

Minimum 22:°C
Maximum 28:°C
Sunset 07:06pm
Sunrise 05:12am
(Tomorrow)

LAHORE

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Monday, July 21, 2020



FAJAR.....03:37 AM
ZOHAR.....12:09 PM
ASR.....05:01 PM
MAGRIB.....07:06 PM
ISHA.....08:40 PM

Quick Read

Blood screening process being further improved, says Yasmin

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid said on Monday that blood screening process was being further improved besides enhancing capacity building of the Punjab Blood Transfusion Authority (PBTA).

She was presiding over a meeting at Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department here. She said that no illegal blood banks would be allowed to work in the province, adding that non-licensed blood banks would be considered as illegal.

She said that blood banks were functional in all public hospitals of the province. She said that performance of blood banks was being improved by giving funds to the Punjab Blood Transfusion Authority.

Yasmin Rashid said that vacant posts in the Punjab Blood Transfusion Authority should be filled immediately. She said that standard of blood banks would be brought up to international standards, adding that cleanliness should be ensured in blood banks at all costs.

She said blood transfusion system would be centralised as per Punjab Blood Transfusion Safety Act 2016.

As many as 41 blood banks in Punjab had already been closed for not implementing the standard operating procedures (SOPs).

PCB announces travel plan of Amir and Shoaib

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board on Monday confirmed that fast bowler Mohammad Amir will join the Pakistan men's national cricket team in England following the birth of his second daughter last week.

Furthermore, and on the request of the team management, the PCB has also agreed to send Mohammad Imran, a masseur at the National High Performance Centre, to England, said a spokesman of the PCB here.

"As part of the process, both Amir and Imran underwent Covid-19 tests today, Monday and require two negative tests to be eligible to travel to the United Kingdom. If their first tests return negative, they will be moved to a bio-secure environment in Lahore where their second tests will be conducted on Wednesday, with the expected departures over the weekend", he said adding "As soon as Amir will join the squad, reserve wicketkeeper-batsman Rohail Nazir will be released from his duties".

Meanwhile, the departure of Shoaib Malik to England has been delayed until the second week of August after India extended the ban on international flights until 31 July, which, in turn, has delayed a planned family reunion. When Shoaib Malik will join the squad for the T20I series, which starts on 28 August in Manchester, the team management will release a player.

CM orders to ensure province-wise availability of flour bags at govt rates

— Says no hurdle will be tolerated in availability of flour bags at govt rates

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has directed the provincial price control committee, food department and administration to ensure availability of flour bags at fixed rates in the markets.

In a statement issued here on Monday, the CM made it clear that no hurdle will be tolerated in the availability of flour bags at the government rates. Every possible step be taken in this regard and a report be submitted to the CM Office along with indiscriminate action against hoarders, he added.

He reiterated that hoarders will not be allowed to exploit the people and directed the food department and administrative officers to go to the field to monitor the markets' situation. Ample wheat stock is available in Punjab and prior release of wheat to flour mills has also been ensured to stabilize the flour prices, he said.

Any false increase in the prices of flour

bags is unacceptable and the monitoring of crushing of wheat in flour mills should be made more strict, the CM concluded.

Chairs anti-polio taskforce meeting
Buzdar presided over a meeting of anti-polio taskforce at his office here on Monday. The meeting decided to take effective measures for complete eradication of polio from the province.

The CM reiterated that polio-free Punjab is a mission of government and no leniency will be tolerated in this regard.

The importance of the anti-polio campaign has been increased due to the coronavirus pandemic and deputy commissioners should monitor the anti-polio campaigns in their respective districts as the government wants Punjab to be totally free from polio disease, he asserted.

Warnings have been issued to DCs of some districts for failing to hold meetings about the eradication of polio in their districts and action will be initiated against the

CEO (Health) if the polio case has surfaced in the district. DC will also be held accountable while good performing DCs will be encouraged. The CM maintained the situation is better in Punjab than other provinces but the administration should burn the midnight oil for the success of this campaign.

The IG Police will arrange complete security for polio workers and SOPs for safety from coronavirus will be followed during this campaign, he added. The meeting decided to exempt polio workers of more than 50 years age from field duty and they will also be screened before going to the field.

The CM directed to ensure effective monitoring of the anti-polio campaign as saving the children from this disease is a collective obligation. He further directed to launch a vigorous awareness campaign adding that the health department's teams should ensure to administer anti-polio drops to every child.

Earlier, Secretary P&SHE briefed about the details of the anti-polio campaign.

Provincial Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid, Murad Raas, Fayyaz-ul-Hassan Chohan, Chief Secretary, administrative secretaries, WHO officials attended the meeting while commissioners, RPOs and coordinator NPP participated through video link.

MNAs call on CM Punjab

Members of the National Assembly Riaz Fatiana and Rana Qasim Noon met with Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar at his office here on Monday and discussed different matters of mutual interest.

The CM assured to solve their constituency related problems on a priority basis adding that problems relating to constituencies of MNAs will be resolved.

MNAs are as dear to me as MPAs and coordination with them will be further improved, he added. No one will be allowed to put any obstacle to the solution of genuine issues of elected representatives and the doors of CM Office are always opened to the MNAs.



LAHORE: Traders sell potatoes at Badami Bagh Fruit and Vegetable Market. —Online

PU to set up lab for solving climatic problems

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab University will establish state-of-the-art "National Laboratory of Remote Sensing, GIS and Climatic Research" to do research on the reasons behind climate change in Pakistan and suggest its affordable solutions.

In this regard, Higher Education Commission of Pakistan has approved initial funding of Rs 100 million for the establishment of the laboratory. PU Department of Space Science's Dr Zia ul Haq is director and principal investigator of the lab while other co-principal investigators include Dr. Syeda Adila Batool, Mr. Shahid Parvez, Mr. Asim Daud Rana, Dr. Khalid Mahmood and Dr. Salman Tariq, faculty members from the department. Explaining the objectives of the national laboratory, Dr Zia ul Haq said that Pakistan was amongst the most vulnerable countries facing climate change risks with very low technical, financial and professional capacity to adapt, mitigate and prevent its adverse impact. He said that climate change aggravated the social inequalities and intensifies social factors leading to displacement, conflicts, instability and changes in migration patterns through extreme weather events with changing patterns, flooding, temperature rise, yield reduction, droughts, spread of infectious diseases, water scarcity, deforestation etc.

He said that low budget, lack of technical support and required capacity of human resource were also big issues for planning sustainable solutions not only in Pakistan but also for other developing countries of the world. He said that satellite borne data with proper GIS analyses could provide low cost and easy to adopt alternatives to adapt, mitigate and prevent climate change to support decision making systems of Pakistan.

He said that the lab with the latest equipment and competent team of experts would promote and facilitate education, research activities and collaborations to study and develop GIS and Space Applications with particular emphasis on sustainable development in Pakistan. He said that efforts would also be made to attract international projects and grants in the relevant fields. He said that the whole team was thankful to Vice Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmad for his continuous support and encouragement during the academic competition process for the lab.

Sufficient quantity of flour available at controlled rate: Aleem

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Senior Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said on Monday that sufficient quantity of flour was available at controlled rate in the city.

According to official sources, the minister said that provision of flour at government fixed rates was being ensured in all districts.

Flour mills were providing flour bags in sufficient quantity, he maintained. The senior minister said that food department and local administration were strictly monitoring the situation. He said that planning was being done for long-term stability in wheat and flour prices. He further said that strict action was being taken against hoarders and profiteers, adding the government would not allow profiteering at all.

He said, "20 kg flour bag is available at the rate of Rs 860 while 10 kg at Rs 430."

PM promotes positive trends in country's politics

Punjab Senior Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said on Monday that Prime Minister Imran Khan had promoted positive trends in country's politics.

The minister in his tweet said, "It is for the first time in the history of the country that advisers have declared their assets." Aleem said that previous rulers had not declared their source of income according to their assets. He said that PM Imran Khan was fully determined to put the country on road to progress and prosperity and added that opposition should appreciate good initiatives taken by the incumbent government for the welfare of the people.

All SOPs in parks be strictly enforced in view of corona, dengue: DG PHA

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: According to details, a meeting of all horticulture directors and project directors was held at PHA headquarters Jilani Park regarding dengue prevention here on Monday.

The meeting was chaired by DG PHA Tariq Ali Basra. During the meeting, the DG PHA issued orders to the officers regarding the cleanliness of the parks in view of the monsoon rains and said that all possible steps should be taken in the parks to prevent dengue.

SOPs should be strictly enforced. He further said that water should not be allowed to stagnate after rain in all the small and big parks across the city.

The most efficient sanitation system should be adopted in all the parks during the monsoon season.

Punjab Police utilising modern information technology to improve supremacy of law: IGP

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Inspector General of Police (IGP), Punjab Shoaib Dastgir said that Punjab Police is effectively utilizing modern policing based upon effective information technology for improving supremacy of law, protecting wealth and lives of citizens and service delivery mechanism by which elimination of criminals along with resolution of issues of citizens on priority basis have been made possible.

He further said that in order to counter modern challenges of facilities to citizens and policing, projects of general policing and service delivery have been separated and equal attention is being imparted to each project due to which acquisition of services by citizens, timely provision of justice and working system have not only been boosted up but also environment of mutual trust and cooperation between po-



lice and public has been improved considerably.

These views were expressed by him when meeting with IG Gilgit Baltistan Dr Mujeeb Ur Rahman Khan at central police office Lahore. During meeting, matters regarding modern policing, overall scene of law and order along with other issue were discussed.

IG Gilgit Baltistan Dr Mujeeb-ur-Rahman Khan acknowledged IT projects of Punjab Police and said that such

modern projects laced with modern working ideas are imitable for police of other provinces. During the meeting for enhancing efficiency of officers and officials through mutual cooperation and information sharing between Punjab and Gilgit Baltistan Police forces were discussed whereas in the end of the meeting, IG Punjab Shoaib Dastgir presented IG Gilgit Baltistan Dr Mujeeb-ur-Rahman Khan a book regarding history of Punjab Police.



LAHORE: A worker prepares Sardai recipe at his workplace. —Online