

Independent

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Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 06. No. 79 Shawwal 07, 1445 AH Tuesday April 16, 2024 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

PM directs for vital measures to reduce power price per unit for common man

Emphasizes maximising renewable energy utilization, improving transmission system

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed for drastic measures including shifting of imported coal-run plants, improvement in power supply system, setting up cost effective and renewable energy plants, and functioning of solar projects to reduce cost of electricity per unit thus benefiting the ordinary people.

The prime minister chaired a high level review meeting regarding the power sector.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers Ishaq Dar, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Ahmad Khan Cheema, Attaullah Tarar, Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari and Dr

Mussadik Malik, former minister Muhammad Ali, Member of the National Assembly Bilal Zaheer Kiyani, Rana Ahsan Afzal, Salman Ahmed and relevant authorities, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister directed for shifting of the coal-run power plants from the imported fuel to local coal, besides improvement in the power supply system. He said that in future, only clean, cost effective and renewable power plants should be set up in the country.

The meeting was apprised of the 600MW solar power project and the prime minister directed for expediting work on the foreign

investment in this regard. The prime minister also asked for proposals for better utilization of the current surplus power generation capacity in industries.

He observed that wheeling price of electricity should be reduced for the industrial consumers so that power supply at reduced price could be made possible, besides for the industrial development and increase in export, grid stations should be installed near big industries.

The process of auction of those power plants of Generation Companies (GENCOs) that were lying dysfunctional and defective should be accelerated, he further directed.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a high level review meeting regarding power sector

Development schemes should be completed with quality as soon as possible: Nasir Shah

Most of consultant companies performance is disappointing so review and terminate the contract: Provincial Minister

Independent Report KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Development and Planning Sindh Syed Nasir Hussain presided over a high-level meeting of the P&D Board that was held at the Sindh Secretariat today. In the meeting, there was a detailed discussion regarding the development schemes in the province. Chairman Development Board Engineer Syed Najam Ahmad Shah gave a detailed

briefing and told the meeting about the ongoing development projects in the province. The meeting was informed in detail about future development projects and planning. Minister Nasir Shah said that all development projects should be completed transparently on merit and on time. He said that the performance of most of the consultant companies is disappointing, so the performance of

all consultant companies should be re-evaluated and the work of only those companies with good performance should be continued on merit while others are performing poorly, contracts of the companies should be terminated.

Minister added that safe city projects should be started at the divisional level, in this regard the concerned members of the assemblies should be taken onboard, they will be included in this project and they should also be involved in the funding. Nasir Shah emphasized on this occasion that the schemes should be thoroughly reviewed and prepared in such a way that they do not need to be revised. In the case of revising, not only the expenses of the government increase, but due to the delay of the project, the people also have to face difficulties and problems, while it is part of the vision and manifesto of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto that to make Sindh developed.



KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Development and Planning Sindh Syed Nasir Hussain presiding over a high-level meeting of P&D Board

Chief Secretary paid surprise visit of Jamshoro, suspended Executive Engineer

Independent Report KARACHI: In response to severe misconduct and a significant lapse in performance, Irfan Bouk, Executive Engineer (BS-18), currently stationed at the Public Health Engineering (Dev/O&M) Division in Jamshoro, has been suspended with immediate effect. The decision to suspend Executive Engineer Irfan Bouk comes following a thorough investigation prompted by reports of non-functional Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants under his jurisdiction. During a surprise visit by the Chief Secretary Sindh Syed Asif Hyder Shah in District Jamshoro, it was discovered that two RO plants were inoperable due to maintenance issues. Furthermore, concerns were raised by divisional administration regarding Mr. Bouk's irregu-

lar attendance at his office, which significantly impacted his overall performance.

Moreover, it was revealed that out of the 113 RO/UF plants in District Jamshoro, only 30 were functional, indicating a widespread failure in ensuring access to clean drinking water for the local population. Additionally, numerous development projects remain incomplete due to Irfan Bouk's uncooperative demeanor and lack of commitment to fulfilling his official duties. This negligence has exacerbated the plight of the community, depriving them of essential public health services and potable drinking water. The Government remains committed to ensuring the efficient delivery of public services and maintaining the highest standards of integrity and performance among its personnel.

Accident kills child, her parents, siblings injured

HYDERABAD (APP): An accident between two motorbikes on Hyderabad road in Jamshoro district on Monday claimed the life of a 3 years old child and left her parents and 2 siblings injured.

According to Jamshoro police, the family was travelling from a village in Unarpur area of Manjhand taluka to Hyderabad when their motorcycle collided head-on with another two-wheeler coming from the opposite direction.

The police identified the deceased child as Nazia Zardari. Majnu Zardari, Aalam Khatoon and their sons Ayaz and Nadir were injured in the accident. The injured were shifted to Liaquat University Hospital in Jamshoro.

The rider on the other motorbike survived the accident.



ISLAMABAD: President, Asif Ali Zardari congratulating Aseefa Bhutto Zardari on taking oath as Member of the National Assembly

All evidence pointing towards Indian involvement in Lahore gun attack: Naqvi

LAHORE (Agencies): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Monday indicated that there was evidence of Indian involvement in the Lahore gun attack on Amir Sarfraz Tamba — the man who allegedly killed Indian prisoner Sarabjit Singh in Kot Lakhpat prison in 2013.

Tamba was critically injured in an attack on Sunday, according to police officials. While media reports had initially claimed that he was killed, Lahore Senior Superintendent of Police Operations Syed Ali Raza had clarified that he was alive, al-

though critically injured. Tamba was at his residence in Lahore's Islampura area when two masked armed men forcefully entered his home in Ganga Street and fired multiple shots.

They fled the scene, leaving the victim in a pool of blood.

He was rushed to a local hospital, where he was being treated.

The interior minister was questioned on Monday about the incident during a press conference at the Federal Investigation Agency's regional office in Lahore and asked to comment

on the veracity of the reported Indian involvement.

"India was directly involved in two to four events like this before in assassinations inside Pakistan.

The police are still investigating but till now their suspicion is exactly the same as yours," he said in response to a reporter's questions.

"At this time, all evidence is pointing towards them (India), it is inappropriate to say more before the investigation is completed but the pattern [of killings] is almost the same."



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Interior, Mohsin Raza Naqvi talking to media persons in Lahore

Petrol price hiked by Rs4.53 per litre for next fortnight

Monitoring Desk ISLAMABAD: The federal government has increased the price of petrol for next fortnight by Rs4.53 per litre in line with the hike in the global oil rates.

According to a notification issued by the Finance Division late Monday, the price of high-speed diesel (HSD) has also been increased by Rs8.14 per litre to Rs290.38 per litre.

The new fuel prices will be effective from April 16.

In addition to this, the government jacked up the prices of kerosene oil by Rs6.69 to Rs193.8 per li-

tre. Similarly, the rate of light diesel has been increased by Rs6.54 to Rs174.34 per litre.

"The prices of Petroleum products have seen an increasing trend in the international market during the last fortnight. The Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has worked out the consumer prices, based on the price variations in the international market," read the notification.

In the last fortnightly review, the federal government increased the price of petrol by Rs9.66 but it slashed the price of HSD by Rs3.32 per litre.

MQM-P warns of taking to streets if crimes in Karachi not stopped

KARACHI (INP): Muttaahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has warned of taking to the streets if the government fails to curb the rampant scourge of street crimes in Karachi.

"We would raise our voice [on the issue] in the Sindh Assembly and in the National Assembly [...] and would protest on the streets if our concerns are not addressed," MQM-P's Ali Khurshidi said while addressing a press conference in Karachi.

His remarks come as Karachi has witnessed a sig-



nificant surge in street crimes in recent months which have resulted in dozens of injuries and fatalities.

Since January 1, at least 59 people have lost their lives while 200 were injured due to resisting robbery this year so far in the metropolis.

According to Geo News, as many as 6,780 crimes were committed in Karachi in the holy month of Ramadan alone in which 20 vehicles were snatched and more than 130 others stolen.

China ready to strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation with Pakistan, says Envoy

ISLAMABAD (APP): China has stressed for implementing a holistic approach to national security in building the Pak-China community with shared future. In an article, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Ambassador Jiang Zaidong said China stands ready to work hand-in-hand with Pakistan to defeat the evil attempt at disrupting our cooperation. He said we are also ready to work with Pakistan to safeguard development with security and to promote security with development.

The Ambassador said we should take the promotion of international security as a support, and further enhance China-Pakistan counter-terrorism and security cooperation. Quoting the President Xi Jinping's vision of Global Security Initiative, he stressed that all countries

need to work together in addressing various security challenges for win-win results.

The Ambassador said we stand ready to work with Pakistan in jointly implementing the Global Security Initiative and building a peaceful and secure homeland.

Condemning the 26th March terrorist attack on Chinese workers in Pakistan, he called for taking resolute actions to crack-down on terrorists.

He expressed hope that Pakistani side will speed up the investigation of the incident, find out the truth, and severely punish the perpetrators.

The Ambassador further said we should take economic security as foundation, and continue to promote the building of an upgraded version of CPEC.



RAWALPINDI: Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud received by Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar upon his arrival at Nur Khan Airbase

Anti-state elements circulating videos to malign state institutions, says ASF

KARACHI (INP): The Air Security Force (ASF) has refuted claims made against it in circulating social media videos, referred them misleading.

A spokesperson for ASF clarified that two older videos depicting alleged misconduct by ASF personnel were being shared with the intent to incite and misinform, as part of a planned conspiracy.

Two videos of ASF were circulated on social media, one depicted a security person allegedly misbehaving with a minor girl, while the other showed a security person involved in a scuffle with an enraged mob.

According to ASF, the videos in question showed incidents that had already been addressed through strict disciplinary actions.

Those involved faced penalties in accordance with the law, including sus-

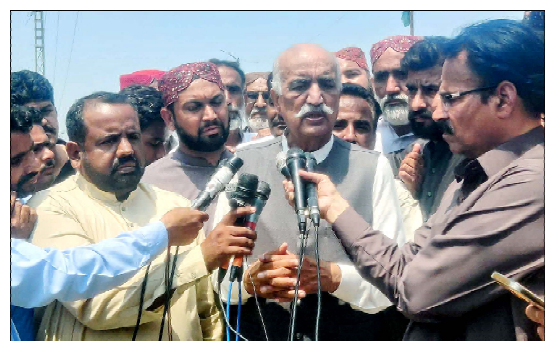
pension from service through court martial proceedings.

The spokesperson emphasized that ASF operated under the Pakistan Army Act, with a robust system of accountability in place.

They reiterated ASF's commitment to a zero-tolerance policy towards any form of undisciplined behavior, noting that stringent actions were taken against individuals found guilty of misconduct.

The spokesperson attributed the circulation of these videos to anti-state elements aiming to malign state institutions and the Pakistan Armed Forces.

They highlighted ASF's unwavering dedication to its duty of serving the nation and ensuring the highest standards of discipline and professionalism. Individual involved in any misconduct were given exemplary penalties.



SUKKUR: Peoples Party (PPP) Senior Leader, Khursheed Shah talking to media persons after case hearing of alleged assets beyond means, outside Accountability Court

Sindh demands increase in cotton support price

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh government has demanded of federal government to increase the cotton support price to help farmers.

As one of the largest producers of cotton in the world, Pakistan's cotton rate has a significant impact on the economy and various sectors that rely on this commodity. Sindh Agriculture Minister Muhammad Bux Mahar in his statement urged the federal government to increase cotton support price to Rs10 to 11,000 per 40kg.

Sindh minister said 20pc picking of cotton is done in the province to complete the target of 640,000 hectares. Due to

the low rate, the farmers are not

sowing the cotton crop, Mahar said and added that rice, cotton and other crops will be affected if Sindh fails to get its due share of water in the Khareef

season. Rejecting the three-dimension formula of IRSA for water distribution in Sindh, Mahar demanded to increase the support price of cotton. Today cotton rate in Pakistan starts from Rs8,000 to Rs9,400 per 40kg. Today the cotton price is 230 Rs Per Kg approximately. Cotton rates in every city are different.

The current cotton rate in Pakistan is an important factor for both the agricultural and textile industries.

Aleem Khan says: Increase in exports to help enhance foreign reserves, stabilise economy

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Monday said that increase in exports was imperative for enhancing foreign reserves and stabilising the national economy.

The minister stressed the need to take special measures, especially in view of Pak-Saudi investment and export agreements. Aleem Khan said, "We have to further expand by investing in export sectors which will ultimately create more jobs".

He urged the private sector to find new opportunities to invest domestically and abroad, for which the government would provide them all possible facilities. The minister welcomed the visit of a high-level delegation from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He expressed the hope that the private sector would take full advantage of the opportunity, which would also boost bilateral trade between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

Federal Secretary Commerce Saleh Farooqui briefed the meeting regarding the export situation. He said that there was a wide scope in the fields of agriculture, textile, information technology, pharmaceuticals, mobiles, sports equipment, minerals and other sectors.



Finance Minister Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb met with US Pakistan Business Council @ USPBC delegation in Washington D.C. Highlighted govt's commitment to improving business climate & attracting foreign & domestic investments in key sectors including agriculture, IT, mining, & energy.



LAHORE: Chicken retailers protesting for their demands in front of the press club in the Provincial Capital.

Steps afoot to cut essential commodities prices: Ch Shafay

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister of Industry and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain said here Monday that the government under the leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif is making all out efforts to end inflation and dearness, besides reducing the prices of essential commodities after the historic Ramadan package.

The price control committee and other relevant institutions should also play their active role to ensure the sale of Roti at Rs 16 and Naan at Rs 20, he asserted. The Provincial Minister said that measures would be continued to make life easier for the people, citing that welfare schemes are being rapidly promoted across the province.

IMF urges Pakistan to boost revenue via taxing non-essential items including cigarettes

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has been urged by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to overhaul its tax machinery through taxing non-essential items including cigarettes to boost revenue and improve public health.

referred to a phenomenal study on this subject conducted by Capital Calling, an Islamabad-based think tank, which says the cigarette consumption has decreased due to increase in prices, he added.

Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). The study further exposed the influence of multinational cigarette companies on policymakers, particularly evident in the introduction of a three-tier excise duty structure in 2017, which prioritized revenue collection over public health considerations.

China allows buffalo embryos import from specific regions of Pakistan

BEIJING (APP): China has allowed specific regions of Pakistan to export buffalo embryos that meet its quarantine requirements. The latitude and longitude coordinates provided in the recent joint announcement of China General Administration of Customs and Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs correspond to the buffalo epidemic-free ranch of Royal Group in Punjab, Chinese media reported.

under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Royal Group's "Buffalo Breeding Project" has made significant progress. The importation of buffalo embryos into China can significantly shorten the cycle of improving dairy buffalo breeds from 12 years in the past to three years. Additionally, the milk production of a single buffalo can be increased by more than threefold.

germplasm resources of milk buffalo to Pakistan. This has helped solve the issue of maintaining the local super buffalo resource. In 2021, the Royal Group established Royal Cell Biotechnology (Pakistan) and officially launched the "Milk Buffalo Provenance Chip" strategy. In the following year, the Royal Cell in vitro embryo production plant was formally inaugurated.

Visit of Saudi delegation will be a milestone for Pak's economy: Atif

ISLAMABAD: President of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry Atif Ikram Shaikh termed the visit of the Saudi delegation as a milestone for the economy and hoped that it happens in response to the recent visit of Prime Minister of Pakistan's to the capital of the brotherly kingdom.

trail would soon begin restoring the confidence of investors from all over the world. Atif Sheikh said investment of this denomination from the platform of the SIFC in the Reco Deq prospect was a positive step for the bolstering the economy. The role of the Investment Council is significant and timely, he added.

Finance Minister meets USPBC delegation in Washington

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday met a delegation of the US Pakistan Business Council (USPBC) in Washington DC to discuss the government's commitment to improving the business climate in the country.

According to a Finance Ministry press release, the minister during the meeting highlighted.



LAHORE: Chairman Kisan Etihad Khalid Hussain Butt addressing a press conference at press club in the Provincial Capital.

Pak poised for economic growth with strong support from S.Arabia: Ashrafi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulama Council Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Monday said that Pakistan was poised to make economic growth with the strong support of the brotherly country of Saudi Arabia.

visit would underscore the country's appeal as an investment destination among the Muslim states. The PUC chairman highlighted that both the prime minister and army chief had effectively garnered support and commitments from key stakeholders, including the Saudi leadership and prominent businessmen.

Pak rupee stable against US dollar in interbank market

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistani rupee stayed on course against the US dollar as business resumed in the interbank market on Monday after long Eid break. As per the information obtained from the forex dealers, the local currency appreciated by 16 paisas against the greenback and was currently being traded at Rs277.78.

In a key development, Pakistan's economic team led by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb had left for Washington on Sunday to hold talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a new bailout programme.



Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan presided over a meeting of business community in Karachi.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): A ship 'Nicholas' with 56,277 tonnes of Coal, berthed at Pakistan International Bulk Terminal on Sunday. Meanwhile, four more ships, Fast, MSC Nilgun, High Trader and Navigation Vega also arrived at outer-anchorage of Port Qasim during the last 24 hours.

Pakistan's regional exports increase 20.57% in 8 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's exports to seven regional countries witnessed an increase of 20.57 per cent in the first eight months of the financial year (2023-24) as compared to the corresponding months of last year.

of Pakistan (SBP) reported. China tops the list of countries in terms of Pakistan's exports to its neighbouring, leaving behind other countries such as Bangladesh and Afghanistan. Pakistan carried out its border trade with the farther neighbour Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, and Maldives.

Eid Festival Bazaars to be organized in all markets from next year

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner appreciated the ICCI and the Traders Welfare Associations for organizing Eid Festival Bazaars for the benefit of the consumers. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that the Aabpara Market is the oldest market of Islamabad and is playing central role in improving the economy by promoting trade activities and that ICCI would continue to work with relevant government departments to resolve the issues of the business community.

Pakistan's total liquid foreign reserves reach \$13.44 billion

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan reached US\$ 13,441.7 million in the week ended on April 5, 2024 while foreign reserves held by State Bank stood at \$ 8,040.3 million.

PSX witnesses bullish trend, gains 229 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 229.86 points, a positive change of 0.33 percent, closing at 70,544.58 points against 70,314.72 points the previous trading day.

Industry in grip of deep economic crisis amid high marks: SVC FRIA

LAHORE (INP): Senior Vice Chairman (SVC) Ferozpur Road Industrial Association (FRIA), Shahbaz Aslam has said that the country is in the middle of a deep economic crisis amid interest rates hikes and soaring inflation with its major debt sustainability indicators witnessing marked deterioration.

Shahbaz Aslam stated that the total public debt and liabilities of the country has presently been standing at Rs68 trillion in FY22-23, expressing the fear that it would go up further by Rs11.8 trillion in the current fiscal year. He pointed out that the total public debt and liabilities would go up manifold mainly because of the rising fiscal deficit and it is estimated that fiscal deficit would escalate by Rs8.227 trillion for the current fiscal year, equivalent to 7.8 percent of GDP.

There are 8 ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them three ships, Fast, Gall and MSC Nilgun & two more ships, MSC Vilda-X and XT Brightness are scheduled to load/offload Cement, Palm oil, Container and Chemicals are expected to take berths at MW-2, LCT, QICT and EVTL.

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PSX witnesses bullish trend, gains 229 more points

Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks were recorded \$ 5,401.4 million, it added. Total liquid foreign reserves held by the country, in the previous week ended on March 29, 2024, were \$13,378.9 million.

MULTAN: Labourers are busy in spreading sheep wool for drying at their workplace.

156 sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 17 remained unchanged. In PSX, the three top trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 88,622,330 shares at Rs.1.39 per share, Fauji Cement with 33,100,985 shares with Rs.20.01 per share and Fauji Foods Limited with 30,022,192 shares at Rs.10.05 per share. Bata Pakistan Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.25.00 per share price, closing at Rs.1,725.00, whereas the runner-up was Sugar Engineering Works Limited.



LAHORE: Farmers are busy in harvesting wheat crop near Ravi River.

Ahsan stresses to transform sports, tourism scenarios

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC) Ahsan Iqbal on Monday underscored the need to transform country's sports and tourism scenarios to project its true image globally.

Ahsan, who is also Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives was given additional charge of IPC ministry recently.

"I am honoured that the prime minister has entrusted me with this responsibility," he said while talking to media after chairing his first meeting as IPC minister here at Pakistan Sports Board.

He emphasized the significance of the IPC ministry in the field of sports.

"The 18th Amendment does not mean that the federation should neglect the coordination," he said.

Highlighting the importance of national coordination for the development of the country's potential in tourism and sports, he said.

"The establishment of a National Tourism Council is necessary. Similarly, we will have to make concerted effort to revive the country's sports reputation," he added.

The minister also spoke about Pakistan's performance at the Asian Games in Hangzhou, last year wherein it only claimed three medals.

"Today, Pakistan's name is not prominent in

the Asian Games as it used to be in the past.

"We will have to take some serious steps for sports development. We will have to declare 2025 as the year of sports revival," he asserted.

He highlighted the significant investments made by other countries for hosting prestigious sport events to get recognition and promote themselves.

"We need to launch the National Internship Programme on a large scale this year," he added.

He also mentioned Pakistan's dairy industry, pointing out the low export numbers compared to other countries. He stressed the need for Pakistan to explore new markets for its meat products.

MQM-P to take up new Sindh governor issue with PM Shehbaz

KARACHI (INP): A delegation of Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) will meet with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to discuss replacing Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori with a new one, sources said on Monday. Sources further said that the MQM-P was interested in bringing a new governor in place of Tessori, and that, too, from the party.

The delegation, sources disclosed, would also put forward some names to the prime minister who could replace Tessori.

Following the meeting, the advice would be sent to President Asif Zardari, they said, adding that the new governor was expected to be announced this week.



KARACHI: A view of garbage lay along with Sea View Beach creating problems for commuters and unhygienic atmosphere, showing the negligence of concern authorities



SUKKUR: Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar along with Sindh Inspector General of Police (IGP), Ghulam Nabi Memon and others addresses to media persons during press conference regarding ongoing operation in the Kashmir and Kacha areas

CM chairs online meeting with Commissioners, DG PDMA: Govt. enforces rain & urban flood emergency in rain affected areas of Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has enforced rain and urban flood emergency in the rain affected areas of the province.

Following the rain and urban flood emergency, leaves of all concerned officers and staff including those serving in the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) have been cancelled, stated the spokesman, Government of Balochistan here. According to the spokesman, the Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti chaired online meeting with all divisional commissioners and high ups of PDMA on late Sunday night. The Principal Secretary to Chief Minister and Director General PDMA briefed the meeting about overall situation of rains besides relief and rescue activities in the province.

The Chief Minister expressed anguish over the public complaints about the sewerage and sanitation issues in the metropolises.

He said that the government would provide wholehearted support and resources to the field officers in the rain situation as it is our responsibility to steer the people out of the hardships and miserable situation.

He issued clear directives to the field officers to remove encroachments established on the sewerage nullahs. APP adds: Balochistan government has declared rain and urban flood emergency due to continuous heavy rains which battered different districts of the province, killing and injuring several people across the province, spokesman of the Balochistan government Shahid Rind said on Monday.

He said the leave of all officers and staff has been canceled to promptly ensure rescue services to people in the flood-hit areas and to avert any untoward situation.

Shahid Rind said schools will remain closed on April 15 and 16 in rain-affected districts of the province. Under the chairmanship of Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti online meeting of Commissioners and PDMA officials held to review the situation caused by heavy rains in the province and the measures being taken for the rescue of affected people.

Adil Raja stands exposed after losing legal battle in UK court

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Controversial YouTuber Maj @ Adil Farooq Raja has been exposed after losing a legal battle in the United Kingdom.

The false narrative he constructed has also been dismantled, with the British High Court rejecting all of his claims that Pakistan is an authoritarian state where the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) controls both the judiciary and the government. He had also alleged that the February 8 general elections in Pakistan were rigged.

High Court Judge Richard Spearman KC dismissed all applications made by the YouTuber, including his request to halt a defamation trial brought against him by former senior military officer Brigadier @ Rashid Naseer.

The judge determined that Raja had posted seriously damaging remarks about Naseer in nine social media posts across platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, and X [formerly Twitter].

Imposing a penalty on Raja, the court ordered him to pay £5,000 to the now retired brigadier for the dismissed application to halt the defamation trial.

PTI demands formation of independent commission to probe May 9 incidents

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) General Secretary Omar Ayub has demanded an independent commission for a fair investigation of the May 9 incident.

Speaking to media in Islamabad, Ayub asserted that the cases against the PTI founder and other leaders including Shah Mahmood Qureshi were baseless.

He claimed that the prosecution was avoiding the Nikkah during Iddat case by postponing the case hearing twice today, as the case was bogus.

The opposition leader said he had been demanding formation of an independent commission for investigation and the release of CCTV footage of the May 9 riots incident. He said the cipher case was bogus and the government must acknowledge its retaliation against the PTI founder.

Regarding the letter written by eight Islamabad High Court judges alleging interference in judicial matters, he stated that the letter was a charge-sheet on the system.

Referring to the movement with the support of other allies, he said the purpose of the drive was to protect the sanctity of the constitution and the law.

Members of All Pakistan Affected Employees Action Committee are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Karachi press club

Eight killed, 12 injured due to rains in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) on Monday issued a report on the loss of life and property in the province due to heavy rains during the last three days.

According to preliminary reports, eight people were killed and 12 people were injured. Four children, three men and a woman are among the dead persons, while the injured include four women, six men and two children.

According to the report, a total of 85 houses were damaged due to the collapse of walls and roofs in different districts, of which 15 houses were completely damaged and 70 houses were partially damaged.

Due to heavy rain, life and financial accidents took place in different districts of Dir Upper, Chitral Lower, Swat, Malakand and Bajaur.

The Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa directed the concerned district administration to provide immediate assistance to the affected family and provide the best medical facilities to the injured.

Relief materials were provided to the victims of the affected districts by PDMA.

Due to continuous heavy rains, the flow of water in the rivers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is normal. The flow of water at Nowshera in Kabul River is a record 98,500 cusecs moderate flood.

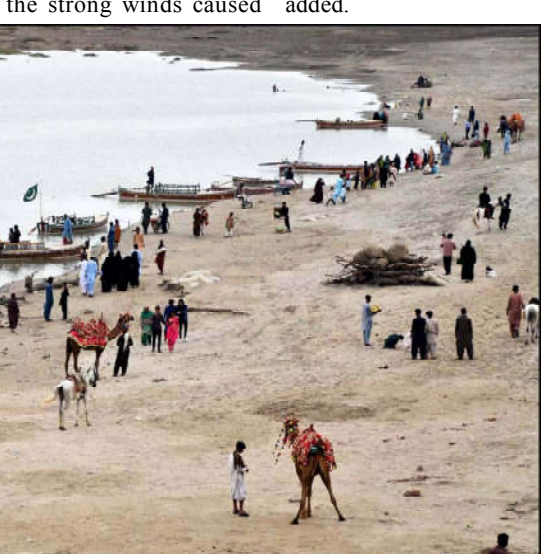
Indus river water flow at Kherabad 103,200 cusecs record as usual.

41,804 cusecs record of water flow of Kabul River at Warsak as usual, flow of water at river Swat at Khawaza Khela is 30,183 cusecs normal and 27,701 cusecs record of water flow River Swat at Chakdara normally.

Storm causes power transmission tower collapse, disrupts electricity supply

HYDERABAD (APP): A tower of 132 KV high transmission line collapsed due to strong wind in Kotri Site Industrial Zone area on Saturday night, power supply to the Kohsar area of Latifabad suspended which was restored by using alternative lines.

According to spokesperson of Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) Sadiq Kubbar, the strong winds caused



HYDERABAD: A large number of people arrive at the bank of Indus River to enjoy the cloudy weather.

Govt fully focused on uplift of merged districts: KP Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali has said that federal and provincial governments are fully focused on the development and provision of health and education facilities in the merged districts of the province.

Talking to a delegation from Speen locality of the tribal district North Waziristan here on Monday, he said that government is taking crucial steps in this regard and results of it would be visible soon.

The delegation headed by Maulana Javed Iqbal was consisted of Irfanullah, Aslam Yar, Amir Hamza, Asghar Khan and others. The members of delegation briefed the Governor regarding problems faced by the people of the area and called for their resolution.

responsibility of all stakeholders and they would have to play their due role in this regard.

The Governor assured the delegation that he would take up the matter relating to problems in the tribal districts with the authorities concerned to ensure the availability of medical staff in hospitals and teachers in schools.

However, he also told the delegation to raise complaints of their respective areas in written with the departments concerned, so their problems could be resolved in short period of time.

ATC extends interim bail of PTI founder in 3 cases

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Monday extended the interim bail of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder in three cases related to May 9 violence, until April 16. The court directed jail authorities to ensure the attendance of the PTI founder through video link at the next hearing, besides seeking arguments from parties.

ATC Judge Arshad Javed conducted the proceedings on the bail petitions of the PTI founder in cases of attacks on Jinnah House, Askari Tower, and the torching of Shadman Police station.

On August 11, 2023, an ATC dismissed the pre-arrest bails of the PTI founder in seven cases over his non-appearance, as he was jailed after conviction in the Toshakhana case.

However, the Lahore High Court set aside the decision of the ATC and restored his bail petitions, while allowing a petition by the PTI founder.

DC Ghotki visits procurement center

MIRPUR MATHELO: Deputy Commissioner Ghotki Dr. Syed Mohammad Ali visited the food procurement center established at Mirpur Mathelo and heard the complaints of the settlers, expressed anger on the officers of the food department, opened all the procurement centers and provided bardana to the settlers as per the policy. Continued instructions.



According to the details, Deputy Commissioner Ghotki Dr. Syed Mohammad Ali Mirpur Mathelo and Hayat Pitafi reached the food procurement center, where the residents complained to the Deputy Commissioner and said that they had come to the center since morning for Badrana, but they were not given Bardana. Expressing his anger, the Deputy Commissioner directed the officials of the Food Department that according to the policy of the Sindh government, the settlers coming to the centers should be provided with bardana without making them wait and start the process of purchasing wheat by opening all the centers. In this regard, laziness will not be acceptable. Speaking further on this occasion.

Pervez Khattak mulls joining politics again

PESHAWAR (INP): Former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister Pervez Khattak has decided to join politics again, Dunya News learnt.

According to family sources, the seasoned politician is in contact with the PPP and other parties. He also held several meetings with key political leaders during the last few days.

Speaking to Dunya News, the veteran politician said he would take a decision after analysing the political situation. "I am silently observing the performance of the government nowadays," he said.

He said the development schemes of Rs10 billion were approved for Nowshera but they had been reverted. "The people of Nowshera will now realise

their deprivation," he lamented. "I am away from mainstream and social media these days but can take decision to enter politics again soon," he added.

Earlier, Khattak had stepped down as chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Parliamentarian (PTIP) days after his party showed dismal performance in the general elections 2024. The former defence minister had said he was resigning from the position due to health issues. Pervez Khattak had suffered defeat in NA-33 Nowshera constituency, which was earlier considered his stronghold.

The PTI-backed independent candidate, Shahid Ahad Khattak, defeated him by securing 90,145 votes. Pervez Khattak had bagged only 25,258 votes in the polls.

Aleem visits Chinese Embassy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan visited the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad on Monday.

He called on Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong and expressed his deep sorrow over the recent accident of Chinese engineers, said a press release.

Abdul Aleem Khan while talking to the Chinese Ambassador said that Pakistan-China friendship is a symbol of economic stability and peace in the region.

He added that there no one can harm the friendship between China and Pakistan and bilateral relations.

Registered voters in Pakistan surge to 130 million

ISLAMABAD (APP): The total number of registered voters in the country has surged to 130.136 million from 128.59 million on the eve of February 8 general elections. According to the latest data released by Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), the registered voters as on date are 130.136 million, with 70.043 million males and 60.092 million females, reflecting an increase of 1.546 million voters since the February 8 elections.

Islamabad has a total of 1.094 million voters, including 0.52 million females and 0.574 million males. Similarly, there are voters 5.44 million, including 2.389 million females and 3.051 million males in Balochistan; 22.183 million, including 12.074 million males and 10.109 million females in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; 74.093 million, including 39.563 million males and 34.530 million females in Punjab; and 27.326 million voters, including 14.781 million males and 12.545 million females in Sindh.

Police reunite missing children with mother

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Mirpurkhas Police on Monday successfully reunited two young children with their distraught mother after a harrowing two-month-long ordeal.

According to Police, acting on the orders of the High Court Circuit Bench, SSP Mirpurkhas, Captain Retired Asad Ali Chaudhry led the efforts to reunite the family after a two-month ordeal.

Under the direction of SSP, a dedicated team was assembled with DSP CIA Fazal Haque Chandio at the helm. The team comprising Inayat Ali Zardari, the CIA incharge, Ghulam Hussain Sadayo, in-charge of ADRS, SHO Taluk Khuda Bakhsh Ranjhani and SHO Woman Police Station Momal Laghari worked tirelessly day and night working no stone unturned in their pursuit to locate the missing children.

Their diligent efforts paid off when the team successfully rescued two-year-old Ehsan Ali and two-month-old Tayyab Ali from the Umakot bypass.

The children were promptly brought to the SSP office where they were joyfully reunited with their mother. Overwhelmed with gratitude, the mother expressed her heartfelt appreciation to SSP Mirpurkhas Captain Retired Asad Ali Chaudhry and the entire Mirpurkhas police force for their unwavering dedication and exceptional work.

Recognizing the outstanding performance of the team, SSP Asad Ali Chaudhry presented certificates of appreciation, commending their remarkable efforts in resolving the distressing case.