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Imran Khan reaffirms Pakistan-China bilateral cooperation of mutual interest



Peace restored in Balochistan after sacrifices of forces: CM Bizenjo

From Our Correspondent

NOSHKI Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo on Sunday said that peace was restored in the province after the sacrifices of security forces. CM Bizenjo, Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjani, and provincial ministers arrived in Noskhi to pay tribute to martyrs of Frontier Corps (FC) who repulsed terrorist attacks the other day.

"Now we can move freely in the province as a result of your bravery and sacrifices", the CM told the troops. He recalled that people could not move peacefully in the province in 2013. Credit goes to you for ensuring peace in Balochistan, he told the FC jawans.

CM's visit has come three days after terror attacks in Noskhi. CM's visit has come three days after the security forces repulsed a terrorist attack in Noskhi, Balochistan's Western city. At least 15 security personnel were martyred in Noskhi and Panjgur while fighting the terrorists. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement that security forces have also killed 20 terrorists and completed clearance operations in the two districts.


"I pay salute to the FC martyrs who sacrificed their lives for sustainable peace in Balochistan", CM Balochistan said. He said the people of Balochistan stand by security forces in their fight against the

terrorists playing with the lives of innocent people.

Balochistan witnessed a sharp rise in the number of terrorist attacks recently. The Federal Interior Ministry has also issued a threat alert across the country in the aftermath of the Noskhi and Panjgur terrorist attacks. The Ministry has directed the provincial governments and concerned law enforcement agencies to keep extra vigilance in the wake of the terrorism threats in the country.

Strict security arrangements were made on the eve of the visit of Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo.

Over 70% people of Naseerabad Balochistan living below poverty line: Bilawal




Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjani and Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo visit FC camp in Nauskhi, Balochistan.

Security forces foil nefarious designs of enemy: Governor Balochistan

Staff Reporter

QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Syed Zahoor Ahmad Agha has said that security forces have foiled the nefarious designs of enemies in the province. "Our forces enticed martyrs in Noskhi and Panjgur and foiled the enemy's designs", Mr. Agha told Quetta Voice on Sunday evening.

Syed Zahoor Agha said frontier corps (FC) and other law enforcement agencies personal bravely repulsed terrorist attacks in Balochistan's Noskhi and Panjgur districts. Governor's statement has come a day after the mil-



itary's media wing said the clearance operation was completed and 20 terrorists have been killed. "Wishes of Balochistan stand by the security forces in their fight against the terrorists", the Governor said. He said the present

standard of the masses, the Governor mentioned.

Syed Zahoor Agha said it was the responsibility of every citizen to play his or her role in the prosperity and development of the country and nation. "We have to speak against the terrorists playing with the lives of innocent people", he added. Governor Balochistan said that Prime Minister Imran Khan has threatened all federal departments and the provincial government to make sure to address the grievances of the masses. He said for the first time in the history of the country, massive development projects worth billions of rupees were launched to create job opportunities and improve the living

Imran Khan reaffirms Pakistan-China bilateral cooperation of mutual interest

Beijing: Prime Minister Imran Khan met President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of People in Beijing on Sunday.

The two leaders reviewed the entire gamut of Pakistan-China bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, in a warm and cordial atmosphere.

The Prime Minister also reaffirmed Pakistan's full support to China on all issues of its core interest. This was the first meeting of the two leaders since the Prime Minister's visit to China in October 2019.

PM Imran congratulated the leadership and people of China on successful hosting of the 24th Olympic Winter Games in Beijing and extended his best wishes on the Chinese Lunar New Year.

Imran Khan underscored that China was Pakistan's steadfast partner, staunch supporter and Iron Brother. The All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Pakistan and China had withstood the tests of time and the two nations firmly stood side by side in realizing their visions and shared aspirations of peace, stability, development and prosperity. He briefed President Xi on people-centered go-economics vision and his Government's policies for Pakistan's sustained growth, industrial development, agricultural modernization, and regional connectivity. Imran lauded China's continued support and assistance to Pakistan's socio-economic development which had greatly benefited from the high quality development of CPEC. INP

CM announces Qaid e Azam Cadet College for Ziarat

Education Desk



Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo has announced the establishment of Qaid e Azam Cadet College in Ziarat. The CM has decided to establish the Cadet College and instructed the Chief Secretary for implementation of the decision, an official handout issued on Saturday said.

Mr. Bizenjo has also approved the establishment of Ziarat Municipal Corporation. He has directed the administration to make sure the yearly Ziarat festival attracts tourists and boost trade activities in the exurban's tourist points. Founding father of the nation Qaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had spent the last days of his life in the valley, which houses the world's second-largest juniper forest. 1 thousand tourists from the country and abroad visit Ziarat to witness the historic Qaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah Residency.

Ch. Sarwar, Governor of Uzbek province discuss issues of mutual interests

Both sides agree to formulate strategy to enhance political, diplomatic ties, economic cooperation

LAHORE: Governor of Punjab Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar held a meeting with Governor of Namangan Province of Uzbekistan Shaukat Abdul Razaq on Sunday and discussed issues of mutual interest.

Both agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations and to formulate a strategy for the exchange of business community delegations of Namangan and Punjab for promotion of investment. Decision was taken to take steps to enhance political and diplomatic ties, trade and economic cooperation.

Governor Punjab also invited the Uzbek business community to invest in Pakistan. During his visit to Uskalski Free Industrial Zone accompanied by a delegation, Chaudhry Sarwar also reviewed the under construction project of "Namangan New City". Deputy Governor of Namangan Province and others were also present on the occasion who briefed the Governor of Punjab in detail about the project.

He also visited various factories along with the delegation of Pakistani business community and called upon the business community of both the countries to work together. Punjab Governor during a meeting with Governor of Namangan Province of Uzbekistan Shaukat Abdul Razaq said that Pakistan and Uzbekistan are getting closer with each passing day and relations between the two countries are getting stronger.

He said mutual cooperation in the fields of education, culture

Nation to never allow terrorist to destabilize country: Chairman Senate

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjani while strongly condemning the recent terrorist attacks on security forces in Noskhi and Panjgur has reiterated the nation's resolve to never allow terrorists to destabilize the country.

He was speaking on the occasion of his visit to Noskhi, Balochistan along with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Qudus Bizenjo on Sunday.

Muhammad Sadiq Sanjani said, "Terrorists will not be allowed to succeed in their nefarious designs. We will not rest until the complete elimination of terrorism from the country."

He paid tribute to the brave soldiers of armed forces and law enforcement agencies of Pakistan who sacrificed their lives for the defense of the motherland. He said that the sacrifices of these martyrs will not go in vain.

The Chairman Senate said that Balochistan has been facing terrorism for a long time due to which the development process of Balochistan is being hampered and these cowardly acts are being perpetrated to prevent Balochistan from prospering. "No one will be allowed to hamper the prosperity and development of Balochistan any further," he added.

He said the results of the successful security operations of the Armed Forces to eradicate terrorism are coming to light.

Sanjani said that the people of Balochistan have so far shown extraordinary bravery and resilience and the people leaders of Pakistan stand shoulder to shoulder with the security forces and institutions of the country till the complete eradication of terrorism.

Chairman Senate said that instaling the dream of a peaceful, prosperous and developed Balochistan will soon become a reality. INP

Rasheed called opposition 'inefficient' to overthrow the govt

Islamabad: Federal Minister for Interior Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed on Sunday said that opposition has no capability to bring down the Government.

Sheikh Rasheed while addressing a press conference said if combined opposition wants to come together they can, we are not afraid.

Interior Minister said PML-N's Naza Lower and PPP's Tejozi heights have been demolished.

The minister said that Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and PML-N ignored the Maulana Fazlur Rehman. Rasheed told reporters that yesterday was a solidarity day with oppressed Kashmiris. Opposition turned solidarity day into disharmony, he added.

"Security forces stopped



terrorist attacks in Balochistan after fighting for 72 hours and killed 20 terrorists. 9 Army personnel martyred while fighting for the country," he maintained.

Interior Minister mentioned that Pakistan has and will have relationships with Afghan Taliban. We wish that a peace order must be retained in Afghanistan. ONLINE

PM made timely, extraordinary decisions to stabilize country's economy: Shafqat

Islamabad: Federal Minister for Education, Shafiqat Mehmood has said that Prime Minister Imran Khan made timely and extraordinary decisions to stabilize the economy of the country and Pakistan is moving in the right direction.

Addressing a public gathering in Kamoke on Sunday, he said it has been proved once again that PPP and PML-N are two sides of the same coin and both will unite for their own interests. Addressing a public gathering in Kamoke on Sunday, he said it has been proved once again that PPP and PML-N are two sides of the same coin and both will unite for their own interests.

He said PTI government set priorities to improve the lives of people and health card scheme is a revolutionary step in this regard. ONLINE

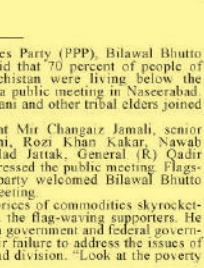
Over 70% people of Naseerabad Balochistan living below poverty line: Bilawal

Aziz Marri

Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari here on Sunday said that 70 percent of people of Naseerabad division Balochistan were living below the poverty line. He addressed a public meeting in Naseerabad. Sardar Ghulam Rasool Umrani and other tribal elders joined the PPP.

PPP Balochistan President Mir Changaiz Jamal, senior leaders Mir Sadiq Umrani, Rozi Khan Kakar, Nawab Sanaulah Zehri, Ali Madad Jattak, General (R) Qadir Baloch, and others also addressed the public meeting. Flagg-waving supporters of the party welcomed Bilawal Bhutto Zardari during the public meeting.

"Inflation increased and prices of commodities skyrocketed", the Chairman PPP told the flag-waving supporters. He lashed out at the Balochistan government and federal government for what he called their failure to address the issues of the masses of the Naseerabad division. "Look at the poverty



and unemployment, this government has failed to address these issues", Bilawal Bhutto Zardari stated.

"We will march against the oppressive and incompetent government on February 27th", BIZ.

"We will march against the oppressive, incompetent, and illegitimate ruling government on February 27 from Karachi to Islamabad," he said. The PPP chief asked residents of Balochistan to elect the PPP once again to change the fate of the country. He said the solution to the nation's problems lay in democracy and democratic struggle.

"We do not believe in the power of weapons. We believe in the power of the vote. The center would become strong when provinces will get their rights," he said. He said the people of Balochistan were brave and patriotic and he considered them his brothers.

The PPP leaders lashed out at present provincial and federal governments for the law and order situation and inflation in the country and vowed to counter all anti-masses policies. Strict security measures were adopted by the administration on the eve of the public meeting of the PPP.

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QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Future of 600 medical students of Balochistan at stake

Pakistan Medical Commission's (PMC) decision to withdraw concession granted for regularization of students studying prior to the college recognition has put the future of around 600 students at stake.

Teaching faculty members enjoyed all perks and privileges and failed to protect the future of students. Students from across the province have been studying in the three medical colleges i.e. Loralai, Khuzdar, and Turbat for the last three to four years.

Students' job was to pass the test conducted for admissions. It was the responsibility of the health department and faculty members to put things in order. The PMC asked the students to appear in a test for regularization. The students refused to appear in the test and launched a protest movement against the PMC.

This also reflects the standard and quality of education in Balochistan. Irregularities in the Balochistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) is an open secret. Nevertheless, the system is mired about the BISE scandal.

Health Minister Balochistan writes a letter to the President. The PMC decision has also prompted the Balochistan health minister, Syed Ehsan Shah to write a letter to the President of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi to intervene and protect the future of students of the province. After the 18th amendment, the province has more constitutional powers. Although, the political leadership has failed to exercise the constitutional powers after the 18th amendment.

The PMC is a regulatory body. It must review its decision and avoid ruining the academic future of medical students of Balochistan. This province and its people have already suffered a lot. It needs a healing touch rather than complicating the issues.

Sanitation System in Quetta

Quetta is the capital city of Balochistan, the largest province of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. It is located at an altitude of 1,680 m between the strategically important Bolan and Khyber passes on the border with Afghanistan. The town and suburbs have grown tremendously in the last 20 years, and hold now an estimated population of 1.2 million. Inadequate waste-water and solid waste disposal, storm water drainage and flood control seriously affect the existing water resources as well as the urban environment. Sanitation refers to public health conditions related to clean drinking water and disposal of human excreta and sewage. Preventing human contact with feces is part of sanitation, as is hand washing with soap. Sanitation systems aim to protect human health by providing a clean environment that supports the transmission of disease, especially through the fecal-oral route. For example, diarrhea, a main cause of death in children, has stunted growth in children, can be reduced through adequate sanitation. The unpleasant smell of the sewage water dismayed over prevailing unhygienic sanitary conditions in Quetta. The garbage dumped into the drains daily has fully choked the already ineffective sewerage system. The provincial capital of Balochistan generates over 700 tons of solid waste every day, but the administration is only capable of disposing of around 300 tons of it. The rest of the sewage meanders in the area, while some of it is used to grow

Not more weaponry

Global crises abound - escalating war in Yemen, potential famine in the Horn of Africa, rising tensions on the Korean Peninsula, and uncertain prospects for a US return to the Iran anti-nuclear deal. All of these challenges require skillful diplomacy, and that urgently applies to the situation in Ukraine. As President Joe Biden has ordered \$500 million in the region to be on high alert, Congress may rush through, as soon as next week, a massive defense package including a \$600 million grant for new weapons for Ukraine, which would make it the third-largest recipient of military aid. Congress is planning on rushing this bill through without committee markup and it could be voted on soon. Throwing a half-billion dollars in military aid to Ukraine will not resolve the conflict, if the country, it could escalate it. As one congressional aide put it, "This is how the space for nonmilitary options gets slowly closed off in Washington." The bill also piles sanctions on Russia without fully

Change in politics

Pakistan-origin academics based abroad have carefully studied the workings of the political parties here. However, work on the political parties and the consolidation of democracy has largely been done in Pakistan itself, especially in the years 1998, 2008, 2012, and 2013. Later, it stopped all of a sudden. Have the political parties become stronger or weaker over time? How has the relationship of the political parties with extra-parliamentary forces evolved over the years? Haris Gazdar (EPW, February 2008), Saeed Shafiq (The Pakistan Development Review, Winter 1998), Kaiser Bengali and Haris Gazdar (Pakistan Horizon, July 2013), and Mohammad Wasem (EPW, July 2012) have produced enough literature on the consolidation of democracy and its relationship with the state. There are at least two visible contradictory trends in domestically produced literature on political parties: one suggests that political parties have not significantly strengthened democracy, but the other's complimentary literature on political parties have achieved so far in promoting democracy. Saeed Shafiq is of

Animal cruelty in Pakistan

The indifference, callousness, and cruelty that attempt that so many people exhibit in first because it results in great suffering in animals, and second because it results in an immeasurably great improvement of the human spirit. I did not mean these words. Albert Einstein did. Islam also forbids treating animals in a cruel way. There are many laws that exist in our country that are not adequately implemented. Pakistan's Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (1890) aims to protect many animals, including draught animals. This law is however outdated and does not reflect the prevalent scientific, cultural, and commercial compulsions pertaining to animal welfare. It is time to update this law to protect both pet and wild animals, to initiate mandatory spaying, care, and define consequences for those who are neglectful towards animals. It is encouraging that the Halaq Authority Act (2012) has not only mandated humane treatment of animals throughout the slaughter process, but also prohibited animals from seeing one another being slaughtered. However, there has been little implementation of this law. While animal abandonment is illegal in Pakistan, there is scant regulation on who the owners should care for their animals. Moreover, zoonotic diseases are notorious for their poor conditions. Prompted by international criticism over the Islamabad zoo's mistreatment of the elephant, Kaavan, the Islamabad High Court issued an unprecedented ruling last year. It ordered the government to transfer four hundred animals to be closed and all the animals within it to be transferred to a proper and wildlife sanctuaries in the short period of two months. The rush to empty the zoo caused the death of a pair of lions, which passed away over days apart, during their transfer from the zoo to a farmhouse in Kazar city. Several animals as well had been directly by the court.

Lead air pollution in Quetta valley

Quetta is becoming one of the top-most lead polluted city in the world. Lead is a useful element due to its melting point, softness, high density, malleability, capability to form alloys with other metals and resistance to corrosion. Due to the bright colors it is used in the paints, make-ups, hair dyes and eye shadows. Lead is also used in petrol extracts. Lead is used for covering of electrical cables, shield ionizing radiation, in sound proofing and soldering. The major use of lead is in the batteries. Therefore the extensive use of lead make lead a strategic and critical element on earth. Lead is added to petrol as the organic liquids tetra ethyl lead and tetra methyl lead. About 75% of the lead is discharged from the exhaust pipe of vehicles. Recent researches indicate that a vehicular exhaust is one of the major or primary source of lead pollution in urban cities. Quetta is the provincial capital of Balochistan with a vehicular density more than 100000 and is increasing at a rate of 12% per year. Measurement in Quetta city shows that organic lead vapors accounts for 80.9% of total lead. The concentration is found higher near filling stations, road crossing, congested and traffic jam places and busy streets/road. The vehicular lead is one of the major sources of lead [Pb] contributor in Ambient Air in Quetta city, which are produced from motorcycles, Auto rickshaws, cars, buses, trucks, tractors etc. Smoke particles were attained by bladder method from whose various types of vehicles. The percentage ratio of lead in ambient air from vehicles is 80.09% and other sources add only 19.91%. The popular mode

Animal cruelty in Pakistan

of transport is two stroke engine/motorcycles and Rickshaws and dependence on private cars. Taxation through by buses or public transport especially is very low. A slow and irresponsible driving habit of the Quetta's population is also one of the main causes that burns more fuel and in return high emission of lead from vehicles. In Quetta majority of the automobiles are more than five to six years old because government of Pakistan gave subsidies tax rate to permit import of reconditioned automobiles more than five-year-old. In addition to this, different kinds of second hand engines are smuggled from different part of the world. The lead effects most likely to be encountered in current populations are neurological effects in children. Infants are very sensitive to

Lead air pollution in Quetta valley

major or primary source of lead pollution in urban cities. Quetta is the provincial capital of Balochistan with a vehicular density more than 100000 and is increasing at a rate of 12% per year. Measurement in Quetta city shows that organic lead vapors accounts for 80.9% of total lead. The concentration is found higher near filling stations, road crossing, congested and traffic jam places and busy streets/road. The vehicular lead is one of the major sources of lead [Pb] contributor in Ambient Air in Quetta city, which are produced from motorcycles, Auto rickshaws, cars, buses, trucks, tractors etc. Smoke particles were attained by bladder method from whose various types of vehicles. The percentage ratio of lead in ambient air from vehicles is 80.09% and other sources add only 19.91%. The popular mode

Sindh to launch road checking drive against tax defaulting vehicles today

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Excise & Taxation and Narcotics Control Department Mukesh Kumar Chawla has said on Sunday that a road checking campaign will be launched from February 7 (today) to collect taxes from tax defaulting vehicle owners.

Blockchain technology comes under spotlight in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Blockchain technology has come under spotlight in Pakistan, WealthPK reported on Sunday.

owners at 27 spots of Karachi from tomorrow. The drive is being launched to collect tax from the defaulting vehicle owners. The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Mukesh Kumar Chawla, Secretary Excise & Taxation and Narcotics Control Department Aif Rehman, Director General's Iqbal Ahmad Leghari, Aurangzeb Panhwar earlier this week. The meeting decided to take action against the owners of tax defaulting vehicles. It was informed that action would be taken against the owners of open letter, unregistered and tax defaulting vehicles during the road checking campaign.

Dr Faisal Sultan reasons it to increased vaccination

ISLAMABAD: After more than a month of recording historic-high cases, Pakistan is finally seeing a decline in the trend of coronavirus infections. On Sunday, the national positivity rate fell to 8.7%.



QUETTA: ACTIVISTS OF NOJAWAN ACTION COMMITTEE HOLD PROTEST IN FAVOR OF THEIR DEMANDS OUTSIDE OPC

Dr Faisal Sultan reasons it to increased vaccination

Dr Sultan gave the following reasons for the decline in cases: Every pandemic has a natural cyclical decline after some time. Ban on indoor weddings. Stricter testing at educational institutions. Curb in other sectors. During the current wave of the virus, Karachi emerged to be the hub of cases. At one point in time, the city's positivity rate crossed 40%. As of now, 10 cities, Karachi, Hyderabad, Peshawar, Swabi, Muzaffargarh and Mirpur, have reported over 10% Covid-19 positivity. Last week, the Drug Regulatory Authority (DRA) approved the sale of Covid-19 testing kits for the general public. The move aimed at reducing the spread of the virus.

Z-Park-STZA agreement to develop modern tech ecosystems in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister Imran Khan led delegation visit to China has provided an opportunity for Pakistan to enhance and undertake the development of a modern tech ecosystem across the country.

Rain-wind thunderstorm with snow over hills expected in KP, ICT, northeast Punjab, Kashmir, GB

Islamabad: Rain-wind-thunderstorm with snow over hills is expected in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, northeast Punjab, Islamabad, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan during the next twelve hours.

IIP continues enforcement campaign to control lane violation

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) campaign launched to check lane violation is in full swing and issued 7666 fines to drivers during last one month and also road users are being educated to follow traffic rules and minimize the accident rate.



RAWALPINDI: People are busy in buying old books at Sadar area in the City.

Techno-CMC-ACC consortium declared lowest bidder for CPEC M-6 motorway

ISLAMABAD: The National Highway Authority (NHA) declared a consortium of two local and one Italian firm as the 'most advantageous' bidder for the construction of Hyderabad-Sukkur Motorway (M-6), Gwadar-Pro reported on Sunday.



ISLAMABAD: Researchers have proposed a series of behavioral strategies that, they believe, would encourage people to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

Immune cells in the brain may help prevent seizures

ISLAMABAD: Research in mice reveals that immune cells in the brain constantly survey their neighborhood for overexcited nerve cells. The findings could shed light on neurological conditions in which nerves are hyperexcitable, such as epilepsy and Alzheimer's disease.

Researchers propose 5 strategies to encourage COVID-19 immunization

ISLAMABAD: Researchers have proposed a series of behavioral strategies that, they believe, would encourage people to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

Unregulated trucking business needs govt attention: Experts

ISLAMABAD: Unregulated trucking business in Pakistan needs govt attention, reports WealthPK quoting Economic experts on Sunday.

Govt to use all resource for providing basic life amenities in residential colonies: AJK PM

MUZAFFARABAD: The Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Sardar Abdul Qayyum Nizami has assured that the government will use all its resources to provide basic amenities in the residential colonies as well as the provision of housing facilities to the refugees residing in Pakistan.

Govt to use all resource for providing basic life amenities in residential colonies: AJK PM

He said the Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan is well aware of the problems of Kashmiri refugees and is taking practical steps to solve their problems.

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FAISALABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political Communication, Dr. Shahbaz Gill talking to the media persons.

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ISLAMABAD: A Youngster carrying tree branches on his head collected from the nearby jungle for domestic use, on the way to their destination in the federal capital.

Govt to use all resource for providing basic life amenities in residential colonies: AJK PM

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Coal mine explosion kills 5 miners and 5 rescued in Sara Ghurgai Quetta

Syed Ali Shah

A coal mine explosion has killed 5 coal miners and 5 were rescued in the Sara Ghurgai area of Quetta in the wee hours of Saturday. The miners were working deep inside the mine when there was a huge blast. All 10 coal miners were trapped to recover the miners.

Rescue workers shifted five coal miners to the Trauma Center of civil

hospital Quetta for medical treatment. "These coal miners are in critical condition and two are stable", Waseem Bang, the Spokesman of the hospital Quetta said. Methane gas filled in the mine first caused a powerful blast, as the initial investigation suggested.

The incident happened late at night. The incident happened late at night and there was no proper rescue operation to rescue the trapped miners.



Very late the rescue teams came, Muhammad Ibram, a coal miner told Quetta Voice via phone. He said had three

group reached the affected mine and searched the trapped miners. The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) rescue team was able to rescue the trapped miners.

As per the Balochistan Mines Act 1973 coal miners cannot enter mines after sunset. However, rescue teams have been violating the act, which always results in the loss of human lives. "These are killer mines", Peer Muhammad Kakar, the

central leader of mines workers association said. Poor or no safety conditions have claimed thousands of precious human lives in a decade in Balochistan. Such incidents are the order of the day in Balochistan. Mach, Bolan and other parts of Balochistan which has rich coal reservoirs.

"We demand a judicial inquiry into this incident", Peer Muhammad Kakar stated.

Hussain Zarkoon

Armed men opened fire on a vehicle and killed two people in Balochistan's Duki district on Saturday evening. Police sources said armed men opened fire and killed two people sitting inside the vehicle on the spot. The victims were employees of the Ghazi Khan Nagar Transport Company. The



assaults escaped unharmed from the spot. Levies present reached the spot as an investigation into the incident went underway. The reason behind the incident could not be immediately ascertained.



Noshki, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudous Bizenjo shakes hands with soldiers on the occasion of his visit to FC Camp Noshki.

Pakistan, China vow to work for regional stability

Islamabad. Pakistan and China have underscored the importance of working together to promote regional peace, stability and development in Afghanistan and regional connectivity.

The resolve was expressed during wide-ranging talks between Prime Minister Imran Khan and his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang in Beijing.

The two leaders reviewed entire gamut of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, and discussed regional and international issues.

Both sides reaffirmed commitment to advance multifaceted strategic cooperative ties and building Pakistan-China community of shared future in the new era.

Highlighting the grave situation prevailing in Indian illegally Occupied Kashmir, the Prime Minister called for urgent action by international community to alleviate sufferings of the Kashmiri people.

Talking about CPEC, the Prime Minister appreciated the transformational impact of project on Pakistan's infrastructure, energy, socio-economic development and improvement in livelihoods of the people.

He underlined that Pakistan is committed to high quality development of CPEC through its mutually reinforcing industrial, trade, health, digital and green corridors.

The Prime Minister also briefed his counterpart on the measures taken by Pakistani government to provide policy guidance and support for enhanced cooperation in energy, socio-economic Zones and Special Technology Zones under the CPEC, and for safety and security of CPEC, and for safety and security of Chinese

nations, projects and institutions in Pakistan. Congratulating the Chinese counterpart over organizing Beijing Winter Olympics, the Prime Minister said that bilateral strategic ties served fundamental interests of the two countries and are conducive to peace and stability in the region.

Imran Khan said that successful celebrations of the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1951 injected a new impetus to bilateral friendship.

He also thanked the Chinese government for supporting Pakistan in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and timely supply of vaccines highlighting the grave situation prevailing in Indian illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The Prime Minister called for urgent action by international community to alleviate sufferings of the Kashmiri people.

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37 injured as bus falls into ravine near Karachi

ISLAMABAD: As many as 37 people were injured when a bus carrying Hindu devotees from Balochistan's Karachi fell into a ravine near Hub Gaddani Meri late Saturday night.

Rescue officials said all the injured, including women and children who belonged to Karachi, were initially taken to the Civil Hospital, Hub Gaddani. Later, 13 of them had to be shifted to Karachi's Civil Hospital for further treatment, they added. INP

Muzaffarabad reports maximum Covid positivity ratio of 27.33 pct

ISLAMABAD: Muzaffarabad remains on top in Pakistan, with 4.17 in Diامر, according to a survey. COVID-19 positivity ratio of 27.33 percent recorded during the last 24 hours.

The COVID positivity ratio in Hyderabad stood at 20.78 percent and 14 Mirpur Azad Kashmir 20 percent.

According to data shared by sources in the national health ministry, Manan reported 18.75 pct and Abbottabad 19.92 percent test positivity ratio.

According to CCTV footage, Lahore's positivity ratio of 12.02 pct, while Lahore's positivity rate was 10.75 percent in last 24 hours. Islamabad reported 8.59 pct, Sargodha 8.61 pct ratio of COVID positive cases, Rawalpindi 8.03 per cent, Lahore, 10.99 per cent and Quetta registered 10.99 per cent COVID-19 positivity ratio, sources said.

The test positivity ratio in Gilgit was recorded 4.72, while 4.17 in Diامر, Lahore 4.13 pct, while no Covid case reported at Skardu in GH region in last 24 hours. Islamabad reported 4.36 pct and Multan 3.18 per cent, positive cases.

In Bannu, test positivity ratio remained 0 percent, in Swabi 4.13 pct, while no Covid case reported at Skardu in GH region in last 24 hours. Islamabad reported 8.59 pct, Sargodha 8.61 pct ratio of COVID positive cases, Rawalpindi 8.03 per cent, Lahore, 10.99 per cent and Quetta registered 10.99 per cent COVID-19 positivity ratio, sources said.

1.26kg of ice heroin seized at Peshawar Airport

PESHAWAR: Finding a smuggling bid, the Airport Security Agency recovered 1.26 kilograms of ice heroin from a Bahrain-bound passenger at Peshawar's Datta Khan International Airport on Sunday.

Spokesman for the ASF said that when the Force's personnel searched Sultan Hussain bin Abdul Aziz bin Abdul Aziz that he had very smartly concealed ice heroin in it.

He further said that after initial interrogation, the man was handed over to the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) along with the narcotics recovered from him for further legal action. INP

Four die, two injured as car rams into petrol pump in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Four people died and two others sustained critical injuries as a speeding car slammed into a petrol pump in Islamabad.

The deadly road crash occurred at the petrol pump of the Dhara Kabu, where a driver of a vehicle lost its control and rams into a petrol pump.

As a result four people namely Farhan, Fahad, Hamza and others, whose identity remains unidentified, lost their lives, while two others sustained wounds. The injured and bodies were moved to a nearby private hospital.

In a separate incident, earlier this week, a speeding car rams into a petrol pump located in Karachi's Defence Housing Authority (DHA).

In a video, a vehicle can be seen stuck into the petrol pump, which is a place in the port city's posh area.

Soon after the incident, the driver of the vehicle was charged by the home-grown vigilantes, who identify themselves as 'Baiters'. According to the people, the car was being driven by a drunk, who was said to be driving along with his driver that rams into the house. INP

Dense fog in Lahore grounds flights, motorways closed

LAHORE: More than 15 national and international flights from Lahore's Allama Iqbal Airport were delayed Sunday morning after dense fog made a comeback.

People in the city woke up to a hazy day after visibility dropped to less than 100 meters. Some residents of rural Punjab said the fog was so bad, it was hardly possible to look at someone standing at a distance of two feet.

According to the airport spokesperson, the schedule of flights was affected the most. An Oman flight headed to Lahore was rerouted to land in Multan. Airlines coming from the Shaikh airport were, on the other hand, diverted to Islamabad.

Officials have advised people to leave for the airport after checking the flight schedule online.

Meanwhile, several motorways leading in and out of Punjab were reopened for traffic for Sunday afternoon after the fog cleared. They were closed each morning.

The motorway police said that visibility on the National Highway significantly dropped. Residents have been advised to refrain from unnecessary travel and use fog lights. INP

Dacoits loot Rs7 million from Karachi factory

KARACHI: Unidentified robbers have looted Rs7 million from a factory in Korangi neighbourhood of Karachi, in what was termed as the second biggest robbery during the ongoing year.

According to CCTV footage, three armed men could be seen approaching the guards outside the factory and making them hostage to enter the premises.

The suspects later tortured the medical staff at the factory, before the police shared that the robbers broke into the accounts branch and took away with Rs7 million cash present in the lockers.

A police team has been dispatched to the factory which will assess the entire situation and collect evidence besides interrogating the staff at the factory, they said.

Incidents of street crime and dacoity have witnessed a surge in the city and according to a report, five people lost their lives and 29 others were injured resisting robbery bids in Karachi during the first 12 days of January.

According to the report, apart from five killings, 29 others were also injured during the resisting robberies and they were given medical aid in different hospitals.

A total of over Rs 32.5 million were looted in the first 12 days, the first major robbery of the year took place in Karachi's CHPO, where armed robbers killed a woman and looted a robbery of Rs7.5 million.

Four accused looted Rs4.8 million from the mobile communication office located at the city's Saddar mobile market. More than five tons of gold were looted in different incidents.

During the robbery, 11 expensive watches and laptops were looted and dozens of mobile phones were snatched from the citizens in the first 12 days of January.

The armed criminals also snatched a shotgun, 2 pistols and 2 rifles. INP

Police arrest two accused of Lahore gang rape incident

LAHORE: Police has arrested two key accused of gang-rape of a girl in Gulberg area on Sunday.

The three accused lured the victim for job and gang-raped her in Gulberg area of Lahore.

Police team has arrested two central accused of the crime committed last week, a police spokesperson said.

Two accused Ramzan and Waleed have been arrested, while police conducting raids for the absconding third accused, police said.

DIG-investigation Lahore Police has said that police filed the case to ensure arrest of the accused.

"The accused committing violence are crimes against women are not entitled for any soft treatment," I.G. Punjab Police said.

"The police will ensure to provide justice to the victim on priority," police chief said. Gang rape incidents have been reported frequently in the country, in October last year three women were allegedly gang-raped in separate incidents of sexual assaults in Chakwal district of Punjab. According to details, the three sexual assault incidents were reported in Saddar and Tala Ganga police station remit in Chakwal in which seven people were allegedly involved. In one such case recently, a girl in Punjab's Gujrat died after being allegedly kidnapped and gang-raped by three men. According to details, three men kidnapped a girl from Chakwal district in Gujrat district on September 1. The accused gave a tranquilizer to the girl and then raped her. INP

Tunisian president dissolves Supreme Judicial Council

Tunis: Tunisian President Kais Saied dissolved the Supreme Judicial Council, the body that deals with judicial independence, a move that fuses fears about the independence of the judiciary and was sure to anger his opponents, media reported on Sunday.

Saied's decision caps months of his sharp criticism of the judges. Saied has frequently criticized the judiciary's delay in issuing rulings in cases of corruption and terrorism. He repeatedly said he would like to see judges act as if they are a state, instead of being a function of the state.

Saied called the council a thing of the past, adding he will issue a temporary decree to dissolve it. He gave no details about the decree.

July, Saied dismissed the government and suspended parliament in a move his opponents described as a coup. He has been broadly criticized after seizing power and restricting dialogue with all political parties.

The Supreme Judicial Council is an independent and constitutional institution, formed in 2016. INP

ECP writes letter to KP gov't for action against Maulana Fazl's brother

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan has written a letter to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government asking it to take an action against I.I.F. Chief Maulana Fazlur Rahman's sibling Ziaur Rehman for violating election act.

The election commission on Sunday sent the letter to the KP chief secretary and directed him to take departmental action against Maulana Fazl's brother Ziaur Rehman who is a government employee.

The younger Rehman participated in the Feb 3 election campaign of Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (IJI). He spoke in favour of Kafeel Nizami, the party's candidate for mayorship of Dera Ismail Khan tehsil.

According to the ECP, it's a violation of election act that any government official either takes part in elections or participates in election campaign. It has called upon the provincial chief secretary to launch a departmental action against Mir Ziaur Rehman.

The letter was issued by the KP election commissioner on the report and complaint of district monitoring officer of Dera Ismail Khan.

The election for the seat of DIK tehsil mayor are going to be held on Feb 13, 2022. INP

China: Pakistan Foreign Minister, Mr. Mahmood Shah Mahmood Qureshi met with Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr. Wang Yi.

LAHORE: Pakistan has reported 30 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 1,459,771. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 29,478 on Sunday.

According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 14 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours.

Punjab remains the worst-hit province in terms of deaths followed by Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Till now 12,242 individuals have lost their lives to the epidemic in Punjab, 7,891 in Sindh, 6,041 in KP, 986 in Islamabad, 761 in Azad Kashmir, 368 in Balochistan and 189 in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Furthermore 551,399 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Sindh, 488,063 in Punjab, 327,150 in Islamabad, 40,568 in Azad Kashmir, 34,785 in Balochistan and 10,891 in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Pakistan has so far conducted 25,378,187 coronavirus tests and 56,051 in the last 24 hours. 1,339,498 patients have recovered in the country whereas 1,081 patients are in critical condition.

The COVID-19 positivity ratio was recorded at 8.69 percent.

So far, 108,173,867 people have received their first dose of coronavirus vaccine including 896,350 in last 24 hours. 84,713,691 citizens have been fully vaccinated while 785,143 received their second dose in last 24 hours.

The number of total administered doses has reached to 182,390,048 with 1,734,514 in the last 24 hours. Furthermore 551,399 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Sindh, 488,063 in Punjab, 327,150 in Islamabad, 40,568 in Azad Kashmir, 34,785 in Balochistan and 10,891 in Gilgit-Baltistan.

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QUETTA STUDENTS PRESENTING TABLEAU ON THE OCCASION OF KASHMIR SOLIDARITY DAY ORGANIZED BY YOUTH FORUM FOR KASHMIR.

Political forces need to unite on single agenda to resolve public problems: Hasaan

LAHORE: Special Assistant to Chief Minister Punjab and Spokesman of the provincial government, Hasaan Khawar has said that it is the need of the hour that all political forces transcend their personal interests and agree on the single agenda of public problems and national prosperity.

He said that the role of the opposition is to help to the government, but opposition parties have blatantly ignored this principle by trying to score points on difficult decisions that government has had to take for betterment of the country.

These views were expressed by him while he was in the media at the International Summit Conference held at Datta Darbar on Sunday.

Hasaan Khawar said that today, humanity is in the grip of terrorism. In such a situation, only by adopting the lifestyle and teachings of the sunnis can we emerge victorious out of such abyssal scenario, and reform ourselves as a nation.

He further said that the growing violence at the national and international level can only be discouraged by the spread of ideology of Sohis Sufi fraternity, li candle of love and devotion everywhere.

Responding to a question, the SACM said that the opposition wanted to keep its politics alive by holding a political march. Government has no objection to the long march, it held within the bounds of law, he maintained. INP

Russia preparing full-scale invasion of Ukraine: US

Washington: United States (US) intelligence assessments that Russia is stepping up preparations for a large-scale invasion of Ukraine and has now put in place to increase its forces if would be needed for such an attack, US officials said.

Russia has assembled 110,000 troops along its border with Ukraine but US intelligence had not determined if President Vladimir Putin has actually decided to invade, according to officials who in recent days held briefings with members of Congress and European allies. The officials warned lawmakers that the assembled Russian force on the frontier with Ukraine is growing at a rate that would give Putin the force he needs for a full-scale invasion of some 150,000 soldiers - by the end of February. Instead, the officials said Putin wants to have all possible options at his disposal from a limited invasion of the pro-Russian Donbas region of Ukraine to a full-scale, all-out invasion. US officials stress that it is planning to invade Ukraine.

If Russia does opt for a full-scale attack, the invading force could take the capital Kyiv. It could also trigger a refugee flood of one to five million people, mainly into Poland, the officials said.

A first contingent of US soldiers arrived on Saturday in Poland, where President Joe Biden has decided to send American forces to protect NATO member states from what he calls any possible aggression, as diplomats work furiously to try to persuade Russia to pull its troops back from the border with Ukraine. Online.