

**Eid holidays of MWMC officials cancelled**

MULTAN: Multan Waste Management Company (MWMC) has cancelled Eid holidays of operational staff to continue services to masses.

In a directive issued by Chief Executive Officer (CEO) MWMC Muhammad Farooq Dogar here on Saturday, the operational staff of the department would continue duties during eid holidays in order to facilitate masses during eid days.

The government has announced eid holidays from May 02 to 04 while the monitoring officers, workers, drivers and staff of MWMC workshop would perform duties during the holidays.

The CEO has directed deputy manager operations and 14 sector incharge of the city would monitor the cleanliness operation.

Special task has been given to staff for cleanliness of mosques and roads of the city during Eid holidays. —APP

**One killed, two injured as coaster hits motorcycle**

SIALKOT: A youth was killed while two others sustained serious injuries in a road accident near here on Saturday.

According to Rescue-1122, Muzammil, 26, Ahsan, 21 and Nouman, 17, were riding a motorcycle on Headmarala road near Kotli Loharan when a rashly driven coaster hit their two-wheeler.

As a result, Muzammil died on the spot while two others suffered serious injuries.

Rescue-1122 shifted the victims to local hospital after proving first aid. —APP

**Section 144 imposed on aerial firing and one wheeling**

ABBOTTABAD: The District Administration Abbottabad Saturday imposed Section 144 CRPC to protect the lives and property of the people and deal with any incident on the occasion of Eidul Fitr as per government directives.

The district police will ensure implementation of the ban in accordance with the law. The ban was imposed on aerial or celebratory firing, use of pressure horns, one wheeling and illegal use of loud-speakers.

District Administration Abbottabad also enforced Section 144 for the next two months on entry/interference of locals near the project area of fencing work along Havelian Dhamtor Bypass. Violators of the ban would be dealt with strict action. —APP



LAHORE: An empty view of the Mall due to the closure by police for security reasons during the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected Chief Minister Punjab Mian Hamza Shehbaz at Governor House. —Online

**Wheat procurement to continue despite target surpassed in Multan division: Commissioner**

MULTAN: Commissioner Multan division Dr. Irshad Ahmad on Saturday said he has directed food department to continue wheat procurement drive to benefit farming community despite the fact they have achieved, rather surpassed the procurement target.

"Every single grain of wheat that farmers have grown putting hard labor, would be procured," the commissioner said in a statement.

He said that 646,174 Metric ton wheat has been procured well before the scheduled time against a target of 638,507 Metric ton surpassing the target by two percentage points i.e 102 per cent.

Dr. Irshad heaped praise on district administrations and food officials of all the four districts of Multan division for making best possible arrangements and facilities for farmers that yielded good results.

He said that his decision to continue wheat procurement was taken keeping in view the vision of the government to procure every single grain of wheat from farmers. —APP

**Hamza vows to put Punjab on road towards progress, prosperity**

By Our Staff Reporter

**— Calls on Jehangir Tareen at his residence**

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz Sharif called on Jehangir Tareen at his residence on Saturday. Jehangir Tareen and his group members welcomed the Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz Sharif and congratulated him for holding the portfolio of Chief Minister Punjab.

The chief minister inquired after Jehangir Tareen and extended well wishes for him. Hamza Shehbaz Sharif thanked Jehangir Tareen and his companions for their support. He reiterated that we move together and put the Punjab on the road towards progress and prosperity. Hamza Shehbaz Sharif further stated that we will promote the politics of patience and tolerance instead of victimisation. Deputy Speaker Punjab Assembly Dost Muhammad Mazari, Nauman Langrial, Saeed Akbar Nawani, Ata Ullah Tarar, Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan, Ajmal Cheema, Sardar Awais Leghari, Ishaq

Khakwani, Qasim Langah besides others were present on this occasion.

**Hamza visits CM's Office**

Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz Sharif after taking oath as Chief Minister in Governor House arrived at CM's office where a vigilant contingent of Punjab Police presented Guard of Honour.

Chief Minister Punjab Hamza Shehbaz Sharif also inspected the Guard of Honour.

Hamza Shehbaz Sharif also met with the officers and lower staff of CM secretariat and directed to discharge their official assignments and their obligations wholeheartedly and honestly.



The Chief Minister said that police and administration will have to perform their duties in a coordinated manner for the better service delivery and for positive results.

Hamza Shehbaz Sharif said that better service delivery will be ensured to the people.

It is a time to deliver and we will have to work with new zeal and determination for ensuring ease in the lives of the people, Hamza Shehbaz Sharif concluded.

Visits shrine of Hazrat Ali Hajwiri Data Ganj Baksh Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz Sharif today visited the shrine of Hazrat Ali Hajwiri Data Ganj Baksh and laid a floral wreath and offered dua for the progress and prosperity as well as stability of the country. The chief minister said that Hazrat Ali Hajwiri Data Ganj Baksh gave the lesson of peace and tranquillity in the subcontinent.

**Calls on Chief Secretary, IGP at CM office**

Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz Sharif called on Chief Secretary and Inspector General Police at CM office on Saturday. The CM was briefed about the administrative affairs and law & order situation of the province. Hamza Shehbaz Sharif directed to take every possible measure for safeguarding the life & property of the people of the



LAHORE: Labourers busy in working at an iron factory in the high temperature in the month of Ramadan, to earn daily wages for the livelihood of their families as today (Sunday) on May 1 the Labour Day.

**Police hold flag march in Sargodha**

SARGODHA: Police on Saturday conducted a flag march to maintain law and order in the district during 'Chand raat' and Eidul Fitr. The flag march was held under the supervision of DPO Dr Rizwan Ahmed, in which, elite force, muhafiz squad and police patrolling officials participated.

The flag march started from Zakaullah Shaheed Police Lines and concluded at the same point after passing through various areas of the city. District Police Officer Dr Rizwan Ahmed said that Sargodha police had ensured foolproof security arrangements for Eid. He directed the SDPOs and SHOs to make effective security arrangements in their respective areas. —APP

**Power shut down notice**

SIALKOT: SDO Construction Sialkot Syed Ahmar Hussain has issued a power shut down notice due to repair, maintenance of electric lines and development works. According to SDO construction, power supply from Gunna, Badiana Express, Langarywali, Oora, Vario feeders on May (9,12,16,19,23,26,30), Bhadal, Aimenabad, Hundal, Pakki Kotli, Habibpura feeders on May 7,10,14,17,21,24,28,31, Bogra, Chand Chowk, Industrial-1 feeders on May (21,28), Malik Shah Wali, Shahpura, Mubarakpura feeders on May (17,24) and Jamkay feeder on May 11,15,18,22,25,29. —APP

**Ban on congregational prayers in IIOJK a show of Modi's mindset: AJK PM**

MIRPUR: Masjid occupied Srinagar has said that restricting worshipers from attending religious prayers was an obvious manifestation of Modi's fascist mindset.

In a video message released to the media here on Saturday, the AJK PM said, "Modi's supremacist (Hindutva) ideology had turned Kashmir into a virtual hell for its citizens. 'The people of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir, he said, stand shoulder to shoulder with their Kashmiri brethren in their just struggle for right to self-determination."

Terming Pakistan and Kashmir as inseparable, he said, Kashmiris cannot even think of living with India. Hailing the role of

Pakistan armed forces, Prime Minister Sardar Tanvir Alias Khan has said "We salute the courage and bravery with which Pakistan armed forces have been guarding the country's frontiers."

"The government and people of Azad Kashmir will share the joys of Eid with soldiers of the Pakistan army who have been defending the frontiers with great courage", he said, adding that our Armed Forces stand fully vigilant on the Line of Control (LoC). "On the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, we will remember the soldiers of the Pakistan Army deployed along the Line of Control", he said. Regarding the orphans' rights and privileges, the

PM while referring to the Holy Quran said that Allah almighty had warned us about our religious responsibilities towards the orphans. "We will set up centers all over Azad Kashmir that will take care of orphans", he said adding that the responsibility of orphans' care and their look-after solely lies on the shoulders of the government. Moreover, he said, shelters would be set up where labourers could stay comfortably. Sardar Tanvir Ilyas Khan said, "Providing provision of basic necessities of life to those living near the Line of Control is one of our priorities". The Government of Azad Kashmir, he said, would fulfill its responsibilities. —APP

**Federal Edu Ministry taking steps to improve education standards: Tanvir**

ISLAMABAD: Ministry for Education and Professional Training under the directions of Federal Education Minister Rana Tanvir Hussain was taking numerous steps for improving literacy rate is ICT Schools and standards of education in the country.

According to the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training on Saturday, Federal Education minister has directed that the students had returned from China in the middle of their studies after the Covid-19 outbreak some two years ago, since then they were unable to rejoin their educational institutes in China due to certain issues. The minister reiterated that education was the highest priority of the present government and assured the students of resolving their problems on immediate basis and that they would be assisted in every possible way. The Education Minister while considering the significance of the uniform curriculum, agreed for calling a National Curriculum Summit, wherein, all stakeholders and curriculum experts across the country from public/private sector would participate to give their input for review and wider consensus building on the matter. —APP

**Pindi historic Jamia Masjid faces acute water shortage, lack of ETBP's patronage**

ISLAMABAD: The historic 120-year old Markazi Jamia Masjid of Rawalpindi is facing acute water shortage and lack of patronage of the Evacuee Property Trust Board (ETBP) as the maintenance and basic amenities were managed on self-help basis.

The grand mosque was constructed back in 1903 by the influential Muslims and Pir Mehr Ali Shah of Golra to provide a proper platform for the Muslims to hold Eid and Jumma prayers as there was no such big religious place at that time.

The Mosque's Khateeb Hafiz Iqbal Rizvi told APP that the mosque had a vast courtyard with a beautiful wide mountain in the middle that was lying dysfunctional due to lack of water supply. The Mosque's main building had three large domes with long spires or finials and over a dozen minarets of different sizes painted in white and

blue, he added. He told that the Mosque's renovation was managed through the charity and donations of the masses on self-help basis and the water availability was ensured through WASA's water tankers.

He informed that the Mosque was an irresistible tourist attraction and religious spot as people in swathes gather at Jamia Masjid to offer Eid and Jumma prayers. "Jamia Masjid needs to be given due attention to keep it preserve for the coming generations," said Khalid Bhatti a faithful observing Eitekap during Ramzan for past 35 years. He told that the Mosque has a huge prayer area and dozens of people used to observe Eitekap at the Jamia Masjid but due to post-pandemic situation the number has significantly dropped. "Interestingly, the mosque's design is the replica of Al-Aqsa Mosque with a blend of local Mughal style." —APP

**The war rages on — I**

Imtiaz Rafi Butt

What started on 24th February, 2022 as an invasion of Ukraine from Russia, is now a war in full swing that is swirling out of control.

It is the now the largest deployment of weapons and exile of refugees near Europe since the Second World War.

It is even more alarming how shock waves of this crisis are being felt across the globe. And without proper initiatives and prudent planning from world leaders, all continents will face disruptions and possibly chaos. This is not just a war between two countries, this the future of millions of people in developed and developing countries around the world.

The alternatives to this conflict are dark or darker, with no possible positive outcome. The war in Ukraine is a case of massive indecision, interfering and failure of international diplomacy which can only get worse if not planned and handled with utmost restraint and meaningful dialogue.

Up till now there have been over 4 million refugees fleeing Ukraine.

Most of them are travelling into Europe. In the coming weeks, this number can cross over upto 10 million.

There have been a number of civilian casualties. In times of social media, there are conflicting reports of every event from both sides, the ultimate sufferers are the war-



stricken people of Ukraine.

The prospect of weapon supplies from NATO countries, Europe and the United States of America in general, keeps adding fuel to the fire. There have been scores of Russian casualties and many armaments, choppers and equipment have been shot down. The Ukraine army has shown immaculate resolve and resilience under the leadership of Zelensky. Vladimir Putin is fixed on his objectives and the war is no where near ending. On the alternative, the Russian army with its huge stockpiles of weapons that were in development since 2019, are ready to bombard and destroy Ukraine to the last building. There will be more deaths on both sides, there will be more refugees and massive disaster can ensue anytime. Before we can dive into how the war is progressing, it would be wise to consider what started this war and what are the terms that will end the war. The source of the conflict lies in the dissolution of the Soviet Union and its

humiliation at the hands of the Western allies in the 1990s.

Russians have considered the area of Ukraine as a closely-knit area joined with the Russian federation, and a bulwark, a last of line defense, against NATO and European powers. The war was set in motion with Ukraine attempting to join the NATO alliance and deploying American military installations and equipment next to the Russian border. This was unacceptable to Putin who knew the real aims behind the plan.

The response took less than one year in the making. In 2014, Russians had already taken Crimea to convey a clear lesson to Kyiv but to no avail.

Now that the invasion has destroyed much of Ukraine and the military support expected by the Government of Ukraine from Western countries is no longer available, Vladimir Putin has put forth four direct demands to end the war.

Firstly, that the Government of Ukraine denounce the idea of joining the NATO alliance, secondly, that the Government of Ukraine recognize the state of Crimea, Luhansk and Donetsk, thirdly to give up the Eastern borders regions to Russia and refrain of joining any move to target Russian power in the region.

Apart from the first, all other can be used to launch another war.

(To Be Continued)

The writer is Chairman of Jinnah Rafi Foundation