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Funeral of Bilquis Edhi offered

KARACHI : Funeral of Bilquis Edhi, the wife of late renowned philanthropist Abdul Sattar Edhi has been offered. She had been undergoing treatment in a private hospital for the last six days. The wife of late renowned philanthropist had high blood pressure and diabetes and two days before Ramadan, she suffered a heart attack. Balqis Edhi became the chairperson of the Edhi Foundation after the death of Abdul Sattar Edhi. She was born in 1947 in Karachi and head the Bilquis Edhi Foundation and with her husband received the 1986 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service. —APP

Islamabad DC Hamza removed

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Saturday removed Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat from post and directed him to report to the Establishment Division in Islamabad till further order. A notification to this effect was also issued by Establishment Division. "Hamza Shafqaat, a BS-19 officer of Pakistan Administrative Service, presently posted as Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Capital Territory under interior division, is transferred and directed to report to Establishment Division, with immediate effect and until further orders," read the notification. —APP

AJK LA summoned tomorrow to elect new PM

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Barrister Sultan Mahmood has summoned the Legislative Assembly session tomorrow (Monday) to elect the new prime minister after prorogation of the session consequent upon a verdict of the Supreme Court, earlier on Saturday.

The opposition had objected on the session convened by speaker on a requisition to take up a no-confidence motion as unlawful after the resignation of Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi and got a restrained order from the High Court. The candidate for prime ministership Sardar Tanveer Aliyas then moved the Supreme Court against that High Court order which handed down a verdict on the issue on Saturday. —**APP**

Farman resignation accepted, says Spokesman

PESHAWAR: The resignation of Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shah Farman has been accepted, a spokesman of the Governor House confirmed here on Saturday.

The spokesman said: "Yes Governor Shah Farman's resignation accepted". President, Dr. Arif Alvi accepted resignation of the governor, the spokesman said. After accepting resignation, Shah Farman left governor house, the spokesman confirmed. Provincial Assembly Speaker Mushtaq Ahmad Ghani would be the acting Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the spokesman added. —*DNA*

KSA Crown Prince greets Shehbaz on his election as PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif received a telephone call from HRH Prince Mohammad Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Crown Prince warmly congratulated Shehbaz Sharif on his election as the Prime Minister. The PM thanked the Crown Prince for the felicitations and expressed his resolve to work closely with the Kingdom to enhance and further strengthen bilateral relations between their two countries. During the course of their most warm and friendly conversation, the Prime Minister paid rich tributes to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz and the Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman for achieving remarkable progress and development of the Kingdom, under their visionary leadership.

While recalling the fraternal and historic bonds between their two countries that has been the hallmark of their strategic relationship over the past seven decades, the PM reaffirmed his govt's and his own commitment to further advance these relations to new heights.

The Prime Minister thanked Saudi Arabia for its historic and continued support and cooperation, both bilaterally as well as at international forums, while also assuring the Crown Prince that Pakistan would stand by the Kingdom at all times. The Prime Minister and the Crown Prince agreed to work together to further augment and diversify their bilateral ties in all spheres, in particular trade, investment and employment generation opportunities.

The Saudi Crown Prince extended his cordial invitation to the Prime Minister to pay an official visit to the Kingdom, at an early date. Thanking the Crown Prince for his gracious invitation, the Prime Minister also extended an invitation to the Crown Prince to undertake

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs the Joint Parliamentary Party meeting in Parliament House.

PIAF stresses need for establishment of renewable projects

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Association Front (PIAF), while stressing the need for establishment of renewable projects in the country, has said that the hydle projects initially suffered because of the Covid-19 outbreak in China that affected mobilization and was followed by lockdowns in Pakistan and subsequent standard operating procedures for operations of transport and factories in the country.

PIAF senior vice chairman Nasir Hameed and vice chairman Javed Siddiqi called for early removal of the hindrances to avoid delay, as the execution of major hydel power projects might get delayed if impediments were not addressed immediately. Nasir Hameed warned the government of the impediments including land acquisition, financial flows, Covid-19, and emerging security scenario, causing delays and cost escalations to the Diamer Bhasha and Mohmand Dams, affecting the timeliness set for completion of the projects.

He reiterated the demand of speedy completion of hydel projects as early as possible. He said that the resettlement issue was required to be resolved to the satisfaction of the people while the relocation of Karakoram Highway, a part of which was very critical for construction activities. Moreover, the financial flows were also the issue that required to be focused on to ensure that recovery plans to compensate for the lost timelines.

Javed Siddiqi said that renewable energy sources including water, wind and solar were getting key focus on the global level as they were sustainable sources of energy at affordable cost. He said the installed capacity of solar and wind power across the world have witnessed over 5000 percent and over 650 percent increase respectively, but in Pakistan due attention has not been paid to this important source of energy as yet despite the fact that our economy has suffered huge losses due to energy shortage.

He called upon the government to focus on renewable energy as the country has tremendous potential to generate power through these sources. The renewable energy would bring multiple benefits to the economy as it would reduce cost of doing business, promote industrialization, encourage investment, create plenty of new jobs and enhance exports.

He also urged the government to allocate adequate funds for construction of more reservoirs in the upcoming budget, as new dams are needed for Pakistan, not only to generate cheap electricity but also to avert the threat of food security, he said. The policy makers will have to understand that the economic growth lies in the construction of water reservoirs which are a cheap source of electricity, he added.

SAARC Chamber hails positive signals to India, US

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Saturday praised the prudent decision of Pakistan for sending positive signals to India, US ,China and other countries for better ties in the days to come for durable peace in the region coupled with sustainable economic growth.

Talking to a delegation of traders led by Muslim Khan Benowari he said it is good omen and point of satisfaction that newly democratically elected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reiterated the need for close cooperation with the United States, India, China and other countries to further deepening of relations on the principles of equality, mutual interest and mutual benefit. He said unfortunately ties between Pakistan and the US touched a low level after former PM Imran Khan accused to dislodge his government.

Textile exports increase by 25.43pc to $14.242b in 9 months

The exports of textile commodities increased by 25.43pc during the first nine months of the current fiscal year (2021-22) as compared to the corresponding period of last year, PBS reported on Saturday.

The textile exports were recorded at $14,242.623 million in July-March (2021-22) against the exports of $11,355.465 million in July-March (2020-21), showing growth of 25.43 percent, according latest PBS data. The textile commodities that contributed in trade growth included cotton yarn, the exports of which increased by 25.97 percent from $721.216 million last year to $908.487 million during the current year.

Likewise, the exports of raw cotton increased by 1009.03 percent, from $0.593 million to $6.577 million, cotton cloth by 26.51 percent, from $1,419.181 million to $1,795.457 million, cotton (carded or combed) by 100 percent to $1.632 million from $0.064 million exports last year, yarn (other than cotton yarn) increased by 104.53 percent, from $23.560 million to $48.188 million whereas exports of knitwear increased by 34.12 percent, from $2,780.896 million to $3,729.683 million.

In addition, the exports of bed wear increased to $2,448.859 million from $2,052.259 million, showing growth of 19.33 percent, towels' export increased by 18.42 percent, from $692.110 million to $819.589 million, ready-made garments by 26.24 percent, from $2,268.389 million to $2,863.570 million, art. —**Online**

IG to be sentenced as police enter PA, says Parvez Elahi

LAHORE: PML-Q leader Chaudhry Parvez Elahi on Saturday said that Inspector General (IG) Police will be handed one month sentence after police personnel entered Punjab Assembly premises. Members of Punjab Assembly belonging to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) slapped and pulled hairs of Deputy Speaker of Punjab Assembly Dost Muhammad Mazari ahead of election of Chief Minister of Punjab. Earlier, after reaching the provincial assembly, in a conversation with journalists, Elahi said despite being the speaker, he was not the custodian of the house today as he is a contender for the chief minister's slot.

"Time will prove whether the deputy speaker was honest or not. We will try to hold a transparent election today," Elahi said, adding he knows from where Dost Mohammad Mazari is taking instructions and will share details at the right time. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in a tweet, said that attack of members of treasury benches on Deputy Speaker inside Punjab Assembly must be condemned in strongest terms possible. This blatant display of violence and hooliganism is fascism, pure and simple, he added. —*DNA*

Closure of LNG, oil plants

Continued from Front Page

of his office and appreciated his passion for the public welfare and resolution of public issues. "You have showed the nation how to perform," he said while expressing full support and cooperation to the prime minister.

The prime minister also appreciated the leadership of Maulana Fazlur Rehman and said that he steered the country and the nation out of the difficult times with collective prudence and joint efforts.

Country facing loadshedding due to gross mismanagement

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that the country is facing loadshedding due to the gross mismanagement and incompetence of previous government, expressing the commitment to address the situation at the earliest. Speaking in the National Assembly on Saturday, the Prime Minister said he has held several meetings with the Ministries of Petroleum, Power and the Finance in the last few days and the situation is that the country has the capacity to generate 35,000 megawatt of electricity.

This is sufficient to meet our power requirements. He however regretted that the power plants are closed due to shortage of gas.

He pointed out that the previous government did not purchase the gas when it was available at the rate of three to four dollars per unit. He said today the gas price has reached thirty to thirty five dollars per unit.

The Prime Minister recalled that the last government of PML (N) had signed a gas import agreement with Qatar at a discounted rate, on which the previous government of PTI used to raise fingers. Shehbaz Sharif said that he visited the Rawal Chowk flyover project this morning which had to be completed in twenty four months at a cost of one billion rupees.

He said we completed several such projects in Punjab in a matter of seventy two to eighty two days. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, who was chairing the session before administering oath to the new Speaker, confirmed that Qasim Khan Suri has tendered resignation from the seat of Deputy Speaker. Hence, he said, there is no need to take up the no confidence motion against him which is on the agenda of the day today. The Chair directed the NA secretariat to present before him the resignations tendered by the PTI members as per the previous rulings and precedents so that the matter could be taken forward as per the law. At the outset, the house offered for the security personnel martyred in recent counter terrorism operations, Bilquis Edhi and the Palestinians martyred by Israeli forces in Al-Aqsa Mosque. —*Agencies*

Maryam flays PTI MPAs' disruptive behaviour

ISLAMABAD: While bemoaning the hooliganism displayed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MPAs during Punjab Assembly session Saturday, Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz has said that seeing their clear defeat, the goons of PTI indulged in rowdyism urging people to get rid of these violent characters once for all.

In a series of tweets, Maryam wrote: "The gang of thugs whose name is PTI, seeing their defeat in Punjab, started their bullying tactics again. No matter how much hooliganism, they would indulge in, God willing Punjab will get its right on Saturday. The development which had been snatched by Punjab in 2018, the province will take it back. CM Hamza Shahbaz, Insha Allah!" "It is the first duty of every Pakistani to eradicate this hooliganism and road rage which is called PTI. This culture is by no means good for the country and the nation. Rather it's a disaster. It must be stopped and eradicated immediately. Let the people of Punjab recognize their faces. —*DNA*

Bilawal calls party suggestions for LG elections

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has called proposals from party ranks for the local government elections.

Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has invited suggestions from the PPP ticket holders and CEC members. The PPP chairman has also directed the party's divisional presidents in Balochistan, Sindh and Punjab to submit their suggestions. "The party's provincial chapter used to issue party tickets in local government election," PPP leader and former senator Farhatullah Babar has said.

"The party has also formally contacted the Election Commission of Pakistan," Babar said. "The electoral process for the local govt elections has begin in Balochistan, while the election commission has announced election schedule for 17 districts of Punjab and Sindh's four divisions," he added. The ECP on Wednesday announced local govt polls in Sindh's four divisions of Sukkur, Larkana, Shaheed Benazirabad and Mirpur Khas. —*DNA*

LHC moved to put Khusro, brother names on ECL

LAHORE: A petition was filed in Lahore High Court (LHC) seeking to place the names of former federal minister Khusro Bakhtiar and his brother Hashim Jawan Bakht on the Exit Control List (ECL).

The NAB, Khusro Bakhtiar, Hashim Jawan Bakht and others have been made respondents in the plea filed with LHC. The petitioner pleaded with the court to put PTI leaders on the exit control list for accumulating illegal assets. The petitioner in his plea alleged that the federal minister and his brother concealed their assets when contesting the general elections. The plea also requested the court to order NAB to complete investigation against the said leaders. In 2020, the Supreme Court had dismissed a constitutional petition seeking disqualification of Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Khusro Bakhtiar and his brother, Punjab Finance Minister Hashim Jawan Bakht. —**Online**

BoI Chairman Azfar Ahsan resigns

ISLAMABAD: The Board of Investment (BoI) Chairman Muhammad Azfar Ahsan has tendered his resignation from his post.

In his resignation letter, Muhammad Azfar Ahsan said that it has been a privilege and a huge honor to serve as Chairman of Federal Board of Investment with the status of Minister of State. "In my five months tenure as 1301 Chair, I am fully convinced that Pakistan has enormous opportunity at hands to bring foreign and local investment to transform our country. Though our foreign direct investment inflow is stagnant at $3 billion, I believe it has a potential of $15 to $20 billion per year. Though my tenure was short, I never wasted any opportunity to revamp 901 to realize that promise."

"Under my leadership 901 was successful in instituting 125 regulatory reforms (Asaan Karobar Programme). Establishment of Pak-China Business & Investment Forum, and the signing of Framework Agreement with China are historical milestones and I feel humbled and honored that BoI signed it under my Chair.—*DNA*

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