

# LAHORE

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Monday, April 20, 2020

Minimum 18°C  
Maximum 30°C  
Sunset 06:33pm  
Sunrise 05:32am  
(Tomorrow)



FAJAR	04:30 AM
ZOHAR	12:30 PM
ASR	04:45 PM
MAGRIB	06:25 PM
ISHA	08:00 PM

## Quick Read

### Govt sets historical wheat procurement target: Dreshak

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Provincial minister for Livestock and Dairy Development Sardar Hasnain Bahadar Dreshak said that 2056, 970 bags wheat will be procured in district Rajanpur which is 650, 000 bags extra as compare to previous year target. He said that Punjab government has set 45 lac metric ton wheat procurement historical target with Rs 158 billion this year. Provincial minister for Livestock and Dairy Development Sardar Hasnain Bahadar Dreshak expressed these views while paying surprise visits to wheat procurement centres on Sunday. He said that wheat is being procured from growers under open policy while 'Girdawri' process for gunny bags distribution ended to facilitate growers. He said that the government was taking every possible step for protection of growers rights.

### Wheat to be provided to flour mills as per need: Aleem

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Senior Minister Abdul Aleem Khan has said that provision of wheat to the flour mills as per their requirement will be ensured across the province. According to official sources here on Sunday, he said that sufficient stock of wheat was available and proper steps would be taken to avert the shortage of the commodities. The senior minister said, "Wheat crop is good and it will fulfil the requirement the province." He said that Food department had sent the permit list to the deputy commissioners concerned. The minister directed the department to ensure provision of wheat to functional flour mills. He said that there was no bar on inter district transportation of wheat while matters related to the movement of wheat from other provinces were being finalised. He said that strict action would be taken against hoarders adding that all possible steps were being taken to ensure availability of flour during the Holy month of Ramadan.

### Ehsas Kafalat Programme Rs 945.708m disbursed in 8 days

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The district administration disbursed relief amount around Rs 945.708 million among 77,464 needy persons under Ehsaas Kafalat Programme, announced during the last eight days. According to officials sources, the process was also continued on the 9th consecutive day at 145 cash counters of the 31 kafalat centers set up in various parts of the provincial capital. He said Rs 134.714 million was disbursed through 31 kafalat centers among 11,057 beneficiaries on April 18. He said that all 145 cash disbursement counters equipped with safety measures disbursed relief amount to deserving, adding that district administration was utilizing all its resources to facilitate the public. All precautionary measures including provision of sanitizers, hand washers, social distancing and screening of each beneficiary coming to centers had been taken by the administration, he added.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid inspects quarantine train at Railway Station before departing to Chaman.

## CM orders crackdown against profiteers, hoarders

### Aslam discusses mode of fiscal aid disbursement to masses

By Our Staff Reporter

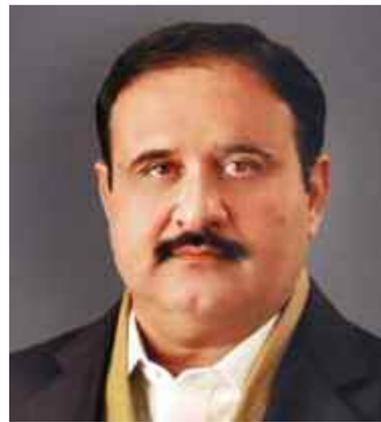
LAHORE: Provincial Industries and Trade Minister Mian Aslam Iqbal called on Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar on Sunday at CM office in which matters pertaining to providing relief measures to the masses and mode of distributing financial assistance under Ramazan Relief Package came under discussion. Usman Buzdar maintained that deserving persons will be provided direct fiscal aid in the holy month of Ramazan under Ramazan package and declared that Ramazan bazaars will not be set up in view of coronavirus pandemic. He asserted that indiscriminate stern action will be taken against hoarders and profiteers in the prevailing untoward situation.

"I deem interests of my masses first and foremost as no one will be allowed to snatch the pockets of citizens", he emphasized.

CM directed Aslam Iqbal to launch indiscriminate crackdown against profiteers and hoarders as they deserve no let up. Those looting the masses under the garb of getting undue profits will find their abode behind the bars, he warned.

He stressed that artificial hike in the prices of vegetables, fruits and pulses will not be tolerated at any cost. He further directed that prices and quality of essential edibles should be monitored regularly and their selling should also be ensured according to fixed price list. He asserted that no negligence will be tolerated with regard to implementation on price control mechanism.

CM Usman Buzdar vowed that we will take up all possible steps to provide maximum relief to the masses. Provincial Industries and Trade Minister Aslam Iqbal apprised CM that Punjab gov-



ernment is undertaking effective steps for provision of relief to the common man.

He further intimated Usman Buzdar that we have chalked out an effective plan in order to maintain stability in the prices of essential items during Ramazan-ul-Mubarak. He assured that those found involved in hoarding and profiteering will be brought in the grip of law and will also be dealt with sternly.

**Pays surprise visit to various areas of City:** Buzdar undertook sudden visit of various areas of Lahore without protocol. He took round of different markets and main roads without security. Usman Buzdar himself drove vehicle and took stock of partial lockdown situation. He monitored latest situation relating to government

steps being implemented by visiting Shahra-e-Awan-e-Tijarat, Shahra-e-Quaid-e-Azam, Shadman, Jail Road and other areas. CM stopped his vehicle at few check posts and commended police personnel for vigilantly performing their duties. He also viewed closure of different markets and bazaars.

Buzdar paid tributes to trader community for fully implementing government steps with regard to closing down markets and bazaars. He further complimented that trader community has performed its national duty by fully ensuring implementation on government decision in this hour of distress and difficulty.

CM appreciated that law enforcement personnel are diligently performing their duties on roads, market places and bazaars. Usman Buzdar appealed to the masses to remain inside their homes so as to protect themselves from coronavirus and should not get out of their houses without genuine need or reason. CM also expressed his anger and displeasure over presence of extra traffic on few roads and directed concerned officials to convince citizens at check posts to confine to their houses for personal protection. He further maintained that undertaking such visits provide awareness about ground realities. Usman Buzdar underscored that government has taken preventive measures in order to safeguard lives of the masses.

CM admired that Prime Minister Imran Khan after taking into account ground realities and current situation has taken excellent decisions in the best interests of the country and nation. Usman Buzdar vowed that we are standing by the masses in this time of trial and tribulation and my every moment is devoted to save the masses from coronavirus pandemic.

### Punjab Govt to ensure protection of farmers at any cost: Rizwan

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Environmental Protection Mohammad Rizwan has said that the government of Punjab will ensure the protection of farmers at any cost while no one will be allowed to store wheat and flour mills will also not allowed to purchase wheat over quota.

He expressed these views during a visit of wheat centre along with Deputy Commissioner Dr Khurram Shahzad in Mangwal area of Gujarat on Sunday.

Earlier, he chaired a meeting in DC office, in which ADC, Revenue Dr. Rani Hafsa Kanwal, AC Kharian Faisal Abbas Mangat, DFC Masood Ahmed were also present. Deputy Commissioner Dr. Khurram Shahzad informed the provincial minister that the assistance programme of Government for the deserving families in Gujarat is continued while Rs. 23 crore have been distributed among 18638 deserving families through 14 centers. The Deputy Commissioner further briefed that due to the excellent security arrangements in all the centers in the district, the procedure of distribution will be completed soon under Phase One. After that, the minister in interaction with the farmers at wheat center inquired about the facilities and expressed satisfaction over the steps taken by the district administration. Deputy Commissioner briefed the provincial minister that five centers have been set up for wheat procurement in Gujarat district and more than 400 applications have been received. Provincial Minister for Environment said that as per the directives of Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar all basic facilities being ensured at wheat procurement centers. He also appreciated the steps taken in Gujarat to prevent Corona and said that the current government under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan taking all necessary steps to tackle this epidemic.

### Another 29 COVID-19 recoveries at Mayo and PKLI: Yasmeen

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr. Yasmin Rashid said here on Sunday that 29 more COVID-19 patients have recovered from Mayo Hospital and PKLI Center in Lahore. The Minister said a total of 206 patients from different Lahore Hospitals have returned to their homes so far. Overall in Punjab, about 680 patients have recovered from COVID-19 from different hospitals in the province. She said the return of patients to their homes in good numbers is an encouraging development. The Minister said, "So far we have conducted over 54,000 tests in Punjab. I request all people to support Government efforts by complying with the lockdown and staying indoors."



## Usman Buzdar takes good move to provide additional salary to doctors, nurses

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Principal Post Graduate Medical Institute, Ameer Uddin Medical College and Lahore General Hospital Prof Dr Sardar Mohammad Alfreed Zafar has said that the Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has taken a good move by providing additional salary to the doctors, nurses and medical staff who are busy in providing

medical treatment to the Corona Virus patients in hospitals and this step should be appreciated.

He added that the decision to pay extra salary to doctors, nurses and paramedical staff from April will practically encourage these medical workers. Prof. Alfreed Zafar said that serving the ailing humanity and those who fight dangerous viruses like Corona should really be appreciated. Principal PGMI said that here

are serviceable compliments that are practically acknowledged by Sardar Usman Buzdar who had won the hearts of doctors, nurses and paramedical staff by taking timely action. Prof. Alfreed Zafar said, "no doubt, we are facing an extraordinary situation like in the rest of the world and every member of the hospitals, besides doctors, nurses and medical field, deserves rich appreciation for being raised at the Govern-

ment level." He said that credit for the measures goes to Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar and Health Minister Punjab Dr. Yasmeen Rashid. Al-freed Zafar said that after this decision, doctors, nurses and paramedical staff will now perform their duties with greater diligence and dedication. He expressed his hope that with the help of Allah Almighty we would soon overcome this epidemic.

## Online learning in time of COVID-19

# A better option to avoid academic loss

The Business Report

LAHORE: Like other parts of the world, the coronavirus pandemic has also affected education sector in Pakistan by restricting students to their homes.

However, during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, online learning has made it possible for students to stay safe and get access to quality education for avoiding the academic loss.

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the closure of schools and colleges have particularly disrupted the education of 363 million students and learners, from primary to tertiary levels including 57.8 million students of higher education, worldwide who are now at homes during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. While taking precautionary

measures against the coronavirus spread in Pakistan, the government has ordered to close all educational institutions till May 31, this year. The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has directed all educational institutions to initiate online academic classes for the students confined to their homes.

According to a notification of the Federal Ministry of Education, the teaching management of educational institutions has been directed by the government that all possible online courses should be started on urgent basis through training system of experts by utilizing the existing resources. A 'data bank of the online courses' has been developed for the students of various levels that has been shared with the respective faculty training experts for knowledge dissemination, it added. Director General UNESCO, Audrey

Azoulay in a recent International video conference has invited global educationists to come forward with emergency response by sharing respective strategies and online study plans, which would help minimize the learning losses and disruptions, amid the pandemic outbreak. He said that the UN Educational and Scientific body was providing best possible support to the disease affected countries by ensuring immediate educational remedies and paradigms to the students of inclusive distance learning.

The conference which was attended by education ministers and high-ups of around 73 countries who submitted their proposals for completing the remaining syllabus of the students through online teaching.

Talking to mediapersons, Spokesperson of Punjab Government Musarrat Jamshed

Cheema said that the government has taken solid measures to overcome the problems related to academic and syllabus learning. She said, "Almost all major educational institutions have started online courses to overcome academic losses of the students."

Cheema said, "Health of our students and teachers is top priority, as it is better to be sequestered rather to face dangerous situation," adding the governmental and private institutions have started online classes in science, commerce and IT subjects to complete the remaining courses.

She urged the financially-strong members of society to come forward in this hour of need and assist the vulnerable students particularly those who could not afford education in the prevailing situation. "Private educational institutions should voluntarily contribute at

least 20 percent discount for the students in their school fee for the months of April and May."

It may be mentioned here that UNESCO has formed a COVID-19 Emergency Task Force (CETF) for overcoming educational losses through sharing policy and data bank in the online courses for the students of all levels. This force will help establish a forum for the students to enhance knowledge sharing among them by peer learning and capacity building on 'distance and open learning'.

The HEC Chairman Tariq Banuri has said in his tweet, "In response to a number of complaints regarding the online classes in some universities, the HEC is immediately going to inspect the quality and capacity of the universities on the content of the courses, their delivery and connectivity."