

Minimum 25:°C  
Maximum 39:°C  
Sunset 06:42pm  
Sunrise 05:19am  
(Today)



FAJAR.....	03:50 AM
ZOHAR.....	12:10 PM
ASR.....	4:45 PM
MAGRIB.....	06:42 PM
ISHA.....	08:10 PM

### Quick Read

## '24,42,65 corona patients recover in public sector hospitals'

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: As many as 24,42,65 corona patients are recovered in public sector hospitals being run under the control of Specialized and Primary & Secondary Healthcare departments, while 273 patients are recovered during the last 24 hours. This was disclosed by Silwat Saeed, Special Secretary Specialized

Healthcare Punjab today. She said that 7475 beds were reserved in all govt. hospitals for corona patients, out of which 4519 beds were unoccupied. Likewise, 1623 beds reserved in govt. hospitals of the provincial metropolis and 853 beds were vacant so far. The Special Secretary SHC&MED said that in view of the surging corona pandemic, the Health Department had arranged 3385 beds in Isolation wards of all govt. hospitals in the province, out of which, 2467 beds were vacant.

However, 448 beds for corona patients are reserved in isolation wards set up in govt. hospitals of Lahore and 317 beds are unoccupied. In addition, 3357 beds are also reserved in HDU for patients suffering from Covid-19 in all the hospitals of Punjab government and 1735 beds are vacant while, in hospitals of Lahore, 903 beds reserved in HDU and 481 beds are unoccupied, Silwat Saeed added. The Special Secretary SHC said the health department had arranged 733 ventilators for corona patients in all hospitals of the provincial government, of which 416 ventilators were under use while 317 were unoccupied. Around 272 ventilators are reserved in Lahore hospitals, of which 217 are occupied and 55 ventilators are vacant, said Silwat Saeed.

## 65 metric tons wheat smuggling bid foiled

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A bid to smuggle 65 metric tons wheat to Lahore was foiled and wheat worth Rs 4.3 million also seized.

According to details, 45 metric ton wheat filled into over 2400 bags loaded on trailer was being smuggled to Lahore last night through fake permit with alleged involvement of local food inspector/ junior analyst food grain and food controller. Special branch team checked the trailer and informed the high ups and the bid of smuggling wheat foiled. The wheat was confiscated and shifted to food department's warehouse. Assistant Commissioner Burewala started the interrogation into the case.

## Plastic godown gutted

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Plastic items worth thousands of rupees were reduced to ashes in godown fire at Bund Road here on Sunday. On information, rescue teams reached the site and started rescue operation. The firefighters succeeded in controlling fire after hectic efforts. However, no loss of life was reported. Cause behind the fire could not be as-

# Negative politics of opposition fails: Punjab Governor

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar met with the Provincial Minister for Excise Hafiz Mumtaz Ahmed and Provincial Minister for Sports Taimur Bhatti while Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar has said that even opponents cannot raise a finger on the honesty of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

The public's support is with the government's narrative. Labourers are the guarantor of national development and prosperity adding that the minimum wage of workers in Punjab has been fixed at 20,000 rupees. According to details, Hafiz Mumtaz Ahmed, Provincial Minister for Excise and Taimur Bhatti, Provincial Minister for Sports called on Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar at Governor's House Lahore on Saturday to discuss political and governmental issues as well as the Coronavirus situation in the province. Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said that the negative politics of the opposition has always failed and will continue to do so.

Those who wish for elections before 2023 will be disappointed. He further said that Imran Khan will complete his constitutional term as Prime Minister and the PTI government will continue to pursue the policy of making the country strong and prosperous

Says even opponents cannot raise a finger on honesty of Prime Minister Imran Khan; Provincial Minister for Excise Hafiz Mumtaz Ahmed, Provincial Minister for Sports Taimur Bhatti call on Governor



job said that SOPs can help us prevent Coronavirus spike and the government will not have to impose stricter lockdown.

During the meeting, the provincial ministers said that the present government is the embodiment of national aspirations and all government institutions are working together to overcome Coronavirus spread and the government is also ensuring the provision of all facilities in hospitals.

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Those who wish for elections before 2023 will be disappointed.

He further said that Imran Khan will complete his constitutional term as Prime Minister and the PTI government will continue to pursue the policy of making the country strong and prosperous

and the promises made to the people will be fulfilled. Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said that unfortunately, the political opponents are trying to destabilize the country but the government through its performance has always thwarted all the plans of the opponents.

Pakistan will continue to move forward successfully in every sector including the economic front by overcoming the challenges, he added. Urging the citizens to comply with the SOPs, Governor Punjab



LAHORE: People take bath in canal to beat the heat.

## Strict implementation of SOPs can help reduce corona positivity rate: Dr Yasmin

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid said on Sunday that coronavirus infection rate could only be overcome by strictly implementation of coronavirus SOPs devised by the health department.

Briefing the media here, she said that in the provincial capital, where the infection rate was 23 per cent, the Punjab government implemented SOPs strictly, and now the corona positivity rate had reduced to 18 per cent. She said that COVID-19 patients were facing difficulties in Gujranwala district where the occupancy rate of ventilators was 100 percent so the health department had decided to send five more ventilators over there.

The minister announced that all kinds of gatherings including indoor and outdoor as well as processions across the province had been banned to tackle the acceleration of the disease. She said that Punjab remained the worst-hit province in terms of deaths and cases followed by Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

She said that 8,550 people had lost their lives to the pandemic in Punjab, 4,658 in Sindh, 3,350 in KP, 691 in Islamabad, 477 in Azad Kashmir, 237 in Balochistan, and 107 in GB. As many as 304,889 coronavirus cases had been confirmed in Punjab, 284,738 in Sindh, 119,277 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 75,892 in Islamabad, 22,528 in Balochistan, 17,297 in Azad Kashmir and 5,312 in Gilgit-Baltistan till today (Sunday) morning.

To a question, she informed that the most affected area in Punjab remained Layyah where positivity rate of coronavirus surged to 31 per cent. To a question about oxygen supply, she said the Punjab health department had set up a 280-bed field hospital in the Lahore Expo Centre with uninterrupted oxygen supply, adding that 10 ventilators had also been installed there. The minister said that the government had decided to install oxygen generators at big teaching hospitals across the province while the procurement for generators had already been started. "All these preparations have been made to prevent any emergency situation", she cleared. About vaccination, Dr Yasmin Rashid said that Punjab was the province where the most number of people were getting vaccinated. "The NCOC has given us a target of vaccinating 80,000 people in a day and yesterday we injected 78,000 people", she informed. She said that 135 vaccination centres had been set up in Punjab and the government had decided to increase the number by adding 7 more centres.

# Lawyers' community playing role in provision of justice, maintaining rule of law: Basharat

By Our Staff Reporter

Distributes Rs10.2 m grant among RBA

LAHORE: Minister for Law and Cooperatives Punjab Raja Basharat has said that the lawyers' community had always played a key role in restoring democracy, provision of justice and maintaining rule of law in the country and the government had greatly valued those efforts.

He said this while addressing a function at Punjab House Rawalpindi Sunday as the chief guest to distribute government grant cheques to Lahore High

Court Bar Association Rawalpindi, District Bar Association and all Tehsil Bar Associations of Rawalpindi. The Law Minister said that the services of the lawyers' community had also been significant for the protection of human rights.

He said that Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar was aware of the plight and problems of lawyers and all possible steps would be taken to facilitate them in performing their professional duties. He added that funds would also be provided for a lawyers' hospital under construction in Rawalpindi. "Delegations of lawyers will meet Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar and space will be allotted for lawyers' chambers in Rawalpindi," he assured. On the occasion, the provincial minister presented a check of Rs. 4 million for Lahore High Court Bar, Rs. 4 m for

District Bar Association Rawalpindi and Rs. 1 million for each Tehsil Bar Association of Rawalpindi. The cheques were received by the representatives of the Bars. President High Court Bar Association Sardar Abdul Razaq, Additional Secretary Rooma Qureshi, General Secretary Shahid Shehzad Bhatti, President District Bar Association Rizwan Akhtar Awan, President Tehsil Bar Association Gujjar Khan Shahid Shehzad Kayani, President Tehsil Bar Association Murree Jalil Abbasi, President Tehsil Bar Kahuta Raja Tanveer and President Tehsil Bar Association Kallar Syedan Adnan



Chaudhry while receiving the checks, extended special thanks to Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar and Punjab Law Minister Muhammad Basharat Raja who always took keen interest in the problems of lawyers and provided funds for resolving their long standing issues.

# Shahnawaz, Zahid should be given chance in 2nd Test: Shoaib

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Former pacer Shoaib Akhtar believes pacer Shahnawaz Dahani and leg-spinner Zahid Mehmood should be given a chance in the Pakistan team for the second Test against Zimbabwe in Harare, starting on May 7.

The Rawalpindi Express feels that Pakistan should make two changes during the second Test. Pakistan won the first test by an innings and 116 runs, to take 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

Akhtar, who holds the record for bowling the fastest delivery in world cricket, wants to see pacer Shahnawaz and leg-spinner Zahid in the Pakistan lineup. Akhtar,



who took 178 wickets in 46 Tests, said that Dahani's inclusion would depend on whether Shahnawaz Afridi wants to rest or not. "Shahnawaz Dahani can be given a chance but you need to ask Sha-

heen Afridi if he wants to rest. What if Shaheen doesn't want to rest? There are already only few Test matches on offer and, if I was asked the same question, I would have played," he said while speaking on PTV Sports as quoted by cricketpakistan.com.pk.

"There is no harm in trying out against Zimbabwe. I think Dahani and Zahid Mehmood should be given a chance in the next Test match," Akhtar, who bagged 247 wickets in 163 One Day Internationals, said. Zahid was the third highest wicket-taker, during the last season of Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, with 52 wickets in 10 matches. Meanwhile, Dahani claimed 26 wickets in seven matches.



LAHORE: A view of deserted The Mall during a lockdown.