

Govt employees to avail 3 public holidays on Eid-ul-Azha

ISLAMABAD: The Interior Ministry has sent a summary to the Prime Minister office proposing three public holidays on Eid-ul-Azha. According to sources Interior Ministry has proposed three public holidays on Eid-ul-Azha starting from July 20 till 22. The employees have to come to the office on the third day of Eid in case the holidays start from July 20. According to the summary attendance will be mandatory in all public office on Friday. —DNA

The Business

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Suspicious man held from outside Parliament House

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police on Monday arrested a suspicious, armed man from outside the parliament house, who was later moved to Secretariat police station for further interrogations. Police said that suspect, identified as Sohail, was wearing a turban and holding a pistol in one hand and a knife in other. The police further said that Sohail, 45, is a resident of Chakri area of Rawalpindi and is mentally unstable, and further interrogations will make it clear that why he was wandering outside the parliament house. —Online

Grenade hurled at NW girls' school during exam

The Business Report

NORTH WAZIRISTAN: Some unidentified men on Monday hurled a grenade at a school in North Waziristan at a time when female students of grade 12 were attempting their annual examination, police said.

The law enforcement agency said no casualties were reported, and following the attack, police personnel reached the site and started an investigation. Talking to media, DPO North Waziristan Shafiqullah Gandapur said that unidentified extremists threw the grenade at the empty security post above a government school in Haider Khel to cause panic.

"This was an attempt to disturb the law and order situation of the area [...] an investigation into the attack is underway, and no one will be allowed to disturb the peace here," he said. The DPO said he was hopeful to get "results" soon. Malik Gul Saleh Jan, a Haider Khel tribal leader, said Government Girls High School Haider Khel is the only girls' high school in Mirali Tehsil where girls come from far and wide for education.

Sports goods exports fall by 1.06 percent

ISLAMABAD: The exports of sports goods have witnessed a decrease of 1.06 percent during the first eleven months of fiscal year (2020-21) as compared to the exports of corresponding period of last year.

Pakistan exported sports goods worth \$241.270 million during July-May (2020-21) against the exports of \$243.853 million during July-May (2019-20), showing a decline of 1.06 percent, according to the PBS.

Among the sports goods, the exports of footballs decreased by 11.86 percent as it went down from \$133.163 million last year to \$117.372 million during the fiscal year under review while the gloves exports also declined by 9.11 percent by going down from \$67.519 million last year to \$61.365 million, the PBS data revealed. However, the exports of all other sports goods witnessed an increase of 44.85 percent by growing from \$43.171 million to \$62.533 million.

Meanwhile, year-on-year basis, the sports goods' export rose by 41.80 percent in May 2021 as compared to the export of the same month of last year. The sports goods' export in May 2021 were recorded at \$19.557 million against exports of \$13.792 million in May 2020. —APP

FIA compiles report on probe against Shehbaz

LAHORE: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has compiled a detailed report on investigation thus far carried out against Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif for his alleged involvement in money laundering of Rs25 billion through the sugar mills owned by the Sharif family.

According to a private television channel report on Monday, the FIA's probe team asked the Leader of the Opposition in the NA a total of 25 questions, out of which he could answer none. When the investigators questioned him about his properties worth billions of rupees he instead of replying asked them to put this question to his wives, the sources said, adding he also skirted a question about rapid growth of his business saying his son Salman Shehbaz be asked this question. —DNA

FBR registers 22,000 property dealers

The Business Report

LAHORE: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has fulfilled another condition of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) as 22,000 property dealers across the country registered with the FBR. According to sources, all 22,000 property dealers will provide suspicious information to the FBR. Property dealers will identify suspicious investors, sources added.

Property dealers will report to FBR the money used in money-laundering. Property dealers will also report about black money to



DUSHANBE: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi holds a meeting with Foreign Minister of Tajikistan, Sirojiddin Muhriddin at the sidelines of the Council of Foreign Ministers SCO-CFM meeting.

ICCI for promoting women handicraft products in country

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) has called upon the government to focus on promoting the handicraft products of women entrepreneurs that would ensure their economic empowerment, reduce poverty and improve living standards of families in rural and urban areas.

He said that Pakistani women were producing marvellous handicraft products including fabric, material, embroidery, jewellery, carving, mirror work and many other items that needed better exposure in domestic and international markets for enhancing their trade and export. He expressed these views while inaugurating as chief guest Baji & Co Concepts Store that brought together versatile products of 40 women crafters on a permanent display under one roof in the federal capital. He appreciated the efforts of women for producing high quality handicraft products, which showed their potential to excel in this business.

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that women's handicraft products have tremendous potential for sale and make substantial contributions to exports besides employment generation, especially in underdeveloped areas, therefore, he emphasized that the government should pay close attention to this sector for its

better development and growth.

He said that the government should set up handicraft training centres in rural and urban areas for skills development of women in this field so that they could produce demand-driven handicraft products that would improve their trade and exports besides economic empowerment of women artisans.

Budget more damaging for masses than coronavirus

Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr Shahid Rasheed Butt on Monday said budget is more damaging for the masses than the coronavirus. Continued mini-budgets have added to the miseries of masses and prices of everything are going out of reach of poor and middle-income groups. Profiteers have pushed prices of essentials to unprecedented heights pushing millions below the poverty line, he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that elite class is plundering the masses and resources while relief has become a prerogative of the influential.

The monthly budget of the people has been dented heavily due to rising inflation as prices of all kitchen items have witnessed a sharp rise but the authorities seem unconcerned, he added. The business leader noted that the tall claims of

economic development are not going down well with the masses and ground realities are contrary to the statements of rapid national development.

Govt to provide financial help, health cards, scholarships to 10m

Special Assistant to Prime Minister Dr. Sania Nishtar on Monday said that our target this year is to provide financial assistance, health cards and about five million scholarships to 10 million people.

She was giving briefing to the Senate Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation and Social protection held at Parliament House on Monday under the chairmanship of Senator Naseebullah Bazi. The Special Assistant to Prime Minister gave a detailed briefing on the work, performance, projects and future strategy of the Ministry. Dr. Sania Nishtar said that in the past different social protection agencies used to report to various ministries, which have now been brought under one ministry. The move has yielded very positive results.

In 2019, we introduced the digital infrastructure system facilitating people through the use of data analytics and SMS. We established delivery unit to simultaneously evaluate the performance of different programs through dashboards. We developed a uniform gover-

LCCI lauds services of Mohsin Raza Bukhari

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) on Monday paid rich tribute to its former President Syed Mohsin Raza Bukhari for his far sightedness and for spending life for the cause of business community.

A large number of former Presidents were one voice for sagacity. "He was a great man and excellent businessman."

The tributes were paid at a condolence reference here at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry held to acknowledge the services of its former president (late) Syed Mohsin Raza Bukhari.

The LCCI President Mian Tariq Misbah, Vice President Tahir Manzoor Chaudhry, former LCCI Presidents Tariq Hameed, Mian Misbah-ur-Rehman, Farooq Iftikhar, Muhammad Ali Mian, Tahir Javed Malik, Almas Hyder, former Senior Vice Presidents Amjad Ali Jawa, Kashif Younas Meher, former Vice Pres-

idents Shafiqat Saeed Piracha, Abuzar Shahid, Mian Zahid Javid Ahmed, Executive Committee Members, Chaudhry Khadim Hussain, Fiaz Haider, Yasir Khurshid, former EC Members Muhammad Haroon Arora, Mian Jabbar Khalid and Rehman Aziz Chan spoke on the occasion.

The speakers recalled the services of Syed Mohsin Raza Bukhari and termed his death an irreparable loss.

They said that renowned businessman Syed Mohsin Raza Bukhari was a great personality who has left a number of success stories behind. His services for the cause of business community and the humanity would be remembered for always. As president of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, he has achieved various milestones and hoisted the national flag at global level.

LCCI President Mian Tariq Misbah spoke about Syed Mohsin Raza Bukhari's contribution to the trade and

industry and recalled that Syed Mohsin Raza Bukhari always preferred work over his health and always gave priority to his commitment. He said that it was enormous support that helped lift the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry to its zenith.

"A true, intelligent, honest and frank person, Syed Mohsin Raza Bukhari was a shining example success stories", Mian Tariq Misbah added.

Mian Tariq Misbah said that the foundation of Research & Development Cell was laid during his tenure as President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry while he had played a vital for the promotion of Pak-Iran Trade. He said that Syed Mohsin Raza Bukhari raised voice for Export Bank and Export Processing Zones that was an ample proof of his broad vision. Fateha was also offered for Syed Mohsin Raza Bukhari and participants prayed to Almighty Allah to rest the departed soul in eternal peace

Zardari didn't disclose NY flat to ECP, reveals NAB

ISLAMABAD: A National Accountability Bureau (NAB) probe has revealed that PPP co-chairman and former president Asif Zardari didn't disclose a New York apartment allegedly he owned before the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

They said the corruption watchdog has obtained all relevant record in connection with its probe into the Manhattan apartment case from the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). The bureau's probe team has decided to seek more information about the ownership of the property in question from the US through a mutual legal assistance (MLA) request, the sources revealed. They further said the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has the old documents of the flat issued by the New York property registrar.

Asif Zardari owned the property, which was purchased for \$530,000 in June 20, 2007, they said. On July 7, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) granted pre-arrest bail to Zardari in the apartment case. An Islamabad High Court (IHC) bench approved Asif Ali Zardari's bail until July 28 subject to submission of surety bonds worth Rs500,000.

The court issued a notice to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to file its reply to his bail plea on next hearing. —DNA

Vaccinated people to be allowed to visit tourist resorts

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health Services Dr. Faisal Sultan says only vaccinated people will be allowed to visit tourist resorts during Eid holidays.

Talking to the media in Islamabad on Monday, he said during the last few days, the positivity rate of Coronavirus cases has increased from two percent to four percent, which is alarming. He said the main cause of this surge is violation of SOPs and the new variant of Coronavirus coming from India.

The Special Assistant appealed the public to follow the SOPs to contain spread of the pandemic. He said efforts will be made to implement SOPs with the help of the administration and the army. He made it clear that there is no shortage of vaccine in the country and four hundred and fifty thousand vaccines have so far been administered. —Online

We will be partner in Kabul peace: Fawad

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry has said we will be partner in peace in Afghanistan.

He said in his social website twitter, "We are having watch full look at evolving situation in Afghanistan. It is our endeavor that a consensus and peaceful system of government is put in place in Kabul. He held if no consensus government is established in Kabul then we will not allow its repercussions to hit Pakistan However our Afghan policy is based in the interest of Pakistan."

He pointed out Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan has said we will be partner in peace not in war. Pakistan soil is not being used against Afghanistan. We hope Afghanistan soil will also not use against Pakistan. He underlined political parliamentary leadership is agreed on the principle of non interference. —Online

15 succumb to virus in 24 hours

ISLAMABAD: Fifteen people lost their lives while 1808 people tested positive during the last 24 hours in the country.

According to the latest statistics by the National Command and Operation Centre tally of affected people has reached 975,092 while overall fatalities have soared to 22,597. Coronavirus positivity rate stands at 3.84 percent.

About 47,015 tests for coronavirus were conducted across the country in the last 24 hours. 913,873 people have recovered.

The total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan stand at 38,622. According to a province-wise breakdown, the active number of cases in Sindh are 15,998, in Punjab 17,058, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 10,117, in Islamabad 1,752, in Balochistan 725, in Gilgit-Baltistan 665 and Azad Jammu and Kashmir 700. —Online

Imran corruption narrative has nose-dived: Maryam

LEEPA VALLEY: PML-N vice president Maryam Nawaz has said what narrative was raised by Imran Khan in collaboration with the selectors has nosedived and the time is not far off when the institutions will pursue Nawaz Sharif narrative.

"Nawaz had not criticized any institution. Decision is of the conscience while vote is for Nawaz. Kashmir has announced its decision" she said this while addressing a public meeting in Leepa Valley Monday. She claimed Imran Khan has made reverse gear to development of the country. Ministers have been caught red handed publicly while distributing money among the people.

Blood of Kashmir flows into my veins, she said adding your passion

is telling Tiger is coming again in Kashmir. Imran Khan should not waste his time by coming into Kashmir. Leepa valley is saying atta thief, sugar thief leave us on our own, she underlined.

Whatever budget is given to you it is not alms and it is your right, she remarked. It cannot be allowed that someone snatches right of Kashmiris and Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz say nothing to him.

She held I saluted Pakistan army soldiers who are performing their duties here and they too saluted to me in reciprocity. They are defending our borders far away from their homes. The salaries of army jawans were raised during Nawaz Sharif regime. During Imran Khan tenure, the salaries of the soldiers have not

been increased. There is such a party which is expert in theft of votes rather than addressing the problems, she observed. This party does not push RTS button and instead lifts up election commissioner staff.

Shutdown in IIOJK on Kashmir Martyrs' Day today

In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, complete shutdown will be observed today (Tuesday), to mark the Kashmir Martyrs' Day as last programme of the ongoing Martyrs' Week. Call for the strike has been given by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference and supported by all pro-freedom organizations in remembrance of the 1931 martyrs. A march towards the Martyrs' Graveyard at Naqashband Sahib in Srinagar will be held where



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen to Pakistan Mohammad Motaah Alashabi calls on Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmed.