

Minimum 12°C
Maximum 23°C
Sunset 06:09pm
Sunrise 06:16am
(Tomorrow)

LAHORE

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Tuesday, March 17, 2020



FAJAR	04:56 AM
ZOHAR	12:30 PM
ASR	04:27 PM
MAGRIB	06:09 PM
ISHA	07:30 PM

Quick Read

NH&MP officials directed to take precautionary measures

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: National Highways and Motorways Police (NH&MP) Sector Commander, (M-3), SSP Muhammad Ayyaz Saleem on Monday directed the officers to adopt precautionary measures against corona virus while performing their duties.

Presiding over a meeting, he directed the officers to wear mask & keep distance about three feet while dealing with any commuter. The use of sanitizers should be ensured in all patrolling vehicles to avoid uncertain happenings, he added. He also banned official gathering without his consent or prior approval to meet the desired precautionary measures as announced by the federal and provincial governments.

Precaution steps against virus at LAC reviewed

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Precautionary measures were reviewed at Alhama Arts Council in a meeting held here on Monday with Lahore Arts Council Executive Director Ather Ali Khan in the chair.

According to LAC spokesperson, during the meeting Ather Ali Khan said that precautions could be taken to defeat the coronavirus, adding that every employee should avoid hugging and shaking hands.

The meeting decided to suspend biometric attendance of all staff and reviewed the level of cleanliness of the Alhama Arts Council.

At the meeting, the LAC Executive Director also issued orders to the officer concerned to spray different locations at Alhama. He mentioned that there was no need to be panic about coronavirus, but precautionary measures should be taken. LAC Director Arts and Culture Zulfiqar Ali Zulfi, Assistant Director admin Khuram Naveel, stages managers and other officers attended the meeting.

WAPDA postpones department promotion exams

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The departmental promotion examinations of Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), Pakistan Electric Power Company (PEPCO), Power Information Technology Company (PITC), DISCOs, and GENCOs have been postponed for three weeks, said the press release issued here on Monday. The examinations were suspended in the wake of impending coronavirus alert and the measures advised by the Government of Pakistan.

The examinations had scheduled to be held from March 16, 2020, to March 20, 2020, at Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan, Islamabad, Tarbela, Peshawar, Hyderabad, and Quetta simultaneously. The WAPDA examinations the directorate said that the revised schedule of said examinations



LAHORE: A view of closed Data Darbar on the order of Punjab Government, amid concerns over spread of the COVID-19 novel coronavirus. —Online

CM Buzdar orders to implement guidelines against coronavirus

—Says no room for any negligence in this regard

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar directed the line departments to ensure implementation of guidelines and steps for safety from corona virus.

In a statement issued here on Monday, he said the government had taken timely steps to protect people, adding that there was no room for any negligence in this regard. Unusual conditions require unusual steps and the people should avoid going to public places, he said and added that people coming from abroad should also get them medically examined and health safety measures should be given priority to protect their families. He said the government was fully active and precautionary measures are yielding best results. Meanwhile, practical steps have been taken against the hoarding of masks and other medical equipment and the government was also focusing on the training of doctors and other paramedical staff, he added.

Condolences death of former governor Iftikhar Hussain Buzdar has expressed a deep sense of

sorrow over the demise of former governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Lt Gen (R) Iftikhar Hussain.

In a message on Monday, the chief minister extended heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family and prayed that may Almighty Allah rest the departed soul in eternal peace.

Mosques will not be closed in Punjab, CM clarifies

A representative delegation of renowned religious scholars of different schools of thought called on Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar at his office on Monday and announced to fully support the government for dealing with coronavirus.

Addressing the delegation, the chief minister announced that mosques will not be closed in Punjab. The Punjab government took the lead to write to the federal government on January 03 about coronavirus and also set up a control room in the health department. Similarly, a cabinet committee has also been established to monitor the steps being taken for controlling the coronavirus. This committee regularly holds its meetings while Rs 24 crore has been released

to the health department for the procurement of necessary medical equipment, he added. The government has also allocated an amount of one billion rupees for the health department to cope with the possible coronavirus threat.

Special hospitals have been established in Muzaffargarh, Lahore and Rawalpindi for the treatment of coronavirus while quarantine facility has been established in DG Khan, Multan and Bahawalpur to monitor health conditions of the pilgrims, he said. The CM told that 760 pilgrims have reached DG Khan and they are being screened. Meanwhile, additional ten thousand kits are being procured to diagnose coronavirus, he added. The CM said that Punjab cabinet has also given approval to public health emergency adding that corona treatment facility can be set up within one week for one lac people. He told that ban has been imposed on public gatherings under Section 144 in Punjab and public awareness campaign is also in progress. People should not be panicked and adopt precautionary measures, he told. Nations go through sufferings and by the grace of Allah almighty,

we will succeed, he added.

The religious scholars should sensitise the people about coronavirus. The religious scholars appreciated the steps taken by the Punjab government for safety from coronavirus. Punjab Law Minister Raja Basharat said that religious scholars' cooperation with the government is a positive tradition while provincial minister Dr Yasmeen Rashid maintained that corona's spread is fast and one should not go out of the home during holidays. Provincial minister Saeed-ul-Hassan Shah observed that people should avoid going to other places during the pandemic. The religious scholars were also given a briefing about precautionary measures and steps taken by the government.

Khateeb Badshahi Masjid led the prayer for safety from the corona. Maulana Sahibzada Fazal Raheem, Maulana Ghulam Muhammad Sialvi, Maulana Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, Hafiz Zubair Ahmad Zaheer, Allama Muhammad Hussain Akbar and other religious scholars also spoke on this occasion. Mussarat Jamsheed Cheema MPA, Chief Secretary, ACS (Home),

ESA starts specialised training for handling of corona patients

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: On the directives of Director General Punjab Emergency Service (Rescue 1122), Dr Rizwan Naseer, a specialized training for safe handling of corona virus patients has been started at Emergency Services Academy.

As new cadets from Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan would have to immediately deal with the pandemic, therefore, special training has been organized for the staff so that they

could be able to handle safely such suspected or infected corona cases.

The DG Rescue Punjab said that after five-day training, the rescuers would be deployed in their respective provinces. He also motivated the rescuers that they are the ones who are moving towards an emergency or disaster to rescue the affected population while others are leaving that area. He asked them to follow the health and safety guidelines while handling such emergencies.

Dr. Rizwan Naseer emphasized on

simulation-based training starting from personal hygiene, cleanliness of surroundings, personal, equipment and vehicle decontamination. He discussed the training programme with the officers of Emergency Services Academy.

He stressed that rescuers would ensure personal sanitization and hygiene and professional handling of victims of corona virus or any biological emergency. He also briefed them about guidelines/Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the management of victims of any corona virus, which in-

cludes dedicated ambulance and staff, wearing proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), ensure proper decontamination of rescue teams, vehicles, and equipment after handling of a suspected or infected patient.

These SOPs also include ensuring that the victim is also wearing the face mask and he/she is isolated from the public and attendants of patients must not ride in the patient compartment of the ambulance. Use the appropriate solution for decontamination of equipment/reusable items.

Shahbaz Tatla murder case

Court extends physical remand of Mufakhar Adeel

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A local court on Monday extended physical remand of accused Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Mufakhar Adeel for another five days in former law officer Shahbaz Tatla murder case.

The court also handed over Mufakhar's accomplice, Asad Bhatti to police on five days' physical remand.

The police produced both the accused before Judicial Magistrate Shazia Mehboob at Model Town courts in strict security. The investigation officer submitted that Asad Bhatti was arrested on Sunday in connection with the case. He pleaded with the court for physical remand of both the accused to collect evidence. Advocate Farhad Ali Shah on behalf of the complainant also supported the investigation officer request, saying that it was a test case for police.

Subsequently, the court extended physical remand of the SSP for another five days, besides handing over his accomplice to police on five-day physical remand.

The court directed to produce them on expiry of the remand term, March 21. SSP Mufakhar Adeel was arrested last week by the investigation police, almost a month after his disappearance. It was alleged that Mufakhar, along with his accomplices, killed Shahbaz Tatla.

Former Assistant Advocate General Shahbaz Tatla had gone missing on February 7 and a case was registered at Naseerabad police station.

114 prisoners involved in petty cases released

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: District and Sessions Judge Syed Ahsan Mehboob Bokhari on Monday visited Camp Jail Lahore and released 114 prisoners involved in petty offenses.

Accompanied by senior civil judge Khalid Yaqoob Shabi, the D&SJ checked the standard of meal in kitchen, barracks of the jail.

Camp jail superintendent Asadullah Waraych and other officials were also present.

Illegal buildings, other structure razed

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore Development Authority (LDA) Town Planning Wing's squad on Monday demolished an illegal building and sealed seven structures located at Gulberg, Muslim Town and Garden Town.

According to an LDA spokesperson, the authority demolished an illegal construction on plot No 19 block-B at Muslim Town and sealed an illegal construction on plot No 17 block-B new Muslim Town, illegal constructed restaurant on plot No 234 block-A Gulberg III, illegal construction on plot No 15 Block-S Gulberg, an illegal construction on plot No 185 block Abu Bakkar new Garden town, and illegal constructions on plot No 21 & 31 block Babar and Abek, respectively.

Coronavirus: Lahore Fort closed

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Lahore Fort has been closed in the wake of impending coronavirus alert, said to spokesman of



LAHORE: Khateeb Badshahi Mosque, Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad tells mediemen about the closure of historical mosque due to coronavirus. —Online

Yasmeen orders corona isolation ward at Police Lines Hospi-

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmeen Rashid directed on Monday to establish a Corona Isolation Ward for police employees and their families at Police Lines Qila Gujjar Khan Lahore.

The Minister gave these directions during her visit to 40-bedded hospital for Police Employees at the Police Lines Qila Gujjar Khan. Present on the occasion were ASP Headquarters Jamil Zafar and DSP Headquarters Farhat Abbas. The Minister reviewed the facilities at the hospital. ASP headquarters Jamil Zafar gave a briefing to the Minister on different wards and the Units of the hospital. The Minister also gave orders for the appointment of a regular

Medical Superintendent for the hospital.

The Minister said that the officials from the Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department and the Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education are providing all out technical support to the hospital. Dr. Yasmin Rashid also said that Police Lines Qila Gujjar Khan Hospital is an extremely useful facility for the employees of the Police department and their families.

Reaches SIMS to check covid-19 preparedness

Punjab Health Minister Dr. Yasmin Rashid reached Services Institute of Medical Institute on a surprise visit to check the facilities on Corona Isolation Ward at SIMS.

Principal SIMS Professor Mehmud Ayaz and Medical Superintendent Dr.

Iftikhar gave detailed briefing to the Minister on the measures adopted in the wake of increasing threat of Corona in the country and Punjab.

The Minister expressed satisfaction on the availability of facilities and said the government is utilizing all available resources to ensure provision of best quality services.

"So far one patient has been confirmed positive in Punjab and his condition is not serious. We are ensuring the implementation of SOPs for treatment.

Through a Monitoring cell, all the facilities are sharing their regular updates on Corona. Further, regular updates are being shared with all stakeholders," the Minister said. In her message, the Minister said that public must observe precautionary measures especially those