

Independent

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Rain wreaks havoc in Gwadar, inundates entire coastal town

Residents forced to leave their houses as urban flooding brings life to halt in Gwadar, with streets, shops completely submerged; Caretaker CM grieved over flood situation in Gwadar, directs to take prompt action

Independent Report
Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki expressed sorrow over the situation caused due to heavy rains in Gwadar and adjoining areas. He also expressed grief over the damages caused due to flood situation in the port city. In view of the critical situation, Chief Minister directed to the concerned authorities to take prompt measures to provide relief to dwellers.

The Chief Minister said that the continuous rain created extraordinary situation Gwadar. He mentioned that the PDMA and district administration are busy in the rescue activities. However, hardships are being faced in carrying out relief activities because the link roads are inundated in the rain water.

The Chief Minister said that necessary directions have been issued to the district administration to provide clean drinking water on emergent basis.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia agree to further enhance defence ties



RAWALPINDI (APP): Air Chief Marshal Zabeer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force called on General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili, Chief of the General Staff, Saudi Armed Forces and His Royal Highness Lieutenant General Turki Bin Bandar bin Abdul Aziz, Commander of the Royal Saudi Air Forces, during his visit to Saudi Arabia.

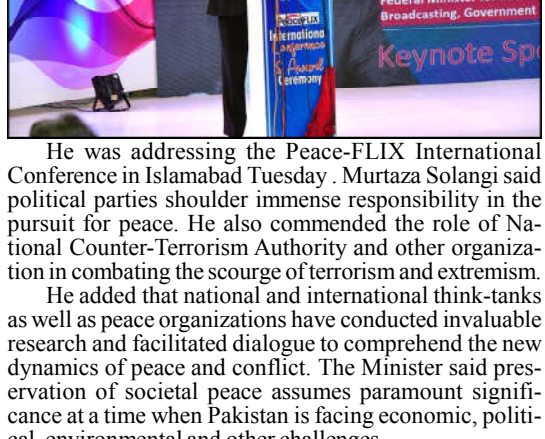
Meetings were focused upon further promoting Pak-Saudi defence ties, particularly between the two Air Forces through joint military exercises and technological collaboration.

During the visit, the Air Chief was awarded King Abdul Aziz Badge of Honor of the Excellent Class by Chief of the General Staff, Saudi Armed Forces.

Political leaders' support for reconciliation has greater impact in fostering peace: Info Minister

Govt, international institutions, grassroots organizations contributing uniquely for peace promotion

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi has said political leaders' support for reconciliation and mutual respect has greater impact in fostering peace in the society.



He was addressing the Peace-FLIX International Conference in Islamabad Tuesday. Murtaza Solangi said political parties shoulder immense responsibility in the pursuit for peace. He also commended the role of National Counter-Terrorism Authority and other organization in combating the scourge of terrorism and extremism.

He added that national and international think-tanks as well as peace organizations have conducted invaluable research and facilitated dialogue to comprehend the new dynamics of peace and conflict. The Minister said preservation of societal peace assumes paramount significance at a time when Pakistan is facing economic, political, environmental and other challenges.

Training of Royal Saudi Land Forces with Pak Army concludes

RAWALPINDI (Online): Closing Ceremony of "On Job Training of Royal Saudi Land Forces with Pakistan Army" was held at Multan.

The training was conducted from 15 January to 26 February 2024 with a view to foster joint employment and benefiting from each other's experiences,

while further consolidating longstanding fraternal relations between Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The training which encompassed conventional as well as sub-conventional operations, culminated with field manoeuvre & battle inoculation exercise, employing air and ground forces.



GWADAR: View of stagnant rain water after flash flood caused by heavy downpour of winter season, in Gwadar.

Domki holds farewell meeting with CM Sectt: officers and staff

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki held farewell meeting with the officers, staff and security personnel at the Chief Minister's secretariat on Tuesday.

During the course of meeting, caretaker Chief Minister appreciated the services of officers and other staffers of the CM secretariat during the duration of interim government.

He also distributed shields and commendation certificates among the officers of CM secretariat.

Murad Ali Shah sworn in as Sindh CM

KARACHI (APP): The newly elected Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday took oath of the office at the Governor House.

Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori administered the oath to him as the 38th Chief Minister in an impressive ceremony.

Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, outgoing Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar, Chief Secretary Fakhr-e-Alam, provincial secretaries, PPP leaders and dignitaries attended the ceremony.

Murad Ali Shah got 112 votes of the Sindh Assembly members in the election for chief minister on Monday.

This is the third time he has become the chief minister. Earlier, he remained the Sindh chief executive from July 30, 2016 to May 28, 2016, and August 18, 2018 to August 17, 2023.

Pakistan Army shoots down Indian spy quadcopter

RAWALPINDI (INP): Pakistan Army has shot down Indian spying quadcopter that intruded into country's airspace along the Line of Control.



Pakistani forces at 12:55 pm on Sunday last shot down an Indian Army quadcopter that was spying in the area near LoC, says in media reports.

It is pertinent to mention that the remains of the quadcopter were found yesterday.

An insignia of the Indian Army can be seen in the pictures which confirms that the quadcopter belongs to the Indian Army.

It should be remembered that on this day in 2019, the Pakistan Air Force also shot down Indian warplanes that violated Pakistani airspace in Operation Swift Retort.

5th anniversary of 'Operation Swift Retort': Pakistan resolved to safeguard its sovereignty, regional security: PM

Armed forces vow to respond to any aggression against the country

ISLAMABAD (APP): One of the Indian pilots was captured by Pakistan, but was later handed over as a gesture of peace.

The prime minister said that the Pakistani armed forces had proved their operational superiority falsifying the Indian claims.

"No one should have doubt that Pakistan is a peace-loving country that was determined to protect its sovereignty as well as the regional security," he remarked.

The prime minister reiterated the resolve that Pakistan would forcefully respond to any aggression against it.

INP adds: On the fifth anniversary of 'Operation Swift Retort', Pakistan's armed forces have vowed to respond to any aggression against the people of Pakistan, the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity with "full might and without any hesitation".

On February 27, 2019, the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) had shot down two Indian planes that had violated Pakistani airspace. One of the Indian pilots was captured by Pakistan.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki addressing staff of CM Secretariat during a farewell meeting

President Alvi to face dual constitution violation charges, says Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (INP): Arif Ali as president after the swearing-in of the new house and he will face dual constitution violation charges after his retirement.

Talking to media men outside the Supreme Court after hearing of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's presidential reference, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said President Arif Alvi is 'violating' the constitution of Pakistan by denying summoning the NA session for the swearing-in of the new lawmakers.

It's a constitutional requirement to summon NA session by February 29, Bilawal said and added the president is denying discharging his duties.

The PPP leader said they will replace Arif Ali as president after the swearing-in of the new house and he will face dual constitution violation cases including one of dissolving the assembly despite VONC motion and another of denying calling the session of the lower house of the parliament.

Criticising the PTI founder, Bilawal Bhutto said the man who is incarcerated in Adiala Jail is not ready to learn from his mistakes. "PPP too made mistakes but one has to learn from it."

He urged everyone to exercise their power in their respective constitutional domain and underlined the need for respecting each other despite political differences, as this is the only way forward to steer the country out of crises.



On job training of Royal Saudi Land Forces with Pakistan Army concludes in Multan.

62 newly elected MPAs likely to take oath: First session of 12th Balochistan Assembly to be held today

Governor nominates MPA-elect Zamarak Khan Achakzai as Presiding Officer for today's session

Independent Report
Quetta: The first session of 12th Balochistan Assembly is scheduled to be held today (Wednesday) at the Assembly's Hall here.

The newly elected MPA from PB-50, Killa Abdullah, Mr. Zamarak Khan Achakzai would administer the oath to the newly elected members of assembly.

As many as 62 members of assembly are likely to take oath in the today's session.

It may be mentioned here that the Balochistan's provincial assembly had come into being under a Presidential Order on 30th March, 1970, after dissolution of one unit and declaring Balochistan as a separate province.

The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has nominated Zamarak Khan Achakzai as the Presiding Officer for taking oath from the newly elected members of assembly, as

per the notification issued here by the Governor Secretariat the other day.

In case of absence of Mr. Achakzai, MPA-elect, Ms. Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani would administer oath to the newly elected members of assembly.

On February 27, 2019, the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) had shot down two Indian planes that had violated Pakistani airspace. One of the Indian pilots was captured by Pakistan.

QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar addressing participants of a ceremony of Pakistan Universities Debating Championship 2023-24 organized by Higher Education Commission at BUIITEMS

Governor emphasizes on providing necessary facilities to youth for polishing their hidden potential

Independent Report

here on Tuesday. Also present on the occasion were Vice Chancellor BUIITEMS, Professor Dr Khalid Hafeez, Director General HEC, Dr Zahoor Bazai besides people belonging to different walks of life.

Addressing the gathering, Governor on the occasion congratulated the winning students of debating championship and stressed the need to promote extra curricular activities among the male and female students in all educational institutions.

The Governor was addressing the Balochistan Public Sector Universities Debating Championship 2024 organized by the Higher Education Commission at the main auditorium of Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS)

He also said that it is very necessary to promote sports and other healthy activities in the society.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh, Kamran Khan Tessori administering the oath to the Newly-elected Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah.

PTI founder, Bushra Bibi indicted in 190m pounds financial scandal reference

RAWALPINDI (Online): Judge Nasir Javed Rana of Accountability Court (AC) Islamabad has indicted PTI founder and his wife Bushra Bibi in 190 million pounds financial scandal reference.

The accused while pleading not guilty have rejected the charges. Upon it court has summoned 5 witnesses of NAB on March 6 for regular trial of reference.

Both of the accused, their lawyers Suleman Safdar, Zahir Abbas Chaudhry and Usman Gill and NAB Deputy Prosecutor General (DPG) were present in the court during the hearing of the case.

The court read out charge sheet to the accused. The court inquired from the accused you are being indicted. You should tell if you are involved in this case or not.

The former chairman PTI replied what I have to do by reading charge sheet as I know what is written therein. Both the accused pleaded not guilty.

The counsels for the accused while requesting to provide copies of challan again sought 7 days more time.

The court remarked we have already given enough time to you. More time cannot be given.

The counsels for the accused took the plea copies of reference have to be provided 7 days before indictment. Near about 50 documents are such which are not readable despite the fact these documents are of paramount importance with regard to this reference.

Caretaker CM inaugurates newly built cabinet Hall in CM secretariat

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki inaugurated the newly built cabinet hall in the Chief Minister's secretariat on Tuesday.

The Secretary Communications and Works (C&W) Qambar Dashti and other concerned high ups briefed the caretaker Chief Minister about the newly constructed building and cabinet hall.

Speaking on the occasion, caretaker Chief Minister said that CM secretariat is an important administrative office of the province.

The addition of new constructions in the CM secretariat would be helpful in performing administrative affairs, he maintained.

Two Holy Mosques- places of worship not arenas for politicking: Ashrafi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Tuesday urged the intending Hajj pilgrims to follow the codal formalities of Saudi Arabia in letter and spirit during the sacred journey.

not arenas for political expression or displays of nationalism.



QUETTA: Renowned cricketer Shahid Afridi meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki at Quetta airport.

Tech-based vision a must to transform Gwadar into energy hub: Experts

ISLAMABAD (APP): The experts at a policy dialogue have said that Gwadar may be made an energy hub, but it is only possible through a technology-based development, vision and a community-centric social development approach.

full scale. It is still dependent on electricity imported from Iran whereas to make export zone functional will require more energy," he maintained.

In his opening remarks, SDPI Executive Director, Dr Abid Qayyum Suleri said the discourse on a unique subject like Gwadar as an energy hub was pertinent and crucial at a time when the new government is about to take office.

Since, the global community has demanded to make three-fold increase in renewable energy (RE) share by 2030 at the COP-28, Pakistan is looking for renewable energy support from China as an excellent candidate for solar and offshore wind energy potential, he said.



QUETTA: Caretaker Health Minister Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jozegai inquiring about health of a patient at Sheikh Muhammad Zayed bin Al-Nahyan Hospital.

National Youth Conference on Skills Development and Entrepreneurship held

Independent Report
TURBAT: The "National Youth Conference on Skills Development and Entrepreneurship" was organized by the Faculty of Business and Economics at the University of Turbat (UoT) in the video conference room of UoT.

Chancellor encouraged the students to establish their businesses and companies instead of searching for a government job after they graduated from the University.

In his address, Prof. Dr. Jan Muhammad, Vice Chancellor of UoT, emphasized the importance of skills and talents in today's competitive and evolving market. He stated that the University of Turbat has achieved significant successes over time, and now boasting a robust IT infrastructure and highly qualified faculty members.

He added that lasting peace could only be established by promoting tolerance and harmony among each others.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH) presenting a report on the activities and accomplishments of PANAH to President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President emphasizes early prevention of diseases to avoid expensive treatment

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi on Tuesday said that adoption of preventive measures against various diseases was prerequisite to ward off treatment which was expensive in Pakistan and such habits would also help reduce burden on the health system.

He also underscored the need about the role of media, local population, mosques and non government organizations to create such awareness, besides utilization of different latencies and accomplish-

ments of the organization, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

He expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH) that called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr to present a report on the activities and accomplish-

ments of the organization, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

He said that they were creating awareness among the people about healthy activities and lifestyle.

ECP allows voter lists' modification till bye-polls schedule announcement

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) declared on Tuesday that electoral rolls would remain open for modifications until the announcement of the bye-election schedule.

CM Domki applauds services of Shahid Afridi in social sector

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has applauded the services of renowned cricketer and former skipper Shahid Afridi for guidance of younger generation and social sector in the province.

Operation Swift Retort showcases Pakistan's military strength, commitment to peace

ISLAMABAD (APP): The memory of the humiliating defeat suffered by the Hindutva led India and its air force at the hands of the Pakistan Air Force remains vivid in the minds of the Indian bigotry rulers, even as five years have passed since the incident took place on February 27, 2019.

Begins issuing nomination papers Presidential elections mandatory within 30 days after general polls: ECP

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday said that it is mandatory to hold the presidential elections within 30 days after the general elections, citing Article 41(4) of the Constitution.

Following the conduct of the general elections 2024 and its preliminary results, the electoral watchdog has started preparations for the presidential elections and the first session of all assemblies under constitutional bindings.

The spokesperson, the candidates can submit their nomination papers at the Election Commission Secretariat in Islamabad, as well as the offices of provincial election commissioners in Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa till 12 noon pm on March 2.

The ECP said all the assemblies will be formed by February 29, paving the way for the presidential election. The statement came a day after National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf summoned the maiden sitting of lower house of Parliament on Feb 29 as President Arif Alvi refused to summon the session on account of an 'incomplete house'.

According to an ECP spokesman, the candidates can submit their nomination papers at the Election Commission Secretariat in Islamabad, as well as the offices of provincial election commissioners in Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa till 12 noon pm on March 2.

For any details, individuals could contact the ECP at telephone number 051-9219335, she added.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki inaugurating newly constructed Cabinet Hall at Chief Minister Secretariat.

The caretaker Chief Minister was speaking to Shahid Afridi who called on him here at the Chief Minister's secretariat here on Tuesday.

PPB to join Punjab cabinet in 2nd phase

LAHORE (INP): The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is poised to join the Punjab provincial cabinet in its second phase, according to sources close to the development. This move comes after negotiations between the PPP and the ruling Pakistan Muslim League (N) (PML-N).

The confusion caused by 'Operation Swift Retort' led to the Indian Air Force mistakenly shooting down its helicopter, resulting in casualties, including the pilot. This incident sent a clear message to India - "Don't mess with Pakistan."

The Indian opposition, particularly the Congress, has raised doubts about the Balakot surgical strikes proclaimed by the BJP government. Rahul Gandhi and Navjot Singh Sidhu demanded validation and an accurate count of the casualties resulting from the strike.



HYDERABAD: Workers of GDA, PTL, JUI(F), JI and Awami Tehreek hold a protest rally against alleged rigging in general election 2024 and observe Black Day against torture and arrest of the workers of Sindhyani Tehreek and JUI (F) during a rally in Karachi.

7 killed in accident

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least seven passengers were killed and several badly injured in a traffic accident in Khoi Bagra, area of Rawalpindi on Tuesday. The rescue officials said that the passenger bus fell into a deep trench due to overspeeding, a private news channel reported. Seven people died on the spot while several passengers including men and women sustained injuries. The rescue team and the locals shifted the dead bodies and injured to the hospital.

All set to hold 'Sibi Mela' from March 6-8

QUETTA (APP): District Administration had finalized all the arrangements to organize a three-day annual historical and cultural festival of Sibi from March 6 to 8 to put the local culture at display, in addition to rare and exotic species of animals.

Commissioner Makran visits different rain hit areas in Kech district

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Commissioner Makran Division visited different areas affected due to rains in Kech district on Tuesday.

Ahsan Iqbal says: Pakistan wins war against terrorism with support of entire nation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said that Pakistan has won a big war against terrorism with support of Pakistan armed forces, law enforcement agencies, security and other civil institutions.

Provincial Selection Board meets; recommends promotion of Govt officers

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Selection Board met with Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan in the chair here on Tuesday.

Commissioner Makran visits different rain hit areas in Kech district

He also monitored the repair and rehabilitation of affected roads and bridges. Later, he visited Nahaing bridge located on the Nahaing river.

PPB to join Punjab cabinet in 2nd phase

The sources indicate that the PPP is likely to receive three ministries in the provincial cabinet, which will be offered after the Punjab budget is finalized. Negotiations are currently underway between the two parties to finalize the specific ministries and potential candidates.

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Addressing the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Sibi Dr. Khudai Rahim said that the annual traditional and historical Sibi Mela 2024 will be held with great zeal.

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Provincial Selection Board meets; recommends promotion of Govt officers

It was recommended to promote Grade 20 officers in Grade 21.

7 killed in accident

The meeting also considered cases of promotion of different grades of Agriculture, Colleges and Higher Education, Schools, Forests, Food, Irrigation, Communication and Works, Sports, Science and Information Technology and other departments. It was recommended to promote officers of Grade 19 in Grade 20, Grade 18 in Grade 19 and officers of Grade 17 in Grade 18.

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QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting of Provincial Selection Board.