

Minimum 24°C
Maximum 38°C
Sunset 06:42pm
Sunrise 05:19am
(Tomorrow)

LAHORE

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Saturday, May 02, 2020



FAJAR	03:50 AM
ZOHAR	12:10 PM
ASR	04:45 PM
MAGRIB	06:42 PM
ISHA	08:11 PM

Quick Read

Dr Mujahid withdraws acquittal application

LAHORE: Former Punjab University (PU) vice chancellor Dr Mujahid Kamran late Thursday withdrew his acquittal application in illegal appointments case.

Accountability Court Judge Jawadul Hassan conducted the proceedings of the case against Dr Mujahid Kamran and others.

A counsel on behalf of Dr Mujahid argued before the court that amended NAB ordinance had expired and his client wanted to withdraw acquittal application on merit. As per law, the application could be withdrawn, he added. At this, the court allowed the request and returned the application. The court adjourned further proceedings till May 9. Former PU vice chancellor Prof Dr Mujahid Kamran, former PU registrar Prof Dr Liaqat Ali and two additional registrars Prof Dr Aurangzaib Alamgir and Prof Dr Kamran Abid were accused of 550 illegal recruitments at the university and for giving away scholarships to the students who were not eligible. Dr Kamran remained the PU vice chancellor from January 2008 to December 2016. It is pertinent to mention here that the Lahore High Court had granted bail to Dr Mujahid Kamran and others in the case. —APP

Farmers asked to irrigate spring sunflower

LAHORE: Farmers have been advised to pay special attention towards the irrigation of spring sunflower crop for its good production. A spokesman for the department said here on Friday that sunflower crop should be given water as per the Agriculture department guidelines to achieve desired yield. He said, "Sunflower crops get ready in short period of 110 to 120 days so farmers need to focus on using balanced amount of fertilizers for proper growth of the crop." Spokesman further suggested the farmers to take special care of the crop during its ripening stage as parrots usually harm the crop a lot at this stage. —APP

Action against illegal profiteering continues

LAHORE: The Price control magistrates Thursday carried out 536 inspections against illegal profiteering in the city. According to official sources here, the illegal profiteering was found at 105 places in the provincial capital. Fine of Rs 447,500 were imposed on illegal profiteers besides registering cases against 37 of them.

As many as 40 illegal profiteers were taken into custody whereas 8 were sent to jail. Deputy Commissioner Danish Afzal directed the price control magistrates to ensure more strictness in field. He said the bidding process of fruit and vegetables should also be monitored in the markets. —APP



LAHORE: People offer first Juma prayer of Ramadan at Data Darbar Mosque while maintain a level of social distancing as a precaution against the spread of the coronavirus.

SOPs mandatory for running industries in Punjab: Buzdar

FIEDMC delegation discusses business ties with CM

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Chairman Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC) Mian Kashif Ashfaq on Friday called on Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar at his office and presented a cheque worth Rs40 lakh for CM Fund for Corona Control on behalf of industrialists of Faisalabad. He also presented a donation of N95 and surgical masks, PPEs, disinfection material and other equipment amounting to Rs35 lakh on behalf of two Chinese companies Time Ceramics and Henan DR.

Usman Buzdar lauded the philanthropic passion of industrialists and Chinese companies and thanked Kashif Ashfaq for his enthusiasm in this difficult time. He said that contribution of Faisalabad's industrialists in corona relief fund is commendable. He said that Pakistani industrialists have always come forward for assistance in the time of trials.

He said that Punjab government has allowed some industries to operate but the observance of SOPs has been declared mandatory for those industries. He maintained that more industries will be allowed to start their operations as the situation is improved. The CM directed to accelerate the speed of work on Allama Iqbal Industrial City as it is the flagship project of CPEC and Chairman FIEDMC Kashif Ashfaq should move it forward with more

speed. The government will continue extending its cooperation for the early completion of this project, he added. The CM also congratulated the Chinese leadership for speedily overcoming the Coronavirus pandemic adding that the donation of necessary equipment is a reflection of the excellent bilateral relations between the two countries. Chairman FIEDMC Kashif Ashfaq briefed the Chief Minister about the progress made on Allama Iqbal Industrial City project. He said that the industrialists fully support the government's efforts in dealing with Coronavirus. He said that the Chief Minister is on the frontline for the prevention of Coronavirus and he also supported needy people by visiting different cities. The people appreciate effective measures taken by you to deal with Coronavirus pandemic, he added.

Provincial Health Minister Dr Yasmeen Rashid, representatives of Chinese companies and Chief Operating Officer of FIEDMC Amir Salimi were also present on the occasion.

Buzdar fulfils promise of job for physically handicapped youth: Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has fulfilled the promise of providing job to a physically handicapped youth Bilal Ahmed who met him during a recent visit to Chishtian and requested for employment. The CM directed the DC Bahawalnagar to immediately arrange a job for him. Now, the youth has been given employment in THQ Chishtian and the employment letter

has also been handed over to him by the DC. Bilal Ahmed has thanked the CM and added that Usman Buzdar is a genuine leader who fulfils his promise. In this regard, Usman Buzdar said that provincial government is following a policy of giving jobs to differently-abled persons according to their quota as they are an asset of the society.

Buzdar chairs meeting about new cleanliness system in Lahore: Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar presided over a meeting at his office here on Friday to review the new cleanliness system of Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC). It has been proposed in the new system to divide Lahore into six zones. Urban localities will be divided into four zones while rural areas will be divided into two zones and garbage will be collected from homes through vehicles. The citizens will handover their garbage to the vehicles.

The shortage of containers will also be fulfilled and tracking system will be installed in garbage collecting vehicles. The meeting was told that garbage will be handed over to five transfer stations for its onward transfer to landfill sites. It is also proposed to develop a new landfill site to properly dispose of the garbage.

The CM directed to further improve the cleanliness system in the provincial metropolis adding that the new model should be materialized at the earliest. Similarly, he further directed to improve the service delivery mechanism

as the whole city of Lahore will be covered through the new system.

There is also a need to start work on waste-to-energy, he added. The CM was briefed by Secretary Local Government and consultant Dr Nasir Javed that around six thousand tons solid waste is daily generated in Lahore and citizens do not put their garbage into the containers. It was stated that the option of setting up new landfill sites is available on the other side of river Ravi and Akhterabad. The meeting was told that the new contract would be awarded up to September. The CM appreciated the performance of secretary local government, LWMC and consultant for devising a new cleanliness model. Provincial Minister Mian Aslam Iqbal, Secretary Finance, Chairman and MD LWMC and others attended the meeting.

CM takes notice of patients' agitation: Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has taken notice of agitation of patients at Expo Centre's field hospital and sought a report from minister and secretary of the health department. He directed to arrange the best healthcare facilities for the patients adding that balanced diet be provided to them in time. Similarly, other facilities should also be provided and action be taken where negligence has occurred. Proper looking after of the patients is the responsibility of the concerned department and no laxity will be tolerated in this regard, he warned.

ABAD seeks robust investment in construction

LAHORE: Mohsin Sheikhani, Chairman Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD), has called upon ever allied industry of construction to join hands to serve the people of this country and make Pakistan's economy strong through taking advantage of low prices of materials as most of input materials are being sold at lower prices due to economic slowdown created by Corona Virus across the world. Chairman ABAD, in a statement said that Pakistan and all countries of the world are passing through very critical time due to spread of dangerous Corona Virus. Being patriotic citizens it is our responsibility to support our beloved country because Pakistan's economy is weak.

He said that prices of almost all materials and petrol, coal have drastically come down due to prevailing world scenario and we all businessmen and industrialists are duty bound to support every step of the government for people of Pakistan. It is matter of sorrow, he continued, that some industrialists are trying to take advantage of current situation for profiteering, which is against religious as well as humanitarian norms. We must come out to support people in this testing time by investing in construction industry because this is the only industry capable of providing largest job opportunities after agriculture. He said that construction incentives provided by the federal government are itself unique and it is a golden chance for every investor as they can support present government to carry on and serve people. However, he said that those who are trying to take advantage of this critical situation are not doing any service to the nation. —DNA

GCU starts online Durs-e-Qur'an

LAHORE: The Government College University Lahore has started ONLINE Durs e Qur'an to continue its tradition of character-building of its students during lockdown due to COVID-19.

Prof. Hafiz Muhammad Azmat on Friday delivered the first lecture on Taqwa (piety) through Facebook LIVE and University's YouTube channel. He laid great stress on developing a system of character-building of youth in educational institutions through Durs-e-Qur'an.

He lauded the efforts of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Asghar Zaidi for reviving this decades-old tradition of Durs-e-Qur'an at GCU after a break of many years. He said that Prof. Zaidi regularly organised weekly sessions of Durs-e-Qur'an on the University campus before lockdown and now this tradition would continue online upon his request.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Zaidi said that the Chancellor, Punjab Governor Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar had rightly proposed the initiation of Qur'an education at the university level with equal emphasis on its translation and exegesis.

"By the grace of Allah, Government College University Lahore has a long-standing tradition of Durs-e-Qur'an in which the students' weekly participation is mandatory. Besides this, the Majlis-e-Uloom-e-Islamia regularly arranges seminars, lectures on the Islamic themes derived from the Qur'an and Sunnah," he added.

The Vice-Chancellor stressed that it was on account of such decades-old practices that the historical Government College has nurtured the grand scholars like Dr. Allama Iqbal, Javed Ahmed Ghamidi and Maulana Tariq Jamil among its alumni.

Prof. Zaidi said that the other universities plan to emulate the GCU model in order to disseminate the Quranic teachings in order to make this world humane, tolerant and in-

1,921 virus patients recovered in Punjab, says Dr Yasmin

LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr. Yasmin Rashid said 1,921 coronavirus patients in Punjab have recovered and returned to their homes.

Dr Yasmin Rashid in her statement showed her happiness over speedy recovery of the coronavirus patients and said 114 patients recovered their health in last two days. The health minister said that 648 affectees at 12 hospitals of Lahore have tested negative for the pandemic so far.

114 patients at the Mayo Hospital, Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute (PKLI) and Expo

Center quarantine recovered in two days, she added. Dr. Yasmin Rashid said it is very welcoming sign that patients are going back to their homes after regaining health.

The minister said that the provincial government is utilizing all the resources to curtail the outbreak of the pandemic.

She urged the people to fight the COVID-19 by adopting precautionary measures and the SOPs designed by the government. Dr Yasmin Rashid urged the people to stay at homes and exercise social distancing.

It may be noted that the coronavirus count reached 16,817 in Pakistan, according to the latest statistics released by National Command and Operation Centre.

According to the national dashboard, 24 deaths were reported during last 24 hours, taking the tally to 385 while 4,315 patients recovered from the virus and 153 are still critical. 12,117 patients are still under treatment in the hospitals and quarantine facilities in country. The country has conducted overall 1,82,031 coronavirus tests including 7,971, in last 24 hours. —DNA



LAHORE: Labourers in their work during International Labour Day

Future Trust, ICCBS join hands for virus research

LAHORE: In its effort to fight coronavirus and build domestic capacity for mitigating the long-term health impact of the virus through medical research, Future Trust has issued a grant of Rs. 1.5 million to International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) for a study on virustransfer in pregnant women.

The donation was facilitated through a donation by JS Bank. The donation is part of Future Trust's drive to explore long-term solutions towards mitigating the long-term health impact of the virus through medical and technological Research and Development.

"We need to look at a long-term solution for Pakistan and indeed the world," said Basir Shamsie, President and CEO of JS Bank. "Working with ICCBS is an opportunity to identify and engage in a pathway will help identify how the virus is impacting people in Pakistan and especially when it comes to women and unborn children."

Dr Iqbal Choudhary stated, "Future Trust is among the few organisations in Pakistan which has understood the need of the hour which is medical research will be the basis of a long-term cure. We look forward to a long-term working relationship with Future Trust which will

pay great dividends to Pakistan with the passage of time."

Commenting on the partnership, Dr Atta-ur-Rahman, Patron-in-Chief of ICCBS said that it was heartening to see corporates such as JS Bank taking an interest in exploring scientific options for long-term cures to the Corona virus.

Future Trust is a non-profit benevolent philanthropic organisation, set up by JS Group for the promotion, advancement and encouragement of technology and innovation against poverty and general improvement of socio-economic conditions and living standards of the people of Pakistan. —DNA