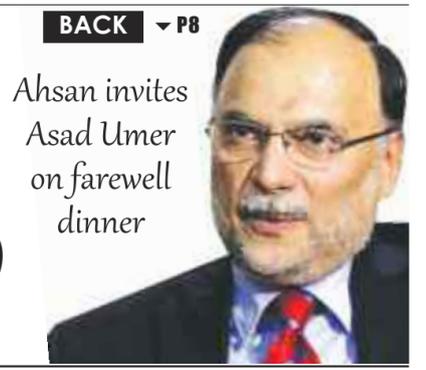


Govt to focus on restoration of institutions

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Ahsan invites Asad Umer on farewell dinner

LHC asks Alvi to appoint rep for Hamza oath

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) ordered President Arif Alvi to appoint his representative to administer oath to the newly elected Chief Minister Punjab Hamza Shehbaz Umer Cheema refused to do so. Chief Justice LHC said "A copy of the court order should immediately be sent to the president." Order was issued after the hearing of petition filed by Hamza earlier this week. Hamza elected CM Punjab during the session of Punjab Assembly on 16 April, which was held on the order of LHC and Governor Punjab Umer Sarfraz Cheema refused to his constitution duty after delaying the Oath taking ceremony. While adjourning the hearing till 2pm Court has warned Umer Cheema to take decision to take oath and said that

court will announce verdict as governor had no justification on delaying the oath taking ceremony. Punjab Advocate General Ahmed Owais argued that he had met the governor on court orders and the two of them discussed some objections over administering oath to Hamza. "In the absence of the governor, the speaker of the Punjab Assembly had the responsibility to administer the oath. "But Hamza hasn't named the speaker as respondent in his petition," he argued. When the judge asked whether the governor had given any reason for not administering the oath, Owais replied that the governor believed the chief minister's election was against the law and the Constitution. "The governor is not a rubber stamp or post office. —APP



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi administers the oath to Federal Ministers at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

■ *Imran, wife paid Rs 38m to retain foreign gifts worth Rs 142m*

No conspiracy proof found, security agencies tell NSC

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired the 38th meeting of the National Security Committee of the Cabinet in Islamabad on Friday. The meeting was attended by Federal Ministers Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Rana Sanaullah, Marriyum Aurangzeb, Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of State Hina Rabbani Khar, Chairman Joint Chief of Staff Committee General Nadeem Raza, Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmad Babar, former Pak Ambassador to US Asad Majeed and senior civil & Military Officers. The NSC discussed the telegram received from the Pakistan embassy in Washington. The former Pakistan ambassador to the US briefed the Committee on the content and content of his telegram. The NSC, after examining the contents of the communication, reaffirmed the decisions of the last NSC meeting. The meeting was again informed by the premier security agencies that they have found no evidence of any conspiracy. Therefore, the NSC after reviewing the contents of the communication, the assessments received, and the conclusions presented by the security agencies, concludes that there has been no foreign conspiracy. **Shehbaz, Zardari greet Shujaat on his son becoming minister** Former president and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari and PM Shehbaz Sharif on Friday telephoned Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and felicitated him on the oath-taking of his son Chaudhry Salik Hussain as federal minister. Similarly, Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) MNA Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and Khalid Magsi also congratulated Ch Shujaat. Another report adds: Former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi retained all the 112 valuable gifts worth Rs 142.02 million given by foreign countries, either for free or by purchasing at throwaway prices of Rs 38 million. The official documents available with this agency reveal that Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi retained 52 free gifts worth Rs 800,200 without paying a single penny. The list of Toshakhana gifts received by the former PM between August 2018 and December 2021 remained a secret during his tenure, making the situation scandalous to reports of hiding the information from the tax authorities.

Toshakhana, a department under the Cabinet Division, maintains the record of the precious gifts given to rulers, parliamentarians, and officials by heads of foreign governments, states, and dignitaries as a goodwill gesture. The then government had adopted the stance that the disclosure of any information related to Toshakhana would jeopardise international ties. The list of gifts shows that the other valuables were kept by the couple after paying an extremely less amount than the assessed value. From seven luxurious Rolex and other expensive watches to gold and diamond jewelry including multiple necklaces, bracelets, rings, multiple diamond chains, an expensive pen and cufflinks worth millions, dinner sets, perfumes, and Oud fragrance, the couple retained everything that different states of the world were gifting to Pakistan. The most precious gift was presented by Muhammad Bin Salman during the very first visit of PM Imran Khan to the Kingdom. However, to the irony, the Rs 85m Graff wristwatch was retained by the former PM at mere Rs 20m. Below is the detail of the gifts received and retained by Imran and Bushra Bibi, their value, and the amount paid by Khan to

well in the next few weeks. Sanaullah said that since 60-65 percent of the people have been removed from the ECL, a similar move would be made in regards to the other lists as well. The interior ministry noted that since there were threats to former prime minister Imran Khan, foolproof security has been provided to the PTI chairman. "The same security that his principal secretary Azam Khan had approved has been given [...] rangers, Frontier Corps, bulletproof cars, and other requirements have been provided," he said. The interior ministry assured that despite PTI being the incumbent gov't's political rivals, the current regime would ensure the provision of security to Khan and his allies. He also added that following the conclusion of the NSC meeting, a press release has been issued and PM Shehbaz Sharif has directed government officials to not discuss it fur-

Three ministers, one minister of state take oath

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi of Friday administered oath of office to three new federal ministers and a state minister. Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif witnessed the oath-taking ceremony held here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. The federal ministers who took oath included Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Mian Javaid Latif and Agha Hassan Baloch. Balochistan National Party's Hashim Notezai was sworn-in as state minister. On oath, the cabinet members made its solemn pledge "to bear true faith and allegiance to Pakistan, discharge its duties honestly to the best of ability and faithfully in accordance with the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the law". "I will strive to preserve the Islamic Ideology which is the basis for the creation of Pakistan. That I will not allow my personal interest to influence my official conduct or my official decisions," said the new ministers while chorus-reading the text of the official oath. Earlier, Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani had sworn-in the 33-members of federal cabinet were issued their respective portfolios by the joint decision of the coalition parties under the Prime Minister-ship of Shehbaz Sharif. PML-N leaders Ahsan Iqbal and Rana Sanaullah were given the ministries of Planning and Development and Interior Ministry respectively meanwhile Azam Nazir Tarar and Marriyum Aurangzeb were given ministry of law and justice and Information Ministry respectively. —APP

Rupee halts losing streak, gains 0.14pc

From Our Staff Correspondent
KARACHI: The Pakistani rupee reversed the falling trend on Friday, selling at 186.70 against the US dollar in the inter-bank market halting the slide that has seen it lose nearly 3 percent since Monday. On Friday, the local currency recorded a minimal rise of 0.14 percent against the US dollar due to the anticipation of the resumption of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme. Earlier, speaking to Geo.tv, Alpha Beta Core CEO Khuram Schehzad had said: "The market is reacting to the uncertainties regarding rollover of \$2.4 billion in debt from China, IMF programme and depleting reserves." Regarding the depreciation, he revealed that currently, Pakistan's reserves are not even sufficient for two months.

Ch Salik Hussain appointed CPEC Authority chief

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Chaudhry Salik Hussain has been given the charge of Chairman of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority. According to details, Salik's designation will have an equal rank to Minister. In the past, General Retired Asim Saleem Bajwa, a three-star general of Pakistan Army has served

PSX suffers fifth successive fall, nears 45,550

From Our Staff Correspondent
KARACHI: Lacklustre activity was witnessed at the PSX, as the benchmark KSE-100 Index closed the final session of the week with a drop of 0.22%, while volume of shares traded improved significantly. This was the fifth successive fall for the KSE-100 Index. "A range-bound session was observed at PSX due to further devaluation of PKR against US dollar and concerns over a spike in T-Bill yields," said AHL in a note. The market opened in the green zone, pushing the benchmark index towards an intra-day high of 45,776.23, up 123 points. However, like in previous sessions, stocks were unable

to sustain the gains as profit selling was witnessed. At close, the KSE-100 Index settled at 45,553.02, a drop of 99.60 points or 0.22%. On a weekly basis, the KSE-100 declined by 2.25%. "This negativity in the market can be attributed to news flow suggesting that IMF is demanding reversal in subsidy on petroleum products, along with other tightening measures," said Topline Securities. Meanwhile, the bourse in a notice informed that it will remain closed on Friday, April 29, 2022, on account of Juma-tul-Wida. On the economic front, the SBP injected Rs3.049tr worth of liquidity into the money market via an OMO for a seven-day period at 12.30%, it said on Friday.

Polls after govt completes its tenure: Maryam

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Maryam Aurangzeb said on Friday that the election will be after the completion of this government's tenure. She said "this time, fog won't appear like it did in Daska. This time, ballot boxes will not be stolen like they were in Daska. This time, officers of the Election Commission of Pakistan will not go missing like they did in Daska." While responding the PTI Chief Imran Khan's demand of immediate election in Minar-e-Pakistan rally last night, she accused Khan for campaign to 'malign' institutions and added that people will decide, no matter what former premier said. While adding that "This campaign that you're

running against the institutions, we have taken notice of it," she said "Sometimes you call strained relations with the establishment the reason for your government's fall. Sometimes you talk of a conspiracy. "Let me tell you today, the reason for your ouster is you and your deeds," she maintained, demanding the apology from Khan. She also said that "You talk about mistakes, You attacked the Constitution, you attacked parliament, you tried to attack the no-confidence vote. You looted the Bait-ul-Mal by selling the gifts." Further she claimed that people have learnt from their mistake and would not vote for Imran as they had realized his hypocrisy and lies. —Online

Govt to remove thousands of names from ECL: Sanaullah

From Our Staff Correspondent
ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah announced Friday the newly-elected govt has brought about changes in the rules followed for an individual's name in the ECL, and through it, several thousands of the people will have their names removed from it. In his first press conference at the Interior Ministry, Sanaullah said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had formed a committee to update the rules of including a person's name in the ECL. "Therefore, with a quick pace, federal minister Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Asad Mehmood, Naveed Qamar, and Azam Nazeer Tarrar put forth their suggestions and the cabinet has approved it," Sanaullah said. The interior minister said if a person's name has been on the exit list for more than 120 days then their name would be automatically removed from the

ECL. "...a total of 4,863 are in the list, and with this intervention, around 3,000 people's names have been removed." The interior minister said the government could extend the duration of the cap by 90 days if it believes of having had evidence against a person. "The government will have to present the said evidence before the ECL committee, and once they approve it, the duration will be moved forward." Sanaullah said following people would not be exempted: Individuals involved in terrorism, people considered a threat to national security, if their names have been added to ECL by any court and people involved in terrorism large-scale public cheating. Moving on, the interior minister said 30,000 people were placed on the black list and the PNIL. He added that since the number of people on the lists is huge, there will be changes to them as

well in the next few weeks. Sanaullah said that since 60-65 percent of the people have been removed from the ECL, a similar move would be made in regards to the other lists as well. The interior ministry noted that since there were threats to former prime minister Imran Khan, foolproof security has been provided to the PTI chairman. "The same security that his principal secretary Azam Khan had approved has been given [...] rangers, Frontier Corps, bulletproof cars, and other requirements have been provided," he said. The interior ministry assured that despite PTI being the incumbent gov't's political rivals, the current regime would ensure the provision of security to Khan and his allies. He also added that following the conclusion of the NSC meeting, a press release has been issued and PM Shehbaz Sharif has directed government officials to not discuss it fur-

Ramadan MUBARAK

FIQH-E-HANFIA	
SEHR 3:58	IFTAR 6:39
FIQH-E-JAFRIA	
SEHR 3:48	IFTAR 6:49



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Industries and Production, Makhdoom Syed Murtaza Mahmud chairs a meeting on Automobile Industry.

Minister for plan to address own-money issue for car buyers

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Industries and Production Makhdoom Syed Murtaza Mahmud has directed the Engineering Development board (EDB) to prepare a plan to curb the issue of own-money so that consumers could get vehicles timely at justified prices. The minister noted that the new policy would accelerate growth and development of the automotive industry together with quality and indigenisation of industry, said a press release issued on Friday. The minister said this while attending a briefing session on the automobile industry. Federal Secretary, Jawwad Rafique Malik, CEO, Engineering Development Board, Raza Abbas

Shah and senior officers of the Ministry attended the meeting. The minister further highlighted that the government would like to increase the footprint of electric vehicles (EVs) to mitigate the challenges of global warming. The CEO of EDB gave an overview of the automobile sector of Pakistan vis-a-vis two broad spectrum policies including Automobile Development Policy 2016-2021 and recently launched policy i.e. Auto Industry Development and Export Policy (AIEDP) 2021-2026. He briefed the minister that the later version of auto policy ADP incentivised entry of 7 new auto players in market while AIDEP was

focused on value addition in auto making by 30 percent, bi-annual update of SRO 693, exports targets for auto parts as well as CBUs, adoption of safety regulations through legislation and promoting EVs and new technologies in auto industry. The CEO of EDB stated that the country had been producing 92 percent tractors, 95 percent motorcycles and 55 percent cars locally. He apprised the Minister that 08 licences had been issued to EV based OEMs for production of 2-wheelers and three-wheelers in Pakistan. He noted that payment of amounting Rs4 billion had been reimbursed to consumers for late delivery. —TLTP