

QUETTA VOICE

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Tuesday, August, 20, 2024

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The brave driver Mohibullah making tooth and nail efforts to rescue the family inside the white car. Photo grabbed from a video on social media

Hafiz Naeem urges nationwide reduction in power tariffs instead of limiting relief to Punjab

NEWSDESK: Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan, Hafiz Naeemur Rehman, has called for a reduction in the basic electricity tariff across the entire country, rather than limiting relief to Punjab.

He demanded this during a press conference in Karachi on Monday, emphasizing that the proposed Rs14 per unit reduction for two months in Punjab should be extended nationwide. Rehman criticised the heavy burden placed on the public by Independent Power Producers (IPPs), attributing the blame to successive governments, including those led by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q), and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

He stated that the public could no longer bear the excessive capacity charges imposed by these agreements. He warned that if the government failed to honour the agreement made with IP to provide relief to the people, the party would initiate long marches towards Islamabad from across the country.



He also announced a nationwide shutoff-strike on August 28.

Addressing the broader economic issues, Rehman said that the government's flawed policies have led to the closure of industries across the country, causing significant distress among industrialists and traders. He pointed out that the high cost of electricity has triggered a severe economic crisis, with shocking revelations emerging daily about how the economy was devastated by the IPP agreements.

He further noted that the public is still paying for electricity that was never produced nor consumed.

Rehman accused K-Electric, NEPRA, and the government of forming a "diabolical alliance" against the people of Karachi, alleging that every ruling party has supported K-Electric despite its outdated plants and high line losses.

Balochistan CM Rewards Brave Driver for Saving Family in Qila Abdullah Flood

Sardar Muhammad Khondai:

CHAMAN: Balochistan Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has praised the bravery of a driver who rescued a family trapped in a flood relay in Qila Abdullah. The Chief Minister announced a cash reward and a certificate of appreciation for the driver, who acted swiftly to save the lives of

women and children caught in the floodwaters. "The driver has set a fine example of service to the people by showing remarkable courage," said CM Bugti. "Those who serve society selflessly are our real heroes." The Chief Minister's recognition comes as a testament to the

importance of individual acts of bravery in times of crisis, highlighting the significance of community service and the value of quick thinking in emergency situations. The driver's actions not only saved lives but also underscored the vital role of ordinary citizens in safeguarding their communities.



1,400 Cases of Diarrhea Reported in Chaman, Balochistan

Sardar Muhammad Khondai, Manan Mandokhail, News Desk:

CHAMAN, QUETTA: A severe outbreak of diarrhea has hit Chaman in Balochistan, with around 1,400 cases reported in the region. Health officials are keeping a close watch on the situation amid concerns that it may be cholera. Most of the affected individuals, primarily children, have been admitted to the district headquarters hospital in Chaman for treatment.

An emergency has been declared at the hospital to ensure adequate medical care for the patients. The surge in diarrhea cases has prompted Chief Justice of the Balochistan High Court (BHC), Mr. Justice Hashim Khan Kakar, to take notice of the situation. Director General Health Services Balochistan, Dr. Amin Khan Mandokhail, visited the area to inspect the medical facilities at Civil Hospital, PPHI, and the

Merck Center. During his visit, Dr. Mandokhail confirmed that there have been no confirmed cases of cholera so far. Samples from suspected cases have been sent to the National Institute of Health in Islamabad and Karachi for further analysis. The Balochistan government assigned Mr. Mandokhail to visit Chaman, assess the situation, and then submit a detailed report to the Chief Justice of the Balochistan High Court. "I will be submitting this report to the honorable Chief Justice of the BHC," Mr. Mandokhail stated. "Rapid testing kits indicated a potential cholera outbreak, but these results are not conclusive," Dr. Mandokhail explained. To ensure the reliability of the diagnosis, six samples have also been sent to BMC Quetta's lab for cross-verification.

Additionally, three suspected cholera cases have been forwarded to Karachi for final testing. Dr. Mandokhail also noted that while the situation in Chaman city is alarming, no cases have been reported from the surrounding areas. The final results of the samples are expected within three days, which will clarify whether cholera is the cause of the outbreak.

Health experts in Chaman have identified contaminated water as the primary cause of the escalating diarrhea cases. The majority of the patients are women and children. In response to the outbreak, the Balochistan health department has declared an emergency in the district. However, there have been no confirmed reports of cholera in the area, despite earlier concerns.

Balochistan's Right to Information Act Remains Unimplemented After Three Years

Syed Ali Shah:

Quetta – Despite the passage of the Right to Information (RTI) Act in February 2021, the Balochistan government has yet to establish an information commission, leaving a crucial law unenforced and hindering transparency in the province. This delay, now stretching into its third year, highlights the ongoing challenges in ensuring citizens' access to information—a fundamental right designed to promote good governance and accountability. At a recent seminar, experts expressed deep concern over the lack of progress, noting that while other provinces moved swiftly to establish their commissions, Balochistan lags behind.

Participants at the seminar discussed the importance of the RTI law and emphasized that without an active commission, the law remains ineffective, depriving citizens of their right to obtain information on government activities. The discussion also underscored the need for civil society and media to increase pressure on the government to fulfill its obligations under the RTI Act. The delay in Balochistan contrasts sharply with the situation in other provinces, where commissions were established but have yet to demonstrate their effectiveness. This further exacerbates concerns about governance and the willingness of authorities to uphold the principles of transparency and accountability.



This is particularly concerning given that Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti frequently emphasizes the importance of good governance, with the RTI commission being a critical component in achieving that goal. The absence of an operational commission in the province raises serious questions about the government's commitment to transparency.

As Balochistan continues to face significant governance challenges, the lack of a functioning information commission underscores the urgent need for action. The government must prioritize the establishment of this commission to ensure that the RTI law serves its intended purpose of improving governance and empowering citizens.

Monsoon Rains Devastate Balochistan: 19 Dead, Thousands Affected

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: Intense monsoon rains have resulted in the deaths of at least 19 people, with 11 others injured, and have disrupted the lives of more than 3,000 residents across Balochistan, as the downpours continued on Monday, according to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA). The monsoon season, which typically runs from June to September, plays a vital role in replenishing water supplies and supporting agricultural activities. However, these rains also bring significant risks, often causing severe weather-related issues. Experts warn that climate change is exacerbating the intensity and frequency of such events. The PDMA's latest data reveals that since the monsoon began on July 1, 19 people have lost their lives, 11 have been injured, and 3,031 individuals have been affected. The heavy rains have also led to substantial damage to infrastructure, with 433 homes reported as either

partially or completely destroyed. Yunus Mengal, a representative of the PDMA, reported to the media that 16 districts in Balochistan have been affected by the recent rain spells. He mentioned that relief efforts are underway to assist the affected communities. "Balochistan has faced two severe monsoon rain spells since July 1," Mengal stated. Given the extensive damage, the provincial government of Balochistan has declared emergencies in several union councils in the districts of Kalat, Ziarat, Awaran, Kachi, Loralai, Sohbatpur, and Lasbela, officially designating them as disaster-hit areas. Kalat recorded the highest rainfall, with over 48 millimeters, followed by Usta Muhammad with 34mm, and Sibbi with 21mm. Quetta and Khuzdar each recorded 10mm of rain, while Zhob and Chaman each saw 9mm.



File photo: Chashma Achozai bridge Quetta was washed away by floods: Photo Ismail Khan

Restoring Quetta to Its Former Glory

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Unlocking Balochistan's Potential: A Roadmap for Sustainable Development

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Good news for agri, power sectors: Tarbela reaches full capacity

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Unlocking Balochistan's Potential: A Roadmap for Sustainable Development

Editor: Asim Khan

Restoring Quetta to Its Former Glory

Editorial: The completion of the Quetta Solid Waste Management Project in a record time of just three months stands as a testament to the power of effective leadership and public-private collaboration.

Dr. Faisal Ahmed Khan, the Chief of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Balochistan, has emerged as a central figure in this success.

However, the work is far from over. The citizens of Quetta, once affectionately known as "Little Paris," now look forward to seeing their city restored to its former charm and cleanliness.

The government's pledge to keep Quetta clean must be more than just a statement; it must translate into sustained action.

As we look ahead, the partnership model championed by Dr. Faisal Ahmed Khan could serve as a catalyst for other essential services across Balochistan.

Binding Israel

By Abid Rizvi:

MORE than five months into Israel's pogrom against Palestinians, the UN Security Council finally adopted Resolution 2728/2024. The resolution, proposed by the 10 non-permanent members of the UNSC (E10), received unanimous assent with one abstention by the US.

bloodshed. Such a brief cessation of hostilities would render relief efforts incredibly more effective. The UN Security Council has little impact on the unfolding humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza.

instead, in exercise of the UNSC's general powers under and "guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations".

Dr. Faiz Kakar:

Balochistan, even as a resource-rich province, grapples with alarming rates of poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, and infant and maternal mortality, indicative of severe underdevelopment.

Potentials of the Province Ensure the Success of SEZ

Balochistan, often referred to as the "fruit basket" of Pakistan, stands out as a resource-rich province boasting the largest landmass and the longest coastline spanning 770 kilometers.

SEZs The Only Option

Ensuring the full operationalization of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) already identified commenced in Balochistan stands out as the foremost priority area for intervention.

These potentials not only justify the focus on SEZs but also serve as a guarantee of their success.

Appointment of heads of authorities from private sectors

The Government of Balochistan has indeed taken steps to establish authorities focusing on thematic areas such as Economic Zones and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP).

These individuals should possess local knowledge, familiarity with public sector practices, and established connections with politicians and higher authorities within the government.

Balochistan's Political And Intellectual Spheres Divided

Amidst the current devastating scenario in the province, Balochistan's political and intellectual spheres are sharply divided.

Learning from global case studies, the potential of Balochistan as a resource-rich province with vast ecological and topographic diversity, coupled with its strategic location, warrants a paradigm shift towards infrastructure development and economic growth.

Urbanization promotion and establishment of new cities

Addressing the challenge of scattered population in Balochistan is paramount to ensure effective social and infrastructure development.

Balochistan's Struggle Against Child Marriage Hindered by Lack of Legislation

Chandni Kakar:

A bill aiming to put an end to child marriage in Balochistan, Pakistan's largest province, has been lingering for several months in the province still adheres to a law dating back to 1929, where the legal marriage age for boys is 18 and for girls is 16.

Noor, approached them. Hamida Noor, a prominent advocate for women's rights, recruited her involvement in thwarting a child marriage attempt.

Upon entering the wedding venue, they encountered resistance from the women present.

Legal status of child marriage issue. The Federal Shariat Court Islamabad took suo motu notice of an incident of child marriage on 21 November 2022. On which the

welfare agency of Balochistan confirmed the submission of the bill to the court.

Materialistic metaphysics

By Gulnam Shabbir:

THIS modern civilisation, which has attained for man unprecedented progress, and prosperity, has an inherent design fault that inexorably leads to crisis after crisis.

civilisation, pure reason edged out religion. Thus, this Enlightenment movement triggered the Scientific Revolution, whose persistent dynamic impulse brought about the Industrial Revolution.

abilities. With religion reduced to a relic of the past, the advent of canibolistic capitalism—the emergence of consumerism—was inevitable.

heavens and the earth and they declined to bear it and feared it; but man earth has laws and decrees. Indeed, he was unjust and ignorant" (33:72).

Westphalia, which alienated religion from the socioeconomic and political spheres. The ethical hollowess of modern man has rendered his vision myopic and priorities so warped and distorted that rudderless in the sea of unquenchable desires, he is probing in the dark.

of man's social life and/or ecological disasters, both are the outcome of the corrupt socioeconomic structures based on materialistic metaphysics.

The Quran offers man a complete programme for self-reformation. He is sufficient to save our civilisation. The light of man at the advent of Islam, as portrayed in vivid imagery in the Quran, was bright and clear.

have wrought due to his unbridled acquisitiveness, self-aggrandisement and military-cum-cultural and epistemological hegemonies, with corrupt socioeconomic structures that have brought about the panacea for all these maladies lies in the return of religion to socioeconomic and political affairs of the globe.

Groups, fixtures revealed for U19 Women's T20 World Cup 2025

DUBAI (INP): India, who overcame England to win the inaugural edition of the ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup, will come up against hosts Malaysia, West Indies, and Sri Lanka in Group A of the second edition of the tournament that will be held from 18 January to 2 February 2025. In Group B, England are locked in with neighbours Ireland, as well as Pakistan, and the USA. Hosts of the previous edition South Africa, along with New Zealand, new entrants Samoa, and a qualifier from Africa form Group C while Group D comprises cricketing powerhouse Australia, Bangladesh, Scotland, and a qualifier from Asia. Each team will play the other sides in the round-robin phase, making for three games each in the group stage. The top three sides from all four groups will then progress to the Super Six stage. The bottom-ranked sides from Groups A and D, and B and C will contest in last place play-off on 24 January. The 12 sides in the Super Six stage are further divided into two groups, with the top three teams from Groups A and D making up Group 1, and those of Groups B and C making up Group 2. In this stage, each side will carry forward the points, wins and NRIs they secured against fellow Super Six qualifying sides. Each side will contest two fixtures in the Super Six, against oppo-



QUETTA: Member of Provincial Assembly Zamrak Khan Achakzai is meeting with Interior Minister Balochistan Mir Zauiah Longo.

Indonesian president reshuffles cabinet weeks before leaving office

JAKARTA (INP): Indonesian President Joko Widodo reshuffled his cabinet on Monday just weeks before he steps down in an effort to ease the transition to his successor, Defence Minister Prabowo Subianto, his office said. Widodo — more popularly known as Jokowi — will hand over the reins in October, departing with sky-high approval ratings over an economic track record that delivered consistent growth coming out of the Covid-19 pandemic. Jokowi swore in new ministers for law and human rights, energy and mineral resources, and investment on Monday morning, as well as a new head of the food and drug agency and chief of the newly created national nutrition agency. Former investment minister Bahil Lahadiala, a close aide and vocal supporter of Jokowi, was appointed energy and mineral resources minister as the Indonesian leader focuses on a drive to boost nickel output. Rosan Roeslani, who was head of Prabowo's presidential campaign, replaced Bahil as the country's new investment minister while Supratman Andi Agtas, a member of Prabowo's Gerindra party, became Minister of Law and Human Rights. "The appointments of these ministers... and agency heads are necessary to facilitate a smooth, orderly, and effective government transition," coordinator of the president's special staff, Ari Dwipawana, said in a statement. The national nutrition agency has been created to help Prabowo's key campaign pledge — a multi-billion-dollar pledge to give school-children free meals. Yunarto Wijaya, executive director at research institute Charta Politika, said the new ministers were "Prabowo's people", approved by Jokowi. "There are likely political undertones besides the transition purpose," he said. Jokowi, raised in a bamboo shack in a riverside slum on Indonesia's biggest island of Java, last week hailed his government's record on the economy, development and infrastructure building in his final state of the nation address. The Indonesian leader has served the maximum two terms for a decade in power after beating Prabowo twice, in 2014 and 2019 elections. Prabowo's eldest son running as his vice presidential candidate, which courted accusations of nepotism. The defence chief soared in polls with his offspring, as well as pledging to carry on the popular economic policies. But a key legacy project of Jokowi — a \$32-billion planned future capital on Borneo island — remains mired in construction delays and funding problems.

Good news for agri, power sectors: Tarbela reaches full capacity

TARBELA (INP): In a significant development for Pakistan's water and power sectors, Tarbela Dam has been filled to its maximum capacity, with water levels reaching 1,550 feet. This marks the second consecutive year that the dam has been fully filled, storing over 5.8 million acre-feet (MAF) of water. The Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) announced that with the dam now at full capacity, there is no room for additional water storage. As a result, spillway gates have been opened to manage the overflow. WAPDA is expected to make an official announcement regarding the dam's status later today. The completion of Tarbela Dam for the second year in a row is being hailed as a major success, particularly for the agricultural and energy sectors. The Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) announced that with the dam now at full capacity, there is no room for additional water storage. As a result, spillway gates have been opened to manage the overflow. WAPDA is expected to make an official announcement regarding the dam's status later today. The completion of Tarbela Dam for the second year in a row is being hailed as a major success, particularly for the agricultural and energy sectors. The Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) announced that with the dam now at full capacity, there is no room for additional water storage. As a result, spillway gates have been opened to manage the overflow. WAPDA is expected to make an official announcement regarding the dam's status later today. The completion of Tarbela Dam for the second year in a row is being hailed as a major success, particularly for the agricultural and energy sectors.



QUETTA: Director General PDMA Jahanzeb Baloch presenting memento to the transferred Deputy Commissioner Capt (R) Jumadad Khan Mandokhail in recognition of his services.



QUETTA: Ms. Yasmeen and Zareena of Muslim League-N Sibi are meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jafar Khan Mandokhail.

UN warns of 'unacceptable' level of violence against aid workers

UNITED NATIONS (INP): The United Nations on Monday condemned the "unacceptable" level of violence becoming commonplace against humanitarian workers, a record 280 of whom were killed worldwide in 2023. And it warned that the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza is potentially fueling even higher numbers of such deaths this year. "The normalization of violence against aid workers and the lack of accountability are unacceptable, unconscious and enormously harmful for aid operations everywhere," Joyce Msuya, acting director of the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), said in a statement. The national nutrition agency has been created to help Prabowo's key campaign pledge — a multi-billion-dollar pledge to give school-children free meals. Yunarto Wijaya, executive director at research institute Charta Politika, said the new ministers were "Prabowo's people", approved by Jokowi. "There are likely political undertones besides the transition purpose," he said. Jokowi, raised in a bamboo shack in a riverside slum on Indonesia's biggest island of Java, last week hailed his government's record on the economy, development and infrastructure building in his final state of the nation address. The Indonesian leader has served the maximum two terms for a decade in power after beating Prabowo twice, in 2014 and 2019 elections. Prabowo's eldest son running as his vice presidential candidate, which courted accusations of nepotism. The defence chief soared in polls with his offspring, as well as pledging to carry on the popular economic policies. But a key legacy project of Jokowi — a \$32-billion planned future capital on Borneo island — remains mired in construction delays and funding problems.

Ukraine says destroyed another bridge in Russia's Kursk

KURSK (INP): Ukrainian air forces destroyed another strategic bridge over the Seym River in Russia's Kursk region, limiting the supply capacity of a Russian group opposing the Ukrainian advance, Ukraine's commander Kyiv said it had seized more than 80 settlements over 1,150 square km (444 square miles) in Kursk since launching a surprise strike across the border on Aug. 6, the biggest invasion of Russia since World War Two. Kursk direction. Minus one more bridge! Ukraine's air force continues to deprive the enemy of logistical capabilities with precision airstrikes, which significantly affects the course of hostilities," Mykola Oleschuk said on the Telegram messaging app. He posted a video showing a growing cloud from an explosion on a bridge and one of its sections destroyed. Reuters could not independently confirm the destruction of the bridge or the situation on the battlefield in Kursk. Reuters was able to confirm the location of the bridge in Oleschuk's video as in the village of Zvanoye in the Kursk region. Reuters was not able to independently verify the date when the video was filmed. There was no immediate response from Moscow officials to Ukraine's reports. Some Russian military bloggers, including the prominent War Gonzo project, reported that there was a Ukraine's attack on Sunday on the bridge in Zvanoye. A Russian military blogger close to the defence ministry who goes by the name "Rybar" said on the Telegram messaging app that the bridge was heavily damaged, but did not collapse and can be used by pedestrians and — in some cases — light vehicles. The bridge was the second attacked by Ukraine since Friday. Earlier military analysts said there were three bridges in the area of the Ukrainian army's offensive through which Russia supplies its forces and that two of them have been either destroyed or seriously damaged.

State-of-the-art facilities at JPMC gift of Sindh gov't for masses: Bilawal

KARACHI (INP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that the new state-of-the-art facilities at Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) would provide substantive relief to the people of Sindh, including the poor. He said, "It is definitely a gift of Sindh government to the people and will prove to be another milestone in healthcare sector." The newly inaugurated units of JPMC include the 120-bed Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, the 110-bed Department of Neurology and Stroke Unit, and the Cyber Knife machine, used for cancer treatment, was available in only a handful of countries worldwide. He said that these hospitals were located in Sindh province and added that Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC), National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD), and Abkhani Institute of Child Health (NICH) represented top healthcare institutions in the country. He said that among the three institutions stood as a beacon of hope and termed these as exemplary models of good governance and successful public-private partnerships by the provincial government.

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S.No Name of Works E/Est
1 CONSTRUCTION OF NAHARDRAIN FROM 30,00,000 MCD PAKISTAN SHAHRICADTO MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM COLONY PHASE-II DISTRICT SOHBATPUR
Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence of Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of atleast 21,000,000 PKR. Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing Financial capacity of the firm (registered with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-S and above (Up to 65 million) Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE05 (Offshore Works). Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit or Call of amount 600,000 PKR specified above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned 2,000 PKR. Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 05 September, 2024 till 10:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the undersigned at 11:00 AM Address: District Council Office Sohbatpur Phone no: 0838603118 Fax no: 0838603118 Email: assistantdirector@sohbatpur.gov.pk
PRD No.596/19-08-2024 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR LOCAL GOVT SOHBATPUR

Torrential rains claim 18 lives in Balochistan, (PDMA) said

QUETTA (INP): As torrential rains caused havoc across the country, at least 18 people lost their lives in Balochistan, Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) said on Monday.

According to a PDMA report the rains, which started since July 1, have caused widespread damage to infrastructure and crops.

As many as 2919 houses have been damaged, with 124 completely destroyed and 293 partially damaged.

In addition to the loss of life and property, the rains have also caused significant damage to crops, with 97 acres of crops and 31 kilometers of roads affected.

The PDMA report also stated that 81 bridges have been partially damaged, while 120 animals have died due to the heavy rains.

Yesterday, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) issued a warning of heavy and intense rainfall across the country in the next 24 to 48 hours, raising concerns about potential urban flooding in major cities.

The NDMA alerted all relevant departments to remain vigilant and take necessary precautions. According to the advisory, there is a significant risk of urban flooding in Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Gujranwala, Lahore, Sheikhupura, Kasur, and

Sialkot. Additionally, low-lying areas in Sargodha, Faisalabad, Nowshera, and Peshawar are also at risk of flooding.

The NDMA cautioned that urban flooding could damage infrastructure and disrupt daily life. Communities living near drainage channels are particularly vulnerable to flash floods and may experience severe impacts. In light of these urban flooding threats, the NDMA has launched the "Pak NDMA Disaster Alert" application, now available on both Google Play Store and iOS App Store. The public is urged to stay informed about weather updates and alerts through this app to ensure their safety.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a virtual meeting with Mr. Ahmed Abdelal, President/ CEO of Mashreq Bank to discuss the economic outlook and explore investment opportunities in Pakistan.

SC suspends IHC order in audio leaks case, removes ban on surveillance

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan has suspended the Islamabad High Court's orders in the case related to audio leaks involving Bushra Bibi, wife of PTI chairman Imran Khan, and Najam Saqib, son of former Chief Justice Saqib Nisar.

The court has also barred the High Court from further proceedings in the matter and suspended the order against surveillance in the case. The bench remarked that the order to stop surveillance was only effective for one hearing.

Justice Aminuddin, during the hearing, remarked, "It is possible that the people involved in the audio recordings themselves leaked them. Has this aspect been considered? Every mobile phone nowadays

has a recording system."

A two-member bench of the Supreme Court, comprising Justice Aminuddin and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghani, heard the federal government's petition regarding the audio leaks.

During the hearing, the Supreme Court stated that the Islamabad High Court cannot proceed with the audio leaks case. It deemed the High Court's orders of May 29 and June 25 as exceeding its powers, stating that the High Court does not have the authority to take suo motu notice.

The Supreme Court, upon the federal government's request, summoned the record of the audio leaks case and issued notices to Bushra Bibi and Najam Saqib.

Justice Aminuddin Khan inquired whether the High Court had determined who recorded the audio. The Additional Attorney General responded that this has not yet been established and the investigating is ongoing.

Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghani lamented, "Unfortunately, in this country, no one wants to reach the truth. To uncover the truth, an inquiry commission was formed and handed over to the Supreme Court, but the audio leaks case has not been scheduled again in the Supreme Court."

"When the Parliament attempted to seek the truth, it was also stopped. Neither Parliament nor the courts are allowed to function, then how will the truth come to light?"

Slow internet threat to IT industry, online business, also hurting masses: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, the President of Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum and All Karachi Industrial Alliance and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has termed the slow internet a serious threat to the IT industry and online businesses besides hurting the masses. The IT industry's and online businesses' future was at stake due to the government's efforts to control the internet, according to the general perception.

In a statement issued here on Monday, Mian Zahid Hussain said that many businesses were affected and freelancers were losing their source of income.

He said that controlling the digital terrorist group's misuse of social media was very important as the gang's activities were creating uncertainty and running the economy. However, the policy of playing with millions of people's businesses to control the gang was wrong, he remarked.

The business leader said that companies doing business online

were fleeing the country in large numbers, and Pakistan's reputation was also at stake.

He said that many other countries have also controlled the internet, but in Pakistan, those who do so were incompetent and sink the economy.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that after the shocking revelation that Pakistanis invested eleven billion dollars in Dubai's property market, the Dubai Chamber of Commerce has said that 3968 Pakistani companies have registered in Dubai in the last six months.

In 2023, 8036 Pakistani companies were registered in Dubai, which was 71.2% more than in 2022, which means that capital is rapidly fleeing the country.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that Dubai was the favourite destination of Pakistan software companies. There, electricity was cheap, the business environment was favourable, the payment system was better and contracts were enforced. Foreign companies only like to deal with Pakistan companies registered in Dubai because the situation in Pakistan was un-

certain, and doing business with Pakistani companies registered in Dubai provided a sense of security. Representatives of foreign companies don't like to come to Pakistan, but they were always ready to travel to Dubai for business. Pakistan's payment system was also very weak, while there was no such weakness in Dubai. Corporate tax was only 9% on profits above 375,000 dirhams, while there was no tax on profits below 375,000 dirhams.

The tax rate in Dubai was negligible compared to the facilities. Dubai does not have complex formalities, unnecessary documentation, and tedious laws like Pakistan. It does not have a culture of setting goals and making loud claims based on baseless assumptions. Mian Zahid further said that instead of giving better incentives to companies doing business in Pakistan, they were strangled. Such policies should be avoided, as they will deprive Pakistan of its talent and income, and the plan of increasing IT exports to 10 billion dollars in two years will remain a dream.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding the review of ongoing project of Information Technology, digitization and steps to increase IT exports.

President calls for enhancing national forest cover

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari has called for enhancing the national forest cover by planting more trees to help mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change and global warming.

The President expressed these views while planting a "Neem" sapling at Bilawal House in Karachi, as a part of the annual Monsoon Tree Plantation Campaign.

The President said Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change and global warming, and urged the youth and civil society in helping increase for-

est cover and planting more trees to mitigate their adverse impacts.

He said that "Neem" is an environment friendly tree, offering numerous environmental benefits, such as clean air, cool shade, and acting as a natural mosquito repellent.

He recalled that during Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed's first tenure as Prime Minister, he had served as the Minister for Climate and had initiated a tree plantation campaign, wherein Neem trees were planted throughout the country.

He said that the need to

plant trees had become of paramount importance in view of the rising temperatures in Pakistan.

Asif Ali Zardari urged the nation, particularly the youth and civil society, to actively participate in the Monsoon Tree Plantation Campaign and plant as many trees as possible in their neighborhoods and surroundings for a better environment.

The President said Pakistan had undertaken successful mangrove restoration, under which mangroves on millions of acres of land had been planted in Sindh.

Shaheens set to face Bangladesh 'A' in second four-day on Tuesday

LAHORE (INP): The Pakistan Shaheens cricket team will take on Bangladesh 'A' in the second four-day match on Tuesday, 20 August at the Islamabad Club after the first four-dayer ended up as a draw.

Pakistan Shaheens and Bangladesh 'A' have made wholesale changes to their squads after the conclusion of the first four-dayer as Shaheens have welcomed eight new players while six players joined Bangladesh 'A' after the Test squad players left for national duty.

Uncapped top-order batter Kamran Ghulam who was released from the Pakistan Test squad, along with Abrar Ahmed, will lead the Shaheens in the second four-dayer.

In the Shaheens squad Abrar Ahmed, Ali Zaryab, Imam Ul Haq, Mohammad Awas Anwar, Niaz Khan, Qasim Akram, Rohail Nazir and Sharoon Siraj replaced Mir Hamza, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Hurrara, Mohammad Rameez Jr, Naseem Shah, Saïm Ayub, Sarfaraz Ahmed and Saud Shakeel.

Mohammad Naim, Mohammad Saïfuddin, Saïf Hassan, Soumya Sarkar, Towhid Hridoy, and Zakir Ali have replaced Hasan, Mohammad Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Mommul

Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim, Nayeem Hasan, and Zakir Hasan in the Bangladesh 'A' squad.

The toss will take place at 0930 and the first ball is expected to be bowled at 1000.

Pakistan Shaheens captain Kamran Ghulam stated, "It is a great opportunity for me to lead the Pakistan Shaheens side in the second four-dayer. I'm excited to see myself in this role and help the team with my leadership and batting. We will look to win the second four-day match and clinch the series which will be a huge confidence booster for the players going into a busy red-ball season."

"We are well aware of the conditions at the Islamabad Club and will look to make the most of the learnings acquired during the first four-day match."

The new players who have joined the squad are exciting and will hopefully contribute towards Shaheens' success in the second game.

Bangladesh 'A' captain Anamul Haque

"After a few changes to our squad, we are now focused on giving our best in the second four-dayer and that experience will surely help us going into this game."



ISLAMABAD: PM's Coordinator on Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam holds meeting with UNDP delegation to discuss ongoing projects.

Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) seizes 85 kg drugs, arrests 11 in countrywide operations

RAWALPINDI (INP): The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) recovered 85 kilogram drugs and arrested 11 drug pushers in 11 operations conducted in various cities across country.

A spokesman of ANF Headquarters said on Monday that 1 kg ice

(Crystal Meth) was recovered from a parcel booked for Qatar at a courier office in Rawalpindi.

A Bahrain bound passenger was offloaded at Faisalabad Airport after recovery of 250 gram ice from his possession.

Another Bahrain bound

passenger was offloaded and held at Lahore Airport after 189 gram ice was recovered from his possession.

During search of a suspected vehicle near RCD Road district Lasbela in Balochistan, 40 kg hashish and 14.4 kg ice were recovered secret cavities and an accused was arrested.

A female drug pusher was held near M-1 Islamabad with 9.6 kg hashish.

A motorcycle riding drug peddler was arrested on GT Road Attock besides recovery of 7.2 kg hashish from his possession.

During separate opera-

tions conducted in Torkham, 7.4 kg hashish and 900 grams ice were recovered and an accused was apprehended.

Three drug peddlers were apprehended with 3 kg heroin near UET Gate-3 in Lahore.

Another drug pusher was arrested with 1 kg ice near Sher Shah Toll Plaza.

During an operation conducted at Sialkot in Daska, a female drug pusher was arrested with 300 gram ice.

Separate cases were registered against the detainees under the Anti-Narcotics Act and further investigations were underway.



PESHAWAR: Provincial President of Pakistan Peoples Party Amjad Khan Afridi addressing a press conference at Peshawar Press Club (PPC).