

Minimum 06°C  
Maximum 17°C  
Sunset 05:36pm  
Sunrise 06:57am  
(Tomorrow)



FAJAR	05:33 AM
JUMA	01:30 PM
ASR	03:58 PM
MAGRIB	05:36 PM
ISHA	06:59 PM

## Quick Read

## Hurdles to be eliminated in way of new business: Rizwan

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** On the direction of minister EPD M Rizwan, EPD issued a notification regarding delegate the powers and functions provided in section 12 of the act ibid to all Deputy Commissioners in Punjab, to the following categories subject to the condition that the Pakistan environmental protection agency review of initial environmental examination and environmental impact assessment regulations, 2000 shall apply mutatis: Rice mills, flour mills, oil mills and stone crushing units; cottage industry units with project cost less than rupees ten million unless otherwise specified by the environmental protection agency; commercial extraction of sand, gravel, limestone, clay, sulphur and any other minerals not included in Scheduled-II of the Pakistan Environmental protection agency review of initial environmental examination and environmental impact assessment Regulations, 2000 with total cost less than rupees one hundred million; Restaurants & hotels below three-star category; marriage halls and event centres; Bakeries, sweet manufacturing units and other similar concerns; Bus and Wagon stands of category C with area up to eight kanals; cement block manufacturing factories and land sub-Division. The minister has said that through this notification, the hurdles would be eliminated in the way of new business and any one can get permission from DC of their respective area.

## UO to lead HED's Patriot League

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** The University of Okara (UO) is all set to perform the lead role in Higher Education Department's Patriot League that is scheduled to start from February 1st with the opening ceremony.

The UO's Head of Department of Sports Sciences, Shehbaz Ibrahim, has been nominated as the Focal Person of the league. Dr. Tayyab Ibrahim, In-charge Department of Public Health will oversee the management of the event.

Along with the UO, eight other universities including University of Faisalabad, Lahore Garrison University, Minhaj University, Namal University, NUR University, Hajvery University, Pak Aims and Institute of Southern Punjab will participate in the league.

There will be a total of 18 events including 10 male sports and 8 female sports. The UO has formed 11 teams including 8 male teams and 3 female teams entitled as Okara Falcons.

Patriot League is one of the 6 leagues organized under the umbrella of University Sports League initiative of the HED. In the previous year's USL, the UO secured 3 position.

According to the university spokesperson, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad ZakriaZakar takes great care of the extracurricular and co-curricular activities of the students. A dedicated sport complex comprising of 35 acres has been built at the UO.



**LAHORE:** Young gypsy children running on railway track which may cause any major incident any time at Bagami Bagh area while World will be celebrating International Street Children Day today (Friday). —Online

## Vast opportunities to invest in housing sector: CM

—Holds meeting to review performance of housing sector

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar presided over a high-level meeting at his office on Thursday to review the performance of the housing sector.

Addressing the meeting, the chief minister said that there are vast opportunities for investment in the housing sector. Due to increase in population, there is a need to establish new cities.

He said that Naya Pakistan Housing Scheme will materialise the dream of the low-income people of owning a house. He said that participation of the private sector will bring positive results in the housing sector.

The project of construction of houses for low-income families has to be completed at the earliest.

Provincial ministers Mian

Mehmood-ur-Rasheed, Hashim Jawan Bakht, Mussarat Jamshed Cheema MPA, Chief Secretary, Vice Chairman LDA Sheikh Muhammad Imran, Deputy Chairman Naya Pakistan Housing Authority, finance secretary, DG LDA and others attended the meeting.

**Directs to devise master plan for improving traffic system in Lahore**

Buzdar presided over a meeting at his office here on Thursday in which improvement of traffic system in Lahore and proposals for the eradication of difficulties of the citizens faced by them were reviewed in detail.

Addressing the meeting, the chief minister said that Lahore city is facing traffic problems due to increase in population and number of vehicles.

There is a need to take immediate steps for improving the traffic system in the city as citizens face mental

stress due to traffic congestions.

He directed the line departments to devise an effective traffic plan and ensure its implementation, as well. The recommendations of traffic engineering study should be implemented to ensure smooth flow of traffic in rushy areas.

He said that every possible step should be taken for smooth flow of traffic at Bhatti Chowk(Data Darbar), Shimla Pahari Chowk, Garhi Shahu Chowk(Allama Iqbal Road), Workshop Chowk(Outfall Road), Allah Hu Chowk, Akbar Chowk(Maulana Shoukat Ali Road), Hussain Chowk(Noor Jehan Road), Regal Chowk at Mall Road and Babo Sabo Interchange Chowk.

Improvements should be introduced in these areas through the traffic management plan and the Circular Road will also be uplifted.

He directed that impediments disrupting traffic should be immediately removed and Ferozpur Road, Jail Road, Mall Road and Canal Road should be developed as a model. Meanwhile, parking facilities should be enhanced in the city and the construction of new parking plazas should be examined.

He further directed that traffic master plan for Lahore should be developed and added that effective traffic system will facilitate the citizens.

The line departments will have to come up to new challenges of traffic management resulting due to increase in population, he added. Commissioner Lahore gave a briefing about the traffic management plan. Mussarat Jamshed Cheema MPA, Chief Secretary, Inspector General Police, DG LDA, Chief Traffic Office and others attended the meeting.

## Punjab Govt clarifies

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Spokesperson Punjab government Mussarat Jamshed Cheema has said that we strongly rebut propaganda of opposition on the matter of summoning Inspector General Police Shoaib Dastagir to Punjab Assembly.

Chief Minister Office is not holding any sort of investigation in this regard. It is a matter of routine for summoning administrative officers and Inspector General Police to Punjab Assembly.

Spokesman Punjab Government Mussarat Jamshed Cheema in her statement said that opposition parties are doing baseless and negative propaganda with regard to summoning IG Police to Punjab Assembly. The conspiracy to create fissures between government and allied parties will always be foiled.

All coalition partners express their complete consensus on Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar and whole administration and IG Police are performing their duties according to guidelines given by the government. Mussarat Jamshed Cheema said that nefarious designs of PML-N have been fully exposed behind such news based on negative propaganda. The propaganda of PML-N by adopting such cheap tactics will not be able to save the ongoing split taking place within the ranks of their party. Spokesperson further stated that in order to divert attention from tales of their corruption, the opposition is spending overtime on propagating negative propaganda. Punjab government reserves its due right to take legal action against TV channels for airing baseless and fabricated news, she concluded.

## Appointed

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Pakistan Tahreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has appointed Shaukat Basra as central deputy secretary information of the party.

The notification of new appointment was issued by PTI Central Secretary Information Ahmad Jawad on Thursday.

## Improvement in health indicators directly linked with population indicators: Yasmeen

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Punjab Health Minister Dr. Yasmin Rashid said here on Thursday that synergies among stakeholders is the key to finding sustainable solutions to the problem of Family Planning in Pakistan.

The Minister said improvement in health indicators is directly linked with population indicators. "From urban planning to basic indicators of health and education, everything is directly linked with population growth," she said.

The Health Minister was speaking at a Seminar on Family Planning at a local hotel. Punjab Minister for Population Welfare Colonel (Retd) Hashim Dogar, experts on Family Planning, Technical Advisor Dr. Akhtar Rashid, DFID and World Health Organization representa-

tives were present on the occasion. Dr. Yasmin Rashid said Pakistan needs to learn from the best practices in neighbouring countries of the region, especially Bangladesh. "Religious scholars played pivotal role in Bangladesh in controlling the population. We need to study some successful strategies from our region," the Minister added. Dr. Yasmin Rashid further said that Punjab has benefitted from its huge workforce of Lady Health Workers in many programs.

"The Prime Minister wants optimum utilization of the Lady Health Workers in the improvement of health indicators especially the Family Planning," she added. The Minister also emphasized the need for birth spacing and the quality of services for mother and child healthcare in Punjab. She said breastfeeding has been declining in Punjab which is a

major cause of worry.

The Minister also said that evidence-based targeted interventions for Social Mobilization and awareness will be started in cities and towns reporting higher rates of population growth.

There will be an important meeting with the Department of Health next week regarding family planning.

**Chairs 1st meeting of special committee regarding corona virus**

Dr Yasmin presided over first meeting of special committee with regard to corona virus at Primary & Secondary Healthcare Department.

Provincial Energy Minister Dr Akhtar Malik, Secretary Primary & Secondary Healthcare Capt. (R) Muhammad Usman Yunis, Secretary Specialized Healthcare & Medical Education Barrister Nabeel Ahmed Awan, Mussarat Jamshed Cheema MPA, Additional Sec-

retary Social Security CM Office Rafaqat Ali, Dr Khalid Mehmood, In-charge WHO Punjab Dr Jamshed Ahmad, Dr Ahmad Shafique, Sara Rasheed and other officers also participated.

Dr Yasmin Rashid reviewed the measures being taken for preventing people from corona virus during the meeting. Both the secretaries of health department apprised the minister about the steps being taken for prevention from coronavirus. Dr Yasmin Rashid said that it has been decided to launch awareness campaign on a large scale about corona virus across Punjab. CEOs of all districts should summon meeting of MS of all concerned hospitals forthwith and impart awareness about corona virus. She further directed that doctors in government hospitals should provide awareness to the people



**LAHORE:** People sell and purchase vegetables at Badamibagh Fruit and Vegetable Market. —Online

## People-to-people contact to further strengthen Pak-US relations: Rodriguez

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** American Council to Lahore Ms. Catherine Rodriguez on Thursday visited Lahore Arts Council and took keen interest in various sections of the Alhamra Art Centre The Mall.

During the meeting, Chairperson Board of Governors, Lahore Arts Council Moneeza Hashmi and LAC Executive Director Ather Ali Khan and Ms Catherine Rodriguez agreed on people-to-people contact to further strengthen bilateral relations. Both sides also agreed to explore opportunities in arts, literature and other cultural dimensions.

Chairperson BOG Lahore Arts Council Moneeza Hashmi along with Executive Director Ather Ali briefed the

American Councilor General about Alhamra Art Gallery, Academy of Performing Arts, Adbi Bethak and Cultural activities at the council. The American Consular visits continued "Charming Pakistan" exhibition at Alhamra Art Gallery and praised the art works. She further said that the diplomatic relations between USA and Pakistan span over many years, and I believe that both of countries are trying their best to increase bilateral relationships.

Ms. Catherine Rodriguez appreciated the hard work of Alhamra Arts Council for the promotion of art and culture.

Chairperson BOG Lahore Arts Council Moneeza Hashmi said that it was the key objective of the Lahore Arts Council to promote "Pakistan's colorful culture

and wonderful traditions in the whole world and make the world believe that Pakistan is the great place to visit".

Executive Director Ather Ali Khan said that Alhamra Arts Council strives to enhance the cooperation in the field of art, literature and culture with all countries around the world. He further said, Alhamra has conducted various programs like exhibitions, artwork shops, fashion shows, musical nights in collaboration with various countries such as Germany, Japan, China, Thailand, Turkey, Poland and many other countries, to increase the bilateral relationships with all countries.

Ms. Hashmi and Khan presented souvenir and some books related to Alhamra to Ms. Catherine Rodriguez and wish her