



PM Shehbaz to be in jeopardy in case of election delay: Aitzaz Ahsan

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Aitzaz Ahsan on Saturday said if Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif did not allow election in Punjab on May 14, he would stand disqualified. Addressing a round table conference of lawyers and jurists, he said election in Punjab would be held.... (Details on Page 8)



Azam Tarar says legislation is prerogative of parliament

Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar said on Saturday that the parliament would not give its right to any other institution. Addressing at the Punjab Bar Council, he said efforts to create schism in the lawyer community would go in vain while mentioning the brilliant efforts of the PBC for the betterment of the legal society. (Details on Page 3)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Construction of Flyover

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing during the visit of under construction Imamia Colony Railway Crossing Flyover, Shahdara on Saturday.



Photo: PID

Army assures to pursue NSC goals to turn tide against terrorism



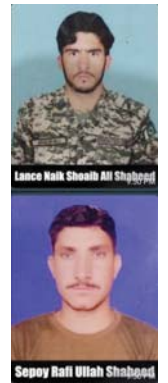
Spokesman Report
RAWALPINDI: The 257th Corps Commanders' Conference held here at GHQ, chaired by Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir, on Saturday expressed its assurance to pursue the goals set by the National Security Committee (NSC) to turn the tide against terrorism through the coordinated application of all elements of national power. According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, the forum reviewed domestic and regional environment, including external and internal security challenges confronted by Pakistan. The forum affirmed that military leadership is cognizant of the full spectrum of the challenges and it resolves to shoulder its constitutionally mandated responsibilities with support of the resilient people of Pakistan. The forum reiterated the commitment of the armed forces to fully support national responses against internal and external threats. It highlighted that while security forces are undertaking intelligence based operations in areas along the western border, there was a need to adopt a whole of the nation and whole of the government approach to eradicate the menace of terrorism on long term basis. This focused Counter Terrorism campaign against terrorists as approved by the Government, through whole of the system approach will lead towards eradicating permissive factors of terrorism, extremism and instability in the country.

PM asks nation to decide its future course sans foreign debts

Bureau Report
LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that there existed economic challenges but the nation would have to decide whether they would live on foreign debts or to stand on its feet by carving a niche among the comity of nations with honesty, dedication and hard work. The prime minister expressed the optimism that despite different challenges, Pakistan would be soon out of all difficulties. If the chronic issue of load shedding, the scourge of terrorism could end, free medicines could be provided to the poor, road infrastructure could be laid, then surely, the country could move on the path of progress and prosperity, he added. The prime minister was addressing a ceremony after reviewing the construction work on six-lane overhead bridge of Imamia Colony railways crossing Shahdara N-5. He said that those nations always achieved milestones that took lead with definite decisions over their future. The country was not created to move on debts and act like beggar because their forefathers and different generations had given sacrifices for the motherland, he added. The prime minister referred to the terms of International Monetary Fund (IMF) for seeking loan agreement and said that they did every effort to implement them. Even, they sought bilateral financial support from the friendly nations including China that realized their problems and provided a rollover of \$2 billion loan besides, returning back previous debt amount paid back by Pakistan. The prime minister also expressed his gratitude to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The UAE had committed a loan of \$3 billion. He lauded the efforts of Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and the chief of army staff for making efforts in this regard. The ceremony was attended by Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, parliamentarians, chief secretary, National Highway Authority chairman and relevant authorities. The prime minister said that inflation and price hike, no doubt, had made the lives of ordinary people difficult, but the coalition government was cognizant of these affects. He urged the nation to work hard by day and night and transform the country into the visions of Quaid and Allama Iqbal. The prime minister cited the pace of development and uplift projects across Punjab province during Nawaz Sharif's tenure, regretting that during the last four years of PTI's tenure, brakes were applied, ending a number of public welfare-oriented projects, besides putting other vital projects into the cold storage. Recounting the public welfare projects initiated during Nawaz Sharif's tenure in the province, he said, some of them included the greater Iqbal park, metro bus service, cricket ground, power projects to overcome 20 hours load shedding which was ended in 2018 and that was a huge achievement. But during 2018, he said through 'fraud and fake election', polling results were rigged and the results were changed. With such move, the development pace was snatched which also saw a height of corruption in the province during PTI's government. Whereas, the PML-N government had strived to eliminate the curse during its terms, he added.

Eight terrorists killed, two soldiers martyred in South Waziristan IBO

Adam Khan Wazir
WANA: According to ISPR Security Forces conducted an Intelligence Based Operation in general area Zarmilan, Lower South Waziristan District. During the conduct of the operation, intense fire exchange took place between own troops and terrorists. Own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location. Resultantly, 8 x terrorists were sent to hell. Weapons and ammunition was also recovered from the killed terrorists. The killed terrorists remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces and killing of innocent citizens. However, during intense exchange of fire, Lance Naik Shoab Ali (age 25 years, resident of Parachinar, District Kurram) and Sepoy Rafi Ullah (age 22 years, resident of District Lakki Marwat) having fought gallantly, embraced shahadat. Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area. Security forces of Pakistan remain determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.



Saqib Nisar responds to PM Shehbaz Sharif's allegations



Bureau Report
LAHORE: The former chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) Saqib Nisar responded to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's allegations. As per details, the former chief justice of Pakistan Saqib Nisar said that he never halted or banned the projects started by the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) government. The allegations that the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif made are not true but it just for their political gains, he added. The former CJP said that PM Shehbaz Sharif should not drag judiciary in politics. Earlier, PM Shehbaz Sharif said that the former chief justice Saqib Nisar had banned the projects started by the PML-N government.

PTI's Ali Zaidi arrested in Karachi

Bureau Report
KARACHI: Sindh police on Saturday arrested the president of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Sindh chapter Ali Zaidi from PTI's Sindh house. According to details, the PTI senior leader Firdous Shamim Naqvi confirmed that the Sindh police arrested Ali Zaidi - the president of PTI Sindh - from the party's Sindh house on Saturday evening. Firdous Shamim Naqvi alleged that the Sindh police vandalized PTI's Sindh House prior to the arrest of Ali Zaidi, while the police officials did not show any legal search warrant or First Information Report (FIR) before taking Ali Zaidi into custody. He said that the raiding party not only broke the cell phones of the party workers who were trying to record the arrest but also took some devices with them. However, South Zone Police Karachi - in a statement - denied arresting the PTI leader Ali Zaidi, while the police mobile of Ibrahim Hyderi did not show any legal search warrant or First Information Report (FIR) before taking Ali Zaidi into custody. He said that the raiding party not only broke the cell phones of the party workers who were trying to record the arrest but also took some devices with them. However, South Zone Police Karachi - in a statement - denied arresting the PTI leader Ali Zaidi, while the police mobile of Ibrahim Hyderi did not show any legal search warrant or First Information Report (FIR) before taking Ali Zaidi into custody. He said that the raiding party not only broke the cell phones of the party workers who were trying to record the arrest but also took some devices with them. However, South Zone Police Karachi - in a statement - denied arresting the PTI leader Ali Zaidi, while the police mobile of Ibrahim Hyderi did not show any legal search warrant or First Information Report (FIR) before taking Ali Zaidi into custody.



Religious Minister Abdul Shakoor dies in road accident



City Desk
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Abdul Shakoor on Saturday evening died in a road accident when a vehicle rammed into his car near Secretariat Chowk, police said. The Police spokesperson said Maulana Abdul Shakoor was heading towards Secretariat Chowk from Marriott near Iftar timings when a Hilux Revo carrying five men hit his car. Maulana Abdul Shakoor was shifted to Polyclinic Hospital but he could not survive and succumbed to his injuries. Senior police officers rushed to the scene while the vehicle and occupants have been taken into police custody. Further investigation is underway, police added.

Imran Khan announces peaceful protests after Eidul Fitr

Bureau Report
LAHORE: Former premier and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan has announced to stage peaceful protests after Eidul Fitr. While addressing PTI workers and supporters, Imran Khan said that PTI will stage a series of protests after Eidul Fitr. He alleged that the rulers planned to start crackdowns on PTI leaders and workers after April 27. He added that the caretaker government has not yet arrested a single person associated with the ruling Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N). Khan said that 3,000 PTI workers were arrested by the government. The PTI chief said that they will not remain silent on the atrocities. He appealed to the nation to start preparations for peaceful protests after Eid. He asked the rulers to take steps for protecting the nation. He reiterated that the economic crisis will not end until the organisation of fresh elections. Imran Khan said that the Supreme Court (SC) is protecting democracy in the country and the nation will have to back the top court and the Constitution.

Ji Amir calls on PM



Bureau Report
LAHORE: Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Siraj ul Haq along with a three-member delegation on Saturday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. During the meeting, the current political situation in the country and the judicial crisis were discussed, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The leaders agreed that issues should be resolved with collective wisdom. Minister for Economic Affairs Division Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Minister for Railways and Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique were also present during the meeting.

Jawad Sohrab briefs PM on assigned tasks

City Desk
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday here held a meeting with his Special Assistant Jawad Sohrab Malik. The Special Assistant briefed the prime minister in detail about the completion of the tasks assigned to him. He lauded the prime minister for his steps taken for the restoration of the economy of Pakistan. Shehbaz Sharif expressed satisfaction at the briefing given by Jawad Sohrab.

