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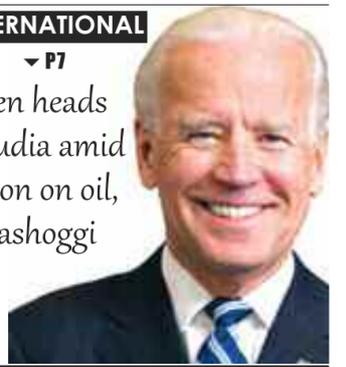
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PML-N solves problems whenever it took over govt: Hamza

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Biden heads to Saudia amid tension on oil, Khashoggi



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Petroleum dealers to observe strike

ISLAMABAD: The Petroleum Dealers Association has announced an indefinite strike from Monday. The union has summoned a session regarding the strike and negotiations with the govt over the dealer's margin. Petrol pumps cannot operate under the current margin, they claim.

PPDA President Asif Gujjar, Information Secretary Jahanzeb Malik and Secretary General Chaudhry Noman Majeed announced an indefinite strike from July 18. The petroleum dealers demanded that their working capital is triple but the volume of business is the same as before so the profit margin should be increased by six per cent.

The petrol dealers had announced to stage a nationwide strike on July 18 if the govt failed to fulfill their demand of fixing the dealer margin at 6%. They also announced that they will continue the strike and will not open petrol pumps till their demands are fulfilled. "Right now we receive only 3.90 per cent margin after-tax deduction," they explained.

The association said that the minimum wage of an employee has reached Rs25,000 and prices of other commodities were also increased. The dealers said that the margin should be increased up to 6% due to the increase in the expenditures. Moreover, banners and demands of the PPDA were posed at the petrol pumps of different cities. The govt has not contacted the PPDA office-bearers to seek withdrawal of their



NEW YORK: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal speaks at the Ministerial Roundtable.

■ Committee to implement SC's detailed order, another commission formed to probe Tayyaba Gul charges

Cabinet reiterates to complete IMF plan

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Cabinet has approved constitution of a special committee to make recommendations on implementation of Supreme Court of Pakistan's detailed judgment in the suo motu case regarding former Deputy Speaker National Assembly Qasim Suri's ruling.

A meeting of the federal cabinet was held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in which the political situation of the country was discussed. Furthermore, the cabinet members congratulated on successful negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), on which the Prime Minister prayed to Almighty for this to be the last agreement with the IMF.

The federal cabinet also endorsed the decisions of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC). PM Shehbaz Sharif said they have been trying to save the country from the former government's faulty decisions. With solving problems the government will bring relief to the people, he added. The federal cabinet on Friday decided to set up multiple committees and commissions to probe serious allegations levelled against former prime minister Imran Khan and his party's office bearers in the vote of no-confidence and the Tayyaba Gul.

This was announced by Federal Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb on Friday during a news briefing after the federal cabinet's meeting.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said that during Friday's cabinet meeting, a detailed discussion was held on the recent issues, particularly the detailed order of the Supreme Court of Pakistan in the suo motu case over the rejection of the vote of no-confidence in the National Assembly against then prime minister Imran Khan. The other issue under discussion was the complaint of Tayyaba Gul against former National Accountability Bureau (NAB) chairman Justice (retired) Javed Iqbal.

On the former, Aurangzeb said that the cabinet passed a resolution welcoming the detailed order and the points raised therein. She added that the apex federal forum saw the order as a charge sheet against the PTI and its office bearers involved in subverting the constitution. Further, she said that the apex court's order cleared that no proof of foreign interference was presented before the court. "The court has rightly pointed out that if it was such a serious matter, why did the prime minister at the time, Imran Khan, not order an inquiry into the matter and instead adopt silence," she said.

She added that it was decided that a special committee has been formed, led by Federal Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarrar, and federal ministers of interior, information and others to re-

view the points contained in the order and prepare a set of recommendations on implementing them. On Tayyaba Gul's complaint before the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), Aurangzeb said that Gul had filed a complaint on the prime minister's portal of sexual harassment and sexual abuse.

"Instead of taking action, the woman was summoned to the PM house where she was held against her will for 18 days," she said, adding all video evidence in her possession was seized and then used to blackmail the former NAB chairman to file bogus cases against political opponents. In this regard, she said that an independent inquiry commission will be set up by the law minister under the Inquiries Act 2017 to probe Gul's allegations. Moreover, complaints filed by women against Justice Iqbal in the enforced disappearances commission will also be included in the probe.

She added that the commission will be time bound to complete its probe and submit findings. The federal minister promised that all findings will be made public. She further said that the cabinet considered the decisions of the Economic Coordination Committee of the Cabinet taken on July 5. In this regard, she said that the cabinet approved the decision to import 300,000 million metric tons of wheat. —DNA

Transporters cut travel fares by 10 percent

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Public Transport Owners Federation (APPTOF) on Friday announced decreasing the fares of travel between Lahore and other cities of Punjab by 10 percent.

According to the APPTOF, the fare of travel between Lahore and Rawalpindi was decreased by Rs100. Similarly, the fare of travel between Lahore and Faisalabad was decreased by Rs50. The fare of travel between Lahore and Multan was decreased by Rs100. The fare of travel between Lahore and Sadiqabad was decreased by Rs200. On the occasion, the APPTOF said that the diesel prices were decreased by Rs40 after an increase of Rs133. "We will further decrease the fares if the government eliminates Adda Parchi," the transporters announced. "We have decreased the fares in the public interest," they added. —DNA

5 BLA terrorists killed in Ziarat operation: ISPR

RAWALPINDI: As many as five terrorists of the banned Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) were killed during the follow up clearance operation held on the night of July 14 and 15 to recover the abducted cousin of Shaheed Lieutenant Colonel Laiq Baig Mirza and apprehend the perpetrators.

During the ongoing recovery operation in Ziarat area, a terrorists' hideout was identified and cleared by security forces near Khost in Khalifat mountains, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release received here on Friday. The terrorists opened fire on the closing-in troops, resulting into Shahadat (martyrdom) of Havildar Khan Muhammad, once encircled by the forces. The BLA terrorists were killed in ensuing heavy exchange of fire whereas the sanitization operation would continue in the area to apprehend the remaining perpetrators and recover abducted Omer Javed. —APP

Gold price down by Rs.50 to Rs.141,100

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed a decrease of Rs.50 on Friday and was sold at Rs.141,100 in the local market against its sale at Rs. 141,150 the previous day.

The price of 10 gram 24 karat gold also declined by Rs.43 and was sold at Rs.120,970 against its sale at Rs. 121,013 whereas prices of 10 gram 22 karat went down to Rs.110,890 against its sale at Rs. 110,930. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs1570 and Rs1346.02 respectively, All Sindh Jewellery Association reported. The price of gold in international market decreased by \$9 and was sold at \$1705 against its sale at \$1714, the association reported. —APP

Rupee loses Re 1 as dollar closes near Rs 211

ISLAMABAD: The rupee lost Re 1.1 against the dollar in interbank trade on Friday with the greenback closing at 210.95.

According to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the rupee depreciated 0.55 per cent compared to yesterday's close of Rs209.8.

Metis Global Director Saad Bin Naseer noted that the rupee had appreciated slightly when the market opened on Friday but came under pressure because of an increase in the dollar's demand after banks started clearing pending payments.

The pressure has continued since then, he said, and cited depleting reserves and "insignificant" remittances and export payments. While there is some confidence because of the IMF deal, the situation would not improve until the country's reserves were stable, he added. —APP

PSX down by 0.65pc, sustains 42,000 level

From Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Index ended its four-session rally, falling 274 points on the final day of the week with both volume and value of shares traded also registering a decline.

The market opened on a slightly positive note, riding on the news that the staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had finally been reached. However, selling pressure was soon witnessed with the index swinging sideways through the rest of the session.

At close, the KSE-100 index finished with a fall of 274 points or 0.65% to settle at 42,074.91 points.

A note from Arif Habib Limited (AHL) stated the market remained range-bound throughout the day as investors opted for profit taking. "Volumes remained dry in the main board although healthy volumes were witnessed in the 3rd tier stocks," said the brokerage house.

Sectors contributing to the fall included banks (69.7 points), E&P (55.1 points), cement (45.7 points), engineering (21.5 points) and fertiliser (19.6 points).

On the economic front, the rupee closed near the 211 level after a 0.55% fall against the dollar in the inter-bank market on Friday, as pressure piled up due to import payments and the US currency's added strength.

Uneasy calm in Karachi after ethnic flare-ups

KARACHI: An uneasy calm prevailed in parts of Karachi on Friday after a call for protest and strikes was given by ethnic groups in the wake of the killing of 35-year-old Bilal Kaka in Hyderabad and a violent demonstration at Sohrab Goth yesterday that followed the incident.

On Tuesday, Kaka was killed and five of his companions were injured in a scuffle at a hotel in Hyderabad, drawing an angry reaction from nationalist parties who believed the attackers were Afghan nationals. Yesterday, several political parties, including JI, MQM-Pakistan, Awami National Party, and nationalist leaders Jalal Mehmood Shah and Ayaz Latif Palijo issued statements, urging both Sindhis and Pakhtuns,

the two groups at the heart of these tensions, to demonstrate restraint.

They also demanded the government take prompt action to defuse the tensions. Today, commercial activities remained suspended in several localities of the metropolis where police and other law enforcers carried out flag marches to maintain law and order. However, after Friday prayers, protests were reported in the Sohrab Goth area where the police detained some people. City police chief Javed Akhtar Odho told that some people tried to torch an old vehicle near Sohrab Goth and damaged other property after zuhr prayers. However, he said, the police took immediate action and detained around 10 to 15 people. —APP

Shehbaz for strong Pak, Egypt ties in trade, energy

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday expressed his resolve to continue to provide relief to the masses, as he fulfilled his commitment to the nation to transfer the benefit of reduction in fuel prices. The PM in a tweet said: "In line with my commitment to the nation, the coalition government has been swift to transfer the benefit of reduction in oil prices to the masses."

Shehbaz Sharif last night announced a cut of Rs 18.50 in the price of petrol and Rs 40.54 in the price of diesel in his address to the nation, which has been widely hailed and was seen as a big relief. "We will continue to provide relief as soon as we have financial cushion to do so. I believe in honest conversation with the nation," Shehbaz Sharif said in his tweet. Another report

adds: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday underscored his government's resolve to strengthen cooperation with Egypt in trade, investment, energy, education, and climate change.

In a meeting with the ambassador of Egypt Tarek Dahroug, the prime minister highlighted the fraternal relations between Pakistan and Egypt. During the meeting, views were exchanged on matters of bilateral interest. The prime minister lauded the efforts of Ambassador Dahroug to promote cooperation between Pakistan and Egypt in diverse fields. He felicitated Egypt on the assumption of the Presidency of COP-27.

PM Sharif drew attention to the continued egregious violations of human rights in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). He underlined the importance of peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir

dispute in accordance with the relevant UNSC resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people. The Egyptian ambassador conveyed cordial greetings from the leadership and people of Egypt

Army troops rendering great sacrifices for motherland

PM Shehbaz Sharif on Friday paid tribute to the martyred Lieutenant Colonel Laiq Baig, saying that the officers and jawans of the Pakistan Army were rendering great sacrifices for the motherland. Lt Col Laiq Baig, who was abducted on the night between July 12 and 13 while returning from Quetta, was shot dead while two terrorists were also killed in a rescue operation.

The PM said the sacrifice of Lt Col Laiq Baig would not go in vain and the terrorists would be taken to task. He said the entire nation was determined to eliminate terrorism from the country.



KARACHI: Police personnel stand alert after clash between Pakhtuns and Sindhis at the Sohrab Goth area.

Rain lashes Punjab including Lahore, woman killed

LAHORE: Different areas of Punjab, including the provincial capital Lahore, received intermittent rain on Friday while some incidents of roof collapse due to heavy rain were also reported in which two women died.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in its report said that a total of 176 people have died across Pakistan and thousands left homeless due to the heavy monsoon rains. Sporadic rain showered different parts of Lahore in the morning. The weather turned pleasant due to rain and cool breeze. Meanwhile, the roof of a house collapsed in Farukhabad area of Shahdara, Lahore in which a woman died. The deceased was identified as 70-year-old

Hanifa Bibi. An elderly couple and their son lived in the house the roof of which collapsed due to rain.

The husband and the son of the deceased woman went to the mosque for Fajr prayers when the roof which was made of TR Garder collapsed, said the rescue sources. The rescuers completed the search and rescue operation and declared no one else was under the rubble. In Narowal, the roof of a house collapsed due to heavy rain in Badha Pind village. According to Rescue 1122, the woman died on the spot after being crushed under the rubble of the roof. The Rescue 1122 teams reached the spot and started the rescue operation. "The roof of the house was too old to resist heavy

raains," said the rescuers. The deceased was identified as Shamim Akhtar.

Massive floods have killed a total of 176 people across Pakistan and left thousands homeless due to heavy monsoon rains, the NDMA said. According to the NDMA's flood-related figures, the floods triggered by monsoon rains have also injured 175 people. Moreover, 1,471 houses were swept away by the flooding which also killed 1,408 livestock. The southern province of Balochistan is the worst flood-hit area of the country, wherein, so far, 66 people, including women and children, have been killed after being swept away in rising flood waters, the NDMA said. —APP