) Najam-ul-Hasan Kazmi on "overview of CPC-I" and "CPC-II", Justice (Retd) Muhammad Raza on "Neglected Provisions of CPC", Mahmood Maqbool Bajwa, District and Sessions Judge on "Overview of Land Acquisition Act", Julia Fendrick, Assistant Cultural Attach, on "Remarks and Presentation of Books" Ms. Afshan Amir, IRC Director on "IRC Introduction" Zulfikar Abbasidis, advocate Supreme Court on "Overview of Land Revenue Act", and others. - APP

PIMS admin doles out favours

ISLAMABAD: In a sway of some very unusual generous moves, the PIMS management has allotted its canteen, storeroom, and cafeteria, among other resources to its blue-eyed without rent. Despite a massive loss of billions to the exchequer, the health ministry has adopted a mysterious silence and indifference over the issue.

Six of these favorites have been allotted space many times larger than that of commercial markets, which disburse items of sale at exorbitant prices, while they are not even charged gas and electricity bills. Documentation available with "Online" reveals that during 2005 A general store of PIMS colony used to pay a rent of Rs. 16, 700/- which was reduced by 2008 (to Rs. 8030/-).

Among many other glaring examples of this unwonted generosity, the rent of doctors' cafeteria was reduced from its previous of Rs. 1,30,111/- to Rs. 10,000. - STAFF REPORTER



LAHORE: Oblivious of Mother's Day, a woman seeks alms at a road side. - PHOTO BY IMRAN SHEKHI

'The train is late - minimum for five hours'

ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN

ISLAMABAD: "The train to be arrived at 3:45 pm" ... "late for about 45 minutes" ... "5 O'clock is now the time of arrival" ... "Not certain, but you may contact at 6 pm" ...

"6:30". Thank God! an infrared light beam made sense of the arrival of the Khyber Mail on the track at 7:07 pm, while its due arrival was at 2:00 clock.

The tiresome wait was finally over. Fury of the passengers was lessened a bit - who had no option but to avail the train for the destination. Of course, they boarded the

train haphazardly but they murmured and abused railways officials as it caused much agony to them. They were in fact complaining, but in vain. Who cares?

"Its better we adopt Daewoo bus service to travel with almost half price ticket than the Railways", pointed out a passenger, "old then why choose the train". "A great folly caused mistake", two people started conversation. So much so, some of the 'intellectuals'

instantly recommended privatisation of railways - just to maintain regularity in the schedule time. Khyber Mail - the oldest and the most

prestigious train has the longest running route in Pakistan. It is the fastest train link between Karachi and Peshawar. It is also the train that has been most written about in railway literature about Pakistan.

It covers 1721 km distance between Karachi Cant and Peshawar Cant in 31 hours 55 minutes in the Up direction, and 32 hours 5 minutes in the Down direction. It stops at 45 stations between Karachi Cant and Peshawar Cant.

Journey starts. People, some bit by bit but without delaying showed serious concern on 'long delay' of Khyber mail - commonly referred to as the "life line of the country".

Whatever be the technical explanation for this action, this shows the lack of care of the railways towards the commuters of passenger train. When asked the Railways official was merely content on saying, "the lines are not clear". The impatient passengers ask - who will clear those lines, who is responsible for that as the phenomenon prevails since the creation of Pakistan.

This is not the one odd incident as most of the days, 51 trains running across the country reach much later than the scheduled time. This is troublesome for passengers at most of the Railway

Stations as passengers have no other option for travel.

"Please sir! use your good office to set the things right, so that this passenger train runs in time and need not be delayed due to incompetency and unjustifiable acts of the personnel at this end".

Here, the matter of delay was not with the Khyber mail only. It is noteworthy aspect that at least three outbound trains at the Railways station including Zakriya Express, Shah Shams Express and Tezgam were got affected due to inappropriate time management. All those trains were too late for about 4-5 hours at least.