

‘Karachi factory fire intensifies’



Firemen putting out a fire in a Karachi factory. — File Photo by ONLINE

KARACHI: A fire that broke out in the chemical warehouse of a plastic bag manufacturing Factory in Karachi's gulbai area engulfed the entire factory on Sunday as the intensity of Blaze increased, DawnNews reported.

Fire tenders reached the spot , Air Force and Army had also been deployed and were making the efforts to put the fire out.

The fire begun at late on Saturday. Two production units along with chemicals and other raw materials worth millions were reduced to ashes as a result of the fire. Fire brigade officials declared the fire as a third-degree danger.

The fireman were trying their best to contain the fire and to stop it from spreading to other areas. Rescue and fire teams were concerned about the fire spreading to the basement of the factory which contained drums of inflammable and explosive chemicals and were instructed to maintain a distance from the fire site keeping in view the fear of an explosion.

Smoke is billowing from the fire was visible from miles away. A large number of people had gathered to spectate the site of fire. Some fire experts suggested that attempting to put out the fire with water was useless as chemical fires can only be extinguished using a special kind of a fire retardant foam.

WORLD

OCTOBER 27TH, 2012

Three Indian ministers resign ahead of cabinet reshuffle



Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

NEW DELHI: Three Indian ministers say they have resigned ahead of a Cabinet reshuffle by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh later this weekend.

The reshuffle is aimed at refurbishing the image of Singh's government tainted by a series of corruption scandals involving several ministers ahead of parliamentary elections due in 2014.

The ministers of information and broadcasting, tourism and social welfare told reporters Saturday that they were quitting to help rebuild the Congress Party in the run-up to the next general elections.

On Friday, External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna also resigned, saying he wanted to strengthen the party organization in his home state of Karnataka.

Singh is expected to change his Cabinet on Sunday, assigning responsibilities to younger party members in what is expected to be the last reshuffle before the elections.

October 28, 2012

Tsunami warning for Hawaii following Canada earthquake: official



VANCOUVER: A powerful earthquake with a magnitude of 7.7 hit Canada's Pacific coastal province of British Columbia late Saturday, setting off a small tsunami, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage, officials said.

The US Geological Survey (USGS) said an earthquake with a 7.7 magnitude had hit the province, centered 123 miles south-southwest of Prince Rupert at a depth of 6.2 miles.

Earthquakes Canada said the quake in the Haida Gwaii region has been followed by numerous aftershocks as large as 4.6 and said a small tsunami has been recorded by a deep ocean pressure sensor.

"It was felt across much of north-central BC, including Haida Gwaii, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, and Houston. There have been no reports of damage at this time," the agency said in a statement on its website.

Officials with Emergency Management BC said in a conference call that while power supply had been hit in some areas, there was no major damage reported.

Some communities on the Haida Gwaii islands, as well as Port Edward in the northwest of the province were being evacuated as a precaution.

The provincial agency issued a tsunami warning for the north coast and Haida Gwaii, as well as for central coast communities like Bella Coola, Bella Bella and Shearwater.

A tsunami advisory was also issued for the outer west coast and part of the south coast of Vancouver Island. Officials said a lower-level advisory has been declared because of potentially strong currents and waves. It urged residents to stay away from beaches and shorelines until further notice.

Tsunami Warning Center issued a warning for coastal sections of British Columbia and Alaska.

“My first message is to all people across the eastern seaboard, mid-Atlantic going north. You need to take this very seriously,” Obama said, urging 50 million Americans across the region to heed the advice of local authorities.

“If you are reluctant, think about your loved ones, think about the emergency responders who will be unable to reach you when you make the panicked phone call to be rescued, think about the rescue/recovery teams who will rescue you if you are injured or recover your remains if you do not survive.”

Experts raise alarm against dengue outbreak



KARACHI - Health experts have warned the provincial government against the possible outbreak of dengue in August and September, keeping in view the forecast of heavy rainfall.

They have vigorously advised the citizens to prevent themselves from mosquito bites by using repellents, insecticides, and wearing proper dresses. They urged the authorities concerned to remove stagnant water from the streets and other areas of the city because water activates breed mosquitoes, causing dengue fever and malaria.

Because of Dengue spreading all around school, colleges and universities has been closed for 10 to 15 days. Most of the students were happy and teachers also. Parents were also happy .

Dr Sajjad praised efforts of the **Sindh** government during last year. He urged the citizens to help the government in term of eradicating deadly mosquitoes from the city . The government of **Punjab** had provided free services to diagnose.

This year, however, the government of **PUNJAB** had sent master trainers abroad. As they returned with expertise, they trained local entomologists. The government has created a special Dengue Wing in the Health Department which is headed by an Additional Director-General.

The incidence of dengue has grown dramatically around the world in recent decades. Some 2.5 billion people – two fifths of the world's population – are now at risk from dengue. WHO currently estimates there may be 50 million dengue infections worldwide every year.

The Nation

October 26, 2012

‘Queen Elizabeth is dying’



BRITAIN'S beloved Queen Elizabeth is dying, according to a bombshell new report from an American tabloid.

Globe magazine claims the 86-year-old British royal's health is getting worse and she's fading fast. According to the magazine, Elizabeth's health woes are said to have triggered a bitter battle for the crown by her scheming daughter-in-law Camilla who's trying to sabotage Prince William and Kate Middleton from stepping up to the throne. "The Queen's condition is fading and ruthless Camilla has been plotting," a source said. Elizabeth took to the throne on February 6, 1952.

She's married to Prince Philip - also known as the Duke of Edinburgh - her husband since November 20 1947.

The pair have four children together - Prince Charles, Princess Anne, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward.

They have eight grandchildren: Peter Phillips, Zara Phillips, Prince William, Prince Harry of Wales, Princess Beatrice of York, Princess Eugenie of York, Lady Louise Mountbatten-Windsor and James, Viscount Severn. -SS

21st September, 2012

Mobile phone services suspended in 15 cities



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rehman Malik said on Wednesday that the government has not taken any decision yet to block mobile phone services on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha.

The decision had been made keeping in view the security risks associated with the various rallies expected to be taken out by religious and political parties.

The instruction to suspend mobile phone services was issued by the Pakistan Telecom Authority (PTA). Services were expected to resume at 6:00 pm today (2nd Eid day). He said the government would take any decision after consultation with provincial government's to safeguard and protect the lives of the masses.

Rehman Malik urged the media to air or publish any news item after confirmation. The cellular phone companies will review their future investment plans if the government continues to suspend cellular phone services due to security reasons, which could cause them millions of rupees losses once again.

The government earlier ordered companies to suspend their services in 15 cities. People are facing problems in connecting each other on EID. In the meantime, a significant sector of customers opted for alternative sources such as landline, wireless local loops and Internet to exchange greetings, which resulted in millions of customers not using their services.

20th October, 2012

Thousands of Pakistanis sing national anthem to set world record



Pakistanis gather at the National Hockey Stadium for the new world record to sing the national anthem in Lahore on October 20, 2012. – Photo by AFP

LAHORE: Thousands of Pakistanis sang their national anthem together at a ceremony named Punjab Youth Festival 2012 at National Hockey Stadium in Lahore on Saturday to set a world record.

According to the Sports Board Punjab at least 24,000 students and athletes, and 60,000 citizens were invited to sing the national anthem for creating a new record in the Guinness World Records.

At least 70,000 Pakistanis sang the national anthem together in Lahore on October 20, to set a new world record breaking India's record.

The previous record was set by India when 15,243 people sang the national anthem simultaneously earlier this year, AFP reports.

A two- member team of the Guinness World Records was present to monitor the event. Chief Minister Punjab Shahbaz Sharif also attended the event and sang the national anthem along with the huge crowd. In his speech on the occasion, he said this was not a Punjab festival, but instead a Pakistan festival

'Malala moves limbs; health improving'



ISLAMABAD: Malala Yousafzai's condition is witnessing steady improvement and as a result the critically injured 14-year old is now being administered less amount of sedatives, said Director General ISPR Maj Gen Asim Bajwa.

"Movement has been witnessed in Malala's hands and legs which is a positive development," Maj Gen Bajwa said while giving a briefing on Malala's health here on Saturday .

The DG ISPR said the board of doctors have not yet made any decision in connection with taking young Malala abroad. The doctors are constantly busy in taking post-traumatic care of their patient, he said.

He, however, said that Malala is still on a ventilator and it would be premature to say anything in regard to the removal of the ventilator now. Doctors will decide on removal of ventilator tomorrow morning, he added.

Two other girl students wounded with Malala were "also being taken care of at places where they can get best treatment", he said, without elaborating.

The Interior Minister while speaking to a US news channel said Malala's attackers were identified within 24 hours.

Malik added that Malala and her parents could stay in the UK as long as need be and she would be provided fool proof security upon her return to Pakistan. When asked about the possibility of a military operation in North Waziristan, Malik replied that a military operation was not the solution to the problem

Zardari phones Altaf; Discusses situation



PREASIDENT ASIF ALI ZARDARI

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari telephoned the leader of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) Altaf Hussain in the small hours of Friday morning and discussed the situation arising out of Zulfiqar Mirza's controversial statement.

The President telephoned the MQM leader at around 2.45 AM and informed him that the statement of Mirza had no endorsement of the party and were his personal views. President Zardari who took a serious note on the situation in Karachi had summoned the senior minister of Pakistan Peoples Party Zulfiqar Mirza to Islamabad on Thursday.

Altaf Hussain also thanked Zardari for conferring national awards to Governor Sindh Dr. Ishratul-Ebad and other dignitaries.

Altaf assured President Zardari to continue joint effort in order to resolve the matters faced by common people of the country

October 29, 2012

Iran has Israel drone data: official



TEHRAN: Iran is in possession of data transmitted by an unmanned Hezbollah drone that overflowed "restricted" sites and bases in Israel this month, a defence official said.

The drone "transmitted live data, photographing sensitive Israeli bases," chair of the Iranian parliament's defence commission, Esmaeel Kosari, told Iran's Arabic-language Al-Alam television.

"The photos of restricted areas are in Iran's possession," he said in an interview broadcast on Sunday night.

Israel's air force on October 6 shot down the unarmed drone over the Negev desert after it entered the country's airspace from the Mediterranean Sea.

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah boasted on October 11 that his Shiite group sent the drone over Israel, saying the device was "Iranian built and assembled in Lebanon."

"It overflowed sensitive and important installations for dozens of kilometres until the enemy spotted it near (the nuclear site) Dimona," Nasrallah said without identifying the installations. Iran confirmed Nasrallah's claim, and scoffed at Israel's air defences.

29th October, 2012

Pakistanis make world's largest human flag to set world record



LAHORE: More than 24,000 Pakistanis Monday formed the world's largest "human national flag" in the eastern city of Lahore, smashing a five-year-old record set in Hong Kong, officials said.

The past few days have seen several world records either being set or broken by Pakistanis, including the record for the most number of records broken in one day. "It's amazing, amazing display of unity of 24,200 people here in Lahore tonight," Guinness World Records adjudicator Gareth Deaves told a cheering crowd.

"Every single one of you holds this record," he said, handing over the certificate to Punjab provincial government representative Hamza Shahbaz Sharif.

On Saturday night 42,813 people in the national hockey stadium sang the national anthem together, smashing the previous best of 15,243 held by India. First, at the Punjab Youth Festival and then at the Lahore Expo Centre, with Guinness World Records officials in attendance to rule fair judgments, students and others broke Guinness world records in tasks such as the highest number of people simultaneously singing the national anthem, the most martial arts kicks in three minutes, as well as wiring a plug, setting up a chessboard and making *roti* in the shortest amount of time.

Assignment of Functional English

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