

PTI leader arrested

GUJRANWALA (INP): PTI leader from Gujranwala Rizwan Mustafa Sian has been arrested from outside the anti-terrorism court in Gujranwala on Saturday. The detained PTI leader was accused of the May 9 vandalism and nominated in the police FIRs. A clash between police and lawyers on the occasion of arrest was also observed. Chaudhry Rizwan Mustafa Sian was PTI's candidate for PP-62 Gujranwala.

Asad Toor gets bail

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Special judge central Islamabad on Saturday ordered to release You-Tuber and journalist Asad Toor. As per details, the special judge central judge Humayon Dilawar also approved the bail plea and directed Toor to submit surety bonds worth Rs 5,000. Moreover, the FIA special prosecutor told the court that he has no objection on the approval of the bail plea.

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Five soldiers among 2 officers embraced martyrdom

— Six terrorists killed in thwarting North Waziristan attack

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Five brave sons of the soil embraced martyrdom on Saturday, including two officers, while valiantly thwarting a terrorist attack on the security forces' post in North Waziristan District's Mir Ali area. According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, in the early hours of March 16, a group of six terrorists attacked a security forces' post in general area Mir Ali of North Waziristan District.

As the Army troops foiled the initial attempt at intrusion, the terrorists rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into the post, followed by multiple suicide bombing attacks, which led to the collapse of a portion of a building, resulting in the Shahadat, or five brave sons of the soil.

The martyrs were identified as Havildar Sabir (resident of District Khyber), Naik Khurshid (resident of District Lakki Marwat), Sepoy Nasir (resident of District Peshawar), Sepoy Raja (resident of District Kohat), and Sepoy Sajjad (resident of District Abbottabad).

During the ensuing clearance operation, the Army troops led by Lieutenant Colonel Kashif effectively engaged and eliminated all six terrorists. However, during the intense exchange of fire, leading his troops from the front, Lieutenant Colonel Syed Kashif Ali (age: 39 years, resident of Karachi) and Captain Muhammad Ahmed Badar (age: 23 years, resident of District Talagang), having fought gallantly, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat (martyrdom).

"Sanitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any other ter-



rorists present in the area, as the security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country, and the sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," the ISPR said.

The ISPR, in its statement, reaffirmed the commitment to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country saying such sacrifices of brave soldiers further strengthen their resolve.

Meanwhile, the funeral of the seven martyred soldiers who embraced martyrdom while gallantly thwarting the terrorists' attack on the military post including two officers were held at Bannu Cantt on Saturday.

President Asif Ali Zardari has strongly condemned the terrorist attack on security forces' post in North Waziristan. In a message, he commiserated with the bereaved families of martyred soldiers and officers of Pak Army. He prayed for eternal peace of the martyred and patience for their families. The President reaffirmed the unflinching national resolve to extir-

pate the menace of terrorism from the country.

Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed deep sorrow over the martyrdom of Lieutenant Colonel Kashif and fellow soldiers. Chairman PPP said that the nurseries of terrorism must be destroyed by implementing the National Action Plan in letter and spirit. The killers of the officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Army are the enemies of the nation and must not be pardoned.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari extended heartfelt condolences to the families of Lt. Col. Kashif Shaheed and other martyrs. The nation will never forget its brave sons. These enemies must be punished to give justice to the departed souls, the Chairman PPP concluded.

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam has condemned attack of terrorists in North Waziristan and expressed grief over the killing of five security personnel including a lieutenant colonel and captain.



LAHORE: Speaker of Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

PTI dissociates itself from 'overseas protests'

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: After back-to-back protests led by overseas Pakistanis in the United States (US), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan dissociated with the ongoing protests overseas, clarifying that his party did not have any part in it in the recent demonstrations outside the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) headquarters.

"If overseas Pakistanis are making up something, then it would be their own decision," Barrister Gohar said Saturday while speaking to media outside Adiala Jail — Rawalpindi post-hearing of 190m NCA scandal case against PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi.

Responding a question, the PTI chairman said that the party did not ask the IMF to stop disbursing financial aid to Pakistan; however, it admitted that the party urged the global lender's recall its commitments for free and fair elections and transparent allocations of its funds.

After reports of internal conflicts in PTI over alliance with the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), the politico made it clear that his party's merger with the party was "serious and best decision" in circumstances prevailing at that time when PTI lost its "bat" symbol and was looking for options to secure its reserved seats. "Not only reserved seats, we also wanted to get protection from our independent candidates as merging with a political party would also stop defections," said Gohar.

He reiterated that PTI-SIC merger was best decision taken after much deliberations. Gohar pinned hopes on the Supreme Court (SC) to provide justice to the Imran-led party that had been rejected for being eligible to get reserved seats for women and minorities.

Saudi Prince reaffirms support for Pakistan

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in a telephone call congratulated Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on his re-election, the PM Office said in a statement on Saturday.

PM Sharif thanked the Saudi crown prince, also known as MBS, for the telephone call as well as the warm message of greetings he had sent after he had assumed office. The prime minister also conveyed his wishes and prayers for the health and well-being of King Salman bin Abdulaziz.

The crown prince thanked PM Sharif for his

sentiments and said that both countries enjoyed close brotherly relations and reaffirmed Saudi Arabia's support to Pakistan. PM Sharif said the people of Pakistan had great love and respect for the Saudi king as well as the crown prince. He also wished Ramadan to the Saudi leadership as well as the people and prayed that this holy month would bring peace and prosperity to Muslims all over the world.

The prime minister said Pakistan was proud of its historic, deep-rooted and fraternal ties with Saudi Arabia and the two countries had always stood together through thick and thin. He lauded Saudi

Arabia for its unwavering commitment and support to Pakistan. PM Sharif invited the crown prince to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience and said that the people of Pakistan were waiting to accord him a very warm welcome.

Meanwhile, the Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan met Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Lahore on Saturday.

They congratulated each other on assuming their respective offices and expressed best wishes for each other. Overall political situation of the country and matters of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting.

42 candidates submitted papers for Senate polls in KP

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: As many as 42 candidates have been submitted their nomination papers for Senate Election 2024 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa here on Saturday. These elections will be held on April 2, 2024 for seven general, two technocrats and scholars and two reserved seats for women.

According to the spokesman of provincial election commission, so far 10 candidates have submitted nomination papers for 2 Technocrat and Scholars seats. Among them, Azam Khan Swati, Qazi Muhammad Anwar Advocate, Waqar Ahmad Qazi, Dr. Hammad Mehmood Cheema, Khalid Masood, Fazal Hanan, Dilawar Khan, Qaizar Khan, Noorul Haq Qadri and Syed Irshad Hussain submitted their nomination papers.

Similarly, 25 candidates submitted papers for seven General seats, including Irfan Saleem, Muhammad

Talha Mehmood, Dilawar Khan, Faisal Javed, Mirza Muhammad Afridi, Azhar Qazi Mashwani, Niaz Ahmad, Waqas Orkazai, Fazal Hanan, Asif Iqbal, Azam Khan Swati, Murad Saeed, Faizur Rehman, Khurram Zeeshan, Attaul Haq, Masoodur Rehman, Shafiq Ayaz, Asif Rafiq, Mahmood Khan, Noorul Haq Qadri, Muhammad Naseem, Sajjad Hussain, Taj Muhammad Afridi, Ahmad Mustafa, and Fida Muhammad.

Similarly, seven candidates have submitted their papers for two Women seats, including Mehwish Ali Khan, Ayesha Bano, Rubina Naz, Rubina Khalid, Shazia, Syeda Tahira Bukhari and Hamida Shahid. The aspirants had given deadline to submit their nomination papers from March 15 to 16 March, 6pm to the Provincial Election Commissioner.

The list of candidates would be released on March 17, scrutiny of papers would be held till

March 19 and appeals against acceptance and rejection of papers could be filed till March 21. The decision on the appeals would be taken by March 25, while the revised list would be released on March 26. Candidates would be able to withdraw their nomination papers till March 27.

KP CM meets PTI founder at Adiala Jail

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur met with the founder of the PTI at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail on Saturday.

According to sources, the meeting between Gandapur and the PTI founder lasted for 30 minutes, during which they discussed the country's current political situation. The meeting took place in the jail's conference room.



PESHAWAR BARRACKS
BY SHELTON'S REZIDOR

IFTAR DINNER MENU

IFTAR SECTION

Dates
Assorted Vegetable Pakora
Vegetable Samosa
Chicken Fried Wings
Spring Rolls
Chicken Bread Roll
Assorted Sandwiches
Vegetable Cutlets

BEVERAGES

Mint Margarita
Rooh Afza

SALAD & CHATKHARA

Apple and Cabbage Salad OR
Creamy Fruit Salad
Russian Salad / Pasta Salad
Roasted Potato Salad
Italian Beef Salad
Mexican Bean Salad
Chana Chaat
Fruit Chaat
Dahi Bara

SAUCES

Tartar Sauce
Tamarind Sauce
Raita and Mint Sauce

PAKISTANI

Peas Pulao / Channa Mewa Pulao
Chicken Makhni Handi
Chicken Jalfrezi
Lahori Fried Fish
Kofta Curry
Mixed Vegetables

BARBECUE

Beef Gola Kebab
Chicken Reshmi Kebab
Chicken Boti

CHINESE & CONTINENTAL

Penne Alfredo Pasta
Tarragon Chicken Steak
Chicken Almond
Beef Chili Dry
Chicken Chowmein
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In brief

Abrar, Shakeel fined for code of conduct breaches

KARACHI (PPD): Quetta Gladiators' Abrar Ahmed and Saud Shakeel have both been fined five per cent of their match fees for Level 1 breaches of HBL PSL's code of conduct during their side's HBL PSL 9 fixture against Islamabad United at the National Bank Stadium in Karachi on Friday night.

Tariq Rafi wins Championship

KARACHI (PPD): Young and emerging tennis star Tariq Rafi won the Essity Tennis Championship in the Under-11 Category. Rafi advanced to the final and played against Qazi Ahyan, whom he defeated by 4-0 and 4-1.

Matthew announces retirement

SYDNEY (Agencies): Former Australian Test wicketkeeper Matthew Wade has called time on the red-ball game but will continue playing cricket's shorter formats. The 36-year-old made the announcement late Friday ahead of the Sheffield Shield final next week where his native Tasmania meet Western Australia in what will be his 166th and last first-class match.

Haider, Imad take Islamabad United to PSL 9 final as Peshawar Zalmi falter



KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): Islamabad United qualified for the final of HBL PSL for the first time since 2018, on the back of a record seventh-wicket partnership between Imam-ul-Haque and Haider Ali, as they beat Peshawar Zalmi by five wickets on Saturday night, at National Bank Stadium, Karachi in Eliminator Two. The final will be played on 18 March at the same venue.

Zalmi failed to defend their total of 185-5 as United batters overcame the early hiccup of being 50-4, and secured the berth in the HBL PSL 9 final, completing the target with an over to spare.

Islamabad United's pursuit of the 186-run target met with adversity as Saim, fresh off his batting heroics, struck twice with the new ball: Alex Hales chipped one straight to Mehran Mumtaz at cover while Salman Ali Agha was bamboozled with a fullish carrom ball that rattled his stumps.

In the fourth over, Mehran knocked off Shadab Khan's off-stump to leave United 23-3. Martin Guptill, having lost three partners in the first four overs, teed off in the fifth as he hit Saim for 22 runs on the back of four boundaries and a six. Khurram Shahzad landed another blow for Zalmi on the last ball of the sixth over as he dismissed Guptill for

34 off 21 balls, laced with five boundaries and a solitary six, leaving United in dire straits at 50-4. Azam Khan and Imad Wasim got together to put up a 41-run fifth-wicket partnership injecting stability to United's innings. Luke Wood destroyed Azam's (22, 17b, 1x4, 1x6) stumps in the 11th over to leave United reeling with 95 required in nine overs. Haider Ali joined Imad in the middle and the duo took it upon themselves to stage the rescue act. Haider got going with two boundaries against Aamir in the 13th over, while he bludgeoned Arif Yaqoob for a six in 15th over.

Aamir's 18th over, yielding 23, became the nail in the coffin for Zalmi as Imad hit a first-ball four followed by Haider hitting two towering sixes and a four. Haider smashed Wood for his fifth six in the 19th over while Imad hit the winning runs. Imad (59 not out, 40b, 9x4s) and Haider (52 not out, 29b, 2x4s, 5x6s) added an unbeaten 98 for the seventh wicket, the highest in HBL PSL history, to take their side to the final.

PSL history, to take their side to the final. For Zalmi, Saim bagged two wickets while Wood, Mumtaz and Khurram picked up on each. Earlier, Peshawar Zalmi made the most of the opportunity to bat first as Shadab opted to field after winning the toss. Babar Azam and Saim stitched a fiery 72-run opening partnership after Saim he muscled Naseem Shah for a maximum in the first over. In the following over, Obed McCoy found himself on the receiving end as the belligerent southpaw pummeled him for a six over fine leg and then followed it with two boundaries through cover and fine leg, respectively. Salman was employed to bowl the fourth over and gave away 13 runs. Then, Saim welcomed Faheem Ashraf in the sixth over with three boundaries capping off the powerplay with 59 on the board. Saim and Babar duo also became just the third opening pair, and the quickest, to score 1000 or more runs in HBL PSL history. Naseem returned to bowl the eighth over and dismissed Babar (25, 22b, 2x4s, 1x6) as skipper Shadab plucked a spectacular catch at mid-off. Babar also breached the 550-run mark in HBL PSL 9 for the second time in the history of the tournament, a feat that has only been achieved by Mohammad Rizwan twice, and Fakhar Zaman once. Mohammad Haris joined Saim in the middle and the pair contributed with a 59-run second-wicket partnership. In the 10th over, Saim brought up his second HBL PSL 9 half-century in style with a maximum over long-off, taking 27 balls to do so. With Zalmi poised for a huge total after having notched 130-1 in 14 overs, Shadab brought his team back into the game with the vital scalp of Saim in the 15th over. Saim returned for 73 off 44, comprising six boundaries and four maximums. In the following over, Naseem dismissed Haris who returned a crucial 40 off 25, on the back of three fours and two sixes.

Aaqib appointed as Sri Lanka's fast bowling coach

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) appointed former Pakistan pace bowler Aaqib Javed as the first bowling coach of the national team on Saturday.

Javed will assume the role immediately and work until the conclusion of the ICC T20 World Cup 2024, to be played in the West Indies and the USA. "Sri Lanka Cricket wishes to announce the appointment of former Pakistan pace bowler Aaqib Javed as the national team's fast-bowling coach," an SLC statement said.

"He will work with the national team until the completion of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup." "We warmly welcome Aaqib and believe that his immense international experience, both in playing and coaching, will help our bowlers come into good shape ahead of the upcoming major international competitions, such as the ICC Men's T20 World Cup," said Ashley De Silva, CEO of SLC.

Djokovic withdraws from Miami Open



KP making efforts to organize KP CPL

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Sports and Youth Affairs, Syed Fakhar Jahon on Saturday expressed that he will leave no stone unturned to organize Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cricket Premier League in the province this year. Talking to a delegation of the management of Kashmir Premier League here, the advisor said that steps would also be taken to play Pakistan Super League (PSL) matches in the province. He said that efforts would also be made to host international cricket matches in the province. He said that soon after assuming charge of his portfolio, he has issued instructions for completion of construction work at Arbab Niaz Cricket Stadium as per international standards as soon as possible.

Shiffrin extends record with 97th World Cup win



SAALBACH (AFP): Mikaela Shiffrin ended her campaign by claiming her 97th World Cup victory in the season-closing women's slalom at Saalbach on Saturday. The US ski great was placed second after the first run, trailing Anna Swenn-Larsson by 0.11sec. But after Swenn-Larsson failed to nail her second run Shiffrin topped the podium by 0.54s from Norway's Marta Kostyuk Holtmann, who was placed only eighth at the midway point. Swenn-Larsson had to settle for third at 0.63s. After landing her 60th World Cup slalom, Shiffrin, who turned 29 this week, was all smiles as she collected her favourite discipline's crystal globe trophy. Shiffrin arrived at the World Cup finals in Austria intent on ending a season marred by injury on a high note. The Colorado-born skier had returned from six weeks on the sidelines to win the slalom in Are last weekend and, with it, the discipline's title for the eighth time.

Indian Wells Sakkari beats Gauff to reach final against Iga Swiatek



INDIAN WELLS (Agencies): Maria Sakkari beat US Open champion Coco Gauff in a rain-hit match to set up an Indian Wells final against world number one Iga Swiatek. Greece's Sakkari let a 5-2 second-set lead slip but regrouped to beat third seed Gauff 6-4 6-7 (5-7) 6-2. Rain held up play in California in the middle of the first set and again at the start of the second. Poland's Swiatek earlier needed just 65 minutes to beat Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk 6-2 6-1. Sunday's final will be a rematch of the 2022 showpiece, which Swiatek won in straight sets. Swiatek is bidding for her second title of the year after winning the Qatar Open, while Sakkari is aiming for her first. While Swiatek is yet to drop a set in this year's tournament, Sakkari had to go the distance against American Gauff, missing three match points in the second set. Gauff dominated the resulting tie-break and broke in the first game of the third set before Sakkari regrouped. The ninth seed immediately rescued the break and won four games in a row to take a 4-1 lead. Gauff served to stay in the match at 5-2 down but, despite saving another match point, was unable to hold off Sakkari. "I don't want to disrespect Coco but it would've been amazing if this match was over an hour ago," Sakkari joked afterwards. "Coco is such an amazing opponent. I'm just so happy I'm in the final once again here." In the men's draw, defending champion Carlos Alcaraz

Imad comments on his int'l cricket comeback

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): Islamabad United's all-rounder Imam-ul-Haque has commented on the possibility of him coming out of retirement in international cricket. "I made a name for myself while playing for Pakistan and if my country needs me, I will be available. If not, I have no issues with that," Wasim told local media. "Shaheen [Afriidi] called me after I retired but I told him that we will talk after PSL," he added. Wasim, who made his international debut in 2015, represented Pakistan in 66 T20is and 55 ODIs before his retirement. He scored 1,472 runs across formats with the help of six half-centuries and was also part of the Pakistan side that won the ICC Champions Trophy in 2017. Imad Wasim led Islamabad United to a thumping 39-run victory over Quetta Gladiators in Eliminator 1 of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) season 9 yesterday. The victory marked the end of Quetta Gladiators' PSL 9 campaign while Islamabad United progressed to Eliminator 2 where they will lock horns with Peshawar Zalmi.

Kane breaks 60-year record and Musiala dazzles in Bayern romp



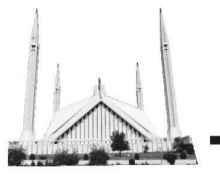
BERLIN (AFP): Harry Kane broke a 60-year record for most goals in a debut season while Jamal Musiala scored twice as Bayern Munich won 5-2 at Darmstadt on Saturday. With 31 goals in 26 league games since arriving from Spurs in the summer, Kane overtook German legend Uwe Seeler, who scored 30 goals for Hamburg in 1963-64. Musiala also had an assist in the win, which keeps Bayern's slim hopes of defending the Bundesliga title alive, moving them seven points behind Bayer Leverkusen, who play at Freiburg on Sunday. Darmstadt stunned Bayern after 28 minutes, Tim Skarke taking advantage of some sleepy defence from Eric Dier to score and give the home side hope of an incredible upset against the German champions. Kane would however drag Bayern into the lead before half-

time, assisting Musiala's 36th-minute goal before scoring one of his own, rising high to head in a Joshua Kimmich chip in first-half stoppage time. Musiala added another midway through the second half when he collected a Thomas Mueller throw-in and danced through the box before shooting between the goalkeeper's legs. As he did last week, Serge Gnabry scored moments after coming off the bench to seal the win. Bayern's Mathys Tel and Darmstadt's Oscar Vilhelmsson both scored in stoppage time. In the German capital, Union Berlin continued their impressive home record, beating Werder Bremen 2-1 thanks to a commanding performance from US midfielder Brenden Aaronson. Aaronson, who was surprisingly

left out of the US squad this week, had a hand in two goals in three second-half minutes to give Union the upper hand. The 23-year-old laid on Yorbe Vertessen's 50th-minute goal, before creating and scoring one of his own with some superb dribbling shortly after. Mitchell Weiser pulled one back for the visitors but Union held on, recording their fifth win in seven home matches under coach Nenad Bjelica. Augsburg came from a goal down to beat a 10-man Wolfsburg 3-1 away from home, their fourth-straight league win taking them to seventh on the table. Wolfsburg's Patrick Wimmer scored after just nine minutes but was sent from the field in tears just before half-time for a last-man foul, with Augsburg's Arne Maier scoring from the ensuing free-kick. Kristijan Jakic scored a second-half double to seal the win, piling more pressure on Niko Kovac's Wolfsburg who have won just one game in 15. Mainz won 2-0 at home against Bochum to keep their hopes of avoiding relegation alive. Mainz moved past Cologne, who were thumped 5-1 by Leipzig on Friday, into 16th, the relegation playoff spot. Promoted Heidenheim drew 1-1 at home with Borussia Moenchengladbach to collect another valuable point and go 10 clear of the relegation spots in their first season in the top division. Later on Saturday, third-placed Stuttgart travel to neighbours Hoffenheim.

MIAMI (Agencies): World number one Novak Djokovic withdrew from next week's ATP-WTA Miami Open on Saturday in the wake of his shock exit at Indian Wells. The 36-year-old Serbian star said in a statement on social media he had opted to skip Miami for scheduling reasons. "Unfortunately I won't be playing the @MiamiOpen this year," Djokovic announced on X, formerly Twitter. "At this stage of my career, I'm balancing my private and professional schedule. I'm sorry that I won't experience some of the best and most passionate fans in the world. I'm looking fwd competing in MI in future!" The 24-time Grand Slam champion returned to play the early season US hardcourt swing at Indian Wells in California, only to suffer a shock third-round exit on Monday to lowly ranked Italian Luca Nardi. Djokovic said after that defeat he still planned to play in Miami despite the loss. Djokovic's statement on Saturday gave no indication of where he next expects to play.

hold the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Premier League as soon as possible. He said that they want to send a message to the whole world that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are peaceful, hospitable and a reflection of positive activities in the society. He said that through these healthy activities they can present a positive image of the province to the world. He further said that the provision of sports infrastructure and better environment to the players is the top priority. Sports advisor said that there is immense talent in our province and the government wants it to prevent it from wastage, introduce new players and all the facilities they need are available here.



In brief

SSP visits police station

RAWALPINDI (APP): SSP Operations Flight Lieutenant (Rtd) Hafiz Kamran Asghar conducted a surprise visit to the Police Station in Taxila, emphasizing the importance of security, especially during Ramadan. During the inspection, he gave necessary instructions to the officers on duty. The SSP Asghar stressed the need for officers to remain vigilant and ensure prompt resolution of complaints. He highlighted the significance of maintaining alert security measures, particularly during Ramadan and emphasized the importance of daily checks and briefings for officers and personnel. In his address, SSP Asghar reiterated that crime prevention is the foremost responsibility of the police. He emphasized the importance of effective patrolling, snap-checking, and strict action against criminal elements. Additionally, he emphasized the timely registration of FIRs and conducting investigations impartially and based on merit in all cases.

Two held involved in motorcycle theft

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested two members gang involved in motorcycle theft and recovered 06 stolen motorcycle from their possession during crackdown here on Saturday. According to police spokesman, the New Town police held two members of a bike-lifting gang who were identified as Shahzad and Salman. Police have registered separate cases against both of them and started investigation. SP Rawal Town Faisal Saleem appreciated the performance of police team and stated that the accused would be presented in court with solid evidence and they cannot escape the law. He added that such elements would be dealt with iron hands. Meanwhile, Rawalpindi police have arrested eight outlaws during the crackdown. Police have also recovered drugs, weapons and liquor from their possession. Separate cases were registered against all of them and further investigation was underway.

8 dead, 1215 injured in road accidents

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least eight persons were killed and 1215 injured in 1122 road accidents in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of these, 522 people with serious injuries were shifted to hospitals, while 685 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by rescue medical teams, thus reducing the burden of hospitals. Furthermore, the analysis showed 636 drivers, 36 underage drivers, 170 pedestrians, and 409 passengers were among the victims. The statistics show that 265 accidents were reported in Lahore which affected 295 persons placing the provincial capital at top of the list followed by Faisalabad 87 in with 89 victims and at third Multan with 70 accidents and 66 victims. According to the data 1024 motorbikes, 54 auto-rickshaws, 112 cars, 21 vans, 9 buses, 24 trucks and 72 other types of vehicles and carts were involved in the accidents.

Police bust two gangs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi District Police have busted two gangs and arrested their four members, said a police spokesman. He informed that Taxila police netted two accused namely Hamza and Noor Ahmed, members of Fayyaz alias Commando gang, allegedly involved in several bike lifting cases. Police also recovered five stolen motorcycles and cash Rs 6,000 and weapons from their possession.



ISLAMABAD: US envoy Donald Blome calls on NA Speaker Ayaz Sadiq. —APP Photo

Ayaz Sadiq, US Ambassador discuss strengthening bilateral relations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and US Ambassador to Pakistan, Donald Blome, here on Saturday discussed strengthening bilateral relations and parliamentary cooperation for mutual gains. During the meeting, the Speaker reiterated Pakistan's longstanding and broad-based relationship with the United States, based on principles of mutual respect and trust. The meeting focused on a

broad spectrum of issues concerning mutual interests, as per a news release. Ayaz Sadiq highlighted that Pakistan's relations with the United States constitute an important element of its foreign policy. Emphasizing the importance of parliamentary cooperation, Speaker Sadiq stressed the need for regular visits and interactions between members of parliaments from both countries to further strengthen the rela-

tionship. Ambassador Donald Blome congratulated Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on his re-election. The Speaker underscored the significance of collective efforts to promote regional and international peace and prosperity. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq expressed gratitude for the Ambassador's kind remarks and affirmed Pakistan's commitment to continued collaboration with the US in all areas of mutual concern.

PUC escalates efforts to foster interfaith dialogue

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) Chairman, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Saturday said the council is set to escalate its efforts on a global scale to foster interfaith dialogue and harmony. Addressing international media in connection with the 'International Day to Combat Islamophobia', he emphasized that Islamophobia poses a grave threat to Muslims worldwide. Ashrafi urged world powers to accelerate initiatives to eradicate Islamophobia, labeling it as a toxic barrier hindering interfaith harmony. He called upon the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and other international bodies to champion initiatives aimed at eradicating all forms of discrimination while nurturing a culture

of love, tolerance, and coexistence. He stressed that Islam embodies peace, love, and tolerance, emphasizing the teachings of Allah Almighty and the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Ashrafi lamented the incitement of non-Muslims against Islam, attributing it to misinformation and hatred propagated against Islamic teachings. Recognizing Islamophobia as a crime, Ashrafi highlighted the designation of March 15 as the 'International Day to Combat Islamophobia' by the United Nations, a milestone achieved through collaborative efforts involving Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and other entities. Ashrafi emphasized the urgency of addressing global anti-Muslim sentiment, branding discrimi-

nation as a significant threat to world peace. He underscored the need to clarify the distinction between Jihad and terrorism through dialogue, particularly in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, which fueled widespread misconceptions about Islam and Muslims in the Western world. The PUC, Ashrafi said, pledged to intensify its global endeavors for interfaith dialogue and harmony, culminating in an upcoming international conference, themed 'Paigham-e-Pakistan' in Islamabad after the holy month of Ramadan. He informed that the conference would be comprised all faith leaders as the invitations will be tendered to Imam of Khan-e-Kaba, Grand Imam of Palestine, Sheikh Al-Azhar, Pop Francis, Bishop of Canterbury and many more.

Special squads making efforts to prevent one-wheeling

RAWALPINDI (APP): Special squads constituted by City Traffic Police (CTP) are making all-out efforts to prevent one-wheeling during Ramadan ul Mubarak, said City Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi Taimoor Khan here Saturday. He informed that more than 65 traffic officials were deployed by forming 6 special squads to prevent one-wheeling during Ramadan. The squads would consist of seven DSPs/circle officers, six senior traffic wardens, 17 traffic wardens and 25 traffic assis-

tants, the CTO said, adding that the squads would operate particularly from 4 am to 7 am and after Iftar to control one-wheeling on the city roads. Special pickets were also set up for important highways where action would be taken against one-wheelers without discrimination, he added. Taimoor Khan said that all available resources were being utilized to protect human lives and prevent one-wheeling. Special monitoring cell was also checking the mechanics who alter the

motorcycles for one-wheeling, he said. The effective and comprehensive action was being taken against the violators. The CTO urged the parents to keep a special eye on their children and play their imperative role in controlling the illegal activity. He said that a bike or vehicle should not be given to a youngster so that they could be safe from fatal accidents. The CTO said that all resources were being utilized to maintain flow of traffic as well as to prevent one-wheeling.

Residents gather for suhoor, celebrating Ramadan with family

ISLAMABAD (APP): In the spirit of Ramadan, the streets of twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad echoed with the laughter and chatter of families and friends gathering for suhoor. The city's diverse food points witnessed a bustling scene as residents indulged in a variety of delectable dishes, including the renowned nihari, barbecue, chicken karahi, and halwa puri, all emblematic of the Garrison city's rich culinary heritage. As dawn broke, families flocked to their favorite food spots, eager to partake in the pre-dawn meal before beginning their fast. Amongst the throngs of people, the atmosphere was

filled with joy and camaraderie, as residents expressed their delight in celebrating Ramadan with loved ones. Talking to APP, Abdul Mateen, a local resident, commented, "There's something special about coming together with family and friends for suhoor during Ramadan. It's not just about the food; it's about the bonds we share and the sense of community that this month fosters." Echoing Rahman's sentiments, Ayat Fatima, another attendee, remarked, "Ramadan holds a special place in our hearts, and gathering for suhoor with our loved ones amplifies the blessings of this sacred month. It's a time for

reflection, gratitude, and togetherness." The tradition of communal suhoor holds deep significance for Pindi's residents, symbolizing unity, generosity, and the importance of shared experiences. As the month progresses, the vibrant vibes of Ramadan are expected to continue, culminating in the joyous celebrations of Eid-ul-Fitr. With the aroma of traditional delicacies lingering in the air and the sounds of laughter filling the streets, the twin cities embrace the spirit of Ramadan wholeheartedly, embodying the essence of community and compassion that defines this auspicious time of the year.

Sheikh, Gandapur discuss political affairs in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (PPI): PTI Sindh President Haleem Adil Sheikh held a meeting with Ali Amin Gandapur, the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in Islamabad today. The meeting took place at the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House in Islamabad, where Mr Sheikh extended his congratulations to Ali Amin Gandapur for becoming Chief Minister of KPK and invited him to attend the public gathering scheduled

for April 21 in Karachi. Various political matters were also discussed during the meeting. Mr Sheikh stated that Ali Amin Gandapur had initiated numerous projects for the welfare of the poor in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He expressed confidence that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would progress further as compared to other provinces and emphasized that Ali Amin Gandapur would work for the betterment of the people, follow-

ing the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan. Mr Gandapur thanked the people of Karachi for their support extended to Imran Khan. He alleged that the mandate given by the people of Sindh had been stolen, but assured that they would reclaim the stolen mandate. Gandapur announced his participation in the PTI public gathering in Karachi on April 21 and urged the people to actively participate in the event.

Pakistan Day: Youth unite in declaration of love for nation

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a powerful display of patriotism and solidarity, the youth of Pakistan expressed their unwavering devotion to their country, emphasizing the profound bond of brotherhood and unity that unites them as one people. Drawing upon the metaphor of a tree with numerous branches but anchored by a singular root, the youth have eloquently articulated their role as the foundation of Pakistan's strength and resilience. Despite the diversity of languages and cultures across the nation, their message remains consistent and resolute. "We are the roots of Pakistan, the foundation upon which our nation stands," remarked Ayan Babar, a college student from Islamabad. "Our diversity is our strength, and our unity is our power."

Acknowledging the vibrant tapestry of colors that adorn their nation, the youth have celebrated the unity that binds them together as a cohesive whole. Through their collective efforts, they aspire to uphold the values of tolerance, inclusivity, and respect for all. "Our differences are what make Pakistan beautiful," stated Sadia Ali, a young activist from Rawalpindi. "But it is our shared love for our country that truly defines us as one people." In their public declarations, the youth have offered fervent prayers for the prosperity and well-being of Pakistan. They have invoked divine blessings upon their homeland, expressing a collective hope to see its cherished symbols — the flag, the moon, and the stars — forever filled with pride and joy.

"Our love for Pakistan knows no bounds," declared Bilal Ahmed, a university student. "We pray for its eternal prosperity and stand united in our commitment to its future." In a poignant expression of unity, the youth have resoundingly proclaimed a single sentiment that echoes from the depths of their souls: "Long Live Pakistan." This solemn declaration symbolizes their unwavering dedication to the long-lasting prosperity and unity of their beloved homeland. As their voices unite in harmony, the youth of Pakistan stand as a testament to the enduring spirit of love, resilience, and unity that defines their nation. Through their collective efforts, they vow to continue working tirelessly towards a brighter and more prosperous future for all.

Over 188,377 ration bags of under Ramadan Package distributed

RAWALPINDI (APP): Over 188,377 ration bags have been distributed among the deserving people under the Negahban Ramadan Package in Rawalpindi Division. Chairing a meeting of the Divisional Coordination Committee, Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Engineer Aamir Khattak said that the citizens could register their complaints on helpline 08002345 regarding hoarding and Negahban Ramadan package. He informed that 58,923 beneficiaries in Rawalpindi district, 56,954 in Attock, 28,122 in Jhelum, 41,015 in Chakwal and 3363 in Murree were provided the ration packages at their doorsteps. He directed the

authorities concerned to accelerate the distribution process of the ration bags. The number of deserving families in Rawalpindi is high, he said adding that in case of shortage of staff or stock, help should be taken from other districts of the division. A special campaign against hoarders was going on under the special directives of the Punjab government, Aamir Khattak said. Under the Anti-Hoarding Act, 2020, those found guilty of hoarding would be punished with imprisonment of up to three years and heavy fines, he warned. He said all the traders, shopkeepers, stockists and warehouse owners should get registered their stock information in the Deputy

Commissioner's office within three days. Otherwise, their stock would be considered as hoarding and confiscated as per law, Engr. Aamir Khattak said. The Commissioner informed that 308 violations were checked during 11,291 raids conducted in Rawalpindi Division during the last 24 hours. Fines amounting to Rs 901,500 were imposed on the violators while six First Investigation Reports (FIRs) were also lodged and five buildings were sealed, he said adding that 70 profiteers and hoarders were sent behind bars. Engr. Aamir Khattak further informed that show cause notices were issued to 96 Price Magistrates on poor performance.

DG directs authorities to speed up recovery campaign

RAWALPINDI (APP): Director General (DG), Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) Rawalpindi, Kinza Murtaza here on Saturday directed the authorities of Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Rawalpindi to speed up the ongoing revenue recovery campaign. Chairing a meeting regarding WASA revenue recovery, the DG said that the recovery target of WASA should be revised immediately and set as per the new tariff. Managing Director, WASA, Muhammad Asleem Ashraf, Chief Engineer, RDA, Anwar Baran, Deputy MD, Admin and Finance, Aamir Ashfaq Qureshi, Director Finance and Revenue, Tahir Bashir, Director Admin, Mohammad Umar Farooq and Deputy Directors Revenues and representative of Municipal Corporation Rawalpindi attended the meeting. The MD WASA while briefing the DG said that total connections of WASA are 154,017 out of which 137,629 are domestic and 16,388 are commercial. Over Rs 1044.572 million were recovered in the first eight months of the financial year 2023-2024, which is more than the target, he said adding, along with this, the crackdown against the defaulters was launched and it would continue to improve the recovery.

FIRs should also be lodged against all the defaulters and illegal connections, the DG said and instructed that in future installments of the bills would not be allowed and the customers would have to pay their entire bill. Mobile SMS service should be introduced and the bill information should be provided to all the consumers through SMS, she added. A letter should be written to the CPO Rawalpindi requesting the provision of police team. The police team would not only help in the recovery of WASA outstanding dues from the defaulters but would also be useful in RDA operations, she said. A Business Facilitation Center to facilitate the businessmen had been set up in RDA in which the representatives of all the departments concerned are available. WASA should appoint its representative who would issue the WASA No Objection Certificate and collect the dues of WASA if any before transfer of any property. This step would help considerably increase the income of WASA, she said. The DG further directed the authorities to conduct a survey within a week of all the tube wells installed in all the private housing schemes which are approved by RDA or established illegally. Monthly groundwater dues should be collected from

them as per the gazette, she instructed. All possible efforts would be made to make WASA self-sustainable and no negligence would be tolerated, she added.

21 gamblers arrested during raid

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested 21 gamblers and recovered Rs 33,500 and 16 mobile phones from their possession during crackdown here Saturday. According to police spokesman, Rata Amral police conducted raid and arrested 19 accused identified as Inayat, Lal Khan, Ashfaq, Kashif, Javid, Irfan, Awaiz, Saeed, Mian, Shammroz, Jannis, Rizwan, Naem, Gul Shazad, Bilal, Zishan, Amjad, Rafiqat, Waqas and Jhangir. Police have registered separate cases against all of them and further investigation was in progress. SP Rawal Town commended police team and said that gambling is the root cause of other social evils. He made it clear that strict action would be taken against such elements without any discrimination. No one would be allowed to violate rule of law, he added.

Minister left for Uzbekistan

KABUL (Ariana News): Acting Minister of Haj and Religious Affairs Noor Muhammad Saqib left Kabul for Uzbekistan on Saturday. Leading a 10-member delegation of clerics, Saqib embarked on the tour at the invitation of Mufti Nuruddin Khaliq Nazar, chairman of the Office of Muslims of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs said in a statement. The aim is strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation in religious and educational activities of the two countries.

The Frontier Post

AFGHANISTAN

Ramazan 06, 1445 — Sunday, March 17, 2024

Ex-MP accuses Taliban

KABUL (Khaama Press): Shahpoor Hassanai, a former member of the Afghan Parliament, claims the Taliban have unjustly imprisoned, harassed, abused, and humiliated him. Hassanai states he cannot endure such misbehavior and may leave Afghanistan again. This former Afghan Parliament member fled to Pakistan when the Taliban took over Kabul in August 2021. He returned to Afghanistan under Taliban control and now expresses regret over this return.

IE reacts to resolution of European parliament

KABUL (TOLOnews): The Islamic Emirate, in response to the adoption of a resolution by the European Parliament, said that the world should respect Islamic values in Afghanistan. Zabihullah Mujahid, the spokesperson for the Islamic Emirate, called the implementation of the death penalty in the country a necessity and added that other countries should not interfere in such matters. Mujahid said: "The principles that Islamic Sharia deems necessary exist without a doubt, retribution is a Sharia ruling over the system that must be implemented, and in this regard, the intervention of any country and any direction is unacceptable."

Earlier, representatives of the European Parliament adopted a resolution with 513 votes in favor and 24 abstentions, regarding what they consider the prevention of the death penalty and restrictions on women in Afghanistan. In this resolution, the European Parliament called for equal participation of women and girls in various fields in Afghanistan. Karin Melchior, a representative of the European Parliament, said: "In Afghanistan right now, girls are robbed of their dreams, women are caged in their houses and a generation is suffering under Taliban rule. So, we must keep talking about Afghanistan. As the world watches transactional and silent."

Meanwhile, some political analysts believe that the Islamic Emirate should accept the legitimate demands of the international community to progress in relations with regional and beyond the region countries. "This is not beneficial until we come together and agree with ourselves and find a solution to these challenges," said Mohammad Aslam, a university scholar. In more than two and a half years of the Islamic Emirate's rule, international institutions and various countries have continually expressed concern about human rights violations, especially women's rights in the country; an issue that the Islamic Emirate has always denied.

Thousands will die if poppies not grown

KABUL (Ariana News): A Spanish newspaper has reported that the drastic drop in poppy cultivation in Afghanistan has opened a gap for fentanyl in Europe. A report from the European Drug Monitoring Center warns of the risk that a possible lack of global supply will be replaced with "more harmful synthetic opiates, such as fentanyl derivatives or nitazenes," El Pais reported. "We have no indication that there are synthetic opiates in Spain, but we are all watching with bated breath," said the government delegate for the National Plan on Drugs, Joan Villalbi. "The Taliban (IEA) announced that they would ban opium cultivation. We didn't know if it would be for real or just for show. Now we have the first warnings that it could be happening," said Villalbi. The document also points out another risk that comes from the lack of drugs: an increase in "polysubstances" among heroin users. "It is a window of opportunity," admits Barcelona's chief investigative commissioner Ramon Chacón. "They call it the chaos theory: if poppies are not grown in Kabul, thousands of people will die in Europe," he said, about the consequences that a hypothetical heroin shortage would have on European markets, with consumers who would move on to more dangerous alternatives. But he insisted that the data so far refute that this scenario is immediately looming over Europe. Opium poppy production in Afghanistan, previously the world's top supplier, plummeted by 95 percent since the IEA banned the cultivation of narcotics in 2022, a United Nations report said last year. IEA has said that it seriously fighting against cultivation and trafficking in Afghanistan. It has assured countries not to have concerns over the smuggling of drugs from Afghanistan, but help farmers with alternatives.

Muttaqi meets Pakistan Chargé d'Affaires



KABUL (TOLOnews): Amir Khan Muttaqi, acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, met with Obaidur Rahman Nizamani, the chargé d'affaires of the Pakistani embassy in Kabul, and they discussed political and economic issues. According to Zabihullah Mujahid, the spokesperson for the Islamic Emirate, in the meeting, the chargé d'affaires of the Pakistani embassy stated that the new government's outlook is focused on expanding relations with Afghanistan. Mujahid also said that it was mentioned in the meeting that positive engagement of regional countries with Afghanistan is expanding, and that the region has realized that Afghanistan's stability can

have a positive role towards initiatives and comprehensive regional progress. Muttaqi also expressed hope during the meeting that the new Pakistani government, with a positive policy, will take constructive steps to strengthen relations between the two countries. Muttaqi in a meeting with the Iranian ambassador and special representative to Afghanistan, Hassan Kazemi Qomi, emphasized the expansion of Kabul-Tehran relations. "Now that a new government has come to power in Pakistan, Afghanistan has also expressed its good intentions and has also wanted Afghanistan and Pakistan to expand their relations in various fields,

especially in trade, and to cooperate with each other. The issue of migrants was discussed, and good relations between the two countries can solve all the problems along the way, and this was emphasized by both sides," the spokesperson for the Islamic Emirate said. "Civil governments have come and made commitments but have not been able to act on them. Therefore, we are waiting for the military government, which holds the real power in Pakistan, to change their strategy towards us," said Salami Paigir, a political analyst. "Any government that comes to power in Afghanistan or Pakistan, if they are in conflict with

each other, both Pakistan and Afghanistan will suffer. Therefore, as a good neighbor, and with Pakistan as a good neighbor, there should be positive relations with Afghanistan," said Zakiullah Mohammadi, a political analyst. Previously, the chargé d'affaires of the Pakistani embassy in Kabul also discussed solving existing problems between the two countries during his visit to Kandahar with Mullah Shirin Akhund, the governor of Kandahar. The Durand Line issue, the Torkham crossing, and recent border clashes between the border guards of the Islamic Emirate and Pakistan were among the topics discussed in the meeting.

ANSA aigns equipment purchase contracts — to enhance lab standards



KABUL (TOLOnews): The Afghanistan National Standards Authority (ANSA) announced that it has signed contracts for six projects to purchase equipment for the development of its central laboratories with a company. Officials of the authority said the value of this equipment to be more than 198 million Afghanis. Mohammad Asif Qanet, the technical deputy of the National Standards Authority, said that with the activation of this equipment, quality in the central laboratories of this authority will be controlled, and the results of national standards will be obtained more transparently and quickly. Mohammad Asif Qanet said: "This authority has always been thinking of expanding its laboratories and providing services according to international standards. Based on this contract, in addition to acquiring new devices, the new company also has the responsibility of installing and calibrating them."

Other devices to the laboratories, considering norms and standards is a very good thing, and you see that the same standards that have been considered also slightly improve the air," said Khan Jan Alokozay, a member of the board of the Chamber of Commerce and Investment. Some traders also believe that standardization in the country, in addition to having a positive impact on the environment and citizens' health,

will also be beneficial for the country's economic growth. "To whatever extent the devices are more modern and standardized, the activities of norms and standards can also be managed in a standardized manner," said Abdul Zohoor, an economic analyst. This is while the National Standards Authority announced the return of 61 oil tankers two days ago after quality assurance, back to Iran through the Nimroz port.

UNAMA urged to prioritize women rights in Afghanistan

KABUL (Khaama Press): Following the extension of UNAMA's mission in Afghanistan by the United Nations Security Council, Amnesty International has welcomed the one-year extension and urged the head of UNAMA to focus its objectives in the current year on the rights of women, girls, minorities, and the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. Amnesty International, on its social media platform X, stated on Friday, March 15th, in response to the extension of UNAMA's mission in Afghanistan, that they urged Roza

Otunbayeva, the head of this body, to prioritize the rights of women, girls, minorities, and address the humanitarian crisis to tackle the emergency situation of human rights in the country. Amnesty International has stated that UNAMA's monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation in this country is vital. The organization has stated that UNAMA should continue its robust and regular public reporting on human rights and exert pressure to repeal restrictive laws against the rights of women and girls. Last night, the United

Nations Security Council extended UNAMA's mission in Afghanistan for another year by unanimously adopting a resolution. Based on this decision, the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan has been extended until March 17, 2025. In Afghanistan, there is a dire humanitarian crisis happening right now. Alongside this crisis, strict rules, particularly for women, are making life even harder. Women are not allowed to go to school or work, which prevents them from supporting their families.

Kabul hosts medical final exam and police academy entrance test

KABUL (TOLOnews): The National Examination Authority oversaw the final medical examination and the recruitment test for candidates aspiring to join the Police Academy in Kabul. Abdul Baqi Haqqani, the acting Head of the National Examination Authority, announced that close to 11,000 individuals from various provinces across the country participated in these significant exams. Haqqani highlighted the enthusiasm of the youth, particularly noting their eagerness to contribute to service to society during the month of Ramadan. "Our youth are showing great enthusiasm. We have nearly eleven thousand young individuals taking part in the exams, demonstrating their keen interest in serving the people," he remarked.

The Medical Council said that candidates need to achieve a sixty percent score in the medical exam to qualify for a practice license. Jendullah Nabil, representing the Medical Council, detailed the exam's structure: "The exam comprises 160 questions, totaling 360 points, with each question carrying more than two or more points. A score of sixty percent, or 216 points, is required to pass." Meanwhile, the Police Academy said that around two thousand students are currently receiving training at the institution. Naser Khan Sulemanzai, a spokesperson for the academy, explained the distinctive nature of the academy's recruitment process, which includes practical training, and

includes providing students with a stipend, food, and clothing. "The recruitment process here differs from civil universities, as practical issues are applied during their studies, and they are provided with a stipend, as well as food and clothing facilities at the academy," Sulemanzai noted. Participants in both exams expressed hopes that the Islamic Emirate would enhance work and educational opportunities for the nation's youth, thereby reducing the inclination to seek opportunities abroad. "We urge the Islamic Emirate to generate more employment and educational avenues for Afghan youth domestically, to discourage them from leaving the country," one participant stated.

Another participant, Khairullah, called for a revival of the transparency and meritocracy that characterized past exams. "The exams should recognize individual talent, creativity, and abilities, ensuring fairness and justice in the evaluation process," he suggested. Of the nearly eleven thousand exam participants, more than six thousand registered for the Police Academy, while the remaining four thousand were signed up for the final medical exam. The National Examination Authority has committed to maintaining transparency throughout the examination process, ensuring that the outcomes are free from undue interference.



Violation of women's right to inheritance ongoing in Afghanistan

BAMYAN CITY (Pajhwok): Najiba, 35, a resident of central Bamyan province, strongly criticized the deprivation of women of their right to inheritance and said after her father's death her brothers refused to give her shares in inherited property. According to Islamic Shariah law men and women are entitled to the right of inheritance, but getting this right in some parts of Afghanistan, especially in Bamyan province is difficult. Women who have been deprived of their inheritance rights have urged justice, while local officials also acknowledged that heritage right is supported by Sharia and all should benefited from this right. Najiba has lost her inheritance right in the property left over from her father, right now she lives in Zargaran village on the outskirts of Bamyan City. She told Pajhwok Afghan News: "We are six brothers and two sisters, according to my father's last words all our inherited property belonged to my brothers, me and my sister were deprived of the right to inheritance. My father left behind cash and tens of acres

of agricultural land but after his demise, we two sisters nor married given nothing from our inherited property." She added, our father emphasized in his last words before his death to seek the satisfaction of the sister as well before the division of properties, but their brother paid no attention to this issue. While grappling with economic problems, Najiba wanted her portion in the inherited property, but such demand is considered something against the customs and traditions of the community. She believed asking for her right to the inheritance may damage the family ties between her and the families of her brothers. Najiba is not the only one who has been denied the right to inheritance, Zahra is another resident of Bamyan City grappling with a similar issue, she says that only her brother has taken over all the movable and immovable properties of their father and they denied the rights to inheritance. She clarified that she discussed the issue several times with her brothers but they denied giving her the right in

the inheritance. According to Zahra, no woman in her village has had access to the right of her father's inheritance, and demanding inheritance by a woman, especially after her marriage is considered completely disgraceful and against the customs of the society. One of the local elders Mohammad Hasan admitted that women has the same sort of rights in inheritance as men, but he never implemented his words and included the rights of his daughters in his last words. He said: "It is true that my daughters are entitled to all my property like my sons, but I do not want my land to be given to someone else through my daughters." He added, that his daughters, like his sons, have enjoyed all the privileges of life and there were no difference has been made between sons and daughters, but the division of inheritance to daughters is considered unusual in his opinion. But in the opinion of social experts, some of the false beliefs and unsavory traditions have become a social custom that has prevented the provision of jus-

and women's access to the right of inheritance. A social expert Ali Danishyar says women don't want to follow a legal claim to the right of their inheritance due to bad traditions and false beliefs. Danishyar believed, the institutionalization of unsavory customs and traditions in society has made women unable to claim their heritage right, and most of them skip their right to inheritance. He said from the traditional point of view, the land has the honor and dignity of the paternal family, and the husbands of their daughters, who are considered strangers and are not of their blood, naturally cannot get access to their property through their wives. Meanwhile, ulema believed that before the advent of Islam all social rights of women were violated but in the Islam religion women and men are entitled to equal human rights and their status in the right to inheritance is ensured in the family system. Nematullah Sadiqi, a religious scholar, told Pajhwok according to Islamic Sharia Law, women are entitled to three financial rights alimony,

dowry and inheritance. According to Sadiqi, the dowry, alimony and jihad are the obligations of a man, the women are not obligated in these cases, in some cases the inheritance of the man may be more than the inheritance of the woman, which is considered justice in Islam. He clarified that no one has the right to deprive a woman of her right of inheritance, where some of the families deprive their daughters of the right of inheritance because of the unpleasant customs of the community. He added to ensure justice in society and make it possible for women to get access to their rights in inheritance it is necessary to prevent the spread of false beliefs and unsavory traditions in society by various means, and to give people the necessary awareness according to the instructions of the holy religion of Islam. The local officials also said that the right to have access to inheritance is a legal and Shariah issue which must be implemented especially for women. The Hajj and religious affair director Maulvi Shamsullah Ahmadi told Pajhwok Afghan News that in accor-

dance with the guidance of the Holy Quran and the sayings of the prophet all of the heirs (including women) are entitled to the right of inheritance. Those who deprive women of their inheritance are not aware of the rules of Shariah Law. He added, to spread awareness amongst residents of this Bamyan about heritage rights, a committee consisting of the Hajj and Religious Affairs Department, Appellant Court, Vice and Virtue Department and some religious scholars has recently been established. The committee is tasked to spread awareness about public rights especially women's rights guaranteed by the Islamic Sharia Law. He said if any of the women are deprived of their rights they could lodge complaints to judicial organs to get their problem addressed. The government of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) issued a decree and guided relevant judicial authorities to prevent forced marriages, prevent marriages in Baad and make it possible for women to get access to their right to inheritance.

Hamas lashes out at Abbas's 'unilateral' PM designation

CAIRO (Reuters): The Islamist group Hamas on Friday criticized the "unilateral" designation by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas of an ally and leading business figure as prime minister with a mandate to help reform the Palestinian Authority (PA) and rebuild Gaza.

Mohammad Mustafa's appointment comes after mounting pressure to overhaul the governing body of the occupied Palestinian territories and improve governance in the occupied West Bank where it is based. Hamas said the decision was taken without consulting it despite recently taking part in a meeting in Moscow also attended by Abbas' Fatah movement to end long-time divisions weakening Palestinian political aspirations.

"We express our rejection of continuing this approach that has inflicted and continues to inflict harm on our people and our national cause," Hamas said in a statement. "Making individual decisions and engaging in superficial and empty steps such as forming a new government without national consensus only reinforces a policy of unilateralism and deepens division." At a time of war with Israel, Palestinians needed a unified leadership preparing for free democratic elections involving all components of their society, it added.

In the West Bank, Fatah fired back at Hamas' criticism of Abbas, blaming it for what had befallen Gaza since it unilaterally carried out "the Oct. 7 adventure." "Has Hamas consulted the Palestinian leadership as it is negotiating with Israel now and offering the concessions, in a bid to secure guarantees of its leaders' personal safety in return?" said the Fatah statement. As president, Abbas remains by far the most powerful figure in the Palestinian Authority, but the appointment of a new government showed willingness to meet international demands for change in the administration.

Mustafa, who helped organize the reconstruction of Gaza following a previous conflict, was assigned to lead the relief and rebuilding of the area, which has been shattered by more than five months of war, and reform Palestinian Authority institutions, according to the designation letter. He replaces former Prime Minister Mohammed Shatah who, along with his government, resigned in February.

Arab and international efforts have so far failed to reconcile Hamas and Fatah, which makes up the backbone of the PA, since the Hamas 2007 take over of Gaza, a move that reduced Abbas's authority to the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Palestinians want both territories as the core of a future independent state. Hamas said any attempt to exclude it from the political scene after the war was "delusional."

In a recent warning, a security official told a Hamas-linked news website that attempts by clans or community leaders to cooperate with Israel's plans to administer Gaza would be seen as "treason" and met with an "iron fist." But the group denied media reports it killed some local clan leaders in recent days for meddling with aid distribution.

AFP adds: Senior figures from Hamas and Yemen's Houthi rebels held a rare meeting to discuss coordinating their actions against Israel, Palestinian factional sources told AFP on Friday. Hamas and the Houthis belong to the "axis of resistance," a collection of Iran-backed movements hostile to Israel and the United States that also includes Lebanon's Hezbollah and Iraqi militias.

The Houthis have attacked Red Sea shipping for months since the Israel-Hamas war broke out on October 7, saying they are targeting Israeli-linked vessels in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza. According to sources from Hamas and Islamic Jihad, leaders from the two Palestinian Islamist groups, as well as the Marxist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, held an "important meeting" with Houthi representatives last week.

The groups discussed "mechanisms to coordinate their actions of resistance" for the "next stage" of the war in Gaza, the sources said without identifying where the meeting took place. The Palestinian groups and the Houthis also talked about a possible Israeli ground assault into southern Gaza's Rafah, said the sources, who requested anonymity.

According to the United Nations, around 1.5 million people are crowded into and around Rafah, Hamas's last stronghold in Gaza, most of whom are displaced and crammed against the Egyptian border in dire living conditions. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said on Friday he had approved the military's plan for an operation in Rafah.

Bahrain's Commander meets COAS

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: General Shaikh Mohamed bin Isa bin Salman Al-Khalifa, Commander of the National Guard of the Kingdom of Bahrain called on General Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at General Head Quarters (GHQ).

According to the Inter-Services Public relations (ISPR), the meeting focused on strengthening bilateral military cooperation. Both leaders discussed matters of mutual interest including regional security dynamics, counterterrorism efforts and training exchanges. COAS said that Pakistan values its traditionally strong defence, diplomatic and economic relations with Kingdom of Bahrain and underscored Pakistan's commitment to enhancing military ties with Bahrain.

LPG price surges

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) has skyrocketed by Rs 30 per kilogram, raising concerns and drawing criticism from industry leaders.

Irfan Khokhar, Chairman of the LPG Association, slammed the hike, alleging it is a result of collusion between LPG quota holders and importers.

He pointed out that this is the third unjustified increase, implemented without official notification from the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA). According to Khokhar, the official price of LPG currently stands at Rs 257 per kg. However, the market reality paints a different picture.



QUETTA: ANP leader Asgher Khan Achakzai submitting Aimal Wali Khan nomination papers for Senate election.

India to hold world's biggest election on April 19

NEW DELHI (Reuters): India will begin voting in phases starting April 19 to elect a new parliament, the country's election authority said on Saturday, the world's largest election in which nearly one billion people are eligible to cast ballots.

The election pits two-term strongman Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his regional allies against a bickering alliance of two dozen opposition parties, with surveys suggesting a comfortable win for Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata party (BJP). A victory would make Modi, 73, only the second prime minister after Jawaharlal Nehru, India's independence hero and its first prime minister, to win a third straight term.

Modi and his party have been in campaign mode for months before the dates for

the vote were announced. The prime minister has been flying around the country almost every day, inaugurating new projects, making announcements, taking part in religious events, and addressing public and private meetings. In his speeches, Modi has been showcasing economic growth during his two terms which has resulted in India becoming the fastest-growing major economy in the world at present, investment in infrastructure as well as welfare programmes for the poor.

A main talking point has also been his party's agenda for Hindu reawakening, including the inauguration of a grand temple to Lord Ram on the site of a destroyed mosque. Modi has set a target of 370 seats for BJP and 400-plus for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) it heads in

the 543-member lower house of parliament, up from the 303 the BJP won and more than the 350 the NDA won in 2019.

The 2019 performance was the best ever for the party which was formed in 1980. Modi will be challenged by an alliance of some two dozen opposition parties led by the main opposition Congress party called INDIA or the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance.

The alliance formed last year has, however, been struggling to stay united and share seats amicably to be able to put up a one-to-one fight against BJP. Congress, which has ruled India for 54 of its 76 years since independence from Britain, has sunk to record lows after Modi swept to power and is struggling to revive support.

PTI founder okays candidates for Senate polls

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: The PTI founder has okayed party's candidates for the Senate elections scheduled to take place on April 2.

The incarcerated PTI founder okayed the names of Murad Saeed, Faisal Javed, Mirza Muhammad Afridi, Irfan Saleem, Khuram Zeeshan and Azhar Mashwani from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Senate general seats.

Azam Swati and Irshad Hussain will be PTI's candidates for Senate technocrat seats from KP, while Ayesha Banu and Rubina Naz will be candidates for Senate reserved seats.

From Punjab, PTI founder okayed the names of Hamid Khan and Zulfi Bukhari as the party's candidates for general seats. Dr Yasmin Rashid and Sanam Javed will be the party's candidates for technocrat and women-reserved seats from Punjab, respectively.



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