

QUETTA VOICE

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Cracker Explosion Sparks Panic on Sariab Road in Quetta

Staff Reporter:
QUETTA: A cracker explosion occurred in a drain on Sariab Road in Quetta, Balochistan, causing widespread fear and panic among local residents.



According to police reports, the incident led to immediate alarm in the area, though no casualties have been reported. Authorities are investigating the explosion to determine its cause.

Floods and landslides kill 14 in Nepal: police

NEWSDESK: Lashing rains in Nepal causing flash floods and landslides have killed at least 14 people across the country, with disaster teams searching for nine missing, police said on Sunday.

Flooding in neighbouring India, as well as in downstream Bangladesh, has also caused widespread damage and impacted millions.

"Police are working with other agencies and locals to find the missing people," Nepalese police spokesperson Dan Bahadur Karki told AFP.

Those killed and missing are in multiple locations. Monsoon rains from June to September bring widespread death and destruction every year across South Asia, but the number of fatal floods and landslides has increased in recent years.



Experts say climate change and increased road construction are exacerbating the problem. Parts of Nepal have been receiving heavy rainfall since Thursday, prompting disaster authorities in the Himalayan nation to warn of flash floods in multiple rivers. There have been reports of inundation in several districts of lowland areas bordering India.

Last month 14 people were killed in Nepal in ferocious storms that brought landslides, lightning and flooding.

In India, floods have swamped the northeastern state of Assam, with six people killed in the last 24 hours, Assam's Disaster Management Authority said on Sunday.

That takes the death toll from the downpours since mid-May to 58.



Modern, accessible seaports to help country earn billions of dollars: PM Shehbaz

NEWSDESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that modern and accessible seaports could help the country boost its foreign exchange reserves as he arrived in Karachi on a day-long visit to review port operations.

According to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office, the premier said that during his visit to Kazakhstan, leaders of Central Asian States (CAS) had expressed "deep interest" in using Pakistan's ports for trade, emphasizing the country's "key importance in the region."

"Modern system in ports and further improvement in accessing them, Pakistan can earn billions of dollars in foreign exchange," he said, adding that he will increase exports from the value addition industry by developing the existing ports in Karachi.

"Steps should be taken

to reduce the customs clearance time by installing modern equipment and machinery at Port Qasim and Karachi Port," the statement read.

Furthermore, the prime minister stressed on the "uninterrupted delivery of goods" from Karachi Port, adding that for this reason the Lyari Expressway "should be kept open for cargo traffic 24 hours a day".

"A comprehensive action plan for the regulation of shipping laws should be prepared and presented soon," the statement said, adding that the prime minister had directed that the fees for LNG ships at Port Qasim to be reduced and fixed according to prevailing rates at the international level.

Furthermore, the statement also said that the prime minister had instructed Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) to "formulate and present a com-

prehensive plan to reduce its cost and make its operations effective".

"Development of private sector in the country, ease of doing business and convenience for investors are the top priorities of the government," the PMO wrote.

The visit comes after PM Shehbaz invited Tajikistan to "avail the facilities of Pakistani seaports" for transit trade while on a two-day official visit to the Central Asian country this week.

"The prime minister informed the Tajik president about the operationalisation of Gwadar seaport and offered Tajikistan the opportunity to avail the facilities of Pakistani seaports," a joint statement issued by the two countries said.

"It was highlighted that the Pakistani seaports offer the most efficient, shortest, and economic route for the Central Asian countries in-

cluding Tajikistan to the markets in the Middle East and beyond".

During his maiden visit to Karachi in April since assuming premiership earlier this year, the PM's resolve was met with apprehensions from industry leaders who said it was "almost impossible" to do business under the current circumstances, particularly with high energy costs and inconsistent government policies.

Posing tough questions during an hour-long meeting at the CM House, Karachi's business community appreciated the PM's "determination", but advised him to focus on bringing about political stability to "turn around" the economy.

He termed the meeting an attempt to "listen to the brilliant minds of business, absorb what they say, and put it into action" for a comprehensive economic growth roadmap.

Railway and Roads Suspended Amidst Infrastructure Failures in Harnai

Hanif Tareen:



HARNAI: Rains in Harnai have led to the suspension of the Hamai Sibi Railway and the closure of the Sanjavi Harnai and Quetta Harnai roads. Despite substantial expenditure during the previous regime, the lack of protective walls has left the Hamai Sibi railway track vulnerable, resulting in daily disruptions due to rains and floods. The recent downpours caused a flood relay that rendered the Harnai Sanjavi road impassable, exacerbated by the absence of a crucial bridge. Similarly, the

Quetta Harnai road is blocked at Zardalu due to bridge damage. Residents are expressing frustration over the provincial government's inaction, noting that their efforts are confined to statements in newspapers and social media posts. The people of Harnai are urgently calling for immediate measures to restore the Sibi Harnai Railway Track, Harnai Sanjavi Road, and Quetta Harnai Road, demanding swift action to prevent further disruptions and ensure safe transportation.

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22 Peons for One Assistant Director: Balochistan Targets Unnecessary Hiring

Syed Ali Shah:



QUETTA: In a recent meeting presided over by Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti, it was revealed that in one district, there are 22 peons working under a single assistant director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The revelation highlighted the issue of unnecessary recruitments made in the past, leading to inefficiencies and misuse of resources. The Chief Minister expressed his anger over the majority of employees not performing their duties, sitting at home while demanding salaries.

Chief Minister Bugti also pointed out that visits to Rural Health Centers (RHCs) revealed widespread absenteeism, with doctors and watchmen absent, offices closed, and locks against those responsible. He emphasized the urgent need to revise current rules that prevent the dismissal of habitually absent employees, from class IV workers to officers.

The meeting, which reviewed the implementation of the development budget and the Provincial Disaster Management Authority's (PDMA) arrangements for the monsoon season, included key officials such as Provincial Minister for Planning and Development Mir Zafoor Buledi, Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shouab Noshirwan, Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan, Finance Secretary Babar Khan, and DG PDMA Jahanzeb Khan.

The Finance Secretary and DG PDMA provided Department reporting that development projects have been initiated without delay and the DG PDMA confirm-

ing that actions to deal with monsoon rains and potential flooding have been completed.

Chief Minister Bugti emphasized that the provincial government's performance will be tested from the start of the new financial year. For the first time in history, the tendering process for development projects commenced on July 1.

He committed to visiting development project sites twice a week and instructed ministers and secretaries to conduct regular field visits to ensure the timely implementation of these projects. The Chief Minister warned that releasing funds contrary to physical progress would be considered a serious crime and action would be taken against those responsible.

Additionally, Chief Minister Bugti directed the Services and General Administration Department to create comprehensive rules and regulations for government employees to address issues of absenteeism and inefficiency. He stressed that the province cannot be managed like a fish market and that urgent action and dismissal of non-performing employees are necessary.

The Balochistan government is also starting a process of accountability and self-accountability to monitor performance, with plans to empower and hold the Planning & Development and Finance Departments accountable. Chief Minister Bugti has ordered a separate meeting to discuss amendments to the service rules and proposals for action against employees holding dual employment.

Ayesha Zehri's Impactful Tenure as DC Awaran Leads to Historic Appointment

Staff Reporter:

AWARAN: Engineer Ayesha Zehri, currently serving as the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Awaran, has been making significant strides in improving governance and service delivery in one of Balochistan's most backward and troubled districts. Under her leadership, the DC office in Awaran has become functional and more accessible to the public for the first time. Zehri's dedicated efforts include visiting remote and disturbed areas despite considerable dan-

gers, demonstrating her unwavering commitment to addressing the needs of the local population.

Her tenure in Awaran has been marked by proactive initiatives to enhance infrastructure and basic services, contributing to the region's stability and development.

Prior to this, as Assistant Commissioner in Dalbandin, she played a cru-

cial role in dismantling narcotics smuggling gangs, showcasing her determination to maintain law and order. Her effective role in supporting flood-affected communities in Mach Bolan received praise from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who publicly applauded her dedication and service.

On Sunday, Engineer Ayesha Zehri was appointed as the first female Deputy Commissioner of Balochistan, specifically as the DC of Naseerabad, following directives from Chief Minister Mir Qudus Bizenjo. This appointment came after complaints from Saleem Khosa, a lawmaker from the ruling Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), prompted the removal of the previous commissioner, deputy commissioners, and

assistant commissioners of Naseerabad due to alleged negligence and poor performance.

Zehri's appointment is a landmark moment for Balochistan, reflecting the increasing recognition of women's contributions to public service in the province. Chief Minister Bizenjo's decision underscores his confidence in Zehri's ability to bring about positive change in Naseerabad, leveraging her extensive experience and proven track record of effective leadership in challenging environments.

Engineer Ayesha Zehri's journey from Assistant Commissioner Mach Bolan to her historic appointment as Balochistan's first female Deputy Commissioner is a testament to her dedication, resilience, and capability in enhancing public service and governance in the province.

Balochistan Assembly Announces Committee Chair Elections on July 8-9

News Desk:



ment. The committee room will host these sessions where the chairpersons will be elected.

On July 9, the election process will continue with the Standing Committee for the Department of Public Health and Population Welfare, Standing Committee for Education, Literacy and Non-Formal Education,

Higher Education, Presidential Program CDWA, Quality Education and Science and Information Technology, Standing Committee for the Department of Irrigation, Energy, Environment, and Forests. Additionally, the Standing Committee will determine the leadership structure that will guide the legislative and oversight functions of these committees in the coming term.

These elections are pivotal for the functioning of the Provincial Assembly, ensuring that critical areas of governance and development receive appropriate oversight and leadership. The results of these elections will determine the leadership structure that will guide the legislative and oversight functions of these committees in the coming term.

QUETTA: The Balochistan Provincial Assembly Secretariat has announced the schedule for the election of chairpersons of various standing committees, including the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). The elections will take place on July 8 and 9.

According to the notifications issued by the Secretariat, the elections on July 8 will cover several key committees. These include the PAC, Majlis Standing Committee for the Department of Housing and Physical Planning, Communications and Constructions, Standing Committee for the Department of Local Government, Balochistan Development Authority, Gwadar Development Authority, BCDA, and Urban Planning and Development.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Collaborative Growth with German Consulate's Focal Person for Economic Development

Editorial:

In the bustling city of Quetta, where the echoes of development are becoming increasingly audible, the people and business leaders of Balochistan extend a heartfelt appeal to the German Consulate in Karachi. Today, as we reflect on the dynamic friendship between Pakistan and Germany, we take a moment to express our gratitude to the German government for its sponsorship of various development projects that have notably enhanced the socio-economic conditions of our province.

Balochistan, with its vast and untapped potential, stands as a reservoir of economic opportunities awaiting exploration through international partnerships. Recognizing this significant potential for collaboration, we underscore the crucial role that the German Consulate can play in promoting economic growth, facilitating trade, and attracting investments to our resource-rich region.

The spirit of our appeal lies in a call for enhanced cooperation, urging the German Consulate to initiate dialogues and engagement sessions with local entrepreneurs, industrialists, and investors. This collaborative approach promises not only to benefit the business community but also to contribute significantly to the overall economic development of Balochistan.

Our province boasts unique offerings in sectors such as minerals, agriculture, and fisheries, aligning harmoniously with Germany's interests and expertise. By actively involving the business community, the German Consulate has the opportunity to identify mutually beneficial opportunities and contribute to the prosperity of both regions.

While expressing our appreciation for the appointment of a focal person for the business community of Sindh and Balochistan, we humbly stress the importance of broader consultation with all stakeholders in Balochistan. We believe that inclusive decision-making will undoubtedly enhance the success of such initiatives.

We are optimistic that, under its current leadership, the German Consulate will not only recognize the significance of Balochistan's economic landscape but also take proactive steps to strengthen economic ties. Our people and business leaders eagerly anticipate constructive engagement that fosters a lasting partnership between the German Consulate Karachi and our province.

Together, as great friends on the global stage, Pakistan and Germany can unlock the full potential of economic collaboration and contribute to the shared prosperity of our regions. Balochistan, with its rich tapestry of opportunities, should not be overlooked in development and key appointments.

We trust that our collective efforts will pave the way for a brighter future for all, and as a newspaper, we remain committed to facilitating this collaborative journey toward progress and prosperity.

Complex conflict

By Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry:

THREE months into the war in Gaza, thousands of Palestinians, including a large number of children, have been martyred by the Israeli Defence Forces. What is the end goal of Israel for which it has unleashed unprecedented death and destruction? Israel's stated objective is that it wants to destroy Hamas. This is not credible because Israel is meting out genocide-like collective punishment to all Palestinians, and not just Hamas.

Is Israel's goal, then, to create a "greater Israel" by forcibly pushing the Palestinians into neighbouring Arab countries or elsewhere? If that is the objective, Israel has certainly overestimated what its brutal force can achieve, and underestimated the resilience of Palestinians, who seem determined not to leave the land on which their ancestors had lived for millennia.

The Palestine-Israel conflict is a complex issue. One land, two claimants: Jews and Palestinians. Both cite history to consolidate their claim to the land. The roots of this conflict lie in the decision of the British in 1917, called Balfour Declaration, to settle the Jews of Europe in Palestine. Once a sufficient number of Jews had reached Palestine and displaced the local Arab

population, the British took the matter to the UN in 1947, where it was agreed to have two separate states, Palestine and Israel, which were to be established side-by-side. However, Israel has never allowed the two-state solution to take effect. Instead, it has imposed an apartheid-like occupation force, which is permissible under international law.

The issue also has an ideological dimension. The state of Israel was created for the Jews of the world. The name itself, "Israel," is a Hebrew word that means "he who wrestles with God." The son of Hazrat Ishaq, and grandson of Hazrat Ibrahim, Hazrat Yaqoob was also called Israel, and his descendants are Banu Israel.

His successors include Hazrat Daud (David) and his son Hazrat Sulaiman, both of whom built large kingdoms in this territory. Prophet Moses rescued the Banu Israel and led them to this land from Egypt. All these Prophets are equally sacred for Muslims. Add to that the Masjid al-Aqsa, which was the Qibla-i-Awwal. Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) ascended to Heaven (Mairaj) from this mosque. Israel has no right to deny Muslim Palestinians the right to live in the lands which they hold in such holy esteem.

Israel continues to justify its atrocities in

the name of "self-defence". The Hamas action of October 7, 2023 did not take place in a vacuum as the UN secretary general had rightly remarked. The Palestinians are under brutal occupation. The Hamas action was an act of resistance against the occupation force, which is permissible under international law.

Israel's indiscriminate firing on Palestinian houses, schools, and hospitals has elicited massive protests not only in Arab or Muslim countries, but all across, including in the United States. Yet, Israel is not ready to listen to these voices. One reason for this is a ferocious Israeli response could be that there is domestic criticism for not anticipating the Hamas attack. Further, Netanyahu wants to look strong as his domestic popularity is declining. The firm support of the US may have allowed the emboldened Israeli leadership. Another reason could be that Arabs and Muslims could not display enough unity to boycott Israeli products or even cutting off diplomatic ties.

Nevertheless, pressure is now mounting on Israel. The US cannot continue to ignore the loud calls of the international community for immediate and permanent ceasefire.

Hafiz Abdul Majid :

Humans are biologically named Homo sapiens, or "wise men." Carl Linnaeus, a Swedish biologist, and physician, coined this term in 1758. We are wise because we can think, learn, and communicate. All these faculties are due to the human brain, which hardly makes up 2% of body size. This tiny organ on our shoulders, which weighs only 3 pounds, has made humans the unrivalled ruler of the planet Earth.

With their superior intelligence, they have built machines to fly in the air and explore the depths of oceans. With their astounding cognitive and behavioral capabilities, they have unlocked many secrets of nature. They have landed on the moon and successfully sent unmanned spacecraft to Mars. Despite all these feats performed by humans, there are some unsolved secrets to unravel. The greatest mystery that humanity is grappling with are—the unravelling and the human brain.

The human brain is the most fascinating and complete structure in the universe.

Perhaps the human brain is the most fascinating and complex structure in the universe. Though it has a very small size i.e. 1350 cubic centimeters, yet human brain remains an enigma beyond human grasp. Scientists have embarked on different projects to unlock this mystery.

Developed countries are pumping billions of dollars in these projects, aimed at understanding the functioning

By Muhammad Amir Rana:

WHAT if the doors of Prime Minister House had opened for the Baloch protesters demanding an end to enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings, and what if the president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan had given them a chance to share their painful stories?

Wouldn't this have been a substantial confidence-building measure for a province suffering from insurgency, terrorism, bad governance, and economic crisis for decades?

The victims' families—currently camped out in the open in the midst of winter—had come for justice and needed empathetic treatment from the state. They were given a brutal reception by the police and heard spiteful remarks from caretakers in the government. If the caretakers' response to the protesters is taken as the response of Pakistan's institutions, it can only be interpreted as a sign that the centre remains unwilling to restore its reputation for dealing with Balochistan. If that is the

latest booster in the US "provided protection from hospitalization in the range of about 60 percent against JN 1 and other recently circulating variants." Even those who had not gotten this booster were protected from hospitalisations or visits to the ER. The bad news is that only 19pc of Americans have received the latest booster, so far. This is the tragic fate of health inequalities. The United States isn't alone in its "state of denialism and general refusal to take simple steps

to reduce the risk of infection," writes Topol. Countries all over the world are following Covid mitigation strategies. There's a need to rationalise data collection and public guidelines (like masking) backed by trusted scientific sources. We need masks, air filtration and proper ventilation work against variants. When we have more data on variants and testing, "we have layers of defense that work effectively together no matter how the virus evolves. The keys

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Monsoon rains to 'begin' in Karachi from tomorrow

KARACHI (INP): After suffering from a great deal of scorching hot weather, Karachi is finally expected to get some respite as monsoon rains have been forecast from July 8 to 10 in the city, a weather pundit informed.

The weather expert Owais Haider said the metropolis was expected to receive drizzling in the evening or night today (Sunday). He said "a thunder-cell" was expected to take shape in the northeast.

However, temperature was expected to hover between 37°C to 39°C, as heat intensity was likely to increase during the day, he said.

On the other hand, the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has also confirmed that Karachi may receive drizzling today evening or night. Nevertheless, overall weather would remain hot and humid in the next 24 hours, it said.



QUETTA: IG Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh and Additional IG Police Muhammad Saeed Khan are ranking the officers promoted to the post of SP.

Deadly strikes hit Gaza as war enters tenth month

GAZA (INP): Israel carried out deadly strikes in the Gaza Strip as the war entered its tenth month on Sunday, with fighting raging across the Palestinian territory and fresh diplomatic efforts under way to halt the violence.

Israel has said it will send a delegation in the coming days to continue talks with Qatar mediators that began recently in Doha. But Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's spokesman said "gaps" remained with Hamas on how to secure a ceasefire and hostage release deal.

The military earlier said it had conducted operations across much of the Gaza Strip, including Shujaiya in the north, Deir al-Balah and Rafah in the south.

Shujaiya is among the areas the military has previously declared to be cleared of Hamas, but where fighting has since resumed.

England women crush New Zealand in T20I series opener

SOUTHAMPTON (INP): Dani Wyatt's quickfire half-century, followed by Sarah Glenn's brilliant bowling figures of 3/16 led England Women to a thumping 59-run victory over New Zealand in the first T20I here at The Utilita Bowl.

Put into bat first, England women notched up a massive total of 197/3 on the board, courtesy of a marathon second-wicket partnership between Wyatt and Nat Sciver-Brunt.

Earlier, players Maia Boucher and Wyatt gave England women a solid start with a 61-run stand.

The opening partnership ended when Lea Tahuhu dismissed Boucher on the fourth delivery of the eighth over. Boucher made 32 off 26 balls with the help of five fours.

Advertisement for a tender for the provision of home solar for Zarghoonchar Harina PSBP. Includes details on the tender process, contact information, and a QR code.



QUETTA: Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Aviation, Senator Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo meeting with Governor Balochistan Jafar Khan Mandokhal.

Samit Patel makes the difference as Derbyshire hunt down the Foxes

LONDON (INP): Veteran all-rounder Samit Patel tormented Leicestershire Foxes for the second time this Vitality Blast season as Derbyshire Falcons completed a double over their East Midlands neighbours in the North Group to lift their hopes of qualifying for the quarter-finals.

The 39-year-old Falcons skipper, whose 64 was the difference when the sides met at Edgbaston at the start of the campaign, hit two fours and two sixes in an unbeaten 67 as Derbyshire chased down 185 to win by four wickets with four balls to spare.

Ben Cox hit four sixes in a 30-ball unbeaten 61 and Lewis Goldsworthy 48 from 41 as the Foxes finished strongly to post 184 for six.

Former Leicestershire seamer Zak Chappell took three for 42 and netted two for 27, with Pakistan left-arm quick Mohammad Amir wicketless on his Derbyshire debut.

England beat Switzerland on penalties to keep Euro 2024 dream alive

LONDON (INP): Embolo put Switzerland in front. Saka's fine strike from outside the box levelled with England's first shot on target five minutes later.

Manchester City defender Alami was then the unfortunate penalty villain as Switzerland's horrible record in major tournament quarter-finals goes on.

By contrast, England's triumph on penalties was by far the biggest threat of a first half in which neither side managed a shot on target.

Saka was skipping beyond Michel Aebischer at will and created the best chance of the first period when Kobbie Mainoo saw an effort deflected behind just before the half-time whistle.

Advertisement for a tender for the Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Washuk. Includes a table of tender items, a notice of inviting tender, and a notice of awarding tender.

Seminar Highlights Strategies to Combat Terrorism in Balochistan

Hafeezullah Sherani:



QUETTA: A seminar titled "Prevention and Counterterrorism in Balochistan, Pakistan" was held on June 26, 2024, at BUTEMS, Quetta, highlighting the urgent need for international cooperation to combat terrorism. Organized by BUTEMS and PDRE, the event underscored the severe impact of terrorism on the region and discussed strategies for its prevention.

Prof. Dr. Abdul Wadood, Dean of Social Sciences at BUTEMS, detailed the changing dynamics and new challenges of terrorism in Balochistan.

"Terrorism in Balochistan harmed women, children, the aged, and young people," he

stated, emphasizing the detrimental effects on daily life and development.

Dr. Siraj Bashir, Director of Research at Balochistan Think Tank Network, focused on youth engagement and socio-economic solutions. He noted, "Young people in a democratic government have freedom of expression, which enables them to express themselves without much ado," highlighting the importance of addressing youth needs to counter terrorism.

Ms. Faiza Mir from the University of Balochistan discussed conflict management strategies, using Balochistan as a case study.

"Various strategies can be used to tackle the conflicts

peacefully and without using violence," she explained, advocating for non-violent conflict resolution.

Prof. Dr. Zahid Anwar, Pro Vice-Chancellor (R) of the University of Peshawar, analyzed the geopolitical shifts following NATO's 2001 occupation of Afghanistan and their regional impact. "For the last 24 years, our region remained the center of the war against global terrorism," he observed.

The seminar concluded that terrorism hinders foreign investment and development projects in Balochistan, stressing the need for effective counter-terrorism measures to ensure the region's stability and progress.

Hefty electricity bills making lives miserable in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): An anchor of a private TV channel in a report disclosed alarming revelations regarding the heavy electricity bills.

The report revealed that the common people are grappling with the heavy electricity bills but on the other hand, the president, prime minister and CJP are provided with unlimited electricity units.

Even after retirement, the president of Pakistan is provided with 2,000 free electricity units per month. After the president's death, his spouse also receives 2,000 free electricity units.

The prime minister of Pakistan is also provided with unlimited free electricity.

The Chief Justice receives

2,000 free electricity units per month during and after their term.

The poor are so distressed by the hefty electricity bills that they are attempting suicides. Recently, a rickshaw driver named Ghulam Muhammad attempted to commit suicide by sprinkling petrol after receiving an electricity bill of over 19,000 rupees.

Over the past year, the government has increased electricity prices by 67%, while before the elections, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and Pakistan People's Party were promising free electricity units.

After a summary from NEPRA, the federal cabinet has further increased the elec-

tricity tariff; now, the minimum cost of one unit of electricity for domestic consumers will be Rs48.84 paise.

The government is increasing the electricity tariff on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) conditions, and NEPRA is expected to make a decision on the 8th of July regarding the matter.

Federal ministers are given 22,000 rupees monthly for paying bills, while members of the assembly pay their own bills. The Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan also uses unlimited electricity units.

Moreover, 199,000 WAPDA employees are provided with free electricity worth Rs8 to 100 billion annually.

River Chenab in low flood after heavy monsoon rains

LAHORE (NP): People in southern and a few parts of central Punjab heaved a sigh of relief after most of these areas received the first showers of the ongoing monsoon season on Sunday.

Everything got drenched as heavy rain lashed Pakpattan and the surrounding areas.

Soon after the rain was over, DPO Sadia Mehr went round different parts of the city and monitored the drainage of water.

Light rain turns weather pleasant at Kot Mithan

Light rain, accompanied by a cool breeze, provided the people of Kot Mithan respite from the scorching heat.

The Met Office, on the other hand, forecast more rains for the city during the next 48 hours.

The power supply was suspended after several feeders were tripped following heavy rain, accompanied by strong winds, in Khanpur, Zahirpur and their surroundings.

However, the rain provided a breather from extremely hot and humid weather.

It rains cats and dogs at Khairpur Sadat

Heavy rain also lashed Khairpur Sadat and its outskirts, turning the weather pleasant.

On the other hand, with an increasing amount of rainfall, water levels in rivers are also rising.

Low flood in River Chenab at Khanki and Qadirabad prompted the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) to issue a flood warning.

The city was recorded at 28 degrees Celsius, while the maximum temperature was expected to go up to 36 degrees Celsius later in the day.

Ahmadpur Sharqia receives light rain

Light rain in Ahmadpur Sharqia late Saturday night rid the people of extreme heat and humidity.

Tarinda Muhammad Panah receives downpour

Heavy rain, accompanied by a cool breeze, in and around Tarinda Muhammad Panah turned the weather pleasant, bringing smiles on people's faces.

However, the rain inundated low-lying areas and the supply of electricity to the city and its suburbs was also suspended.

Several feeders trip as rain lashes Khanpur



ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Youssif Raza Gilani, MNA Hanif Abbasi and president IBA Sardar Yasir Ilyas cutting ribbon to inaugurate Mango festival.



KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding Karachi Port, Port Qasim Authority and Pakistan National Shipping Corporation.

Operation against electricity theft in full swing

LAHORE (INP): Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has netted a significant number of electricity thieves in a recent 24-hour operation. Over the course of a single day, LESCO identified a total of 441 individuals engaged in stealing electricity.

Following investigations, cases were registered against 127 of the apprehended individuals. The confiscated connections included a mix of domestic (419), commercial (11), and agricultural (10) consumers. LESCO disconnected all

the illegal connections and imposed hefty fines on the offenders. A combined total of 4 lakh 8 thousand 497 units of electricity were charged as a detection bill, amounting to a staggering Rs. 1 crore 20 lakh 56 thousand 416.

This recent operation is part of LESCO's ongoing anti-electricity theft campaign, which has been active for the past 282 days. In this period, LESCO has identified a staggering 11,120 individuals involved in power theft. Altogether, cases have been registered against a significant por-

tion (87,596) of these individuals, with 34,165 arrests made. The campaign has resulted in the detection of a massive 11 crore 33 lakh 81 thousand 431 units of stolen electricity. The cumulative value of this stolen power is estimated to be a staggering Rs. 4 billion 7 crore 86 lakh 21 thousand 862.

LESCO's continued efforts highlight the significant challenge of electricity theft in Pakistan. The company's recent success demonstrates their commitment to tackling this issue and ensuring fair electricity distribution for honest consumers.

Persistent raise in power tariff destructive for masses, economy: Hanif Mughal

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Shadad (PTS), Dr. Muhammad Hanif Mughal has said that persistent increase in cost of electricity is destructive for masses and economy as well.

Talking to party workers here on Sunday, he said that continuous raise in power tariff was a reprehensible business practice which has destroyed the economy and turned nation mentally.

Dr Hanif Mughal said that politicians and bureaucrats were the slaves of those who own IPPs; therefore, they were making decisions that were putting the nation's security at risk.

He said that constant rise in electricity prices was extremely dangerous for the country's future. The power sector is destroying the economy as rising inflation and unemployment have made people's lives miserable.

Commoners have not been able to educate their children; they have not even been able to pro-

vide milk and bring food to the table, he noted.

The PTS chairman was of the view that people were forced to pay huge bills even after being deprived of electricity. Despite this, electricity prices were continuously increasing so that the interests of politicians and IPP owners can be furthered, he added.

He said that the basic electricity tariff has been increased by 7 rupees 12 paise per unit while taxes and fixed charges continuously increase. The government has also started increasing the prices of petroleum products, making the lives of the masses difficult.

Dr Hanif Mughal said that the present government has no clear strategy to run the country, which affects its credibility. Increasing the privileges of the elite and the burden of taxes on the common man has risked the political future.

Such decisions were sinking Pakistan into a quagmire, and as

a result of which, the country's security may be at stake, he underlined.

The PTS chairman said that the budget had reflected the true nature of the rulers. Half of the population of the country was living below the poverty line, and their patience was running out.

He expressed concern over the disproportionate taxation policies, asserting that such measures often lead to significant reductions in disposable income for the average citizen.

Dr Hanif Mughal said Pakistan's interest payments had reached unmanageable levels due to irresponsible spending.

He also criticized the lack of measures to combat smuggling and the absence of economic benefits reaching the people of remote areas.

The PTS chairman warned that if timely measures were not taken, public unrest and protests will increase, which could prove dangerous for the country's stability.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti is talking to women participating in cycling race organized by District Administration Quetta. Member National Assembly Nawabzada Jamal Raisani, provincial ministers are also present.

Pakistan to launch Kisan Tv to promote climate-resilient agriculture

ISLAMABAD (INP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has unveiled Pakistan's plans to launch Kisan TV channel.

The Coordinator said the channel will leverage the services of Pakistan Television (PTV) to broadcast programs in six regional languages, ensuring that vulnerable communities receive timely information. The programs will be telecast through local PTV stations at the provincial level, maximizing and localizing the coverage and

reach, she added. Romina Khurshid Alam also engaged with a private channel to amplify the voice of the Climate Ministry, promoting clean and green initiatives.

She emphasized the importance of media support in enhancing climate change coverage and rearranging journalism priorities. She noted the Kisan TV channel will provide farmers with timely information and guidance on adapting to climate-related challenges, including weather alerts to enable preemptive measures.

She said adding, the Kisan TV channel will also feature initiatives promoting women's income generation, gender empowerment, and environmental sustainability. She said the government seeks to empower farmers with knowledge and tools to build resilience against climate change, leveraging the power of

media.

She stated media teams from relevant climate change departments and TV initiatives will collaborate to strengthen our efforts protecting the socio-economic impacts of climate change on the farming community.

During different meetings convened in June over global heat waves and floods, the PM's aide directed relevant institutions to strengthen official media teams to keep vulnerable communities informed about climate change timely.

She said the goal is to sensitize the media to report on climate change before potential flash flooding and glacial lake outbursts in vulnerable regions. Romina Khurshid Alam is optimistic that this Kisan TV channel initiative will be a groundbreaking step towards a more climate-resilient and sustainable agricultural sector in Pakistan.