



Cheema, Monis discuss Punjab CM election

The Business

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Shehbaz becomes PM by democratic style: Shazia



PPP nominates Makhdoom for Punjab governor

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has nominated its leader Makhdoom Ahmed Mehmood as Punjab governor, sources said Friday, as the coalition government's cabinet in the Centre will reportedly be finalised this week.

Sources further said that the PPP leadership has informed Mehmood — who has experience being Punjab's governor previously — of the decision. Mehmood, who was earlier part of PML-F, decided to part ways with the party after then-president Asif Ali Zardari appointed him as Punjab governor in December 2012 — and he served till June 2013.

Newly elected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif — who was sworn in on

April 11 — is yet to form his federal cabinet and appoint governors in the four provinces — Punjab, KP, Sindh, and Balochistan. But sources have said that MQM-P will get the governorship of Sindh, PPP Punjab, JUI-F KP, and BNP-M Balochistan.

Raja Ashraf's papers for Speaker submitted
PPP leader and former prime minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf's nomination papers for the National Assembly speaker's slot have been submitted as he seeks to assume the office that fell vacant during last week's political escalation.

Since no other NA member has submitted their nomination papers and the deadline has ended, NA Secretariat sources said the PPP leader has a high chance of getting elected to the office.



KARACHI: Workers busy in their work as the preparation at its peak at the Bagh-e-Jinnah Ground for the upcoming public gathering of the Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf.

■ We try to stand on our feet, seeks report on FBR tax revenue

Imran Khan sold Toshakhana gifts worth Rs140m: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reportedly said Thursday he can confirm that his predecessor, PTI Chairman Imran Khan, took gifts from the Toshakhana and sold them in Dubai. "Imran Khan sold these gifts for Rs140 million in Dubai," PM Shehbaz was reported as telling journalists during an iftar he hosted a day earlier in the federal capital. The premier was said to have shared that the expensive gifts that former prime minister Imran Khan traded for money included diamond jewellery sets, bracelets and wrist watches. PM Shehbaz said that he also received a watch once, but deposited it to the Toshakhana, adding that he "does not need to hide anything".

The premier's revelation came in response to a question regarding a petition seeking the details of the Toshakhana that had been filed in the Islamabad High Court on which then PM Imran Khan had commented that the details cannot be revealed as per the Official Secrets Act, 1923. According to the law, whenever a head of state receives a gift from another state or country, they have to give it in to the Toshakhana. If they wish to keep the gift, they have to pay an amount equal to its value which is decided through an auction. These gifts either remain deposited in the Toshakhana or can be auctioned and the money acquired through it is to be

deposited to the national treasury. PM Shehbaz Sharif on Friday asked the Chairman of Federal Board of Revenue Dr Muhammad Ashfaq to submit a report on the tax revenue. During a meeting with the prime minister, the FBR chairman briefed the prime minister about the current tax collection. He also apprised the prime minister of the overall performance of the FBR.

Another report adds: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday thanked King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for their felicitations on his assumption of the office of the Premier.

In a tweet, the Prime Minister said the relations between Pakistan and Saudi were "special and marked by exceptional trust." "I resolve to work closely to realize our shared vision of strategic partnership," Shehbaz Sharif said.

Moreover, Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif said on Friday that, we try to stand on our own feet. He said Langar Khanas cannot be operated. Government job is to provide job, not to operate Langar Khanas, said Shehbaz.

While meeting senior journalists, Shehbaz Sharif said that Party offered Pervaiz Elahi for Chief Ministership and he accepted but later on he fled and then Party has no option but Hamza Shehbaz. "I am not interested to make my son CM but it Party decision" he said.

Shehbaz alleged Imran for selling 140 million toshakhana gifts in Dubai. He also told that cabinet will be established in two days. He said that, he can confirm that Imran got Precious diamond jewelry, Bracelet, watches, and sets from Toshakhana and sold in Dubai for 140 million. He told that, officers of energy ministry replied me on question about fuel of electric factories that they are unable to decide due to Nab's fear.

He also claimed that health card was Nawaz Sharif Project and if PML-N have government in 2018, they have insured all the country for health card.

Shehbaz shows gratitude to Amir of Qatar for standing by Pakistan
PM Shehbaz Sharif has expressed gratitude to the Amir of Qatar for always standing by Pakistan and referred to the help extended by his country in overcoming energy crisis in Pakistan.

In a tweet, he said Pakistan concluded an agreement for the procurement of LNG from Qatar in 2016 on reasonable and competitive price compared to the market. He said this agreement was helpful in overcoming energy crisis. After several days of consultation, the government is expected to reach a decision over the final names for the federal cabinet tonight (Friday) as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is all set to host the PDM leadership for an iftar dinner at PM House, citing sources. —Agencies

PM rejects proposal to hike petrol price

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has rejected the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority's (OGRA) proposal to hike the prices of petroleum products in the country.

According to governmental sources, there will be no change in the price of petroleum products as of now, adding that the premier has maintained that the government will bear the burden of the hike in the prices of petroleum products instead of shifting it to the masses. An official announcement regarding the decision will be made soon, sources said. Earlier, the OGRA had sent a proposal to the Finance Division to increase the price of petrol by Rs21.50 and diesel by Rs51.30 (based on existing/current petroleum levy and GST).

On February 28, former prime minister Imran Khan announced a reduction of Rs10 per litre in petrol and diesel prices and a price freeze till the announcement of the budget for 2022-23. According to the proposal, the OGRA had suggested an increase of Rs83.50 per litre of petrol and Rs119.88 per litre of diesel (based on the federal government's advised petroleum levy of Rs30 and 17% GST). It is worth mentioning that currently, the petrol price in Pakistan is Rs149.86 while diesel is available at Rs144.15, with zero percent levy and GST.

Electricity price increases Rs 4.85 per unit

ISLAMABAD: Newly elected Shehbaz government on Friday has increased electricity price 4.85 per unit. This increase in electricity price is for fuel adjustment.

The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority has issued the notification of new prices. New price are applicable to all the consumers except Karachi. Prices of electricity increased for this month. —Online

Dollar slips to Rs181.58

KARACHI: Pakistani rupee maintained its winning streak against the US dollar for the sixth straight session and appreciated to 181.58 on Friday.

The State Bank of Pakistan said in a statement that the rupee opened at 181.69 against the US dollar in the interbank market and closed at 181.58 after gaining 11 paise (+0.06 percent). Within the open market, the rupee was traded at 181/182 per dollar against 181/182.25 a day earlier.

The rupee has recovered Rs6.60 (+3.45 percent) against the dollar during the last six sessions. Overall, the rupee devalued by Rs24.15 against the US dollar during the ongoing fiscal year 2021-22 and Rs5.13 during the current year 2022. According to the currency experts, the rupee is undervalued while the dollar is overvalued due to its demand. Former finance minister Shaukat Tarin said recently that the rupee is undervalued. Tarin's statement was later supported by former finance minister Ishaq Dar, who also said that the rupee can

PSX ends week on positive note, index up 0.25pc

From Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: Another positive session was observed at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), as the benchmark Index managed to end the week with a gain of 0.25 percent.

During the day, the index swayed both ways in search of direction as it gathered 301 points, recording an intraday high of 46,785.34. At close, the KSE-100 Index settled at 46,601.54, a gain of 117.11 points or 0.25 percent. The benchmark index gained 4.85 percent on a weekly basis, "posting the highest growth rate in two years," said Topline Securities.

"We expect the relief rally to continue, with prospects of the KSE-100

reaching 48,000 - 50,000 points in the near term," said Intermarket Securities Limited. On the economic front, Pakistan's total liquid foreign exchange reserves declined by \$449 million (level last seen on June 19, 2020) on WoW basis, shared SBP.

Net reserves with the central bank fell by \$470 million on WoW basis.

On the corporate front, building materials manufacturer Dadex informed the bourse that Abu Talib H.K Dada has been appointed as chairman of the Dadex Eternit Limited with effect from April 14, 2022, in place of Sikander Dada. Sectors driving the benchmark index upwards included fertilizer (57.83 points), banking (41.33 points) and oil and gas ex-

Bankers protest against long working hours

From Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: Bank employees staged a demonstration in front of the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) head office on Friday, urging the government and the regulator to revert to old timings.

Scores of employees representing different banks thronged the II Chundrigar Road, the 'Wall Street' of Pakistan, expressing their displeasure at the recent announcement. A credit analyst, informed that protests were called through social media.

"We want the government to revert this decision," said Rizvi, adding

that similar protests were carried out in Lahore and Hyderabad as well.

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif ordered a single weekly off for public departments.

Following the federal govt's directive, the SBP also increased its working days from five to six a week, in accordance with the new government's regulations, while also changing its office and business timings for the month of Ramazan. "As per the decision of the Federal Govt communicated vide Notification No.6/2/1996-D-2 dated April 12, 2022, the SBP will observe six days working week," read a notification.

LHC orders smooth election of Chief Minister today

LAHORE: In a detailed verdict on the election of the Punjab Chief Minister and the restoration of the Punjab Assembly deputy speaker's powers, the Lahore High Court (LHC) observed on Friday that postponing the assembly session till April 16 was against the Constitution.

LHC Chief Justice Muhammad Ameer Bhatti termed the 31-page verdict a judicial precedent which stated that the court would review every unconstitutional act by Punjab Assembly Speaker as the Constitution did not protect any ruling issued by misusing the powers.

"The Supreme Court had also declared the National Assembly deputy speaker's ruling null and void," it

pointed out and added that Parvez Elahi, being a candidate for the slot of Punjab Chief Minister, could not use the powers of Punjab Assembly Speaker. "Before a vote of no-confidence against the deputy speaker, the election of Punjab Chief Minister is a priority. Till then, the no-confidence motion against him will remain pending," said the verdict.

"The Punjab Assembly speaker cannot deprive or reduce the powers of the deputy speaker," it added. "The brawl on the Punjab Assembly premises was of minor type. Only a few chairs and tables were broken that could be repaired within four days. The assembly secretary did not ensure repairs to the broken chairs and tables before the filing of the appeal.

It is very unfortunate on his part." The court also rejected the appeal for cross-examining Hamza Shehbaz and PA Deputy Speaker Dost Muhammad Mazari for recording false affidavit.

Parvez sees victory in CM election
Punjab Assembly Speaker Parvez Elahi presided over a meeting of ruling coalition partners on Thursday. Key figures including Raja Basharat, Mian Aslam Iqbal, Chaudhry Zaheeruddin, Dr Murad Raas, Dr Akhtar Malik and Makhdoom Hashim attended the meeting. Election for the slot of CM came under discussion during the meeting. Chaudhry Parvez Elahi told the participants that the allies were united and the PML-N's bid to get success by horse-



MANAMA: Newly appointed Commander combined Task Force Commodore Ahmed Hussain of Pakistan Navy during CTF-151 Charge of Command ceremony held at HQs NAVCENT Bahrain. Pakistan Navy took over Command of CTF-151 for the 10th time.

CJ remarks court can't interfere in NA's internal matters

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has remarked that there is no reason that the court will interfere in National Assembly's internal affairs when the deputy speaker's actions do not seem to bear any mala fide intentions.

These remarks were delivered by IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah when a five-judge larger bench headed by him was hearing a petition on Friday against National Assembly Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri for delaying assembly session.

The petition was filed by PML-N leader Murtaza Javed Abbasi. Justice Amir Farooq and Justice Babar Sattar were also included in the larger bench which was hearing the case.

The petition says the circular through which the assembly session was delayed till April 22 was unconstitutional. It entreats the court to stop the deputy speaker from exceeding his powers. Giving his arguments, the petitioner's lawyer said that in April 13 circular, the assembly session was convened on April 16 for the election of assembly speaker after the resignation of its former custodian, Asad Qaiser.

Justice Amir Kiyani asked the lawyer if removal of deputy speaker was included in the agenda item of assembly's April 16 sitting.

On which the lawyer replied in negative, saying that the April 16 agenda comprised only the election

of assembly speaker. He said the office of speaker could not be left vacant for long as per the rules.

Chief Justice Minallah inquired what difference would it make if the assembly session was convened with a delay of just few days.

He wondered why the court would interfere in the internal affairs of the National Assembly. The sanctity of parliament should be respected, he said adding that the deputy speaker could not preside over assembly's session on the day of no-confidence motion against him. CJ Minallah remarked since deputy speaker was not accused of breaching any rules, then the court would not interfere in this matter. —Agencies

Ramadan MUBARAK

FIQH-E-HANFIA

SEHR 04:10	IFTAR 6:33
FIQH-E-JAFRIA	
SEHR 4:00	IFTAR 6:43