

## KP CM directs completion of losses' survey in Mehsud belt

From Our Staff Correspondent

**PESHAWAR:** Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan on Monday directed the authorities concerned to fulfill all pre-requisites including immediate completion of survey of losses in the leftover areas of the Mehsud belt of the South Waziristan so that the genuine affected people could be compensated as per the set criteria of the government.

He was chairing a meeting held at Chief Minister Secretariat here to discuss matters related to the timely payment of compensations to the affected of the area.

Provincial Ministers and Members of the Cabinet Committee Akbar Ayub Khan, Ajmal Wazir, Iqbal Wazir, Principal Secretary to CM Shahab Ali Shah, Commissioner D.I.Khan Javed Marwat and other relevant authorities attended the meeting.

The chief minister also directed the authorities to sit with the locals of the area to address their grievances regarding the compensation and come up with workable solution acceptable to both the affectees and the government.

The meeting was briefed about the progress made so far regarding payment of compensations to the affected people.

The meeting was informed that a considerable progress had been made in that regard during the last three months and most of the cases of compensation had been disposed off.

Similarly, scrutiny of the remaining cases was in progress and a number of cases had been cleared. The chief minister directed the quarter concerned to expedite the survey process of the leftover areas and immediately complete the scrutiny of the pending cases.

## CDWP approves concept clearance proposal to cope with COVID-19

From Our Staff Correspondent

**ISLAMABAD:** A special meeting of the Concept Clearance Committee of Central Development Working Party (CDWP) on Monday approved a proposal to cope with the coronavirus pandemic in the country by initiating precautionary measures.

The meeting chaired by Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Dr Muhammad Jehanzeb Khan, was attended by Secretary Planning Zafar Hasan, Secretary EAD Syed Pervaiz Abbas and other senior officials from the Economic Affairs Division (EAD).

Presenting the concept paper of "Pakistan National Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19" in the meeting, the Chief Health said the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination had evolved the project to enhance the country capacity for preparedness and response to the COVID-19 pandemic, by establishing functional coordination mechanism at the national and provincial levels.

He said the Federal Government was working to strengthen preparedness to identify and diagnose primary cases, effectively respond to minimize impact of COVID-19 through surveillance strengthening, case management, infection prevention and control, risk communication and coordination.

Dr Jehanzeb Khan stated that strong surveillance would help in prevention of the outbreak. He said Pakistan already had a law named "Emergency Diseases Control Act" that supported immediate measures against outbreak of any diseases.

## KP govt ready to deal with coronavirus: Yousafzai

From Our Staff Correspondent

**PESHAWAR:** Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Labour and Culture Shaukat Yousafzai Monday said the provincial government had completed all necessary measures to deal with coronavirus emergency.

Addressing a ceremony here at a private hospital, he said that KP Chief Minister Mehmood Khan himself was monitoring the task force and other arrangements related to coronavirus, adding that WHO had declared the virus as a pandemic.

He said KP government had closed the educational institutions and wedding halls across the province for 15 days as precautionary measures.

Earlier, he inaugurated first endoscopic spinal surgery at a private hospital and felicitated it was a success of the doctors in the KP.

He said Pakistan had very talented doctors



LAHORE: A telephone mechanic wears facemask repairs telephones at his workplace near Shimla Phari area. —Online

# WHO admits Pakistan govt's measures to protect people from coronavirus: Governor

—Says people must support govt's efforts to ensure safety steps

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar has said that WHO (World Health Organization) is acknowledging Pakistan government's measures to protect people from coronavirus.

Since coronavirus is evident in three neighbouring countries, people of Pakistan will have to be vigilant in this regard. Federal government is taking along all the provincial governments to control coronavirus.

"In Sha Allah, we will succeed in protecting the people from this pandemic to the maximum." People must support the government's efforts to ensure safety measures and they while keeping mind that prevention is better than cure, must strictly adopt precautionary steps against this dreadful virus. Talking to PTI senior member Rai Hassan



Nawaz, member Tayyab Chaudhry and others here, Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar advised the people to fully avoid frequent visits to public places and markets for shopping and other matters.

He added that people should not

get panic but be responsible and adopt safety measures.

Government has set up isolation rooms in hospitals and in order to protect the people from dangerous coronavirus, the government has also banned people's entry into shrines, Khankahon, zoos, safari

parks and other recreational places.

People must adhere to anti-coronavirus advisories and adopt protective measures.

Government had taken these steps in the best interests, security and safety of general public to cope with this global challenge. This pandemic will be defeated by forging unity, national solidarity and harmony among the masses.

People do adopt safety measures to do away with coronavirus, he said and asserted that corona pandemic is so far under control in Pakistan.

In addition to government, the opposition parties and all segments of society are also equally responsible to play their due role in fighting out coronavirus.

"We have to protect the masses from fatal coronavirus at all costs and make their lives secure, and in this connection, no laxity will be tolerated."

# PFA strikes down ill-practice of milk adulteration, seals seven eater-

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Punjab Food Authority (PFA) Director General Irfan Memon has said on Monday that the ill-practice of milk adulteration is being gradually decreased due to a series of actions against the mafia on a daily basis.

Following the directions of Prime Minister Pakistan and Chief Minister, the actions are continued across Punjab to control milk adulteration and to make Punjab adulteration-free province.

He said that their teams had inspected 973,763 litre milk being carried on 1,294 milk-supply vehicles while only four per cent (35,977) milk of the total milk was found adulterated which disposed of on the spot. He said teams discarded 12,000 litre impure milk in Lahore; 5,000 in Faisalabad; 4,000 in Sargodha and remaining in other districts. According to details, teams examined 130 vehicles in Lahore, Faisalabad (188), Gujranwala (137), Attock (6), Bahawalpur (13), Bahawalnagar (15), Bhakkar (25), Chakwal (9), Chinniot (34), DG Khan (54), Hafizabad (3), Jhang (84), Jhelum (19), Kasur (83), Khanawal (17), Khushab (19), Sheikhupura (133), Sialkot (118) and Multan (17).

Similarly, in Lodhran (16), Mandi Bahaudin (8), Mianwali (9), Muzaffargarh (9), Nankana Sahib (22), Narowal (21), Okara (4), Rahimyar Khan (7), Rajanpur (12), Sargodha (35), Toba Tek Singh (33) and Vehari (16) milk carrier vehicle was checked.

PFA Director General further added that milk

was disposed of on a low level of LR, the addition of urea and adulteration of water, adding that it was a serious crime to mix water and toxic chemical in milk to increase the milk quantity. He informed that total of 4 per cent milk was found impure.

He said: "The consumption of tainted milk causes fatal diseases in children and elders. Special dairy safety teams are screening milk on a daily basis which is being carried from different areas of province and there is no place in Punjab for milk adulterators."

On the other hand, PFA has sealed seven food points and imposed hefty fines on dozens of eateries over violations in Punjab. According to details, PFA South team has shut down Rao Arif Foods (nimko unit) for selling substandard eatables and not taking measures to control pests. In another raid, PFA team sealed Tanveer Juice due to not comply of authority instructions and worst condition of hygiene and failure to meet food standards.

A dairy safety team of PFA Rawalpindi sealed Jholay Laal Milk Shop for preparing tainted milk and selling it. In another raid, Farman Warehouse was sealed over failure to meet the previous instructions, poor results of sampling test and unavailability of record. In Chakwal, food safety teams sealed Naveed Hotel over poor arrangements of cleanliness, poor storage and abundance of insects.

Meanwhile, the food regulatory body has closed down two khoya units in Sargodha. PFA

sealed Shanawar and Nasar Khoya units for using substandard ingredients, the presence of lizards, an abundance of insects and non-compliance of instruction.

### 52-bed isolation wards set up in Matiari for coronavirus patients

The district administration has established 52-bed isolation wards in all Taluka hospitals and Rural Health Centers to cope with any potential threat of coronavirus in Matiari district.

This was stated by district focal person for Coronavirus, Dr. Zaheer in a meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner Matiari Ghulam Haider Chandio on Monday.

Dr. Zaheer informed the meeting that 8-bed isolation wards each in all three Taluka hospitals including Matiari, Hala and Saeedabad and 28-bed isolation rooms in different Rural Health Centers including Bhit Shah established in the district. On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner also directed the health officials to adopt required precautionary measures against coronavirus and provide all required medicines and other equipment in the hospitals.

The DC also directed medical as well as paramedical staff to remain high alert and discharge their duties round the clock so that any untoward situation could be faced.

He said in DC office district control room had already been established with telephone number 022-2760034 and the people had been advised not to pay heed on fake propaganda circulated through social media regarding coronavirus.

## Ufone conducts awareness session on coronavirus for employees

**LAHORE:** Amidst the growing threats of coronavirus, Pakistani telecom operator Ufone in collaboration with National Institute of Health (Pakistan) conducted a public awareness session on coronavirus (COVID-19) at the Ufone Tower in Islamabad to educate its employees about the pandemic, its symptoms and key preventative measures that should be taken on an individual level to avoid any risk.

Dr Mumtaz Ali Khan, Senior Scientific Officer and Focal Person for Infection Prevention, Control and Patient Safety (NIH, Pakistan) was invited to deliver the session. He highlighted some crucial global and local statistics related to the number of people being affected by the virus.

Dr Mumtaz stressed on the adoption of preventive measures such as regular washing of hands, avoiding close contact and covering mouth; nose while coughing and sneezing in order to avoid the risk of contracting the disease.

Demonstrations about certain safety precautions were also provided by the doctor so that participants could protect themselves well.

The session was also live streamed on the company's internal communication portal so as to include staff from other regional offices including on field staff working around the country to maximize reach and make most of the people aware about the current situation.

The organisers invited people from other organisations which operate in Ufone tower as well to reap benefits from this interactive session.

The World Health Organization recently declared the global outbreak a pandemic owing to the growing number of patients around the world. —PR

## Food Department arrests 12 profiteers

From Our Staff Correspondent

**PESHAWAR:** The officials of Food Department arrested 12 shopkeepers from various localities of Pajgi Road for profiteering and violation of the official price list, said a press release issued here on Monday.

The department was receiving complaints regarding profiteering and unhygienic conditions of shopkeepers in various localities on Pajgi Road. The officials of the department checked cleanliness conditions and price lists at various shops and arrested 12 shopkeepers on violation.

The officials of the department have also sent dispatch to Police Station Mathra for initiation of legal proceeding against them.

The higher authorities of the Food Department said that crackdown against profiteers and adulterators would continue across the province.

## Punjab govt offers 50pc subsidy on agriculture machinery

From Our Staff Correspondent

**MULTAN:** Punjab government, in line with Prime Minister Agriculture Emergency Programme, is offering 50 percent subsidy on different agriculture machinery to improve productivity.

According to agriculture department, the farmers will be given planter, drill, thresher, and combined headers. The persons having 25 acres or less than its cultivation, can submit application. They should have 50 horsepower tractor. The farmers can submit applications in their own districts. Similarly, the fortunate farmers would be bound to offer machinery facility to other farmers also, for at least three years.

The farmers are directed to submit applications with assistant director agriculture (extension) office till March 20.

Balloting draw for provision of the machinery would be held on April 10. The farmers can download forms from website [www.agripunjab.govt.pk](http://www.agripunjab.govt.pk).

## Devotees given best facilities in isolation blocks

From Our Staff Correspondent

**DERA GHAZI KHAN:** Commissioner DG Khan asim Sadique Monday said that the government has provided best possible facilities to pilgrims, who returned from Iran, at different isolation blocks in the district.

In a statement, he said that the devotees will have to stay in the isolation blocks for 14 days and undergo coronavirus tests.

He informed that devotees including kids, women, old and young persons were provided home-like facilities by the government.

He said that the doctors were getting samples of pilgrims three times a days and five suspected

# Lalika for timely disbursement of Zakat funds

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Provincial Minister for Zakat and Ushr Shoukat Ali Lalika said the Zakat department should ensure timely disbursement of Zakat fund to deserving and needy people.

He expressed these views during his visit to district office of Pakpattan, said a handout issued on Monday. The minister said that it was department's first responsibility to distribute Zakat funds among needy persons.

He also checked the record of district Zakat committee pertaining to distribution of Zakat and also met with needy and deserving persons of the area. District Zakat officer Waheed Ahmed was also present on the occasion.

**SNGPL announces to continue services for customers despite risk of coronavirus**  
Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) on Monday announced that the Company would continue to provide services to its customers despite the coronavirus pandemic threat.

According to SNGPL spokesperson, all SNGPL customer service centers would remain opened 24 hours on regular basis for the convenience of public. Gas Consumers Complaints would be dealt on one-window basis. "All SNGPL employees would continue to perform their duties as usual", he added.

### Awareness drive 'Salute Salaam' against coronavirus continues

Government of Punjab's awareness campaign "Salute Salaam" against coronavirus continues to garner strong support from artist community. Actors Faizan Khawaja and Aamir Qureshi, and famous film critic Rabia Hassan have also released their video messages in support of Salute Salaam campaign against coronavirus.

"Corona is a global epidemic, and caution is the only and effective solution", said actor Aamir Qureshi.

He added that only with unified efforts can we defeat this pandemic. Famous film critic Rabia Hassan, while wholeheartedly supporting Buzdar Government's Salute Salaam campaign,

urged women to include household workers in this awareness campaign so that far reaching results from this awareness campaign could be reaped. Actor Faizan Khawaja, urging his viewers to be part of the Salute Salaam campaign, said that Pakistani nation will unitedly defeat Corona pandemic.

Earlier, well-known actors namely Mustafa Qureshi, Sami Khan, Yasir Nawaz and Harim Farooq also recorded their messages in favour of Salute Salaam campaign.

### Meeting held to review arrangements for Coronavirus patients

A high-level video link meeting was held at Commissioner Office here today under the chair of Commissioner Bahawalpur Division Asif Iqbal Chaudhry to review arrangements done for prevention from coronavirus.

The meeting was told that six hostels of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur have been converted into quarantine centers for suspected coronavirus patients who have traveled from a foreign country in recent days.

The meeting was briefed that such people will be kept at these hostels for 14 days for observation. Civil Hospital Bahawalpur has been dedicated to the patients of coronavirus. The meeting was told that the people will be brought to the quarantine centers after the staff is trained and adequate number of medical kits are available. The meeting was briefed that isolation wards have been set up at different hospitals of all the three districts of Bahawalpur division.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of all the three districts of Bahawalpur Division and officers of concerned departments.

### Price Control Magistrates collect fine from 46 shopkeepers

Price Control Magistrates of Bahawalpur district visited 1004 shops and markets today and found irregularities at 46 shops.

According to Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur Shozab Saeed, the crackdown against overpricing and hoarding would continue in Bahawalpur district in order to secure the rights of

consumers and ensuring the control of prices in the markets under the directions of Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar.

It is pertinent to mention here that a fine of Rs 56000 so far was collected on the spot from shopkeepers found guilty of violations including overpricing and hoarding.

### Model Courts award death sentence to 4, RI to 5 accused

In order to provide speedy justice and to clear massive backlog of cases, the Model Courts Monday awarded death sentence to 4 and Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) to 5 accused in cases of murder and drugs smuggling.

Director General Supreme Court Monitoring Cell Sohail Nasir said, that the 443 model courts which have been set up across the country decided 323 cases.

173 Model Criminal courts disposed of 86 cases including 36 cases of murder and 50 narcotics. Similarly, the 119 civil model courts decided 108 family and rent disputes while 151 model magistrates courts disposed of 129 cases.