

# Corona situation being monitored round-the-clock: CM

**-Says citizens should follow govt instructions if they want to avoid; further restrictions; Visits different areas of City without any protocol**

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar, in order to monitor the lockdown situation in the provincial metropolis, visited different areas of Lahore without any protocol. The Chief Minister expressed satisfaction over the complete implementation on lockdown and thanked the trader community for their cooperation. Usman Buzdar also lauded the services of the administration, police, army and rangers for ensuring the effective implementation of Corona SOPs.

He inspected the lockdown situation of Jail Road, Fairouzpur Road, Gulberg, Garden Town, Model Town and other areas. He also reviewed the sanitation arrangements of the city and expressed indignation over the poor sanitation situation and reprimanded the officials of Lahore Waste Management Company. He directed to improve the cleanliness arrangements in the city. He said that the lockdown is for the protection of the citizens and they have followed the SOPs responsibly. The Corona situation is being monitored round the clock. Citizens should follow government instructions if they want to avoid further restrictions. He

termed the sanitation arrangements in the city unsatisfactory and directed that the heap of garbage should immediately be removed besides adopting the effective strategy to further improve the cleanliness condition.

**Pays tributes to services of journalists:** Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar on World Press Freedom Day has paid tributes to the services of journalists who rendered sacrifices for the freedom of press and played unprecedented role for creating collective awareness among the people. He said that those who stood for supremacy of truth and righteousness become the torchbearer of the society. He termed the freedom of press a mirror of collective consciousness of any society. A responsible journalism should not cross the religious and social limits. Free and responsible media is the best representative, informer and critic of the society. Truth cannot be hidden adding that freedom of press is linked with sense of social responsibility. He appreciated the role of those journalists who bring the truth in the limelight for the interest of the people. He said that PTI government believes in freedom of expression. Prompt measures have been taken on the public complaints in print, electronic and social media.

Punjab government is striving for the promotion of regional and national journalism. Providing secure environment to the journalist during the performance of their duties is the top priority of government.

**PPP's MPAs Raees Nabeel, Ghazanfer Ali Khan call on Buzdar:** PPP's MPAs Raees Nabeel Ahmed and Ghazanfer Ali Khan from PP-265 and 255 respectively called on Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar and expressed their complete confidence in his leadership. They also apprised the Chief Minister about the problems and the needs of the people of their constituencies. Usman Buzdar said that remote and backward areas were intentionally neglected during the previous regime as development and progress is the right of every city and town. He said that former rulers deliberately plundered the funds of backward areas and this unjustified distribution of resources in the past substantially increase the deprivations of backward areas. The incumbent government believes in composite development and taking the backward areas along in its journey of development and progress. Anti-development elements cannot befool the people any more through their false propaganda. Pakistan is moving ahead on the road to progress under the leadership

of Prime Minister Imran Khan. He asserted that the government will continue its mission of public service without caring about the criticism. The honour and the respect of public representatives will be ensured. Genuine and legitimate work of elected representatives will not be stopped, he added.

**Takes notice of death of a citizen when a stray kite string slit his throat:** Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has taken notice of the death of a citizen when a stray kite string slit his throat in

Baghbanpura Gujranwala and sought a report from RPO Gujranwala. He also directed to initiate legal action against the responsible. Usman Buzdar has expressed a deep sense of sorrow and grief over this incident and extended his heartfelt sympathies and condolences with the bereaved family of the deceased. Usman Buzdar said that ensuring the complete ban on kite flying is the responsibility of the police and termed the loss of precious human lives a failure and criminal negligence of the concerned police station. He further directed the police to ensure effective implementation of the ban on kite flying besides taking preventive measure to avoid such incidents in future. Strict action should be taken against the violators without any dis-



ISLAMABAD: A vendor is displays mangoes to attract costumers for selling purpose at his pushcart.

## ADCG checks facilities at Ramadan bazaars

**LAHORE:** Additional Deputy Commissioner General (ADCG) Shahid Abbas Kathia Sunday inspected arrangement at different Ramadan bazaars in the provincial capital and reviewed quality, prices and availability of commodities besides inspecting sitting arrangements. The ADCG visited Ramadan bazaars of Jallo Mor, Lidhar, Chungi Do-gage, Barkat Market and monitored the supply of essential items at all stalls in bazaars and expressed satisfaction over the arrangements. He directed the shopkeepers to display approved rate list in their shops at conspicuous places. He further inspected the prices at various stalls including meats, vegetables, fruits, sugar and flour. The ADCG met visitors and inquired about the quality of essential commodities and prices differences of Ramadan bazaars from the open market. —APP

## 41 shops sealed over SOPs violation

**LAHORE:** The city district administration sealed 41 shops, industrial units, restaurants and imposed Rs 144,000 fines on them over violation of coronavirus related standard operating procedures (SOPs) here on Sunday. According to a spokesperson for the district administration, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Cantt Zeeshan Ranjha sealed HKB, Portpuri stores at DHA Y-Block for SOPs violation. AC Shalimar Mansoor Ahmed Qazi imposed fine of Rs 44,000 on 13 violators and sealed two shops in tehsil Shalimar. AC City Faizan Ahmed imposed fine of Rs 100,000 on two industrial units and sealed 34 shops over SOPs violation in his jurisdiction. The teams also inspected public and private transport vehicles and issued warnings to transporters and drivers to follow coronavirus SOPs strictly. —APP

## PM's direct subsidy initiative, a panacea for poverty eradication

DR SAEED AHMAD ALI

**G**lobal Economic Indicators show that so far coronavirus has reduced global economic growth to an annualised rate of -4.5 per cent to 6.0 per cent during the last fiscal year, with a slight recovery of 2.5 to 5.2pc projected for the year 2021.

Likewise, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) statistics reveal that global trade is estimated to have fallen by 5.3pc in 2020, but is projected to grow by 8.0pc in 2021. Including the United States, COVID-19 has so far spread to over 200 countries, affecting whole global economic growth negatively, beyond anything experienced in nearly a whole century.

Major huge and digital economies, comprising 60pc of global economic activity, would be operating below their expected potential output levels, till at least 2024. The International Labour Organisation findings, recently published in various journals, indicate that 95 million people around the globe entered extreme poverty in 2020, while 80 million population globally remained undernourished, as compared to the pre-pandemic levels. However, situation in Pakistan has been saved from turning into serious crisis due to prudent policies of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government during the past one year. Prime Minister Imran Khan's result-oriented efforts and initiatives have started showing positive results, and his concrete policies are not only steering the country out of financial, social and political crises but also eradicating poverty from the country. The prime minister recently said in Lahore that during the last six years, poverty in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) had been reduced significantly under the PTI government. He explained the biggest project, in the pipeline currently: direct subsidy to the destitute strata, which would be provided to the poor families. He said that 100pc data statistics of the families had been received.

The PM, while replying to a query about the critics who question his government's intention of establishing the country similar to Riasat-e-Madina (state of Madina), said that it will take time, but assured that Pakistan was moving in right direction. To eradicate poverty from the country, the government has launched a historic Emergency Cash Programme through direct cash transfers to the under-privileged women amid the prevailing situation of COVID-19 pandemic. The International

Monetary Fund (IMF) has lauded the PTI government, while predicting recovery in Pakistan's economy during the financial year 2021-22.

In a report titled "Policy Actions Taken by Countries," an IMF representative said that gradual recovery is being witnessed in Pakistan's economy during the FY 2021-22, as the government is making serious efforts in reopening the economy. The report highlighted the positive measures taken by the PTI government to contain spread of COVID-19.

According to the report, since April 2020, the federal government, in coordination with all provinces, had gradually eased lockdown, allowing low risk industries to restart working and small retail shops to reopen with the implementation of the standard operating procedures (SOPs). Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Chairperson BISP, Dr Sania Nishtar said that at present, the emergency cash programme was providing Rs 12,000 each to more than 15 million deserving families (women). The PTI government, since 2018, has been playing an impressive role to curtail poverty in the country through various initiatives, relief packages and coordinated efforts, she added. The government has taken urgent and special initiatives for supporting the needy and poor segments of society. A relief package worth Rs 1.2 trillion has been announced by the federal government, which is being implemented currently, it added. The report mentions solid measures taken by the federal and all provincial governments to ease economic impact of the pandemic. These measures include elimination of import duties on cash transfers to 6.2 million daily-wage labourers worth Rs 75 billion, emergency health equipment, cash transfers to more than 12 million under-privileged families worth 150 billion rupees. Similarly, financial support to agriculture sector and the Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (SMEs) worth Rs 100 billion in the form of bank lending, deferment of power bills and subsidies and various tax incentives, it revealed. Since the beginning of the pandemic crisis, the provincial governments have also implemented supportive fiscal measures, consisting of cash grants to the daily-wage workers and low-income households, the IMF report further added.

The writer is working with Associated Press of Pakistan (APP).

## LWMC to ensure cleanliness at corona vaccination centres

**LAHORE:** The Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) is committed to maintaining the best possible cleanliness arrangements for the citizens at the corona vaccination centres. This was stated by LWMC CEO Imran Ali Sultan while talking to the field staff on Sunday. He said the LWMC had deployed more than 60 workers at vaccination centres. The LWMC staff would perform duties at all corona vaccination centres, set up by the district administration in each town. He appealed to the public to cooperate with the LWMC staff to maintain cleanliness in the city. In case of waste-related complaints, citizens could call the LWMC helpline 1139 or can use the mobile-based application Clean Lahore. —APP

## 2,250 sugar bags seized

**LAHORE:** The city district administration carried out a crackdown on illegal profiteers, hoarders and seized 2,250 bags of hoarded sugar at Sundar Multan Road. According to a spokesperson for the district administration, a special team, under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner Raiwind Adnan Rasheed, raided the godown and seized the sugar bags of 50-kg each. —APP

## Commodities not being sold at govt rates in Kasur



From Our Staff Correspondent

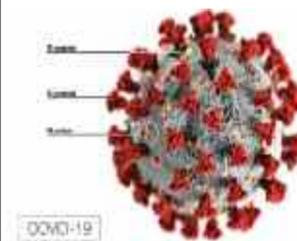
**KASUR:** The district's surroundings and the flour shops are being found in Kasur City, but not according to the government's prices, but 20 kilograms of bags are being sold at one thousand and fourty rupees and 10 kilograms of bags are being sold at five hundred and thirty rupees.

When asked about this, the shopkeepers gave their specifications and said that we are buying expensive prices from flour mills owners and taking profit 20 rupees only per bag. The shopkeepers said that it is our duty to keep the flour to sell the customer, otherwise the flour customer is worried about discussing

even though the government is completely unable to control the owners and the subdivision is also getting the owners. Shopkeepers said that the owners of the Ittifaq Flour Mill Raiwind Road, National Flour Mill and Mastari Flour Mill take the money first and give the flour later.

If they are demanded at the official rate, they say that they should go to the Ramadan Bazar and do not discuss, while the government claims on the price of flour have been left behind, on the other hand, the government's supporters seem to defend the government at the price of flour, while the poor man flour is forced to buy at expensive prices.

## 23 points set up to check corona SOPs



**RAWALPINDI:** Chief Traffic Officer Rawalpindi Rai Mazhar Iqbal, has issued directives to the Duty Officer Headquarters to prevent the spread of Corona virus and ensure implementation of SOPs and use of masks during travel. In view of this, special mask checking points have been set up at 23 places in Rawalpindi city and 137 traffic officers have been deployed including 05 circle in-charges, 24 inspectors, 76 traffic wardens and 32 traffic assistants. During the checking, we will ensure implementation of masks and government SOPs among the citizens. On this occasion, Chief Traffic Officer Rawalpindi Rai Mazhar Iqbal urged citizens to wear masks for their own safety he said, adding that the city traffic police officers would ensure the implementation of Corona SOPs to contain virus. It is prime duty of traffic wardens to provide assistance to travelers while driving, he added. —APP

## Trendy face masks in demand to wear on Eid

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** With less than two weeks left in the festival of Eid-ul-Fitr, majority of the women have started buying trendy face masks matching with their attire to wear on the festive occasion.

The trend of wearing fashion masks matched with the dresses started gaining popularity among women since the first wave of COVID-19 pandemic.

As the face masks have become an essential item of daily use for all to remain safe from the deadly virus, women consider wearing an ordinary routine face mask with their colourful dresses as an awkward thing and opting trendy masks matched with their attire. Face masks available at the medical stores are mostly of white and blue colour and wearing such masks with colourful dresses on the daily basis gives a monotonous look and spoil the excitement of even wearing new and fancy dresses", Amina Ilyas, a young girl said.

Talking to APP, she said, "Especially on the occasion of Eid, I cannot wear the ordinary face mask so I have asked my tailor to stitch a matching mask with my dress utilizing the remaining pieces from the dress". Tailors always waste the remaining pieces from our dresses which could be easily used for making masks, she said. Muniba Khalid, a working woman said, "It is better to use a mask which can be washed properly, sanitized and reused. This can save us not only from this virus but also from various diseases like influenza and allergies". "Adding colour and fashion to the face masks, once associated with the fear of pandemic, actually makes it more convenient for us to make these as a part of our lives for an indefinite period", she said. "On occasions like Eid, marriage ceremonies and parties, I prefer to wear embellished face masks, not simple ones", she added. Thanks to those fashion brands which have introduced matching face masks with the ready to wear dresses, she said. The trend of wearing matching masks has also given an opportunity to the tailors to earn good profits through charging extra money for stitching the masks. Ashfaq Ali, a tailor at Karachi Company said, although the pandemic has given us an opportunity to earn more but customers show reluctance to pay more for stitching masks. Stitching face masks, which are smaller in size, consume much time but the customers did not pay more than Rs. 100 for a single mask while some argue for more discount, he said.