

Flood situation likely in rivers from 20th

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Flood situation may arise in Rivers Indus, Kabul, Jhelum (upstream) and Chenab with associated Nallah of Rivers Ravi and Chenab from July 20.

According to latest numerical weather prediction models fairly widespread thunderstorm/rain with heavy falls at scattered places, very heavy falls at isolated place and extremely heavy falls at one or two place is likely over the upper catchments of Rivers Indus, Kabul, Jhelum and Chenab along with Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Northeast Punjab from July 19-21.

Scattered thunderstorm/rain is also expected over the upper catchments of Rivers Ravi, Sutlej and Beas during the said period.

According to Federal Flood Commission (FFC) all main rivers i.e. Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej are flowing with normal flows and there is no riverine flood situation in the country.

At present the Combined Live Storage of Tarbela, Chashma & Mangla reservoir is 3.834 MAF (28.36% of Maximum Combined Live Storage of 13.516 MAF).

Moist currents from Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea are penetrating into lower half of the country up to 5000 feet. Yesterday's Monsoon low-pressure area over South Chatisgarh (India) has moved Westwards and presently lies over South-Eastern parts of Maharashtra (India) while strong trough of Westerly Wave over Kashmir has moved away Eastward. Weak Seasonal Low lies over Northern Balochistan. Yesterday's upper air circulation continues to prevail over Southern parts of Karachi in Arabian Sea. As predicted by the Flood Forecasting Division (FFD), Lahore, isolated thunderstorm/rain is expected over Punjab. (Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Sargodha, Lahore, Multan & D.G. Khan Divi-



LAHORE: A motorcyclist pushes body of a vehicle heading towards workshop.

Yasmin briefs CM about arrangements for fourth corona wave

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Provincial Health Minister Dr Yasmeen Rashid called on Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar at his office on Thursday and briefed him about the arrangements for dealing with the fourth corona wave.

While expressing his concern over the hike in corona cases, the CM directed an effective implementation of SOPs adding that the citizens should be more careful as the infection is increasing due to the non-implementation of SOPs. Public cooperation is crucial to control the spread of this virus and citizens should fully follow the guidelines, the CM said and directed to further expedite the vaccination drive. The health minister appealed to the citizens to remain safe from this disease by following guidelines.

MD SNGPL issues directives on complaints

Basit Ali

LAHORE: The Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Limited (SNGPL) organized e-Kachehri for natural gas customers at its Head Office here on Thursday.

Managing Director SNGPL Ali J. Hamdani listened to complaints of customers and directed relevant officials for immediate resolution of complaints.

Senior Management of the Company along with Regional Managers attended E-Kachehri through video conference. Consumers belonging to different areas of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa lodged complaints related to gas connection and billing. MD SNGPL Ali J. Hamdani issued directives to the relevant regional managers and assured customers of quick resolution of their issues.

18 business centres sealed over SOPs violation

MULTAN The district administration in its crackdown started against violators of coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs) sealed as many as 18 business centres across the district during last 24 hours.

The district administration has also constituted monitoring teams consisted on special magistrates, Pak-Army and Elite Force for monitoring of Corona SOPs. The monitoring teams while monitoring of big malls, restaurants, fast food centres and other public gathering places and a fine of Rs 30,000 was imposed on various shopkeepers for Corona SOPs violation. —APP

Urban forests to be developed at 15 other places in City: CM

PHA to develop Asia's largest Miyawaki urban forest

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: On the directions of Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar, the Parks & Horticulture Authority (PHA) Lahore will grow Asia's largest Miyawaki urban forest over an area of a hundred Kanal in China Park near Saggian Bridge by planting 112500 indigenous trees and shrubs.

In a statement, the CM said such urban forests will also be developed at 15 other places in Lahore city to grow a total of 292500 trees. Giving the details, he said 58000 trees will be planted over an area of 50 Kanal in Gulshan-e-Iqbal Park while another 58000 trees will be grown over 50 Kanal in Township. 13500 trees will also be planted at 12 Kanal land of township nursery, he added.

Similarly, Miyawaki urban forests will also be developed at C-Block Sabzazar, Ganj Sarkar Sabzazar, Qaddafi Park Gulshan-e-Ravi, Saggian Interchange, Rustam Park Gulshan-e-Ravi, Karim Park Golbagh near Data Darbar, side 1 and 2 of Mahmood Booti,

Green Town, Mustafa Bhatti Park Township, Kashmir Park and Khalid Butt Park Township, he stated.

The CM regretted that the historic city of Lahore was defaced in past tenure by raising huge jumbled structures of concrete and irresponsible cutting of trees further devastated the environment. Past rulers' corruption resulted in increasing political pollution while their policies compounded the environmental degradation, he maintained.

The lack of forests was resulting in environmental degradation and extensive tree-plantation drive will help to overcome smog and pollution, the CM remarked. The 10 billion tree tsunami programme is a game-changer initiative to make Pakistan clean and green and the government will overcome smog and environmental degradation by planting more and more trees, concluded the chief minister.

CM takes notice of harassment of attendant
Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman

Buzdar has directed the secretary specialized healthcare and medical education dept to take strict action against the staff involved in harassment of a female attendant of the dialysis unit of Urology department of the General Hospital. He directed to submit a detailed report adding that the victim be provided justice at every cost.

Pays tributes to martyred Capt Affan Masood and Sepoy Babar Zaman

Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has strongly condemned terrorists' attack on a vehicle of security forces in the Pasni area of Baluchistan and paid tributes to the sacrifices of martyred Captain Affan Masood and Sepoy Babar Zaman rendered in the line of duty.

The brave sons are maintaining peace with their toil and blood and their great sacrifices will not go down the drain, he said. He also extended sympathies to heirs and asserted the handful of terrorists cannot weaken the strong commitment of the nation against terrorism.



LAHORE: A man carries animal fodder on his shoulder stuck in smooth muddy area. —Online

PHA signs MoU for monsoon tree plantation campaign

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) and Chiesi Pharmaceuticals (Pvt) Limited Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the monsoon tree plantation campaign in the provincial capital.

According to official sources, PHA Marketing Director Amir Ibrahim and Chiesi Pharmaceuticals CEO Umar Masood signed the MoU. The pharmaceutical company provided 5,000 plants to the PHA for the monsoon tree plantation and more 5,000 would be provided in the coming week.

After the MoU signing ceremony, the officials of the PHA and the pharmaceutical company also planted saplings in Jilani Park.

PHA Chairman Yasir said that as per the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan, the PHA was striving for planting maximum trees. It would make the tree planting campaign a success by involving private and government agencies in the noble cause. PHA Vice Chairman Hafiz Zeeshan Rashid said that he was grateful to the pharmaceuticals company for providing plants for monsoon tree plantation campaign. Citizens including public and private institutions should also participate in the campaign, he added.

PHA Director General Jawad Ahmad Qureshi said that more trees and plants were a guarantor of clean and healthy environment. The PHA will plant more than 500,000 trees and shrubs during the monsoon

Auqaf land to be utilised for public welfare: Minister

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Narcotics Control Ijaz Ahmed Shah has said that the land of Auqaf Department is the government property and no one can become its owner.

He said this while addressing a press conference along with Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Pir Noor-ul-Haq Qadri at the DC office Nankana Sahib.

Ijaz Shah said that construction without approved map was illegal, adding that the land of Auqaf Department would be used for health, education and other departments.

He said that the federal secretary Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) and Auqaf Department should ensure provision of land for the schemes meant for the public welfare.

The minister said that the Auqaf land could not be allotted to anyone, adding that strict action would be taken against the government officials found involved in helping people occupy the Auqaf Department land. An operation against encroachments would also continue, he added.

Ijaz Shah said that no housing scheme was being established on the Auqaf land. He said that a committee had been set up to solve problems of the

Auqaf Department.

Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Pir Noor-ul-Haq Qadri said that no one would be allowed to illegally occupy the Auqaf land. He said that as per the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan, the land of ETPB would be utilised for health, education and sports.

He said that a hospital consisting 74 beds would be set up in Syedwala besides a trauma centre in Nankana Sahib.

Nankana Sahib DC Mansoor Ahmed Khan Niazi briefed the ministers about the illegal occupation of the state land besides ongoing development works.

UVAS approves Rs 2.968b budget for financial year 2021-22

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Syndicate of University of Veterinary and Animal Science (UVAS) Lahore approved Rs.2.968 billion budget for the financial year 2021-22 with focus on innovation, applied research, development, improving facilities for quality of education, services and transfer of technology.

Chairing the 66th Syndicate meeting, Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Nasim Ahmad said that focus is on applied research and development projects for further improving the quality of education, research and services at the university. The value of the ongoing 88 research projects is Rs.1.082 billion.

Prof Nasim Ahmad told the meeting that Rs.713.299 million have been allocated for



development projects.

Of the total development allocation, Rs 428.299 million will be spent on ongoing projects while Rs.285 million on new projects to be initiated in the financial year 2021-22. The Vice Chancellor said that Rs.200 million have been allocated for new project "Establishment of UVAS Sub-Campus at Chichawatni", Rs.50 million for new project "Strengthening of Capacity Building Facilities at Para Veterinary Institute, Karor Lal Eason Layyah", Rs.78.3 million for

new project establishment of girls and boys hostels in university and Rs.35 million also allocated for new Project "Capacity Building of Dairy Farmers and Industry Stakeholders on Milk Value Chain". Among the ongoing projects, the Vice-Chancellor said that Rs.350 million have been allocated for "Enhancement of Research Facilities at UVAS Ravi Campus Patoki", Rs.78.299 million for "Provision of Urgently Needed Male and Female Hostel Facilities at University of Veterinary & Animal Sci-

Mobilink Microfinance Bank launches Digital App

LAHORE: Pakistan's largest digital bank, Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited (MMBL) has launched 'Dost', a mobile-based application that provides a complete digital banking ecosystem to its customers and gives them hassle-free access to financial services round the clock.

The latest addition to the MMBL ecosystem reflects the bank's relentless pursuit for innovation to foster digital banking and financial inclusion in the country. The digital application was launched in Islamabad by President & CEO MMBL, Mr. Ghazanfar Azzam along with senior executives, while dignitaries from the banking and finance sectors, MMBL staff as well as customers, and media were also in attendance.



Designed for ease of use and agility, the Dost app will help customers experience an array of digital banking features and perform all sorts of transactions through their accounts such as funds transfer, bill payments, mobile top-ups, receive loan summaries, purchase movie, bus and, airline tickets, view, and download e-statements, block & manage cheques and debit card and a lot more with only a few taps on their smartphones. In ad-

dition, users will stay connected with the MMBL customer support team through instant WhatsApp Chat right from the Dost homepage in case they need additional support. In his keynote address, President & CEO MMBL, Mr. Ghazanfar Azzam said: "This latest innovation is driven by MMBL's long-term commitment to deliver unparalleled access to top-notch banking and finance facilities to enable and empower our customers. —

NAVTC approves proposals for Hunarmand Pakistan Programme

ISLAMABAD: The Board of Management (BoM) of National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTC) gave mutual consent on several proposals pertaining to the efficient and result oriented implementation of Prime Minister's Hunarmand Pakistan Programme.

The proposals aimed at to

materialize the Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision of equipping youth with state of the art and emerging technologies to gain employability in the national and global job markets.

The 24th BoM meeting was held here by the Chairman NAVTC Syed Javed Hassan in the chair. On this occasion, the chairman appreciated the

participation of the members and urged for maximum participation of private sector to bring the TVET sector of Pakistan at par with international standards.

Sajid Baloch, Executive Director NAVTC, briefed the board members on progress and development of the ongoing "Hunarmand Pakistan" Programme. —APP

National Skills University celebrates World Youth Skills Day 2021

ISLAMABAD: The World Youth Skills Day 2021, globally observed on every year 15th July since 2014, was celebrated on Thursday at the National Skills University (NSU) Islamabad, to highlight the importance of skills learning among youth.

Dr. Shaista Sohail, Executive Director, Higher Education Commission (HEC) chaired this session. Prof. Dr. Habib Bokhari, Vice Chancellor, Kohsar University, Murree and Eng. Sajid Baloch, Executive Director of the NAVTTC, were the guests of honor.

Among the youth leaders, Ayesha Sheikh, Asim Masoom Zubair, both recipients of the Diana Award 2021, and an eight-year-old Ibrahim Haider impressed the audience with their success stories through harnessing their extracurricular skills. Several students presented their technology inventions, including the low-cost cell phone & iPad chargers, homemade ventilators, and a robot. Students participating in the event voted robotics project by Muhammad Fozan Javed as the best one and was