

Minimum 23:°C  
Maximum 39:°C  
Sunset 06:56pm  
Sunrise 05:04am  
(Tomorrow)

# LAHORE

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Wednesday, May 20, 2020



FAJAR.....	03:30 AM
ZOHR.....	11:59 PM
ASR.....	04:51 PM
MAGRIB.....	06:56 PM
ISHA.....	08:30 PM

## Quick Read

### Augustine thanks govt for security to churches, worship places

**LAHORE:** Provincial Minister for Human Rights and Minorities Affairs Ijaz Alam Augustine called on Chief Secretary Punjab Jawwad Rafique Malik at camp of-fice.

Director General Walled City of Lahore Authority (WCLA) Kamran Lashari was also present during the meeting.

The provincial minister, on behalf of minorities, thanked the Punjab government for providing security to churches, worship places and healthcare facilities for the treatment of coronavirus. He said that minorities in Pakistan were enjoying equal protection and full religious freedom. The minority communities are ensuring implementation of SOPs issued by the government to contain spread of coronavirus, he added. The Chief Secretary assured full cooperation from the Punjab government, saying that concrete steps were being taken for well-being of minorities in the province. Kamran Lashari briefed the Chief Secretary and Provincial Minister about the measures being taken by the WCLA to protect and restore historical sites.

### Umar Akmal appeals against his three years ban

**LAHORE:** Pakistan Cricket Board said on Tuesday that banned test cricketer, Umar Akmal has appealed against his three years ban imposed by PCB's independent disciplinary panel.

Justice (ret'd) Fazal-e-Miran Chauhan, the panel's chairman, has imposed a ban of three years for each of the two charges of violating the PCB Anti-Corruption Code, which will be deemed to have come into effect from the date of Umar's suspension on February 20, 2020. Both periods of ineligibility will run concurrently, meaning Umar will now become eligible to return to cricket activities on February 19, 2023. Umar was banned for failing to report corrupt approaches before this year's Pakistan Super League.

### 'Digital literacy paramount for eLearning success'

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** The global paradigm shift in the education system following the COVID-19 outbreak has made this indispensable for both students and teachers to be digitally literate to function and progress in a world characterized by remote learning, greater digitalization of services and more digitally-centered communications, said the Vice Chancellor University of Okara Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zakria Zakar in a video conference with his staff.

He argued that the pandemic had given the teachers, students, policy makers and society at large in both developed and developing nations a better understanding of our current education.



**LAHORE:** Rescue 1122 personnel busy in anti-virus spray at the Lahore Railway Station as train operations across the country would resume from today (Wednesday).—Online

## Govt wants to solve problems of people at their doorsteps: CM

Says only professionals will be accommodated in boards and committees as era of political nepotism is over

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Chief Organizer of PTI Saifullah Khan Niazi and other leaders called on Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar at his office here on Tuesday.

Talking on the occasion, the CM emphasized that professionals will have to be brought forward to ensure good governance adding that party recommendations will be welcomed for public service.

He reiterated the government wants to solve the problems of the people at their doorsteps and party workers should support the government in this regard. He made it clear that the menace of political nepotism has come to an end and only professionals will be accommodated in boards and committees. The CM disclosed that reconsti-

tution of Punjab Educational Foundation's board is being reviewed and a foolproof mechanism of students' monitoring will also be devised in Punjab Educational Foundation. Usman Buzdar stated that Insaf Imdad Program will be got rechecked by providing lists to the elected representatives in Punjab and informed that around three crore needy people will be benefited through this program. Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid told that around one billion and 80 crore rupees have been spent on corona control and added that most of the patients admitted in the field hospital at Expo Centre have gone back to their homes after recovery. The death rate in Punjab is less than other provinces, she added. Schools Education Minister Dr Murad Raas stated that investigations of more than two lac and 90 thousand bogus students are in progress in Punjab Education Foundation. Those involved in corruption and bungling in Punjab Education Foundation will not escape from the grip of the law, he added.

The CM was told in the briefing that honorary secretary good governance have been deputed in districts and tehsils to ensure good governance and prices of utility stores and local markets will be got monitored through sincere workers.

The CM assured to consider the proposals of senior party leaders.

Senior Vice President Arshad Daad, Deputy Secretary-General Umer Farooq, Provincial Secretary for Good Governance Ijaz Minhas, head of CM's complaint cell Zubair

Niazi and others were also present on this occasion.

### cm lays foundation stone of Punjab Local Govt Academy

Buzdar laid the foundation stone of Punjab Local Government Academy in Johar Town and launched the website of Punjab Intermediate Cities Improvement Investment Program on Tuesday.

This project will be completed through the financial support of the Asian Development Bank.

The CM appreciated the establishment of Punjab Local Government Academy in Lahore and added the purpose of this project is to strengthen the local bodies system.

Public representatives and local government officials will be given training in this academy and local government department will be promoted according to the needs of the modern era, he added.

Secretary Local Government

briefed that this project will be completed with an amount of Rs1.86 billion and 38 lac in 18 months.

The academy will consist of two basements and six floors along with spacious car parking facility. The annual income of around four crore rupees will be earned through the rent of first and second floors while Rs2 billion, 18 crores and 79 lac will be earned as rent during the next 20 years, he added.

A library will also be established along with facilities like a classroom for 800, a hostel for 55 guests, seminar hall, auditorium and computer lab.

## Ansar reviews ongoing uplift projects

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Punjab Labour Minister Ansar Majeed Khan Tuesday chaired a meeting at his office here to review departmental performance.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Labour Aamir Jan, Commissioner Punjab Employees Social Security Institution (PESSI) Tanveer Iqbal, Director General Labour Faisal Nisar Chaudhry, Secretary Workers Welfare Board and other officers concerned.

The social security commissioner gave detailed briefing about progress made so far on various ongoing projects, being carried out under the Social Security Department including ease of doing business, registration of domestic works, automation and construction of new hospitals.

The Workers Welfare Board secretary also briefed the minister about various educational projects, being completed under the Worker Welfare Fund and education being imparted to the children of labours and workers in the WWF schools, construction of new schools and scholarships for children of labours and workers. The DG Labour gave a detailed briefing about the Labor Department's initiatives taken to eliminate child and forced labour, factory inspection, factory risk assessment and measures taken for workers by the department.

The minister said that a mechanism should be devised for the scholarships, granted under the Workers Welfare Board, besides formulating a policy to bring maximum children of labourers to schools.

Ansar Majeed Khan issued directives for timely completion of all projects, initiated under the Punjab Social Security Department. Secretary Labour Amir Jan asked all sub-offices of the Labour Department to immediately set a deadline for ongoing projects and send its details to the secretary's office. All possible resources will be utilised to make the Labour Department an ideal entity, said the secretary.

### SOPs for opening tourist spots prepared, Zulfikar Bukhari

The National Tourism Coordination Board (NTCB) Chairman Sayed Zulfikar Abbas Bukhari Tuesday said the government was working on the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for opening the countrywide tourist spots in the post-coronavirus times.

"Our 'Crisis Management Task Force' is working on the SOPs for opening the tourism industry so that we don't have to wait when the COVID-19 is over," Zulfikar Bukhari said while addressing a town hall meeting arranged by the World Tourism Forum Institute (WTFI) through video link. Since the coronavirus (COVID-19) broke out across the world, the WTFI has been holding recovery town hall sessions to communicate its plans to boost the world tourism which has been hit hard by the global pandemic.

Zulfikar Bukhari, who is also Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, said the first draft of the SOPs was ready and being shared with the relevant stakeholders to get their input.

## Aslam appeals people to act upon precautionary measures

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Provincial Industries & Trade Minister Mian Aslam Iqbal visited mega shopping mall in Johar Town on Tuesday and reviewed implementation on SOPs.

The Minister was apprised by the administration about maintaining social distancing measures, usage of hand sanitizers, wearing of masks along with ensuring queue management system.

Aslam Iqbal while talking with media representatives remarked that SOPs are fully implemented in this shopping mall as no one is seen without wearing mask.

Social distancing is also being maintained and shopkeepers are dealing the customers by wearing shields, he added.

The Minister hoped that like-

wise implementation on SOPs will also be followed in other shopping malls.

He urged that in order to save ourselves, our near and dear ones, elders, friends and relatives from coronavirus pandemic we will have to act upon precautionary measures. The Minister apprised that the orders of Supreme Court will be fully implemented and obeyed with regard to granting permission to carry out business on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. He further added that the matter pertaining to increasing timings of markets is also under consideration in the cabinet meeting. The Minister stressed that implementation on 20-points being settled with the government with regard to offering prayers in mosques and holding congregations is imperative. He further informed that 50 per cent transport has been opened

but if members of the same family are traveling from one city to another then they can be seated together while maintaining social distance between stranger passengers is essential. Aslam Iqbal further underscored that the benefits of decrease in petroleum prices must reach to the common man and hopefully all transporters will also act upon rules and regulations. The Minister assured that the government is standing by the traders in the prevailing difficult situation and advised the traders they should not ignore SOPs for the sake of minting money.

The Minister further advised traders to implement on SOPs in letter and spirit and disclosed that cinemas and theaters will not be opened on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr. Aslam says we cannot take risk of lifting ban on social gatherings, ceremonies

A delegation of the Marriage Hall Association led by its President Mian Ilyas met Punjab Minister for Industries and Trade Mian Aslam Iqbal in Lahore on Tuesday.

They apprised him that the association is fully implementing the restriction of one-dish menu imposed by the government.

They demand to open banquet halls with limited number of people and assured the Minister to implement Standards Operating Procedures (SOPs) in true letter and spirit.

Talking to them, the Minister said that we cannot take risk of lifting the ban on social gathering and ceremonies, however, suggestion of holding functions with limited number of people will be considered. He said that he will raise this issue in the meeting of National Command and Operation Center.

## Punjab cabinet committee approves amendments in LDA Rules

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Provincial Minister for Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Social Welfare Muhammad Basharat Raja Tuesday chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on LDA Rules at the Civil Secretariat here.

Provincial Minister for Housing Mian Mehmood-ur-Rasheed, Provincial Minister for Communications Muhammad Asif Nakai, Chairman and MD LDA, Secretary Law and other officers concerned were also present. Briefing the meeting on the proposed amendments to the LDA rules for low income housing schemes, the officials said that the said housing schemes would have a maximum of 100-kanal area with a minimum plot size of 10 marlas and an apartment of T3 marlas, each block of apartments would be a maximum of 60 feet high and consist of five floors; within the scheme the width of the main road will



be 60 feet while the width of the street will be 20 feet.

The Cabinet Committee approved a proposal to allocate 5% of the land in each society for open space and 2% for parking and at least 3% for government buildings such as schools. The committee agreed with the proposal to set up a joint cemetery within a radius of 5-km for a cluster of four or five schemes and also approved an amendment to compensate the owners according to the market rate in case of acquiring their private land for the scheme.