

QUETTA VOICE

Email address: quettavoic@gmail.com

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Former Japanese PM Shinzo Abe shot dead



UAE's president accepts PM Shehbaz's invitation to visit Pakistan

Balochistan floods: Death toll rises to 57 as 4 more dead bodies found

Manan Mandokhail
Abdullah Lehri
Imran Sumalani
Sardar M.Khondai:

QUETTA: The death toll in rains and floods-related incidents reached 57 as four more dead bodies were found across Balochistan on Friday. A well-placed officer at the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) said most of the casualties have been reported from Quetta, Barkhan, Pishin, Kohlu, Bolan, Zhob, and other districts of Balochistan.

He requested anonymity since he was not authorized to speak to the media. Flash floods unleashed by heavy rainfall played havoc in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan during the last five days.

Dozens injured in rains-related incidents

Dozens of people have suffered injuries as a result of the rains related incidents and floods. Most of the injured were admitted to the civil hospital Quetta for medical treatment. An emergency has been declared in all government-run hospitals located in all affected districts of the province.

"Expedite relief and rescue operation

throughout Balochistan", Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Quddus Bizenjo directed the concerned departments. Mr. Bizenjo chaired a high-level meeting on Friday to review the rescue and relief operation in the province.

The floods and torrential rains have also damaged over 673 mud and bricked-walled houses in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan, a PDMA shared with journalists revealed on Friday. Rains have left thousands of people homeless in Quetta and other affected districts.

Flash floods swept away bridges, roads, and dams

Flash floods have also swept away small bridges, and delay and check dams across Balochistan.

Chief Secretary Balochistan, Abdul Aziz Uqaili visited floods and rains that affected distinct Pishin on Friday. Deputy Commissioner Pishin briefed CS Balochistan about the pace of rescue and relief operations in the district.

Member Provincial Assembly (MPA), Asghar Tareen and political leaders were also present on the occasion. The CS directed an



inquiry into the breaching of various dams in the Pishin district. Floods have swept away small dams in the district.

The passenger train was temporarily halted due to a landslide near Dozan Post in the Machh area yesterday. However, the trains were restored after the railway track was cleared by FC personnel and railway workers.

Casualties were reported from Quetta, Barkhan, Dera Bugti, Pishin

Most of the casualties were reported from Quetta, Barkhan, Dera Bugti, Pishin, Zhob, Dukki, Kohlu, Harnai, Sibi and Lasbella. Heavy rainfall played havoc in Quetta's Link Badini Road, Kharotabad, Pashtoonabad, Nawan Killi, Sariab Road and other poor neighborhoods of the city.

Rains have damaged dozens of small bridges and delay and check dams in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan. Videos widely shared on social media show dams and bridges being swept away in floods and heavy rainfall.

"We have ordered the concerned deputy com-

missioners to assess the damages", Mir Ziaullah Langove, the Balochistan Home Minister said. He said the government was aware of the difficulties of the masses.

Pak Army FC personnel assisting civil administration

Personnel of the Pak Army, Frontier Corps (FC) assisted the PDMA and civil administration during rescue and relief operations throughout the province. Pak Army personnel were seen rescuing the trapped people in Gwadar, Killa Saifullah, and other parts of the province.

Heavy rainfall and floods have left thousands of people homeless in Balochistan. Most people are still in desperate need of support. "Government should practically launch relief operation rather than words", Fazal ur Rehman, a tribal elder from Pishin said.

He said flash floods unleashed by heavy rainfall have swept away most of the bridges and small dams in the district. "Government should compensate the people for their human and financial losses", he demanded.



NEW YORK: Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN New York meeting with Preeti Sinha, Executive Secretary of UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF).

4 killed in Dukki, Baghbana Balochistan firing incidents

Hussain Zarkoon, News Desk

At least four people were killed in two different firing incidents in Balochistan's Baghbana area of Dukki on Friday. Levies sources said armed men open fire in the Baghbana area of the Khuzdar district and killed two people on the spot.

The attackers sped away on their motorcycle from the spot. Levies personnel reached on the spot and shipped the dead bodies to the basic health unit in Baghbana. The reason for the incident is still unknown.

Also Read: Three including two women killed in Quetta firing

Firing incident claims two lives in Dukki District

In Balochistan's Dukki district, unknown armed men opened fire in the Nali Rabath area and killed two people on the spot. The victims were identified as Zahoor Ahmed



s/o Abdul Qader, Asmat Ullah s/o Muhammad Essa. The dead belonged to a local tribe. The reason behind the incident is an old enemy.

According to Police sources, both of the dead bodies were shifted to the civil hospital in Dukki. A large number of local tribesmen reached the hospital after the arrival of the dead bodies.

Former Japanese PM Shinzo Abe shot dead

Monitoring Desk

Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was shot dead on Friday while campaigning. He is the longest-served PM in the country.

"Shinzo Abe was transported to (the hospital) at 12:20 pm. He was in a state of cardiac arrest upon arrival. Resuscitation was administered. However, unfortunately, he died at 5:03 pm," said Hidetada Fukushima, professor of emergency medicine at Nara Medical University hospital.

Abe, 67, was delivering a stump speech with security present, but spectators were able to approach him fairly easily.

NHK quoted the suspect, identified as Tetsuya Yamagami, as telling police he was dissatisfied with Abe and wanted to kill him. He has since been taken into custody.

UAE's president accepts PM Shehbaz's invitation to visit Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday invited the President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to visit Pakistan which the latter accepted with "great pleasure".

A statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office said that the invitation was extended by PM Shehbaz during a telephone call with the UAE president. He had called the UAE leader to convey warm greetings to him on Eid ul Adha. Web Desk

A trolley kills a coal miner in Dukki Balochistan

Hussain Zarkoon

A trolley killed a coal miner inside a coal mine in Balochistan's Dukki district on Friday evening. Levies sources said the coal miner was working deep inside the mine when a trolley hit him. He breathed his last on the spot.

Rescue workers and fellow miners retrieved the dead body from the mine. The dead body was shifted to district headquarters hospital Dukki. The victim was identified as Ahmed Shah, a resident of Afghanistan.

The hospital administration handed over the

dead body to the heirs after the completion of necessary official procedures. Hazardous working conditions inside coal mines of Balochistan have claimed thousands of precious human lives.



Weekly inflation soars by 1.32%, PBS data shows

ISLAMABAD: The weekly inflation report shows an increase of 1.32% in the last week, taking the overall inflation rate to 33.66%.

According to details, the inflation rate in the county reaches 33.66% as the weekly inflation report shows an increase of 1.32%.

Data issued by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) show that the price of 30 essential items increased, dropping for five items while the price for 16 items remained stationary.

The price for petrol increased by 6.36%, diesel soared by 5.06% while the price for Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) increased by 2.33%. The rates for a 2.5 kg box of Ghee increased by 1.64%, while potatoes gained by 2.57%,

the data shows.

PBS data shows that Garlic prices increased by 5.06% while prices for eggs, Yogurt, Rice, Sugar, Milk, flour and pulses also increased.

While the prices for tomatoes, onion and daal mash decreased in the last week. Last week, the weekly inflation increased by 3.63 per cent during the week ended on June 30.

The SPI-based weekly inflation went up for the week ended on June 30, 2022, after registering an increase of 3.63 per cent and 32.1 per cent on-year to year basis.

Out of 51 items, prices of 28 (54.91%) items increased, 06 (11.76%) items decreased and 17 (33.33%) items remained stable. INP

CM Hamza Shehbaz announces remission in prisoners' sentences

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz Sharif on Friday announced one-month remission in the sentences of the prisoners across the province.

According to the notification, the government has given one remission to convicted prisoners in their jail terms.

The remission does not apply to those convicted for murder, espionage, anti-state activities, sectarianism, adultery, robbery, dacoity, kidnapping, culpable homicide and terrorists acts and also those undergoing sentences under the Foreigners Act, 1946.

The chief minister Hamza Shehbaz congratulated the prisoners and their families over remission in their sentences and expressed hope that the relief in jail term will improve their lives. INP

I have no disagreements with 'neutrals': Imran Khan

PTI Chairman Imran Khan Friday said he has no disagreements with the "neutrals", questioning why should he get into a quarrel with them.

"Weakening the 'neutrals' means strengthening the enemy and only the country will suffer during this fight," he said while speaking to senior journalists.

Regarding chances of him being arrested, he said that if the government wants to arrest him, they can do so. "I have no fear because I haven't crossed any red line."

"Free and fair elections are the only solution to pull the country out of the crisis," Khan said, adding that when a pro-people government will be formed only then will the economy flourish.

He said: "If I would speak to the neutrals there would be only one stance — free and fair elections."

"Better to be in Opposition than to speak with PPP"

The PTI Chairman said that nobody is ready to speak to the leaders of this "imported government", asserting that he will never join hands with the "thieves" even if he has to sit on the Opposition benches.

"It is better to be in the Opposition than to have a dialogue with PPP," he said.

Khan warned that if by-polls in 20 constituencies of Punjab are rigged, then it may harm the country.

"What do I have to do? I can wait but it is the country that will suffer," he maintained. The reference from the former premier about the man comes in the wake of PTI claims that its workers and employees have been



receiving "threatening phone calls" from certain quarters.

Separately, the party has also alleged that the Punjab government was trying to influence the polls in its favour by announcing uplift schemes.

Earlier this week, PTI Secretary General Asad Umar had alleged that the PML-N had begun rigging by announcing and doing development works in 20 by-election constituencies in the province.

The ECP had suspended Hamza's plans to provide free electricity for the poor of Punjab, terming it an attempt to influence poll outcomes.

A recent Dawn report characterised the high-stakes nature of these elections as one which "will not only determine the outcome of the next general elections, but are also going to decide who rules Punjab for another year or so — Hamza Shehbaz or Chaudhry Parvez Elahi"

In a similar vein, Imran said at his address today that the upcoming by-elections would decide "the future of Pakistan", urging people to defeat the incumbent Punjab government in the polls.

He also called out the United States for "putting corrupt people at the helm in Pakistan". "The US never even appoints a convict as a peon, but they have made thieves rulers in Pakistan," the PTI chief thundered. He said there was a certain man in Lahore, this one he referred to as "Mr. X", who he said was allegedly "colluding with the chief election commissioner to rig the by-elections". "I just learned today that the man's wife has been given a top post in the customs [department] which can help her generate a lot of money. But despite this rigging, we will defeat them," the former premier said. Web Desk

Hajj-e-Akbar: PM prays for Ummah's unity, Pakistan's prosperity

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday felicitated the pilgrims of Hajj-e-Akbar and prayed for the blessings of Allah Almighty upon the Muslim Ummah and Pakistan.

In a message on Twitter, he appealed to the fortunate pilgrims performing the Hajj-e-Akbar to offer special prayers for the humanity and seek forgiveness from miseries.

PM Sharif said it was the blessed occasion to pray for the prosperity

of mankind and its deliverance from epidemics and diseases.

He prayed to Allah Almighty for the freedom of the occupied Palestine and Kashmir to save the oppressed people.

"May Allah Almighty bring Pakistan out of its debt situation with the blessings of Hajj-e-Akbar and grant us economic self-reliance," he said. He also urged the nation to offer special prayers for the elevation of the ranks of the martyrs.

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QUETTA: Vendor displaying coal to attract customers along roadside.

HAJJ 2022: Pakistani pilgrims to undergo Covid test upon return

KARACHI: Pakistan's health ministry has decided to conduct a rapid antigen test at the airports to detect COVID-19 in the Hajj pilgrims upon their return to the country.

The national health ministry has directed the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to submit details of the pilgrims. The DG CAA has been asked to appoint its officials along with the personnel of the Airport Security Force (ASF) to conduct rapid antigen tests at the airports.

Hundreds of thousands of Muslim pilgrims from around the world converged in Maidaan-e-Arafat on Friday to perform the Rukn-e-Azam of Hajj "Waqoof-e-Arafat" which marks climax of the

Hajj. The worshippers, capped at one million including 850,000 from abroad, spent the night at camps in the valley of Mina.

On Friday comes the highlight of the Hajj: ascending Mount Arafat, where the Prophet Mohammed (Peace Be Upon Him) delivered his final sermon.

The pilgrims will listen the Hajj Sermon at Masjid-e-Nimrah while staying in Arafat on Friday. Dr Al Sheikh Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Al Issa will deliver the sermon. Worshippers will pray and recite the holy Quran for several hours at the mountain and sleep nearby. After Azaan-e-Maghrib, the pilgrims will

leave for Muzdalifah where they will offer Maghrib and Isha prayers together and spend the night under open sky. From Muzdalifah, pilgrims will also collect pebbles to throw at Satan the next morning.

After offering Fajr Prayer at Muzdalifah, they will leave for Mina for remaining Hajj rituals. The Hajj is a once-in-a-lifetime duty for all Muslims physically and financially able to make the journey.

This year's hajj is taking place against the backdrop of a resurgence of Covid-19 in the region. All participants were required to submit proof of full vaccination and negative PCR tests. INP

UK envoy wishes happy Eid with message of environment protection

ISLAMABAD: In a video message uploaded Friday on his Twitter handle, British High Commissioner in Pakistan Christian Turner wished happy Eid to Muslims all over the world with a message to protect environment and fight climate change.

"Assalam-u-Alaikum friends! Today, I am very happy that I am back in the Northern Areas, in the beautiful mountains. I am absolutely delighted to be back here in the Northern Areas—one of the most beautiful landscapes in Pakistan where I am trekking with my family and friends and enjoying all that it has to offer," he said.

"But as I see the rising flood waters, the melting glaciers, I know we must work ever hard to protect our environment, to fight climate change and protect our communities. Our world is our responsibility. Wherever you are this Eid, happy Eid to you from me," he wished happy Eid. INP

Bird strikes: Operations suspended at Lahore airport during 5-8 am

LAHORE: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has banned flight landings and takeoffs from 5-8 am at the Lahore Airport to avoid bird strikes, ARY News reported.

According to details, the CAA issues a notice to ensure safe air travel at the Lahore airport after over 30 incidents of bird strikes with planes in the last few weeks. All takeoff and landing on the Lahore Airport between 5-8 am will be banned from July 11, 2022, the notice said. According to a spokesperson of CAA, all domestic and international will have to comply with the policy. The ban will be in place for two months and all authorities have been ordered strictly to comply with the policy, a CAA spokesperson added. Only flights in an emergency would be allowed to land at the Allama Iqbal International Airport during the two-month period, they added. The number of birds has increased drastically due to the start of monsoons. The CAA has also initiated an awareness campaign regarding flight safety. PIA has changed its flight schedule to comply with the new policy. As many as 48 planes of foreign and national airlines had been affected by bird strikes from January 2022 to May 2022, and several of them were damaged causing huge financial losses to the airlines. INP

Utilisation of indigenous resources key to solving energy crisis: Minister

ISLAMABAD: "We should focus on all the energy resources that can be produced on our land," said Minister of State for Petroleum Masudik Masood Malik while taking to Gwadar Pro, adding that utilisation of indigenous resources is the key to solving Pakistan's energy crisis over the long haul.

According to Gwadar Pro, Pakistan's energy sector is again hanging in balance due to inefficiencies, burgeoning circular debt, massive dependence on imported fossil fuels, and the rise in global fuel prices. It's not the first time that Pakistan was stuck in an energy crisis.

What is worse, it is facing high power shortages after the demands owing to the summer months have increased rapidly as compared with the total electricity generation.

"Energy security is essential because the kind of disruption we have seen is a potential threat to our economic well-being. Exploration of the more indigenous and renewable resources is the key to energy security," pinpointed Pakistan Economic Survey 2021-22.

Responding to this, the minister said, "The prob-

lem we are facing in Pakistan at the moment is that we have to import fuel on which most of our power plants run. This import puts a heavy burden on our treasury, on our external sector, and also on the rupee which depreciates."

That is why the government is considering a fundamental transformation of the energy system to achieve sustainable development.

That remains to be tested, though. As per the Survey, historically Pakistan's economic growth is constrained by bottlenecks in the energy sector. Pakistan's energy requirements are increasing and demand for energy in the coming decades will rise substantially.

Energy demand on this scale will put increasing pressure on energy resources and distribution networks. This is unsustainable without a fundamental transformation of the energy system. Dependency on the dominant fossil energy resources, especially oil is risky.

The minister noted that the government has been endeavoring to bring in transformational changes in power system by exploring alternate sources of energy in the

country. Government is also focusing on renewable sources of energy to make access to energy affordable.

The exploration of alternate and renewable sources of energy will also help ensure energy security and sustainability, he added.

For example, consumers are using solar panels on a small scale without the support of the government, which should allocate funds out of the subsidy allocation in the budget.

Therefore, Masudik Masood Malik explained, the PM constituted a task force on solar energy initiatives with a vision to promote sustainable and green energy. Members of the task force included officials from different ministries and departments. Under the initiative, the government is working on a comprehensive solar energy package comprising tax waivers and concessionary loans for consumers in a bid to overcome the prolonged power outages that have stalled life in the country.

The solar package will also include a short-term plan for shifting government offices to solar energy. It involves preparation of a plan for helping small consumers. INP

Utility stores to remain open on Eid-ul-Azha

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to keep utility stores open on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

According to details, utility stores across the country would remain open on the three days of Eid-ul-Azha. The step has been taken to provide relief to the poor class amid the eid festivities, a spokesperson said.

They added that officials would ensure the supply of all essential items at stores. People would not face any difficulty in purchasing essential items at subsidised rates.

Moreover, on June 28, the federal government on Sunday announced to abolish the need

to submit a copy of your CNIC to shop at a utility store.

According to details, the one-time password system has also been discontinued to shop at utility stores. The shoppers do not have to submit a copy of the CNIC to shop at any utility store from now on.

The shoppers will only have to show their original CNIC at the counter to buy subsidized items at the utility store. Shoppers will receive a confirmation message on a mobile number registered under their name.

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The shoppers will only have to show their original CNIC at the counter to buy subsidized items at the utility store. Shoppers. INP



QUETTA: People buying goats on the eve of Eid ul Azha.

Khursheed Shah asks Imran to quit politics after ex-NAB chief scandal

ISLAMABAD: PPP leader and Federal Minister for Water Resources Syed Khursheed Shah on Friday demanded of PTI Chairman Imran Khan to leave politics after the emergence of harassment scandal of a woman by the former NAB chairman.

In his reaction to the former NAB chairman scandal, Khursheed Shah said the head of entire nation bowed in shame after learning that the victim woman, Tayyaba Gul, was kept in the PM House during the tenure of previous government.

He demanded of former prime minister Imran Khan to immediately step down as PTI chairman.

"Imran has no right to take part in politics after this serious allegation. First, he should face the transparent investigation. State is like a mother and the importance of PM

House is like a shelter home for the daughters of the nation," the minister held.

"What would be the biggest allegation other than this to soil the name of the state and country's politics," he added.

Khursheed Shah said that it was so shameful to make the PM House a harassment centre for the daughters of the nation. He said it had been transparent that Imran allegedly kept Tayyaba Gul at PM House to blackmail former NAB chairman Javed Iqbal.

"The former PM crossed every limit to victimize his political opponents," he said lamenting that it's so pitiful that Imran gave State of Medina example to the victim woman in this loathsome case.

He demanded of all the investigation agencies and parliament to reach the bottom of this scandal at

any cost.

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"Imran has no right to take part in politics after this serious allegation. First, he should face the transparent investigation. State is like a mother and the importance of PM House is like a shelter home for the daughters of the nation," the minister held. "What would be the biggest allegation other than this to soil the name of the state and country's politics," he added. Khursheed Shah said that it was so shameful. INP

Kashmiris observing Wani's 6th anniversary as Resistance Day today

ISLAMABAD: Kashmiris are observing the 6th martyrdom anniversary of popular youth leader, Burhan Muzaffar Wani as Resistance Day, today.

Burhan Wani, along with two other associates, was killed by Indian troops during a fake encounter in Kokernag area of Islamabad district on this day in 2016, said a report released by the KMS, today.

It said Burhan Wani is the face of Kashmiris' resistance against India's illegal occupation and the people of Kashmir will continue his mission as he lives in the hearts of the Kashmiri people. The report said that India martyred Burhan Wani but thousands of Burhans emerged, adding that India could snatch Burhans physically, but it can't kill the freedom sentiment of the Kashmiri people. It said Burhans will keep on coming till Kashmiris achieve freedom from Indian tyranny and the people of Kashmir will keep on treading martyr Burhan Wani's path till freedom from India. The report maintained that Burhan Wani will continue to inspire the Kashmiris in their struggle against occupation. Burhan Wani was an ardent supporter of J&K's accession to Pakistan, it said. The Kashmiri people love their heroes and will not let martyrs' blood go in vain, the report said, adding that India must read the writing on the wall as it cannot subdue the Kashmiris' passion for freedom. INP



QUETTA: Blacksmith busy sharpening knives to be used in slaughter sacrificial animal on Eid ul Azha.

Shehbaz' family behind solar agency conundrum, says Sh Rashid

ISLAMABAD: While denouncing recent increase in electricity tariff by Rs9 per unit, former interior minister and Awami Muslim League Chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmad has said that the government has fully entrapped in the IMF web harbinger that country is heading towards default.

The former minister was of the view that the real face behind the solar agency commission was the Shehbaz Sharif family. He held that Pakistan had become the most expensive country of the world.

In his tweets posted on Friday, Sh Rashid said: "The government has entrapped in the IMF web. 400 textile mills have been shut down. The country is going to default. Electricity has become more expensive with Rs9 per unit hike in its price. The real face behind the commission of solar agency is that of Shabbaz Sharif family. Their agenda is: trade with India, friendship with Israel and giving permission for drone bases."

"Inflation has risen by 31% and interest rate has gone up by 15%. Who will invest here now? Ministries are on sale nowadays. Money launderers have become rulers. The loot market is on. People are dying of hunger. Gravediggers are watching the spectacle. The election will be decisive. The next 45 days will decide about democracy and government." INP

Much-awaited World Games declared open at an impressive ceremony

BIRMINGHAM: The 11th edition of The World Games 2022 was declared open by Mayor Randall Woodfin in front of around 27,000 spectators at the Protective Stadium on Thursday night.

"Tonight, we make history together. In the name of unity," Mayor Woodfin said in his welcome message.

José Perurena, President of the International World Games Association (IWGA) said in his speech: "Our athletes will be a beacon of hope in a world often torn apart by intolerance and hatred."

The impressive opening ceremony referring to the history of the city and its expectations for the future was the perfect start for the biggest international sport event ever held in Alabama. It is the first world-wide multi-sport event since the start of the pandemic that has spectators in the stands.

During the next ten days, they will witness 3,600 athletes from 104 countries competing in 34 sports to become The World Games Champion in one of 225 medal events. However, Thursday was the day to celebrate the unity of The World Games Family. IWGA President José Perurena spoke in his speech of the special challenges for the organizers, but also for the athletes, to celebrate this family reunion: "The global pandemic has affected us all, and continues to affect us. We have had to delay the Games by a year and put in place many

additional measures. The Organizing Committee, the public authorities, the medical staff and the people of Birmingham have risen to the challenge, enabling us all to be here today."

He addressed the athletes in his speech directly: "You are the lucky ones who have overcome all the challenges and endured so much uncertainty to get here. You have the honour and responsibility to be the ambassadors of your countries and your sports."

José Perurena also took the opportunity to point out the importance of the event in challenging times: "The World Games must serve as bridge-builders. The only walls you will see here in Birmingham are those used by our wall-climbing athletes." Mayor Randall Woodfin also put the multi-sport event in a larger context: "We're ready to put the world on notice: Birmingham is here, and we're ready once again to change the globe. Over the past few years, our world has seen so much division. From global pandemics to political strife, and to social unrest. But as I look out into this crowd, what I see is a world united, right here in Birmingham. Our ancestors' greatest dreams." The show programme under the title "Witness History" took up these motifs. Through the creative vision of Executive Producer Rashada LeRoy and the creative mechanics of Artistic Director Dr. Henry Panion INP



ISLAMABAD: People gather at Faizabad bus stand to go back home ahead of the Muslim festival Eid al-Adha or the 'Festival of Sacrifice', in Federal Capital.

China-Pak medical AI coop to boost local chronic disease screening

ISLAMABAD: China-Pakistan medical AI cooperation to boost local chronic disease screening, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday.

Lately, at the first international "Medical Conference and Exhibition for Next Generation Healthcare" held in Islamabad, Chinese medical AI leader Airdoc Technology and Pakistan's well-known medical device import and distribution company Dynamic Medical Company (DMC) officially signed a cooperation agreement to work together to promote the application of Airdoc retinal imaging AI products in Pakistan.

Special Technology

Zones Authority Chairman Amer Hashmi, ex-Surgeon General of Pak Army, Lt-Gen (r) Asif Mumtaz Sukhera, Health Services Academy VC Prof Dr Shahzad Ali Khan, former Ambassador to China Ms Naghmah A Hashmi, Advisor to GoP on Health Dr Ghazna Khalid, and numerous other professionals from public health sector attended the conference.

One of the major objectives of this conference was sensitizing the participants, the general public and the government to hereditary or genetic disorders, its timely diagnosis and available treatments.

In his speech HAS VC Dr

Khan said that Pakistan is ranked among the countries having high alert of genetic disorders, adding that majorly the increased incidence and prevalence of the genetic disorders are associated with lack of pre-natal testing facilities in the country.

"Faced with the increasingly serious disease burden in Pakistan, advanced medical technology is an inevitable solution at present." Experts such as Ms Hashmi, former Pakistani ambassador to China, agreed that pre-marital testing and counseling in Pakistan's health care system will effectively relieve the heavy burden of genetic

diseases through technological intervention.

Initiating research evidence-based interventions for genetic diseases in Pakistan will open another dimension of trade i.e. Pak-China Health Corridor.

At the meeting, Yang Yaquan, representative of Airdoc's overseas business department, gave a keynote speech on "Artificial Intelligence Solutions for Early Screening of Chronic Diseases", introducing that a series of chronic diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes, coronary heart disease has a genetic predisposition. The retina is the only part of the human body that can directly observe blood

vessels and nerves non-invasively, thus by observing the subtle changes of blood vessels and nerves on the retina, people can glimpse the clues of more than 200 common chronic diseases. The application of AI technology has made this test, which has a solid medical theoretical foundation, more efficient and accessible, making large-scale early screening of chronic diseases possible.

The reporter learned that Airdoc will promote a portable fundus camera in Pakistan, which looks like a VR glasses, is very convenient to carry, and can be driven by ordinary power banks. INP

Genetically-modified plants can help Pakistan boost cotton production

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan can boost cotton production by adopting *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), a genetically-modified pest-resistant plant, which contains genes that make the plant resist the cotton bollworm complex, according to WealthPK.

Pakistan remained the fourth largest producer of cotton in the past, but in the last few years it has experienced a decline in production because of climate change effects and different biotic stresses.

Talking to WealthPK, an expert from Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, said, "Pakistan should adopt Bt cotton to increase production and decrease crop losses. The biggest advantage of Bt cotton is that it is resistant to insect pests and is a deterrent to harmful pests such as cotton bollworms."

"Bt cotton is one of the highly genetically-modified cotton varieties produced through biotechnology that has improved cotton production the world over," the agriculture expert said while requesting not to be named.

"Cotton is Pakistan's cash crop as it contributes significantly to the country's economy. After China, US and India, Pakistan is the fourth largest producer of cotton," he explained.

The agriculturist said: "Cotton crop confronts numerous challenges as it is in competition with other crops, particularly sugarcane, and its cultivation area and production are decreasing with time."

He informed WealthPK that cotton crop was grown on 2,079 hectares in 2020-21 compared to 2,517 hectares

sown in the previous year, registering a decrease of 17.4%. As a result, production dropped by 22.8% to 7.064 million bales compared to the previous year's 9.148 million bales.

He said a large number of people from rural areas, including women, were involved in cotton production, and quality of crop was crucial to their sustenance levels. He said draughts caused by climate change and frequent insect attacks were causing low cotton production.

The expert further said that cotton production area should be fixed without any other crops being cultivated there, especially maize and sugarcane, since they changed the microclimate of the land. "As the duration of sugarcane crop is one year, it increases the land's insect pest threshold level. The land also gets moist which causes damage to cotton."

"In order to reduce insect pest damage, Pakistan should adopt Bt cotton biotechnology since it contains three genes from *Bacillus thuringiensis*, which means we will need to use less insecticide and it will also be resistant to bollworms and sucking insects," he added.

He also called for enhancing the seed germination to 80% from the current 40% to increase yields of farmers. "We can help minimise crop losses by using good agronomic practices and technology, including applying the transgenic approach." INP



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Malik addressing a press conference.

NEPRA approves another power tariff hike

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Neptra) has approved an increase of Rs1.55 per unit in power tariff on account of periodic adjustments in tariff for the second quarter of current financial year.

A notification in this regard has also been issued by the power regulatory authority. Power distribution companies will recover Rs39 billion from the consumers following the tariff revision.

Neptra said that it had decided to apply the same with effect from July 1, 2022, which would be recovered within three months from the date of notification.

However, the increase in the electricity tariff will not be applicable to lifeline consumers and the consumers of K-Electric, the power regulatory authority added. INP

APHC-AJK holds demos in Islamabad, AJK on Wani's anniversary

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter organized a protest demonstration at Press Club in Islamabad, today, on the 6th martyrdom anniversary of popular Kashmiri youth leader, Burhan Muzaffar Wani.

The protesters were holding portraits of Burhan Wani and placards with pro-freedom and anti-India slogans. They also raised high-pitched slogans in favour of Kashmiri martyrs and against the Indian brutalities in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing the demonstration, the Hurriyat leaders paid rich tributes to Burhan Wani and other martyrs. They said that the Kashmiri martyrs had rendered their lives for a sacred cause and their sacrifices would definitely bring positive results soon. They said that Burhan Wani's sacrifice gave a new impetus to the Kashmir freedom movement, adding that the world was fully aware

of the situation in IIOJK. The Hurriyat leaders deplored that the Indian troops were using brute force to suppress the Kashmiris' indigenous freedom movement but would never succeed in its nefarious designs and the people of Kashmir would continue their struggle for right to self-determination till complete success. They said Burhan Wani passed the freedom movement of Kashmir to the younger generation by embracing martyrdom and today every youth of Kashmir in the form of Burhan Wani stands like a rock against the illegal occupation of India over Kashmir. The Hurriyat leaders reiterated the Kashmiris' commitment to continue the mission of their martyrs till its logical conclusion. They also paid rich tributes to the Kashmiri youth martyred by the Indian troops recently and condemned the issuance of Jammu and Kashmir domiciles to Indian citizens to turn the Muslim-majority status of the territory into a minority. INP

ECP takes notice of election code violation by Sindh police

KARACHI: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has taken notice of the violation of the election code by Sindh police after a senior officer from Kashmirore was transferred to Hyderabad.

The provincial election commission took notice of a violation of the code ahead of the second phase of Sindh local government (LG) polls, ordering Inspector General (IG) Sindh Police to stop the transfer of a senior officer.

The provincial police department issued an order to transfer Superintendent Police (SP) Kashmirore Amjad Shaikh to Hyderabad despite the ECP ban on transfers and postings on the government officers due to the upcoming Sindh LG polls.

In a letter sent to IG Sindh, the provincial ECP wrote that the second phase of LG polls will be held

soon and the recent posting will influence the elections. As per the announcement of the commission, the position of any government officials could not be changed till the issuance of election results.

The commission ordered the IG Sindh to withdraw the transfer orders of SP Kashmirore Amjad Shaikh. The transfer should be withheld till the announcement of election results.

Earlier, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) banned the organization of political rallies during electioneering for the second phase of local government (LG) polls under the revised election code. After witnessing large-scale mismanagement during by-elections, the election commission has toughened enforcement of the election code of conduct for the upcoming second phase of LG polls. INP

Pakistani-American Khizr Khan gets Medal of Freedom from US president

ISLAMABAD: US President Joe Biden on Thursday presented the Medal of Freedom to Khizr Khan, the Pakistani-American father of an Iraq War veteran killed in action who criticised Donald Trump over his proposed "Muslim ban".

Mr Khan was one of 17 people to receive America's highest civilian honour.

The others included gymnast Simone Biles; the late John McCain, the Arizona Republican with whom Mr Biden served in the Senate; and gun-control advocate Gabby Giffords, a former congresswoman who was shot in the head in 2011. The Fourth of July week reminds us what

brought us together long ago and still binds us, binds us at our best," Mr Biden said.

Mr Khan's son, US Army Capt Humayun Khan, was killed in Iraq in 2004 while defending his squad from a car bomb attack.

He spoke out against Mr Trump in 2016 over his proposal to limit immigration from Muslim-majority countries. Before moving to the US, Mr Khan had reportedly lived in the UAE. Olympian gymnast Biles, 25, is the youngest ever Medal of Freedom recipient, Mr Biden said. She publicly fought against sexual abuse in the US Olympic team and advocated for mental health at the Tokyo Games. INP

President house completely running on solar energy: Arif Alvi

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi on Friday said that the Presidency has been completely converted to solar energy, a day after the government announced that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is set to announce the national solar energy policy on August 01.

The president shared the details in a meeting to save energy today where the participants expressed their satisfaction over measures to conserve electricity, water and gas resources under the 'Green Presidency' project.

"The Presidency saved Rs108 million in terms of energy conservation during the last two years," Arif Alvi said and termed the project as one of the best for the entire country.

He said that the Presidency is being run through a solar-powered 1MW project and has also contributed 112,000 additional units to the national grid.

It is pertinent to mention here that the federal government will announce the national solar energy policy on August 01 with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif saying that it would drastically cut fuel imports, bring down the cost of electricity and provide clean energy.

The prime minister chaired a meeting of the energy task force where it was decided that the national solar energy policy will be announced on August 01 and would be implemented after approval from the Council of Common Interest (CCI).

The Prime Minister House and Prime Minister Office (PMO) will be shifted to solar energy in a month.

Taking to Twitter to share details of the initiative from his personal handle, Shehbaz Sharif said that he was briefed about the key solar energy initiatives

earlier today.

He said that the coalition government will soon introduce the country's first comprehensive solar policy after the approval of the CCI. "Solar energy will drastically cut fuel imports, bring down cost of electricity & provide clean energy."

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PM pays glowing tributes to Burhan Wani on his anniversary

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has paid glowing tributes to popular youth leader Burhan Wani on his 6th martyrdom anniversary, today.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in a message on Friday said that Burhan Wani penned down a new chapter in the freedom movement of Kashmir through his unparalleled sacrifice.

He said Burhan, an ardent student, was forced to leave books and carry guns due to unjust Indian oppression and has now become an epitome of Kashmiri people's indomitable resistance against India's illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Prime Minister said a nation having brave sons like Burhan Wani cannot be enslaved by the whole world, what to speak of nine hundred thousand Indian forces.

Saluting the Kashmiri people for their decades-long courageous struggle, he reiterated Pakistan's every possible support to the Kashmiri people in their just struggle for freedom.

He urged the international community to play its role in resolving the Kashmir dispute through plebiscite under the relevant UN resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people. INP



ISLAMABAD: Managing Director Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM), Amir Fida Paracha meeting with former MD PBM, Barrister Abid Waheed Sheikh.

Case against Karnataka Hindutva activist for his 'terrorist' remarks filed

KOLAR: The Karnataka Police has filed a case against a Hindutva organization activist for making 'terrorist' remarks against the Muslims.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the case was lodged against Jagaran Vedike Keshavmurthy following a complaint by the President of Anjuman-E-Islamia Zameer Ahmad.

The complaint has stated that Keshavmurthy had given defamatory statements against Muslims.

Keshavmurthy had made these remarks in his speech during a protest organised to condemn the beheading of Kanhaiya Lal, a Hindu tailor in Rajasthan for supporting BJP leader Nupur Sharma's blasphemy against Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

Meanwhile, a local court in Aligarh acquitted former Hindutva Bhartiya Janta Yuva Morcha (BJYM) office-bearer Vinay Varshney and two

others in the murder case of a 22-year-old Muslim youth who was killed during an anti-CAA protest in February 2020.

The court gave them clean-chit after witnesses changed their statements and opposed the FIR registered by the police.

Mohammad Tariq Munawwar was standing on the terrace of his house when a bullet of Hindutva groups and police hit him on 23 February 2020 in Aligarh. He was rushed to the hospital but succumbed to his injuries during treatment on 12 March 2020.

Vinay was arrested after Munawwar's family accused him of firing the bullet. According to the Times of India report, Police recovered the weapon which was used for crime and it was registered in Vinay's name. Last year, charges were framed against by the Aligarh court and he was sent to judicial custody in Etah jail. INP

Matters sorted: Farooq Sattar to return to MQM-P fold after Eid

KARACHI: Former Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) leader Farooq Sattar is likely to return to the fold of the party after matters have been sorted out with Convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.

According to sources privy to the development, a meeting took place between Farooq Sattar and Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui at a residential complex in Gulistan-e-Jauhar which was also attended by Moed Anwar and Furqan Attayab from MQM-P side and Kamran Farooqi, Faisal Rafiq and Nighat Shakil represented Sattar group.

"A formula has been finalized between the two for appointment of office bearers and adjustment of independent local government candidates," they said, adding that

members of the Sattar group will be accommodated in Karachi and Hyderabad.

They said that Farooq Sattar will return to the MQM-P fold after Eidul Azha and a general workers' meeting will be organized at the KMC Stadium in the PIB where Sattar would be welcomed back to the party along with his associates.

"Farooq Sattar will announce to quit the race for NA-245 by-election while local government candidates will also be announced during the gathering," they said.

Recently, Sattar invited all factions of the MQM to unite and said that Khalid Maqbool, Afaq Ahmed, Mustafa Kamal should sit together. "They should sit together for the interest of the urban centers of the province," he said. INP

Heavy showers disrupt flight operations at Karachi airport

KARACHI: Heavy rainfall in the port city has disrupted flight operations at Karachi International Airport.

According to details, four domestic flights from Karachi airport have been delayed due to torrential rains in the port city.

A PIA flight heading towards Karachi airport from Quetta was diverted to Multan due to heavy downpour, while Sukkur-bound flight PK-536 from Jinnah International Airport was suspended.

A PIA flight PK-537 coming to Karachi from Sukkur was also suspended due to inclement weather conditions.

Meanwhile, an Islamabad-bound flight of private airlines has been delayed from the Karachi airport. INP

Peshawar police fulfil wish of 14-year-old thalassemia patient

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) police have fulfilled the wish of a 14-year-old thalassemia patient, Shoaib Akhtar from Charsadda, who aspired to become a police officer.

Peshawar Police SSP Operation Lieutenant Commander (Retd) Kashif Aftab Abbasi hosted the 14-year-old thalassemia patient at his office. Shoaib Akhtar was wearing a police uniform during the meeting.

During the meeting, Shoaib Akhtar expressed his wish to meet the SSP Operation Kashif Aftab. The police officer spent time with the thalassemia patient, after which a City Patrol Force vehicle escorted Shoaib to the police line gate with full protocol.

Karachi receives heavy showers

KARACHI: Parts of Karachi on Friday received heavy rainfall, causing a flood-like situation in the low-lying areas of the metropolis.

As per details, several parts of the city including, Gadap Town, Surjani Town, North Karachi, North Nazimabad, Gulshan-e-Maymar, Jinnah Old Terminal, Tariq Road, Defence View, FC Area, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Saddar, Guru Mandir, Shahrah-e-Faisal, Gulistan-e-Jauhar, Nazimabad and other areas received downpour for several hours. Several vehicles got stuck on inundated roads near, causing massive traffic jams.

Rescue officials said several vehicles were also submerged in the water while the Superhighway road from Karachi to Hyderabad was closed for traffic due to the current situation.

According to the Met Office, monsoon currents are continuously penetrating the country and are expected to weaken over the next 24 hours before strengthening over the weekend (9 and 10 July). Under the influence of this weather system, it forecast more rain-wind/thundershowers in Islamabad, Kashmir, Swat, Mansehra, Kohistan, Abbottabad, Haripur, Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi, Nowshera, Kurram, Kohat, Mianwali. INP



QUETTA: EX Principle Secretary to CM Serwer Javaid, renewed poet Jahan Ara and other attend the ceremony in connection with shaheed Burhan Wani organized by Youth for Kashmir.