

Juma-tul-wida prayers offered at Faisal Masjid

ISLAMABAD: The faithful hailing from twin cities offered 'Juma-tul-Wida' prayers with great religious solemnity and fervor here at Faisal Masjid.

Dr. Muhammad Ilyas, Director General, Dawah Academy delivered Jumma sermon and led JumatulWida Prayer at Faisal Masjid, Islamabad.

In the sermon, Dr. Muhammad Ilyas highlighted the importance and sanctity of the month of RamzanulMubarak and last ten days ibadah of Muslim during aitekaf at mosques. He emphasized on the importance of the study of Quran stating that the Holy Month is the best source to get close to the sacred book.

He said that this month is a blessing and a gift for Muslims to get back to the track which has been identified by the Almighty.

He stressed to observe remaining few days of Ramadan with full spirit while saying that it teaches about tolerance in the life. Dr. Ilyas called for unity of Muslims and urged that education must be top priority to deal with the challenges of hour. He said that Islam is the religion of peace and moderation and Muslims must disseminate true message of Islam. On this occasion he also prayed for the peace and prosperity of the country. —Online

98 kg charas seized, 3 car-riders arrested

FAISALABAD: Thikriwala police claimed to have arrested three drug traffickers and recovered 98 kilogram (kg) charas from a car.

According to police spokesman, SHO Thikriwala police station Rana Asim on a tip-off erected picket near Landa Bridge Bypass Chak 66-JB and signaled a suspected car (AVJ-107). During search, the police recovered 98 kg charas hidden in secret areas of the four-wheeler after packing it in 82 packets. The police arrested three car-riders including Sher Abbas resident of Chak 204-JB Chiniot, Farooq Javid resident of Baghban Pura Faisalabad and Rizwan Shafi resident of Jhang. —APP

Dacoit killed in encounter

FAISALABAD: An alleged dacoit was killed in a police encounter in the area of Batala Colony police station.

Police spokesman said on Thursday that 28-year-old Zaher Ahmad resident of Elahi Abad was trying to escape after looting a family when he was intercepted by a police team.

The accused opened fire on the police party whereas the police also returned fire in self defense. During this encounter, the outlaw received serious bullet injuries and died on the spot. The accused was wanted to police in a number of dacoity, robbery and other cases. His body was dispatched to mortuary for post-mortem while further investigation was under progress, spokesman added. —APP



LAHORE: Workers paint the roof top of the Railway Station during the cleanliness drive for 'Eid-ul-Fitr'. —Online

Freedom of expression, other rights constricted in 2021: HRCP

ISLAMABAD: The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) has expressed serious reservations concerning freedom of expression in 2021, said in HRCP annual report for 2021 here on Friday.

In at least nine cases, journalists were intimidated or silenced altogether, whether in the form of assault, enforced disappearance, murder or overt censorship. Additionally, the previous government will be remembered for attempting to impose the draconian Pakistan Media Development Authority Ordinance on the press. With this fundamental right in peril, all other rights too were increasingly constricted. The state's attempts to expand the scope of restrictions on freedom of expression under Article 19 of the Constitution have emboldened non-state actors to impose their whims—often violently—on those who do not agree with them. The savage murders of a Sri Lankan factory manager in Sialkot by a lynch mob on allegations of blasphemy, and of human rights defender Nazim Jokhio allegedly by PPP lawmakers, are both cases in point.

The report observes that the near-absence of political consensus-building was reflected in the number of presidential ordinances issued by the previous federal government—a record 32 issued in 2021.

According to report published by Human Rights Commission Pakistan (HRCP), the highest number of enforced disappearances reported to the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances in 2021 was in Balochistan, at 1,108.

Escalating religiosity remained cause for grave concern, given the implications for women and religious minorities. This was evident from the Council of Islamic Ideology's objections to the Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Bill 2020 and Prohibition of Forced

Conversions Bill 2021. Yet, with 5,279 rapes and 478 honour killings registered in the country and the macabre murder of Noor Mukaddam in Islamabad, women's rights activists rightly spoke of a 'femicide emergency' in Pakistan in 2021.

With the pool of jobless people swelling as companies downsized in

2021, the plight of workers and peasants deteriorated significantly, especially with a mere PKR 2,000 increase in the minimum wage in Punjab and the Supreme Court's decision to stay the Sindh government's move to increase the wage to PKR 25,000.

While the previous government claimed that the Single National Curriculum would reduce educational disparities, it drew strong criticism from education experts and human rights defenders for its lack of inclusivity and poor pedagogy.

Both the National Commission for Human Rights and the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) were made functional and new chairpersons appointed, although regrettably, the NCSW appointment was marred by political controversy. There was a marked fall in the number of death sentences awarded, from at least 177 persons in 2020 to 125 in 2021. No executions were reported to have been carried out, while in a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court commuted the sentences of three mentally disabled prisoners on death row. —APP

Abbottabad admin ready for tourist influx during Eid vacation

ABBOTTABAD: Abbottabad is a tourist destination and a large number of people from all over the country visit this region to celebrate Eid which requires special measures for traffic management and the provision of facilities to the citizens.

Moreover, on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr provincial government has declared May 2-6 a public holiday which would also attract tourists to visit.

Deputy Commissioner Abbottabad Tariq Salam Marwat while chairing a meeting discussed issues related to tourist arrivals, security situations and traffic management.

Deputy Commissioner Abbottabad District Police, TMA, GDA, and all agencies to work together and instructed to provide information booklets on all main routes, and highways for tourist awareness.

He also directed to activate of the control room in Galyat where representatives of Police, Rescue 1122 GDA, Communication and Works Department and all other agencies are present round the clock and provide facilities and information to the tourists.

Tariq Salam Marwat was directed to ensure Traffic surveillance and management with the help of cameras at Barian and Abbottabad entry points for which district administration and the police department would coordinate.

In order to control the influx of tourists, instructions were issued to TMA Abbottabad regarding the provision of facilities to tourists and traffic management at Shimla Hill Park. Deputy Commissioner Abbottabad directed the district police to take strict security measures at markets, public places, mosques, festivals and other places to avoid any untoward incident.

Female constables will be deployed in crowded places for women in the markets while strict security measures will be taken in mosques, Eid Ghah and churches on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr and Easter. —APP

Governor disposes of BZU appeal

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Governor and Chancellor University Omer Sarfraz Cheema has disposed of the appeal of Bahauddin Zakaria University affiliated colleges and law students. He instructed the university to make arrangements for conducting immediate examinations of students.

Furthermore, he also directed to take strict disciplinary action against the affiliated colleges for violating the rules in accordance with the university rules and regulations. He issued instructions to the University Syndicate to implement the recommendations of the Probe Committee and submit a report within 40 days. —APP



LAHORE: Volunteers distribute Iftar food among the devotees before breaking their fast. —Online

PMA demands restoration of Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC), Act

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) Islamabad on Friday appealed to the Minister for National Health Services to repeal the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) Act, 2020, and restore the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC), Act 2012.

In a meeting with Minister for National Health Services, Qadir Patel, a delegation of PMA led by President PMA Dr. Akhtar Ali Bandesha expressed the hope that all genuine demands of doctors will be accepted by the present government and revise the PMC and MTI laws.

The delegation appealed to the minister to restore the old service structure and experience-based promotion policy for doctors in the federal and provincial hospitals. He also asked to make the health allowance of doctors as per their basic salaries as such policy was being implemented in other government organizations. Dr. Bandesha said that the Federal Medical Teaching Institution (FMTI) Act, 2021, which was introduced by

the past government aimed at promoting nepotism and favoritism. He added this act has damaged the service structure of doctors, nurses, and paramedical staff besides increasing difficulties for patients.

During the meeting, the matter of the National Licensing Examination (NLE) was also discussed besides a detailed discussion on the categorization system of government and private medical colleges by PMC.

He said that the PMC should start the old final registration system after house jobs for doctors instead of the prevailing faulty National Licensing Exam (NLE), which is now mandatory for medical students.

The delegation also discussed the matter of centralized MDCAT examination for admission in medical colleges all over Pakistan and increased minimum merit up to 65%. The delegation demanded the minister for full autonomy to the provinces for admission to medical colleges.

The PMA president demanded of the minister to cancel the policy of

having a minimum of 65% marks for appearing in the MDCAT test and start holding this test at the provincial level. He said that the PMC has made the grading system doubtful, which was started in the medical and dental colleges and asked to stop this practice.

During the meeting, the issue of seats of overseas in medical colleges all over the Pakistan and recognition of medical colleges in Kyrgyzstan was also discussed besides accreditation of all hospitals and medical colleges which are already accredited with CPSP. The delegation expressed its concerns over the Federal Medical Teaching Institution (FMTI) Act, implemented in the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Islamabad, and appointments made through this FMTI Act. The minister assured the delegation to resolve their genuine demands for the betterment of medical professionals and profession and improving the healthcare system of the country to ensure better health services for the country's people. —Online

IK neither abides constitution nor judiciary, Parliament

MARDAN: Former federal minister and senior leader of Pakistan people's party, Nawabzada Khwaja Mohammad Khan Hoti on Friday strongly criticized former prime minister Imran Khan and said that Imran Khan is mentally ill person and wants treatment.

"Imran Khan is the greatest fascist leader of this time," he added. He expressed these views while addressing a crowded news conference at the Mardan press club.

Khawaja Hoti said that this person does not believe in the law and constitution of the country and questioned that there is no one to bring this mentally ill person under the law. He added that Imran Khan used un-Islamic words in the Peshawar conference and compared himself with the Holy Prophet Mohammad (SAW). He argued that his party workers have started un-Islamic things which is amazing and wants to close.

He added that in his political career he has not seen such type of Prime Minister who neither abides the constitution nor the judiciary and Parliament. He added that Imran Khan only wanted power and this made him mentally ill. He added that during the no confidence motion Imran Khan hung up the constitution for four days. He argued that Imran Khan during the last three and half years' government isolated the country and damaged the relationship with China, Saudi Arabia, America, Europe and other coun-

tries. He argued that Imran Khan during his power only use harsh words against the opposition party's leaders and did nothing for the poor people of the country.

He added that Imran Khan also pressured media houses and media persons through different ways and now he has become a champion of independent media.

He appreciated the efforts of the Supreme court and Army chief and said that they were standing with the constitution of Pakistan.

He argued the decision of the supreme court strengthened the democratic system in the country. He added that in Pakistan political history it was the first decision of the high judiciary which was appreciated by the political forces throughout the country. He argued that Imran Khan sold the Toshakhana gifts worth Rs140 million in Dubai which badly damaged the country's reputation throughout the world. He added that after Farah Khan's 11 billions corruption scandal, the scandal of sugar, flour, Rawalpindi ring road, medicine, corona, BRT, tsunami and billion tree project, Malamjaba and others will also come in front. He argued that Imran Khan staged a drama of resignation from the national assembly first they gave resignation from the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa assembly where they have been in power for the last eight years and their performance is zero. He also strongly criticized the retired general for sup-

porting Imran Khan and said that they remained silent when Imran Khan isolated the country and created a storm of inflation in the country and made life difficult for the poor. Khwaja Hoti demanded from the Army Chief to control these retired generals and the privileges should be taken away from them and distributed among the poor people and let them be sent to the battlefield. "During his tenure, Imran Khan locked even women of opposition party's leaders in jails and said that they would not be given facilities in jails", Khwaja Hoti added.

He added that, however, he cannot prove any corruption on opposition party leaders and their women in the last three years. He added that he also blackmails chairman NAB on a video scandal. He added that we are used to jails but now what will Imran Khan do? He argued that Imran Khan is trying to make the state institutions controversial and wants to spread anarchy in the country by taking out processions and meetings of a few people in the country. He added that through this way Imran Khan also wants to protect himself from accountability. He argued that we can also take people on the streets but we do not want civil war in the country. Khwaja Hoti argued that it is need of the current situation that Imran Khan should be brought within the ambit of constitution and law otherwise it will badly damage the country. —Online



LAHORE: Students performs practical in Fine Arts Class.

Iranian Envoy meets NA Speaker Pervaiz Ashraf

ISLAMABAD: Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Syed Ali Muhammad Hussaini held a meeting with Speaker National Assembly (NA) Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Friday.

Raja Pervaiz Ashraf said that both the countries are bonded by religion, history, Culture and brethren relations. He said Pakistan and Iran has same stance on international issues whom solution is inevitable.

Both leaders said that Muslim needs collection efforts for freedom of Palestine from Israel. Iranian ambassador said that Muslim need cooperation in regard of freedom Palestine and Kashmir. Iran marks value to his relations with Pakistan, he added.

He said Iran wants enlarge it relation with Pakistan in energy, trade and other departments. —Online