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Sindh cabinet okays Hub Canal project; 100 acres land allocated for Inclusive City for PWDs

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah presided over a cabinet meeting, approved several initiatives, including launching the Hub Canal project using provincial government resources, additionally, 100 acres of land were allocated for an Inclusive City for Persons with Disabilities.

The cabinet meeting also saw the decision to impose property tax collection in cantonment board areas, acquire 50 electric buses on a Rent Own Financial Model, launch S-BOSS for a consolidated business registry, and form a Sindh-based home workers council.

The meeting was held at CM House on Thursday and was attended by provincial ministers, advisors, the chief secretary, the chairman P&D, SMBR, concerned secretaries and others. The CM taking a policy decision in the interest of Karachi decided to rehabilitate Hub Canal through his government funding.

Karachi has two major water supply sources – the Indus River through Keenjhar Lake providing about 570 million Gallons Daily (MGD) water and Hub Dam. Hub Canal built in 1982-84 has outlived its life and its capacity reduced from 100 MGD to 70 MGD for many reasons. Some of the large areas of Karachi, including but not limited to, Orangi, Baldia, Kemari, SITE and New Karachi, depended upon the water supply from Hub Canal. The cabinet was told that an effort was made to undertake the Hub Canal Rehabilitation Project under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) for Rs. 75 billion in PPP mode, but the project could not move forward.

The water board has submitted a proposal to rehabilitate the existing Hub Canal and construct a New Canal of 100 MGD parallel to the existing one.

The proposal has a financial cost for constructing the New Canal and rehabilitating the existing Canal for Rs. 9.8 billion and Rs. 2.92 billion respectively. The cabinet approved the proposal and directed the water board to expedite the process and start the work.

The cabinet approved a plan to levy and collect property tax from the cantonment areas as per Supreme Court decisions.

The cabinet was informed that the Supreme Court had ruled that the provincial government would be responsible for imposing and collecting taxes on immovable property in the Cantonment areas. Currently, the Cantonment boards have been levying and collecting the property tax and entertainment duty.

Minister Local Govt Saeed Ghani told the cabinet that the provincial government has developed the collection of Property Tax from the Excise & Taxation department to the Local Government in July-2022. He added that the levy and collection processes were still under the purview of the E&T dept with human and another resource, this procedure would continue for the next three years.

The cabinet policy decision approved the plan that the cantonment boards would keep levying and collecting Property Tax in their respective areas keep two per cent service charges and hand over the rest of the amount to the provincial government.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a Provincial Cabinet meeting, held at CM House in Karachi.

Formation Commanders resolve to neutralize threats to country's security, stability

RAWALPINDI (APP): The 83rd Formation Commanders Conference on Thursday affirmed the resolve to neutralize all threats to the security and stability of the country with the full backing of the proud nation.

The conference, presided over by Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir, underscored that politically motivated and vested digital terrorism, unleashed by conspirators duly abetted by their foreign cohorts, against the state institutions was clearly meant to try to induce despondency in the Pakistani nation, to sow discord among national institutions, especially the armed forces, and the people of Pakistan by peddling blatant lies, fake news, and propaganda.

It, however, noted that the nation was fully cognizant of their ugly and ulterior motives and surely the designs of the nefarious forces would be comprehensively defeated.

The forum noted that planners, perpetrators, abettors, and facilitators of 9th May needed to be brought to justice for the collective good of the country, and that without swift and transparent dispensation of justice to the culprits and establishing the rule of law, stability in Pakistan would ever remain hostage to the machinations of such elements.

The conference was attended by Corps Commanders, Principal Staff Officers, and all Formation Commanders of Pakistan Army, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The forum also resolved to continue to fully support the government's initiatives in various domains for sustainable economic growth and curbing illegal activities, including smuggling, hoarding, electricity theft, implementation of One Document Regime, dignified repatriation of illegal foreigners, and safeguarding of the national database, etc.

The conference was briefed on the dynamics of the geo-strategic environment, emerging challenges to national security, and the Army's strategy to counter multi-domain threats.

The participants were also briefed on technological innovations to modernize the Army and optimize logistic support to field formations, in line with fast-evolving operational environment.

The forum expressed serious concerns over continued cross-border violations from Afghanistan and terrorism being orchestrated using the Afghan soil, noting that adversaries were using Afghanistan to target security forces and innocent civilians inside Pakistan.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir presides over the 83rd Formation Commanders Conference held at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi.

Strongly condemns Israel's brutality, PM calls for global intervention to stop Palestinians' bloodshed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday strongly condemned the recent Israeli attacks on unarmed Palestinians in Rafah area of Gaza, urging the international community to intervene to get stopped the worst barbaric inhuman acts. "I, on behalf of the government and the people of Pakistan, demand that the international community should play its due role to ensure that the people of Palestine and Indian Occupied Kashmir are granted their rightful freedoms and basic human rights," the prime minister said in a televised address.

He said due to the unprovoked and worst bombardment by the Israeli forces across Gaza, including Rafah, over 36,000 Palestinians, including thousands of children, had been martyred so far.

"After the lapse of eight months, Israel's thirst for blood is still unquenched as it is now bombarding the cramped camps of Palestinians displaced from across Gaza in Rafah (bordering Egypt)," he added.

The prime minister said Israel had showed blatant disregard for international law, without caring for the International Court of Justice's ruling and the United Nations Security Council's resolutions.

Not a single global power could prevail on Israel to get stopped bloodshed of Palestinians, he regretted.

PM Shehbaz said, "I am thankful to the Muslim countries that have raised voices at different international forums including the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the UN Security Council against the Israeli aggression." The Saudi Crown Prince, and the rulers of the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait and other countries were persistently voicing their support for the hapless Palestinians, he added.

Sindh Govt to issue 8.5 lac Benazir labor cards through NADRA

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah announced a major development for laborers in the province, revealing plans to issue a staggering 8.5 lac Benazir Labor Cards. This initiative, aimed at empowering the workforce, comes after the successful issuance of 1.5 lakh cards already by National Database Registration Authority (NADRA).

The announcement came during a meeting chaired by CM Shah himself. Commissioner City briefed the CM, outlining the issuance of an additional 2.5 lakh cards by June. These cards will provide access to free medical treatment for workers and their families at designated dispensaries and hospitals.

Secretary Labor elaborated on the verification process, highlighting the use of National Identity Cards to ensure transparency.

CM Shah's vision extended beyond just card issuance. He emphasized the importance of small loans for workers, proposing the use of the labor card as a channel for facilitating such loans. Recognizing agriculture's significance for the national economy, he called for subsidizing seeds and fertilizers to encourage farmers. He also stressed the need for the agriculture department to educate farmers on modern agricultural techniques.

MQM delegation calls on PM, presents budget proposals

ISLAMABAD (APP): A Pakistan Qaumi Movement (MQM) delegation led by Minister for Education and Professional Training Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui Thursday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and discussed with him matters pertaining to the Federal Budget 2024-25.

The MQM delegation presented their proposals regarding the budget to the prime minister. PM Shehbaz appreciated the party's input for the budget. He acknowledged the significance of Karachi - the country's largest city and economic hub, and assured that the government was committed to addressing its issues as a top priority.

He said the MQM was an important ally of the government. "The government will work together with its allies to bring the country out of economic challenges," he vowed. The MQM delegation included Dr Muhammad Farooq Sitar, Mustafa Kamal, Amin ul Haq, Javed Hanif and Abdul Hafiz. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Federal Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar and Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaulah also attended the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of MQM Pakistan led by Chairman Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Pakistan's multi mission satellite PAKSAT-MM1 launched successfully

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a historic development, Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) has announced the successful launch of Pakistan Multi Mission Communication Satellite PAKSAT-MM1.

High Throughput System (HTS) technologies that will greatly enhance the satellite-based communication services of the country and will fulfill the needs of commercial as well as government users.

from XiChang Satellite Launch Center (XSLC), China on Thursday.

The satellite PakSat-MM1 has been jointly designed and developed by SUPARCO and China Great Wall Industry Corporation (CGWIC).

According to the SUPARCO, this is a Geostationary Satellite based on advanced communication technologies that will greatly enhance the satellite-based communication services of the country and will fulfill the needs of commercial as well as government users.

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ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov addressing a joint press stakeout at Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Sindh to introduce e-logistics portal, e-payment facilities for ease of people: Sharjeel

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Information Minister, Sharjeel Inam Memon, Thursday, stated that provincial government will introduce an e-logistics portal and provide e-payment facilities for the ease of people and ensuring transparency.

Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, addressing a press conference after the Sindh Cabinet meeting, said that 16 out of total 48 departments of provincial governments including food, revenue, environment, Sindh Building Control Authority and local governments will be digitized and their official work be computerized so that people's problems could be addressed online.

The World Bank supported project will be completed this year and instructions have also been issued to the departments for framing the necessary rules for the initiative, he said and added that after digitization, all public services in those departments would be accessible online from home.

The cabinet approved a project for establishing a modern hospital, school, autism center, and playground for special children on 100 acres of land along Malir Expressway, the minister informed adding that previously, many centers have been established through the efforts of the Sindh government and Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah for persons with different abilities. He said that 41 agenda items were discussed in detail and all decisions made in the cabinet meeting were aimed at welfare of the people of Sindh.

Sharjeel Memon stated that "Roti, Kapra, Makan" is the slogan of the People's Party and its Sindh government had planned to build housing societies for various departments.



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit, Excise Taxation and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon addresses to media persons during press conference, in Karachi.

Acting president for maximum public relief through upcoming budget

ISLAMABAD (APP): Acting President Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on Thursday stressed the need for extending maximum relief to the masses through the upcoming federal budget, and the formulation of a comprehensive strategy to enhance the revenue.

The acting president said this in a meeting with Minister of Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, who called on him here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The finance minister briefed the acting president about the ongoing preparations for the upcoming people-friendly budget and the government's measures to reduce inflation.

The minister said that a remarkable reduction in the inflation rate manifested the government's constant and undeterred actions by the government.



ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani welcoming the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

WB team acknowledges progress on infrastructure activities in flood hit areas

KARACHI (APP): The World Bank Mission, reviewing progress on the activities of Sindh Flood Emergency Rehabilitation Project (SFERP) and its component P&DD, acknowledges the overall progress made so far is quite impressive both from the timeline and the quality of work, point of view.

This was stated by Shoaib Siddiqui, Senior Advisor to the Bank, during a review meeting held here on Thursday.

The meeting was chaired by Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist, Ahsen Tehsin and also attended by Rehan Hyder and Nihan Rafique from the World Bank while Ghulam Asghar Kanasro and Aslam Leghari represented the Project side, a press release said.

DG Rescue Service Dr Abid, during the review session informed that 16 satellite stations on Indus highway (N-55), N-5 and M-9 are complete and in the process of being fine-tuned. All these stations will become operational by August as the staff selected for handling these stations is being trained in Rescue 1122 Academy, Lahore.

Ten district headquarters are 68% complete and would be handed over to Rescue Service for operations by December of the current year.

Moreover, Ten hospital emergencies after refurbishment had been handed over to the concerned authorities, he added.

He disclosed that at present six thousand calls dealing with emergencies were being attended by rescue on daily basis.

During the meeting, it was informed that under livelihood program (Cash for Work program), almost two billion rupees had been disbursed so far and Rs 672 million were in the process of being disbursed for the rehabilitation of almost two thousand schemes to 140,000 community workers who worked to develop community infrastructure of their own villages.

Out of these community workers 40% were female workers. All these workers were paid through mobile wallets making them bankable persons.

Governor Punjab for strengthening Numbardari system in villages

Independent Report
LAHORE: A delegation of Pak Numbardar Association Rawalpindi led by Malik Khalid Numdar met Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan today at Governor House. The delegation congratulated Sardar Saleem Haider Khan on assuming office as the Governor of Punjab.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider said that the usefulness of Numbardari system cannot be denied. He said that strengthening the Numbardari System could reduce the burden of work on various departments.

He added that the government has also started to realize its significance. Governor Punjab said that the Numbardari system is an effective system in solving the problems of the people related to various departments in the villages. Governor Punjab said that by making the numbering system effective, many issues related to agriculture, land and revenue departments could be solved at the grass root level. He said that an empowered Numbardari System would facilitate the government officials.

On this occasion, the delegation informed the Punjab Governor about the

various problems faced by them. The delegation demanded the Governor Punjab to revive the Numbardari system. Governor Punjab assured the delegation that he will talk to the Chief Minister of Punjab to solve their problems. Meanwhile Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan met Vice Chairperson Punjab Social Protection Authority (PSPA) here today at Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, Vice Chairperson PSPA briefed Governor Punjab about the ongoing welfare programmes of Punjab Social Protection Authority.



LAHORE: A delegation of Pak Numbardar Association Rawalpindi led by Malik Khalid Numdar photographed with Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.



MULTAN: Staffers of Rescue 1122 participating in pre-flood mock exercises at Head Muhammadwala.

PPP rejects KP budget, says it would multiply public woes

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Thursday has rejected the provincial budget of the PTI government for financial year 2024-25 saying it would multiply the financial woes of the people. Addressing a press conference at Peshawar Press Club (PPC), the Deputy Secretary Information PPP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Gohar Inqilabi said that budget used to be annual economic planning covering financial estimates for the whole year, so it should be based on actual facts and figures and not on

mere assumptions. He said that being a federal parliamentary system, the provincial governments were used to present their annual budgets after its announcement by the federal government. However, this year, he said the PTI government in KP violated this tradition announced it ahead the federal government.

The PPP leader said that before the budget, the session of the provincial assembly was delayed to prevent the oath taking of the women and minorities legislators.

One more kidnapped

Independent Report
SHIKARPUR: One Loader Rekshaw driver accompanied with his Loader was Kidnapped from Chak on Thursday.

According to initial reports reached here that some group of 10 armed men intercepted the two loader rekshaws and after looting them took away one of Loader Rekshaw driver forcibly named Arif Ali son of Barkat Ali Soomro including with his Loader Rekshaw on gun point towards katcha area of Chak.

One more vehicle snatched in Shikarpur

Independent Report
SHIKARPUR: The law and order situation of District Shikarpur could not be improved which caused one more vehicle car was snatched and the travellers were deprived of Mobile Phones, Cash and other valuables on Thursday in the jurisdiction of Dakhan police station.

According to reports, some group of armed men came on roads again and snatched one vehicle car (Alto) on Shikarpur.

Syed Qasim Ali says: 'Cancer is a serious health problem'

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Minister, Syed Qasim Ali Shah, announced on Thursday that chemotherapy used in the treatment of breast cancer will be included in the health card very soon.

He made this announcement while speaking at an important function on breast cancer services organized at Khyber Teaching Hospital, according to a press release issued here.

Rs9.66 billion allocated for tourism uplift in KP budget: Advisor Tourism

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tourism, Culture and Archeology, Zahid Chanzab, has said that in the provincial budget of the new financial year, a huge chunk of Rs9.66 billion has been allocated for promotion of tourism industry in the province and this amount is 25 per cent more than the past few years.

This, he said, was

Pre-flood mock exercise held at river Chenab

MULTAN (APP): Rescue 1122, along with line departments, conducted a pre-flood mock exercise at the Chenab River to avert an expected flood-like situation.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Revenue, Faizan Ahmad Riaz, inspected the exercises and camps established by district departments.

Emergency Officer Rescue 1122 Engineer Bilal gave a briefing about preparations regarding floods and initiatives.

The drills demonstrated various rescue operations, including shifting flood victims to safer places via boats, providing first aid to the injured, and moving them to field hospitals.

Rescue personnel also showcased their swimming skills to rescue individuals without boats, and divers demonstrated techniques to save drowning individuals.

ADCR Faizan Ahmad, on this occasion, said that the district administration was fully alert regarding the expected flood under the directions of the Punjab government.

Khawaja Salman regret over Rs. 347bln annual wastage on smoking in Pakistan

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Health Ministers Khawaja Salman Rafique and Khawaja Imran Nazir expressed deep regret over the annual wastage of Rs 347 billion on smoking in Pakistan.

The ministers made these remarks while speaking at special guests at an awareness seminar on "World No Tobacco Day", held at the Institute of Public Health on Thursday. The event was organised by the Non-Communicable Disease

(NCD) programme of the Department of Primary and Secondary Healthcare to address the pressing issue of tobacco addiction.

Khawaja Imran Nazir, Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare, highlighted this year's theme of "World No Tobacco Day", which focuses on protecting the young generation from smoking. He pointed out that different forms of smoking, including shisha and e-cigarettes, contribute significantly to youth addiction.

Scholarships awarded to martyrs of Tank police children

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): District Police Officer (DPO) Tank, Abdul Salam Khalid on Thursday awarded educational scholarships to children of the police martyrs.

According to a police spokesman, the scholarship cheques were handed over at his office where he met with the martyrs' children and heirs.

On this occasion, he addressed the families and children of Shaheed ASI Amir Azam Shah, Shaheed Constable Muhammad Tariq, Shaheed Constable Mohsin Ali, Shaheed Constable Abdul Rashid, Shaheed Constable Samiullah, and Shaheed Constable Suleman.

International News

Slovenia recognises Palestinian state following in footsteps of Spain, Ireland, Norway

Monitoring Desk
LJUBLJANA: The Slovenian government on Thursday approved a decision to recognise an independent Palestinian state, Prime Minister Robert Golob said, following in the steps of Spain, Ireland and Norway. "Today the government has decided to recognise Palestine as an independent and sovereign state," he said at a news conference in Ljubljana.

Parliament speaker Urska Klakocar Zupancic told a press conference in Ljubljana that Slovenian lawmakers are to vote on Tuesday on whether to recognise the Palestinian state. "The session is scheduled for Tuesday from 4pm (1400 GMT)," Zupancic said.

The move is part of a wider effort by countries to coordinate pressure on Israel to end the bombard-

ment in Gaza. Israel has been fighting against Hamas since a cross-border October 7 attack by fighters in which some 1,200 people were killed and over 250 taken hostage, according to Israeli tallies. Nearly 130 hostages are believed to remain captive in Gaza.

Gaza health authorities say more than 36,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Israeli bombardment over the past seven months that has generated global criticism. PM Golob also called for the immediate cessation of hostilities between Israel and Hamas in Gaza and the release of all hostages. "This is the message of peace," he said. The Slovenian government raised a Palestinian flag alongside the flags of Slovenia and the EU in front of its building in downtown Ljubljana.

On May 28, Spain,

Ireland and Norway officially recognised a Palestinian state, prompting an angry reaction from Israel.

Of the 27 members of the European Union, Sweden, Cyprus, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria have already recognised a Palestinian state.

Malta has said it could follow soon. Britain and Australia have said they are also considering recognition, but France has said now is not the time.

Germany joined Israel's staunchest ally, the United States, in rejecting a unilateral approach, insisting that a two-state solution can only be achieved through dialogue.

Denmark's parliament on Tuesday voted down a bill to recognise a Palestinian state.



BRUSSELS: Protesters hold smoke bombs as they attend a demonstration in support of the people of Gaza in front of the embassy of Israel.

Israel undermines goals by harming civilians in Gaza, US tells UN

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: Israel must do more to protect Palestinian civilians in Gaza and should "remove all barriers to the flow of aid at scale through all crossings and routes" into the enclave, the United States told the UN Security Council on Wednesday.

"The continued pattern of significant civilian harm resulting from incidents like Sunday's airstrikes undermines Israel's strategic goals in Gaza," deputy US Ambassador to the UN Robert

UK's first Black woman lawmaker set to be barred from elections

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Britain's first Black woman lawmaker, Diane Abbott, said on Wednesday she was dismayed the opposition Labour Party looked set to bar her as an election candidate over comments she made over a year ago about Jews and racism.

Abbott, 70, is Britain's longest-serving Black member of parliament.

France film director recounts ordeal after arrest in India for attending Dalit march

Monitoring Desk
PARIS (INP): French film director Valentin Hénault has spoken out about his harrowing experience of being arrested and jailed in India for attending a Dalit march in Uttar Pradesh last October. Hénault was arrested by police on October 10, 2023, after attending an "Ambedkar's people's march" led by peasant women demanding land rights for Dalits. He was accused of violating visa conditions and was taken to Gorakhpur prison, where he was subjected to harsh conditions.

Indonesia volcano belches ash tower 2 km into the sky

Monitoring Desk
BUKIT TINGGI (INP): A volcano in western Indonesia erupted on Thursday, spewing an ash cloud two kilometres into the sky as authorities warned residents over potential dangers from cold lava flows.

Mount Merapi in West Sumatra province erupted at 1:04 pm (0604 GMT), spewing thick grey clouds of ash two kilometres (1.2 miles) above its peak, the national disaster mitigation agency, or BNPB, said in a statement.

The volcano — one of Indonesia's most active — has been at the second-highest alert level of the country's four-tiered system for weeks, with authorities advising people to stay outside a 4.5-kilometre exclusion zone around its crater.

Local residents are advised to be vigilant over threats of cold lava flows following the eruption, BNPB spokesman Abdul Muhari said.

Seven political groups fighting in European Parliament election

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: Voters in the 27 countries of the European Union will elect 720 lawmakers to the European Parliament for the next five years on June 6-9 and are expected to deliver a shift to the right.

The parliament has for the past five years been governed by a three-group majority of the centre-right European People's Party, centre-left Socialists and Democrats and liberals of Renew Europe.

Together they have steered EU policy, which has included the Green Deal and the EU response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and divided between them top jobs at EU institutions.

These are the political groups of the outgoing parliament. The groups of the hard and far right have proved the most fluid, regrouping, renaming and relaunching since the last elec-

Iran registers presidential candidates for early vote after Raisi's death

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Iran on Thursday began registering candidates for an early election next month following the death of President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash, Iranian Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi told state TV.

Once seen as a possible successor to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei — Iran's ageing ultimate decision-maker — Raisi's sudden death triggered a race among hardliners to influence the selection of Iran's next leader.

After the five-day registration period, the Guardian Council, which oversees elections and legislation, will vet the candidates running for the presidency. "The vetting process will be seven days and then qualified candidates will have al-

Haiti transition council taps former PM Conille to again lead country

Monitoring Desk
PORT-AU-PRINCE: Haiti's transition council tapped former Prime Minister Garry Conille, who briefly led the country over a decade ago, to return to the role as the Caribbean nation works to restore stability and take back control from violent gangs.

The transition council voted 6-1 to install Conille as interim prime minister, a member told Reuters.

Conille's extensive resume in development, working largely with the United Nations, is considered key to shoring up international support as Haiti prepares to launch a UN-backed security mission led by Kenya, though its deployment has faced hurdles.

"I feel very honored that the Presidential Council has chosen me as the new Prime Minister of Haiti," Conille said on X. "Together, we will work for a better tomorrow for all the children of our nation."

The transition council, which holds some presi-

most two weeks for the election campaign," Vahidi told state TV.

The Guardian Council will publish the list of qualified candidates on June 11.

Moderate politicians have accused the 12-member hardline Guardian Council of disqualifying rivals to hardline candidates, who are expected to dominate the upcoming presidential race. Turnout may be hit by restricted choice on the ballot and rising discontent over an array of political, social and economic crises.

Within Iran's complex mix of clerical rulers and elected officials, Khamenei has the final say on all state matters such as nuclear and foreign policies, but the elected president will be in charge of tackling worsening economic hardship.

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