

Minimum **11°C**  
 Maximum **24°C**  
 Sunset **05:47pm**  
 Sunrise **06:47am**  
 (Tomorrow)



FAJAR	05:25 AM
JUMA	01:30 PM
ASR	04:09 PM
MAGRIB	05:47 PM
ISHA	07:09 PM

**Quick Read**

**SNGPL urges consumers to discourage propaganda**

By Basit Ali

**LAHORE:** In the greater interest of the consumers, Sui Northern Gas has clarified that the consumers are being misled through messages on social media and Whatsapp.

SNGPL Spokesperson said that the advertisement issued by the Company shows estimated gas bills under various slabs only. These estimated amounts are wrongly attributed as slab rate by some people on social media. Spokesperson categorically denied any revision in gas slab tariff and made it clear that the existing OGRA tariff is still in practice. According to the current OGRA tariff, rate for the first slab is Rs 121 which is applied on gas consumption of up to 0.5 Hm3, rate for the second slab is Rs. 300 which is applied on gas consumption of up to 1 Hm3, rate for the third slab is Rs. 553 which is applied on gas consumption of up to 2 Hm3, rate for the fourth slab is Rs 738 which is applied on gas consumption of up to 3 Hm3, rate for the fifth slab is Rs 1,107 which is applied on gas consumption of up to 4 Hm3 and rate for the sixth slab is Rs. 1,460 which is applied on gas consumption of more than 4 Hm3.

SNGPL Spokesperson further clarified that in order to provide relief to the consumers, Government of Pakistan has also provide benefit of the relevant preceding slab. The objective of SNGPL advertisement was to provide an estimate of the gas bills so that they can avoid high gas bill by using gas economically.

SNGPL Spokesperson requested the consumers to discourage elements involved in spreading misleading information on social media and contact Sui Northern Gas for any kind of information.

**AIIB expresses interest to finance NTDC projects**

**LAHORE:** Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) expressed interest in financing of development projects of National Transmission and Despatch Company Limited (NTDC) in line with the government priorities.

AIIB delegation led by Ms. Supree Teravaninthorn, Director General Investment Operation Region visited NTDC office and held a meeting with NTDC General Managers and Chief Engineers under the convenorship of Dy Managing Director NTDC Mr. Wajahat Saeed Rana.

Ms. Supree Teravaninthorn said that AIIB is providing its support for policy reforms and project financing in the key priority areas such as energy, road, social sector, water and irrigation and urban services. He reiterated AIIB's strong commitment to further strengthening and expanding its partnership with Pakistan. During the meeting, NTDC management gave detailed presentation on NTDC projects. AIIB delegation expressed its interest in 235 km long 500 kV double circuit transmission line from Maira Switching Station (Kallar Syedan) to 500 kV North Lahore grid station and 20 km long 500 kV double circuit Transmission Line from Karot HPP to Maira Switching Station. NTDC officials also informed the delegations about current status of these projects. Power System Planning department also shared a list of future projects of NTDC for consideration of the AIIB delegation. To have a better coordination and future deliberations, Chief Engineer PMU NTDC was nom-



LAHORE: Vendors busy in arranging roses and flowers on the occasion of World Valentine's Day. —Onilne

## PTI govt believes in uplift of all regions: CM

—Says past govt left several incomplete projects in Lahore and other districts

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has said the provincial government believes in the concept of composite development as it is right of every area of the province.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, he said development projects had been designed keeping in view needs of people and the consultation process had been started for identification of development priorities.

He said that the incumbent government's development budget utilisation was better than the previous governments and added that the critics should quote only genuine figures. The past government left several incomplete projects in Lahore and other districts.

Usman Buzdar said that the incumbent government made payments for a number of projects started by the previ-

ous government and got completed the public welfare projects by rising above prejudice.

He said that the administrative arrangements were ready for establishment of southern Punjab secretariat. Funds had been allocated and the secretariat would be established soon, he added. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has good relations with its allies and, contrary to the wishes of the opponents, the alliance was now stronger than before. The alliance was in the larger interest of the country and the government was taking the ally parties along, he added. He added that designs of those trying to create misunderstandings had been foiled. The opposition had no agenda and political orphans should remember that the government would complete its term and elections would be held after completion of constitutional term of the incumbent government. The

government is stronger under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, he said adding that the public welfare is a priority agenda and no hurdle will be tolerated in the journey of public service.

**CM order crackdown on adulteration mafia**

Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has ordered for launching a crackdown on the adulteration mafia, adding that such elements do not deserve any leniency.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, he said that necessary steps should be taken for food safety and eradication of adulteration. The adulterers are playing with the lives of people and the government would go to every extent for provision of pure food items to citizens, added the chief minister.

**Awareness regarding protection from any disease vital: Yasmeen**  
 Provincial Health Minister Dr Yasmin

Rashid attending the 22nd annual International Hematology Conference as chief guest on Thursday said that hematology was of most important in medical world. Vice Chancellor FJMU Prof Amir Zaman Khan, Dr Nisar, Dr Tahir Shamsi, Gen (R) Sohaib, Prof Mehmoos Khurshid, Prof Mufti, Dr Hayee and other experts attended the conference. Addressing the participants, Dr Yasmeen Rashid said Gen (R) Sohaib played a pivotal role in starting and success of Thalassemia programme in Punjab. It was very important to create an awareness among people regarding protection from any disease.

She said all school children of Punjab would be screened through CM school nutrition screening programme. She said that FJMU was being made the best research center, adding that haematology was of vital importance in the medical world.

**118 water filtration plants to be installed**

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Punjab Aab-e-Pak Authority (PAPA) announces to install 118 water filtration plants in Lahore with a cost of Rs 4,248 millions. Lahore district administration has sought recommendation from MNA and MPAs for the identification of sites. According to details Aab-e-Pak Authority, working under the supervision of Governor Punjab Ch Mohammad Sarwar, has taken emergency steps for the provision of safe drinking water to masses, for which water filtration plants will be installed at 118 different sites in Lahore district.

District administration has sought details of sites from MNA and MPAs for the said objective. All MNAs will identify 28 sites and MPAs will identify 90 sites for installation of water plants.

Each MNA and MPA will identify 2 and 3 sites respectively. District administration soon after the identification of suitable sites will start installing plants. Anwar Baryar Additional deputy commissioner Finance and Planning will supervise this entire project.

Patron in Chief of Aab-e-Pak Authority and Governor Punjab Ch Mohammad Sarwar has said in this regard that we will fulfill our promise for the provision of safe drinking water to masses.

**PTI govt to solve problems of traders: Aslam**

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Provincial Minister for Industries and Trade Mian Aslam Iqbal chaired joint meeting of the representatives of poultry, retailer merchants and PVMA.

Different proposals regarding bringing stability in the prices of essential edibles came under review during the meeting held at Civil Secretariat. Steps being taken for provision of relief to common man with regard to prices of essential items also came under consideration during the meeting.

It was also decided to continue consultation process for the provision of relief to the masses at the earliest. Secretary Industries and Trade Capt. (retired) Zafar Iqbal, DG Industries, officers of concerned departments and Zonal MD of Utility Stores Corporation also participated in the meeting.

## PHEC, NHSRC ink MoU to control tobacco use at higher education institutions

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** The Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) and Tobacco Smoke-free Cities Project of Minister of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (NHSRC) signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) in a ceremony held on Thursday at PHEC Head Office.

The LOI that inked in the presence of Prof Dr Fazal Ahmed Khalid, Chairman PHEC, Prof Dr Bushra Mirza, VC Lahore College for Women University, and Dr Minhaj-us-Siraj, Project Director Tobacco Smoke-free Capital Project, was aimed at extending mutual collaboration to control, regulate and discourage the use of tobacco at the universities campuses and attached institutions of higher learning in Punjab.

Under the terms of understanding, mutual efforts would be made to create awareness regarding the hazards of to-

bacco use and its adverse impacts on society.

PHEC would facilitate to connect Tobacco Smoke-Free City Project by providing focal persons from the provincial universities; Tobacco Smoke-Free City Project, on the other hand, would facilitate to organize awareness sessions, by providing Information Education & Communication (IEC) material and resource persons, at provincial universities.

The scope of understanding also includes assisting PHEC's efforts in declaring universities/HEIs smoke-free.

Further, in order to generate local data and mechanisms to influence policymakers, both the organization will facilitate local universities to encourage research projects on Tobacco Control.

Furthermore, Tobacco Smoke-Free Cities Project would be explored linkages with international research institutes on Tobacco Control, for



collaboration with Universities in Public/Private Sector. Both the parties would be developed policy guidelines to ensure observance of Tobacco Control Laws, at the universities.

The PHEC would also evaluate the

effectiveness of and adherence to the letter of intent.

The LOI would be remained effective until modified or terminated by anyone, otherwise for World No Tobacco Day, 31st May 2030.

## More practical actions needed to cope with Coronavirus

By Amir Ali Amir

It is commonly said and considered that more practical actions are needed to cope with Coronavirus seriously. Almost all over the world is facing this grave threat, particularly China's province Wuhan City, which is badly affected not only medically but also economically. As far as from the health point of



view, it is an epidemic disease and a very contagious one. According to recent media reports pouring in these days, the death toll is rising and assuming an alarming situation in China. In addition to this, many other countries are also affected with this disease which has created health terror in the world. As far as Pakistan is concerned, we have very close relations with China not only at the government-to-government level but also at the people-to-people level. China has been considered as all weather friend of Pakistan and it has proved it with its actions and deeds. Therefore, at this time of national

tragedy, Pakistan government also wants to extend its full support to its neighboring country. We have sent health personnel and protection equipments to our Chinese brothers at this critical time. At the same time, Pakistan government has made a wise decision by not evacuating its students from Wuhan City. Prime Minister Imran Khan in a letter to the President Xi Jinping has expressed serious sense of grief and concern over the deaths. At the same time Pakistani public is also standing shoulder-to-shoulder with their Chinese brothers. Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmud Qureshi has

also contacted his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, assuring him of complete support at this national tragedy. Why we should not stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our Chinese brothers as our friendship is deeper than sea and higher than mountains. As far as our internal health arrangements are concerned, Pakistan government is taking all-out measures to cope with the situation. In this regard, the passengers coming from China, the government has placed the quarantine machines at all airports to examine the affected passengers to avoid any outbreak in the country. The biggest measures taken are placing ban

on exporting the face masks. There are a couple of Coronavirus reported cases and the government is taking strong measures to keep the suspected patients at isolated places unless they are fully recovered.

At Wuhan City most of the Pakistan community is consisted of students who have gone there to acquire higher education. Since I said in my previous article Chinese government is doing its level best to keep them safe at home and providing them best health facilities. We should keep in our mind that epidemic diseases are no artificially generated as it will not

affect a certain nationality genetically. If the disease is outbreak in any other part of the world, it is feared that it will destroy a large number of people there. So, I must salute the intelligence of Chinese government.

This is all what we can expect from any reasonable nation. Pakistan government, specially the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has to complete its home work to cope with any kind of unexpected situation in the country. Therefore, I hope as a nation, we must be well aware of taking precau-