

SOPs to be implemented, shops to be closed by 5.00 p.m.: Ajmal

PESHAWAR: Advisor to Chief Minister Khabir Pakhtunkhwa on Information and Public Relation, Ajmal Khan Wazir on Wednesday said keeping in view the Corona pandemic, a similar routine would be implemented for shops opening before Eid-ul-Fitr.

He said shops would remain closed after 5pm and would be opened on four days a week including Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays till 5 pm whereas barbershops and saloons will be open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday under Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Talking to media persons after visiting different markets in the provincial capital, he said shops of basic and emergency affairs would remain open round the clock.

The advisor informed that the government led by Prime Minister Imran Khan was fighting on two fronts - Corona virus and against poverty - adding, majority of the country's population lived below the poverty line which was why the government eased the lockdown.

He said Prime Minister Imran Khan always thought about the poor and initiated Ehsas Emergency Cash Program for laborers—the best and transparent program in the history of the country. Ajmal Wazir said second phase of Ehsas program would start soon under which KP government would provide cash to the poor. In addition, Rs 12,000 would be given to the beneficiaries from the Zakat fund, adding that the number of 29,000 people registered for Zakat fund was increased to 1,00,000. —APP

E-Volunteer toll free helpline receives 0.1m calls

PESHAWAR: More than 0.1 million calls have been received on the toll free emergency helpline No. (1700) of the Chief Minister E-Volunteer Programme launched for provision of free information and facilitation to the public in the prevailing Corona situation.

Under the initiative, professional volunteers telephonically provide free advice, information and facilitation to the public related to various services including Corona awareness, health, psychiatry, pharmacy, rescue, municipal, women and children protection etc, said a news release issued here Wednesday. During the period of one and half month i.e. from April 12 to May, 22, around 100,966 calls were received seeking information and advice which were facilitated by the volunteers engaged under the Chief Minister E-volunteer initiative being managed by the provincial Relief and Rehabilitation Department. —APP



LAHORE: Passengers return to their homes after Eid-ul-Fitr holidays at the Lahore Railway Station.

'Lockdown imposed to check spread of coronavirus'

From Our staff correspondent

HYDERABAD: President, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Hyderabad, Imran Qureshi said Sindh government should take initiatives for ensuring province's economy back on the track.

In a statement issued here on Wednesday, Qureshi said lockdown imposed to prevent the spread of coronavirus and safeguard people of Sindh. He recalled that Pakistan was recently acknowledged as a country blessed with many tourist spots and after which the foreign tourists also began to visit the country in large numbers. "Similarly the industry and investments were also showing a growth before the lockdown situation," he added.

He said it was responsibility of the government and the elected representatives to take possible measures and take trade and industry back on track because millions of people were affected by the lockdown.

Qureshi said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government's top priority was welfare of the general public.

Sindh spends over Rs2.7b to set up 2 new hospitals: Murad

From Our staff correspondent

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday directed health department to make at least 500 monitors and 200 ventilators available in Sindh apart from completing 50-bedded hospital in Gulistan-i-Jauhar and 200-bedded Infection Disease Control hospital, NIPA latest by June 2020.

"We have arranged Rs 2.7 billion to upgrade the existing facilities and operationalize two new hospitals in the city and hopefully with their start the government would be able to accommodate a large number of patients, in case of further spread of pandemic." He made these remarks while presiding over a COVID-19 response meeting here on Wednesday at CM House.

The meeting was attended by Minister Health Dr Azra Pechuho, Chief Secretary Mumtaz Shah, PSCM Sajid Jamal Abro, Secretary Health Zahid Abbasi, Prof. Dr Bari, and other concerned officers of the health department. Syed Murad Ali Shah was informed that in 10 different hospitals of the city 131-bedded ICUs and 174-bedded HDUs have been established. At present 61

ICU beds and nine HDUs beds were vacant.

It was also decided to expand the capacity of ICUs, HDUs and isolation beds facilities existing in 21 hospitals located in different hospitals of the province, he said. They include Karachi Civil, Trauma Center, Ojha, JPMC, Lyari, Services hospital, Indus, NICH, SIUT, AKU, Ziauddin. LUH Hyderabad, PMC Shaheed Benazirabad, Civil hospital Khairpur, GIMS Gambat, GMMMC Sukkur, CMC Larkana, SASIM Sehwan, DHQ Kotri, Indus hospital Badin, JIMS Jacobabad.

At present all these hospitals have 224 ICU beds where 186 additional beds would be added. These hospitals have 268-bedded HDU facilities and they would be given additional 268 beds. Similarly, these hospitals have 392 and they have 1143-bedded Isolation facilities in which additional 898 beds to be added. To a question, the chief minister was told that 30 monitors, six new ventilators have been provided to Civil hospital Karachi. Work on piped oxygen in medical 1 and 2, wards and Surgical 1 and 2 wards have been completed while negative pressure piping of surgical ICU which would have the capacity of 27-beds has also been completed.

85-bedded medical wards 1 and 2 would be made function by providing them 60 more monitors. Similarly, Surgical 1, 2 and 27 ICU and 53-bedded HDU would be made function by providing them 23 vents and 53 monitors. The chief minister was told that the structure of 50-bedded hospital Gulistan-i-Jauhar located opposite Karachi University is ready to use. Presently, oxygen pipeline was being laid and work would be completed by the end this week, he added.

On the recommendation of health department, the chief minister approved Rs 95.7 million for purchase of equipment such as ABG machine, BIPAP machines, four ventilators, 40 monitors, two portable suction machines, one portable x-ray machine, two ECG machines, 30 syringe PUMP, 30 Infusion PUMP, three crash trolleys, two defibrillators, two portable monitors, 35 beds, four IC and a 500 KVA generator.

Syed Murad Ali Shah gave four to six weeks to the health department to make the hospital functional and report him.

The chief minister was informed that 200-bedded Infection Disease Control Hospital NIPA was being developed with high

flow oxygen and intensive care unit.

699 more patients of coronavirus detected, another six die: CM Sindh

The coronavirus local transmission has added another 699 patients in the provincial health service system lifting the tally to 24206 patients while six more patients lost their lives in last 24 hours.

In a statement on Wednesday, Syed Murad Ali Shah said that during last 24 hours, 2177 tests were conducted against which 699 patients were detected.

"This is 31 percent result of the tests which is comparatively higher," he said. He said six more patients died taking the death to 380 which constituted 1.56 percent of the total patients. He added that 235 patients were in critical condition, of them 42 have been put on ventilators. According to the statement, 14556 patients were under treatment, of them 12836 at homes, 793 in isolation centers and 927 in different hospitals. Some 755 patients have recovered and the number patients recovered so far has reached to 9270 which shows 38.3 percent recovery rate.

The CM said out of 699 new case, 559 belonged to Karachi. District East has 174 cases, Central 125, South 99, West 56, Ko-

Taking precautions against COVID-19 collective responsibility: Masood

RAWALAKOT: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Sardar Masood Khan has stressed the people and the influential circles of the society to ensure implementation of all precautionary measures till an effective vaccine of the novel coronavirus is development.

"Care in social gatherings and mandatory compliance of advisory issued by the government and the medical experts is the collective social responsibility of all of us," he asserted, and warned that violation of the health advisory may have very negative impacts on our personal and collective lives.

The AJK president was talking to the people from different strata of life who called on him at his residence in Horna Mera near Rawalakot. Those who called on him here included, Presidential Advisor, Sardar Shabbir Khan (Gulf Group), Sardar Saeed Aziz, Sardar Tauseef Aziz, Sardar Shahzeb Khan, Sardar Zarreen Khan, president Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) constituency LA-4 Sardar Ashiq Khan, Sardar Altaf Khan, Sardar Javed Khan and other political, religious and social figures. They extended Id greetings and also expressed condolence over the death of AJK president's uncle Sardar Nazir Khan.

Speaking on the occasion, the AJK president while appreciating the efforts of Pakistan Army, ulema, doctors, paramedical staff and social organizations for effectively dealing with the corona pandemic, said that war on coronavirus may prolong. Therefore, all segments of society will have to make joint efforts to steer the nation out of this crisis by guiding the people in the right direction.

Sardar Masood Khan appealed to the social organizations and the well off people to come forward to help those who have lost their jobs and livelihood because of lockdown, and ensure that no one of the community starves or remains without clothes.

Speaking on the occasion, the community leaders assured the state president and the government of their full cooperation in preventing the spread of coronavirus.

Later, a public delegation led by President Adviser Sardar Ijaz Yousuf Khan and PML-N leader Sardar Ashiq Khan separately called on the state president and apprised him of the problems of the area.

Meanwhile, in a message after offering Idul Fitr prayers in Horna Mera village, the AJK president said that the Eid festival was being celebrated in a simple manner because of the worst Indian repression in occupied Kashmir, coronavirus, and

the PIA plane crash in Karachi.

He said that the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir were offering unprecedented sacrifices for their freedom and their right to self-determination, and the day was not far off when they would enjoy freedom, and India's tactics and inhuman policies will fail.

He also offered special prayers for the development, prosperity and stability of the country, and prayed for eternal peace for the souls who had departed in PIA airliner's crash in Karachi.

Quetta police takes action against residents violating lockdown during Eid

Despite restrictions and a smart lockdown, the residents of Quetta made their way to public parks during Eid holidays. Due to the novel coronavirus, picnic points across the province were closed down. However, a number of people gathered in small parks near Chowrangis in the city.

They were taking pictures and had gathered in crowds after which the police reached the site. The people, however, managed to flee. According to them, they had made their way to the chowrangis as everything else in the city was closed down.

"We were just having a little bit of fun," one of them said.

The police, on the other hand, have warned residents to avoid gath-



LAHORE: Workers repair fans at their workplace during the warm weather as demand of fans increasing in summer season.

HEC-funded online programme for fresh PhDs concludes

LAHORE: The inaugural Higher Education Commission (HEC) funded four-week online training course for the 41 fellows of the Interim Placement of Fresh PhDs (IPFP) under the National Faculty Development Program (NFDP) concluded on Wednesday.

According to a press release issued by the HEC media department, the first cohort of 41 IPFP fellows program was conducted online with technical assistance from the Microsoft due to COVID-19 pandemic outbreak in the country.

The IPFP program supports universities in getting the services of fresh PhDs for a period of one year in anticipation of their recruitment to regular faculty positions. It said the NFDP course was organized by the newly established National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE).

It aims to provide new faculty with the practical skills and competencies they will need in order to become successful academics. These include courses in teaching effectiveness, including online teaching, research management, and professional practice. This is in keeping with the HEC's strategy that all higher education programs should be driven by the goal of future student success.

The program, led by a team of national and international experts, was delivered in accordance with the highest standards online readiness established by HEC in the wake of the Corona virus crisis. The NFDP 2020 course is to be delivered between now and August 2020 in 12 cohorts of 40 participants each. This is the

first cohort of the course.

In his keynote address, Chairman HEC Tariq Banuri congratulated graduating IPFP Fellows as well as the organizers and instructors of the program for their commitment and the success they achieved under difficult conditions, this being NAHE's first intensive program, which had to be delivered online and during Ramadan. Mr. Banuri emphasized that the real success of this program will come from the work of participants in the time to come. Lamenting the deterioration in the quality of higher education in Pakistan, he said, the current focus of HEC is to re-establish the value of our degrees and certifications. "Your success is not in getting this certificate. Your success, and our success, will happen when you provide excellent education to your students, when you do first class research, and when you help solve the problems that the country is facing."

Earlier, in her welcome speech, Rector NAHE, Dr. Shaheen Sardar Ali welcomed the session participants and gave a brief introduction of the NFDP 2020. She congratulated the IPFP fellows and appreciated their hard work and commitment during the sessions. She said the programme provided a virtual, immersive, and integrated world-class learning experience that will prepare the participants for their academic careers.

The resource persons of the programme, including Dr. Steve Burian, Dr. Shazia Awan, Dr. Hassaan Khan and Dr. Saima Sherazi, also shared their experiences of the four-week programme and

No decision on lockdown in Sindh: Nasir

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Information Nasir Hussain Shah on Wednesday said that the provincial government is yet to decide on extending or further easing coronavirus lockdown in the province.

"The lockdown remains implemented as per the terms of the last notification issued by the government," Nasir Shah said adding that any decision on extending or easing lockdown in the province would be taken after consultation with the federal government.

"The shopkeepers should follow the lockdown time period and open their businesses following agreed standard operating procedures (SOPs)." He further said that Transport Minister Awaiz Qadir Shah was in touch with the transporters and soon they would decide over the issues faced due to a ban on transport activities amid ongoing lockdown.

It is pertinent to mention here that Sindh province remains the most affected area of the country from the infection and health experts had warned against easing lockdown in the province. As many as 699 new cases of the novel virus were detected in Sindh over the past 24 hours. —DNA



LAHORE: A man busy to fill khas for room coolers at his workplace.