

The longest non-stop flights in world

SYDNEY: Qantas has revealed plans for the world's longest-duration commercial flight by the end of 2025, ferrying passengers between Sydney and London on Airbus A350s in just over 19 hours. Only a handful of airlines fly non-stop over such vast distances, which present a host of challenges including the capability of planes, commercial viability, and even the health of crew and passengers. Here are some of the longest-duration flights in the world today: Singapore Airlines Flight SQ24 to New York's John F. Kennedy International airport is currently the longest commercial journey in the world. —APP

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Pakistan olive oil farmers eyeing cooperation with China

BELJING: China's demand for Pakistani olive oil is high and as long as Pakistan has market demand or export demand, cooperation with China is absolutely imperative, said Zhou Ning, Marketing Director at Green Organic Food. In addition to market, Pakistani farmers need Chinese agricultural technology and investment. Syed Yousaf Ali, a farmer with a 100-acre estate said that he is now using a Chinese machine that picks olives of different sizes. "Compared with other agricultural machines around the world, Chinese machines are inexpensive." —APP

Murree bans entry of over 8,000 vehicles on Eid

ISLAMABAD: Mall Road in Murree closed to traffic in summer season; unlicensed drivers will not be allowed to enter Murree

Traffic arrangements for Eid-ul-Fitr and summer tourists of the hill station Murree have been completed and entry of more than 8,000 vehicles has been banned in the city.

The Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi Naveed Irshad has said more than 350 traffic police personnel will be deployed in Murree during the Eid and summer season.

The CTO Rawalpindi has said that unlicensed drivers will not be allowed to enter Murree while a helmet will be required for all the motorcyclists for entering district Murree. He said that Murree has a parking capacity of only 3500 vehicles so it has been decided that Mall Road in Murree would be closed for general traffic during the Eid days and summer season. CTO Naveed Irshad also said that during the holidays of Eid al-Fitr and the summer season, buses and other vehicles will not be allowed to go ahead to the Lower Topa. —DNA



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz with former Provincial Minister Mujtaba Shaja Rehman.

MQM-P sends PM names for Sindh Governor

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The PM office has received five names from Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) for the candidates of Sindh Governor, media reported on Monday.

According to details, the names sent by the MQM-P are: Kishwar Zehra, Aamir Khan, Amir Chishti, Wasim Khan and Nasreen Jalil. As per sources, Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif will discuss these names with all the allies and then select one person for the slot.

Imran ready for talks to hold early elections: Rashid

ISLAMABAD: Awami Muslim League Chief and former interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed says former PM Imran is ready to hold talks with Shahbaz Sharif's government to hold early general elections, but it will require the guarantee of powerful quarters.

In an exclusive interview with Voice of America in Islamabad, he said that it was not correct to say that the PTI's long march was aimed at enforcing martial law in the country but it was for holding early general elections.

He said that Imran Khan did not want to shake hands with the leaders of Shahbaz Sharif's coalition govt but there could be talks regarding elections if the establishment gives guarantee. Rashid says that if a large number of people gathered in Islamabad on the call of Imran Khan, then khan's politics will reign and his only demand is to hold early elections. He said that PTI did not want to topple the government but the participants of the long march would not return from Islamabad without announcement of the date of general elections.

Talking about the fall of the PTI government, he said that there were some misunderstandings with the institutions which should not have happened. —DNA

TTNRP demands case against Sheikh Rashid

ISLAMABAD: Tehreek Tahafuz Namaoos-e-Risalat Pakistan (TTNRP) on Monday urged the Islamabad Police to register a case against former Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed for provoking people for violence and to violate sanctity of the Masjid-e-Nabvi.

In an exclusive talk with this agency, TTNRP Senior Vice President Sheraz Ahmed Farooqui said Sheikh Rashid was the mastermind behind all the fuss occurred in the Masjid-e-Nabvi as he himself disclosed about the plot made to degrade the delegation of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif which had to pay homage at the mausoleum of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) as per schedule. He said, he approached the Secretariat Police Station in a bid to register a first information report against Sheikh Rashid with the video tape record of his statements given to the media outside the ECP on April 26. —APP

Health card would continue on PM's instruction: Hamza

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz has directed to ensure the provision of different healthcare facilities without delay, adding that the visitors should be properly taken care of in the government hospitals.

While presiding over the Health Department meeting at his office on Monday to review steps for providing quality medical facilities to the common man, the CM directed that a comprehensive plan be devised so that the patients may not face any difficulty in getting free medicines from the hospitals. The CM announced to fill the vacant technical cadre posts of hospitals and ordered them to take necessary steps without delay. Similarly, a plan be devised to functionalize dysfunctional medical equipment, he stressed.

On the instruction of PM Muhammad Shehbaz, the health card would continue in Punjab; he informed and further directed to ensure implementation of anti-dengue SOPs in letter and spirit. The anti-dengue teams should be fully activated; he stated and emphasised that the medicines' procurement should be timely completed. The medical facilities and human resources of hospitals should also be regularly checked and a report be devised as well, he added.

CM asks WASA to take emergent steps to overcome water shortage
CM Hamza Shahbaz has taken notice of

the water shortage in the Walled City and certain areas of the provincial metropolis and directed WASA to take emergent steps. A coordinated mechanism be devised in such areas and generators should also be arranged to operate the tubewells.

While presiding over a meeting at his office on Monday, the CM directed that an action plan be devised to clean all the nullahs of the city before monsoon season. Teams should be constituted at the union councils level and the cleanliness work should be visible, he said. A union council level water drainage mechanism be devised and I would not entertain any lame excuse in monsoon season, the CM warned. Managing Director WASA would give a detailed briefing after Eid with videos.

Takes notice of poor cleanliness situation

Hamza Shahbaz has expressed displeasure over the poor cleanliness situation in Lahore and other cities of the province and directed that the control room of Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) should work round-the-clock to ensure zero waste operation during the Eid holidays.

He was presiding over a meeting about LWMC at his office on Monday in which Commissioner Lahore and CEO LWMC gave briefings. The CM directed to improve the cleanliness arrangements adding that the LWMC would earn respect if good services are provided to the citizens. Allah Almighty would grant success to

you if you work diligently, he added. I am disheartened by the poor cleanliness situation in Lahore and major cities of the province, the CM maintained.

The CM directed to identify an area of land for a new landfill site and suggested involving parliamentarians in improving cleanliness. Lahore is the epicentre of Pakistan and we would make this city clean, he further said. The LWMC's journey from success to decline is painful as the achievements have been ruined in a short period; the CM regretted and vowed to rectify the LWMC affairs.

Cheema asks masses to remember the poor on Eid

Punjab Governor Omer Sarfraz Cheema, while congratulating the nation on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, said in his message that this day is a day of happiness after the blessed holy month of Ramadan. He said that Eid-ul-Fitr requires us to make the attributes of fasting, such as self-purification, simplicity, self-sacrifice and patience a part of our lives.

The Governor of Punjab said that we should remember the poor and deserving people on this occasion by demonstrating Islamic brotherhood and fraternity.

Our religion Islam teaches peace and security, tolerance and helping the needy adding he said that share the joys of Eid with them so that the joy of Eid can be doubled. Governor Punjab said that a welfare society can be formed by follow-

Russia-Ukraine war will have adverse affect on SA

ISLAMABAD: President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Iftikhar Ali Malik Monday cautioned that escalating Russia-Ukraine war will have adverse economic impact on South Asian countries.

Talking to a delegation of traders led by Momin Ali Malik, member executive committee Lahore Chamber, he said the 2022 outlook for the global economy now seems bleak and South Asia will also be affected.

The octogenarian trade leader said Russia and Ukraine combined have a significant share of global supplies of oil, gas and other commodities, so the invasion has increased commodity prices. The direct impact on South Asia will mainly occur through trade linkages, particularly through rising commodity prices as the region is a net importer of commodities.

He said even before the invasion, inflation in South Asian economies was rising relative to competitors in global

markets. The additional shock in commodity prices will further widen the gap — increasing the relative cost of production in the region — and erode the competitiveness of cheap labour and energy-intensive industries he added. He said reliance on fossil fuels for energy generation is higher in South Asia than elsewhere in Asia. Iftikhar Ali Malik said the direct impact will immediately result into higher inflation while the indirect impact will face lower economic growth leading to stagflation and the extent of the economic hit on South Asia will depend on the duration of the conflict, the severity of Western sanctions on Russia and Russian response.

He said South Asian countries will vary depending on their economic linkages with Russia and Ukraine, and the growth and financial market linkages to the rest of the world. He is of the view that tough Western sanctions against Russia for a longer

period will cause a persistent rise in commodity prices and global inflation.

This would have adverse implications on global growth leading to lower external demand for South Asian exports he added. He said Inflation in South Asia rose in the aftermath of the pandemic, increasing income inequalities and pushing more people into poverty. Iftikhar Malik said a sustained conflict could have a more lasting and more drastic effect on South Asia and feared that the situation may deteriorate further as Russia is putting its nuclear forces on high alert. The economic fallout for South Asia from the worst-case scenario would be more adverse than the total economic impact of pandemic.

He said bleak economies, which are more vulnerable to external shocks — Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives and Sri Lanka — could bear the brunt of larger shorter-term growth contractions than India and Bangladesh. Pakistan's economy, suffer-

PDMA issues rain, storm alert during Eid holidays

LAHORE: The Provincial Disaster Management Authority Punjab on Monday issued province-wide alert after a weather forecast of thunderstorm and rainfall in the province.

Various districts of the province will likely to receive rainfall with thunderstorm, PDMA Punjab has said in an advisory to various provincial government departments. "There is forecast of dust storm in some areas while rainfall in other places," the PDMA said. "In view of an extraordinary weather situation the deputy commissioners have been directed to take steps to tackle the situation," PDMA said.

A circular has been dispatched to secretaries of provincial communications and buildings department, local government and irrigation departments. Director General Rescue 1122 has also been directed to keep alert to tackle an emergency situation. There are reports of relief from extreme summer and likelihood of a windy weather in May, PDMA said.

Several districts of Punjab will likely to receive showers including Rajanpur, D.G. Khan, Layyah, Bhakkar, Multan, Khaniwal, Sahiwal, Okara, Pakpattan, Bahawalpnr, Bahawalpur and Rahim Yar Khan. There is forecast of dust storm in Murree, Jhang, Shekhupura, Lahore, Hafizabad, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Narowal and Gujrat, according to the disaster management authority. —DNA

Kashmiris to celebrate Eid today

MIRPUR (AJK): Muslim population of the Muslim majority disputed Himalayan state of Jammu & Kashmir dwelling both sides of the line of control and rest of the world will celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr simultaneously with the scheduled observance of the religious festival in Pakistan today (Tuesday).

They will celebrate Eid subject to sighting of Shawal moon tonight, with full traditional religious enthusiasm and devotion with the renewal of the resolve to continue acting upon and upholding the teachings of Islam.

And meanwhile, brisk preparations have begun at both sides of the LoC AJK and IOJK, with the renewal of the pledge to continue individual and collective efforts to for the upholding of Islam and for encouraging the complete unity, integrity and solidarity of the Ummah. According to AJK district correspondent the sanctified day will dawn with special prayers mostly at open places/grounds, eidgahs - besides in the central mosques, for the stability, integrity, unity and solidarity of the Ummah. —APP

Eid celebrated at Lower Dir

LOWER DIR: Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated here Monday with religious fervour in areas of Lower Dir amid strict security measures.

Eid congregations were held in mosques of Talash, Kalpani, Dheri and Ziarat. Strict security arrangements were made for security of faithful visiting mosques to offer Eid prayer. Police personnel were also being deputed on egress and ingress points of the district as part of enhancing security measures. —APP

Partial Eid in KP

PESHAWAR: Partial Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated on Monday in parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and tribal districts as different areas of the province decided to follow Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee that announced Eid celebration on May 3.

Eid congregations were held in Charsadda, Takhtbhai, Mardan, Nowshera, Swabi, Karak and certain areas of provincial metropolis following announcement of private moon sighting committees. Parts of Malakand, DI Khan Hazara adhered to the old tradition and announced to celebrate Eid on May 3. The central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee chaired by Moulana Abdul Khair Azad has announced Eid today (Tuesday).

Special Assistant to KP Chief Minister for Information, Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif also announced celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr on govt level. He told that decision to this effect was taken after receiving 130 witnesses of moon sighting. The govt had also taken necessary security measures to maintain peace on Eid-ul-Fitr while district administration has warned strict action against aerial firing. —APP

FPCCI's UBG sends budget proposals to federal govt

ISLAMABAD: Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry's United Business Group (UBG) Monday submitted a set of 40 viable growth and export oriented proposals to federal government to accelerate the pace of trade activities besides restoring the confidence of foreign and local investors with a basket of incentives.

Chairing maiden online UBG core committee meeting here today it's Chairman Shahzad Ali Malik informed the participants drawn across the country that all proposals before submission were thrashed out threadbarely and a team of top class business experts further polished and gave final shape.

He said all proposals were

mainly aimed at ensuring growth-oriented and business-friendly environment to boost the economic activities in the aftermath of corona virus pandemic impact, prevailing political turmoil and economic upheaval grappling the country.

He said Pakistan was passing through crucial times since its inception due to deadly pandemic, Russian-Ukraine war, political chaotic condition and at this uncertain time, business community has come forward with a clear vision to stamp out of the quagmire of prevailing critical crisis. UBG with consultation of all stakeholders tailored such viable proposals which will ultimately help the government to revive the economy through upcoming budget, he added.

Shahzad Ali Malik said the pri-

private sector wanted to supplement the new government's efforts, focusing economic revival of the country, adding that joint proposals would help make budget business-friendly, which would finally result in a robust export-led growth.

He urged the new government to focus on ease of doing business which would attract the much-needed investment to trigger economic growth in the country. He hoped that die hard and dynamic PM Shehbaz who had also been most successful CM of the largest province and most popular President of LCCI, a pioneer trade body of the indo-Pak is highly appreciative of the contribution of the traders and the businessmen towards strengthening the economy and promoting tax



ISLAMABAD: Women buy bangles from a stall at Jinnah Super Market during preparation for grand event Eid-ul-Fitr.