



New academic year starts countrywide

KABUL: The Ministry of Education of the Islamic Emirate in a ceremony on Tuesday, under the theme of "Quality Education, Bright Future" inaugurated the new academic year by ringing the bell at Amani High School in the capital Kabul. The ceremony was participated by a number of the ministry officials and other high ranking government authorities as well as a number of teachers and students. In the ceremony, Deputy Human Resources of the Ministry of Education, Mawlawi Sayed Ahmad Shahidkhil said that the country's education system had been developing and efforts were underway to improve the educational curriculum and resolve the challenges available.

"Naturally, Afghans are interested in education and throughout the history known Afghan scientists and scholars such as

Abu Rayhan Muhammad Al-Biruni, Ibn-e-Sina Balkhi, Imam Fakhraddin Razi, Imam Abu Hanifa, Syed Jamaluddin Afghan emerged and served the world, said Shahidkhil. **The Kabul Times**



57 ancient coins handed over to Baghlan National Museum



KABUL: Local officials in Baghlan province handed over 57 ancient coins to the National Museum of Afghanistan, the provincial information and culture director said Wednesday.

Asadullah Mustafa Hashemi,

the director of Baghlan's department of information and culture, said the residents from the Jelga Aram area found these relics while constructing a road.

"They have a history dating back more than two thousand

years, and this investigation is not final, there will be more investigations. They have been handed over to the Department of Information and Culture," Hashemi noted.

The acting director of the Na-

tional Museum, Mohammad Zubair Ebadi, said that he is committed to the protection of historical monuments and that 50 cases of smuggling have been prevented in the last month.

"The National Museum has been able to stop a significant number of relics from being smuggled through the customs and airport," Ebadi said.

However, some visitors to the national museum urged the Islamic Emirate to prevent the smuggling of historical items.

"We have numerous relics in the provinces of our nation, they should bring them to the show and set up the display so that everyone can visit and see," said Mohammad Omar, a resident of Kabul.

"The smuggling of the relics from our country should be stopped so that they are not sold under the name of other countries," said Salahuddin Zafarkhil, a resident of Kabul.

Over 100,000 ancient relics from the National Museum were stolen and smuggled during the decades of war in the country, and only 20% of them have been returned. **The Kabul Times**

Six tourist boats handed over to Nuristan officials

PAROON: Six boats used for tourist purposes have been handed over to the Nuristan provincial authorities, the provincial Information and Culture Department said Wednesday.

The boats which are provided by the Afghan Tour Company, have been said to be used in the dam for the tourists' entertainment, according to a statement from the directorate.

Mawlawi Samiul Haq Haqbayan the provincial Information and Culture director said that Nuristan is a naturally beautiful province in the east of the country, where thousands of tourists visit every year for sightseeing and entertainment and to see the



beautiful landscapes of the province.

They place boats from one mountain to another and over the power dam in the province where, the work is about to begin, according to Haqbayan with the facilities for tourists, huge revenue will be collected and deposited in the government account.

This is to be noted that Nuristan was announced National Park was declared but no attention was paid to it in the previous regime. "If the investment is successful, a large number of tourists will visit the province," said the statement.

The Kabul Times

300 cadets join army after training completion in Badakhshan

FAIZABAD: The Ministry of National Defense of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) has said that 300 army cadets have graduated after receiving 3 months vocational, military and religious trainings at 1st brigade of 219 Omer-e-Salis division, the other day.

Chief of Army Staff Qari Fasihuddin Fitrat, Deputy of Chief

Army Staff Haji Mali Khan and Badakhshan provincial governor Mawlawi Amanuddin Mansoori and some military and local officials have attended the graduation ceremony held at the 1st brigade of 219 Omer-e-Salis division in the province.

Chief of Army Staff asked the cadets not to spare any efforts to protect the Islamic values and ter-

ritorial integrity of the country.

This is to be noted that thousands of soldiers and cadets have graduated from various military training centers in the country over the past one year.

The cadets pledged and show full preparation to serve the people and the country under any situation and wherever they are deployed. **The Kabul Time**



ANSA strengthen infrastructures in country

KABUL: Construction materials quality assurance laboratories of the Afghanistan National Standards Authority (ANSA) have strengthened and standardized the country's reconstruction and infrastructures, a statement from the administration said Wednesday.

The ANSA's construction materials quality assurance laboratories are one of the most advanced and modern at the regional

level, which practically tests and control the quality of construction materials in Kabul, Balkh, Herat and Nangarhar provinces, the statement said.

The labs are equipped with professional technicians and machineries and are operating in 6 sectors, the statement further added. More than 500 million metric tons of construction materials have been tested and approved in 9 months of 1401 solar years.

The administration plans to strengthen and create a national quality infrastructure, improve the quality of commodities, products and service processes, establish consumption norms for effective use of national and economic resources, ensure the safety and security of consumers and encouragement of private sector to contribute conducting in standardization processes.

The Kabul Times

Earthquake kills 11 in Pakistan, Afghanistan

KABUL: A magnitude 6.5 earthquake rattled some parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan, killing at least 11 in both neighboring countries on Tuesday.

The quake sent thousands of panicked residents fleeing from homes and offices and frightening people in remote villages, according to a report from the Associated Press.

At least nine people died in Pakistan and two in Afghanistan, the related officials Wednesday.

More than 200 people were brought to hospitals in the Swat valley and elsewhere in the region of Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in a state of shock, Bilal Faizi, a spokesman for Pakistan's emergency services told The

Associated Press.

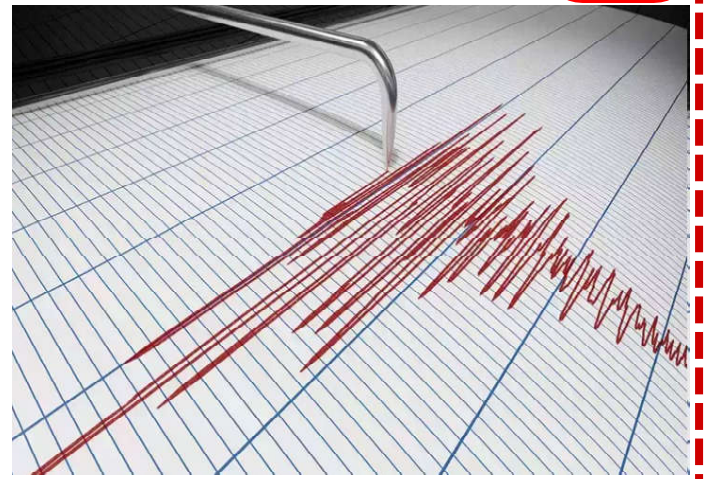
"These terrified people collapsed, and some of them collapsed because of the shock of the earthquake," he said. Faizi said most were later discharged from the hospital.

Faizi and other officials said nine people were killed

when roofs collapsed in various parts of northwestern Pakistan.

Dozens of others were injured in the quake, which was centered in Afghanistan and also felt in bordering Tajikistan.

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Food for thought

“Hijab has direct link to morality of individuals in society.”

Security of worship places a must, as people observing Ramadan

Although, the security forces of the country have eliminated hideouts and training centers of the armed oppositions including Daesh and other illegal armed groups in different parts of the country, some remnant of the vicious groups are still a threat to the security of the people, especially during the fasting days, when they are mostly in the worship places.

In some provinces of the country, the security forces of the Islamic Emirate succeeded to eliminate hideouts of insurgents and the vicious Daesh outfit militants who have been indiscriminately launching attacks and explosions on the people.

In Arzan Qimat, an outskirt of the capital, at least three armed men fighting for the so-called Islamic State outfit, have been killed and their arms and weapons seized during a series of search operation by the Islamic Emirate security forces.

The Daesh militants often make landmines and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) to target people, with the security forces of the Islamic Emirate managing to seize an amount of their arms and weapons, during the operation.

In the country's northern Balkh province, the enemy of security of the people, also, launched attack, resulting the martyrdom of a number of innocent civilians. The fighters were not Afghan nationals, but those have reportedly been harbored, trained outside the country and sent to disturb security of the people in Afghanistan.

This is undeniable that the militants had planned to attack mosques and other sacred places during the holy month of Ramadan, but faced firm resistance from the country's security forces and their plots went in vain.

During a prayer ceremony, dozens of worshippers have been killed or wounded after a militant affiliated with the Daesh group, blew his explosive packed vest inside a mosque few weeks ago. This means that no place and no one are safe from their threat as they are interested in killing people and destroying public facilities.

The enemies of peace and security of the people recognize no border. They launch unbiased attacks on the people and innocent children, women and elderly. They are against a permanent peace and do not want the people to live in peace, but only to go with their vicious plans ahead, even if it results in the death of ordinary people.

Since the Muslim people are observing fast and they have to work on daily basis to support their families and the religious places will be full of fasting people, the security forces should be vigilant.

This is the responsibility of the country's security forces, particularly, personnel of the General Directorate of Security (GDI) to foil any plots of the enemy and help the nation observe fast during the holy month of Ramadan peacefully.

The people should also cooperate with the security forces to identify the hideouts of the enemy and foil any of their plots.

IEA to institutionalize domestic consumption & production



A three-day expo titled “Premier Services of National Expo” was opened in Kabul on Tuesday in support of domestic products. More than 250 female and male entrepreneurs showcased their products at the expo. According to officials of the Islamic Emirate participating at the expo, the Islamic Emirate (IEA) has provided more facilities for investors and traders in the country.

“In consideration that institutionalization of domestic consumption and domestic production in the top working priorities of the Islamic Emirate, it can be a positive initiative towards self-sufficiency of Afghanistan,” said Abdul Latif Nazari, deputy minister of economy.

He stressed that the Islamic Emirate was fully supporting national traders and investors ad working to further support the domestic products.

Meanwhile, deputy minister

of commerce and industry Qutratullah Jamal said that his ministry was working to establish exporting markets in all zones of the country so that they knew about what were exported from the zone to foreign countries.

“The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has provided trade facilities for traders to invest in the country,” Jamal said, adding that the Islamic Emirate is supporting the traders and has provided all necessary facilities to that they work inside the country.

In opening ceremony of the expo, Kabul governor Mohammad Qasim Khalid considered the country's domestic products as an honor for Afghans, asking the people to use domestic products as each country's people use their home-made products.

According to the country's ministry of commerce and industry, security has improved unprec-

edentedly in the country; therefore, there's a good chance for the traders and investors to invest in the country.

Deputy minister of commerce and industry also said that it would be good for domestic companies to increase their products so that they could also export to foreign countries.

A number of Afghan entrepreneurs showcasing their products at the expo considered launching such expos as good for marketing their products.

“I hope such national and international expos are held in future so that we can find market for our products and reach contracts with big companies,” said Shamsia Danesh, a female trader.

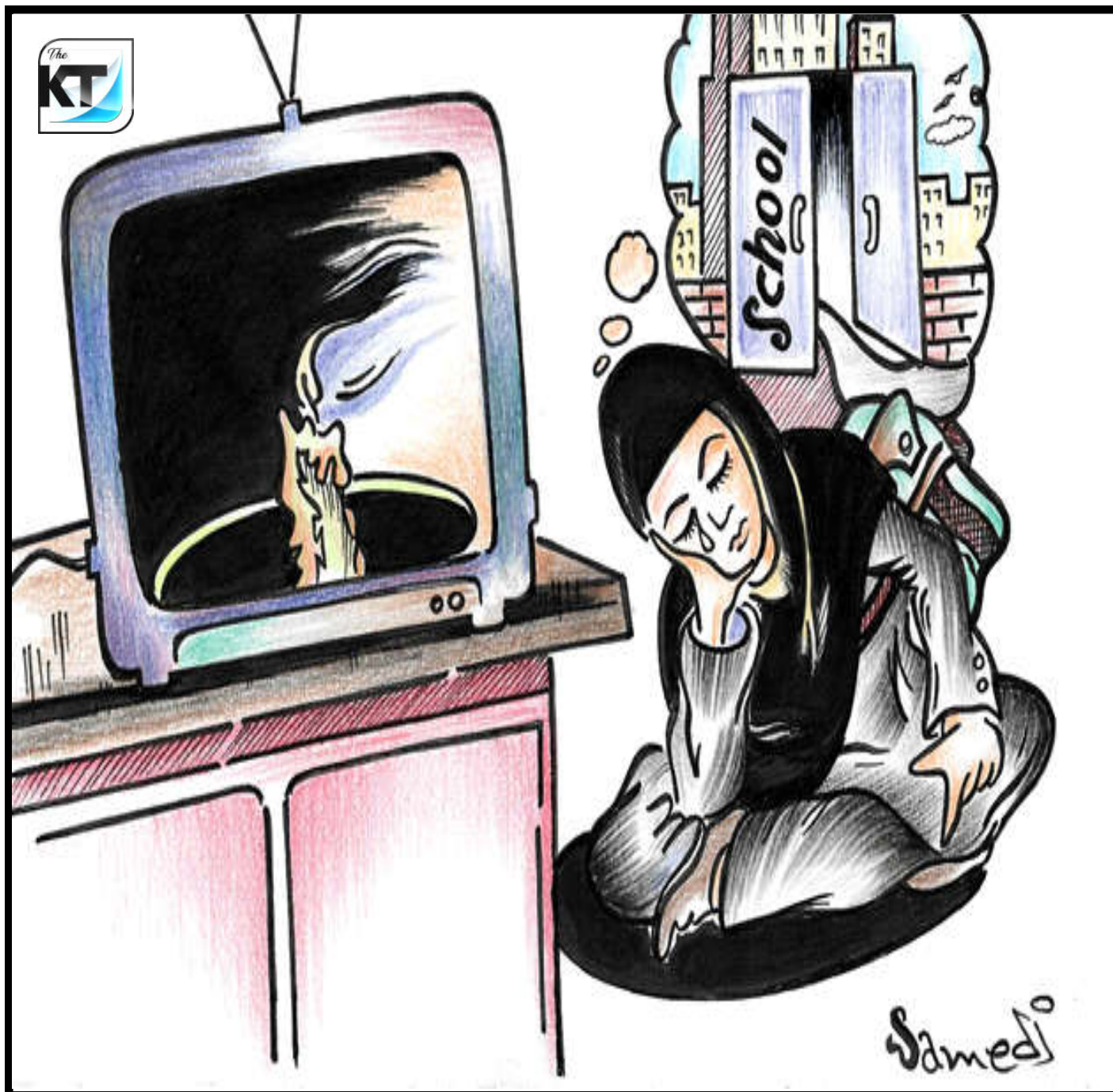
She said that women entrepreneurs could make use of the current opportunity and find good market for their products if the Islamic Emirate prove more ground for women entrepreneurs

to work and invest in the country, adding that the IEA should consider a proper location for women to sell their products and help go for foreign market to sell our products.

According to Shamsia, most Afghan women are engaged in producing handicrafts and carpet weaving is the only industry in which the majority of carpet weavers are women, and the Afghan carpets and handicrafts that are mostly produced with hand by women is of great value in the world and marketing in this area is good and the ministry of commerce and industry is fully supporting this sector.

In the past 10 months, nearly dozens of expos have been held inside and outside of the country, and holding such expos is aimed to support the domestic products and find good markets for the Afghan-made products.

Shukria Kohistani



Afghanistan Cricket Board's Selection Committee has named a 17-member National squad for the home three-match T20I series against Pakistan, which will be played from 24 to 27 March in Sharjah of the United Arab Emirates.

Tall left-handed opener Sediqullah Atal has been added to the squad.

He could be a potential debutant for Afghanistan in the series. In addition, senior all-rounder Mohammad Nabi, who led Afghanistan at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup last year, has been recalled to the squad.

Nijat Masoud and Zahir Khan who were part of the Afghanistan squad during the UAE tour last month have been kept as reserves, whereas Rahmat Shah and Hazratullah Zazai have been dropped from the squad.

The country's cricket board's chief executive Naseeb Khan has said that the national team has been working hard in training camp and selectors have selected the best available players for the series.

"I am confident that our team will perform at their best and make our nation proud. We wish our team the best of luck for the series and hope to see them emerge victorious," Nasib said.

"In addition, we look forward to an exciting competition between two great teams. Both nations have passionate fans who support their teams with enthusiasm and pride.

As neighbors, we have a special bond and we hope to showcase not only our cricketing skills but also the spirit of friendship and sportsmanship.

We wish both teams the best of luck and hope that cricket fans around the world will enjoy the games." He added.

Afghanistan Squad: Rashid Khan (C), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (WK), Ibrahim Zadran, Usman Ghani, Sediqullah Atal, Najibullah Zadran, Afsar Zazai, Karim Janat, Mohammad Nabi, Azmatullah Omarzai, Gulbadin Naib, Sharafuddin Ashraf, Noor Ahmad, Mujeeb Ur Rehman, Fareed Ahmad, Fazal Haq Farooqi and Naveen Ul Haq.

Reserve players include Nangyal Kharoti, Zahir Khan and Nijat Masoud.

According to the series schedule, the first T20I will be held on 24th March, the second T20I match will be held on 26th and the third T20I match will be held on 27th March accordingly in Sharjah Cricket Stadium of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The Kabul Times



Tree plantation & horticulture in the light of science & Quran

Part III

Environmental value:

3. Prevention from landsliding, floods & avalanches:

The branches of the trees cut down the speech of the wind, while the plants' roots preserve the soil and prevent it from erosion. Due to stillness air inside the forest, evaporation is very small and the risk of soil drying, which is one of the important conditions for starting to erosion, is eliminated.

The growth of trees help the soil increase its stability as the trees' roots act like pillars by sinking into the soil and by creating a dense network of roots prevent from sliding and collapsing. By absorbing the snow water and directing it to their organs, the trees slow down the rapid flows of

floods. Also, the level of saplings' organs reduces the speed of floods by three folds and reduces and controls the floods' flowing systems.

Trees also prevent their accumulation by absorbing, maintaining and increasing the melting time of snow on their leaves and preventing the movement of huge masses of snow in the form of avalanches.

4. Oxygen and phytoncide production:

The oxygen balance of the earth, which provides living conditions for humans, is provided through the oxygen production of plants, especially trees and saplings. Decreasing the green cover of land and forests not only disrupts the oxygen balance of the

earth, but also causes the accumulation of carbon dioxide and aggravates the risk of large-scale climate change.

Besides, about 60% of the consumed oxygen is provided by green plants and trees; therefore, air conditioning and providing oxygen needed by living things is one of the important benefits of forests and green environment.

Also, studies by environment experts show that saplings such as walnuts, pine, oak, eucalyptus, willow, maple, and other relevant plants produce a substance called phytoncide in the open air, which is harmful to many single-celled bacteria and fungi and some of it has a lethal effect on small insects.

In the meantime, the production of such substances by trees

and saplings has a pleasing effect on humans.

5. Reduction in sound pollution:

The quality of sound reduction in different saplings and trees varies according to their leaf size, branch density, tree type and height. The vibration of sound waves is absorbed by the leaves and branches of saplings and trees, and even the trees are effective in spreading and breaking sounds. Plants also cause refraction and distortion of sound, which is due to the flexibility and smoothness of their branches. By planting green belts between sound sources and residential areas, it is possible to prevent the spread of polluted sounds.

Abo Elyas Jahadwal

Domestic products' exhibition held in Kabul



A spring exhibition was held on the first day of the 1402 'solar' year at the Darul Aman Palace in Kabul, the other day.

The organizer of the exhibition said that more than 250 traders participated in the exhibition and the purpose of this exhibition is to support domestic products.

Officials of the Islamic Emirate who participated in the exhibition said that the government will provide more facilities to traders for their investment.

"Domestic consumption and domestic production are at the top of the government's agenda, and

it's a positive step for progress in Afghanistan," said Abdul Latif Nazari, Deputy Minister of Economy.

"In the country's zones, we will create export centers and we will display every zone's export," Said Quadrat Ullah Jamal, deputy of the Industry and Commerce Ministry.

"Afghanistan's products are the pride of Afghans," said Mohammad Khalid, Kabul's governor.

Some participants said that holding such exhibitions are beneficial in marketing domestic prod-

ucts.

"We hope that holding such a national and international exhibition for men and women will bring progress in our work and allow us to meet big companies and sign contracts," said Benifsha Zafari, a trader.

In the past month, several domestic products exhibitions were held inside and outside Afghanistan, and the purpose of these exhibitions is to support domestic producers and the marketing of domestic products.

Desk of Reporters

Mullah Badri appointed as Governor of Da Afghanistan Bank

Mullah Badri was named as the acting Minister of Finance and Haji Mohammad Idris as chief of the country's central bank in a cabinet meeting of the 1400 solar year.

KABUL: Mullah Hedayatullah Badri was appointed as governor of Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB), the country's central bank on Wednesday, the Islamic Emirate Spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said.

"Former Acting Minister of Finance Mulla Hedayatullah Badri has been appointed as chief of the Da Afghanistan Bank," Mujahid said on his official twitter page.

Mullah Badri was named as the acting Minister of Finance and Haji Mohammad Idris as chief of the country's central bank in a cabinet meeting of the 1400 solar year.

The ex-acting finance minister has recently been appointed as the Chief of the DAB, part of the IEA's ordinary plans to replacement and appointment process to bring reforms in the government institutions.

The Kabul Times



	USD		GBP		INR		PKR		EUR		IRR		AED
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87.15		107.50		1080		301		94.00		1.90		24.40	

We are hiring! Translator

The Kabul Times, the state-run English newspaper, is looking for a translator in Kabul.

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Translate news reports & articles from Dari & Pashto into English.
- Translate exclusive interviews from Dari & Pashto into English.
- Other translation-related tasks instructed by The Kabul Times Editor in Chief

Job Requirements:

Education

- High school diploma (12th class) essential
- University degree (faculty of English literature) desirable
- Proficient use of MS Office (Word, Excel, Outlook) essential

Experience

- Three-year experience in related field
- Other experience in similar position desirable

Language

Dari/Pashto: oral and written essential

English: oral and written essential

The interested candidates should submit their applications before Thursday March 23rd at 4 pm with the CV, motivation letter, including references details and with supporting documents (certificates, diplomas etc.) to The Kabul Times via:

- E-mail: timesthekabul@gmail.com

- In a sealed envelope at The Kabul Times, Ministry of Information and Culture, opposite to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs building.
The Kabul Times office, Kabul, Afghanistan

Earthquake kills 11 in...

From P1

The earthquake triggered landslides in some of the mountainous areas, disrupting traffic.

The nine people who died in northwest Pakistan included five men, two women and two children.

Taimoor Khan, a spokesman for the provincial disaster management authority in the northwest, said at least 19 mud-brick homes collapsed in remote areas. "We are still collecting data about the damages," he said. On Wednesday the powerful tremors sent many people fleeing their homes and offices in Pakistan's capital of Islamabad, some reciting verses from the Quran, Islam's holy book. Media reports suggested cracks had appeared in some apartment buildings in the city.

In Afghanistan, Sharafat Zaman Amar, Taliban's appointed spokesman for the public health ministry said, so far at least two people died and around 20 others were injured in the earthquake in Afghanistan.

Zaman Amar said "Unfortunately, there could be more casualties as the quake was so

powerful, in most parts of the country" all hospitals and health facilities are ready to save lives of people, he added.

The scene was repeated in Kabul and other parts of Afghanistan.

"The quake was so strong and terrifying, we thought houses are collapsing on us, people were all shouting and were shocked," said Shafiqullah Azimi, a Kabul resident.

Aziz Ahmad, 45, another Kabul resident, said "In my life this was first time I have experienced such powerful quake, everyone was terrified," He added he and all his neighbors stayed out of their homes for hours, afraid of aftershocks. "We couldn't dare to get back homes."

The U.S. Geological Survey said the epicenter of the magnitude 6.5 quake was 40 kilometers (25 miles) south-south-east of Jurm in Afghanistan's mountainous Hindukush region, bordering Pakistan and Tajikistan. The quake struck 188 kilometers (116 miles) deep below the Earth's surface, causing it to be felt over a wide area. **The Kabul Times**

Yemeni YouTubers sentenced to prison after criticising Houthis

A court in Yemen's Houthi-held capital has sentenced three YouTubers to prison terms ranging from six months to three years after they published videos alleging abuses by the Iran-aligned fighters.

According to their lawyer, Waddah Qutaish, the three YouTubers, along with another man, were convicted on Tuesday of inciting chaos, disrupting public peace and insulting the Houthis.

They were detained in Sanaa in December and January on charges stemming from videos they had posed on social media last year criticising the Houthis over alleged corruption and their handling of the economy.

The rebels control Sanaa and most of northern Yemen. The YouTubers' arrest and trial are part of the Houthis' crackdown on dissent.

Critics are often accused, often with little evidence, of working for the Saudi-led coalition, which has been battling the Houthis in Yemen's civil war since 2015 in an effort to restore the internationally recognised government to power.

The Houthis seized control of Sanaa, the capital of Yemen, in 2014, and have ruled it, along with much of northwestern Yemen, since.

Saudi Arabia, UAE announce Ramadan to begin on Thursday

The Ramadan crescent moon was not sighted in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday evening, meaning the holy month will officially begin on Thursday instead of Wednesday.

Muslims follow a lunar calendar consisting of 12 months in a year of 354 or 355 days. Sighting a crescent moon heralds the start of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar.

Ramadan in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will also begin on Thursday, state press agency WAM reported on Tuesday.

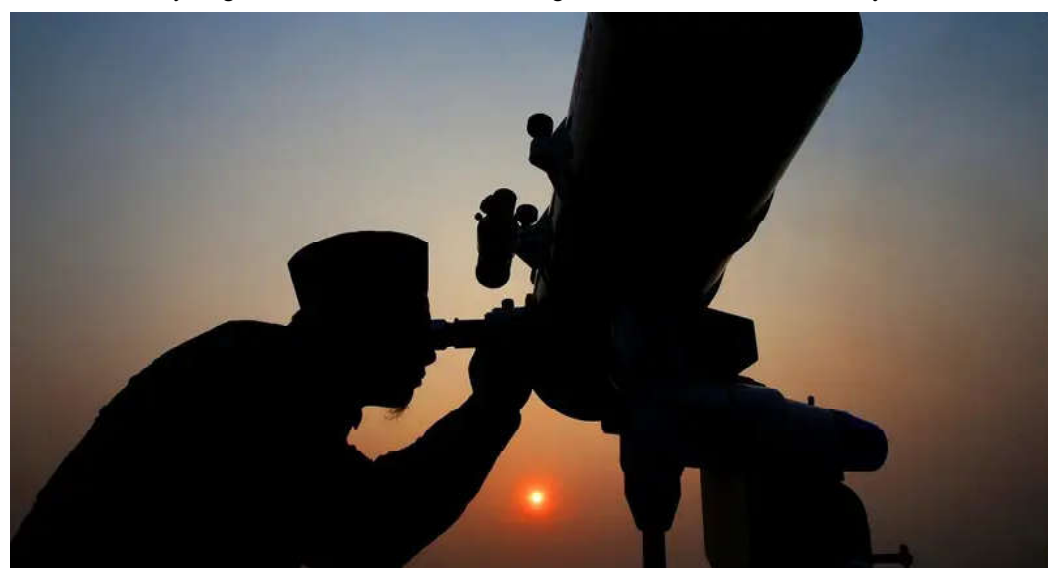
The starting date of the dawn-dusk fasting month is determined by both lunar calculations and physical sightings of a new moon.

Ramadan is observed by more than 1.8 billion Muslims worldwide and is considered a month of fasting and spirituality. It is believed to be the month when the Quran was revealed to the Prophet Mohammed.

Fasting during Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam and is mandatory for all healthy Muslims. However, young children,

sick individuals, travelers, and women who are pregnant, nursing, or menstruating are exempt.

Muslims have followed the tradition of looking for the crescent moon for thousands of years to determine the start of Ramadan as well as the two major holidays in Islam, Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha. **alarabiya**



Algerian president says Morocco ties reach 'point of no return'

Algeria's relations with Morocco have reached "the point of no return", according to Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, the latest evidence of the continued poor relationship between the two countries, which broke off relations in 2021.

Speaking to Al Jazeera in an interview on Tuesday, Tebboune said that while he regretted the deteriorating relations between Algeria and its neighbour, he blamed Morocco for the current state of affairs.

"We have practically reached the point of no return," said Tebboune, who became president in 2019 after the resignation of long-time leader Abdelaziz Bouteflika. "Our position is a response [to Morocco's actions], we were never the ones who started [the problem]."

The North African countries have been locked in a bitter rivalry for decades over the disputed territory of Western Sahara. Algeria backs the armed Polisario movement that seeks independence for Western Sahara, a territory Rabat claims as its own.

The Polisario separatists took up arms in the 1970s and have continued to demand an independence referendum on the basis of a 1991 deal that included a ceasefire.

Algerian foreign minister Ramtane Lamamra announced the severing of diplomatic relations in August 2021, following growing tensions over the dispute.

Normalisation with Israel In addition to differences over Western Sahara, Algeria and Morocco diverge in their position towards Israel.

In his interview, Tebboune emphasised his country's support for Palestine and said that Algeria viewed the issue as akin to a domestic issue.

Algeria does not recognise Israel, while Morocco and Israel agreed to normalise relations in a deal brokered with the help of the United States in December 2020.

As part of the agreement, then-US President Donald Trump agreed to recognise Morocco's sovereignty over Western Sahara. Morocco has since demanded that Israel take that step before Rabat opens an embassy in Tel Aviv.

Tebboune also turned his ire towards Spain in the interview, which he accused of being biased towards Morocco. **aljazeera**



London's Piccadilly lights up with Ramadan decorations for first time ever

London's famous Piccadilly Circus lit up with Ramadan decorations for the first time ever ahead of the Islamic holy month.

The city's West End sparked with 30,000 new lights as Muslims around the world prepared to fast for an entire month starting from March 23.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan switched on the lights on Tuesday evening in honor of the 1.28 million Muslims who live in the city.

A "Happy Ramadan" LED sign was hung on Coventry Street, which links Leicester Square – the heart of West End London – with Piccadilly.

Ramadan is an essential pillar of Islam and is the month-long period when Muslims refrain from eating and drinking from sunrise to sunset. The ritual is meant to encourage everyone to focus on their spirituality, patience, and charity.

Across London, an open Iftar

– the meal with which Muslims break their fast at sunset – will be organized at the Victoria and Albert Museum in south Kensington, according to local media reports. A temporary mosque and Ramadan pavilion have also been set up for Muslims and non-Muslims to enjoy. Football giant Chelsea is also set to host an Iftar at their stadium in Stamford Bridge on March 26 – the first time a Premier Club has done so. **alarabiya**

