

Harvey leaving trail of death and destruction

LAKE CHARLES, LA./HOUSTON, AUGUST 31 (REUTERS): Tropical Depression Harvey weakened as it moved inland over Louisiana on Thursday, leaving behind record flooding that drove tens of thousands from their homes in Texas, with the death toll rising as bodies were found in receding waters.

The storm that paralyzed Houston is predicted to be one of the most expensive natural disasters in U.S. history and presents the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump with massive humanitarian and rebuilding challenges.

The storm has killed at least 35 people and forced 32,000 people into shelters since coming ashore on Friday near Rockport, Texas, on the Gulf of Mexico Coast as the most powerful hurricane to hit the state in half a century.

The Houston Fire Department will begin a block-by-block effort on Thursday to rescue stranded survivors and recover bodies, Assistant Fire Chief Richard Mann told reporters.

On Thursday Harvey is forecast to move northeast through Louisiana into Mississippi, dumping 4 to 8 inches (10 to 20



Residents wade with their belongings through flood waters brought by Tropical Storm Harvey in Northwest Houston, Texas on August 30. (REUTERS Photo)

cm) of rain, the National Hurricane Center said. Flood watches and warnings extend from the Texas-Louisiana coast into Kentucky.

"Our whole city is underwater," said Port Arthur, Texas Mayor Derrick Foreman in a social media post where he also broadcast live video of floodwa-

ters filling his home in the city of 55,000 people, about 100 miles (160 km) east of Houston. Nearly 30 inches (75 cm) of rain hit the Port Arthur area, the National Weather Service said.

Clear skies in Houston on Wednesday brought relief to the energy hub and fourth-largest U.S. city after five days of cata-

strophic downpours. The first flight out of Houston since the storm hit boarded on Wednesday evening. Mayor Sylvester Turner said he hoped the port of Houston, one of the nation's busiest, would reopen soon.

The latest reported deaths on Wednesday included a married couple who drowned while

driving through high water near Simonton, Texas, Major Chad Norvell of the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office said on Twitter.

Houston's KHOU-TV said an infant girl was swept away after her parents got out of their pickup truck near New Waverly, Texas, and tried to carry her across rushing water.

Police in Harris County, home to Houston, said 17 people remained missing.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Another threat to the area was the possible explosion of a flood-hit chemical plant in Crosby, about 30 miles (50 kms) northeast of Houston.

Arkema SA, which ordered an evacuation on Tuesday of residents within a 1.5 mile radius of its plant, expects chemicals to catch fire or explode at the facility in the coming days because of lost power to its cooling systems, a company official said on Wednesday.

The floods shut the nation's largest oil refinery in Port Arthur in the latest hit to U.S. energy infrastructure that has sent gasoline prices climbing and disrupted global fuel supplies.

Moody's Analytics is estimating the economic cost from

Harvey for southeast Texas at \$51 billion to \$75 billion, ranking it among the costliest storms in U.S. history.

At least \$23 billion worth of property has been affected by flooding from Harvey just in parts of Texas' Harris and Galveston counties, a Reuters analysis of satellite imagery and property data showed.

"The worst is not yet over for southeast Texas, as far as the rain is concerned," Governor Greg Abbott said on Wednesday.

He warned residents of storm-hit areas to expect floodwaters to linger for up to a week and said the area affected was larger than that hit by 2005's Hurricane Katrina, which killed more than 1,800 people in New Orleans, and 2012's Superstorm Sandy, which killed 132 around New York and New Jersey.

Houston's metropolitan area, with an economy about as large as Argentina's, has a population of about 6.5 million, far greater than New Orleans' at the time of Katrina. Abbott asked that the federal government spend more on rebuilding Texas' Gulf Coast than it did after the earlier storms.

A day after visiting Texas to survey the damage, U.S. President Donald Trump pledged

on Wednesday to stand by the people of Texas and Louisiana.

The storm made it less likely Trump would act on his threat to shut the federal government over funding for a border wall with Mexico, Goldman Sachs economists said. They now estimate that probability at 35%, down from 50% previously.

Vice President Mike Pence and several Cabinet secretaries will travel to Texas on Thursday to meet residents affected by the storm as well as local and state officials, Pence's press secretary said.

An army of volunteers has turned out to help the thousands of police, National Guard personnel, Coast Guard flood teams and emergency crews to ferry thousands of people stranded in floodwaters to safety.

In Port Arthur, the city was in a precarious position with major highways in and out of the city cut off by floods. Rescue workers have come to the city and local residents have pitched in.

"We are country people. We are helping each other. We have neighbors coming to the aid of neighbors," Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Captain Crystal Holmes said in a telephone interview.

US acknowledges more troops in Afghanistan than previously stated

WASHINGTON, AUGUST 31 (REUTERS): About 11,000 U.S. troops are serving in Afghanistan, the Pentagon said on Wednesday, thousands more than it has previously stated.

The announcement by Pentagon officials at a news conference did not represent an increase in troops in Afghanistan and came after U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis expressed frustration with the method of counting U.S. troops in conflict zones.

The Pentagon said previously that there were roughly 8,400 U.S. troops in Afghanistan, under a cap set during President Barack Obama's administration.

While the Pentagon said the move was a step in increasing transparency, it did not provide counts of U.S. troops in Iraq and Syria.

"This is not an attempt to bring more forces in, but it is an attempt to actually clarify a very confusing set of reporting rules that has the unintended consequence of forcing commanders to make readiness trade-offs," said Lieutenant General Kenneth McKenzie, joint staff director.

"So what it does is, it actually lets the American people know what their sons and daughters are doing in Afghanistan," McKenzie said.

Previously disclosed troop numbers did not reflect the extent of the U.S. commitment on the ground since commanders sometimes brought in forces temporarily to get around the Obama-era limits.

Mattis has said that he would wait for a complete count of U.S. troops in Afghanistan before making a decision on how many additional troops to send, calling the accounting system strange. Mac Thornberry, the Republican chairman of the U.S. House Armed Services Committee, welcomed the change.

Benazir murder: Musharraf declared absconder, five let off

RAWALPINDI, AUGUST 31 (IANS): An anti-terrorism court here on Thursday declared former Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf an absconder in the assassination of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. Five others accused in the case were acquitted while two police officers were jailed for 17 years each.

Judge Asghar Khan announced the verdict at Rawalpindi's Adiyala Jail, a decade after a gun-and-bomb attack killed the charismatic Bhutto soon after her arrival in Pakistan to take part in elections. The judge ordered confiscation of Musharraf properties.

Perpetual arrest warrants were issued for the former military dictator, Dawn online reported.

Musharraf, who ousted then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in 1999, now lives in exile in Dubai. His administration was blamed for failing to provide security to Bhutto, who was the Pakistan Peoples Party chief and a two-time Prime Minister.

The five accused -- Rafiqat Hussain, Husnain Gul, Sher

Zaman, Aitzaz Shah and Abdul Rashid -- were cleared of all charges due to lack of evidence against them, said the court.

Two police officials -- former Rawalpindi Central Police Officer Saud Aziz and former Rawalpindi Town Superintendent Khurram Shahzad -- were jailed for 17 years each for negligence vis-a-vis Bhutto's security. They were arrested from the courtroom and were fined Rs 500,000 each.

The trial of the five began in February 2008. They were suspected of having links with Taliban militants.

In November 2008, a court indicted them for killing, hatching criminal conspiracy, abetting the perpetrators, using illegal explosive material and spreading terror on December 27, 2007 when Bhutto and 21 people were killed outside Rawalpindi's Liaquat Bagh when she was leaving after an election rally.

Two other suspects, Ibadur Rahman and Al Qaeda's No. 3 financial and operational chief Mustafa Abu Yazid alias Sheikh Saeed Al-Masri, were



Pakistan's former prime minister Benazir Bhutto waves to supporters on her way to Shahdada Kot, where she was going to submit her nomination papers for national assembly to the district session court judge, some 515 km (320 miles) north of Karachi November 26, 2007. (REUTERS File Photo)

believed to have been killed in US drone strikes in Pakistan, a media report said.

During the legal proceedings, seven challans were presented and eight judges and three courts were changed. At least 68 witnesses appeared on behalf of the prosecution.

The Pakistan government had blamed the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) for Bhutto's killing. The authorities had played an alleged video of then

Benazir's children call verdict 'disappointing, unacceptable'

ISLAMABAD, AUGUST 31 (IANS): Following the verdict in the 2007 Benazir Bhutto assassination case, the former Prime Minister's children expressed their displeasure with the judgement on Twitter. Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Twitter called the decision "disappointing and unacceptable", adding that the party would explore legal options.

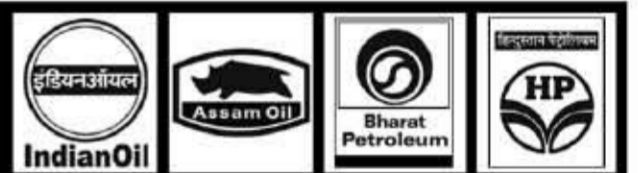
An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Rawalpindi declared former Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf an absconder in the assassination of Bhutto while acquitting all five Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan suspects. Two police officials were sentenced to 17 years each in prison.

Aseefa Bhutto-Zardari, the youngest of the siblings, said in a tweet that "they were still awaiting justice".

In another tweet, she said that there would be no justice until "Pervez Musharraf answers for his crimes".

Sharing her sister's sentiments, Bakhtawar Bhutto-Zardari also expressed displeasure with the verdict, saying: "Police men arrested but actual terrorists acquitted #Shame". Benazir Bhutto was killed in a gun-and-bomb attack on December 27, 2007 when Musharraf was President of the country.

NOTICE FOR APPOINTMENT OF LPG DISTRIBUTORS



INDIAN OIL CORPORATION LTD (IOCL), BHARAT PETROLEUM CORPORATION LTD (BPCL) and HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LTD (HPCL) proposes to appoint LPG distributors under various categories at locations specified below from amongst the candidates belonging to different categories mentioned therein in the State of Nagaland.

Sr. No.	Oil Co.	Location (along with details of Locality wherever applicable)	Block	District	Category**	Type of Market / LPG Distributorship - Rurban / Gramin / Durgam Kshetriya Vitrak	Security Deposit (Amount in Lakhs)	Marketing Plan
1	IOC	Tening	Tening	Peren	ST	DKV	2.0	2017-18
2	BPC	Nihokhu	Niland	Dimapur	ST	DKV	2.0	2017-18
3	IOC	Sitimi	Sitimi	Kiphire	ST	DKV	2.0	2017-18
4	HPC	Tamtu HQ	Tamtu	Longleng	ST(W)	DKV	2.0	2017-18
5	IOC	Kubolong	Kubolong	Mokokchung	Open	DKV	4.0	2017-18
6	HPC	Mangkolemba HQ	Mangkolemba	Mokokchung	ST	DKV	2.0	2017-18
7	IOC	Ongpangkong (N)	Ongpangkong (N)	Mokokchung	ST	DKV	2.0	2017-18
8	BPC	Ongpangkong (S)	Ongpangkong (S)	Mokokchung	ST(W)	DKV	2.0	2017-18
9	IOC	Polwa	Peren	Peren	ST	DKV	2.0	2017-18
10	BPC	Doyapur	Dhansiripar	Dimapur	Open(W)	DKV	4.0	2017-18
11	IOC	Kikurama	Kikurama	Phek	ST	DKV	2.0	2017-18
12	IOC	Meluri	Meluri	Phek	ST(W)	DKV	2.0	2017-18
13	IOC	Phor	Meluri	Phek	ST	DKV	2.0	2017-18
14	HPC	Seknazu	Seknazu	Phek	ST	DKV	2.0	2017-18
15	IOC	Chessore	Chessore	Tuensang	Open	DKV	4.0	2017-18
16	IOC	Longkhim	Longkhim	Tuensang	ST(W)	DKV	2.0	2017-18
17	IOC	Thonokmyu	Thonokmyu	Tuensang	ST	DKV	2.0	2017-18
18	BPC	Lotso Village	Sanis	Wokha	ST	DKV	2.0	2017-18
19	IOC	Pangli	Sanis	Wokha	ST(W)	DKV	2.0	2017-18
20	HPC	Ghathashi	Ghathashi	Zunheboto	Open	DKV	4.0	2017-18
21	IOC	Tokiye	Tokiye	Zunheboto	ST	DKV	2.0	2017-18
22	IOC	Angphang	Chen	Mon	ST	Gramin	2.0	2017-18
23	IOC	Phomching	Phomching	Mon	ST	Gramin	2.0	2017-18

** Nomenclature used is as under :-
Open - Open Category. **SC/ST** - Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe Category. **OBC** - Other Backward Classes Category. **SC/ST (GP)** - Government Personnel category consists of Defence Personnel, Central/State Government Employees and Central/State PSU employees, belonging to SC/ST Category. **OBC (GP)** - Government Personnel category consists of Defence Personnel, Central/State Government Employees and Central/State PSU employees, belonging to OBC Category. **Open (GP)** - Government Personnel category consists of Defence Personnel, Central/State Government Employees and Central/State PSU employees, belonging to Open category. **SC/ST (PH)** - Physically Handicapped Personnel category consists of Physically Challenged Personnel (Divyangjan) belonging to SC/ST category. **OBC (PH)** - Physically Handicapped Personnel category consists of Physically Challenged Personnel (Divyangjan) belonging to OBC category. **Open (PH)** - Physically Handicapped Personnel category consists of Physically Challenged Personnel (Divyangjan) belonging to Open category. **Open (CC)** - Combined Category consists of Outstanding Sports Persons (OSP) and Freedom Fighter (FF) belonging to Open category. **SC/ST (W)** - Women Category consists of Women belonging to SC/ST category. **OBC (W)** - Women Category consists of Women belonging to OBC category. **Open (W)** - Women Category consists of Women belonging to Open category.

1. Detailed guidelines on eligibility criteria for selection of LPG Distributor, infrastructure requirements for land for LPG godown/ LPG godown, land for Showroom / ready built showroom, infrastructure for Home delivery of cylinders etc. along with the details of selection process are given in the Brochure for Selection of LPG Distributors, which can be downloaded from any of the Oil Companies' websites - www.iocl.com, www.bharatgas.com, www.bharatpetroleum.in, www.hindustanpetroleum.com of IOCL, BPCL and HPCL. The Brochure can also be downloaded from the website - www.lpgvitrakchayan.in
 2. All persons fulfilling the eligibility criteria and desirous of applying for selection as Sheheri Vitrak, Rurban Vitrak, Gramin Vitrak or Durgam Kshetriya Vitrak (whichever is applicable) shall log on to the website www.lpgvitrakchayan.in and register themselves on the website.

Once registered, they shall login, fill in required details in all respects and submit the online application on or before 17:00 hrs of 06.10.2017. Before submission of application form, candidates will be required to upload scan copies of their passport size photograph and their signature in separate files, and also submit applicable non refundable application fee through internet banking / debit card / credit card facility available on the website www.lpgvitrakchayan.in. The non refundable application fee applicable for Sheheri Vitrak, Rurban Vitrak, Gramin Vitrak and Durgam Kshetriya Vitrak is given in the Table 1 and 2 below.

Table 1 - Non Refundable Application Fee for Sheheri Vitrak & Rurban Vitrak locations

Category	Non Refundable Application Fee
Open	Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees ten thousand only)**
OBC	Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees five thousand only)
SC/ST	Rs. 3,000/- (Rupees three thousand only)

** SC/ST candidates applying for Open category under Sheheri Vitrak & Rurban Vitrak locations mentioned in the advertisement / notification can submit non-refundable application fee of Rs. 3,000/- (Rupees three thousand only). However, candidates belonging to OBC category but applying for "Open" category locations shall submit Application fee applicable to "Open" candidates.

Table 2 - Non Refundable Application Fee for Gramin Vitrak locations & Durgam Kshetriya Vitrak locations

Category	Non Refundable Application Fee
Open	Rs. 8,000/- (Rupees eight thousand only)**
OBC	Rs. 4,000/- (Rupees four thousand only)
SC/ST	Rs. 2,500/- (Rupees two thousand five hundred only)

** SC/ST candidates applying for Open category Gramin Vitrak & Durgam Kshetriya Vitrak locations can submit non-refundable application fee of Rs. 2,500 (Rupees two thousand five hundred only). However, candidates belonging to OBC category but applying for "Open" category locations shall submit Application fee applicable to "Open" candidates.

- The candidates are requested to refer to the brochure for further details. Regarding the procedure for filling up application forms, candidates are requested to read carefully 'User manual for Applicants - LPG VITRAK CHAYAN' which is available at the portal www.lpgvitrakchayan.in, before filling up the online application form.
- After submission of the online application, no document or printout of the application form is required to be submitted in the physical form to any office, unless requested. Later, if the candidate is selected in the draw of lots, the selected candidate shall produce the prescribed eligibility certificate(s) as applicable at the time of verification. Applicants applying under Defence Personnel category shall submit the original eligibility certificate from Directorate General Resettlement (DGR) at the time of field verification of credentials. For details please refer to the Brochure.
- GENERAL**
 - Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., or Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. reserves the right to cancel/withdraw/amend this advertisement or extend the due date of submission of application forms at its sole discretion without assigning any reason.
 - While application by a candidate can be made for different locations, the same should be done by submitting separate online application forms for each location, along with applicable non refundable application fee in each case. Applicants can submit only one application for a location.
 - If any statement / declaration made in the application or in the documents subsequently submitted in pursuance of the application by the candidate is, at any stage, found to have been suppressed / misrepresented / incorrect or false affecting eligibility, then the application is liable to be rejected without assigning any reason and if in case the applicant has been appointed as a LPG Distributor, the Distributorship is liable to be terminated and the non refundable application fee / Security deposit amount paid to the concerned Oil Marketing Company will be forfeited. In such cases the candidate / distributor shall have no claim whatsoever against the respective Oil Marketing Company.
 - This is only an advertisement / notification for seeking application from the prospective candidates and is not an offer of LPG Distributorship.
 - All correspondence will be made by the portal www.lpgvitrakchayan.in through Email and / or SMS to the candidate's registered email ID or Registered phone number.
 - This is purely a business proposition and not an application for job in the respective Oil Company and has normal business risks and also does not guarantee any assured returns or profits.
 - If there is any discrepancy found in the Advertisement published in English, if any, vis-a-vis vernacular language, the directions/information indicated in the vernacular version would prevail.
 - In case of discrepancy in the details appearing on the website www.lpgvitrakchayan.in vis-a-vis this Advertisement / Notification, the details appearing in the published Advertisement / Notification would prevail.
 - Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., or Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. will not be responsible for any amount deducted from applicant's bank account/debit card account/ credit card account which has not been transferred or credited to the respective bank account of the concerned Oil Company.
 - Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., or Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. will not be responsible for refunding any excess amount paid online by the applicant, for an application, from his/her bank account/debit card account/ credit card account.