

Minimum 14°C
Maximum 28°C
Sunset 06:13pm
Sunrise 06:07am
(Tomorrow)

LAHORE

www.thebusiness.com.pk

Monday, March 23, 2020



FAJAR	04:46 AM
ZOHAR	12:30 PM
ASR	04:30 PM
MAGRIB	06:13 PM
ISHA	07:35 PM

Quick Read

MCL imposes Rs 11,400 fine, confiscates material

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Metropolitan Corporation Lahore (MCL), in its ongoing anti-encroachment drive, on Saturday demolished various illegal structures in its jurisdiction.

Headed by Metropolitan Officer (Regulation) Zubair Ahmed Wattoo, the MCL anti-encroachment squad also imposed a total fine of Rs 11,400 on various shopkeepers and confiscated four truckloads of encroachment materials, said the MCL spokesman here.

The MCL squads of Ganj Bakhsh zone, Nashtar zone, Gulberg zone, Al-lama Iqbal zone, Samnabad zone and Ravi zone also took into custody belongings of encroachers from Misri Shah area, Samnabad, Taj Bagh, Canal Road and Daroghawala.

During the operation, the MCL cleared structures, including sheds, grills, billboards, hoardings, makeshift shops alongside the roads besides confiscating belongings of encroachers.

MCL kills 118 stray dogs in city

MCL in its ongoing action against the stray dogs, Sunday killed at least 118 dogs in the city. According to a spokesperson, the squad killed 114 dogs with gun shots and around 64 were poisoned to death. He said that the campaign against stray dogs was carried out in various zones of provincial capital including Nashtar, Ravi, Aziz Bhatti, Gulberg and Wahga zones.

Augustine appeals to nation to stay at home to stop spread of virus

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Human Rights & Minorities Affairs (HR&MA) Ijaz Alam Augustine has greeted the nation on the eve of Youm-e-Pakistan.

In a statement on Sunday, the minister said that Youm-e-Pakistan commemorate the Lahore Resolution "On 23rd March 1940 at Minar-e-Pakistan, there passed a resolution for a separate state for Muslims which would be called Pakistan". He urged young generation to study hard and achieve their dreams while working towards a stronger and united Pakistan.

CEC calls on CM

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja called on the Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar at Chief Minister's Office on Sunday. Matters of mutual interest and the overall situation came under discussion during the meeting. Usman Buzdar congratulated Sikandar Sultan Raja for assuming the charge as Chief Election Commissioner and extended warm wishes to him. Usman Buzdar said that the Punjab government believes in extending all-out cooperation with election commissioners in administrative affairs.



LAHORE: A beautiful aerial view of Hazoori Bagh, Mazar-e-Quaid and Lahore fort which present ruins view due to coronavirus outbreak throughout the world. —Online

Governor opens Telemedicine Helpline Centre today

—Says political, religious parties as well as nation's resolve to get united to control coronavirus

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar will inaugurate the Governor Punjab Telemedicine Helpline Centre today (Monday).

In the first phase, more than 150 doctors will be available to guide people about coronavirus hazards and its prevention at the call centre round-the-clock.

In a media statement issued by Governor's House here on Sunday, he said that political and religious parties as well as nation's resolve to get united to control coronavirus was highly commendable. "I am sure that when we will fulfill our responsibility to control corona then we will succeed in preventing ourselves from the virus." He said the main objective of closure of Punjab and other cities of the country, markets, shopping centres and other public places, was to protect people from the pandemic.

Since the government or any institution alone could not cope with coronavirus, the 220 million Pakistanis would have to play their part because the country could not afford any laxity against deadly corona.

Punjab Governor Mohammad Sarwar said: "I am glad to note that corona telemedicine helpline centres at University of Health Sciences (UHS), Services Hospital, Punjab University and other places are working very efficiently. Thousands of people are getting advisories against corona on daily basis. People are now receiving advisories and prevention at their homes instead of rushing to hospitals just because of these telemedicine centres," he said and added that the persons requiring corona tests were also being helped out actively.

The governor mentioned that only 16 persons out of 10,500 had been advised to get corona tests in the first batch of corona telemedicine helpline centre at University of Health Sci-

Virus: Yasmien appeals to people to observe social distancing

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid has said that social distancing is the key to prevention, and ordered the authorities concerned to increase the number of Telemedicine Facilities at hospitals and lessen rush of people in waiting areas.

She chaired a review meeting of key officials of the Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department. The meeting was attended by Secretary SH&ME and Provincial Focal Person for Corona Control Barrister Nabeel Awan, Special Secretary Silwat Saeed, Special Secretary Nadir Chatha, Additional Secretary Dr Asif Tufail, Additional Secretary Salman Shahid, Mayo Hospital Chief Executive Officer Professor Asad Aslam Khan, Chairman Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute (PKLI) Board of Governors (BoG) Dr Javed

Gardezi and other officials.

Provincial Focal Person for Corona Nabeel Awan gave a complete update on the COVID-19 cases including the measures being taken to combat the spread of the virus.

Dr Yasmin said that adequate number of test kits were available and another supply of kits would be reaching in Punjab shortly.

She said: "The private hospitals have been directed to end rush of people in waiting areas. All public gatherings are being stopped. We are starting 'Telemedicine Facility' at teaching hospitals for all kinds of medical advice on Corona. I appeal to the people to stay at home and stop the spread of Corona virus. We are doing all in the realm of possibility to combat the threat. The healthcare staff is working round the clock to provide services to the people and the figures of suspected and confirmed patients are being shared on regular basis."

ences Lahore. He said, "I know, many people are the poor and facing livelihood earning problems but we will not leave them alone rather provide

free monthly ration in collaboration with Punjab Development Network, to the poor persons, whose livelihood earnings/jobs are affected in the wake

of coronavirus crisis. We all have to make a pledge to fulfill our responsibilities at all costs in the war against coronavirus."

Rail passengers advised to wear masks

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Pakistan Railways has advised the passengers to wear masks before entering the railway stations, otherwise, they would not be allowed to enter the stations.

PR Divisional Superintendent Amir Nisar Chaudhry said here on Sunday that rail passengers were checked at the entrances of railway stations.

He said that sanitizers were available for passengers at health desks set up for them at the stations. He said that protection of passengers were dear to the railway administration, however, passengers should also maintain their cleanliness. The DS said that anti-septic spray at railway stations and in the trains

was being carried on and the railways was focusing on the cleanliness especially. He informed that doctors and paramedical staff were available round the clock at the stations who were screening the in and out going passengers. He said that sanitizers, liquid soap and hand wash had been kept in the washrooms and waiting halls at railway stations to facilitate the passengers. He urged the citizens to avoid unnecessary traveling and cooperate with the staff at the stations and in the trains. The DS Lahore said that the railway staff had been strictly directed to use gloves and masks during the duty.

Lahore Railway Station disinfected
In line with the preventive measures against corona virus COVID-19, Pak-

City wears deserted look

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The city roads wore a deserted look on Sunday due to partial lock down announced by the government in the wake of corona virus pandemic.

Though the public transport has not been suspended but a very thin traffic was observed on major roads especially at The Mall (Shahrahe Quaid e Azam), Ferozpur Road, Jail Road, Circular Road and Multan Road.

Parks, gardens and playgrounds besides markets and shopping malls have already been closed for public.

It is pertinent to mention here the Punjab government has announced a partial lock down in the province till Tuesday morning. Only medical stores, grocery shops, meat shops and restaurants have been allowed to open.

istan Railways administration on Sunday disinfected Lahore Railway station by washing and spraying medicine.

Special arrangements have been made at the railway station to combat the virus and counters have been set up at the railway station's entry point where health staff checked passengers by using thermo-scanners and refer the patients in case of fever to hospitals.

The railways has deployed an ambulance permanently at the station, whereas hand sanitizers for public have also been arranged.

It is pertinent to mention here that the railways has announced to suspend 34 trains across the country due to corona virus pandemic and coaches of other trains are being increased to facilitate the

Pharmacy dept to be part of hospitals under health reforms: DRAP

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Drugs Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has issued an order to introduce crucial health reforms to rectify errors in the drug indications in all healthcare establishments and hospitals running across the country.

According to DRAP sources, emphasis was being laid on the health reforms and establishment of a pharmacy and therapeutic digital pharmacy services including computerization of inventory of hospital medicine and surgical disposable stores would be done. committee in each hospital and making it functional in all hospitals.

Senior most physician as its chairman and chief pharmacist as its secretary, other members include senior most surgeon in accordance with the specialties, director finance, and relevant clinical pharmacist.

The number of beds, number of

wards and requirement of clinical pharmacists in drug administration should be clearly mentioned on patient chart in the hospitals.

On the patient chart, a column for ward note by the clinical pharmacist will be printed, who will add his/her note on it regularly. The clinical pharmacist will be deputed in wards, where during the ward round with professors/physicians and hospital administration would be mandatory.

The digital pharmacy services including computerization of inventory of hospital medicine and surgical disposable stores would be done.

Efforts would be made to have uniform software, inventory software by involving the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB).

The Pharmacy Department in hospitals will act as an independent Department of Pharmacy like other departments working under the direct control of principal/medical director, medical superintendent. The chief

pharmacist will act as director/ drug controller of the hospital.

An SMS system will be introduced within the hospital and in case of adverse drug reaction, the patient will inform the principal, medical director, medical superintendent.

Good storage/distribution practices guidelines, given by the World Health Organisation (WHO) will be implemented with proper cold chain storage facilities in each hospital. The digital pharmacy services including computerization of inventory of hospital medicine and surgical disposable stores would be done. Proper stores with dedicated medical store building should be established in each hospital with proper racking and shelves and temperature & humidity control facility. All stores should be well ventilated and safe from direct sunlight. DRAP warned that no negligence would be tolerated in implementation of the directions in any hospital or healthcare facility.

PU engineers develop anti-bacterial disposable wipes, sanitisers

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Punjab University's chemical engineers have developed anti-bacterial disposable wipes and sanitizers as per the WHO guidelines, which would help protect people from coronavirus.

In this regard, PU Vice Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmad addressed a press briefing here on Sunday, along with Department of Polymer Engineering and Technology's associate professors Dr Bilal Haider, Dr Atif Islam, Assistant Professor Dr Areeba Farooq, student volunteers including Hamza Javed, Musa Raza, Rahat Rashid, Hafiz Abdullah, Muhammad Asad and Musa Raza at the Institute of Chemical Engineering and Technology. Prof Niaz Ahmad said that he had instructed the PU chemical engineers to develop anti-bacterial sanitizers against coronavirus. He said people were ignoring so many things which could be a source of spread of coronavirus like mobile phone, purse, key, pen, door handles, stair handles, ATMs, public washrooms, etc., and "we decided to develop anti-bacterial disposable wipes to be used on such things against coronavirus as per WHO standards".

He said, "We were also worried about TV cameramen visiting hospitals and other places for coverage of corona related issues and this disposable wipe can also be carefully used on camera, hand mic and other equipment." He added that all citizens of Pakistan must act wisely and behave like a responsible citizen to avoid spread of coronavirus. He said that the PU had established diagnostic centres, developed diagnostic kits, antibacterial sanitizers, telemedicine centre and launched an awareness campaign and would serve the community by playing its national role. Briefing the media about anti-bacterial disposable wipe and sanitizer, Dr Bilal, Dr Atif and Dr Areeba explained that WHO recommended ingredients including ethylalcohol, hydrogen peroxide, glycerin, neem extract, aloe vera extract and fragrance have been used in the sanitizer.

They said that the standard augur well method was used against E Coli (MDR) and E Coli (NMDR). They said that the material was used by applying hands to check its behavior and was found soft on skin and not irritating.

They appealed to the government to provide basic material so that they could produce disposable wipes and sanitizers at mass level.