

Govt reduces commercial building fee, says Secy Housing South

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Housing Urban Development & Public Health Engineering Department has decided to reduce commercial fee as governing body approved reduction of commercial fee from 20 to 10 percent.

Secretary Housing South Punjab, Liaqut Ali Chatha expressed these views while taking briefing from Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency (PHATA) here on Saturday.

He stated that the approval of commercial fee would be taken from cabinet in the next meeting. The directions were issued to PHATA for mapping regarding construction of hospitals at Gulshan market, Jalal Pur Pir Wala and Taunsa as hospital would be constructed on 76 acres land in Taunsa, Secretary added.

Secretary Chatha said that the purpose of reduction in commercial fee was to enhance revenue and to facilitate masses. Secretary South said that directions issued for grand encroachment operation at Khanewal and Vehari districts. He ordered officials concerned to provide plots to common people by identifying land in the region under New Pakistan Housing Program.

Rain, thunderstorm forecast at isolated places

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The MET Department on Saturday forecast rain-wind and thunderstorm at isolated places in upper and central Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, northeast Balochistan, Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan during next 24 hours.

However hot and dry weather is likely to prevail in most parts of the country, while very hot in plain areas. Monsoon currents are penetrating upper and central parts of the country and likely to continue till tomorrow. A shallow westerly wave is affecting upper parts of the country.

Maximum temperatures recorded in °C was 47 in Sibbi and Dadu, 44 in Shaheed Benazirabad and Dalbandin and 43 in Nokkundi.

Four die as car falls in River Neelum

MUZAFFARABAD: Four people including two women were died and two children sustained injuries when a car turn turtle and fell in river near Jhora in Neelum Valley district, some 70 kilometers from here on Saturday, Police told.

A tourist family from Lahore was going back to Muzaffarabad after a trip to Neelum Valley when their car met accident at Ghel Pain near Jhora, said In-Charge Police post on telephone saying one of the deceased was identified as Nadir son of Arshad Hussain, the resident of Lahore. —APP



LAHORE: People drink cold water (sabeel) at Chaina Chowk.

Govt economic policies taking Punjab to new era of progress, prosperity: CM

Says record development budget of Rs560b given besides increasing development budget by 66 percent

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has said that coordinated and integrated economic policies are taking the Punjab in the new era of progress, prosperity and economic development.

A record development budget of Rs. 560 billion has been given for the current financial year besides increasing the development budget by 66%.

The chief minister said that the incumbent government has given a roadmap based on real development.

Usman Buzdar said that elected representatives were consulted while preparing development programs and under public-private partnership Rs. 25 billion has been allocated for major development projects. He further asserted that free health insur-

ance will be ensured to 100% of the population of Punjab.

He termed Universal Health Insurance Program as his government's flagship program. Salaries and pensions of government employees have been increased by 10% besides giving 25% Special allowance to the employees from 1 to 19 grade. He said that the opposition does not want development for the people of the province. In the past, there was progress in the papers and the people were deprived of the fruits of development.

Expresses grief over loss of lives in different accidents of Gujrat

Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has expressed deep sense of sorrow and grief over the loss of precious human lives in different accidents occurred due to

heavy rains in Gujrat.

The Chief Minister extended heartfelt sympathies and condolences with the families of the deceased. Usman Buzdar directed to provide the best medical facilities to the injured.

Shows sorrow over sad demise of SP Investigation Lodhran

Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has expressed deep sense of sorrow and grief over the sad demise of SP Investigation Lodhran Ghulam Mustafa.

The chief minister extended heartfelt sympathies and condolence with the bereaved family members and prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the family members to bear this irreparable loss with equanimity.

CM takes notice of murder of two brothers in Okara

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: After Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar took notice of the murder of two brothers in the precincts of Police Station B Division Okara, Police have arrested both the accused involved in the murder. Usman Buzdar had directed to take strict legal action against the accused. He assured that justice will be ensured to the victim family.

Former MNA Ijaz-ul-Haq calls on CM
Former Member National Assembly Ijaz-ul-Haq called on Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar at CM's Secretariat today and congratulated him for presenting a peoples' friendly budget.

He also appreciated the vision of UB for the separate development package for each district. Ijaz-ul-Haq said that by allocating 35 budget for the southern Punjab will removed the deprivations of the area. The chief minister Usman Buzdar said that politics is the name of serving the people and he will never do the politics of criticism and allegations. He said that due to wrong policies and self-exhibitory projects of former rulers had emptied the national exchequer. The elements making false propaganda have a treacherous agenda which will be foiled. The incumbent government has rectified the faults of the previous regimes with hard work.

The government believes in composite development therefore abolish the tradition of unjustified distribution of development funds. I am personally monitoring the ongoing development projects, he added.

Coronavirus claims six lives, 128 new cases

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Coronavirus claimed another 6 lives while 128 new cases were reported in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

According to the data shared by the spokesperson of Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), the death toll, due to coronavirus, reached 10,767 while total cases were recorded 346,582 and recoveries 327,686 in the province.

As per data provided by the P&SHD, currently 8,129 patients are under treatment in different hospitals. The health department conducted 16,973 tests for COVID-19 during the last 24 hours which turned the total tests to 5.69 million so far. As many as 159,640 people were vaccinated at 669 vaccine centres in Punjab during the last 24 hours. Now, the total number of vaccinated people reached 8,950,417 in the province. 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.



LAHORE: Health Department staffer checks blood pressure before administering COVID-19 vaccine at a COVID-19 vaccination centre LPC.

Workshop on equine diseases and diagnosis held at UVAS

LAHORE: The University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS) Lahore, in collaboration with Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), arranged a two-day national workshop on 'Equine Distal Limb Lameness Diagnosis and Sonography' at the UVAS Veterinary Academy.

A spokesperson for the university said on Saturday that Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Nasim Ahmad presided over the inaugural session of the workshop while UVAS Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Masood Rabbani chaired the concluding session, and distributed certificates among the participants and resource persons. In-charge Pet Centre Prof Dr Asim Khalid, Prof Dr Ijaz Ahmad, Dr Shehla Gul Bokhari and a number of participants were present. Prof Masood Rabbani said that the UVAS was working actively on the health and treatment of animals by adopting the latest techniques and methodologies. The equine distal limb ultrasound workshop designed for the practicing veterinarians/ students confronted with the challenges to diagnose and locating the seat of lameness. —APP

Primary & Secondary Healthcare Dept receives 300,000 doses of moderna

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: On the special request of Secretary P&SHD, Sarah Aslam, Federal body sent 300,000 doses for the people of Punjab here on Saturday.

Primary & Secondary Healthcare Department received 300,000 doses of Moderna Vaccine to be administered to individu-

als with a mandatory requirement for travel and severely immunocompromised people. Patients who have gone through organ transplantation may also receive the same vaccine but 3 months after transplantation procedure.

Post Chemotherapy, the patient may receive the vaccine 28 days after chemotherapy. Overseas workers who have a mandatory need for travel

for employment overseas with valid work visas/iqama, students and those travelling for official or business purposes can get Moderna Vaccine. Moderna Vaccine is sent to the 14 districts which include: Lahore, Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Bahawalpur, DG Khan, Rawalpindi, Sargodha, Multan, Sahiwal, Rahim Yar Khan, Gujrat, Sialkot, Jehlum and Chakwal.

Basharat for improved liaison between law forces and cabinet body

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Law and Cooperatives Minister Raja Basharat has said that law enforcing agencies should improve their liaison with the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order especially the steps taken to address the threat alerts received by the intelligence agencies.

He was presiding over a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order at the Civil Secretariat on Saturday. Raja Basharat directed the administra-

tion of Gujranwala division to make strict security arrangements in view of deep polarizations among the local communities in the upcoming by-elections of Sialkot and general elections in Azad Kashmir.

He urged the district administrations across the province to maintain close liaison with the Electin Commission of Pakistan officials and assured that the Punjab government would provide all possible assistance and resources to the police and local administration.

Training workshop on 'Right to Information' for MPAs held

ISLAMABAD: Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO) organized a training workshop titled 'Right to Information' for the members of Punjab Assembly.

Chief Information Commissioner Punjab, Mehboob Qadir Shah said, "Our first duty should be to provide all accurate information to the citizens. Every organization needs to digitize its system so that people can be informed immediately". He said basic rights can be provided to ordinary citizens through the Right to Information Act, said a press release issued here.

Executive Director SSDO, Syed Kausar Abbas said every citizen has the basic right to ask where his or her tax money is being spent. He said right to information means empowering citizens by educating them. He said Parliamentarians can play an important role in the right to information

because they meet people in their constituencies. He said institutions that talk about public issues should make everything public.

Mukhtar Ahmad Ali, former Punjab Information Commissioner said that, according to the Right to Information Act, if an institution does not provide information to the complainant within 14 days, a fine equal to two days salary is imposed against the officer of the concerned institution. The concept of asking questions can only be conceived in a democratic system.

Zafarullah Khan, former Executive Director of the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services, said the rusty governance locks could be unlocked under the Right to Information Act. He said ordinary citizens can open locks under the Right to Information Act. It is not important to make a law unless it is implemented. He said

there is a culture of incomplete talk in Pakistan. We have to bring change in the society by conveying accurate information to the people.

Director General Parliamentary Affairs Punjab Assembly, Inayatullah Lak, said in the workshop that after the 18th amendment, all the provinces have been given powers and every citizen has been given a basic right by including Article 19A in the 18th amendment. He said if a bill has to be passed by a province, it can be passed by a 2/3 majority in the province. Punjab Parliamentarians Uzma Kardar, Syed Hassan Murtaza, Aon Hameed Dogar, Khalil Tahir Sandhu, Mian Shafi Muhammad, Malik Wasif Mazhar, Farah Agha, Asia Amjad, Seemabia Tahir, Bushra Butt, Sadia Sohail, Sumara Ahmed, Syeda Uzmi Qadri, Sania Kamran, Barrister Wasim Khan Baduzai participated in the training workshop. —APP

Efforts being made to overcome problems of poverty: Aslam

— Visits TEVTA Secretariat, chairman TEVTA briefs minister regarding proposed skill policy

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Mian Aslam has said that efforts are being made to overcome the problems of poverty and unemployment through the promotion of quality technical education, but no attention was paid to the promotion of technical education in the past.

The PTI government is spending billions of rupees on programs to equip the youth with modern technologies. Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Mian Aslam Iqbal said this while talking to Chairman TEVTA Ali Salman

Siddique at TEVTA Secretariat. Chairman TEVTA briefed the Provincial Minister about the proposed Skill Policy, steps taken to promote Technical Education and Future Programs. Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Mian Aslam Iqbal said that Hunar Mand Nojawan Program worth Rs1.5 billion skill is successfully underway.

In collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, a skilled workforce preparation program is being launched at a cost of Rs. 17 billion and under this program 40,000 students will be imparted vocational training. Similarly, the Skilling Youth for

Income Generation program is also being started at a cost of Rs. 9 billion. He said that the capacity of TEVTA has been enhanced and 233,000 youths are being trained in 403 TEVTA institutions every year. Along with teaching skills to the youth, arrangements will also be made for their job placement in the country and abroad. Mian Aslam Iqbal said that courses are being developed as per the needs of the industry in consultation with the stakeholders.

He said that TEVTA is playing an active role in the promotion of quality technical education and the capacity of TEVTA will be further enhanced.

'Punjab witnesses a gradual decrease in COVID-19 infection rate'

LAHORE: Secretary, Primary & Secondary Healthcare Department Punjab Sarah Aslam reviewed daily activities of COVID-19 across the Punjab. Province witnessed a gradual decrease in COVID-19 infection rate. Yesterday 128 new cases have been reported, bringing the total number of cases to 346,582. Until now 327,686 patients have fully recovered across the province while the number of active cases is 8,129.

Yesterday 16,973 test samples were taken while a total of 5,669,1036 tests have been taken so far. In the previous 24 hours, the corona virus caused 6 more deaths across the province, including 1 deaths in Lahore, bringing the total number of deaths to 10,767. Last day 77 cases were reported in Lahore, 8 in Multan, 6 in Pakpattan, 5 in Faisalabad, 5 in Nankana Sahib, 4 in Rawalpindi, 3 in Bahawalpur, 2 in Dera Ghazi Khan, 2 in Gujranwala, 2 in Muzaffargarh, 2 in Sialkot, 1 in Bhakkar, 1 in Chakwal. —Staff Reporter