

IRSA says water level in dams reaches 3.4maf

KARACHI: After a record rainfall across the country, the water level in dams has reached 3.4 Million Acre Feet (MAF). According to IRSA, the total flow in country's rivers was recorded 446,000 cusecs. 319,000 cusecs water is being released for Sindh and Punjab barrages. However, IRSA informed that ice melting process at glaciers in Skardu and other northern areas was slowed down due to dropping temperature owing to which there was reduction in the water inflow in rivers in northern areas. —APP

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Gen Bajwa performs Hajj

RIYADH: Army Chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa has performed Hajj. The COAS, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, mingled with Hajj pilgrims at the Holy Kaaba, where several Pakistanis took photos with him. The army chief, wearing a white shalwar kameez, was surrounded by pilgrims hurrying to take selfies with the high-ranking military officer. During their interaction, COAS Bajwa asked the pilgrims to pray for the prosperity of Pakistan. In response to the army chief's request for prayers for Pakistan, people said, "May God grant him a long life." In the video, Gen Bajwa can be seen meeting people without any protocol and allowing them to take photos with him. —APP

Wassan predicts political future of Imran, Alvi

KARACHI: Advisor to Chief Minister Sindh for Agriculture Manzoor Wassan has made a new prediction regarding former Prime Minister Imran Khan, President Arif Alvi and the upcoming general elections.

PPP leader Manzoor Wassan in his statement on Tuesday said that Imran Khan is not to be seen in the next elections and someone else will come in his place, local councils elections in Punjab will not be won by Imran Khan but by PML-N, Imran will not be able to win as many seats as before. He has predicted that the President of Pakistan Arif Alvi will be ousted before the general elections, President Arif Alvi will definitely be removed before 2023 and whoever becomes the new President of the country will be from the PPP.

The PPP leader while predicting the general elections said that it is not possible to hold general elections in the country this year, general elections may be held in April or August 2023 next year. Manzoor Wassan also said that Pakistan People's Party will win more seats in the country in the general elections than before. —DNA

Child servant killed for sneaking food from fridge

LAHORE: In a revolting incident of maltreatment of children illegally employed as domestic help, the house owners in posh Defence area of Lahore killed an 11-year-old boy who was simply satiating his hunger pangs without the permission of his employers and injured his younger brother.

Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz and IG police took notice of the incident of the cruel murder of the child at the hands of his employers. CM Hamza summoned a report from Punjab IG in this regard. He ordered police to take stern action against the perpetrators of this brutality on a small child who was working as a domestic helper.

He also directed to provide best medical facilities to the deceased boy's younger brother who also got a good thrashing by the house owners and sustained injuries. Hamza said it's a despicable act to take the life of a child on such a petty thing. He asked the IG to fulfill all requirements of justice while condoling with the bereaved family on their irreparable loss. He assured them provision of justice.

According to police, 11-year-old Kamran and his seven-year-old brother Rizwan, residents of Bahawalpur, used to work as domestic helpers in a house situated in Defence Phase III. On the day of incidence, hungry Kamran tried to take something to eat from the fridge of his owners. But seeing him taking something from fridge and munching it, his owners got infuriated and started beating him up cruelly. The poor, delicate child could not take the severe beating anymore and died.

The house owners not only subjected Kamran to torture, they also beat his younger brother Rizwan who received serious injuries, too. To hide their crime, the house owners left the two boys in a hospital and went away. A police spokesperson said that police had arrested three accused including Nasrullah, Mehmoodul Hasan and Shazia Bibi. —DNA

Livestock Policy to boost Halal meat export: Jawad

LAHORE: Pakistan Businesses Forum (PBF) Vice President Ahmad Jawad said on Tuesday that National Livestock Policy being prepared by the Ministry of National Food Security & Research would help support and boost Halal meat export from Pakistan.

Talking to the media, he said that first-ever livestock policy would also increase export of milk, butter and other related products, adding that annual export of these products was over Rs 53 billion. Since Pakistan has great potential of increasing export of livestock in next ten years, the livestock policy would ensure food security, poverty alleviation, increase in incomes of people belong to this sector, etc.

He said this Eid-ul-Azha, animal trade in Punjab recorded at around Rs 59.17 billion. Sixty percent of people were associated with agriculture that contribute 11.6 percent in economic development. The Livestock Department would have to flourish in consonance with agriculture sector so that National Livestock Policy could help increase the revenue generation, he argued. —APP



LODHAN: PTI Chairman Imran Khan sits at a public meeting with the Punjab by-elections.

Sino techs expected to raise Pakistan tomato production

BEIJING: "Compared with wheat, cotton, rapeseed or beans, tomatoes require more fertilizers. Nitrogen, phosphorus and potash fertilizer are all essential. Besides, zinc, boron and other micronutrients can make it grow better. This means that farmers have to spend more to grow it.

Dr Syed Ahmad, Principal Scientist of Vegetable Research Institute, Faisalabad in an exclusive interview with China Economic Net noted, however, in recent years, the price of tomatoes in Pakistan has fluctuated very frequently, which is beyond our control. If the price fluctuates too much, the low price will cause farmers to suffer great losses, which greatly affects their enthusiasm, and in turn leads to a subsequent drop in production.

Generally speaking, in Punjab, the largest tomato-producing region, April to May marks the start of the tomato high season. But this year, I am not sure about that. Dr Nadar K, Senior Scientific Officer at the National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC), indicated that in Pakistan, tomatoes have a total annual production of around 529,600 tonnes and an average yield of 9.2 tonnes per hectare. The downward trend in the prices of tomatoes, which are an indispensable part of most of dishes in the country, has been seen in Sindh province since early January.

Muzzamil Aslam, Spokesperson to Finance Minister, also noted on January that the price of tomato has fallen to Rs35 at retail in Karachi, the biggest consumer center of the country. So, what caused it? Reasons for the inequalities are complex. Although it is the farmers decision on what

and how much to plant, but at the government decision-making level, we lack an institution, or a system, to provide farmers with policy guidance on a macro level, so as to avoid blindly planting or abandoning a certain crop, which lead to yield fluctuation, Dr Ahmad emphasized. If farmers donate get good returns after a year of hard work, they would be disappointed and cut back on planting, and Pakistan has to import a lot of tomatoes, which are a must in most of the country's daily dishes.

In addition, the lack of advanced agricultural technology is also a key factor affecting the tomato production in Pakistan. Growing tomatoes on ordinary land is affordable for most farmers. But if you use hydroponics or soilless cultivation, it will add a lot of cost, Dr Ahmad told CEN. If a reasonably priced hydroponics or soilless culture technology can be introduced into Pakistan to guarantee the input-output ratio of farmers, he believes that this will be an excellent cooperation opportunity.

At present, there are 13 varieties of tomatoes planted in our industrial park, of which TOMIMARU and DRC564 have the highest yields, with the yield per square meter reaching 40 kg and 60 kg respectively. In addition, they have beautiful fruit shape, long storage life, and strong resistance to diseases and insect pests, Zhang Lin, the head of Shaanxi Yangling Aoda Modern Agricultural Technology Co., Ltd., mentioned while interviewing CEN, in order to promote the development of the park to a higher level, we will actively consider launching international cooperation plans such as talent export, technical cooperation

and exchanges with other countries especially countries along the Belt and Road.

According to Zhang, Pakistan is facing problems such as lagging agricultural modernization, low level of mechanization, and confusing use of fertilizers and pesticides, all of which China has also encountered before. Promotion of soilless cultivation, improvement of shed facilities, selection of excellent varieties and strengthening of water and fertilizer integration, each link of facility agriculture is closely related to the yield and quality.

Nowadays, our greenhouses are equipped with facilities such as sunshades, heat preservation curtains, heating pipes, high-pressure sprays, circulating fans, temperature and humidity sensors, and irrigation systems to jointly regulate the planting environment in the park. Zhang analyzed that Yangling is located in the arid and semi-arid areas of northwestern China, which also face water shortages like Pakistan. In response to this problem, the park adopts a combination of groundwater and tap water irrigation, collecting groundwater and also designing a 3,000-cubic-meter reservoir to collect rainwater and purify it as an irrigation reserve.

As for another major factor limiting tomato production in Pakistan, pests and diseases, Dr Ahmad also pointed out that late blight and tomato virus disease can cause severe reduction in production, while main pests such as cotton bollworm and leaf miner can cause great harm to leaves, flowers and fruits in the growing period. In this regard, Zhang introduced a combination of physical and chemical control measures. —APP

IMF conditions accepted, even then it is not happy: Sana

FAISALABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah has said we have accepted all harsh conditions of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and even then International Monetary Fund (IMF) is not agreeing.

"We have accepted all harsh conditions of International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Monetary Fund (IMF) should take the agreement to logic end immediately. We raised problems for our party by taking difficult decisions but we preferred state to politics. Had we not accepted International Monetary Fund (IMF) conditions then we would have gone default. If country is run on zero subsidy then the poor people will die. We hiked the price of petroleum products and took several difficult steps. Even then International Monetary Fund (IMF) is not agreeing", he said this in an exclusive

talks with this agency here Tuesday.

He went on to say an incompetent government remained in power in the last four years which kept on focusing on political victimization and crushing political rival instead of putting the country on path to development and prosperity.

Pakistan is passing through critical juncture of its history in terms of economic development, he said adding if Pakistan is weakened then it will entail disastrous consequences. How can Pakistan sign agreement of zero subsidy as we have to keep the plight of people in view, he remarked. Therefore, we did not go to election to save the country from becoming default.

We have provided proper treatment to Fitna Khan which wanted to ignite fire in Islamabad. The credit to prevent this fitna goes to all parties. We are taking tangible

measures to improve law and order situation in the country. The terror related incidents have been contained remarkably.

Tayyaba Gill and her husband stayed in PM house for one and half month, he said adding the rent of the house acquired for Tayyaba Gill was also paid by the government. PTI had made chairman NAB a toy and every case was got framed from chairman NAB through Tayyaba Gill.

Suo motu notice should have been taken of this case at that time. Imran Riaz has a specific narrative. Government is not petitioner in the cases registered against him. These cases have been registered by general public. No illegal treatment was meted out to him by the government.

To a question he said no journalist should become took in the hands of any political party, he added. —Online

I will raise voice for lowering POL prices, says Shah

SUKKUR: Minister for water resources Khurshid Shah has announced to raise voice for lowering the prices of petroleum products.

This country has come into being to exist. Certain elements had been talking of dismemberment of country earlier but country is existing and will exist for ever, he said this while addressing a press conference here in press club Tuesday. Those criticizing should not show so much haste. Let the two crops be reaped. If agriculture is made pivot then we will not need to go to IMF after 10 years.

We have water but we have not dams. This is water, dam and agriculture which will save Pakistan. Imram Khan enjoyed full support during his tenure of three and half years but he could do nothing. We prayed that Imran Khan could understand the difference between country and cricket ground.

He held that government was placing special focus on solar energy. If 10 million homes are shifted to solar energy, then the country will get rid of loadshedding. —Online

Rajapaksa hits airport standoff in escape attempt

The Business Report

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's embattled president was stuck in his own country late Tuesday in a humiliating standoff with airport immigration staff blocking his exit to safety abroad, official sources said.

Gotabaya Rajapaksa has promised to resign on Wednesday and clear the way for a "peaceful transition of power" following widespread protests against him over the country's unprecedented economic crisis.

The 73-year-old leader fled his official residence in Colombo just before tens of thousands of protesters overran it on Saturday and wanted to travel to Dubai, officials said.

As president, Rajapaksa enjoys immunity from arrest, and he is believed to want to go abroad before stepping down to avoid the possibility of being detained. But immigration officers were refusing to go to the VIP suite to stamp his passport, while he insisted he would not go through the public facilities fearing reprisals from other airport users.

The president and his wife spent the night at a military base next to the main international airport after missing four flights that could have taken them to the United Arab Emirates. Rajapaksa's youngest brother Basil, who resigned in April as finance minister, missed his own Emirates flight to Dubai early Tuesday after a similar standoff with the airport staff. Basil tried to use the paid concierge service for business travellers, but the airport and immigration staff said they were withdrawing from the fast track service with immediate effect.

"There were some other passengers who protested against Basil boarding their flight," an airport official told AFP. "It was a tense situation, so he hurriedly left the airport."

Basil, a US dual citizen, had to obtain a new passport after leaving his behind at the presidential palace when the Rajapaksas beat a hasty retreat to avoid mobs on Saturday, a diplomatic source said. Official sources said a suitcase full of documents had also been left behind at the stately mansion along with 17.85 million rupees in cash, now in the custody of a Colombo court. There was no official word from the president's office about his whereabouts. —Online

No differences in party, says Dar

LONDON: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader and former Finance Minister Ishaq Dar while refuting the reports of division in PML-N has said the party was will and is united under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif and Shahbaz Sharif.

He said while talking to a private TV channel here Tuesday. While hitting hard PTI former government, he said, the incompetent government of Imran Khan ruined the economy and plunged the country into strings of challenges. During Nawaz Sharif tenure the inflation stood at four percent, GDP six percent and interest rate 5.25 percent, he claimed. Imran Khan devastated the successes of Nawaz Sharif within 43 months. We will soon come out of hard times, he hoped. We had earlier extricated the country from mire of difficulties and put it on the road to development

Political parties asked to file assets' statement till Aug 29

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has asked the political parties to file their statement of accounts for financial year 2021-22 before August 29.

According to ECP spokesman, Political parties were required in terms of section 210 of the Elections Act, 2017 read with Section 204 of the Act ibid and rule 159 & 160 of the Election Rules, 2017, thereof, that they were required to file with ECP their statement of accounts for financial year, ended on June 30. It may be recalled that Section 210 of the Elections Act, 2017 provides that a political party shall, in such a manner as may be prescribed, submit to the Commission, within sixty days from the close of a financial year, a consolidated

statement of its accounts audited by a chartered accountant on Form-D containing: (a) Annual income and expenses; (b) Sources of its funds; and (c) Assets and liabilities.

The statement to be submitted to the ECP shall accompany the report of a chartered accountant with regard to the audit of accounts of a political party and a certificate signed by an office-bearer authorised by the party head stating that: (a) No funds from any source prohibited under the Elections Act, 2017 were received by the political party; and (b) The statement contains an accurate financial position of the political party. The statement of accounts is to be submitted on Form-D as provided in the Elections Act, 2017.

Printed Forms were available, free of cost, in the Election Commission Secretariat, Islamabad and in the offices of the provincial election commissioners, Punjab, Sindh, KP and Balochistan. Form-D/Proforma for source of funds were also available on ECP's Website. Overwriting should be avoided. The membership / certificate issued by ICAP in respect of Auditor engaged shall be annexed to the Form-D along with last valid renewal certificate.

The Form-D shall also accompany a legible copy of each of the bank statements for the period of 01.07.2021 to 30.06.2022 of the party, along with a bank reconciliation statement. The statement shall be addressed to the Secretary, Election Commission of Pakistan. —DNA



KARACHI: President Dr Arif Alvi being given Eid-ul-Azha greetings after offering Eid prayers at the Tooba Masjid.