

QUETTA VOICE

Editor :Asim khan

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dquettavoice@gmail.com

Fazal Vows Support for Palestinian Independence, Calls for Global Solidarity

Manan Mandokhail:



QUETTA: Maulana Fazlur Rahman, the head of Jamiat ul Ulama e Islam (JUI), expressed unwavering support for Palestinian independence during the Tofan e Al-Aqsa Conference in Quetta on Sunday.

He announced solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle against Israeli aggression and emphasized equal participation in the cause.

“We Support Palestinians Battling Israeli Occupation”, Maulana

In his address, Maulana Fazlur

Rehman asserted the need to stand with the Palestinians and declared readiness for cooperation with the Palestinians battling the occupation.

He highlighted the ideological division in the world today and urged leaders to break free from American influence. He noted that the global landscape has evolved, emphasizing that the people will not tolerate cowardice from their rulers.

Fazal Lashes Out At Indian PM

Maulana Fazlur Rahman also strongly criticized India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi's open support

for Israel and called on Pakistani leaders to demonstrate courage in the face of international pressures.

He stressed the importance of freeing Pakistan from external influences and the legacy of fighting for independence from colonial rule.

Furthermore, he indicated that participation in assemblies is not a sign of weakness for JUI and asserted their commitment to taking their cause to the streets.

The message was clear: the fight for Palestinian independence is a priority, and they stand resolute in their position, the Maulana announced.

Mobile Tower in Nushki District Damaged by IED Blast: Investigation Underway

Haji Tayyab Yalanzai:

NUSHKI: In a startling turn of events, miscreants blew up a mobile tower in the Nushki district of Balochistan on Sunday.

Levies sources said the incident resulted in significant damage, with two pylons of the

cellular tower bearing the brunt of the explosion, and the tower machinery and cables suffering extensive harm.

This act of vandalism has sent shockwaves through the local com-



munity, leaving residents in disbelief and authorities scrambling to investigate the situation.

In addition to the immediate damage caused by the explosion, the incident has raised concerns about the potential consequences for the affected area's telecommunications infrastructure.

The targeted mobile tower, a crucial communication lifeline for the region, plays a vital role in keeping residents connected to the digital world. The impact of this attack could disrupt mobile services, affecting both communication and internet access for the local populace.

2 dead, 25 injured as trailer carrying Afghan families overturns in Attock

Attock: Two people died while 25 others were injured after a 22-wheeler trailer carrying Afghan families overturned near the Grand Trunk Road in Punjab's Attock, officials said.

Attock police spokesperson Naem confirmed the injuries and casualties.



He said the trailer, with five Afghan families aboard, was traveling from Sangiani to Afghanistan. “The vehicle overturned after one of its tyres burst,” the official said.

A statement issued by Attock's Hazro Town police identified the deceased as 55-year-old Salman Khan and 60-year-old Bibi Gul.

It said the bodies and wounded persons were immediately moved to the Tehsil Headquarter Hospital Hazro.

Meanwhile, four critically injured people were referred to Rawalpindi.

A number of Afghan families from across the country have made the journey back to their home country in recent days as the caretaker government's ultimatum for all undocumented immigrants to leave Pakistan by the end of October nears.

There are more than two million undocumented Afghans living in Pakistan.

According to officials, about 60,000 Afghans have “voluntarily” left the country through the border in recent weeks. NEWS DESK.

Balochistan Health Card Initiative: A Lifesaving Revolution

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: The Balochistan government is on the verge of launching a highly anticipated health card system aimed at addressing the healthcare needs of the region's population. The provincial health department has set up dedicated booths within select private hospitals in Quetta to facilitate the public.

Obtaining medical treatment through these health cards is expected to be a straightforward process, with individuals simply required to send a message to \$500 to access all the necessary information.

An Inclusive Program

The eligibility criteria are quite inclusive, as any one possessing a national identity card with a Balochistan province address can easily take advantage of this service. This groundbreaking healthcare initiative was originally conceived during the tenure of the former Balochistan chief minister, Jam Kamal Khan, who led the coalition government.

However, despite its initial proposal, the project remained stalled due to a lack of political commitment and bureaucratic hurdles.

Over 2 Million Families To Benefit

The potential impact is substantial, as over 2 million families in Balochistan



stand to benefit from this healthcare initiative, with each family being allocated Rs. 1 million for medical treatment.

The government has also taken a significant step by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a private insurance company to ensure the successful implementation of this project, which aims to address the long-standing health issues faced by the people of Balochistan.

Govt Hospitals Paint A Bleak Picture

In Balochistan, government-run hospitals have long struggled to provide adequate health facilities and access to healthcare professionals.

As a result, many of the affluent and middle-class residents opt for treatment in private hospitals in Quetta or the more expensive hospitals in Karachi, primarily due to the dire conditions in government healthcare facilities.

Governments in Balochistan have consistently claimed that health and education are top priorities, yet translating these claims into meaningful action on the ground has often proven challenging.

The introduction of this health card initiative represents a positive step toward addressing one of the most pressing concerns of the local population.

With issues like inflation, unemployment, and alarmingly low social indicators exacerbating the problems faced by the people of Balochistan, the implementation of this initiative could potentially offer a ray of hope if carried out transparently and effectively.

Israeli strikes hit close to Al-Quds Hospital after evacuation warnings

GAZA: The Palestinian Red Crescent has said Israeli forces are deliberately firing rockets near the Al-Quds Hospitals to forcefully vacate the facility.

“This has caused significant damage to hospital departments and exposed residents and patients to suffocation,” it said in a post on X.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian has said Iran does not want Palestine-Israel crisis to “spread out”. Reuters reports, “We don't want this war to spread out,” Amirabdollahian said during an appearance on CNN. He dis-



missed claims directly connecting Iran to the attacks, calling them “baseless.” “We always had political media and international support for Palestine. We have never denied this,” he said.

“This is the truth, but in relation to this operation called the Al Aqsa Storm, there was no connection to that data between Iran and this Hamas operation, not my government nor part of my country.”

Amirabdollahian said linking Iran to any attack in the region, if US interests are targeted, without providing proof, is “totally wrong.”

People in the region were angry, he said, and “they are not receiving orders from us. They act according to their own interest. Also, what happened, what was carried out by Hamas, it was totally Palestinian.” The director of the Al-Quds Hospital has told Al Jazeera that there was no police or military presence at the medical facility. NEWS DESK.

2 Remaining Kidnapped Footballers Returned Home In Dera Bugti

From Our Correspondent:

DERA BUGTI: The two remaining kidnapped football players returned their homes in Balochistan's Dera Bugti district on Sunday.

Armed accused had kidnapped six football players in the Sui Tehsil of Dera Bugti district on September 9 this year.

4 Football Players Released Earlier

The kidnappers had released four football players. However, they had refused to set free the remaining two.

Family members and levies sources confirmed the release of remaining two players on Sunday morning.

The footballers were kidnapped by armed accused when they were coming from Sui to Sibi.

Security forces had also launched an operation for the recovery of kidnapped players.



REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

DAYS REMAINING

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DEVELOPMENT

Editor: Asim Khan

NHA fails to reconstruct Pinjra bridge in Bolan valley

Much has been said and written about the historic Pinjra Bridge located in the rugged mountains of the Bolan Valley. The valley links Quetta and most parts of Balochistan with Sindh and Punjab provinces. Last year, flash floods unleashed by torrential rains swept away parts of the bridge, causing the suspension of traffic between Balochistan and other parts of the country. For more than a year, the National Highway Authority (NHA) is yet to reconstruct the bridge located in the heart of the mountainous Bolan Valley. Now a fresh wave of heavy rainfall also swept away the remaining part of the bridge, which caused the suspension of traffic. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took notice of the non-construction and the Chairman NHA rushed towards the spot last year and assured the reconstruction. Nevertheless, the bridge is yet to be constructed despite repeated assurances.

Hundreds of stranded trucks loaded with food items can always be seen. Thousands of vehicles pass through the bridge on a daily basis. Since Balochistan is dependent on Sindh and Punjab for food supplies and other commodities. Therefore, hundreds of trucks loaded with food items stranded in the Bolan Valley can always be seen.

The weak district administration merely deploy a bulldozer to make a temporary way for the stranded trucks and other small vehicles to cross the bridge. However, floods and torrential rains always wash away temporary mud stones roads.

NHA must ensure its immediate reconstruction. This situation has compounded the problems of the people of Balochistan in general and the passengers traveling on this important highway in particular. The province covers half of the country in terms of area and the NHA has been, in charge of all highways. It is the core responsibility of the NHA to break its criminal silence and ensure immediate reconstruction of the bridge to bring an end to the miseries of people.

Balochistan Health Card Program: A Game-Changer for Universal Healthcare Access

Manzoor Ahmed Magsi:

Balochistan, Pakistan's largest province in terms of land area, is committed to enhancing the quality of life and delivering vital services to its widely dispersed population. Healthcare and education are pivotal in this endeavor. The Balochistan Health Card Program, recently approved by the provincial cabinet, is a remarkable stride towards achieving Universal Health Coverage and providing essential healthcare services to the people of Balochistan.

The Balochistan Health Card Program, recently approved by the provincial cabinet, is a remarkable stride towards achieving Universal Health Coverage and providing essential healthcare services to the people of Balochistan. It has partnered with the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) to establish a command center and a central Management Information System (MIS). This ensures efficient data verification services and support for the health card program.

1: Addressing Critical Healthcare Needs: Health is a fundamental right and a crucial aspect of life. The remote rural areas of Balochistan are in dire need of im-

proved healthcare facilities. Timely and strategic planning is essential to ensure access to medical treatment and uplift the standard of living for its residents.

2: Key Milestones of the Program: The Balochistan Health Card Program has already achieved significant milestones. It has partnered with the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) to establish a command center and a central Management Information System (MIS). This ensures efficient data verification services and support for the health card program.

3: Comprehensive Coverage: One of the most inspiring aspects of this program is its inclusivity. It aims to provide free treatment facilities up to 10 lakh rupees to every resident of Balochistan, regardless of their dwelling place. Every family across the province's 37 districts will benefit from this program, with access to free healthcare services in 1200 hospitals nationwide.

4: Accessibility and Convenience: To further enhance accessibility, a 24/7 helpline (0800-01001) has been established, and facility desks will be set up in every hospital. Real-time data and an effective monitoring system will ensure efficient service delivery.

double as their health card. 5: Positive Public Response: The introduction of the health card scheme, offering free treatment to the underprivileged, has garnered widespread appreciation from the people. This program offers treatment facilities up to one million rupees in any government or private hospital.

6: Balochistan's Healthcare Future: Balochistan is determined to improve healthcare access for every citizen, regardless of their location or economic status. The Balochistan Health Card Program is a testament to the province's commitment to ensuring that every citizen receives the healthcare they deserve, marking a journey of determination and innovative solutions in the pursuit of improved healthcare access.

This writer is a former Press Secretary to Chief Minister Balochistan and currently working as Assistant Director of Public Relations at the Government of Balochistan

Elusive peace

By Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry:

A POPULAR view by academics and politicians alike is that Hamas's recent action of Oct 7 not only instilled fear in non-Jewish communities in Palestine... This commitment was never honoured. To date, the Palestinians, like the Kashmiris, have been fighting for the right to live on their own lands with honour and dignity, a right that most people get easily.

Palestine's Israel conundrum can be understood from three dimensions: territorial, ideological, and geopolitical. Territorially, the Arab Palestinians guaranteed by UN Resolution No 181 of 1947, which had decided to partition Palestine into two states: one Arab and one Jewish. On Oct 7, 1947, when the General Assembly of the newly formed United Nations was discussing the draft resolution, Pakistan's representative, Sir Zafarullah Khan, built a strong case for the right of Palestinians to form an independent modern state on the lands for which they had lived for millennia.

At the centre of the debate was the British government's Balfour Declaration, which, on Nov 2, 1917, had announced its intent to establish a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine.

of Israel on May 14, 1948. Ideologically, this land has religious significance for the Jews, Christians and Muslims. The Muslims revere the Al-Aqsa Mosque, while for the Jews this land was home to their traditional ancestors and Hebrew patriarch.

Geopolitically, it was Britain that initiated the idea of creating a Jewish state in Palestine, pulling in Jews from Europe and displacing the local population. Over the past 70 years, the US and Britain have treated Israel as the pivot of their Middle East policy. Given the above territorial, ideological, and geopolitical factors, peace continues to elude the land of Palestine. Neither the Arab-Israeli wars of 1948, 1967 and 1973, nor the Palestinians' indigenous resistance to Israel, which peaked twice as the first Intifada (1987-1992) and then the second Intifada (2000-2005), have helped resolve the conflict. One year among Palestinian ranks, ie, between Fatah and Hamas, has also undermined their cause.

The peace option was tried but did not result in earnest implementation of the two-state solution. Egypt, when cabinet minister Rafiq Elitan once pointed out that what Lahore missed was "PII-like youthful gaiety". A PML-N party leader fully conceded that their support was not as relevant to youngsters as he used to be. The comparison with the PPI's Oct 30, 2011 election was quite clear, when the city "witnessed massive daily celebrations on the roads. All main arteries were taken over by motorcyclist youth, playing party songs, honking horns of vehicles and all kinds of buses, vans and coasters ferrying party men to different points and creating a psychological impact". Nawaz Sharif made a "distasteful and unacceptable comparison between his women supporters, and those of the PPI" by declaring that the former are more "decent" than the latter. This deep-rooted misogyny in our society finds expression in a key leader's discourse reflecting lack of inclusivity that may alienate this female support base.

No innocents in Gaza

By Pervez Hoodbhoy:

AHEAD of the invasion, the Jerusalem Post quotes Israeli defence minister Avigdor Liberman: "There are no innocents in Gaza". The Post's comments section mostly shows support for Liberman. The West largely concurs.

Photo: US President Joe Biden hugs Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on arrival at Tel Aviv airport. In the backdrop stand hulks of Gaza's bombed-out buildings, a million terrified Palestinians fleeing their homes, and the rubble of Al Ahli hospital. But even before 500 bloodied and broken bodies can be picked up, Biden rushes to whitewash the atrocity by affirming that Hamas, not Israel, had blown up the hospital. But a New York Times analysis of Oct 24 casts doubt on Israel's official claim that an errand boy was the responsible. Even before this hospital's bombing, WHO pointed out that 2,000 people were heavily damaged out of Gaza's 35 hospitals.

For decades, Israel has been the world's most successful in killing Indians. In Gujarat, Narendra Modi's government casually looked at the deaths of Muslims as large nation states. Such episodes of war and butchery are no less horrific than the ongoing carnage in Gaza.

They force us to recognise that all mortal conflicts come from tribalism — the identification with your own group and a separation of 'us' from 'them'. You mourn the death of your own tribe's member and kill the other with relish — as Hamas does. But Hamas is weak and can kill only a few, while Israel is strong and is extracting revenge in proportion to its strength.

In evolutionary terms, tribalism stems from the territorial competition between small tribes during the formation of larger human groups. Ergo, human nature is that tribal identities are forever fixed by our genes. With scarcely any dissent in their high circles — have handed Israel a blank cheque for genocide. With else to Jews may have growing nuisance value in Israel but as yet have no real role in the Common Declaration comes from sharing a similar way of life and similar values.

It is a big step backward for humanity that major countries which are culturally diverse, such as the UK, France, Germany, and the US, have historically served as a model for civilisation. America's watchdog in the world is no longer so big a factor.

Why suffer in silence?

By Tariq Khosa:

ONE is reminded of Friedrich Nietzsche's words in the current environment of persecution in our country: "But thus do I counsel you, my friends: distrust all in whom the impulse to punish is powerful. Do not in this impulse to punish those who dare to defy state institutions, there appears to be a method to the madness. A journalist on the run was assassinated in Kenya; another was kidnapped from Sialkot and released after months of illegal detention as a physical and mental wreck. Political activists of a party which is being brutally dismantled go missing, only to re-emerge with the same script of loyalty to a state institution and condemnation of those 'inciting' violence against the sacred cows. Two prominent politicians and erstwhile favourites of the establishment have been made examples for other 'recalcitrant' ones. The head of a political party was the latest to be dragged in front of a court to put the blame of violence against the state on a leader in whose cabinet he was interior minister. Another prominent one out of favour was lately the chief minister of Punjab. He was not allowed to be granted bail in cases registered against him by different state departments. Even women political activists and supporters are not being spared. They are being punished for protesting the illegal arrest of their leader. Who is to be blamed? Those carrying out illegal arrests, or those protesting illegally?"

German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer said: "The worst human trait is to enjoy the suffering of others." We, too, seem to have become insensitive to the worst possible human rights violations blatantly prevalent these days. The anger of the victims may reach a boiling point and they will be constrained not to suffer in silence anymore. This state of persecution must come to an end.

Current politics is witnessing reverse engineering. Protective bail — in cases in which a political party leader was being declared an absconder — was granted even before he set foot in the country. The fugitive was officially seen off by our high commissioner in London. The VIP lounge in Islamabad was opened, where the interior ministry provided biometrics facilities for the commissioner and police chief of Lahore, who are supposed to represent a neutral caretaker Punjab government.

This speech that might be like a victory speech before 'coronation'. This paper's report on the return of the nation's female support base.

More of the same

By Abbas Nasir:

NAWAZ Sharif's back and anyone betting against him becoming the next prime minister is likely to lose. Some have already lost after insisting he'd never return, as that would be tantamount to him falling into the establishment's trap. Don't mistake my view for enthusiastic support on one way or the other; it's just an assessment. I am no sage and rarely refer to something I wrote in the past, but have said over the past weeks that analysts and their audiences alike may be suffering from over-analysis and missing the forest for the trees.

Analysis is even more suspect, and weaker, when it isn't rooted in a reading of the ground reality and merely represents the wishes or conforms to their partisan stance. Along with this gallery in order to maximise reach and income, branded journalism in the media play to this gallery in order to advance balanced views isn't. It's as simple as that. While these lines may sound like a digression, they aren't. What are the two dominant political points of view in the country? One holds that PII is the most popular political party and would win any election where it is allowed to campaign and participate. Despite its recent Gallup poll showing popularity in Nawaz Sharif's camp, his return is not in the PM's interest. It is a very sympathetic to the view that, as we speak, the Imran Khan-led PII remains a formidable political force and could win an election on its own.

What whatever your driver or motivator you end up sacrificing your claim to being an 'independent' journalist. To be honest, the independent journalist is fast becoming an extinct species. Who wants to listen to the same journalistic voices in such a polarised and charged political environment as that of the PML-N? Nobody is willing to take prisoners. And here we are, where the credibility of the written, spoken word is a function of your point of reference.

The other point of view is that Nawaz Sharif's return, coupled with Maryam Nawaz Sharif's reorganisation of the party, particularly in its power base of Punjab, has been a shot in the arm for the PML-N and the party's rank and file is now motivated and galvanised enough to be able to put their leader back in the Prime Minister's House. Those saying this are not just party loyalists but media analysts; too, they need a reality check. There can be no doubt Nawaz Sharif fell victim to a conspiracy where the establishment and judiciary joined hands to oust him from office and also jangled him and his daughter on the flimsiest of charges. Despite the fact that recent Gallup poll showing popularity in Nawaz Sharif's camp, his return is not in the PM's interest. It is a very sympathetic to the view that, as we speak, the Imran Khan-led PII remains a formidable political force and could win an election on its own.

What we see is that with considerable brutal force, the pushback has been happening. What happened in the 'get Nawaz' operation from 2016 onwards to the final days of the PII government in office only propelled Nawaz Sharif's

Pakistani businessman holds jewelry preview for CIIE

SHANGHAI (INP): In a bid to give full play to the spillover effect of the China International Import Expo (CIIE) to promote Pakistani jewelry culture, Aqeel Chaudhry, founder of Pakistani jewelry brand WINZA, who has been residing in China for the past 22 years, organized a grand Pakistani jewelry brand preview of the CIIE at New World DAMARU, one of the first class shopping malls in Shanghai.

The preview drew attendees including potential buyers, industry professionals, and enthusiasts, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday. Aqeel Chaudhry showcased a stunning collection of traditional and contemporary Pakistani jewelry, highlighting the rich heritage and craftsmanship of the country.

Guests were captivated by the display

of exquisite necklaces, earrings, bracelets and rings, all reflecting the diversity and beauty of Pakistani jewelry.

The sixth CIIE will be held at the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai) from November 5 to 10, which is the fifth time for Li Long to participate in the CIIE.

Recognizing the immense potential of the Chinese market, Aqeel has seized the opportunity to introduce Pakistani jewelry to a wider audience.

He sees the CIIE as a platform to keep abreast of the latest trends, urge his product progress and learn from peers. This year, he will display rubies, sapphires from the world's major producing regions as well as famous emeralds from Pakistan at his 36-square-meter booth at

Karachi weather turns cold after late night rain

KARACHI (INP): The weather turned cold after parts of Karachi received light rain on Saturday night.

According to the meteorological department, the drizzle was reported in parts of Karachi, which turned the weather cold in the city. City's temperature was recorded at 26 degrees centigrade at 9 in the morning, while the percentage of humidity remained 57%. The MET office further said that Karachi's maximum temperature to remain between 32 to 34 degrees centigrade today. Meanwhile, the weather will be dry and cold in most parts of the country including the upper regions during the night and morning hours in the next 24 hours. The weather remained dry in most parts of the country while it was cold in the northern parts during past 24 hours, the MET office said.



CHINA: Ambassador Moin ul Haque inaugurates Pakistan National Pavilion at the Sichuan Agricultural Expo in Chengdu, China.

PIA restores Skardu flights to rescue stranded tourists

SKARDU (INP): Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has announced multiple flights to Skardu, Gilgit to rescue tourists who were stranded in northern areas amid blockade of roads and cancellation of flights.

PIA, the national flag carrier, has announced plans to operate six flights to rescue stranded tourists. The flights will operate from Islamabad for Gilgit and Skardu.

The tourists were stranded after Pakistan International Airlines cancelled multiple flights to and from Gilgit and Skardu due to fuel crisis and land routes restricted by extreme weather.

Taking notice, Minister of State Waseem Shah took action and approached concerned officials to arrange flights for those who were stranded in Skardu and Gilgit. Shah contacted

the senior officials of PIA and asked for an immediate solution to the problem, as the tourism industry is badly affected amid the haphazard situation. The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet approved a Rs. 8 billion bridge financing package for Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).

The financing will be provided through the Civil Aviation

Authority's (CAA) resources to meet PIA's overdue payment obligations.

The ECC allowed the Aviation Division to proceed with the bilateral arrangement between the CAA and PIA. The Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamsud Akhtar presided over the meeting, according to news statement issued by the finance ministry.



QUETTA: A roadside vendor selling clothes along the roadside to earn livelihood for his family.

SBP chief says use of RMB to fortify Pakistan-China economic ties

ISLAMABAD (INP): Governor Sate Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Jameel Ahmad said that employing the Chinese Renminbi (RMB) for cross-border trade and investment transactions could further fortify Pakistan-China economic ties. Addressing an event themed "Promoting the use of RMB in Cross-Border Settlement," organized by China's SIBC Bank here, Governor SBP Jameel Ahmad underscored the robust and enduring

economic and financial connections between Pakistan and China.

According to a Gwadar Pro's report, he stressed that employing the Chinese Renminbi (RMB) for cross-border trade and investment transactions could further fortify these ties.

This event celebrated ICBC Bank's designation as the RMB clearing agent in Pakistan by the People's Bank of China (PBOC). The Governor SBP elaborated on the signifi-

Rs 417.6m fine imposed on 3,309 power pilferers

FAISALABAD (APP): The Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) caught 3,309 power pilferers during last 50 days and imposed a fine of over Rs.417.6 million for stealing electricity in various areas of the company during the ongoing special anti-power theft drive.

Spokesman Tahir Sheikh said here on Saturday that over 8.98 million detection units were charged. A sum of over Rs.239.8 million was also recovered from the defaulters.

He said that 3172 cases were registered

against power theft in various police stations whereas the police also arrested 2637 pilferers so far. He further said that the FESCO teams detected electricity theft at 1077 points in Faisalabad district and imposed a fine of Rs.134.7 million on them under the head of 2,886 million detection units.

In Jhang district, the FESCO teams caught 340 electricity thieves and imposed a fine of Rs.51 million under 1200,000 detection units.

Similarly, 347 cases of electricity theft were

detected in Bhakkar district and the company handed down the power pilferers with a fine of Rs.45.2 million under 879,000 detection units.

He further said that 361 electricity thieves were caught from Chinot district and they were imposed a fine of Rs.51.2 million under 1103,000 detection units.

In Khushab district, 110 consumers were found involved in electricity theft and they were handed down with a fine of Rs.17.8 million for 367,000 detection units.

The FESCO teams

also caught 414 power pilferers from Mianwali and they were fined with Rs.40.8 million for 900,000 detection units.

In Sargodha district, 363 cases of electricity theft were detected. Hence, a fine of Rs.38.9 million was imposed on the electricity thieves under 867,000 detection units.

The FESCO teams also caught 263 electricity thieves from Toba Tek Singh district. Therefore, the company imposed a fine of Rs.33.3 million for 664,000 detection units, spokesman



ISLAMABAD: Workers busy in preparing Sindh pavilion for up coming Lok Mela in Lok Virsa.

Kazakhstan in mourning as death toll rises to 42 at mine

KARAGANDA (INP): Kazakhstan was in nationwide mourning on Sunday as death toll from a fire at a mine owned by ArcelorMittal rose to 42.

The search operation for four missing miners continued, the Ministry for Emergency Situations said. "The search operation is hampered by the presence of destroyed mining equipment, as well as rubble in some places", the ministry said in a statement. Rescuers are searching for miners in two areas of the mine and ordered a 2.5 miles apart, it said.

Earlier, the Ministry of Emergency Situations

said at 10:00 am local time (0400 GMT), "the bodies of 36 miners were found and 10 workers were being sought".

The chances of finding them alive are, however, "very low", the rescuers warned the night before, due to the lack of ventilation in the mine and a fire that broke out on Saturday's explosion, which spread over two kilometers.

Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev travelled to the scene of the incident Saturday and ordered cooperation with ArcelorMittal be "brought to an end".

Speaking to victims' relatives at the Karaganda mine in the country's centre, Tokayev "the worst enterprise in Kazakhstan's history in terms of cooperation with the government". The Kazakh government and the steel giant announced a preliminary agreement to "transfer ownership of the (local) firm in favour of the Republic of Kazakhstan". Prime Minister Alikhan Smaulov stated. "ArcelorMittal can confirm that the two parties have... signed a preliminary agreement for a transaction that will transfer ownership to the

Republic of Kazakhstan," the global steel giant stated, adding it was committed to "finalising this transaction as soon as possible." On Sunday, flags were at half-mast to mark the day of national mourning declared by Tokayev, an AFP correspondent saw. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, about 200 miners have died in Kazakhstan, the vast majority at ArcelorMittal sites. The group's arrival in Kazakhstan in 1995 was initially seen as a beacon of hope in the economic slump that followed the fall of communism.



HYDERABAD: Members of Primary Teachers Association hold a protest rally against deduction in Pension of Government servants. INP PHOTO by Yasir Rajput

Hamas vows 'full force' after Israel steps up Gaza ground operations

JERUSALEM (INP): Hamas said on Saturday its fighters in Gaza were ready to confront Israeli attacks with "full force" after Israeli military widened its air and ground attacks on the Palestinian enclave.

The Palestinian group that rules Gaza had said its fighters were clashing with Israeli troops in areas near the border with Israel after reported intensified attacks in Gaza.

By Saturday morning, a cutoff in internet and phone services - which telecoms firms and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society said was a result of Israeli bombardments - had been continuing for more than 12 hours.

"In addition to the attacks carried out in the last few days, ground forces are expanding their operations to

night", Israeli military spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari said at a televised news briefing on Friday evening, raising the question whether a long-anticipated ground invasion of Gaza might be starting.

He said Israel's air force was conducting extensive strikes on tunnels dug by Hamas and other infrastructure.

The Israeli military said on Saturday it had killed the head of Hamas' aerial wing, who had helped plan the Oct. 7 attack by the Islamist group on Israel's southern towns.

The Israeli Defence Forces said its fighter jets struck Assaf Abu Rakaba, head of the Hamas Aerial Army, who was responsible for Hamas' Oct. 7 attack. Israeli paratroopers, aerial detection and aerial defence

"He took part in planning the massacre in the communities surrounding the Gaza Strip on October 7. He directed the terrorists who infiltrated Israel on paratrogliders and was responsible for the drone attacks on IDF posts," the IDF said.

The armed wing of Hamas said late on Friday its fighters were clashing with Israeli troops in Gaza's northern eastern town of Beit Hanoun and in the central area of Al-Bureij. "Netanyahu and his deflated army will not be able to achieve any military victory," Hamas said in a statement early on Saturday, referring to the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu.

Israeli ground forces had massed outside Gaza, where Israel has been conducting an intense campaign of

aerial bombardment since the Oct. 7 attack. Israel says 1,400 people, mostly civilians, were killed and more than 200 taken hostage, some of them foreign nationals or with dual Israeli nationality. Since then, Palestinian health authorities say, Israeli bombing has killed more than 7,000 Palestinians.

Al Jazeera, which was broadcasting live footage overnight showing frequent blasts in Gaza, said Israeli air strikes had hit areas around the enclave's main hospital.

Reuters could not verify the reports of the strikes near Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza City.

Israel's military accused Hamas on Friday of using the hospital as a shield for its tunnels and operational centres, an allegation the group denied.

Construction Company Attacked in Mangochar, 4 labourers injured

Abdullah Lehari:

KALAT: Unknown miscreants attacked a construction company in the Mangochar area of Kalat district on Saturday evening. The attack left four labourers injured, levies sources said.

Miscreants opened fire at the labourers and escaped unhurt from the spot of the incident. The injured labourers were rushed to a local hospital in Mangochar Tehsil of Kalat District.

Levies, Police Reached The Spot

Levies and police personnel reached the spot and cordoned off the area to investigate the attack. Security was tightened in and around Mangochar in the aftermath of the attack.



This incident comes two weeks after six labourers were killed in a terrorist attack in the Turbat city of Balochistan. Two labourers were injured in the attack.

Election Commissioner Administers Oath to DROs for LBs Polls in Quetta

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: The oath-taking ceremony of the District Returning Officers (DROs) and Deputy Commissioner Quetta took place at the Provincial Election Commissioner Balochistan's office on Saturday. The ceremony adhered to the established legal procedures, with Provincial Election Commissioner Balochistan, Sharifullah, administering the oath and supervising the signing of the relevant documents.

17 ROs Will Be Overseesing LBs Polls

In the subsequent phase of this event, the DRO (District Returning Officer) is set to administer the oath to all 17 returning officers and 34 assistant returning officers who will be overseeing the local body elections in the Quetta district.

Provincial Election Commissioner Balochistan emphasized the importance of ensuring a peaceful, transparent, and impartial conduct of the local government elections in Quetta. He offered valuable guidance to the officials present, urging them to spare no effort in ensuring that every stage of the elections is conducted in an amicable and fair manner.



Transparent Elections A National Responsibility: Sharifullah

Furthermore, Provincial Election Commissioner Sharifullah underlined that conducting clean and transparent elections is not just a legal obligation but also a national responsibility that should be upheld by all. He committed to utilizing all available resources to achieve this goal.

The local bodies' polls are scheduled to be held on November 30th in Quetta, the provincial capital of Balochistan. The Election Commission of Pakistan has already announced the schedule for the elections.

In Balochistan, local bodies elections were held across the province in May last year. Except for the Quetta and Lasbella districts, the elections were held throughout the province.

Ecstatic South Africans celebrate Rugby World Cup glory

JOHANNESBURG (INP): Ecstatic South Africans celebrated well into Sunday after the Springboks claimed a record fourth title by defeating New Zealand in the Rugby World Cup final in Paris. Supporters of the national rugby team drank beers, waved flags and partied until the early hours in a wave of jubilation that swept the country from Cape Town to Johannesburg.

"I feel so good, I was literally in tears," said Sofia Pringen, 21, her face painted in South Africa's national colours as she celebrated in central Cape Town after the victory.

"I knew that we (were) definitely going to win. I'm so happy! I am very happy!"

The iconic port city's centre and waterfront were swarmed by thousands of Springboks t-shirt-wearing fans on Saturday night, many having watched the game at one of the several maxi screens set up by local authorities for public viewing. After the match, motorcades of honking cars rode through the streets.

"It's an incredible feeling, absolutely incredible feeling. The energy from all the local people, from everyone from Cape Town (is) absolutely un-

real," said Daniel Louis, a 20-year-old student.

South Africa edged New Zealand 12-11 for a nail-biting victory, helped by four penalty goals from ice-cool fly-half Handre Pollard. At a tavern in Alexandra, a crime-ridden, impoverished Johannesburg township, celebrating Springboks supporters huggled, danced and cheered as the referee blew the final whistle. As is often the case with finals, the match was a tight, edgy encounter at a rain-soaked Stade de France, where defences ruled and the All Blacks lost captain Sam Cane to a first-half red card for a high tackle.

The Springboks prevailed to win a third successive knockout match in this tournament by a point, and add to their titles in 1995, 2007 and 2019.

"Sport has the power to transform individuals... and lift the spirits of entire nations," said President Cyril Ramaphosa, who was at the stadium in Saint-Denis, on the outskirts of Paris, and flanked captain Siva Kolisi as he lifted the Webb Ellis Cup. "Tonight, Siva Kolisi and the 2023 World Cup champions have gifted us an extraordinary, inspired and inspiring national achievement that lifts our hearts and hoists our flag even higher."

It was the second time Kolisi has lifted the trophy after a 32-12 triumph over England in the 2019 final in Japan.

The first black player to wear the captain's armband in a Test match, the 32-year-old has been pivotal in bringing many young, black South Africans closer to the sport in recent years. The Springboks were once seen as a symbol of apartheid as, for 90 years, selectors chose only white players.

The team was banned from the first two editions of the Rugby World Cup because of the policies of the white-minority government.

"The Springboks have not only displayed supreme athleticism, but also the spirit of unity, impeccable teamwork and perseverance that defines our nation," said Moloto Mothapo, a spokesman for the South African parliament.

"This achievement exemplifies the transformative power of sport in South Africa. It's not just about the game; it's about its ability to unite our diverse nation, reinvigorate hope, and showcasing the strength that comes from our rich diversity." The Springboks are expected to arrive back in South Africa from France on Tuesday.



HYDERABAD: Former Federal Minister and PPP Leader Syed Naveed Qamar talking to newsmen at Sindh Chamber of Agriculture in Hyderabad.



KARACHI: President Dr Arif Alvi giving trophy at the REAPEX export trophy ceremony.

PM Kakar reaffirms commitment to further cement strategic ties with Turkiye

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has reaffirmed Pakistan's abiding commitment to further cement its multidimensional strategic ties with Turkiye, especially in the economic domain.

In a felicitation message to people of Turkiye on the occasion of the 100th Republic Day of the country, he said we have taken concrete steps to further solidify economic ties with Turkiye, including the signing of the Trade in Goods Agree-

ment (TGA) and the Strategic Economic Framework (SEF). The Prime Minister said robust economic partnership and strengthened connectivity will serve as important pillars to steer our bilateral relationship in years ahead.

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar highlighted that Pakistan and Turkiye enjoy fraternal relations rooted in abiding ties of religion, culture and history.

He said institutional mechanisms including the High-Level Strategic Coopera-

tion Council (HLSCC) and the Strategic Economic Framework (SEF) have provided a leadership-driven, people-centric and future-oriented focus to steer Pak-Turkiye bilateral partnership in areas such as defence, economy, health, education, agriculture, tourism and culture.

He praised the impressive strides made by Turkiye during the last one hundred years, especially under the dynamic leadership of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Illegal immigrants to voluntarily repatriate as October 31 deadline approaches nearer

PESHAWAR (INP): The repatriation process of undocumented immigrants was expedited through the busy Torkham border where illegal refugees are being seen returning to their homes in significant numbers with only two days left in the October 31st deadline. The return process of undocumented Afghans through the Torkham border has been accelerated from where 33,555 illegal immigrants went to their home country between October 1-23, 2023 in a safe and dignified manner. Ateefur Rehman, spokesman of KP Home and Tribal Affairs Department told APP on Sunday that repatriation of undocumented Afghan refugees was accelerated as the October 31 deadline approaches fast and approximately 33,555 undocumented Afghan immigrants have left their home country between October 1-23 through

Torkham border that connect Pakistan and Afghanistan through Khyber district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Afghan families included 2,772 families, consisting of 8,309 men, 5,457 women, and 19,789 children, reflecting the diverse demographic nature of the Afghan population. The voluntary repatriation process through the busy Torkham border was started after the government invited to their home country immigrants to return to their native countries by October 31, 2023. He said Additional Chief Secretary Home and Tribal Affairs Department, Muhammad Abid Majeed has visited Afghan Refugees camps at Torkham border and Landi Kotal tehsil in District Khyber and reviewed all the arrangements for the smooth return of undocumented refugees. Deputy Commissioner

Khyber, Abdul Nasir Khan briefed the Additional Chief Secretary on the preparations and facilities of the district administration for the efficient return of all illegal foreign nationals at Landikotal and Torkham border. The Additional Chief Secretary inspected the facilities and arrangements including water tents and food services made for the smooth and voluntary return of the immigrants.

He reviewed preparations for repatriation in relief camps established in the Torkham border and Landikotal and expressed satisfaction with all necessary measures, which were put in place for the smooth return of Afghan refugees. Deputy Commissioner Khyber, Abdul Nasir Khan presented a detailed briefing to the Additional Chief Secretary on the steps taken by district administration.



FRANCE: Pakistan's Ambassador to France Asim Iftikhar Ahmad speaking at the occasion of Kashmir Black Day.

Amb Haque inaugurates Pakistan National Pavilion at Sichuan Expo

BEIJING (INP): Pakistan's Ambassador in China, Moin ul-Haq, inaugurated Pakistan National Pavilion at the Sichuan Agriculture Expo in Chengdu, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. He was joined by Vice-governor of Sichuan Province Hu Yun, Secretary Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Dr. Farheed Iqbal and Pakistan's Acting Consul General in Chengdu Agha Hunain Abbas Khan.

The Pavilion introduces the famous touristic sites in Pakistan and displays a number of the agriculture goods produced by the country.

More than a dozen Pakistani companies displayed their agricultural products here. And the Pavilion attracted great interest from the participants attending the Expo.

Earlier on the same day, the Ambassador participated in the Opening Ceremony of the 9th Sichuan Agriculture Expo, where Pakistan is the Country of Honor. In his address during the opening ceremony, the Ambassador highlighted the

strong bilateral relations between Pakistan and China, that are based on political trust, strategic communication, and practical cooperation.

He also highlighted the close cooperation between Pakistan and Sichuan, including through sister province and city collaborations.

Pakistan's participation in the Expo will inject impetus to the on-going cooperation between Pakistan and China in the agriculture sector.

Recently five important agriculture SPS protocols have been finalized between the two sides, giving Pakistan access to a market of USD 30 billion in cooked beef, dairy, cherries, and other livestock products. This endeavor will contribute to Pakistan's efforts to increase its exports to China.

Sichuan Agriculture Expo is the largest agriculture expo in western China and caters to over 400 million people. More than 2000 exhibitors are attending the Expo and more than 200,000 people are expected to visit it.

Entry of motorcycles banned in high security zone from Nov 1

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government has decided to ban the entry of motorcycles in the high security zone of Islamabad from November 1, 2023.

According to media reports, the district administration and the police are preparing a new strategy regarding the high security zone. Under the new strategy, motorcycles will now be parked in the convention center and a shuttle service will be run from the convention center to enter the high security zone.

The Capital Police has put security on high alert in the federal capital. SP Security Islamabad has also briefed the officers and jawans performing duty at high security zone checkpoints and issued instructions to maintain law and order situation.

In addition to ban has been imposed on flying drones in Islamabad for 2 days. An important meeting regarding security was held under the chairmanship of IG Islamabad Dr. Akhtar Nasir Khan, in which top police officers participated. It was decided to ban the flying of drones in the capital Islamabad.