

QUETTA VOICE

Email address: quettavoic@gmail.com

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Planning minister orders monthly security review meeting on CPEC

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ISLAMABAD: Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal announced on Friday that a security review meeting will be held every month on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

A statement issued by the Planning Ministry said that the decisions were issued by Iqbal while chairing a meeting to review the security progress on CPEC projects. The meeting was attended by the secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the secretary Ministry of Interior, the secretary Ministry of Information, and other relevant stakeholders.

Iqbal urged the need to build a "safe and secure environment for CPEC and to effectively tackle kinetic and non-kinetic challenges."

"CPEC is a flagship project of Pakistan & China Economic Cooperation which can create Pakistan to become an industrial economy. It is unfortunate that the momentum of 2013-18 could not be sustained," said the minister.

He also expressed concern that

Pakistan's side of CPEC's Joint Working Group on Security was also not holding meetings frequently. He directed the Interior Ministry to regularly convene on meetings on a monthly basis.

The planning minister also emphasized that National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) should function as per its laid role and objectives to the government can be provided with an "in-depth assessment of security challenges that are grounded in the socio-economic of the country."

"It will help the government to expand its security lens by addressing socio-economic grievances of the people that may if left unaddressed translate into security challenges. Our security lens must also focus on limiting the vulnerability of our youth towards violence, extremism and propaganda," said the minister.

Iqbal also directed all line ministries to ensure that laid down security protocols are followed by the Chinese nationals working on the CPEC. Furthermore, the Minister stated that propaganda

I learned about conspiracy against my govt in July last year: Imran Khan



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting to review production, available stock, government and demands of wheat.

Khuzdar Aranj earthquake: CM Bizenjo speaks to Sardar Akhtar Mengal

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan, Quddus Bizenjo spoke to the Chief of Balochistan National Party (BNP), Sardar Akhtar Mengal about the earthquake situation in Khuzdar district's Aranj area.

The two leaders discussed the damages caused by the earthquake and the ongoing relief operation in the area, an official handout issued on Friday evening said. The CM briefed the BNP Chief about the relief operation, the statement stated.

Mr. Bizenjo informed that relief goods have been dispatched to the affected area for the earthquake survivors. A mild earthquake measuring 3.1 on the Richter scale had jolted the Aranj area of Khuzdar. The earthquake had damaged dozens of mud-walled houses in the area, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) said.

The CM assured the BNP Chief that the provincial government would provide all possible financial support to the earthquake-affected people.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken phones Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhatto-Zardari

United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Friday telephoned Foreign Minister Dilawar Bhatto-Zardari to congratulate him on becoming the country's new foreign minister.

During the conversation, the two sides talked about strengthening the mutually beneficial and heralded relationship between Pakistan and the United States.

The two leaders also spoke about the promotion of peace and security in the country as well as the region at large.

According to the tweet, the leaders also vouched to engage in a mutually respectful way moving forward.

PPP Chairman Dilawar Bhatto-Zardari had taken oath as the country's youngest foreign minister on April 27, breaking the records earlier set by his grandfather and a party leader.

President Arif Alvi administered the oath to the Oxford-educated PPP chairman, who is 51 years, seven months, and six days of age — a development that came after much delay and deliberation.

Earthquake jolts Khuzdar Aranj, damages mud-walled houses

From Our Correspondent

QUETTA: A mild earthquake jolted the Aranj area of Khuzdar district on Friday afternoon. The earthquake jolts damaged mud-walled houses in the Aranj area of Khuzdar. On the Richter scale, the earthquake was recorded as 3.1.

The depth of the earthquake was 10 kilometers.

There was no human loss as a result of the earthquake. The earthquake caused panic among the people.

People rushed towards open spaces to protect themselves from



earthquake.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mr. Quddus Bizenjo directed the PDMA to make sure provision of relief to the earthquake-affected people. The CM also spoke to the Balochistan National Party (BNP) chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal and assured him about the support of the provincial government.

Relief goods were dispatched towards the affected areas, the CM informed. The BNP Chief, according to a press release issued by the CM Secretariat, an emergency has been declared in the area to support the earthquake survivors.



I learned about conspiracy against my govt in July last year: Imran Khan

Former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan has claimed that he came to know about the alleged conspiracy against his government in July last year.

Speaking at a podium, the PTI chairman said that there were fears of a civil war in Afghanistan, therefore, he did not want the intelligence chief to be changed during those difficult times.

"I realized last summer that once the US leaves Afghanistan, there could be a civil war that could have repercussions for Pakistan. Our soldiers were being martyred, so I wanted the intelligence chief, who had served for five years already, to stay as it was the most difficult of times."

Yet, they [the Opposition] created the impression that I wanted the former director-general of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) General Fiaz to be the next army chief," he said.

The PTI chairman went on to say that he had also learned last year that the PMF-N was planning to "seize" the government.

"I had already learned about it in July last year that they [the Opposition] had made a complete plan to overthrow the PTI-led government," Khan maintained.

"That's the reason I did not want the intelligence chief to be changed until the winter was over. It wasn't a secret."

He said that throughout the time he was in power, he never made a decision that deviated from the principles of merit.

"I couldn't even think of making any decisions about the appointment of the army chief without considering merit. I would like my army to be strong. There was no such thing in merit, yet they spread rumors about my preference for Fiaz Haque as the chief of army staff."

Imran Khan, Jahangeer Khan Green sought slight benefits from the army. During the meeting, Khan also talked about his former aides Aslam Khan and Jahangeer Tareen, saying that he distanced himself from them after they sought "illegal benefits" from him. Web Desk

Sheikh Rasheed seeks pre-arrest bail from LHC

RAWALPINDI: Former interior minister Sheikh Rasheed on Friday filed a plea seeking pre-arrest bail after the registration of nine cases in different courts. According to details, former interior minister Sheikh Rasheed, residing at the Rawalpindi bench of the Lahore High Court and applied for pre-arrest bail. It may be recalled that nine cases have been registered against Sheikh Rasheed in different courts while the police have already arrested his nephew Sheikh Rashid Sharif. It may be recalled that a case was registered against more than 150 people including Imran Khan, Sheikh Rasheed, Fawad Chaudhry and Shahbaz Gill in the Mirpur-e-Nasir incident. Earlier, Aslam Muslim League chief and the former interior minister had filed a petition at Lahore police station. DSP

Imran Khan government ruins national institutions: Mehmood Achakzai

Amnat Hanafi

QUETTA: Chief of Puchtanokhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP), Mehmood Khan Achakzai has lashed out at former Prime Minister Imran Khan for what he called ruining all national institutions. He expressed these views while addressing a public meeting in Peshawar on Friday. "Establishment imposed Imran Khan on the country in 2018 general elections and destroyed all national institutions," Mr. Achakzai said.

The PKMAP Chairman however said the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) removed the government in a constitutional way. He reiterated that the party would not make any compromise over the rights of Puchtanokhwa and other oppressed nationalities in the country.

"Constitution guarantees the rights of all nationalities living in the country," he said. The seasoned politician demanded that Peshawar, Baluchistan, and Sindh should be given their due and constitutional share in their rich mineral and natural resources. Mr. Achakzai said that his party was not against the armed forces rather it was against the political role of the military. "No political role of the intelligence agencies as per the constitution," he said. Other PKMAP leaders including Syed Liaquat Agha, Iqbal Khatun, Syed Shahid Agha, and others also addressed the public meeting. The flag-waving supporters stood at their places when Achakzai came on the stage to address the gathering.



Sibi police station attacked, one personnel injured

Nashad Baloch

One policeman injured when unknown elements hurled a hand grenade at Sibi police station. Police sources said unknown elements hurled a hand grenade at Sibi Police Station. One policeman was injured in the attack. Policemen shifted the injured personnel to district headquarters hospital Sibi for medical treatment. The attackers escaped without being traced. Senior police officers reached the spot as an investigation into the incident went underway.

SBP records whopping Rs190b surge in personal deposits in 3 months

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has recorded a whopping Rs190 billion increase in personal accounts deposits during the first three months of 2022, it was learnt on Friday.

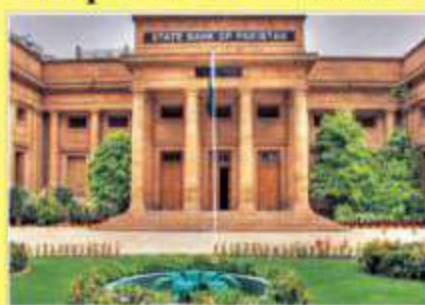
According to the SBP, personal accounts deposits in the banking system have increased from Rs2,640 billion to Rs2,830 billion during January-March 2022.

"The main reason behind the increase in personal accounts deposits is high interest rates and elimination of tax on cash withdrawals," experts say.

"The increase in personal accounts deposits is extraordinary, for deposits in other individual accounts such as salary and business accounts have remained flat," they add.

According to the SBP, total deposits of the individual bank accounts reduced to Rs9,417 billion by the end of March 2022, whereas, the same deposits were Rs9,443 billion at the end of December 2021.

"Since the abolition of withholding income tax on cash



withdrawals on July 1 last, there has been a gradual increase in deposits in personal accounts," observe the banking experts.

"After increase in the policy rate, due to better return on investment, personal accounts are increasing," they add.

"The SBP raised interest rate by 2.75pc to 9.75pc during September-December 2021. The central bank in its policy announcement on April 7, 2022 further raised the interest rate by 2.50pc to 12.25pc which also caused the personal accounts deposits to increase," they state.

The banking experts also attribute the increase in personal accounts reserves to the change in bearer national prize bonds. They say that the government began documenting the amount invested in prize bonds. Then, in the first phase, the government withdrew bearer prize bonds of Rs7,500, Rs15,000, Rs25,000 and Rs40,000 and banned the encashment of bearer prize bonds. It is to be noted here that June 30, 2022 is the deadline for exchanging or replacing bearer prize bonds. INF

No chances of heatwave in Karachi: Met office

KARACHI: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on Friday predicted that there are no chances of heat wave in Karachi until May 15.

The weather will remain hot and humid, however, there are no chances of a heat wave in Karachi for now, the met office said, adding that temperature would reach a peak of 34 to 36.5 C, which would decline to 27 C in the early hours of the day.

The met office further said that the humidity has been recorded at 76 percent in Karachi.



ISLAMABAD: Xi Xiang President of Middle East & Africa Region of Huawei and Charge d' Affairs of China Embassy Pang Chunxun called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.



ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Qamar Zaman Kaira, has strongly condemned the state terrorism unleashed by Narendra Modi-led fascist government in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Kaira condemns state terrorism unleashed by Modi-led fascist regime in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Qamar Zaman Kaira, has strongly condemned the state terrorism unleashed by Narendra Modi-led fascist government in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Imran says 'will give Islamabad march call after May 20

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has announced in Islamabad today to give a call for the Islamabad march anytime after May 20.

Addressing the public gathering Friday he said that it is beginning Hisopuq Azad Tehreek (free independence movement) from Islamabad. He said that the Islamabad people have elected him for the first time and he will never forget them.

The PTI chairman announced that he would give a call to the nation for the first time and he will never forget them. He said that he is in the nation that he will never bow down his head before any power he thanked political rivals for calling him to the nation.

Imports increased tremendously during the PTI era

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Friday said the previous government increased imports more than exports which weakened the local currency and eroded the foreign exchange reserves.

The exports increased but imported outweighed the achievement which increased by 39.9 percent to over 62 billion dollars during the PTI era.

Pakistan's exports were over 13 percent of the GDP in 2013, which fell to 10 percent while the global average remains 25.3 percent.

He said that Pakistan has no other option to boost exports discounting failed strategies and hefty subsidies to the club of billions.

AJK PM concerned about Indian plots to change IIOJK's demography

MELZAFFARABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Saadul Karver Durr Khan, has rejected the report of Indo-continental Delimitation Commission mandated to redraw national boundaries in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

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Imran Khan, Aleem Khan trade barbs

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan and former PTI leader Aleem Khan traded barbs on Friday during a television debate on the PTI channel.

Imran Khan said that Aleem Khan was a traitor who had betrayed the nation and the PTI.

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'Redrawing electoral maps, a conspiracy to disempower Muslims in IIOJK'

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter leader, Akbar Hussain Khan, today a strong objection to the Indian Delimitation Commission's report has said that redrawing electoral map of occupied Jammu and Kashmir is yet another attempt to disempower Muslims and disempower the Kashmiri Muslims.

HYDERABAD: A dry bank of Indus River at Jamshoro.

ANF seized 2071.336 kg drugs, 2368 lit prohibited chemical, arrested 54 suspects during 64 operation

ISLAMABAD: Anti Narcotics Force Pakistan (ANF) today announced that it has seized 2071.336 Kg Drugs, 2368 Liters Prohibited Chemical & 1463 Kg Suspected Material.

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PTI to hold power shows across Punjab: Mussarat Jamshed

LAHORE: Secretary Information Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Punjab, Mussarat Jamshed Cheema has said that the party will hold power shows across the province during the ongoing month.

In a statement issued here on Friday, she said that after Islamabad's public gathering, PTI will hold power show in Beloon on May 10, in Attock on May 12 and in Sukkot on May 14, 2022.



MIANWALI: Sutters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf hold party flags during PTI public gathering (Jaba).

PTI laid economic landmines to discredit successors

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economic Watch (PEW) on Friday said the previous government laid economic mines for the present government which is becoming difficult to deal with.

The former government announced a huge subsidy on electricity and oil in its last days which is costing up to three billion rupees daily, it said.

Chinese dishes find ways on Pakistani tables on Eid days

ISLAMABAD: On Eid gala days, Chinese dishes increasingly have found their ways on Pakistani tables emerging as one of preferred cuisines among diverse array of traditional foodstuffs.

According to a report published by Qwadar Pro on Friday, all three Eid days from May 3 to May 5, local enthusiasts of Chinese food, in a good number, visited food stalls and restaurants and quenched their appetite for yummys and aromatic Chinese dishes like Beef Chilli Dry, Egg Fried Rice, Steamed Chicken Dumplings, Peking duck, the Mongolian Beef Steak, Kang Pao Chicken, Chicken in Oyster Sauce and other delicious items.

Foodies prefer eating for contemporary Chinese dishes also, their parties to their dear ones and friends to spare Crispy Chicken with Sweet and Sour Sauce or the Crispy Sweet and Sour Chicken, Prawns along with Vegetable Chopped, an in-depth survey revealed.

Govt has to take tough decision to put devastated economy back on track: Mian Zahid

KARACHI: The incumbent Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will have to take tough decisions to put the crippled economy of the country back on track.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the dysfunction of energy sector demands special attention as it is holding the national economy back.

He said that the government has to take tough decisions to put the crippled economy of the country back on track.

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KARACHI: People are enjoying at sea view picnic point on Friday in Provincial Capital.

Pakistan needs to capture wider market for export of surgical instruments

ISLAMABAD: A joint study of the Pakistan Business Council (PBC) and the Engineering Development Board (EDB) shows that Pakistan's surgical industry has shown modest growth over the last five years. The analysis of exports of surgical instruments reveals that Pakistan's market share of the global surgical products market has remained stagnant at 0.2% over the past 10 years. WealthPK reported.

According to the study, quantity-wise exports of surgical products reached a peak in 2014 at over 238 million sets of products. After that, they recorded a decline between 2015 to 2020.

Moreover, the current data released by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) shows that the exports of surgical products declined in July-March 2021-22, registering a value of \$307.660 million compared to the same period of the previous year when the exports were \$324.314 million.

According to the study of PBC and EDB, Pakistan's surgical industry is highly competitive and the competitive edge lies in its low cost of production. The average unit cost for exports is between \$0.5 to \$0.7.

The industry is highly labour-intensive in around 25 stages of production need labour, requiring both skills and tools. Due to the lower labour cost, Pakistan can produce products cheaper.

The city of Sialkot has become a cluster in production of surgical instruments.

Pakistan has taken some steps to increase the economic value of surgical industry. The government formulated a Manufacturing Third Scheme, allowing the producers to import duty-free inputs for subsequent exports.

The Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TeVta) also plays a key role in providing skilled labour to the surgical industry. The Institute of Surgical Technology and Metal Industries Development Centre, which functions under TeVta, is also in a crucial role in this regard.

Moreover, schemes such as Duty and Tax Remission for Exports (DTRE), Export Oriented Units (EOU) and Temporary Importation Scheme (TIS) are facilitating the industry to increase exports of surgical products.

However, there are multiple reasons why Pakistan has yet to capture a larger portion of the world's surgical products market as the country currently exports such products to only 13 countries.

Pakistan is still focusing on Europe, the US, and the UK, where the per-unit price is lower compared to African countries where the per-unit price is the highest.

Along with a small number of export destinations, there are some other reasons hindering the development and higher exports of surgical industry. These obstacles include inadequate infrastructure, high cost of doing business, shortage of skilled labour, and a lack of common facility centres.

To increase the contribution of this sector to exports, following steps are needed to be taken.

Firstly, Pakistan should introduce a joint venture concept to fetch new investment and advanced technology. Secondly, the development of a surgical city near Sialkot will have everything needed for the production of surgical products. A separate location will make it a bigger cluster IIP.



ISLAMABAD: Governor Punjab Umar Sarfraz Cheema, called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Awwaz-e-Nade.

Man killed, three injured in Sujawal clash

SUJAWAL: A man was killed and three others injured in armed clash between two groups of a community here. Police arrested an accused with arms.

According to details, two rival groups of Fakhr community started fire in jurisdiction of Baluch check post in Sujawal.

In firing one person was killed and three others sustained bullet wounds.

The body and injured were shifted to hospital for medical-legal formalities.

The police arrested an accused with a Repetitor and bullets while raids were being conducted to arrest other culprits IIP.

PR needs to apply quality controls to improve competitiveness

ISLAMABAD: Through implementing the quality and management systems in vogue internationally, the Pakistan Railway PR can compete with its counterparts at the global level in terms of quality management, WealthPK reported.

Being a state-owned enterprise, the PR has been mired in continuous losses and depleting assets since its inception.

The state enterprise's quality management has been nowhere to be seen due to worsening quality of service, leading to a decreased number of passengers and freight haulage.

However, most of the ailments plaguing the PR are out of its own making, as the public entity has seen less and less investments in infrastructure, operations and maintenance of its obsolete bogies.

However, the railway sector of Pakistan can make a turnaround in terms of quality, if it can effectively implement a number of standards and management systems adopted by top-performing railways across the globe.

In begin with, ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System is considered the bedrock of almost all management systems and standards in turning around an organization. It can be applied for bringing advancement in technological infrastructure of organizations, for better employee's management and improving the supply chain, according to the WealthPK research.

The PR can also implement the International Technological Standards (ISO 27001) Security Information Security Management System to improve its management and operations. By implementing this system, the PR can assure the safety of its customers electronically in put tabs on any possibility of any data breach and ensure information security. The PR can also adopt the ISO 30002:2017

Govt should focus on evolving new strategy to get rid of IMF loans: ICCI

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI), Muhammad Shaukat Moris has called upon the government to focus on evolving a new strategy in order to generate indigenous resources and get rid of IMF loans to run the economy as tough constraints of IMF loans always pushed up the prices of gas, electricity and P&G products, studied subsidies & tax exemption and thus created more difficulties for the business community and the general public.

In a statement issued here on Friday, he said that in 75 years of existence, Pakistan has gone to IMF for 22 times, which showed that successive governments have failed to make Pakistan stand on its own feet but heavily depended on the loans to overcome its economic imbalances.

He said that frequent borrowings from IMF have piled up huge foreign debt burden on Pakistan, which is threatening the future of our generations. He said that the government should seriously think about reducing their reliance on foreign loans.

Muhammad Shaukat Moris said that the government must consider including Turkey, Bangladesh, India and others have got rid of IMF by adopting policies and it is the high time that the new government should work out a new strategy to generate indigenous resources to run the economy.

He said that the government should focus on reducing the high tax rates and expanding its tax base IIP.

Chinese power giant distributes ration to over 700 deserving families

ISLAMABAD: More than 700 deserving families of local communities adjacent to Pakistan's Tar Block-1 Integrated Coal Mine Power Project, were given Ration Packages during the 50th month of Ramadan by Tar Coal Block-1 Power Generation Company (TCB-1), Minggaki Electric. China's leading energy equipment manufacturer.

Themed "Food Drive with Love", the campaign was to purchase and security of the locals for the year 2022, according to China Economic Net (CEN).

Each ration package contains 14 items, including flour, sugar, rice as well as other essential items, suiting regional food habits and ensuring that each family of nearby communities can celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr with satisfaction and happiness.

"Ramadan is about love, devotion, and caring," source from TCB-1 told the reporter, adding that on the basis of fully respecting local culture and customs and carrying the sharing and giving spirit, the ration distribution is part of their sincere commitment to improving local community's livelihood.

As per TCB-1, the ration packages can help relieve some of the burdens faced by local residents and TCB-1 staff felt so rewarded when seeing the heartfelt smiles of these neighbors. Thousands of beneficiaries will enjoy a joyous and peaceful celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr when receiving the Ramadan packages. As the leading developer of Tar Block-1 Integrated Coal Mine Power Project, Shanghai Electric is capable of powering 4 million households in Pakistan with 1320 megawatts of independent, affordable and reliable IIP.

ITP organizes 2,164 road safety education workshops during ongoing year

ISLAMABAD: Incharge Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) Education Wing, Inspector (Traffic) Raja Muhammad Ishaq is striving to ensure traffic discipline and minimize violation of rules through educating road users and arranged 2,164 road safety workshops during the ongoing year.

An statement issued here on Friday, he said these traffic workshops were arranged for driving license applicants, volunteers, students of educational institutions and staff of government and non-government organizations.

Raja Muhammad Ishaq said that it is a bid to educate motorists on the correct traffic procedures, the ITP is arranging such workshops and creating awareness amongst people about consequences of traffic rules violation, including over speeding, over-heating, inappropriate number plates, inappropriate driving, lane-line discipline, zebra crossing, the use of helmets and so on.

He said this effort is meant to infuse traffic discipline, which will help protect the lives and property of road user. The Inspector (Traffic) said road safety workshops were being arranged in government and private organizations, including educational institutions, to sensitize road users about various traffic rules. The awareness campaigns for the safety of road users is in full swing, he added.

In this regard, special teams have been constituted to teach road users how to ensure their safety while travelling on roads, particularly motorcycle riders were being advised how to take the left lane while travelling.

The Inspector (Traffic) said that these teams were performing duties at various main roads of the city and briefing motorcycle riders and other motorists about safety.

These motorcycle riders driving without helmets and side mirrors or having defective indicators, taillights, rear lights and speed meters are being cautioned and urged to get their bikes and vehicles repaired. He explained that a number of motorcycle riders suffer road accidents due to faulty lights or indicators.

Traffic police also put up banners at key points on roads, besides the main station of police is regularly airing programs to apprise transporters, drivers and citizens on traffic law and safety measures. IIP.

ECP adjourns hearing against 'rebel' PTI MNAs until Tuesday

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday adjourned hearing against 'rebel' lawmakers in National Assembly for Tuesday after PTI counsel sought time to respond to replies submitted by them.

The three-member bench of the ECP headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja, led the proceedings. Now senior PTI lawmaker Nisar Alam Khan, Farukh Alai, Ramesh Kumar, Aamir Nazeer and others submitting their statements in this case. The PTI counsel Farukh Chaudhry said that he could not respond to all written replies and it would be appropriate that counter arguments on these should be given on Tuesday. The ECP directed the counsel to complete their arguments as soon as possible so that the commission could decide on the matter before May 14. It is pertinent to mention here that the election commission under Article 63-A of the constitution is bound to decide on the matter within 30 days. "There should be no delaying tactics in this case," the ECP directed after Farukh Chaudhry said that he had to appear before high court on 11:30 am on Monday. He continued later adjourned the proceedings for Tuesday. The three-member bench of the ECP headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja led the proceedings today, which saw senior PTI lawmakers Nisar Alam Khan, Farukh Alai, Ramesh Kumar, Aamir Nazeer and others submitting their statements in this case. The PTI counsel Farukh Chaudhry said that he could not respond to all written replies and it would be appropriate IIP.

Incumbent govt not to do politics of revenge: CM Hamza

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Shehbaz Sharif has asserted that the incumbent Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government will never do the politics of revenge.

In a statement issued here on Friday, he said that those who begged about giving non-staff jobs have misled him and betrayed the trust.

Hamza Sharif said that those who promised to give 50 million jobs did not give a single job and betrayed the trust.

He said that the architect of a new Pakistan gave nothing to the people and the people have suffered. He said that the new Pakistan, he continued.

The chief minister said that we would not make any false promises to anybody. We will focus on the people's problems and difficulties of the people, he further stated IIP.

Two killed in water dispute clash

MANSHERA: Two people were killed in a clash between two groups over water dispute here, police said.

According to details, the incident took place in village Shadpur of district Okha in district Bahawalpur where armed of two groups started the over (PML-N) fight.

In crowd firing two people identified as Muhammad Nawaz and Iqbal Ahmad were killed. The bodies were shifted to hospital for post-mortem and police after registering a case into the incident inquired into to arrest the culprits IIP.

Crackdown against elements maligning people through immoral videos: Rama Sanaullah

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rama Sanaullah Shereh said the government has decided to launch a crackdown against the elements maligning the people through immoral videos.

While talking to the media, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader said these spreading unethical material on the social media will be arrested.

Prime Minister Rama Sanaullah said that Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has directed his ministers to coordinate with the media and the social IIP.

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Pakistan can increase agri productivity by AI technology

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan can increase agricultural productivity and have food security if it deploys artificial intelligence (AI) technology in the sector, WealthPK reported on Friday.

AI can help in forecasting changes in weather patterns, pace and direction of wind, pinpoint the level of moisture, temperature and humidity. It can be useful in detecting diseases in crops, thus guiding the growers on what harvesting technology is suitable. Moreover, AI can prevent the pesticide use by improving plant nutrition. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, world population is expected to reach over nine billion by 2050, meaning that food production must increase by 70% to fill the need. And this can only be possible with the deployment of AI technology in the agriculture sector, especially in the precision farming.

WealthPK, Dr. Abdulhadi, Chief of Research at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), said deployment of AI in the agricul-

Eight outlaws held, arms, others valuables recovered

LAHORE: The police arrested eight outlaws, recovered weapons, other valuables during separate actions here, police said on Friday.

Following the directions of DGI (Operations), the Sialkot police conducted separate actions against outlaws in its jurisdiction.

The police arrested three accused over display of arms, recovered illegal weapons and impounded a jeep with illegal glasses.

Three life flyers including Anwar, Asad and Bilal were arrested during a raid and several kilos were recovered from their possession.

The police arrested two culprits Araf and Afs Raza involved in robberies, street crimes and bike lifting incidents IIP.

Flour price goes up in Punjab

LAHORE: Flour millers on Friday jacked up the price of flour in Punjab after the closure of the provision of wheat on the government's quota.

The 20-kilogramme flour bag is being sold at Rs1300 in Punjab, said Chairman Pakistan Flour Mills Association, Aamir Raza.

The recent increase has been made due to the purchase of wheat from the open market, Raza said and added that the flour mills are not being provided with the government's quota wheat following the increase in flour price, the rate of roti may also go up on the province.

It is to be noted that the wheat support price was Rs1800 last year IIP.

ATC reserves verdict in Lahore truck bomb blast case

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Friday reserved a verdict in a case pertaining to the 2017 blast in a truck in Lahore's Sabzi Mandi that claimed lives of 16 people.

Judge Ejaz Ahmed reserved the verdict after both defence and prosecution sides concluded their final arguments. He will announce the judgment on May 14.

In 2017, the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of the Punjab police had registered a case against accused Saifur Rahman and others for their alleged involvement in the terrorist attack.

According to the prosecution, Rahman's truck was used in the bomb blast. His counsel, however, stated before the court that the accused had already sold his truck and that he had nothing to do with the blast IIP.

Govt decides against restoring weekly holiday of Saturday

Islamabad: The federal government has decided not to restore the weekly holiday of Saturday as government offices reported 246,540 TV channel.

After prime minister's approval, the Federal Election Commission issued a notification in this regard on Friday.

However, in an apparent move to compensate the government employees, the government has reduced the office hours on working days.

Now the government offices will work from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. On Fridays, the timings will be from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Earlier, the offices were observing time from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm IIP.



ISLAMABAD: Ex Inspector General of Police Punjab Zulfikar Cheema called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.



LAHORE: A view of high voltage electric wires fell down on a Rickshaw at Garhi Shaba area in Provincial Capital.