

NA Speaker announces 6-member panel of chairpersons

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Monday announced the panel of chairpersons to conduct proceedings of the House in the absence of speaker and deputy speaker. The speaker said the panel of chairpersons, including Chaudhry Mahmood Bashir, Syed Ghulam Mustafa, Shahida Akhtar Ali, Engineer Sabir Hussain Kaim Khani, Javaria Zafar Aheer and Riaz Fatyana would conduct proceedings in their absence. —APP

The Business

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Javed Hashmi shifted to hospital as his health worsens

MULTAN: Veteran politician and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Javed Hashmi on Monday was taken to hospital after he suffered pain in his chest. According to family sources, Hashmi was shifted to Multan cardiology hospital where he will undergo heart surgery. On July 20, 2010 Hashmi suffered a brain haemorrhage and was paralyzed from his left arm. Makhdoom Javed Hashmi is a veteran politician who has presided over the Pakistan Muslim League and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. —Online

Banks receiving Hajj applications, balloting on 15th

ISLAMABAD: The designated branches of 14 scheduled banks have started receiving Govt Scheme Hajj applications from Monday. According to an official of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, the applicants were required to deposit a token money of Rs 50,000. The online Hajj applications for Government scheme were being received from May 2 and the process would continue till May 13. While group based Hajj balloting for declaring successful Hajj aspirants would be conducted on May 15.

Hajj expenses this year might be around Rs 0.7m to 1m, he said adding that Pakistan has received a Hajj quota of 81,132 pilgrims this year with a 40% share of the government scheme and 60% private scheme. A Government Scheme Hajj aspirant must submit his machine readable passport (valid up to Jan 5, 2023), valid Computerised National Identity Cards (CNIC) and vaccination and medical certificate along with the application.

Govt Scheme Hajj package had not yet been announced. It could cost from around Rs 700,000 to rupees 1m. —APP

Imran, Rashid lost sanity after coming out of power: PPP

QUETTA: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Quetta Division President Khair Muhammad Tareen on Monday said that Imran Khan and Sheikh Rashid have lost their sanity after coming out of power and were making baseless allegations against the political leaders.

In a statement issued here, he stated that the former PM and former Interior Minister should first look into their own collars, instead of blaming others including PPP leaders, further suggesting them to give people account for Toshakhana and Farah Gogi cases.

Khair claimed that the PTI chief had tarnished the image of Pakistan by selling gifts, which he received during his trips abroad and should be held accountable for it. Muhammad maintained that PPP knows how to defend their leaders and it was working day and night for the welfare of people in the country. —APP

Murad approves launching of Safe city project

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has directed the Planning and Development Board to prepare PC-1 of the Safe City project on war footings so that bids for the project could be invited for physical launch of the project within next four months.

"We are already late in implementing the project and now I won't allow any unnecessary delay." This he said while presiding over a meeting to review progress of Safe city project being launched in the city here at CM House here on Monday. The meeting was attended by Provincial Minister Taimur Talpur, CM Special Assistant on IT Ms Tanzila, Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput, Chairman P&D Hassan Naqvi, Adl IG Karachi Ghulam Nabi Memon, Secretary Home Saeed Mangnijo, Secretary Finance Sajid Jamal Abro, DG Sindh Safe Cities Authorities DIG Maqsood Memon and other concerned. —APP

Orange Line BRT buses to reach Karachi this week

KARACHI: Sindh Transport Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has announced that a ship carrying 20 buses for Orange Line Bus Rapid Transit Service (BRTS) would reach Karachi port from China on May 11 (Wednesday).

The announcement from Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Memon, who also holds the portfolio of transport, came during his visit to the site of the project. "Some 20 buses of Orange Line project are arriving at Karachi Port on May 11," he announced. Memon was briefed by officials about the pace of work to complete the long-awaited project. During his visit, the Sindh transport minister directed Sindh Mass Transit Authority to set up a camp office at the depot of Orange Line.

The Sindh government has decided to make Orange Line BRT project operational within a month for Karachiites. —Online



FAISALABAD: Federal Minister for interior, Rana Sana Ullah Khan, addresses the worker convention.

CCPO promises to form liaison committees at LCCI

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The newly appointed Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Bilal Siddique Kamyana on Monday expressed confidence to strengthen liaison with the business community by forming liaison committees.

He was speaking at a meeting at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI). LCCI President Mian Nauman Kabir presented the address of welcome while Senior Vice President Mian Rehman Aziz Chan, Vice President Haris Ateeq and CTO Lahore Muntazir Mehdi also spoke on the occasion. The CCPO said that the investigation process in case of cheque dishonor was too lengthy which has been shortened. He assured that no innocent businessman will be arrested in case of cheque dishonor.

He agreed with the proposal of Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry for the appointment of focal persons saying that the focal persons will be appointed as soon as the nominations are received from the LCCI. The CCPO said that the Citizen Police Liaison Committees (CPLC) are being activated immediately which would help improve the law and order situation and business atmosphere in the city.

He said that the work on new police stations at Kot Lakhpat and Lari Adda will be

started soon. He further said that protection of life and property of citizens, timely and merit-based investigations are his top-most priorities. LCCI President Mian Nauman Kabir said that the focal persons should be appointed in consultation with the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry so that the market representatives can remain in touch with the police.

He said that the false registration of FIRs against the business community should be stopped as these are causing huge troubles. He said that the FIRs should be registered after due investigation. He said that the model police stations should be established in the city markets on the patron of Sundar and Kot Lakhpat Industrial Estates. Mian Nauman Kabir said that the police department holds a great significance and Punjab police is considered the best one across the country. He saluted the officers of the Police Department who have always sacrificed their lives while protecting life and property of the people.

He hoped that national law enforcement agencies will work to make their intelligence and surveillance networks more efficient so that anti-state elements could not be succeeded in their bad intentions. He said that business community has full confidence in the capabilities of the police department. The Lahore Chamber of

Commerce & Industry (LCCI) President further said that the Police Service Center at Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) is providing various facilities to the members.

Mian Nauman Kabir said that illegal encroachments on both sides of the roads, rickshaws and professional beggars at traffic signals are the main causes of traffic issues. He said that the parking plazas should be built under public-private partnership to reduce many traffic problems.

Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) Senior Vice President Mian Rehman Aziz Chan also praised efforts of the Punjab Police Department for maintaining the law and order situation. He also called for proper investigation before registering the FIRs against the business community. Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) Vice President Haris Ateeq said that the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry do not support the encroachments. He said that the meetings between the focal persons and SPs will help to get rid of the law and order problems. Former Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) President Mian Tariq Misbah, former Vice Presidents Zeeshan Khalil, Mian Zahid Jawaid Ahmad, Tahir Manzoor Chaudhry and Executive Committee Members were also present on the

Businessmen want stable rupee over weak economy

KARACHI: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has urged the government to control instability of rupee against the US dollar, as the industrial expansion and economic growth is not possible without stable local currency.

FPCCI former president and Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar observed that dollar continued to appreciate against the rupee because of the higher current account deficit and burgeoning import bills. Besides increasing exports and controlling imports the government will have to take administrative measures, as a large demand of cash dollars are seen in the market.

Terming rupee depreciation against dollar a mysterious development, he said that continued fall of rupee is not understandable with the fact that there was no fundamental change in the country's economic indicators. FPCCI former president observed that the market-based flexible exchange rate system, resilience in remittances and other factors can help con-

tain the current account deficit in a sustainable range of 2-3 percent of GDP in FY22.

Pakistan's rupee remained on the receiving end, depreciating 0.5 percent against the US dollar in the inter-bank market as pressure persisted on the currency amid lack of clarity on inflows and economic support from international lenders and friendly countries. In the open market, the Rupee lost 50 paises for buying while remaining unchanged for selling against USD, closing at 186.50 and 187, respectively. As per the SBP, the rupee closed at 186.63 after a day-on-day decline of 94 paises or 0.50 percent. Last Saturday, the rupee had closed at 185.69 after a decline of 0.03 percent.

I ask powerful circles to hold election: Sheikh Rashid

Former Interior minister Sheikh Rashid, has said, "I ask the powerful circles of the country to hold election early as the solution to the problems facing the country lies in early elections.

"Election will have to be held early if the country has to be saved", he said this while

talking to the journalists outside the Islamabad High Court (IHC) here Monday.

"I want to give message to the entire nation that elections are going to be held. They should get prepare themselves. The military spokesperson has said to Maryam Nawaz and Nawaz Sharif that Imran Khan is not dragging army into politics.

He held he had trust on the court and there should be trust on the court. If there is no trust on the courts then this country cannot run. Imran Khan has said something about the courts from different angle.

To a question from the journalist that has gate No 4 been closed for you, he said I had relations with army. I am still having these relations and these relations will continue in future. I am proud of it. He reiterated there are cases against 20 out of 42 ministers. I am coming to high court on this matter. Such a person has been appointed interior minister who is killer of 22 persons. Eleven witnesses stated before the ANF court that Rana Sana Ullah is a drug peddler. The PM, CM Punjab and interior minister did not allow themselves to

PKIC, Enertech Kuwait sign pact worth \$ 750m

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Kuwait Investment Company Private Limited (PKIC), a leading development financial institution in Pakistan, has entered into a strategic alliance agreement worth \$750 million with Enertech Holding Company KSC (Enertech), a subsidiary of Kuwait Investment Authority. The objective is to collaborate and jointly explore investment opportunities and business potential primarily within Pakistan.

Embarking on this journey of alliance with this agreement, both PKIC and Enertech have paved the way for future projects to support infrastructure development in Pakistan, said a news release issued here on Monday. In addition, this shall enable advancement in the digital and technology space in tandem with supporting financial inclusion and gender diversity. This alliance would not only bring foreign investment in Pakistan, but shall also support technology and knowledge spill over. —APP

Asian stocks down on anxieties over inflation

HONG KONG: Asian stocks fell Monday as investors remained anxious over inflation and the ongoing impact of China's Covid lockdown policies, despite an initial Wall Street bounce thanks to a solid US jobs report.

Global markets have taken a beating over a series of crises including surging inflation, rising interest rates, China's economic slowdown and the war in Ukraine. The Wall Street on Friday saw a brief lift in equities after the US Labour Department reported that the world's largest economy added a better-than-expected 428,000 jobs in April, with the unemployment rate remaining at a low 3.6 percent.

But it still finished lower, with the S&P 500 dropping 0.6pc, while the other two US indices also dipped at the close of Friday -- with the Nasdaq suffering the most at 1.5 percent. The losses globally capped a volatile week, though markets were briefly lifted due to temporary relief after the Federal Reserve hiked borrowing costs 50 basis points. —APP

Govt working on mechanism over flour price

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of National Food Security and Research in collaboration with provincial governments was working to form a mechanism to bring down the prices of flour to affordable prices, besides keeping the demand and supply of the commodity at smooth level in local markets across the country.

The govt was also taking measures for ensuring uninterrupted supply of wheat to flour mills across the country and strengthening vigilance to discourage smuggling, hoarding and extra profiteering, said Dr Imtiaz Ali Gopang, Food Security Commissioner in the Ministry of National Food Security and Research.

Talking to this agency here on Monday, he attributed the recent price hike of flour in local markets to increase in minimum support price of wheat from Rs1,800 per 40 kg to Rs 2,200 per 40 kg, besides the public sector's decision to stop releasing grains from its official stocks to local millers on controlled rates as the procurement campaign for current season was in progress. —APP

Imran's speech condemnable, says Zardari

From Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari has said on Monday that he condemns Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan's campaign against the state institutions of country.

Former president Asif Zardari, in a statement, said that Imran is now attacking the state institutions because of his corruption cases and the PTI foreign funding case. The former president said that Khan is trying to portray state institutions as controversial institutions.

"Imran is spreading hate which will not be tolerated," he said. Earlier on Sunday, PM Shehbaz vowed to crush Imran Khan's con-

IHC extends its orders for not arresting Fawad, Gill

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has extended till May 12 its order for not arresting Shahbaz Gill and Fawad Chaudhry in the blasphemy case.

The petitions from Fawad Chaudhry and Shahbaz Gill against the blasphemy case came up for hearing before the single bench of IHC presided over by Chief Justice (CJ) Athar Minallah Monday.

The court remarked during hearing of the case chairman PTI said during PTI public meeting in Abbottabad as to why the courts opened at night. The message was given to the workers the courts are not independent. It will be proper if it should be told first have you trust in this court or not. Campaign was launched from everywhere against

this court but we don't care for it. Justice must not only be done but it should be seen to be done.

First tell us after obtaining fresh directives if you have no trust then we will send case to some other court. If it seems to you this court compromised on April 9 night then tell us in clear terms. Four petitions came before court on that night. Did we issue order on any one among them. If there is anything like this then tell us, I will take ownership. This court respects all political parties. If one party has not trust on this court then tell us. There are cases more important than these cases before this court. The cases of missing persons are before this court.

The court remarked we are seeing the matters which were to be seen by

the state. If you have no trust then we don't want to break the trust of other petitioners by hearing these cases.

CJ IHC remarked it makes no difference if you say it. Here the statement is different and outside the court narrative is something different. Ask and tell us tomorrow in clear terms if you have no trust then we will refer the case to someone else. We will send the case to the court upon which you repose trust.

The Court observed if someone says while addressing a public meeting that the courts are compromised then the matter becomes clear. Sheikh Rashid had come himself and he had said he had trust on the court. You should ask from your party walas and tell us if you have trust or otherwise. —Online



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Makhdoom Syed Murtaza Mahmud visits the AirLink Communication Limited Mobile Manufacturing Factory.