



LAHORE ▾ P3
Aleem led body to review facilities at Punjab jails

The Business

An English Daily published simultaneously from Lahore and Faisalabad

Bilquis declared 'Mother of Humankind'



PPP settles for seats in Punjab cabinet

LAHORE: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) seems content with three ministers in Punjab cabinet to leave governorship for Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). According to down.com, PPP's Makhdoom Ahmad Mahmood, who was earlier nominated for the governor's post by his party, is reportedly upset with the decision. In the first summary Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif sent to the president on April 17, he had recommended the name of Mr Mahmood as the Punjab governor. However, when President Dr Arif Alvi returned that summary after holding it for 15 days without a decision, the premier re-endorsed the advice on Saturday asking for the removal of incumbent governor of the PTI, Omar

Sarfraz Cheema, and appointment of a PML-N loyalist from Bahawalpur, Balighur Rehman. Citing the Constitution, the PML-N says if President Alvi does not act on the premier's recommendation within 10 days, Mr Rehman will automatically become the governor. "The prime minister has sent a summary to the president recommending my name for the Punjab governor. And hopefully the president will accept the summary," Mr Rehman, who remained a minister in the Shahid Khaqan Abbasi cabinet, told media. "Before the allied parties took over the government, the PML-N had agreed to give the slot of the governor to the PPP, but after coming to power it backtracked. —Online



LAHORE: A delegation of the CPNE calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

■ Says govt has no intention to curb media freedom

Govt diligently pursuing CPEC, Riko Diq projects: PM

Jahangir Hayat

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that the government is diligently working on the execution of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Reko Diq projects. The premier stated this while talking to a delegation of Council of Pakistan Newspapers Editors (CPNE) in Lahore on Sunday. He reiterated his government's resolve to religiously follow the CPEC and Reko Diq projects till their completion. He said as far as our foreign policy was concerned, the government wanted to establish relations with all countries including brotherly Muslim states based on respect and mutual interests. He expressed his resolve that the government wanted free and transparent elections in the country stressing the need to introduce electoral reforms. He observed that electoral reforms were a must for holding of transparent elections in the country. The previous government had doubled the country's debt during the last four years rule which had made the lives of poor miserable, he said, adding that they were making efforts to provide basic necessities of life including flour, health treatment and medicines at subsidized rates. He regretted that during the previous

government's rule, special arrangements were not made at PKIL like facilities for giving free-of-cost treatment to the poor and deserving patients. The prime minister stressed upon the solidarity of the nation to resolve the current economic challenges for the welfare of the people and said that holding of march, in this situation, amounted to uncalled for and creation of fissures among the nation. The PM also expressed his resolve to effectively work over the CPEC and Riko Diq projects. He also reaffirmed to maintain ties with all the brotherly nations and other countries on basis of mutual respect and mutual interests. The premier also informed the CPNE delegation that the government did not have any intention to restrict freedom of press. He assured the editors that journalists would be defended against all the anti-press laws including Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) Ordinance. He told the delegation that his government had already entrusted the task to review the draconian PECA Ordinance to its law ministry. Praising the CPNE role for the freedom of media, strengthening of democracy, and evolution of democratic institutions in the country, the prime minister said that the government was keen to engage con-

structively with the CPNE and other media representative bodies for the protection of the rights of journalists and promotion of responsible journalism in the country. Shehbaz vowed to work with the CPNE for the promotion of journalistic responsibilities and security of journalists in the country. On power generation, he vowed that his government would ensure production of electricity and its transmission to consumers in an effective way. He lamented that the previous government had put unbearable burden of foreign debts on poor people of Pakistan and made essential commodities out of the reach of poor people. He said his government was taking steps to ameliorate the lot of the downtrodden segment of society. He called upon the nation to show solidarity so that we could be able to fix the tattered economy. The meeting was attended by Information Minister Mariyum Aurangzeb, Secretary Information Shaheera Shahi, and Principal Information Officer Mubashir Hassan. The CPNE delegation comprised of its President Kazim Khan, Senior Vice President Ayaz Khan, Punjab Vice President Arshad Ahmad Arif, Secretary General Amir Mehmood and other

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FPCCI delegation assures support and cooperation

Pro-people, business-friendly budget likely, says Miftah

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Miftah Ismail said Saturday that the government was aiming at inclusive and sustainable economic growth by presenting a pro-people and business friendly budget for the fiscal year 2022-23. During a meeting with a delegation of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) led by its President Irfan Iqbal Shaikh, the minister commended the budgetary suggestions proposed by the chamber members for various sectors of the economy and assured that the suggestions of all stakeholders would be given due regard. Among others, the meeting was attended by Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and other senior offi-

cers. The minister acknowledged the effective role of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) for acting as a bridge between the government and traders. He shared with delegation that macroeconomic stability was prime concern of the present government. Therefore, he said, government was strictly committed to ensure financial discipline through effective and far-sighted policies for enhancing the overall level of growth in the country. On the occasion, the President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) congratulated Miftah Ismail on undertaking the new role as Federal Finance

Minister and presented various proposals for consideration in the Federal Budget 2022-23. Multiple measures were suggested by the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) members for bringing in greater efficiency in industrial and agricultural sectors. They also apprised about some issues related to taxation faced by business community in the country. Further, they requested the finance minister to consider their proposals and address the stated issues. The Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) delegation assured their support and cooperation in enhancing the economic stability in the country. —APP

Gilani, Kaira discuss political scene with CM

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A parliamentary delegation of Pakistan People's Party led by Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf called on Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Hamza Shehbaz Sharif at CM's office on Sunday. Matters regarding the current political scenario and other affairs came under discussion during the meeting. The delegation includes: Senator Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, Qamar Zaman Kaira, Hasan Murtaza and others. The delegation presented a bouquet and congratulated Hamza Shehbaz for holding the chair of CM Punjab. The participants of the meeting agreed upon to move forward in collision. The Chief Minister thanked the high-command of the People's Party for extending full cooperation. Hamza Shehbaz said that allies are our brothers and friends. He termed tolerance and empathy real political traditions added that portfolios are temporary, love with humanity should be our priority. He asserted that constitutional and democratic values should be taken ahead with reconciliation. He further stated that the journey of Punjab's development has been started where it stopped four years ago. There is a shortage of time and we have to work hard round the clock, said Hamza Shehbaz.

Imran says will lead 3m people on Islamabad

ABBOTTABAD: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan has said that he would lead three million people in his march on Islamabad later this month and that the government would not be able to stop him by installing shipping containers on the roads. Addressing a public meeting of his party at the College Ground in Abbottabad on Sunday afternoon, Imran Khan said that his opponents claim that the summer heat would not allow people to leave their homes to march on Islamabad, but he believes that heat cannot deter brave youth and sisters. Imran Khan said he has a belief in Pakistanis that they would stand with him against the 'Imported government'. He said the people of Abbottabad proved that the nation was standing against the 'Mir Jaffar' and 'Mir Sadiq' of this era. Imran said he would announce the date for the march after May 20. The former prime minister said that current rulers had taken power after collaborating with the United States but the Pakistani nation would never accept them. He said he never wanted to join the US war on terror and was holding negotiations with Russia for the import of fuel and wheat at cheaper rates. Imran Khan used derogatory words for JUI-I leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman. "The Americans did not want a prime minister [in Pakistan]. —DNA

NAB starts inquiry against Farah Khan

LAHORE: The Lahore National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has launched an investigation against former First Lady Bushra Imran's close friend Farah Khan over allegations of amassing assets beyond her known sources of income and alleged money laundering. The NAB will scrutinize the benefits Khan availed as a spouse of a public office holder. The inquiry was authorized last month in a meeting held at the bureau's headquarters. The bureau had issued directives to the Lahore NAB director general to conduct the inquiry into the allegations of accumulating assets beyond means, money laundering and maintaining various accounts against Khan. According to a NAB press release issued after the meeting, "huge turnover amounting to Rs847m has been found in her account during the last 3 years, which does not commensurate with her stated account profile." —DNA

PSX sheds 1,760 points in three weeks

KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) remained bearish for the third week in a row amid expected hike in interest rate, with the benchmark KSE-100 Index losing 408.60 points (-0.90 percent) to close at 44,840.81 points and leaving the market directionless for the week starting today (Monday). The benchmark index registered its ninth decrease in the last 10 sessions for a cumulative fall of nearly 3.7 percent. Overall, the benchmark index has lost 1,760 points during the last three weeks. The south-bound journey of the benchmark index continued as the Karachi Interbank Offered Rate (Kibor) reached a 14-year high of 14.1 percent in the preceding week. In addition,

yields of treasury bills also hovered around 15pc after hitting a 22-year high. During the only working day of the outgoing week on Friday, stocks closed lower amid rupee instability and expectations for further increase in the interest rate. According to experts, the upcoming monetary policy is expected to be loaded with a rate hike up to 200bps. If it goes up by 200bps and banks add their charges of 2.50 percent or 2.75 percent, the interest rate would reach 16 to 17 percent, which is not feasible for any economy and any industry that runs on credit, they added. Another thing hitting the stocks is the balance of payments. Though the national exports have shown a significant increase but

Nasreen Jalil set to become Sindh Governor

ISLAMABAD: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) senior leader Nasreen Jalil will be the new governor of Sindh province. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday approved the name of Nasreen Jalil nominated by the MQM-P. Subsequently, the prime minister forwarded a summary to President Arif Alvi for appointment of the new governor in Sindh. Senator Nasreen Jalil will take oath as the Governor of Sindh after the proposal gets approved by the President of the country. Earlier, MQM-P had sent five options to PM Shehbaz Sharif as part of the power-sharing agreement between PML-N and MQM-P and if appointed

Nasreen Jalil would be the first woman to hold top provincial office since Ra'ana Liaquat Ali Khan. Names of Ms Nasreen Jalil, who is a deputy convener of the MQM-P's co-ordination committee; senior deputy convener Amir Khan; deputy convener and former Karachi mayor Wasim Akhtar; MNA Kishwar Zehra and businessman Amir Chishti had been forwarded to PM Shehbaz for consideration for Sindh governor slot. Nasreen has served as a Senator from March 2012 to March 2018. She would be the third female governor in the history of Pakistan after Dr Shama Khalid who served as the governor of GB from March-September 2010. —APP



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murriyum Aurangzeb talks to media.

Keep army out of politics in country's best interest: ISPR

RAWALPINDI: Recently there have been intensified and deliberate attempts to drag Pakistan Armed Forces and their leadership in ongoing political discourse in the country. These attempts are manifest through direct, insinuated or nuanced references to the Armed Forces as well as their senior leadership, made by some political leaders, few journalists and analysts on public forums and various communication platforms including social media. This practice of unsubstantiated, defamatory and provocative statements/remarks is extremely damaging. Pakistan Armed Forces take strong exception to such unlawful and

unethical practice and expect all to abide by the law and keep the Armed Forces out of political discourse in the best interest of the country. Another report adds: ISPR says remarks are issued by political leaders, few journalists, and analysts on public forums, including social media. Armed forces expects "all to abide by the law". Urges people to "keep the armed forces out of political discourse in the best interest of the country." The Pakistan Armed Forces on Sunday condemned the spread of "unsubstantiated, defamatory, and provocative statements and remarks" against them and termed the practice "extremely dam-

aging". According to a statement issued by the ISPR, "intensified and deliberate attempts" have recently been made to drag Pakistan Armed Forces and their leadership into the ongoing political discourse in the country. "These attempts are manifest through direct, insinuated, or nuanced references to the armed forces as well as their senior leadership, made by some political leaders, a few journalists and analysts on public forums and various communication platforms, including social media". The statement said that the practice of "unsubstantiated, defamatory and provocative statements and remarks