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PM Shehbaz orders passing on benefits of oil prices reduction to masses



Gender can't be changed at will, FSC rules on pleas against transgender law

Convoy of JI Amir Siraj ul Haq attacked near Zhob, One killed

JI chief remains unhurt, to address public gathering as per schedule



Ali Khan Mandokhail

ZHOB: The convoy of the Central Amir Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Siraj ul Haq was attacked near Zhob on Friday evening. Initial police investigation confirms one person was killed in the attack. The JI Amir was unhurt in the attack. Police sources also said four people were injured in the attack. "The blast seems to be a suicide attack", a senior security official said. He requested anonymity since he was not authorized to speak to the media.

At least seven people sustained injuries in attack

The injured were rushed to the Zhob hospital for medical treatment. An emergency was declared in the hospital to provide medical treatment to injured of the attack. Police and personnel of frontier corps reached the spot.

Footage from the spot shows thick smoke rising. The intensity of the blast was low, police said. The

bomb went off when the JI Amir was about to reach from Quetta to Zhob and address the party workers.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo strongly condemned the attack and directed the administration to ensure the safety of the JI Amir and other leaders. In a condemnation statement issued after the attack, Mr. Bizenjo directed the police to bring the perpetrators of the blast to book. He said he will not allow the terrorist elements and their patrons to succeed in their nefarious ambitions. He said he is deeply saddened that five people were injured in the incident, adding that he is grateful to the Almighty who protected the Sirajul Haq and his colleagues.

Foreign Minister and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari condemned the explosion near Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Sirajul Haq's convoy in Zhob and expressed good wishes for him.

He expressed his condolences to the families of those who died in the blast and directed immediate treatment of those injured in the blast. Bilawal also directed an immediate investigation into the incident. "All those responsible for the blast should be brought to justice," he maintained.

While expressing good wishes for Haq, the PPP co-chairman also prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured in the blast.

Mobeen Khilji parts ways with PTI as first wicket falls in Balochistan

Manan Mandokhail
QUETTA-Balochistan Minister for



Industries, Mobeen Khilji parted ways with the Pakistan Tehrik e Insaaf (PTI) on Friday evening. "I am not a part of the PTI, Mr. Khilji said. He had earlier booked Mr. Khilji and former deputy speaker Qasim Suri for inciting the people and causing damages to the public and private properties on May 9th in Quetta for their actions on May 9th. Mobeen Khilji said it was hoped that Imran

Policeman guarding polio team martyred in Mastung

From Our Correspondent

A policeman guarding an anti polio team was martyred in Balochistan's Mastung district on Friday. Police sources said known accused opened fire in the Karez Sor area of Mastung.

The dead body of the policeman was shifted to the Shaheed Ghouse Bakhsai Raisani hospital. The attackers escaped unhurt from the spot. Police and senior administration officials reached the spot as an investigation into the incident went underway.

Protesters block Quetta-Karachi highway against the incident

Scores of citizens of Mastung and re-



atives of the martyred policeman blocked the main road to protest against the incident. They were demanding an immediate arrest of the culprits involved in the attack. The protesters blocked traffic on main Quetta-Karachi highway and demanded the arrest of the accused. Deputy Commissioner Mastung, Yasir Dashti, tribune Sarder Kamal Khan Bangulzai and others reached the spot and held negotiations with the protesters.

Anti polio campaign underway in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan

The shopkeepers also pulled down their shutters in Mastung city to mourn the killing of the policeman guarding the polio team. Security was tightened in and

around Mastung after the protest and the firing incident.

An anti polio campaign is underway in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan. The seven day campaign was launched by the health department to provide polio drops to children under the age of five years.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo strongly condemned the attack and directed the administration to arrest the culprits behind the attack. In a statement issued after the attack, Mr. Bizenjo said the perpetrators of the terrorist attack would not be spared and they would be brought to justice.

Mastung is considered to be one of the most sensitive districts of Balochistan. In the past, militants operating in the area have repeatedly targeted security forces and Shia Hazara.

PM Shehbaz orders passing on benefits of oil prices reduction to masses

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed the authorities concerned to ensure that the impact of a reduction in petroleum prices was shifted to the masses in the form of decreased transport fares and prices of staples.

The prime minister, chairing the meeting of the Federal Cabinet, asked the Interior Ministry and the district administrations across the country to ensure the reduction in commodities prices.

Calling for strict action against the profiteers, he said the transport fares and staples prices should be reduced in proportion to the 11 per cent decrease in the petroleum prices announced by the government.

Apprising the Federal Cabinet about his visit to Iran on Thursday, the prime minister said Pakistan desired to enhance cooperation with the neighbouring country in



multiple sectors. PM Shehbaz told the meeting that the two sides had agreed to improve the security along the 900-kilometer Pak-Iran border. Both sides had counter cross-border terrorism, he added.

The prime minister said the import of low-cost electricity from Iran would help uplift the remote areas of Balochistan.

He further said Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi took a personal interest to ensure the completion of the much-delayed 100MW Gbad-Polan power transmission line within record time.

The project would ensure the power supply to southern Balochistan, particularly Gwadar, the premier remarked. Similarly, PM Shehbaz said, the Mand-Pishin border marketplace would create employment opportunities for the people on both sides of the border and usher in a new era of development. Shehbaz Sharif told the cabinet that the Iranian president had expressed special interest in enhancing bilateral trade, besides discussing cooperation in the fields of agriculture. Web Desk

Gender can't be changed at will, FSC rules on pleas against transgender law

The Federal Shariat Court (FSC) ruled on Friday that a person cannot change their gender at will and declared certain sections of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2018 against Sharia. Acting FSC Chief Justice Dr. Syed Muhammad Anwer and Justice Khadim Hussain announced the reserved verdict on a set of petitions challenging the law.

The National Assembly had enacted the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act in 2018 to provide legal recognition to transgender persons and ensure that discrimination against transgender persons in various walks of life shall be punishable. Hailed as a 'landmark' law that offered protection to a marginalised community, the legislation however has been embroiled in litigation scrutiny since its passage. In September 2022, the FSC had taken up petitions



have also been sought under the Intersex Persons (Protection of Rights) (Amendment) Bill, 2022, which called for the deletion of all those sections deemed against the injunctions of Islam and the Constitution During the hearing today, the court declared Sections 2(f) (definition of 'gender identity') and 2(n)(iii) ('Transgender Person') of the act to be against Sharia. The FSC also ruled Sections 3 (recognition of identity of transgender person) and 7 (right to inherit) of the Transgender Persons Act 2018 to be against Sharia. Web Desk

Simultaneously, amendments to the law

Imran open to Zaman Park search 'according to LHC orders'

LAHORE: The Punjab interim government on Friday said it had failed to reach an agreement with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan on carrying out a search operation at his Zaman Park residence in Lahore.

The provincial government claims the presence of several terrorists in Zaman Park who set alight government buildings and carried out violent attacks on military installations following the PTI chief's arrest on corruption charges last week.

But, speaking to reporters later in the evening, the PTI chairman said he does not trust the Punjab caretaker government, fearing that they would plant weapons and falsified evidence to implicate him in a fake case. Imran acknowledged that he met a team of police and provincial government officials who visited his residence this evening. "I told them to come see that there is no wanted person here. But then they said that we want to carry out an entire search of your house. If you want to find wanted men or terrorists, why do you have to come search my house? Have I committed a crime, or is there another reason that needs to be specified?" said the PTI chief.



"I told them that I won't allow that. If there is anything that we permit, it will be along the lines of what the Lahore High Court ordered." He said the LHC had permitted that "there would be one person from their side, one from ours, along with a female officer." "This is what the LHC ordered, so that what happened last time is not repeated. [Last time] they claimed that they found weapons, damaged and stole things, then also claimed that I was involved in the search." "But, despite the search of the PTI chairman said that the government is welcome to carry out a search of his residence if it ensures it will be done according to the orders of the court. He also said Imran says the government has clearly has some problems with me. Earlier today, Lahore police obtained warrants for a thorough operation in both the inner and outer parts of the former prime minister's house as part of a "terrorist hunt". But, despite the search of the operation, A team of government and police officials, led by the Lahore Commissioner Muhammad Aji Randhawa, entered Zaman Park this evening and presented the search warrants to Imran Khan's lawyers. The government team included Lahore DCO Rafea Haider, DIG Police Operations Sadiq Ali Dogar, and SSP Sohaib Ashraf. Web Desk

Khawaja Asif says situation to normalise soon, elections in October

ISLAMABAD: Ruling out the impression of delaying elections, Defense Minister Khawaja Asif on Friday said the ongoing law and order situation to normalise in a few days and the polls are on time. "Elections in Pakistan will be held in October," Khawaja Asif said in his interview with Al-Jazeera.

The minister said several political leaders including former prime ministers Nawaz Sharif, Benazir Bhutto and others were arrested in Pakistan but no one attacked military installations.

"Armed groups of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf vandalized and arson military installations and other properties on May 9, following the arrest of Imran Khan in the Al-Qadir Trust case, Khawaja Asif alleged.

"Those who attacked military installations are 'enemies of the state' and will face trial under military law," Khawaja Asif reiterated.

Responding to a question, the defense minister said they are not making new laws but will try the suspects under the existing laws.

He said Pakistan is passing through a political crisis but the situation will normalise soon, he added.

The Pakistan Army Act, which was brought into force in 1952, is used to put military personnel on trial under

the military's own legal code. In some provisions and cases, this law is also applicable to civilians.

The act was meant to prosecute army personnel and civilians attached with the military in some capacity.

The civilian accused of sharing of vital state secrets with the enemy may be tried in a military court as well as those civilians who are accused of targeting and attacking military installations.

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ISLAMABAD: A delegation of investors from UAE led by Sheikh Ahmed Dalmoock- al-Makhtoum calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, in Federal Capital.

Two dead in firing at Lakki Marwat

LAKKI MARWAT: Two people were killed while one was critically injured as a result of firing near Shah Hassan Khil at Lakki Marwat, police said on Friday.

Sources in police told the channel that those killed were identified as Matuallah and Farmanullah while the injured as Karamatullah.

Sources further stated that the dead as well as the injured had been shifted to Government City Hospital INP.

Old man dies of police torture in Lahore

LAHORE: A case was registered against four policemen of Shadbagh police Station in Lahore on Friday, following the death of a 70-year-old citizen who was allegedly killed in police custody.

According to the First Information Report, the government deliberately ordered Umar Farooq from his convenience store on Thursday night. The old man died allegedly due to the torture in police custody.

A case has been registered against four police officials including Imran and Asad.

According to the FIR, the accused cops left the dead body of the old man at Khawaja Farid Hospital and fled from there INP.

Imran Khan seeks bail in Zille Shah murder case

LAHORE: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Imran Khan on Friday moved Lahore High Court for bail in Zille Shah murder case. Khan in his plea claimed that the government deliberately nominated him in the Zille Shah murder case. "I have nothing to do with Zille Shah murder case," the former prime minister added in his plea.

Citing security concerns, Imran Khan has pleaded with the LHC to grant him interim bail in the case. According to the investigation report, Zille Shah was hit by a speeding car, when he was walking on the middle of the road. He was rushed to Services Hospital, but could not survive.

Meanwhile, PTI claims Ali Bilal aka Zille Shah was murdered in broad daylight and left at the Services Hospital. According to PTI the post-mortem report of Ali Bilal revealed that he was subjected to severe torture INP.

Dry, hot weather likely to persist in city

BAHAWALPUR: The local Met Office on Friday predicted dry and hot weather for the city for the next 24 hours.

The highest maximum and minimum temperatures recorded were 42 degrees centigrade and 28 degrees centigrade respectively during the last 24 hours. Dry and hot weather has also been forecast for the rest of the region INP.

Trans people cannot get their gender changed, rules Shariat court

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Shariat Court (FSC) on Friday pronounced the reserved verdict on the pleas against Transgender Act and ruled that transgender persons cannot get their gender changed. The FSC in its ruling has said that transgender persons cannot have themselves called man or woman, adding that the government is bound to provide all rights to transgender persons "Islam provides all human rights to transgender persons," it added and declared that Sections 2, 3 and 7 of the Transgender Act were un-Islamic INP.

Another life lost to Covid in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Another person lost his life to Covid-19 as Pakistan has registered another 13 infections during the last 24 hours (Thursday), showed the data released by the National Institute of Health (NIH) on Friday morning.

According to the NIH data, the death toll in the country climbed up to 30,662 now whereas the number of total infections rose to 1,580,935 after adding the fresh 13 cases.

During the last 24 hours (Thursday), 2,693 tests were conducted throughout Pakistan whereas the positivity ratio stood at 0.48%. The number of patients in critical care stood at seven.

In India, the Covid-19 cases in India has recorded 865 new coronavirus infections, while the active cases have decreased to 9,092 from 10,179, according to the Health Ministry data updated on Friday. The death toll has increased to 53,518 with four deaths which include one recorded by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated. The Covid case tally was recorded at 4.49 crore (4,49,84,923).

The active cases now comprise 0.02 percent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate has been recorded at 98.79 percent, the ministry said.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,44,44,013 and the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.18 percent according to the ministry's website. 220.66 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.

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Smuggled iPhones worth millions seized at Karachi airport

KARACHI: Pakistan Customs foiled an attempt to smuggle mobile phones worth millions at Jinnah International Airport Karachi.

According to Customs officials, the officers deployed at the International Department were busy checking passengers coming from a foreign origin.

During the process, the staff received credible information about a bid to smuggle iPhones. They intensified the screening process, during which they detained passenger who reached Karachi from Dubai.

During the surveillance, the Customs staff scanned the baggage of passenger and recovered more than 35 mobile phones including iPhone-XS, X-max, worth about Rs10 million approximately.

A case has been registered against the passenger as he failed to produce tax details to the customs staff.

In a similar action, Customs officials foiled a smuggling bid worth around Rs8 million from Allama Iqbal International Airport Lahore and nabbed a passenger travelling from the United States INP.

Lahore ATC extends Imran Khan's interim bail in three cases

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court in the Punjab capital on Friday granted bail to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran till June 2, in three different cases.

ATC Judge Ijaz Ahmed Butt announced the verdict after hearing arguments from the former premier's counsel Salmaan Safdar in cases related to attack on the Jinnah House, PTI protesters' clashes with police at Zaman Park and Ali Bilal aka Zille Shah's murder. The cases were registered against the PTI chief at Sarwar road, Shahdhan and Gulberg police stations.

Mr Khan, who has been facing multiple cases since his ouster from the PM's Office through no-confidence vote, also appeared before the court after he was summoned by the court. Strict security measures were taken to avoid any untoward situation.

While announcing the ruling, the ATC judge barred the police from arresting him till June 2. He also directed Imran Khan to join the investigation when the cases and submit surety bonds worth Rs100,000 in all the cases.

Meanwhile, the court has reserved verdict on bail pleas filed by the PTI chief in two other cases, saying it will announce its ruling after hearing arguments from the prosecution.

During the hearing, Salmaan Safdar argued that his client was being victimised politically. He also rejected the allegations that public and private properties were damaged at the invocation of the PTI chief INP.

Pakistan, Ireland hold 4th round of bilateral political consultations

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Ireland in the fourth session of the Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) discussed promoting ties in diverse areas including trade, culture and sports, the Foreign Office said Friday.

The Pakistan delegation was led by Ambassador Muhammad Saleem, Additional Foreign Secretary (Europe) while the Irish delegation was led by Sonja Hyland, Deputy Secretary General at Department of Foreign Affairs, Ireland, in the meeting held here.

Ambassador of Ireland to Pakistan Sonya McGuinness, Resident in Ankara, was also part of the Irish delegation.

The two sides reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations.

The Additional Secretary underscored Pakistan's commitment to further deepening and broadening of ties with Ireland in the areas of trade, academic exchanges, culture, sports, science and technology, harmonization of visa regime and migration & mobility.

Welcoming Ireland's decision to open its Embassy in Islamabad, the Additional Foreign Secretary underscored that it would be an important milestone in Pakistan-Ireland relations.

The Irish Embassy in Islamabad and Pakistan Embassy in Dublin have critical roles to play in enhancing bilateral ties, and promoting people-to-people con-

Trying civilians in military courts clear violation of int'l law: Amnesty

ISLAMABAD: Amnesty International on Friday raised concerns over the decision to try May 9 rioters under the Army Act, saying using military courts to try civilians is a clear violation of international law.

In a tweet, the NGO stated that "there are several provisions under existing criminal laws that can be used to prosecute vandalism and destruction of public property."

"The right to a fair trial, guaranteed by Pakistan's constitution, is severely undermined by this move and cannot be justified if it is struck down immediately," the statement added.

The statement by the human rights NGO comes as the top military brass resolved earlier this week that they would launch attacks on military installations and personnel following the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan.

The move brought to justice through trials under the relevant laws of the country, including the Pakistan Army Act and the Official Secret Act INP.

Commuters hail PR's decision to restore Bahauddin Zakariya Express

MULTAN: Commuters have lauded the decision of the government to restore Multan-Karachi Bahauddin Zakariya Express from June 01.

Talking to INP on Friday, they were of the view that restoration of Bahauddin Zakariya Express will lessen the sufferings of the travelers.

They also demanded Pakistan Railway to improve facilities in the train so that commuters will prefer using the service instead of travelling by buses or private buses which cost them a lot.

"It should be mentioned that Pakistan Railways keeping in view the requirements of the passengers has announced to restore Bahauddin Zakariya Express from 1st June. The train will depart from Karachi INP.

PCJCCI/APCEA celebrates anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic relations

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) and All Pakistan Chinese Enterprises Association (APCEA) organized an event for the celebration of Pakistan and China diplomatic relations on Friday. The chief guest of the event was Ibrahim Hassan Murad, Minister of Local Government and Community Development. Various keynote speakers participated in the event.

Zhuo Shiren, Consul General of the Republic of China, Sunny Yang, Chairperson All Pakistan Chinese Enterprises Association, Dr. Saad Khan, Director General Law and Human Rights (KPK), Moazzam Ali Ghurki President PCJCCI, Shaheed Ahmad Gifan, Additional Chief Secretary, Government (Punjab), Syed Hasan Javed, Dr. Muhammad Shoab Pervez, Azam Chaudhry, President Lahore Press Club, Abdul Basit, Nadeem Qureshi, Kashif Anwar, President LCCE, Noor Ullah, Hamza Khalid and many more.

The event was also attended by top notch business leaders from both Pakistan and China. Moazzam Ali Ghurki, President PCJCCI said during his welcome address that Pakistan and China established these relations on 21 May 1951, this bond has been developed on the strength of its successive achievements, and has become formidable with each passing day and year. Ibrahim Hassan Murad, Minister, Department of Local Government and Community Development, Punjab said while sharing his views that "this auspicious occasion that I believe the bilateral INP.



WASHINGTON DC: Ambassador Masood Khan talking to senior executives of PepsiCo at Embassy of Pakistan.

Weekly inflation decrease by 0.16 percent

ISLAMABAD: The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) witnessed a decrease of 0.16 per cent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on May 18, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 255.53 points during the past week, according to the PBS data. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 45.72 per cent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16=100 is covering 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs1,732 witnessed a 0.05 per cent increase and went up to 261.65 points from last week's 261.53 points.

Meanwhile, the SPI for the consumption group of Rs 1,732-22,888 and Rs 22,889-29,517 witnessed an increase of 0.04 per cent and 0.01 per cent whereas the SPI for the highest consumption group Rs 29,518-44,175, and above Rs 44,175 witnessed a decrease of 0.04 per cent, and 0.25 per cent respectively. During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 23 (45.10%) items increased, 15 (29.40%) items decreased and 15 (29.40%) items remained stable. The items, which recorded a decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week (WoW) included: Onions (9.04%), Garlic (1.76%), Sugar (1.42%), Wheat Flour (1.40%), Vegetable Ghee 2.5kg (0.63%), Mustard Oil (0.89%), Pulse Masoor (0.40%), Pulse Gram (0.12%) and Vegetable Ghee 1kg (0.11%) INP.

IHC seeks details of cases against Asad Umar

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday sought details of cases registered against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf secretary general and former federal minister Asad Umar, who is currently detained under 3MPO.

The case was being heard by Justice Mian Gul Hassan Aurangzeb of the Islamabad High Court.

During the court proceedings, Amina Anwar Advocate and Dr Babar Awan appeared on behalf of Asad Umar and presented their arguments in defense of the former minister.

Advocate Babar Awan requested the court to issue a notice to both parties and adjourn the hearing until Monday.

"Do you want to enjoy the weekend," Justice Mian Gul Aurangzeb remarked on Babar Awan's request to defer the hearing of the case till Monday.

The State Council received the court notice and is expected to prepare a response accordingly. The notice calls for the submission of First Information Reports (FIRs) against Asad Umar. The court has scheduled the next hearing on Tuesday to further deliberate on the matter.

It is pertinent to mention here that PTI secretary general Asad Umar challenged his arrest under MPO in the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

Asad Umar challenged his detention under MPO through Babar Awan and Anna Ali in the Islamabad High Court. Secretary Interior, K. P. Singh and others have been made respondents in the plea.

The former federal minister in his plea stated that as per SC's verdict, arrests cannot be made on the premises of the high court. During arrest from the IHC premises, five fundamental human rights were affected, Umar further said in his plea. He pleaded with the court to strike down his arrest and order release INP.



QUETTA: MQM Provincial President Imran Kaker along with Balochistan Aman Jirga members addressing a press conference.