

QUETTA VOICE

Https:// www.quettavoice.com/

ABC Certified

Quettavoice



Govt urges caution as heavy rains expected across Pakistan over next 24-48 hours



PM Shehbaz slams Imran Khan for launching 'malicious' campaign against army chief

Green bus service to be formally launched on July 17: CM Balochistan

Delayed completion of LBs polls in Balochistan

Syed Ali Shah

QUETTA: The Balochistan government has decided to launch the much-awaited green bus service in the city on July 17 (next Monday). Chief Secretary Balochistan, Abdul Aziz Uqaili took to the social media network Twitter and announced the formal launching of the bus service in this provincial capital.

Test operations are to begin on July 15. Full-scale operations will be inaugurated on Monday, July 17. InshaAllah, Quetta's long-awaited quality public transport is finally here, the Chief Secretary Balochistan concluded.

Dr. Faisal Ahmed Khan, the Chief of the Balochistan Public-Private Partnership Project has been instrumental in the implementation of the project.

4 buses each operate till Beliti and Sariab from the city

Initially, the Balochistan Public-Private Partnership source in the provincial government told Daily



Quetta Voice. He said all stakeholders have been taken on board with regard to the launching of the much-awaited green bus project in the provincial capital.

However, he explained after thorough deliberations, the government decided to purchase 8 buses to facilitate the masses. As per the pilot project, four buses would operate from Serena

Chowk Quetta to Beliti and four buses would operate till Sariab Customs, the officer mentioned.

The project was approved during Jam Kamal Khan government

The project of the green bus service was approved by the former chief minister Jam Kamal Khan-led government in Balochistan.

The launching of the project was aimed at providing decent transportation to the citizens of Quetta. However, the green bus service could not be timely launched because of bureaucratic obstacles and a lack of political commitment.

Syed Ali Shah Analysis

After a long period of 14 months, the final phase of local bodies elections was completed in 35 districts of Balochistan the other day. The local bodies elections were held in May last year in all districts of Balochistan except Quetta, Hub, and Lasbela. So far, no election schedule has been announced for Quetta, Hub and Lasbela districts of Balochistan.

On July 6 this month, the chairman and deputy chairman of all 35 districts were elected in a peaceful and democratic manner. The government deserves to be congratulated for holding historic local bodies elections peacefully last year and then subsequently completing the second, third, and fourth final phases of polls.

14 months already passed

Nevertheless, it is very strange that it took the government and the election commission of Pakistan to complete the final phase of 14 months. The constitutional tenure of the local bodies elections in Balochistan is four years like in other parts of the country.

14 months already passed, and it will take another week for the newly elected chairman and deputy chairman to formally take charge of their offices. Then, the newly elected LBs district heads are likely to commence the battle for their constitutional administrative, and financial powers



entrusted to them as per Article 140-A of the Constitution.

Successive provincial governments have always been reluctant to devolve powers to LGs

It is ironic fate that successive provincial governments have always been reluctant to decentralize powers and empower the local governments as per the Constitution. Although, the same chairman and deputy chairman of districts and councilors belong to political parties.

LGs play a key role in the development and prosperity of the country and the development of villages, towns, and streets is the mandate of people elected on gross roots level. Moreover, this is a bitter

Assemblies job is legislation as councilors should construct streets

This is one of the underlying reasons behind bad governance and lack of access to policymakers. This is another bitter reality that military dictators have always empowered councilors, unlike successive fragile democratic governments.

To be precise, the Balochistan government needs to devolve powers to the councilors and chairman of districts, municipal committees, and corporations without any delay.

Advertisement for Bahria University. Includes text: 'Where Tomorrow Begins Today', 'FALL-2023', '23 YEARS OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE'. Lists programs like MPhil, Pathology, Pharmacology, Physiology, Biochemistry. Contact info: www.bahria.edu.pk/admissions.

Advertisement for PM Shehbaz slams Imran Khan for launching 'malicious' campaign against army chief. Includes text: 'PM Shehbaz condemns media campaign against COAS'. Features a photo of PM Shehbaz Sharif.

Advertisement for Father and son killed during motorcycle snatching incident in Quetta. Includes text: 'QUETTA: A father and his son were killed during motor cycle snatching incident on Qambari Road. People have blocked Qambari road and protesting with dead bodies. The protesters have been demanding the arrest of culprits involved in the attack. The attackers escaped unhurt from the spot after killing father and son.'

Advertisement for Wheel jam strike in Balochistan if demands were not met: Transporters. Includes text: 'QUETTA: Transporters and traders threatened to observe a wheel jam strike in Balochistan for an indefinite period if the government failed to address their grievances. Government should resolve our issues by July 18, otherwise, we will block all highways in Balochistan'. Features a photo of a truck jam.

Drinking Water Quality Status And Its Sources Of Contamination

By Aaryl Khan panizai

Floods expose construction quality of dams in Balochistan

Editor Asim Khan

Flash floods unleashed by torrential rains exposed the construction quality of dams across Balochistan. Heavy rainfall wreaked havoc in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan recently. Floods swept away dozens of small delay and check dams in different parts of the province.

Over the years, the provincial and federal governments constructed hundreds of dams to check the passage of rainy water. Successive governments merely celebrated the completion of projects rather than focusing on the construction quality of dams. Although, the dams and lakes constructed by British colonial rulers in different parts of Balochistan are still intact even after more than a century.

Breaching of dams puts human lives at peril. Breaching of dams not only failed to save rainy water rather it also put human lives at peril in Pishin, Barkhan, Lasbella, Kohlu, Killa Abdullah, Killa Saifullah and other districts of the province. Rains-related incidents have claimed 65 lives till the filing of this editorial. This is simply disastrous and a failure from all concerned quarters.

Flash floods also swept away poorly constructed roads and standing crops in various parts of the province. This all needs a thorough investigation. Irrigation and Communication Works (C&W) departments are known for commission and corruption.

Commission, corruption a common word in C&W and Irrigation departments

This is a good opportunity for those at the helm of affairs to make sure transparency in the utilization of funds by the two departments. Since water commission is an open secret in the two departments, the Chief Secretary of Balochistan should form a high-powered committee comprising committed and honest retired and serving officers to probe into the breaching of dams.

The quality of construction of roads in Quetta and all districts of Balochistan should also be probed to improve socio-economic conditions. The irony with Balochistan is that first the province has meager resources and second they are not ruthlessly used/swallowed.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo and his coalition partners must go beyond words and launch an inquiry into the breaching of dams and damage to roads.

Due to intimidating increase in population and rapid-fire industrialization, drinking water quality is being deteriorated day by day in Pakistan. This review sums up the issues of colorful exploration studies conducted for drinking water quality status of different areas of Pakistan by taking into account the physicochemical parcels of drinking water as well as the presence of colorful pathogenic microorganisms. About 20% of the whole population of Pakistan has access to safe drinking water.

The remaining 80% of population is forced to use unsafe drinking water due to the failure of safe and healthy drinking water sources. The primary source of impurity is sewerage (fecal) which is considerably discharged into drinking water system inventories. Secondary source of pollution is the disposal of poisonous chemicals from artificial backwaters, fungicides, and discards from husbandry sources into the water bodies.

Anthropogenic conditioning beget waterborne conditions that constitute about 80% of all conditions and are responsible for 33% of deaths. This review highlights the drinking water quality, impurity sources, sanitation situation, and goods of unsafe drinking water on humans. There's immediate need to



Take defensive measures and treatment technologies to overcome hygienic condition of drinking water inventories in different areas of Pakistan.

microbiological contamination in the mixing of the common sewerage with the domestic water supply. In most rural areas of Pakistan, surface water is used for drinking after slow sand filtration, and chlorination. Conventional filtration stations. In most rural areas, there is no pre-treatment facility for water purification. All this deficiency is due to microbial contamination and poor water quality.

Sources of Contamination: Microbiological Contaminants: In Pakistan, microbial pollution has been discovered as one of the serious problems in rural as well as urban areas. This is due to the leakage of pipe, pollution from sewage lines and untreated effluents in water supplies, and so forth.

Chemical Contaminants: Chemical pollutants that come from industries, soil sediments and agricultural runoff, i.e. pesticides and fertilizers, enter water sources in Pakistan. The use of fertilizers and pesticides is around 5.6 million tons and 10,000 tons respectively according to gross profit (GOP) figures.

Wastewater from industries and households has high levels of arsenic,

The Socio-Economic Impacts of 2022 Floods in Balochistan

Syed Saifdar

Flood is one of the most devastating natural hazards throughout the globe. According to CREDD-Data Base, from the 19th century to the present day thousands of people have lost their life due to flood disasters. Further, the million people were displaced, injured, and homeless.

Pakistan is particularly vulnerable to natural disasters including floods. The 2010-11 floods adversely affected the economy of Pakistan. The geographical location of Balochistan is prone to many natural disasters, like droughts, floods, and earthquakes. The recent monsoon spells have adversely affected the rural communities of Balochistan. Dam and reservoirs can minimize the initial pressure of flood on one



Impact of flood and drought in the province.

side whereas, on the other hand, such storage of water can recharge the depleted groundwater table in those particular areas. Due to a lack of proper management and planning, we always face catastrophic events in terms of floods drought, etc. The relevant stockholders like PDMA, Agriculture Department, and Irrigation Department need to revisit their policies in terms of water storage to minimize the adverse

impact of flood and drought in the province. The consequences of individuals and positive, vary greatly depending on their location, duration, the extent of flooding, depth, and speed, as well as the vulnerability and the natural and constructed environments. Floods impact both the rural and urban communities and have social, economic, and environmental consequences.

Global energy security vs the false narrative around SOEs

Not since World War II has the threat to global energy security been as severe as it is today. Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine and the consequent geo-economic war between the Kremlin and the West disrupted global gas markets at a scale unprecedented in recent history. The Kremlin's use of its power over energy markets as leverage and Europe's efforts to wean itself off of Russian natural gas and avoid a massive shortage this winter are triggering price hikes and surging flows around the world. No one is left unaffected, even those who thought they had prepared for every eventuality. For example, Pakistan, which has secured several long-term natural gas import contracts to increase its energy security in recent years, has seen partners break these deals to send their own new clients offering to pay more. The coffers of the developed and developing world are being drained. Meanwhile, the Kremlin is using the global energy crisis it created to fill up its gas reserves. Such conflict-driven demand reduction, however, means that an already tight gas market is now all but guaranteed. Following Ruzprom's latest cuts, analysts already predict the EU will not be able to reach its own target of refilling gas storage to 80 percent capacity by winter. Now that Europe has made it clear that it is finally - and perhaps much belatedly - ready to take the steps to cut its need for Russian gas at any cost, the Kremlin will do everything it can to inflict maximum pain on Europe in the short term. A recent German poll found that at the moment, 58 percent of the population is supporting sanctions against Russia despite obvious steps that European governments can take - President Vladimir Putin is working to bring that number down to the point that it becomes

example, can pump billions of cubic meters of extra natural gas across Europe by increasing production at the Groningen gas field. Bewilderingly, however, it is still planning to take the entire operation offline next year over the risk of minor earthquakes in the surrounding area and some push-back from environmentalists. Germany can also increase its future capacity to supply energy to Europe by extending the lifespan of its nuclear power plants that are meant to come online at the end of the year. The governing coalition said it is now looking at strengthening the Greens - including Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock - to continue to resist the move. The party's stance on this issue is somewhat understandable after all, Germany's Cold War-era anti-nuclear movement has been relatively straightforward and low-risk. The problem facing the nation, it risks failing to be a responsible partner at a time of war, less than a year after its withdrawal from the result. Beyond increasing its own production capacity by means possible, European nations should be of course also work of forming

partnerships with suppliers outside their region. The global gas crisis and its impacts are by no means limited to Europe. It is therefore imperative that Europe works with the international community to coordinate global supply. When the world last faced such a major energy crisis, the Allies had significant control over the world's oil supplies. British Petroleum and the other oil companies of the modern United States energy majors, controlled most of the world's oil at the dawn of World War II. Britain's Petroleum Warfare Department and the other allies' energy companies worked together to coordinate supplies for the war. Today, ownership of global energy supplies is far more diversified. And while the US has pledged to use its role as a liquefied natural gas (LNG) exporter to support Europe, a fire this June at its flagship liquefaction plant in Freeport, Texas has seen export capacity fall by some 17 percent. This address global gas shortages will require a coming together of public and private players from across the world to develop a strategy for this winter.

Climate affairs

By Chloe Atkinson

Scientists have long clamored that human activity on Earth is leading to the calamitous weather extremes we are seeing today. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has confirmed that climate change makes heatwaves, both more frequent. According to the research, greenhouse gas emissions have heated the planet by an estimated 1.1 degrees Celsius (2.0 degrees Fahrenheit) over the last two centuries.

The Nature journal published an article this month detailing what its authors predict: heatwaves in Europe have increased three-to-four times faster than in the United States. The reason for this is that the fast west-to-east air stream, which carries hot air across the northern hemisphere, is being disrupted by the heatwaves in Europe. Less precipitation means dry land and more fires. This means that when a fire starts, it burns faster and more intensely. Dry conditions are a perfect recipe for a massive inferno.

However, it is important to note that not every fire is caused by climate change. Forest management programs, which deal with how forests are maintained and cut down, can help prevent massive infernos, are often insufficient. Heatwaves, which often cause fires through arson or negligence by barbecue users, are not climate change's fault. In fact, they don't cause the actual heatwave. Individuals who are responsible necessarily but since mankind is collectively composed of individuals, it does fall on each and every one of us to take steps to minimize our carbon footprint. There is a reason why famed reality star Kylie Jenner once went slammed on social media for posting a photo of her private jet parked next to a Boeing 737 Max. She was slammed again for taking her jet in the end for what one would call a paltry 12-minute flight.

Heatwaves that occurred in the past decade are now happening at three times the rate. The 2015 Paris Agreement has failed to address the global warming crisis. Climate change plays a significant role in the increase of the hot and dry conditions that lead to fires. Heatwaves are a perfect recipe for a massive inferno.

Today, wildfires are raging in Spain, France, Greece, Portugal, Morocco and Italy. Over one billion people have died so far and many thousands more have been evacuated from their homes out of concern for their safety. Climate change plays a significant role in the increase of the hot and dry conditions that lead to fires. Heatwaves are a perfect recipe for a massive inferno.

However, it is important to note that not every fire is caused by climate change. Forest management programs, which deal with how forests are maintained and cut down, can help prevent massive infernos, are often insufficient. Heatwaves, which often cause fires through arson or negligence by barbecue users, are not climate change's fault. In fact, they don't cause the actual heatwave. Individuals who are responsible necessarily but since mankind is collectively composed of individuals, it does fall on each and every one of us to take steps to minimize our carbon footprint. There is a reason why famed reality star Kylie Jenner once went slammed on social media for posting a photo of her private jet parked next to a Boeing 737 Max. She was slammed again for taking her jet in the end for what one would call a paltry 12-minute flight.

Heatwaves that occurred in the past decade are now happening at three times the rate. The 2015 Paris Agreement has failed to address the global warming crisis. Climate change plays a significant role in the increase of the hot and dry conditions that lead to fires. Heatwaves are a perfect recipe for a massive inferno.

However, it is important to note that not every fire is caused by climate change. Forest management programs, which deal with how forests are maintained and cut down, can help prevent massive infernos, are often insufficient. Heatwaves, which often cause fires through arson or negligence by barbecue users, are not climate change's fault. In fact, they don't cause the actual heatwave. Individuals who are responsible necessarily but since mankind is collectively composed of individuals, it does fall on each and every one of us to take steps to minimize our carbon footprint. There is a reason why famed reality star Kylie Jenner once went slammed on social media for posting a photo of her private jet parked next to a Boeing 737 Max. She was slammed again for taking her jet in the end for what one would call a paltry 12-minute flight.

Heatwaves that occurred in the past decade are now happening at three times the rate. The 2015 Paris Agreement has failed to address the global warming crisis. Climate change plays a significant role in the increase of the hot and dry conditions that lead to fires. Heatwaves are a perfect recipe for a massive inferno.

President directs SLICP to improve policy on pre-insurance medical tests

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has directed the State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan (SLICP) to improve its policy on medical tests before the issuance of Life Insurance policies to prospective policyholders.

He asked SLICP to constitute a panel of doctors who should suggest as to what were the most prevalent and common diseases in Pakistan and what tests should be conducted before the issuance of the policy.

These orders in view of the fact that a number of cases were reported to have been filed with him by the insurance companies as well as citizens in cases where insurance companies were denying the payment of death insurance claims to family members of the insured policyholders on the ground that they were fully hidden ailments at the time of obtaining the policy.

Business leader urges govt for serious efforts for extension in GSP+ status

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Sunday demanded of the government to redouble its efforts to get GSP+ status that is set to expire at the end of current year.

By the time the GSP+ status is set to expire at the end of current year, the European Union (EU) is considering GSP+ status for Pakistan and other eight countries, and it will continue monitoring the human rights, freedom of media and labour rights in all the countries enjoying the status, he said.

which jumped to 6.64 billion Euros in 2021. However, Pakistan's imports have also increased by 69 percent during the period.



HYDERABAD: Workers of Tehreek-e-Labak Pakistan (TLP) Reciting the Holy Quran to record their protest at Hyder Chowk against burning the copy of Holy Quran in Sweden.

Kh Asif sees dissolution of assemblies in August

SIALKOT: Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif sees the dissolution of assemblies in August after the completion of their tenure.

Speaking at a worker's convention in Sialkot on Sunday, he said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) keeping in view dissolution of assemblies in August has started preparation for the general elections.

(PML-N) leader and former federal minister Muhammad Zubair said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is not in a position to contest elections. He said that PTI is not in a position to contest elections irrespectively of its chairman's disqualification.

PR adversely fails to follow schedule time causing huge loss to national exchequer

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railway trains have adversely failed to follow the schedule time causing millions of rupees loss to national exchequer.

The schedule maintenance of inter-city trains remained at 97 percent in 2021-22, in 2022-23 schedule maintenance of intercity trains was recorded at 85 percent while overall of the schedule maintenance during 2021-22 remained 82 percent.

916 more than 2022-23. On the other hand, accidents caused 720 hours delay, bad weather caused 6079 hours delay which was 4163 hour more than previous financial year.



KARACHI: People are taking interest in the books on stalls along the road side at Sadr area as in these modern days people who likes books are very rare in Provincial Capital.

Six injured, six women abducted, citizens deprived of cash, valuables

FAISALABAD: At least six people including women were injured, six women were abducted and citizens were deprived of cash and valuables during separate incidents in different localities of Faisalabad on Sunday.

The injured of all incidents were shifted to different hospitals of Faisalabad on Sunday. Four including Amina, Awas, Fahem and Yousaf were injured in separate incidents of 146-GB, 52-GB Nishatbad, 53-GB and 630-GB areas.

Four including Amina, Awas, Fahem and Yousaf were injured in separate incidents in 67-GB Sidhar. Armed robbers barged into a mobile shop near Karim Garden at Satiana road and took away Rs45,000 from Ali Raza at gunpoint.

Population Week to be observed from July 10

RAWALPINDI: In connection with 'World Population Day', the Department of Population Welfare, Rawalpindi will observe Population Week from July 10 to July 15 by organizing competitions, demonstrating walks and other activities to promote the spirit of family planning.

Fire erupts at Gujranwala oil refining unit

GUJRANWALA: An oil refinery unit at Alipur Chhattha has caught fire and a firefighting operation has been underway, sources said on Sunday.



RAWALPINDI: gypsy man is searching valuables from a garbage dump along Rawal road to sell and earn daily wages for the livelihood of his family.

India releases 185,000 cusecs water into Ravi river

ISLAMABAD: India released 185,000 cusecs of water into Ravi River, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) said Sunday.

It added that mid more deaths and injuries to another eight were reported during the last 24 hours. Five of these victims were from Punjab, bringing the death toll to 48.

NDMA also asked the administration and the relevant departments in the vulnerable area to enhance preparedness. Last year, the Indian authorities had released 173 cusecs of water into the river - which was the province to 48 who died during the Indus Waters Treaty along with Sutlej and Beas in 1960.

Pakistan under the burden of Chinese debt is not a true statement

BEIJING: Pakistan under the burden of Chinese debt is not a true statement. Considering all the loans that China has provided to Pakistan, including the safe deposits, it amounts to approximately 10 percent.

Xinhua. Our real problem is the foreign debt from the Western financial institutions. Pakistan cannot get back because they are high-interest loans.

the electricity on and machines running. For Shahid Sattar, secretary general of the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association, the sector was hit by a 'perfect storm' of a liquidity crunch in sales tax.

Zambian mission in Beijing, Chinese debt has the lowest interest rate, lower than Western and multilateral debt, is a family friendly and especially private lenders.

It represents the rate of exploitation, said the former countries director, inflation soaring, people losing jobs and their families facing starvation. This is the bleak picture painted by the Western media.



LAHORE: Federal minister of Information and Broadcasting Maryam Aurangzeb taking keen interest in the portraits of Pakistan favorites classical singers during her visits of Radio Pakistan in Provincial.

CS Balochistan pays surprise visit, reviews projects in Quetta

Staff Reporter

QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan, Abdul Aziz Uqaili paid a surprise visit to various ongoing development projects in the city.

On this occasion, Administrator Quetta, Abdul Jabbar Baloch, Project Director Rafiq Balochistan, Deputy Project Director, Muhammad Azhar Mansokhail, and other relevant officials also accompanied the CS.

The Chief Secretary made a detailed visit to the Inlaks Road, Spiny Road, Sariab Road, Radio Pakistan Road, Link Badim Road, and



and Quetta Green Bus Service Parking projects under the Quetta Development Package and reviewed the progress of the construction work on the development projects.



KARACHI: People are taking interest in the books on stalls along the road side at Sadr area as in these modern days people who likes books are very rare in Provincial Capital.

EU mulls extending Pakistan's GSP+ status

ISLAMABAD: European Union (EU) mulling over extending Pakistan's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) Plus status.

In a video statement, European Union Ambassador to Pakistan Dr Rina Kionka said that Pakistan will continue enjoying the preference in access to the European markets as no changes have been made in the planned extension of GSP regulation.

She said that the report will be presented in the European parliament and the member states and the EU will keep an eye on the proceeding regarding the GSP plus status.

The ambassador highlighted the areas where the EU offers improvement from Pakistan, which include freedom of expression, media freedom, women's rights, minority rights, gender equality, etc.

Dr. Rina Kionka maintained that EU and international experts are keeping an eye on the crackdowns after May 9 and the trials in the military courts and anti-terrorism courts.

Pakistan is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) which states that every citizen has the right to a fair and public trial. The charter also states that the trial must be held in court which is free and unbiased. INP

Irreparable damages rendered to country during PTI's 4-year tenure: Bilal Azhar

LAHORE: Coordinator to PM for Economy and Energy Bilal Azhar Kayani has said irreparable damages are rendered to the country during four-year tenure of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Addressing a press conference here, he said, that last year, an imposed ban on the minister was in accordance with the constitution but this removed person raised the slogan of imported government.

Bilal Azhar Kayani said, after being imposed this person was also fed but the systems don't work like this and the result of fraudulent experiments is in front of everyone.

He said that during Nawaz Sharif's tenure the rate of inflation was only 3.8%, more than 12,000 megawatt power plants were built in Pakistan, terrorism was eliminated from the country.

Bilal Azhar Kayani said that the person who was imposed had got a developed economy but millions of people were made unemployed in the last 4 years, the largest debt in the history of Pakistan was taken in the previous government and highest inflation was recorded during his tenure.

Body of one of two drowned brothers retrieved from River Indus

HYDERABAD: Dead body of one of the two drowned brothers were retrieved from River Indus on Sunday, rescue sources said. A previous report said that three young brothers drowned in River Indus on Saturday while taking bath near Mehra Bridge.

The divers of Rescue-1122 initiated an operation soon after the incident was managed to save one young boy.

Dead body of Hassan 14 was retrieved on Sunday and divers were engaged in operation to retrieve the body of missing youth.

The dead body was shifted to hospital for medico-legal formalities. INP

3-day Shandur polo festival concludes successfully

Chitral: A three-day enthralling colourful celebrations of traditional Shandur polo festival concluded successfully in Chitral valley where thousands of tourists from all across Pakistan, including international tourists had participated in the event and enjoyed polo matches.

The provincial government in collaboration with Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) has made all-out efforts to promote sports and tourism while the polo game found special attention for the tourists, PTV News channel reported.

The world's highest polo field, Shandur, Upper Chitral, is the site of the annual polo festival, which features teams from Gilgit Baltistan and Chitral.

CPEC's projects attract \$25.4b of direct investment during last 10 years

BEIJING: The projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) are flourishing all across Pakistan and have attracted US\$2.4 billion of direct investment from China during the last 10 years.

After ten years of development, a 1+4 cooperation layout has been formed, with the CPEC at the center and Gwadar Port, transport infrastructure, energy and industrial cooperation being the four key areas, according to a senior official of the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

The projects under the CPEC framework have created 192,000 jobs, producing 6,000 megawatts of electric power, building 510 kilometers of highways and adding 586 kilometers to the core national transmission network, he added.

Ashrafi demands Int'l legislation against blasphemy, desecration of Holy Quran

LAHORE: Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Maulana Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi has demanded the international community to ensure legislation against blasphemy and desecration of the Holy Quran in their countries to avoid any religious conflict in future.

He was presiding over a Seminar on Shuhada-Hazrat Usman Ghani (RA) held at the Press Club here on Sunday.

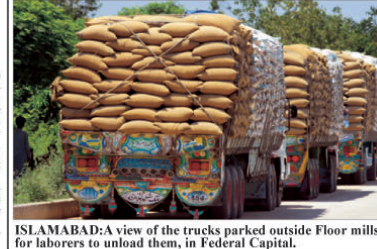
He said that Hazrat Usman Ghani (RA) published the Holy Quran in the form of one single book and then spread it to the world, adding that not a single syllable is changed while millions of Muslims recite it in the world.

Condemning the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden under the official umbrella, he said that this is fear of Islam and the perpetrators of this incidents wanted to create cleavages between the nations and religions.

Ashrafi, who is also the chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council, said that the terrorists who killed the people without any reason on the name of Islam were not even Muslim.

He said that the Muslims respect all holy prophets and divine books including the Bible, Torah and Psalm as it is part of our faith.

He said that it was a good gesture that all religions including Christians, Hindus and Sikh condemned the burning of the Holy Quran in Sweden and almost all big countries including USA, Russia and China also condemned the incident. INP



ISLAMABAD: A view of the trucks parked outside Floor mills at Sector I-11 as waiting for laborers to unload them, in Federal Capital.

Projects should be completed as early as possible

He directed to speed up the pace of work on development projects under the development package and said that all the obstacles on the development projects should be removed as soon as possible and transfer of utility service lines should be ensured as soon as possible so that the stipulated period is met.

Quetta to be a modern city after the completion of these projects: Uqaili

He said that the problems faced by the project officials should be resolved quickly and also directed to review the progress of work on the projects on a daily basis. He directed the concerned authorities to complete the completion of the Inlaks Road and Radio Pakistan Road as soon as possible.

Ahsan Iqbal says his statement about China advising against 'experiments' taken 'out of context'

ISLAMABAD: Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal on Sunday said a recent statement of his, in which he appeared to say that China advised Pakistan to not "conduct any experiment" during the 2018 elections, was taken "out of context".

When clarification followed the media coverage of his statement made on last night in a private TV channel, during which he discussed the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Iqbal had said, "Let me also tell you that it is in my personal knowledge that China — in their usual diplomatic manner — likes to convey to that time's establishment that you should not conduct any new experiment because [then] CPEC will get derailed."

Members linked to the coalition government, have on multiple occasions, accused the then-PTI government of harming progress on the multi-billion dollar CPEC project.

"And then they (China) were told that 'no, whoever comes next, rest assured, we will keep them tight and they will continue CPEC,'" he said.

"When clarification followed I sought confirmation of his claim, the minister went on to explain, "It is in my knowledge that in their usual cautious manner it had conveyed that any sort of experiment for change will not be in Pakistan's favour and will destroy CPEC as well." "Therefore, you should not interfere in the elections — let fair and free elections take place," he quoted the Chinese embassy as saying to the establishment.

Next PM to be from PPP or PML-N: Manzoor Wassan

KARACHI: Senior leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Manzoor Ahmed Wassan has claimed that next prime minister should be from PPP or Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

Speaking at a meeting on Sunday, the Advisor to CM on Agriculture said there was possibility of dissolution of assemblies between August 08 to 10, 2023.

Manzoor Wassan said that he sees holding of general elections in November instead of October this year, as weather was quite harm in October.

He said that PPP desires timely holding of general elections so the country will be able to be aware of the results.

The general elections will sweep away the current government and nothing will be left behind, he claimed.

PPP leader said that many people will be emboldened, some would be imprisoned. We want holding of general election on old census, Wassan concluded. INP

AJK remembers Madr-e-Millat on her death anniversary

MIRPUR: The 56th death anniversary of Madr-e-Millat Moltama Fatima Jinnah was observed across Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK), Sunday.

Special prayer meetings were held in the form of this day wherein participants offered Fatima besides paying rich tributes to her for lifetime meritorious services during and after the emergence of Pakistan under the dynamic leadership of her brother.

Moltama Fatima Jinnah is always remembered for her passionate all-time hard work and support for securing the rights and devoted struggle in Pakistan Movement, said Jammu & Kashmir Jinnah Foundation Chairman Dr Muhammad Chaudhary in a statement. In Mirpur, a special prayer meeting was held at Media Park at the Jinnah Plaza under the auspices of the convener Jammu & Kashmir. INP

PM denounces 'vile social media campaign' against COAS Asim Munir

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned the "vile campaign" on social media against Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir, emphasizing that such actions do not fall within the realm of freedom of expression.

In an official statement released by the Prime Minister House (PMO) on Sunday, the premier attributed the vile campaign to the sinister planning of conspiratorial minds behind the May 9 arson incident.

PM Shehbaz Sharif expressed his firm resolve to crush every conspiracy against Pakistan and its institutions, sending a clear message to the planners, facilitators, and backers of the May 9.

He underscored that the ongoing media campaign against the army chief and the armed forces is part of the same nefarious agenda.

"I have directed relevant institutions to initiate legal action against the individuals involved in the media campaign, both domestically and internationally," the prime minister stressed that such actions do not fall within the realm of freedom of expression.

He labeled the campaign a mere conspiracy that must be forcefully halted, emphasizing that it is the duty of the state to do so.

Moreover, Mr Shehbaz reassured the nation that, just as it had thwarted the conspiracy of a civil war on May 9, it would also foil this heinous plot. INP

9 killed, 8 injured in monsoon rains in 24 hours; death toll since June 25 reaches 76

ISLAMABAD: Nine more people have died, and eight others were injured due to the monsoon rains in the last 24 hours, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) said.

Since June 25, the number of deaths from monsoon rains across the country has reached 76.

According to the NDMA, 31 children, 30 men and 15 women are among those who have died due to rains in the last fortnight.

The highest number of deaths, 48, has been reported in Punjab.

Rains have also claimed 20 lives in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, five in Balochistan and three in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Moreover, among the more than 130 people injured in rain-related incidents are 49 men, 38 women and 48 children, the authority says in a report.

So far, 78 houses have been damaged by the rains across the country, while there is a fear of urban flooding in different parts of the country due to torrential rains.

Since June 25, the number of deaths from monsoon rains across the country has reached 76.

According to the NDMA, 31 children, 30 men and 15 women are among those who have died due to rains in the last fortnight.

The highest number of deaths, 48, has been reported in Punjab. INP

Qureshi terms Ahsan's statement about China, CPEC unfortunate, irresponsible

ISLAMABAD: Vice Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Shah Mehmood Qureshi has termed the statement of PML-N leader and Minister Planning Ahsan Iqbal pertaining to China and CPEC as unfortunate and irresponsible.

In a statement issued on Sunday, he said that the insinuation that an iron brother would interfere in our domestic affairs was baffling and insulting.

Shah Mehmood said that with PTI, there has always been strong consensus on taking CPEC forward, and under Imran Khan's leadership they successfully implemented the important projects, deepening Pakistan's commitment to CPEC under the PTI government.

Faisalabad Rashkati Industrial zones were made operational during PTI government and the Dhabaji

Industrial zone was finalized, which was under construction, he revealed.

Similarly, PTI Vice Chairman said that Science and Technology and Agriculture - Three new joint working groups negotiated and added in second phase of CPEC.

Qureshi further stated that the highway construction - more kilometers completed under PTI Government. Western alignment was finalized and work was accelerated on it.

Moreover, PTI Vice Chairman said that Gwadar Industrial Zone was expanded and made operational. INP

LAHORE Federal minister of Information and Broadcasting Maryam Aurangzeb talking to media persons during her visit of Radio Pakistan in Provincial Capital.



LAHORE: Federal minister of Information and Broadcasting Maryam Aurangzeb talking to media persons during her visit of Radio Pakistan in Provincial Capital.