

Yasmeen receives masks from Chinese company

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid received a donation of 9,000 N-95 non medical masks, 40,000 disposable masks and 1000 protective gloves from Chinese Company Chenggong at the Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department here on Saturday.

Present on the occasion were Additional Secretary Asif Tufail and representatives of the Chinese company. The Minister thanked the Chinese company for their support appreciated their effort for the control of Corona virus in Punjab.

The Minister said that these are difficult times and local philanthropists must come forward for the support of the needy at this time of trial. She said the entire nation is together and the government is utilizing all available resources for the control of Corona virus in Punjab.

Assistance package announced for sanitary workers

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Board of Directors (BoD) of Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) has announced assistance package for the sanitary workers.

According to the LWMC sources here on Saturday, LWMC Chairman Riaz Hameed Chaudhry said that the special assistance package of about Rs 50 million had been announced for the sanitary workers as they had showed great performance during Coronavirus situation. He said that sanitary workers were asset of the LWMC and standing in front row to combat with the virus. He further said that company had provided masks, gloves and other protective equipment to the workers.

Punjab Food Dept ensures availability of flour: Sami

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Food Minister Samiullah Chaudhry said that his department was ensuring availability of flour to people despite lockdown.

Official sources said on Saturday, the minister said that 25 sale points had been set up in various areas of the provincial capital. He said that trucks loaded with flour were present at the points.

He said that facility of sale points had been provided near the houses of people of Lahore. Samiullah Chaudhry said, "Trucks are present at Begum Kot, Shahdara, Karim Park, Gulshan Ravi, Sabazazar, Johar Town, China Scheme, Thokar Niaz Baig, Model Bazaar Harbanspura, Nishtar Colony, Shadman, Islampura and other areas.



LAHORE: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar addresses a press conference along with representatives of some non-governmental organisations (NGOs) at the Governor's House.

Virus: Governor announces essential items for prisoners

—Says measures to be taken to protect staff, prisoners in all jails

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar has announced provision of masks, hand-sanitizers and soap to jail inmates and staff in order to protect them from dreaded coronavirus.

Addressing a press conference along with representatives of some non-governmental organisations (NGOs) at the Governor's House here on Saturday, he said: "We have decided jointly with the representatives of 12 welfare organisations of Punjab Development Network (PDN) that comprehensive measures will be taken to protect staff and prisoners in all jails of Punjab from coronavirus."

Ch Sarwar said the first consignment of anti-coronavirus essential items had been handed over to the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Prisons Punjab for Lahore jails, adding that masks, sanitizers, soap, gloves and anti-germ shampoo would be provided for 46,000 prisoners and jail staff in the next phase.

Gohar Ejaz of the Lahore Institute of Health Sciences (LIHS), Akhuwat Foundation Chairman Dr Amjad Saqib, Khwaja Shahzeb Akram from pharmaceutical sector, Qazi Azmat from the Punjab Educational Endowment Fund (PEEF), Vice Chairperson Sarwar Foundation Begum Perveen Sarwar and representatives of 12 welfare organisations were present at the press conference.

The governor urged philanthropists to come forward and donate generously to the needy families in the wake of financial hardship due to the lockdown in the province, adding that free ration to 100,000 poor families in Punjab would be provided by philanthropists.

"As per vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan, we have also decided to provide free ration to all those families who have become jobless due to coronavirus crisis, and in the first phase free ration would be provided to 100,000 poor families," he added.

He said a mobile phone application (App) was being developed to

keep record of the people getting support and to avoid duplicity, adding that the data of the families getting support would also be shared with the other welfare organisations.

The governor also warned of strict measures against erring public if they did not stay at homes and violate the restrictions by the Punjab government and roam about the streets freely, adding that tough decisions would be taken by the government if people do not restrict their unnecessary mobility.

Ch Mohammad Sarwar said war against corona could not be won in streets but by staying at homes. "For God's sake, stay at homes to avoid Italy- and France-like situation," he urged people.

The governor also called upon the opposition parties to set aside their reservations and support the government in its fight against coronavirus pandemic.

Philanthropists, on the occasion, reaffirmed their commitment that no jobless would sleep without meal during the pandemic in the

province, adding that free ration would be delivered at their doorsteps by them.

PML-N sets up fund for coronavirus affectees

The Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) Punjab on Saturday decided to conduct fund raising under "Corona Fund" to fight the pandemic in the province.

The decision was taken during an organisational meeting of the PML-N Punjab Chapter, held under the chair of Ahsan Iqbal and Rana Snaullah here.

Heads of divisions, parliamentary party and other members attended the meeting.

According to a spokesperson, party MNAs, MPAs, district mayors, chairmen and other office-bearers would deposit funds. The party would extend every possible support including provision of more protection kits and face masks to fight the virus.

The meeting also directed the party leaders to continue distribution of ration bags among the needy.

Rs 4,000 each to be distributed among 25 lakh families affected by lockdown

By M Jahangir Hayat

LAHORE: Rs 4000 each will be distributed among 25 lakh families affected by the lockdown due to COVID-19 for which Rs. 10 billion have been allocated.

The Punjab government has also decided to waive off provincial taxes of 18 billion rupees.

Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar while giving briefing to the media after special meeting at CM office, said that there are 530 confirmed corona patients in Punjab out of which 207 are from DG Khan, 4 are from Mandi Bahauddin, 75 are from Multan, one is from Narowal, 119 are from Lahore, one is from Rahim Yar Khan, 51 are from Gujrat, two are from Sargodha, 10 are from Gujranwala, one is from Attock, 19 are from Jhelum, one is from Bahawalnagar, 15 are from Rawalpindi, two are from Mianwali, nine are from Faisalabad, two are from Nankana Sahib and one patient of corona is belong to Khushab. 82 new corona patients have been reported in the province from the last day.

The Chief Minister said that employment of a large number of people has been affected from coronavirus especially daily wagers and labour class is facing financial difficulties. Government is fully aware about their problems and will not let them alone in their time of trial.

He said that Punjab government is standing beside them. The government has decided that financial aid of Rs 4000 per family will be given to 25 lakh families with Rs 10 billion through the province. This financial aid will be other than the relief package announce by federal government, he added. The chief minister said doctors and health professional are our heroes in ongoing war against coronavirus and we salute their services. Government will give one month additional salary as a special bonus to those doctors and health professional who are working in corona wards. This is not a payment of their services but recognition of their services by Punjab government. Punjab government will give Shohda package to those officials, doctors and health professionals who embraced martyrdom during an ongoing war against corona. Usman Buzdar said that, first time in the history government, keeping in view the pandemic, under section 401 of Pakistan Penal Code, has decided to suspend 90-day imprisonment of the prisoners in Punjab prisons. Approximately 3100 prisoners will get benefit from this decision. However, prisoners involved in heinous and serious crimes will not get benefit from this decision. Recommendations have been prepared in connection with undertrial prisoners and the same will soon sent to Federal Government.

He said that the Punjab is only province where Punjab Infectious Disease Control and Prevention Ordinance 2020 has been enforced which facilitate administration and Health Department authority to implement measures taken for controlling corona virus beside providing them legal protection. In a response to a question the chief minister said the government will also review package for the journalists and will take necessary measures for solving their problems. He said that under Punjab government programme, financial aid can get by filling simple online form. Financial aid will be transfer after checking the information already available in data base. Provincial Law Minister Raja Basharat, Provincial Information Minister Fayyaz-ul-Hassan Chohan, Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary Urban Services, Finance Secretary, Information Secretary and other concerned officials were present on this occasion.



LAHORE: People wash hands from WASA water tank during the fifth-day lockdown. —Online

Crackdown against hoarders, violators of Section 144 continues

—132 cases against hoardings whereas 4,845 cases registered against violations of Section 144

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: As per orders of Inspector General of Police Punjab Shoaib Dastagir, police teams are strictly implementing the instructions issued by government of the Punjab regarding Section 144, lock down and Corona virus in all districts across the province so that precious lives of citizens may be saved from coronavirus pandemic and every possible help may be provided to them.

Likewise, police teams along with health and other departments are taking steps under the supervision of DPOs to prevent from coronavirus and awareness campaigns are also being run for protection of wealth and lives of people and strict actions are also being taken against hoarders of face masks, hand sanitizers and other essential equipments. Such callous hoarders are being arrested for selling equipments under undue profit so that the citizens may be facilitated in such difficult time.

According to the details, from 16th March, actions are being taken against violation of section 144 without any discrimination of status and Designation. Similarly, police teams from 28th March, registered 4845 cases, 9015 violators have been arrested among them 3274 have been detained whereas 565 have been released on warning. Likewise, during actions against hoardings, police teams registered 132 cases and 141 accused have been arrested. IG Punjab Shoaib Dastagir stressed upon regional and district police chiefs to speed up the actions against the violators of law and directed to continue the actions against those who do not follow the directions of government and also submit the progress report of crackdown to Central police office on daily basis. He further said that officers and officials deputed in field should follow and ensure the precautionary measures of pandemic Corona virus and take steps along with other government departments to counter this virus and help out the

Speakers for avoiding 'mental pandemic' out of corona

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Speakers at the first virtual conference on coronavirus have called upon the government and other stakeholders to give hope to the people and should avoid spreading 'mental pandemic' while curbing Corona epidemic by creating fear among the masses because mental disease would be more dangerous than corona virus.

They were addressing the first virtual conference on "Roadmap for Combating COVID-19" organized by Punjab University Academic Staff Association here on Saturday.

PU Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar, President Academic Staff Association Prof Dr Mumtaz Anwar Chaudhry, Secretary Javed Sami, Dean Faculty of Islamic Studies Prof Dr Hammad Lakhvi, Dean Faculty of Pharmacy Prof Dr Irfan Nadeem Bukhari, Dean Faculty of Economics and Management Sciences Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood, Dean Faculty of Commerce Prof Dr Mubsher Munawar Khan, a good number of faculty members, scientists, professionals and researchers from life sciences, sciences, arts, social sciences, pharmacy, Islamic Studies and other faculties joined the virtual conference through Hangout from their homes. Address-

ing the conference, Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar said that people must not fear of Corona virus. However, he stressed, accurate information should be provided to the people so that they could save themselves and the others.

He said that people should also be guided how they could best use their time at home otherwise a healthy person became ill after staying at home for a week.

He said that universities played their role in such crisis and PU was also playing its role in this critical time. Prof Dr Hammad Lakhvi said that the Muslims had a different worldview of dealing with such crisis. He said that as a Muslim we believe that death would come to us, whether we fell into any disease or not and there was an eternal life for which we should prepare ourselves. He said that there was no disease on earth which had no treatment but there was need to make efforts to find the cure for saving lives. "The world has witnessed epidemics and diseases far greater than COVID-19.

Therefore, the Muslims must keep their trust in Allah and it is enough to remove any negativity in their minds," he said. Prof Dr Mumtaz Anwar proposed establishment of national task force incorporating experts from all

the relevant fields so that a comprehensive strategy could be devised and implemented to combat COVID-19.

He said that Corona Virus would damage our economy and for economic recovery, we should let down interest rate and facilitate businesses.

Institute of Social and Cultural Studies Director Prof Dr Rubina Zakar said that clear guidelines available for home and hospital care of Corona patients.

She said that we should share these guidelines with the people for home treatment of patients because 70 percent cases of COVID-19 could be treated at home.

However, she explained, the main thing was about isolation of patients which could be possible if people have proper knowledge. She urged the government to develop evidence based policy for corona virus prevention and control. Institute of Applied Psychology Director Dr Rafia Rafique said that the government must focus on mental health of the people while dealing with corona virus otherwise mental disease would become more dangerous than COVID-19. She said more than 99 percent population of the country was not the victim of corona virus and therefore there was need to create the ray of hope among the peo-

ple. Dr Saima Siddique from Department of Geography suggested the government to map the areas of Pakistan as per the intensity of the patients on the basis of available data so that people could adopt preventive measures accordingly.

Prof Dr Nadeem Bukhari was also of the view that fear must not be created among the people. He pointed out that the personnel at pickets all over the country should have proper training to check people so that they could also avoid COVID-19.

College of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences Principal Dr Sohail Chand said that according to data pattern of COVID-19 in Pakistan, by the blessings of Allah, COVID-19 was not spreading at the pace that it should have spread otherwise. He said that people must be informed about such positive things.

Dr Azhar Ali said that the government must create awareness among people regarding usage of healthy diet to increase immunity among people and such messages should be part of the awareness campaign.

PFA continues its routine inspections even in pandemic circumstances.

The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) is fully active against unhygienic eateries and adulteration

mafia to ensure the provision of healthy and safe food for Public amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The authority is also taking all protective measures to safeguard employees' health. On the directions of PFA Director General Irfan Memon, the food safety teams under the superior of PFA Director Operations (South) Shahzad Magsi visited several food points including Shangrilla Cuisine Restaurant to inspect the hygiene and food standards in South Punjab.

Irfan Memon said that the teams had worn protective suits (full covers), mask, gloves, goggles and shoe covers during inspection to minimise the risk of COVID-19. He said that teams also screened the food business operators (FBOs) for COVID-19 with the help of thermal guns while protective costumes have been provided to all-district teams according to their requirements. Meanwhile, the teams have issued warning notices for improvement to Food Festival, Ideal Mall, Ittifaq Bakers and others during the inspections, as well as guided them about coronavirus. He further said that the authority also completed the screening arrangements in the offices of Punjab Food Authority. The priority of PFA is to maintain the food standards despite limited resources at this crucial time, he added.