

Police finalise foolproof security plan for Eid, chaand raat

BAHAWALPUR: Bahawalpur Police have finalised a foolproof security plan for Eid-ul-Fitr and chaand raat. According to District Police Officer (DPO) Bahawalpur Ibadat Nisar, some 1,500 police officers and volunteers will perform their duties at 414 Eidgahs, Masajid, and Imambargahs. As many as 24 Eidgahs, Masajid, and Imambargahs are placed in the A category, category B contains 63, and category C has 327. —APP

The Business

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World Immunization Week observed at IUB

BAHAWALPUR: Health Care Society, the IUB observed World Immunization Week by organizing the National Symposium on Immunization (NSI-2022) with the theme 'Long Life for All' and highlighting the importance of vaccination and global health issues. The inaugural session started with the address and welcome speech of Prof. Dr. Muhammad Asadullah Madni, Advisor IUB Health Care Society. In his address, he said immunization issues can be resolved with proper immunization campaigns throughout the country. —APP

Sh Rashid's media centre raided in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: A law enforcement agency has raided the media centre of former interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad in connection with the PTI workers' sloganeering at the holy site in Medina against the visiting Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his Umrah delegation.

Reportedly, the media centre of former interior minister situated in a house in Sector F-7/4 was raided by a law enforcement agency on Saturday night. Sh Rashid confirmed the news that his media centre was swooped.

"Last night, officials of a law enforcement agency raided my media centre. But they left without making any arrest," Rashid added.

Earlier today, the FIA arrested Sh Rashid's nephew who landed at Islamabad Airport after performing Umrah.

An FIR has also been registered against PTI Chief Imran Khan, Sh Rashid, Shehbaz Gill, Qasim Suri, Anil Musarrat, Ijazul Haq and 100 other unknown persons in Faisalabad alleging their role in orchestrating an anti-PM Shehbaz's protest and sloganeering in Medina.

Sh Rashid's role in the Medina incident was suspected as the former minister hinted during his press conference a few days ago regarding the happening of this shameful act.

"See what the people will do (to PM and his companions) when they reach there for Umrah," he told the media.

Sh Rashid also came back from Saudi Arabia recently after performing Umrah there during which he also visited Medina. —DNA

Afghanistan celebrates Eid amid tight security

KABUL: Afghanistan celebrated Eid on Sunday amid tightened security following recent wave of bomb blasts in the country. Afghanistan's apex court on Saturday announced that the Shawwal moon was sighted in various provinces of the country, hence Eidul Fitr will be celebrated on Sunday, May 1.

Acting Government Spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid wrote on his Twitter account late last night that the Supreme Court declared Sunday the first day of Eidul Fitr.

Meanwhile, a statement issued by the Supreme Court said that 27 people in Farah, Ghazni, Kandahar and Ghor provinces had seen the crescent and presented evidence to the committee.

Following recent attacks in Kabul and other provinces, officials of the Ministry of Defence and the Kabul Police Command said that strict security measures have been taken during Eid to provide security to the citizens.

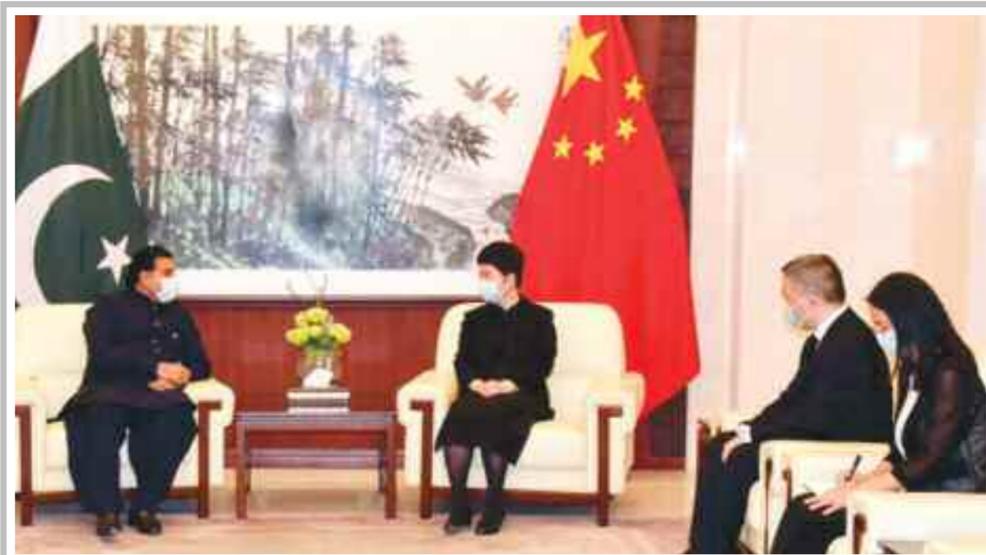
"People can spend their Eid days with a peace of mind and calmness because their brothers, the Mujahideen, are at their service and will ensure their security, and we will not allow any group or movement to disrupt security," said Enayatullah Kharazmi, spokesman for the Ministry of Defence. "I believe that our compatriots throughout the country, including Kabul, will celebrate Eid in a spirit of brotherhood, thanks to our brave forces ensuring security," said Khalid Zadrani, a spokesman for the Kabul Police Command.

The Ministry of Defence and the Kabul Police Command said the number of checkpoints in the city has increased.

The supreme leader of the Islamic Emirate, Mawlawi Hibatullah Akhundzada, issued a message on the eve of Eid, in which he congratulated the arrival of Eid and also said the Islamic Emirate has granted the general amnesty and put it into practice.

Mawlawi Hibatullah called on Afghans living abroad to return to their country and said Afghanistan is "no longer capable of carrying out any conspiracy."

However, he warned that if anyone disobeyed the amnesty and tried to start a war in the country, they would "face a harsh and severe reaction." The supreme leader of the Islamic Emirate said that they are working to strengthen education through "opening new schools and madrassas in many central and remote areas of the country for religious and modern education and providing a safe environment for education." The Islamic Emirate "is committed to take further steps in this regard, as education is the key to rescue our compatriots and pave the way towards country's development and prosperity," he said. Hibatullah called on the world to recognize the current Afghan government and said that the Islamic Emirate is seeking positive relations with the region and the world. —DNA



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf meets Acting Ambassador of China Pang Chunxue to express condolences over the deaths of Chinese nationals.

Governor Punjab decides not to take oath of Hamza's cabinet

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Governor of Punjab Omar Sarfraz Cheema has decided not to take oath of the newly elected Chief Minister (CM) of Punjab Hamza Shahbaz Sharif's cabinet.

According to details, the Governor Umar Sarfraz Cheema stated that how can he take oath from the illegal cabinet of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader. It merits mention here that, Speaker of National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf had administered oath to CM-elect Hamza Shahbaz on directions of Lahore High Court (LHC). The ceremony, which was held at Governor House in Lahore, was attended by senior leaders of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) including Maryam Nawaz and other officials of the party. After taking oath, Hamza left for CM House where he was presented with guard of honour. LHC had ordered the National Assembly Speaker to take oath from Hamza Shahbaz Sharif as Chief Minister of Punjab. Hamza was elected as Punjab's Chief Minister on April 16. However, his oath-taking was deferred twice despite the LHC's directives for not delaying the matter any further.

Hours before the oath-taking ceremony of CM-elect Hamza Shahbaz



Sharif, Punjab Governor Omar Sarfraz Cheema rejected the resignation of Usman Buzdar.

Omar Sarfraz Cheema, in his letter to Punjab Assembly Speaker Pervaiz Elahi, stated that the March 28 resignation letter of Usman Buzdar was not in accordance with the rules as it was addressed to the Prime Minister and not to the Governor which was mandatory as per subsection 8 of Article 130 of the Constitution.

"The resignation was not addressed to the Governor which was unconstitutional and thus rejected," Cheema stated.

Cheema has also asked President Arif Alvi to deploy Rangers and said that goons, with help of police personnel have taken control of the Governor House.

The Governor has told the President that hundreds of police personnel were

— Says how can he take oath from illegal cabinet of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader

sent to the House without his permission and no one is allowed to hold any ceremony in the premises of the Governor House. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has filed intra-court plea against Lahore High Court ruling directing National Assembly Speaker to administer oath to CM-elect Hamza Shahbaz. The petition, which has been filed by 17 PTI lawmakers, argued that police was allowed to enter Punjab Assembly and PTI MPAs were encouraged to go against their party. The petition further states that the court cannot interfere in parliamentary matters and LHC's April 29 verdict is unconstitutional. PTI prayed that the larger bench of the court nullify

SAARC Chamber chief felicitates Hamza on taking oath of Punjab CM

ISLAMABAD: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Iftikhar Ali Malik Sunday warmly felicitating Hamza Shehbaz on taking oath of Chief Minister Punjab and hoped that he will pursue the prudent policies of his dynamic father Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and toe his footprints promising welfare of down trodden besides creating congenial environment for boosting business activities and economic growth in the province.

In his congratulatory message, he said the business community was proud that first time in history father and son both have been democratically elected simultaneously as the prime minister of Pakistan and chief minister of the largest province.

He said earlier Nawaz Sharif was also elected three premier and chief minister with his younger brother as chief minister as well which is another feather in the cap of the Sharif family.

He said now entire business com-

munity pinned high hopes that ever increasing yawning trade deficit would be clipped to stabilise the crumbling national economy on sound footings. He said only way to address this core issue was to offer another basket of incentives to boost the exports manifolds and ease of doing friendly business was also a major key factor for sustainable economic growth.

Meher Kashif Younis former senior vice president of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry while extending greetings separately to Hamza Shehbaz hoped both father and son with varied rich diversified experience as leaders of the opposition and chief minister would contribute towards economic development and to do away with red-tape and de-regulations besides tax reforms focusing on promotion of tax culture in every sphere of life.

He said all stakeholders must be taken into confidence to tailor viable result-oriented prudent economic policies to

accelerate the growth and speed up industrialisation across the province.

He said soon well conceived balanced export dominant set of viable proposals will be presented to them by our octogenarian top trader leader of south Asia Iftikhar Ali Malik, which he added if implemented would usher an era of prosperity, progress and development besides improving socioeconomic condition of poor strata of the society.

Govt decides to restore weekly holiday of Saturday

The federal government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has decided to restore the Saturday weekly holiday.

The Prime Minister Office has received a summary about two weekly holidays forwarded by the Establishment Division. The new timings in the government offices were also proposed in the summary. It has been recommended to fix new office timings from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Pakistan's growth incomplete without labourers progress: Bilawal

LAHORE: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Minister for Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that the growth of country would remain incomplete without changing the life of labourers.

In his message on the International Labour Day issued here on Sunday, he said that the PPP always remained on front for the rights of the workers class of the society. He said that manifesto of the PPP was based on the welfare and progress of the workers section of the society. He said that the constitution guaranteed the labour about proper wages, protection of the lives and equality based relationships with employers.

Bilawal said that Benazir Employees Stock Option Scheme (BESOS) and the first 3-tier Provincial Labour Policy were pride of the PPP. "The PPP gave ownership of land to the poor agricultural workers," he highlighted.

He welcomed the raise of the lowest wages up to Rs 25,000 by the coalition government.

FIA arrests Sheikh Rashid's nephew Rashid Shafique from airport

ISLAMABAD: The former Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad's nephew has been arrested by Government officials dressed in civilian clothes as soon as his plane landed at New Islamabad International Airport.

MNA Shafiq reached Islamabad International Airport through a private airline on Sunday when the authorities rounded him up.

A case has been registered in Faisalabad police station against the nephew of Sh Rashid for his alleged participation in the protest against the visiting PM and his companions held by the PTI people at holy Masjid-e-Nabvi.

The plain-clothed FIA officials detained Mr Shafiq as soon as he reached the Islamabad Airport. Sources divulged that Rashid Shafiq later was handed over to the Faisalabad police.

Sh Rashid condemned his nephew's arrest saying the government had indulged in political victimization. He rued that after registering cases, the authorities were conducting house raids.

The former interior minister reiterated that 'wherever these people (rulers) go, they will be hounded and slogans will be raised against them'.

He claimed that at the behest of government, the authorities were going to arrest plenty of PTI people. "The country is descending to revenge politics," he said adding that cases were registered against him, Imran Khan and Fawad Chaudhry, though none of them was present in Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, a First Information Report was registered on Sunday against 15 nominated PTI stalwarts including its Chief Imran Khan, Sh Rashid, Shehbaz Gill, Qasim Suri, Anil Musarrat, Ijazul Haq and 100 other unknown persons. —DNA

Imran Khan says ruling coterie all set to give itself second NRO

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister Imran Khan has unleashed a maelstrom of allegations against his political rivals saying the ruling Sharifs are involved in billions of rupees corruption cases expressing his fear that they will remove the record of their venality logged by the anti-graft watchdog - NAB.

Addressing a presser in Islamabad on Sunday, Khan said that he was publishing a whitepaper against the current rulers on their corruption charges. He said that both the PML-N and PPP governments were toppled twice in the past on the charges of corruption.

He maintained that when former president Gen @ Pervez Musharraf gave them the first NRO, then it had come to the fore how much damage was done.

He claimed that his government had not made any corruption cases against them adding that all corruption cases had already been launched against them. —APP

Pak to strengthen ties with Gulf states, vows PM Shehbaz

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particular focus on promoting economic, trade and investment ties."

In reply to a question about any proposal on cards to recognise Israel shortly, the Prime Minister said Pakistan's position is clear - there has to be a just settlement of the Palestine issue to the complete satisfaction of the Palestinians. "For a just, comprehensive and lasting peace, Pakistan continues to support a two-state solution, with a viable, independent and contiguous Palestinian State, with pre-1967 borders and Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, in accordance with the relevant United Nations and OIC resolutions," Shehbaz said.

Sharif, who is known best for his administrative skills, acknowl-

ed that Pakistan faces multiple challenges on domestic and international fronts but expressed his confidence in overcoming political, financial and energy crises.

"The external shocks of Covid-19 pandemic, resultant economic slowdown, disruption of supply chains, and Ukraine crisis have disproportionately impacted developing countries, including Pakistan. In order to put the global economy back on a sustainable growth trajectory, international cooperation is essential," he said.

The Prime Minister said Pakistan's foreign policy is one of friendliness and goodwill towards all the nations of the world.

"Peaceful development and friendly neighbourhood are our key objectives. We also seek objective,

balanced and mutually beneficial relations with major powers. Pakistan has traditionally maintained good relations with the United States, China as well as Russia, and we are keen to strengthen and further diversify these partnerships," he said.

"The challenges we face today can only be surmounted through inclusive multilateral approaches. We do not subscribe to bloc politics. Cooperation rather than confrontation is the way forward. Historically, it was Pakistan that acted as a bridge in opening up relationship between the United States and the People Republic of China." Shehbaz, who was previously thrice elected chief minister of the country's biggest province, Punjab, said Pakistan does not believe in false choices between friends. —Agencies



ISLAMABAD: A view of deserted Jinnah Avenue due to Eid-ul-Fitr holiday in the Federal Capital.