

Minimum 06:°C  
Maximum 18:°C  
Sunset 05:26pm  
Sunrise 07:02am  
(Tomorrow)

# LAHORE

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Tuesday, January 19, 2021

## New local bodies system will start uplift at grassroots: CM

— Directs to solve problems of people at their doorsteps

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar chaired a meeting at his office to review steps for resolving public problems at the grassroots.

The meeting was attended by provincial Ministers Raja Basharat, Mian Mahmood-ur-Rasheed, Hashim Jawan Bakht, Mian Aslam Iqbal, Chief Secretary and others.

The CM directed that effective steps should be taken to resolve the problems of the people at their doorsteps adding that the new local bodies system will usher in a new era of development at the basic level.

The Local Bodies System will benefit the people as a strong local government system will help to solve public problems, he held. Similarly, the Punjab Local Government Act will ensure genuine public representation, he added. The CM maintained the government wants to introduce an exemplary system for empowering local bodies institutions. He disclosed that a separate development package will be introduced for every district adding that best sanitation services, as well as the provision of clean drinking water, are top priorities of the government.

The government is giving particular attention to the repair and maintenance of roads and streets because the timely solution of problems is the gist of the public-friendly development process, he added. A democratic



system that could solve public problems at their doorsteps is imperative and the PTI-led government fully believes in the devolution of power and authority at the grassroots, concluded the CM.

**Health Minister briefs CM about anti-corona steps:** Provincial Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid met with Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar at his office on Monday and briefed him about the steps taken for dealing with the coronavirus.

The CM directed the SOPs should be ef-

## PDM has ends in a fiasco: Firdous

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** The total number of corona patients has reached to 149782 while 2713722 tests have been conducted in the province.

This was stated by Special Assistant to CM on Information Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan in a statement on Monday. The SACM said that 560 new cases have been reported while 23 patients lost their lives during the last 24 hours. Meanwhile, the SACM maintained the PDM leadership is hampering the development process adding that the political hypocrites have to eat a humble pie after the unsuccessful agitational drive.

The opposition has faced defeat at every occasion while the bleak future of the PDM is known to everybody, she added. The trio of Moulana, prince and the princess is perplexed because people have alienated themselves from the negative politics of the gang of thieves.

The people have buried the nefarious designs of political deceivers and no corrupt can evade the accountability process in the presence of PM Imran Khan. The PDM should avoid holding gatherings as people are dying due to corona while the cabal is spreading corona for its negative politics, concluded the SACM.

fectively implemented and the citizens should remain careful in the corona. Public cooperation fully materializes the government efforts, he said. The government is fulfilling its duties but the citizens should remain very careful, he added. The CM reiterated that public health is important and the citizens should also fulfil their responsibilities. The opposition has totally forgotten the national interest as PDM is intriguing to interrupt the journey of development, he maintained. The CM emphasised

that the negative politics will be countered through public service as the people want development and the alliance of the corrupt cannot hoodwink the people.

**Condole death of father of protocol officer:** Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has condole the death of the father of Mubashir Javed, Protocol Officer of CM Office. He extended sympathies to the bereaved family and prayed to Almighty Allah to rest the departed soul in eternal peace.



FAJAR.....05:37 AM  
ZOHAR.....12:13 PM  
ASR.....3:48 PM  
MAGRIB.....05:25 PM  
ISHA.....06:50 PM

### Quick Read

#### 66th death anniversary Literary giant 'Manto' remembered

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:**

Great Urdu language short story writer of the South Asia Saadat Hasan Manto was remembered on Monday on his 66th death anniversary to pay tributes for his lifetime services to Urdu literature.

Born on May 11, 1912 in Ludhiana, India, Manto was a play-writer and author who produced some collections of short stories, a novel, radio plays, essays and collections of personal sketches.

He was known for controversial writing of short stories which exposed the hard truths of the society that no one dared to talk about, private channels reported.

Manto is best known for his stories about the partition of India, which he opposed, immediately following independence in 1947. He is acknowledged as one of the finest 20th century Urdu writers and two biographical films on Manto have been produced so far.

His most famous short stories were "Khood Do, Kaali Shalwar and Toba Tek Singh among many others.

During this time Bari enthusiastically discovered Hugo's "The Last Days of Condemned, a drama expression opposition to capital punishment, and he encouraged Manto to attempt a translation of it into Urdu.

Manto completed the translation in about two weeks and sold it to the Urdu Book Stall, Lahore, which published it under the title Sarguzasht-e-Ascer (A Prisoner's Story).

Having now become a published author, Manto aided by Hasan Abbas soon attempted a translation of Oscar Wilde's Vera, which was published in 1934.

Later, his story "Tamasha" and several others were put together into Manto's first collection of original short stories in Urdu, Atish Pare (Sparks; also Quarrel-Provokers), published in 1936. Later he came to Lahore and joined newspaper Paras. He died on January 18, 1955, at the age of 44.

#### PFA seals 12 food business points

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Punjab Food Authority (PFA) on Monday sealed six food production units, four departmental stores and two food points in the provincial capital over non-compliance of SOPs, announced by the authority to ensure healthy food with quality.

According to a PFA spokesperson, Osama Burger G-1 Market Johar Town, Chikinow Fast Food in WAPDA Town had sealed over use of loose spices and poor cleanliness arrangements. Mian Gulberg Departmental Store in Mian Market Gulberg, Sadaf Departmental Store in Gulsah-e-Ravi, Ramzan Bakery in Raj Garh, Ghazi Chiken Sale Center in Baghbanpura, and Al-Madina Sweets production unit and Safdar Nimko production unit in Wahga area were sealed. Malik Shahzad Pan Shop, Sardar Fish Corner, Bhola Sweets, Yasir bakery were also sealed during the operation.

## Opposition should forget about an NRO: Aslam

Says Opposition leaders should shun their negative, undemocratic attitude

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Provincial Minister for Industries and Trade Mian Aslam Iqbal regretted that the opposition, which weakened the state institutions in the past, is laying siege to them now for some political gains.

While talking to a delegation of party workers at his camp office on Monday, the minister said the people have fully foiled every conspiracy of the opposition.

The opposition leaders should shun their negative and undemocratic attitude forthwith, he advised.



The people snatched away power from the looters in 2018 and the negative politics of the corrupt will be buried in the elections of 2023, he continued.

Aslam Iqbal emphasised that the opposition is frustrated after the failure of its political tactics as it tried to put the lives of the people in danger for some political benefits. The disappointing political moves of the opposition, aimed at creating unrest, will face defeat, he held.

The development process is unacceptable to the PDM, he lamented.

Mian Aslam Iqbal said the opposition is conspiring to save its swag while the nation is engaged in a nationwide struggle against coronavirus.

The minister emphasised that

the looters will not be able to secure their politics or the booty. He advised the opposition to forget about the NRO as PM Imran Khan has waged an arduous campaign against corruption and the fight against corruption will be brought to its logical end.

Similarly, the conspiracies of those trying to divide the nation for an NRO will be foiled, he said.

PM Imran Khan is a strong hope of the nation and he will not disappoint the people, the minister added and further stated that the PTI government is fulfilling its promises made with the peo-

## IRSA releases 32,100 cusecs water

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 32,100 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 42,400 cusecs.

Water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1470.73 feet, which was 78.73 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 15,300 cusecs each. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1170.80 feet, which was 130.80 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 10,400 cusecs and 1,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 31,200, 23,200 and 8,300 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 8,300 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 8,600 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala.

## Dense fog forecast in City

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** The Meteorological Department has forecast dense fog in most parts of the province including provincial capital during the next 24 hours.

According to the Met. department, dense fog is likely in Jhelum, Gujranwala, Lahore, Khushab, Noorpurthal, Sargodha, Faisalabad, Sialkot, Narowal, Gujrat, Toba Tek Singh, Joharabad, Jhang, Okara, Multan, Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, Dera Ghazi Khan, Khanewal, Sahiwal. However, cold and dry weather is expected in other parts of the province.

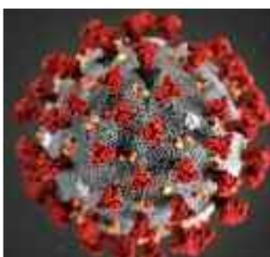
## Virus claims 23 lives, 560 new cases reported in Punjab

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** The pandemic COVID-19 claimed another 23 precious lives in 24 hours, whereas 560 new cases of coronavirus were reported on Monday across the province.

According to the data shared by the spokesperson of Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 149,782, while the total deaths were recorded as 4,432 altogether.

The P&SHD confirmed that 352 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Lahore, 1 in Sheikhupura, 8 in Rawalpindi, 3 in Jhelum, 2 in Gujranwala, 2 in Mandi Bahauddin, 1 in Hafizabad, 4 in Sialkot, 2 in Narowal, 33 in Gujrat, 43 in Faisalabad, 9 in Jhang, 1 in Layyah, 17 in Chiniot, 11 in Sargodha, 5 in Mianwali, 4 in Bhakkar, 20 in Multan, 2 in



Vehari, 2 in Dera Ghazi Khan, 10 in Muzaffargarh, 1 in Rahimyar Khan, 16 in Bahawalpur, 4 in Bahawalnagar, 4 in Okara and 3 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Sahiwal district during the last 24 hours till filing of this news. The Punjab health department conducted 2,713,722 tests for COVID-19 so far while 134,489 confirmed cases recovered altogether in the province. It is perti-

nent to mention here that services for coronavirus treatment were available in 256 hospitals across the province where 8,261 beds were reserved for COVID-19 patients. Altogether 3,744 beds were equipped with oxygen facility and 440 beds were occupied so far. The Punjab Health Department allocated 665 ventilators for coronavirus patients across the province and 358 ventilators were in use while 307 ventilators were spare so far. So far 2,896 front line Healthcare workers got infected with the coronavirus during their duties.

The Punjab health department has urged the masses to follow SOPs for their protection and cover their faces with masks. The people should wash their hands with soap several times in a day to protect themselves from COVID-19. Contact 1033 immediately on symptoms of coronavirus, the health care department urged the citizens.



**LAHORE:** Students of Different schools and colleges arrive to join the protest of students in favour of their demands outside the Governor House. —Online