

Minimum 29:°C
Maximum 37:°C
Sunset 07:07pm
Sunrise 05:10am
(Tomorrow)



FAJAR.....	03:35 AM
ZOHAR.....	12:09 PM
ASR.....	05:02 PM
MAGRIB.....	07:07 PM
ISHA.....	08:43 PM

Quick Read

Corona treatment LHC asks DRAP to ensure drugs supply within 3 days

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday directed Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) to ensure supply of medicines in three days for treatment of patients suffering from deadly coronavirus.

According to media reports during the hearing, the court said that no one even federal minister getting injection for the cure of the disease.

Everyone is facing difficulties due to shortage of medicines, it remarked. The court further strictly ordered the concerned department to provide medicines to the hospitals. We cannot be silent on this matter, the judge stated. —Online

Albela remembered on 16th death anniversary

LAHORE: Pakistan's renowned film, television actor and comedian Albela was remembered on his 16th death anniversary on Friday.

Albela was born in Gojra, Toba Tek Singh District and came to Lahore at a very young age to become an actor. Albela had a long film career as comedian but he did not achieve great success on the silver screen, electronic channels reported.

He only had a main role in the film 'Wardatia' and some of his other films were 'Badnam', 'Yaar Maar', 'Ishq Nachawe Gali Gali', 'Allah Ditta', 'Siren', 'International Luttairey', 'Majhoo', 'Abdullah The Great', 'Hero' and 'Khandan'. Albela's biggest contribution was in the field of theatre. He performed in numerous stage shows and dramas. He was more popular as stage actor and his first film was 'Rishtay' released in 1963.

He is recognized as one of the actors who transformed theatre, evolving the present commercial theatre. He also performed in numerous television plays in his career spanning over 50 years. Comedian Albela died in Lahore on July 17, 2004.

Different news channels were broadcasting packages during morning transmissions to pay tribute to a legendary actor Albela. —APP

Asim Jasra assumes charge as Ops Commander PPIC3

LAHORE: The newly appointed Operations Commander of PPIC3, Punjab Safe City Authority (PSCA) SP Asim Jasra on Friday took charge of his office.

IC3 Center DSP Kamran Zafar briefed him about various departments of the IC3 center.

Addressing the police communication officers, Asim Jasra said that it was an honor for him to be a part of the Safe City team.

Efforts would remain continue to reduce crime through effective use of modern technology, he added. —APP

Zero tolerance to any sort of embezzlement to be ensured: CM Chapter of unfair distribution of uplift funds closes forever: Buz-

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar has said that the chapter of unfair distribution of development funds was closed forever and they were paying more attention on development of under-developed areas in accordance with the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

While addressing a meeting at the Multan airport after arriving from DG Khan, his native town, here Friday, he termed South Punjab Secretariat a special gift from their government for the locals, adding that the latter wouldn't have to move Lahore neither for their personal or official work.

Chief Minister declared that a new era of progress and development had just dawned in, with special funds were allocated to uplift the division in current year's budget. Unjust funds' distribution had become relics of the past now, he termed. Usman Buzdar ordered local authority to expedite work on development projects to benefit common man. He expressed zero tolerance to any sort of

embezzlement to either public exchequer or national resources. He vowed to leave no stone unturned to protect both lives and livelihoods of masses who bestowed upon them a clear mandate to serve them whole-heartedly. He ordered local security forces to hold 'effective and indiscriminate crackdown' on criminal mafia across the division. Prices of common household items would be checked on daily basis to avoid hoarding and profiteering, he instructed officials of district administration. Chief Minister reviewed in detail progress of development work, peace and law & order situation during the meeting. Additional Chief Secretary for South Punjab, Additional IG for South Punjab, Commissioner Multan division, DC with officials of concerned public depts came to attend the meeting.

IG pays homage to SI for doing PhD during service
Inspector General of Police Punjab Shoaib Dastgir said that completion of PhD degree

during police service is a unique aspect of honour and Sub Inspector Dr. Muhammad Irfan of Punjab Police Lahore has enhanced respect and prestige of Department and all force by acquiring this degree.

He said that PhD degree of Muhammad Irfan in difficult subject of Chemistry from historical Educational Institution, Government College University Lahore reflects hard work and intelligence of force that officers and officials of Punjab Police are not less than anyone with respect to abilities and capabilities. He further added that sub inspector Dr Muhammad Irfan acquired higher education along with keeping his duties first and performed his duties with diligence which reveals his professionalism, zeal for knowledge and full hard work. These views were expressed by him when he paid homage to sub inspector Dr Muhammad Irfan during meeting at central police office Lahore today. IG Punjab awarded Dr Muhammad Irfan with cash prize and cere-

monial certificate for his remarkable feat.

Dr. Muhammad Irfan expressed thanks for encouragement and cash prize by IG Punjab and said that my spirit and commitment has been increased by encouragement from Chief of the department and my responsibilities have also been enhanced with it because increase in educational status, creative and thinking skills get increased therefore, I Will work with more hard work and commitment by rendering my knowledge, abilities and skills for protection of wealth and lives of people and for provision of justice and service delivery to the citizens. IG further said that intelligent and capable officers and officials like Dr Muhammad Irfan are proudfest asset for police department and steps shall also be taken for their encouragement in future. It is here worth mentioning that sub inspector Dr Muhammad Irfan has acquired PhD degree in chemistry from Government College University Lahore and currently serving as Incharge Investigation



LAHORE: A merchant carries a camel as loaded from fodder at cattle Market Shahpur Kanjra. —Online

NITB, NCOC to use TPL trakker for multiple COVID-19 applications

LAHORE: TPL Trakker, Pakistan's leading IoT Company, has been chosen as the primary Location Based Services (LBS) provider by the NITB (National Information Technology Board) and NCOC (National Command and Operation Center) to support multiple national-level applications as part of Pakistan's fight against COVID-19.

Through this collaboration, TPL Maps, the mapping arm of TPL Trakker, will continue its critical role in helping the people of Pakistan during this pandemic by providing the necessary Location Based Services (LBS) to government applications for the purpose of mapping, analyzing, reporting and responding to cases across the

country. Given that the Smart Lockdown program initiated in June through this collaboration proved successful in tackling the surge of COVID-19 cases, the next phase of developments is designed to enhance and improve the response to active cases.

The Smart Lockdown Dashboard provided an effective and interactive map to mark hotspots of the rampant spread of the disease and subsequently help Provincial governments in imposing geo-based smart lockdowns. Now, TPL Trakker's LBS will play a crucial part in the next phase of the NITB and NCOCs mandates, powering Intelligent Resource Management Systems and the Pak Neghayban

mobile application. With TPL Trakker's location enablement, the NITB and NCOC is solving the challenge of managing crucial resources such as hospital capacities, their proximities to citizens and availabilities of resources. Through the Pak Neghayban mobile application, the public can view available health facilities and lab facilities, giving them the right information at the right place whenever required.

Speaking on this collaboration, Sarwar Ali Khan, CEO, TPL Trakker said, "We are committed to our corporate social responsibilities and to the national cause of eradicating this pandemic through our digital solutions and services. We are proud of our integral role

in the reduction of virus cases so far and even more so now that the NITB and NCOC are utilizing our Location Based Services to power the next phase of Web and Mobile Applications in the combat against the pandemic. We will continue to support their efforts and we look forward to a long and fruitful collaboration between our organizations."

The Location Services used as part of this collaboration are growing rapidly in their popularity and usage with commercial clients in Pakistan. The LBS APIs can be accessed here. Shabhat Ali Shah, CEO, NITB said, "TPL Trakker has made accessible its Location-Based technology, expertise. —PR

25 shops sealed, 122 vehicles impounded over SOPs violations

LAHORE: The City district administration, during an inspection in the provincial capital on Friday, sealed 25 shops, impounded 122 commercial and private vehicles and imposed Rs 51,300 fine over the violation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), announced by the government to prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus.

A spokesperson for the city district administration said that violation of the SOPs would not be tolerated and all shops and markets violating the orders in this regard would be sealed. He said that the district administration's inspection teams were present in the field to take action against violators. He mentioned that a total of 1,423 shops and public transport vehicles were checked during the inspection and found 147 violations of the SOPs. —APP

Minister visits cathedral churches

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Human Rights & Minorities Affairs Ijaz Alam Augustine Friday visited Lahore Cathedral Church and Sacred Heart Cathedral Church here and reviewed the construction work coupled with other arrangements.

The minister visited different parts of churches along with Bishops and father. The Bishops and fathers briefed the minister about the construction work in the churches. They hoped that entire work would be completed within stipulated time under the supervision of Punjab Human Rights and Minorities Affairs department. —APP

Body recovered from BRB Canal

LAHORE: A body of a man was recovered from canal in the limits of Mustafabad police station.

Police said on Friday, a passerby spotted a body floating in BRB canal near Lail and informed concerned police. Police escorted with Rescue-1122 divers reached the spot and fished out the body. The team took the body into custody and shifted it to DHQ hospital for autopsy. —APP

Agri-tourism has potential to revitalise economy

Dr Saeed Ahmed Ali

LAHORE: Globally, the economic potential of agriculture is huge and the size of the world population is growing tremendously while affecting the resource availability. To explore new economic landscapes, agriculture is now shifting to entertainment of agri-farming which is well connected with digital-economy.

Pakistan is an agricultural country and its agro-fields are covered with crops mostly all year-long with agronomic crops, vegetable fields, wheat and rice fields, orchids and herbal plants. Agricultural scenic beauty becomes worth watching when crops bloom at their peak, making the time spent at village unforgettable. Appearance of village crop beauty with modern digital tools and social media is mind blowing and everyone wants to explore the beauty of agricultural fields.

Agri-Tourism Development Corporation of Pakistan Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Tariq Tan-

veer while talking to APP said that Agri-tourism was the crossroads of tourism and agriculture, adding the natural beauty provided public visit working farms, ranches or wineries to buy products, enjoy entertainment, participate in fields' activities.

He said in Pakistan, organizing agricultural events in village areas, agri-field trips, field activities and picnic parties for school kids and community could help set a new trend of generating money to strengthen the economy.

Most of the European countries are generating a big chunk of their annual earnings and GDP through exposure of their scenic sites by using digital communication, which has changed the entire world. Pakistan, including Punjab, Sindh agricultural landscapes, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's Swat valley, Naran, Kaghan, Gilgit-Baltistan, and a lot more regions in the country are the most beautiful places, which could attract tourists from across the world and take economy of Pakistan to new

heights, he believes. Muhammad Sarang Bhatti, a noted agri-landlord from Sukheke Mandi told APP that in modern digital era, eco-tourism and village agricultural scene attractions have emerged as a source of foreign exchange and the fastest revenue generating industry, across the world.

In fact, digitalization and technology hold the promise of progress and prosperity for almost every country, including Pakistan. Pakistan Association of Tourism Operators President Maqsoodul Mulk told APP that Pakistan could achieve tremendous revenue goals in agricultural tourism if the government appoints professionals and experts to all formations of the industry and ensures good communications infrastructure.

Mulk said that the government's recent decision to end the mandatory 'No Objection Certificate' (NOC) was welcomed globally and the number of domestic and international tourists was increasing

every year.

According to the World Travel & Tourism Council, Pakistan's travel and tourism industry has contributed more than 7 percent to GDP with the worth of PKR 2,452 billion in 2018. It includes foreign and domestic travel and tourism spending amounting to Rs. 115 billion and its contribution in creating 3,850 employment opportunities in the country.

Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation Managing Director Syed Intikhab Alam told APP that in north of Pakistan, proper projection of ecotourism including orchard and terrace crops could bring home investment in billions, while the handicraft business and employment could also be increased in the area.

He believes that Pakistan will soon become the top tourist destination, as earlier it was not properly showcased through digital-tools. "It is high time for Pakistan to present its destinations before the world through digital means," he suggested. Punjab Min-

ister for Youth Affairs, Sports, Archaeology and Tourism Rai Taimoor Khan, while talking to APP, said that the province had multi-billion dollar potential in all kinds of tourism and was blessed with agricultural beauty and heritage.

To a question he said that Agri-tourism was gaining momentum at a pace second to none, adding, the figures on digital progress of the tourism sector spoke for themselves, especially in the field of agriculture.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government in the province had taken exemplary measures in embracing digital-tourism to project the country's true tourism potential at national and international levels, by adopting effective and open policies in the sector, he added.

"In Pakistan, agri-tourism had a tremendous potential to significantly contribute to the national economy, which had not only been identified by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government but also

endorsed by the international experts at various forums," the minister remarked.

The minister shared with APP that the Punjab government was going to launch a Tour-destination-app including a YouTube channel, soon which would help provide free information regarding operators, guidelines, vehicles and hotel booking details to domestic and international tourists. To project the real beauty of agri-tourism destinations of the province, the services of noted v-loggers, bloggers across the province would be hired, so that the young generation could get awareness about their rich heritage and identity, the minister adds. The minister admitted that the social media had a marvelous potential to promote the scenic beauty of the country, located in the north, adding that the incumbent government had given priority to digital media, which had proved to be an effective tool so far.

The writer is working with the