Govt rejects any negotiations

with PTI, accuses opposition

of escalating tensions

Information minister warns against

testing the state's patience, says Bushra Bibi seeking "blood and bodies"

there will be no negotiations

taken by the government

forces, stating that not only

had the protesters been re-

moved from D-Chowk, but

they had been pushed back

'two roundabouts away. Naqvi accused the PTI

protesters of trying to pro-

voke violence, claiming that

their objective was to cause

casualties, a situation the

government worked hard to

people who came in these protest caravans," he re-

marked. "Their goal was to

provoke violence and cre-

ate martyrs, but we man-

aged to clear the area with-

out any loss of life," he

founder Imran Khan, as being responsible for instigat-

He also referred to Bushra Bibi, wife of PTI

added.

ing the unrest.

'We saw the type of

He detailed the actions

with those on the sit-in."

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The gov-

ernment has firmly rejected

testers, escalating tensions

following days of demon-

Mohsin Naqvi and Infor-

mation Minister Atta Tarar

held a joint press conference

on Tuesday, stating that the

protesters, who had gathered at D-Chowk, had been

pushed back and the area

was cleared. The ministers

stressed that no discussions

would take place with the

maintained that no negotia-

tions would be held with the

protesters, asserting that

'now that they have come

and seen the situation,

there is no possibility of

talks. The government has

made a clear decision that

The interior minister

demonstrators.

Interior Minister

strations in Islamabad.

ndenemalent

dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Karachi Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 06. No. 267 Jamadi ul Awal 24, 1445 AH Wednesday November 27, 2024 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

Army reportedly called into capital Rangers begin arrests, regain

control of Islamabad's D-Chowk after pushing back PTI protesters

Monitoring Desk ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Rangers have regained control of Islamabad's D-Chowk after beginning arrests and pushing back PTI protesters from the venue of the party's much-touted

power show. A private tv channel report that PTI protesters began retreating from the site in the face of heavy teargas shelling and action by the authorities.

Protesters earlier gathered at the site for the party's protest to demand PTI founder Imran Khan's release, among other things, amid reports of intense tear gas shelling by security forces to curtail the large crowds. The PTI convoys have been plying roads countrywide since Sunday. There were blackouts

including D-Chowk, Jinnah Avenue, G6, G8 and G9.

journalists who were attacked by demonstrators, as dozens of PTI supporters beat a videographer covhis camera. He sustained head injuries and was treated in a hospital. Earlier the Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) convoy, led by Bushra Bibi, the wife of Imran Khan, is approaching Islamabad's Zero Point, which has been taken under the control of Pakistan Army soldiers.

The Ministry of Interior earlier during the day had announced the deployment of the Pakistan Army under Article 245 of the

in many areas of Islamabad, Constitution in response to escalating security concerns in Islamabad.

Scores of people have also been injured, including PTI wanted "bodies to advance their disruptive agenda" but the authorities would not give them the chance. He warned that if ering the protest for The Associated Press and took sponse to the protesters' firing, they could not even cross Pathargarh, yet the law-enforcement personnel exercised restraint.

"No one has ever been iven permission to protest in D-Chowk. We offered them Sangjani. We asked them to give application and sit in Sangjani," Naqvi said during his D-Chowk visit. 'My information is that they got approval from Imran Khan but we haven't got a final answer from PTI," he added.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President of Belarus H.E. Aleksandr Lukashenko exchanging joint communiqué.

Pakistan, Belarus agree on early realization of bilateral accords in multiple sectors

Underscore significance of advancing political dialogue, expanding trade, economic cooperation

kistan and Belarus on Tuesday agreed on the early realization of bilateral accords to enhance cooperation in trade, agriculture, food, defence and technology to monetize the de-cades-old political bilateral

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko, addressing a joint press stakeout following their bilateral meeting and delegation-level talks, said that both sides had reached an agreement to solidify the understanding reached between the two leaders and convert them into agreements by February next year.

Earlier, both leaders witnessed the exchange of Prime Minister Shehbaz turing.

passing cooperation in environmental protection, disaster management, halal trade, audit institutions, financial intelligence sharing, vocational education and science & technology.

One of the key outcomes of the meeting was the signing of the "Roadmap for Comprehensive Cooperation between Pakistan and Belarus for 2025-2027," which outlines a strategic framework for enhancing economic ties through high-level meetings, intergovernmental commissions, and targeted collaborative initiatives.

Talking to the media,

Bushra Bibi, wife of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan, and PTI sup-

Govt to launch solarization

program, aiming to benefit

500,000 households: Nasir

HANDS- a non-govern-

ment organisation to take

porters attend a rally demanding his release, in Islamabad.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Belarus on Tuesday agreed on the early restanding (MOUs), encom-stan and Belarus and said closeness between Pakistan and Belarus and said that in their "productive" bilateral meeting and the delegation-level talks, they discussed the cooperation in multiple sectors including commerce, tourism, defence, food and

> He lauded President Lukashenko's commitment to turning the bilateral understandings into practical agreements and actions.

The prime minister told the media that the two sides would sit together later in the day to finalise the roadmap for cooperation in agriculture, joint ven tures, mining and minerals IT and possibilities for heavy machinery manufac-



not revolution': PM

Says Pakistan cannot afford any form of chaos or bloodshed; PM, COAS attend funeral prayers of Shaheed security personnel

ISLAMABAD (APP): Functional prayers of three Rangneral prayers of three Rangers officials, who embraced Shahadat yesterday during the ongoing protest, were offered at Chaklala Garri-

son, on Tuesday. Prime Muhammad Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister Moĥammad Ishaq Dar, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Minister for Information Attaullah Tarar, Chief of Army Staff General Sved Asim Munir, NI(M), senior serving military and civil officials attended the funeral, PM Office Media Wing said in a

press release.
"Pakistan cannot afford any chaos and bloodshed for achieving vested

ceptable and highly condemnable which are bordering the limits of restraint by the Law Enforcement Agencies. The entire nation pays homage to the Shehbaz martyred Rangers soldiers and all those police officials who have embraced

> shahadat and those who are injured during these riots" the press release quoted the prime minister as saying. He emphasised that the attacks on police and Rangers officers under the guise of a peaceful protest

> are completely reprehen-He said Pakistan can-

not afford any form of chaos or bloodshed.



MOSCOW: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq being welcomed at Moscow on his arrival by Vice Chairman of Russian State Duma Mr. Alexander Babakov.

SHC regular benches recuses to hear constitutional petitions

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh eral governments or their High Court's (SHC) regular benches on Tuesday recused to hear constitutional petitions after formation of dedicated constitutional benches. A SHC division bench led by Justice Salahuddin Panhwar was hearing a case related to the Sindh Building Control

ings, the petitioner's counsel argued that the matter fell under Article 199(2) of the Constitution and

sought an urgent hearing.

institutions should be addressed by the constitutional bench.

He advised the counsel to obtain permission from Justice KK Agha and clarified that while conditional permission could be granted, it would first need to be determined whether the case should be heard by a regular or constitutional bench. In a separate development, the court declined to entertain cases concerning call-up notices, account de-freezing, protection requests and postponed all these matters for an indefinite time

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah meets with the 51th Spe-

cialized Training Program officers of the Initial Command Course at CM House.

Sindh Govt committed to transforming police into an efficient, tech-driven force

KARACHI (APP): Sindh lice Ghulam Nabi Memon, Sindh, he mentioned, was Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has reiterated his government's commitment to transforming the Sindh Police into an efficient, technology-driven force to enhance public safety and foster trust in law enforcement

among the people of Sindh. He said this while addressing the participants of the 51st Specialised Training Program and the 27th Initial Command Course for Assistant Superintendents of Police (ASPs) at the CM House. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Home Secretary Igbal Memon, capacity and efficiency. PSCM Agha Wasif, IG Po-

ISLAMABAD (APP): At

least four personnel of

Rangers embraced

martyrdom while five

others and police per-

sonnel sustained seri-

ously injuries when

miscreants rammed a

vehicle into them at

Srinagar Highway in

the wee hours of

sources,, four person-

two of police have

been martyred so far

in attacks on law en-

forcement agencies by

PTI miscreants. Over

100 police officials

According to security

Tuesday.

and others.

The CM said that the Sindh Police, established in 1843, is the oldest police organisation in the subcontinent and is undergoing significant modernization to tackle contemporary law enforcement challenges. He said, "With a sanctioned strength of 162,000 personnel, Sindh Police is the second-largest force in Pakistan, dedicated to crime prevention, detection, and

maintaining law and order." CM discussed several key initiatives aimed at enhancing the police force's One important project in

have also been injured

and many of them

sustained severe inju-

ries, they further said.

that under Article 245

of the constitution.

Army has been sum-

moned to deal with the

troublemakers with

iron hands. Shoot at

sight orders have also

been issued, they said.

ther said that all nec-

essary measures were

being taken to deal

with anarchists and

miscreants in response

to any act of terrorism.

and

The security sources said

miscreants

Four security personnel

martyred as PTI protest

escalates in Islamabad

nel of Rangers and The security sources fur-

the Smart Surveillance System (S4 Project), which involves installing surveillance cameras at 40 toll plazas across the province. "This system is intended to provide real-time monitoring at critical entry and exit points, improving response times and situational awareness while streamlin-

the Karachi Safe City Project is designed to significantly enhance the Sindh Police's capabilities, ensuring greater public safety in

ing police operations using advanced intelligence tools.," he said. According to the CM,

Pakistan's largest city.

Bilawal strongly condemns attack on Rangers

personnel ISLAMABAD (APP):

Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday strongly condemned the attack on Rangers personnel on Srinagar Highway in **Islamabad**

According to a press release issued by the Media Cell of Bilawal House, he said that targeting police and security forces striving to maintain law and order in Islamabad is blatant ter-

He demanded that those involved in the attacks on Rangers and police in Islamabad be brought



ISLAMABAD: A view of tear gas smoke raise after clash between police and PTI protestors in capital city.

Planning and Development, the lead in this regard as Syed Nasir Hussain Shah flood victims are a weak has said that numerous segment of society who are not position to make any complaints have been received regarding the complaint or Lodge FIRs. Peoples Housing Program The minister directed in the Sukkur division and this during a meeting at the directed that irregularities Commissioner's Office in be removed and FIRs be

registered against those in-He asked the Deputy Commissioners of all three districts, including Sukkur, Ghotki, and Khairpur, Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO) and

SUKKUR (APP): Provin-

cial Minister for Energy,

Sukkur regarding the Peoples Housing Program and Solarization Program. He said that the reconstruction of houses for

flood-affected individuals is the vision of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Although other provinces

Chief Secretary Sindh chairs meeting on 17th Aalmi Urdu Conference, Jashn-e-Karachi

KARACHI (APP): A significant meeting regarding security arrangements and facilitation for 17th Aalmi Urdu Conference, 2024 was chaired by Sindh Chief Secretary Syed Asif Haider Shah on Tuesday. Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi will host the 17th Aalmi Urdu Conference Jashan-e-Karachi from December 5 to 8.

During the meeting, the President Arts Council of Karachi, Pakistan Muhammad Ahmed Shah, provided a briefing on the conference. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Sindh Sved Asif Hyder Shah. President Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi

Muhammad Ahmed Shah. Secretary of Culture, Karachi Commissioner, Municipal Commissioner, Shahab Ansari, Director General of Protocol, CCPO Karachi, DIG Traffic, and others. President Arts Coun-

cil of Pakistan Karachi Muhammad Ahmed Shah appreciated and congratu-lated the Chief Secretary Sindh for the successful security arrangements for the of the 38-day World Cul-ture Festival Karachi, highlighting the proactive measures taken by the government. He expressed gratitude for the continuous support of the Sindh government

Islamabad Independent Report

KARACHI: The Sindh Senior Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon has condemned miscreants' attack on Rangers personnel in Islamabad and the martyrdom of 4

Sharjeel Inam Memon said that miscreants have trampled on the rule of law, an unforgivable attack has been carried out on law enforcement agencies.

'With profound grief, I extend my condolences to families of the martyred personnel and pray for the swift recovery of the injured.

ownership to people's housing program. Sharjeel condemns attack on Rangers in

also suffered significant de-

struction and damages due

to the floods, the recon-

struction of houses has

only started in Sindh, un-

der the instructions of

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto

Chief Minister Syed Murad

Ali Shah and the Sindh

Cabinet members are mak-

ing efforts to implement the

chairman's vision. He said

that Chairman Bilawal

Bhutto Zardari has given

strict instructions to give

He said that Sindh

Zardari, he added.

Authority (SBCA). During the proceed-

> Justice Panhwar observed that petitions involving restraining orders against provincial or Fed-

Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

Kurram ceasefire

Despite efforts by the KP government to bring about a ceasefire in Kurram tribal district, the bloodletting has continued. An official delegation said on Sunday that a seven-day truce between rival tribes had been brokered. The latest round of violence was sparked by the atrocious attack on a convoy on Thursday in which over 40 people were murdered. In an apparent retaliatory move, over 20 people were killed in armed attacks on Friday.

Locals told media that there were few signs of a ceasefire on Monday, while officials said the death toll had risen further. The unfortunate fact is that Kurram has been rocked by tribalcum-sectarian violence for the past several months, yet the state has preferred a firefighting approach, only stepping in after high loss of life. A land dispute is said to be the trigger for the violence that erupted in July, while deadly clashes also took place last year. In fact, tensions go back to 2007, when lethal clashes and their aftermath reportedly resulted in thousands

The continuing violence indicates the complexity of the situation in Kurram. For there to be durable peace, the underlying factors fuelling tension need to be addressed judiciously. For one, terrorist and sectarian groups cannot be given any space to operate. These malignant actors use local tribal and land disputes to stoke the flames. Thorough action is needed to neutralise the militants in Kurram and the surrounding districts, while strict vigilance should be maintained to ensure that terrorists based in Afghanistan cannot cross the border.

Moreover, the state must ensure people can safely travel between cities and towns, and that violent groups do not maintain any 'no-go areas' in the region. It is the state's duty to secure thoroughfares, and it must deliver on this obligation. Also, an official land commission has reportedly reached a conclusion regarding the dispute at the heart of the matter, but has not made its findings public due to 'sectarian sensitivities'. These findings should be made public. and all sides must reach an amicable solution to end the dispute.

PPP chief Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has blamed the KP administration for the poor security situation in Kurram. Unfortunately, over the decades, all organs of the state — the federal and provincial governments, as well as the security establishment — have repeatedly failed to maintain order, protect citizens and judiciously resolve disputes in Kurram.

This must change if the state wants to prevent further bloodshed in this volatile area. Local tribes had signed an accord in Murree in 2008, which was revalidated in 2011, to help bring peace to the region. This framework should be pursued to permanently end violence in Kurram.

Future socialisms

Dr Niaz Murtaza

Socialism is dead; Long Roger Burbach in 1997, predicting socialism's rise in new forms even as older ones falling. capitalism's damaging toll on humans expands hugely, the search for alternatives to the beast assumes urgency. Many think this means ending wage labour, profits and private capital, which they wrongly see as

capitalism's core. But sociologist Karl had existed even before capitalism for long. Capitalism rose only in the twin: a developmentalcentury when capital's interests became society's dominant logic to replace other human concerns, with a false promise that its sway ensures common welfare.

Capitalism expands its profits by penetrating But new forms must all human spheres and coaxing humans to satisfy all their needs via markets that they are satisfying via family, community, state or nature for free, arguing that market solutions better cater to all human needs. But the ills of this idea, spread cunningly by owners of big capital, are visible now in high inequity, environmental loss, resource wars and irrelevance of millions of workers as AI spreads as capital's dehumanising interests hold sway even over human realms that transcend commercial logics. Thus, ending capital's

nperative Socialism is usually seen as a system with state-owned production assets. But Polyani's insights about capitalism's core inspire a new vision of socialism as a system with common welfare as its dominant logic/ aim (rather than an uncertain economic system must the people. -- Cour-

corrupting sway over all

other human concerns is

ownership forms that range of ownership don't nix common wel- forms, ie, employee-Live Socialism," wrote fare. This vision can owned, non-profit, profellow Berkeley scholar spawn many forms of ducer cooperatives, disspawn many forms of ducer cooperatives, dissocialism, as the plural in persed ownership by the title suggests. The Nordic model is a form built on private capital, with common welfare ensured via provision of public social services, big state investment in education, health, and other human capital ser-

unions and safety nets. the globally competitive economies to generate Polyani argued that these enough taxes to fund a generous welfare state. They need a conjoint cum-welfare state where the first twin spawns an inclusive economy that gives income options to all able beings and the welfare twin that gives safety nets to the few labour-deficit beings. avoid the ills of failed forms: over-centralised political and economic

force protection via

power that disempowers disincentivises masses, kills energies and creativity and causes political autocracy and economic

unproductivity. Oddly, huge oligopolies are producing some such results even in capitalism that aged oligarchs did in former USSR. Donald Trump wants to keep afloat US oligarchies that can't compete with efficient Chinese units, just as Soviet oligarchs tried against efficient US ones years ago.

Politically, forms must embrace multiparty democracy over a one-party system and disperse power horizon- empowering socialisms tally and vertically. Empowered local bodies and must empower commu- mobilisation of masses nity organisations to as the key force drivhelp gain market power, ing both a state and protection, assets, skills economy of the people, and social services. The derived one as in capi- be similarly devolved tesy Dawn

talism) that allows all and encourage a wide different state levels and bodies and private companies, with a bias for micro, small and medium units.

The state must re-

view the cause of poverty among small producers and labourers in ruvices and strong labour- ral and urban areas in different regions. Such bottom-up analysis will But poor states lack reveal not only the lack of economic and social investment by the state for such groups as key factors but also their exploitation marginalisation by markets and local elites. This

will give a wide, structural agenda that covers legislation, policies, strategies, projects, services and institutional reform at federal, provincial and local levels.

This major investment in poor regions will drive national progress as reduced poverty ignites win-win growth that benefits society. Our internal market is small, despite our large population, given low incomes. Increasing incomes will expand the national market size and profits for producers. This in turn will expand incomes for the poor and hence national market size and ignite a virtuous progress cycle. Local initiatives will tap local savings digitally to plough them into local invest-

Smart regulation will replace deregulation and broader state units restructuring will replace only privatisation.

Such devolved and will use the political by the people and for

Banking shortcomings

Jawwad Farid Rimmel Mohydin

Systems in Pakistan often operate below potential. We could be close, but remain mired in red tape, beholden to power structures and burdened by hidden and friction costs. Despite an educated middle class and a growing youth bulge, we barely make a dent in the both choices is clear. world. Our banking sector is no exception.

Banks are crucial to mentation digitisation of the economy. Implementers of monetary policy, banks are the first port of call when it comes to improving national savings rate, international trade or private sector credit. Without healthy banking, standards of counts (Rs6tr). living or the GDP will not

So why isn't our banking there yet?

One could be forgiven for believing that our banks are creating all the value they can, based on the recent national debate on banking profitability. However, Banking on our Banks, a joint analysis by CERP and Alchemy Technologies, asks if we are looking at the right benchmarks for evaluating banking competitive-If we shift our gaze

to banks in similar markets, there is a widening performance gap. Consider India's HDFC bank. Twenty years ago, HDFC and HBL were comparable in size. In 2024, HDFC ranks 11th globally by market capitalisation. The closest Pakistani bank is at number 394. HBL stands at 477. While the volume of reserves, market size and regulatory contexts must be acknowledged, it speaks to the impact of the decisions made by both

Our best banks reveal similar shortcomings in efficiency, profit- Cumbersome approval

compete by focusing on growing advances with innovative products and technology-driven improvements to credit allocation and disbursement. Pakistani banks focus on investments and returns on government debt. The outcome of

When we widen our that our banks operate in, capital formation, docu- course correction beand comes urgent. By conservative estimates, frictional costs in Pakistan's tax collection system cause leaks of Rs2 trillion every year, including the bearing current ac-

Part of the challenge in our over-regulated banking sector is the emphasis on safety, minimising risk at the cost of innovation. Innovation results from a debreaks things. When safety is the prime motia four-letter word.

For decades, the banking innovation — ATMs, national connectivity, faster check clearance, branchless banking and now digital and mobile banking. Yet many believe this topdown approach with a focus on safety is restricting risk appetite and growth.

Banks incentivised to lend within well-trodden paths, prioritising uncompetitive sectors like energy, agriculture, and textiles while ignoring high potential indus-

A banking-specific mutation of the 'Dutch disease'. Absence of competition discourages new product development and the ability to bet on new sectors.

ability, and growth, when processes and predictmeasured against their able returns deter innopeers in the region who vation with both the regulator and within banking boards.

We need marketdriven incentives, responsive regulators, forward-looking boards and a sandbox approach to experimentation. Otherwise, banks will continue to prioritise comfort lending over bold decisions necessary for lens to include context economic transformation. Small and medium enterprises are the backbone of economic growth but remain a banking stepchild. Export focused borrowers pose a different challenge. Their tech focus opportunity cost of cur- makes them asset-light rency in circulation and talent-heavy making (Rs9tr) and non-interest- them unsuitable for asset-backed loans. The same is true for the growing low-cost private school market. Partly inform--al, partly under the radar, it doesn't fit within conventio-n--al credit frame-works.

Is it just burdensire to change but often some compliance and underwriting requirements that deter banks? vator, breakage becomes Or is there more to the equation that prioritises larger exposures? The regulator has driven mystery element 'X' is scale. We scaled the liability side but left advances behind. Datadriven models, marketrelevant pricing and customer-driven products are one solution.

Digitalisation, reducing inefficiencies and building anew come with a price tag. There are regulatory burdens to overcome, skittish investors to pacify, unprecedented economic challenges to

The question is not if these challenges are surmountable — they are, but if we are willing to take them on. The path forward demands courage for regulators to rethink models, for banks to take calculated risks, policymakers to align incentives with innovation. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Pak, China sign 13 MoUs on fostering joint ventures in animal fodder, fruits, vegetables processing sectors

and Chinese companies on Tuesday signed 13 memorandums of understanding (MoUs) valued at US\$ 250 million on fostering joint ventures on fostering joint ventures investment partnerships in the animal fodder and fruits and vegetables processing

to China, Khalil Hashmi witnessed the signing networking opportunities, ceremony held at the conclusion of a day-long Matchmaking Meeting on Animal Fodder and Fruits and Vegetable

successfully hosted the third in a series of sectorspecific B2B matchmaking meetings.

This event, focused investment and partnerships in the animal fodder and fruits and sectors. The event featured Pakistan Ambassador insightful presentations, individual B2B meetings, and the signing of 13 Memorandums Understanding (MoUs) valued at approximately USD 250 million.

Beijing, in collaboration 30 virtual engagements, with the Board of took place, providing a

Pakistani and Chinese companies to explore partnerships and expand trade in these priority

In his remarks. Ambassador Hashmi highlighted the strong trade ties between vegetables processing Pakistan and China and emphasized the strategic importance of agriculture and food processing sectors.

He noted that the event underscored Pakistan's ongoing efforts to bolster its trade relationship with China, Over 150 productive focusing on creating Pakistan Embassy B2B meetings, including opportunities for direct

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President

of Belarus H.E. Aleksandr Lukashenko witnessing the MoUs and Agreements exchange ceremony held in Prime Minister's House.

Finance minister highlights

investor confidence, both

domestic and international.

The delegation included

Jianqiao Lu, Member IASB,

Farukh Rehman, President

of the Institute of Chartered

Accountants of Pakistan

(ICAP), Rana Usman Khan,

Chairman of the Asia-

Oceania Accounting

Standards Group, Ashfaq

Tola, Chairman of the

Reforms and Resource

govt's policy framework connections and long-term partnerships. **NEPRA** Most Asian markets drop, ISLAMABAD (APP): of standardizing financial Federal Minister for Finance regimes to align with global concludes practices, which he said and Revenue, Senator dollar gains as Trump Muhammad Aurangzeb, were crucial for fostering

here on Tuesday highlighted

comprehensive policy

framework aimed at

enhancing tax revenues

documentation and financial

International Accounting

Standards Board (IASB) led

by Dr. Andreas, Chairman

During a meeting with

delegation of the

through

transparency.

government's

improved

fires tariff warning HONG KONG (AFP/ with fears now of another ISLAMABAD (APP) APP): Asian markets fell trade war with China and and the dollar rallied warnings that the move— Tuesday after Donald along with promised tax Trump warned he would cuts—will reignite US impose huge new tariffs on inflation. China, Mexico and Canada "On January 20th, as on his first day in office,

to trade policy. The former and next president said on his Truth Social account that he would hammer the United States' largest trading partners in response to the illegal drug trade and immigration.

dealing a blow to hopes of

a more moderate approach

The news dampened optimism that his pick to lead the Treasury, Scott Bessent, could temper the tycoon's assertiveness,

one of my many first Executive Orders, I will sign all necessary documents to charge Mexico and Canada a 25 percent tariff on ALL products coming into the United States, and its ridiculous Open Borders," he wrote.

In another post, he added that he would hit China with a 10 percent tariff"above any additional Tariffs" on all of its products entering the US, citing Beijing's failure to tackle fentanyl smuggling.

hearing into FCA for **October**

National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Tuesday concluded public hearing into public petition filed by Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) on behalf of XWDISCOs in power tariff increase under monthly fuel cost adjustment (FCA) for October.

The hearing was presided over by Chairman NEPRA Waseem Mukhtar while other members Mathar Niaz Rana of Balochistan, member Sindh Rafique Ahmad Shaikh. Member Pakhtunkhwa Engineer Maqsood Anwar Khan and

IASB, the minister Mobilization Commission emphasized the importance of Pakistan (RRMC) and Qaiser Sheikh says: **Economic stability** contingent upon political stability

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Sheikh, emphasized on Tuesday that achieving economic stability is contingent upon political stability. Talking to a private news channel, the minister highlighted overnment's repeated efforts to resolve political issues through dialogue. He

noted that multiple

attempts were made in the

ISLAMABAD (APP): past, including offering consultations on proposed "charter of economy," but these initiatives faced resistance.

"The founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) opted for a path of disruption rather than peace," said Sheikh. Minister stressed the urgent need to attract foreign investors, pointing out that the current political and security situation has deterred investment.

growth.On the occasion, Dr. Andreas acknowledged Pakistan's leadership in adopting international accounting standards and commended the country for being an early follower of global practices.

94% wheat

sowing target

achieved in

Layyah

Finance Division also

release issued by finance

division, the minister

reiterated the government's

commitment to ensuring

policy continuity to create

a conducive environment

for sustainable economic

According to press

attended the meeting.

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): The Agriculture Department Layyah has announced achieving 94 percent of the wheat cultivation target set by the Punjab government for the district in the ongoing

A spokesperson for the department revealed that wheat has been sown over 641,000 acres across the district's three tehsils.

He noted that 92% of the target has been achieved in Tehsil Layyah, while Tehsil Karor Lal Eason has reached 93%

Fertilizer available at low prices across Punjab: CM Maryam

LAHORE (APP): Punjab wheat cultivation target of Chief Minister Maryam 16.5 million acres across Nawaz Sharif has said that for the first time, there is an abundance of fertilizer in Punjab in the Rabi wheat cultivation target season, and prices have also come down.

Chairing a special meeting on agriculture here on Tuesday, she said 30 percent more stock of DAP fertilizer is available in Punjab, and 17 percent reduction in its price during the wheat season has been observed for the first time.

The CM said that 125 percent more stock of urea fertilizer than required is available, and 25 percent reduction in its price has

Punjab has been set and 82 percent of the target has been completed. She added will be completed across the province by December 10. She highlighted wheat cultivation on 326,000 acres of government land

across Punjab has been

The CM said 40,000 agriculture graduate interns are available to assist farmers in the field across the province, adding that applications have been invited for free grant of 1,000 green tractors and 1,000 land levelers for wheat farmers under Chief been observed in the Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's scheme



BAHAWALPUR: People buying overcoats from roadside stalls as the temperature rapidly falls in

OGRA seeks support for uninterrupted transportation of petroleum products

ISLAMABAD (APP): In the coordination with the Petroleum Division, the Authority (OGRA) has urged law enforcement agencies to ensure the smooth transportation of tank lorries carrying petroleum products to retail outlets.

"OGRA, coordination with the Petroleum Division, has requested law enforcement agencies through Chief Secretaries and local administrations to ensure

lorries carrying petroleum Oil and Gas Regulatory products to the retail outlets," said an OGRA spokesperson statement. To address any

challenges faced by tank lorries transportation, dedicated communication channel has been established between Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and District Administrations/ Law Enforcement agencies.

LAHORE: Parliamentary Secretary for Women Sadia Taimoor addressing the awareness campaign at Lahore Chamber of Commerce.

Kundi flays martyrdom of Rangers personnel on Srinagar highway

PESHAWAR Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Karim Kundi, on Tuesday strongly condemned the martyrdom of Rangers and police personnel on the Highway Islamabad, emphasizing that their sacrifices will never be in vain.

In a statement, Governor Kundi expressed his deep sorrow and solidarity with the families and colleagues of the martyrs, sharing in their

"The sacrifices made by these brave personnel will never be forgotten," he said, stressing the importance of their service

out that the masterminds Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is behind the May 9 incidents engaged in terrorism in continue to pose a threat Islamabad as well," Kundi to the state, saying, "The remarked.

(APP): masterminds behind May 9 attacks are still assaulting the state today.

He labeled the recent attack on Rangers personnel, where a vehicle was driven into them, as part of a larger agenda of a hostile group. "Running over Rangers personnel with a vehicle is a mission of anti-state elements," he

The Governor also accused certain political groups of fostering terrorism, particularly highlighting the role of a party that has been accused of supporting militants in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while engaging in terrorism activities in Islamabad.

"The party that has Kundi further pointed been fostering terrorists in

'Suthra' Punjab **Outsourcing** of sanitation system in progress for four UCs

RAWALPINDI (APP): there should be no problem The outsourcing of the cleanliness and sanitation system under the 'Suthra' Punjab programme is in progress in four Union Councils (UCs) and zero waste would be ensured in cities and villages through, the 'Suthra' Punjab programme. According to a district administration spokesman, the 'Suthra' Punjab programme was launched on the directives of Chief Minister Punjab and it is a gift for the people. Rawalpindi Waste Management Company is taking solid steps regarding Punjab programme, he added.

The environmental friendly sustainable measures are being taken under 'Suthra' Punjab programme, he informed.

All the required resources are being Government, after which and in each Tehsil.

in ensuring 100 percent cleanliness.He said that outsourcing cleanliness and sanitation systems in rural areas would ensure manual, and mechanical sweeping, waste collection, drain cleaning and waste disposal. government departments would monitor the outsourcing system digitally, he said. The monitoring would include biometric attendance, management vehicle weighing at dumping site, digital monitoring of the fleet and container clearance through geo-tagging and prompt

complaints, he informed. At the district level, a control room under the supervision of Assistant Commissioners is being built in the Deputy provided by the Punjab Commissioners's Office

resolution



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in a group photo with delegation of the business community led by Humayun Iqbal Mir at Governor House. Senior PPP Lahore leader Aslam Gill is also present on the occasion.

Punjab Governor says:

Business community playing a major role in the economic improvement of the country

CS reiterates govt

commitment to ensure

rule of law

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief devise a roadmap for

Secretary (CS) Khyber enduring peace.

Pakhtunkhwa, Nadeem

Aslam Chaudhary has

underscored the critical

importance of restoring

peace and stability in

Kurram district reiterating

the government's strong

commitment to ensuring

Grand Peace Jirga that

Commissioner House

Kohat to deliberate on

was convened

He was addressing a

the rule of law.

Independent Report LAHORE: A delegation of the business community led by Humayun Iqbal Mir met with Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan

at Governor House Lahore. Senior PPP Lahore leader Aslam Gill was also present on the occasion. During the meeting, the delegation demanded that the Governor Punjab lift restriction on closing

Preparations

underway for

polio campaign

in Battagram

BATTAGRAM (APP):

Deputy Commissioner

Battagram Asif Ali Khan

Tuesday chaired a meeting

to finalize preparations for

the upcoming polio

The meeting was attended by District Police

Officer Ayaz Khan,

Commissioner, Additional

Assistant Commissioners,

health department officials,

WHO representatives, and

in the

Deputy

relevant

campaign

Additional

district.

other

stakeholders.

on the occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the business community is playing a major role in the economic improvement of the country. He said that stakeholders should be taken on board while making any policy. Governor Punjab said that strengthening the business

markets at 8 pm. Speaking improve the economy as well as to create e m p l o y m e n t opportunities.

He said that a large number of the business community pays taxes, adding that tax payers should be respected. Punjab Governor further said that the PTI's protest is not a solution to the problems, they should community is vital to come to the negotiating

The Jirga was attended by leading

religious figures of Sunni

consultative process with

local elders was integral to

craft a sustainable peace

framework. He assured

participants that the

their

and

emphasized that

The Chief Secretary

and Shia sects.

government

implement

suggestions

table. Punjab Governor said that the visit of a highlevel delegation from Belarus to Pakistan is good news for the country's economy.

He said that protest call of PTI is not in the national interest. Punjab Governor further said that all political parties should be on the same page regarding the country' economy.

PA resolution condemns attack on security personnel

LAHORE (APP): A resolution condemning the incident of crushing rangers personnel bу supporters under a vehicle has been submitted to the Punjab Assembly by PML-N MPA Hina

Pervaiz Butt. The resolution states that this house strongly condemns the act of crushing three rangers and a police officer under a vehicle on Srinagar Highway by miscreants.

7th Maritime Security Workshop commences

edition of the Maritime and opportunities in Security Workshop Pakistan's maritime sector (MARSEW-7) aimed at and its critical role in enhancing knowledge and understanding of maritime security, geopolitical dynamics in the broader Indian Ocean region and the Blue Economy besides exploring Pakistan's untapped maritime potential commenced on Tuesday at Pakistan Navy War College.

The workshop was inaugurated by the Commandant of Pakistan Navy War College, Rear Admiral Azhar Mahmood, said a news release issued by the Directorate General of Public Relations

(Pakistan Navy). MARSEW national-level organized under the the purpose of the auspices of the Pakistan Navy, with the theme 'Secure Seas, Prosperous Pakistan.

The workshop seeks

LAHORE (APP): Seventh to highlight the challenges supporting the national economy. This forum provides a shared platform for participants from the public and private sectors, including parliamentarians, senior bureaucrats, maritime industry professionals, business leaders, academia, think tanks, and media representatives, deliberate on pressing

national maritime issues. A total of 38 participants from the public, private, and military sectors are taking part in MARSEW-7.

In his welcome address, Rear Admiral forum Azhar Mahmood outlined workshop, emphasizing the need for Pakistan's intelligentsia to shift its strategic focus towards the



RAWALPINDI: Passengers rush to the railway station due to the closure of transport amid PTI protest.

Resolution demanding ban on PTI submitted in Punjab Assembly

resolution demanding a ban on the PTI has been submitted in the Punjab Assembly.

The resolution was submitted by PML-N member Hina Pervez Butt, in which it was said that this house strongly condemns the PTI's attack o n

federation in droves.

LAHORE (APP): A chief executive of a province and the former first lady are attacking the federation in droves.

The resolution states that miscreants and rioters injured police personnel and set vehicles on fire, a specific group has caused damage to the lives and property of The text of the the people under a wellresolution said that the planned conspiracy.

prevailing situation in recommendations Kurram district and effectively. International News

Israel pounds Beirut suburbs as Lebanon says 31 dead nationwide

Monitoring Desk

BEIRUT: Israeli strikes pummelled south Beirut, Lebanese official media said, and health authorities reported 31 people killed across the war-hit country, most of them in the south.

Israel's military said in a statement Monday afternoon it had hit "approximately 25 terror targets" belonging to Hezbollah across Lebanon, including in Nabatiyeh, Baalbek, the Bekaa Valley and southern Beirut and the city's out-

images showed palls of smoke over the capital's southern suburbs after strikes that began in the morning after successive Israeli military warnings to evacuate.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency (NNA) reported a fourth wave of Israeli raids in south Beirut on Monday evening,

Monitoring Desk

VIENNA: Austria's far-

right Freedom Party won a

state election in Styria for

the first time on Sunday in

an echo of September's gen-

eral election and a new show

of strength while national

coalition talks continue

Styria, home to Austria's

second city, Graz, raises

pressure on party leaders

currently attempting to

forge the country's first

three-way government

Sunday's election in

without it.

saying "enemy warplanes launched strikes on (the) Haret Hreik and Shiyah" districts. The attacks came after a weekend of heavy raids international ceasefire efforts. Early Saturday, a deadly strike on central Beirut's densely populated Basta neighbourhood killed at least 29 people, the health ministry said

Monday it had struck a Hezbollah command centre there, though an official with the Iran-backed group denied reports that a senior member had been targeted.

The NNA reported Israeli strikes on Tyre and Nabativeh after Israel issued evacuation warnings for parts of the main south-

Lebanon's health min-

Austrian far right shows

strength with state

election win in Styria

A statement listed "the casualty toll of Israeli enemy strikes on a number of Lebanese cities and towns" in the east, south in the area, despite ongoing and near Beirut, with most people killed in the south and four killed in the east

The NNA also reported "a drone strike that targeted a residential complex" in a Druze-majority town on the outskirts of Israel's army said Beirut, without prior evacuation calls.

Lebanon's Druze community follows an offshoot of Shiite Islam, and its heartland around Mount Lebanon has largely been spared in the current hostilities. The education ministry suspended classes on Monday in schools, technical institutes and private higher education institutions in Beirut and a numistry said Israeli strikes ber of surrounding areas, killed at least 31 people on citing "the current dangerous conditions".

A man moves a scooter amid the rubble, in the aftermath of Israeli strikes on Iran's Khamenei

Beirut's southern suburbs, amid the ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, in Lebanon.

says ICC warrant for Netanyahu 'not enough'

Monitoring Desk ΓΕΗRAN: Iran's supreme

leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Monday that a war crimes case against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the Gaza war was insufficient and that he deserved a "death sentence".

In his first remarks since the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for Netanyahu last week, Khamenei told a Tehran meeting that it was "not

arch nemesis, backs armed

including Palestinian militant group Hamas, whose October 7, 2023 attack sparked the war.

The ICC's judges said there were "reasonable grounds" to believe that Netanyahu and his former defence minister Yoav Gallant bore "criminal responsibility" for using starvation as a method of warfare and intentionally attacking civilians in the Gaza Strip.

'They issued an arrest warrant for him, it's not enough," said Khamenei speaking to a group from which is linked to Iran's

the Basij paramilitary force

Canada and China **Monitoring Desk**

In a series of posts to his Truth Social account, Trump vowed to hit some of the United States' largest trading partners with duties on all goods entering

one of my many first Executive Orders, I will sign all necessary documents to charge Mexico and Canada a 25 per cent tariff on all products coming into the United States," he wrote.

Trump said he would also be slapping China with a 10pc tariff, "above any additional Tariffs'

Moscow assures Taliban of removal from

negative list

Monitoring Desk KABUL: Top Russian se-curity official Sergei Shoigu visited Afghan government officials on Monday, assuring them Moscow will soon remove the Taliban from its list of banned organisations, Kabul said.

The Russian delegation's visit coincides with ongoing diplomatic efforts by China and Iran. Special envoys from these nations are currently in Kabul, marking a rare political gathering of representatives from three US rivals since Donald Trump's re cent election victory.

Shoigu, the secretary of Russia's Security Council, met an Afghan cohort in Kabul headed by Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Abdul Ghani Baradar. He "expressed

Russia's interest in increasing the level of bilateral cooperation with Afghanistan," Baradar's office said in a statement released on social media site X.

"He also announced that, to expand political and economic relations between the two countries, the Islamic Emirate's name would soon be removed from Russia's blacklist." The Islamic Emirate is

the name the Taliban government uses to refer to it-

G7 ministers discuss ceasefire efforts in Mideast

Monitoring Desk FIUGGI: Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said he was "optimistic" for a cessation of hostilities in Lebanon, as Middle East tensions dominated a G7 meeting near Rome.

The Group of Seven foreign ministers also discussed the International Criminal Court's arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the Hamas military chief.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken attended the talks in the towns of Fiuggi and Anagni with ministers from Britain, Canada, Germany, France, Japan and host Italy.

a press conference as international efforts for a attack.

ceasefire intensify—even if 'We are strongly

committed to strongly pushing Israel and Hamas to end this war in Palestine," he said. Tajani hinted however at difficulties in reaching

"an unambiguous position on the International Criminal Court decision" The ICC issued war-

rants against Netanyahu and his former defence minister Yoav Gallant as well as Hamas' Mohammed Deif on Thursday.

They have been accused of crimes against humanity and war crimes in Israel's war on Hamas "I am optimistic in Gaza, triggered by the about Lebanon," Tajani told militant Palestinian in Gaza, triggered by the group's October 7, 2023

Top EU diplomat says Israel has 'no excuses' to refuse a ceasefire with Hezbollah

Monitoring Desk FIUGGI: The European

Jnion's top diplomat said Tuesday there were "no excuses" for Israel to refuse to accept a ceasefire with the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, saying all its security concerns had been addressed in the U.S.-French-brokered deal. Josep Borrell, the out-

going EÛ foreign policy chief, called for increased pressure on Israel to blunt extremists in the government who are refusing to accept the deal. Speaking on the sidelines of a Group of Seven meeting in Italy, Borrell warned that if a ceasefire is not implemented, "Lebanon will faÎl apart.''

Israeli officials said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's security Cabinet was set to convene Tuesday to discuss a proposed ceasefire. Among the issues that remain is an Israeli demand to reserve the right to act should Hezbollah violate its obligations under the

emerging deal. Borrell said under the

proposed agreement, the U.S. would chair a ceasefire implementation committee. with France participating at

the request of Lebanon. On the proposal agreement brokered by the S. and France, Israel has all security concerns (addressed)," Borrell told reporters in Fiuggi, Italy. There is not an excuse for not implementing a ceasefire. Otherwise, Lebanon will fall apart."

Israeli bombardment has killed more than 3,500 people in Lebanon and wounded more than 15,000 according to the Lebanese Health Ministry. On the Israeli side, about 90 soldiers and nearly 50 civilians have been killed by rockets, drones and missiles in northern Israel and in the fighting on the ground in Lebanon. The G7 meeting of foreign ministers from the world's leading industrialized nations, the last of the Biden administration, was dominated on Monday by the Mideast wars in

Gaza and Lebanon.

since 1949. which

It is only the second eurosceptic, Russia-friendly Freedom Party (FPO) has ever won, the first having been Carinthia, the fiefdom of then-FPO leader Joerg Haider in his heyday in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

"There's been a land-slide in Styria. I didn't expect such a resounding result," the FPO's deputy leader in Styria, Stefan Hermann, told national broadcaster ORF.

It is the first time since World War Two that neither the OVP nor the Social Democrats (SPO) have won in the state bordering Slovenia where actor Arnold Schwarzenegger was born

The FPO will need a coalition partner to secure a majority in Styria's state assembly and form a government.

Nationally, FPO leader Herbert Kickl continues to lambast efforts to form what he calls a "coalition of losers" by the parties that came second, third and fourth in September's election

Republican Rand Paul opposes Trump talk of using military in deportations

WASHINGTON: Republican US Senator Rand Paul voiced opposition on Sunday to the idea of using the military to carry out mass deportations of people living in the country illegally after President-elect Donald Trump signaled last week that he plans to do so.

Monitoring Desk

"You don't do it with the Army because it's illegal," Paul said on CBS's "Face the Nation" program. "If they send the Army into New York and you have 10,000 troops marching carrying semi-automatic weapons, I think it's a terrible image, and I will oppose that." A 19th century US law prohibits federal troops from being used in domestic law enforcement except when authorized by Congress.

His country, Israel's movements in the region Revolutionary Guards. **Trump vows big** tariffs on Mexico,

WASHINGTON: US

President-elect Donald Trump on Monday said he intended to impose sweeping tariffs on goods from Mexico, Canada and China, prompting a swift warning from Beijing that "no one will win a trade war."

the country.
"On January 20th, as

In another post

Naqvi on Tuesday said that

the entire leadership of Pa-

kistan Tehreek-e-Insaf,

who is pursuing an anti Pa-

D-Chowk, the minister said

Addressing media at

bloodshed in Islamabad.

troubles for PTI.

taged the dialogue.

Secret Hand hostages entire

leadership of Pakistan

CM Murad urges WAPDA to allocate 50 MGD of additional water for Karachi

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, in his meeting with the Chairman Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), Lt Gen (R) Sajjad Ghani at CM House, discussed several critical projects, including the K-IV project, Right Bank Outfall Drain (RBOD) and urged him to provide additional 50 MGD water from Hub Dam to meet the needs of

The meeting was attended by Minister Local Government Saeed Ghani, Minister Irrigation Jam Khan Shoro, PSCM Agha Wasif, Secretary Irrigation Zareef Khero, PD K-IV

government is in the proing the water supply inframore reliable source of wa-

KARACHI (APP): The ter for the city. He urged him to allocate the provision of 50 MGD of additional water from the Hub Dam for Karachi.

The Chairman of WAPDA suggested the CM direct the water board to submit a written request. Mayor Karachi, Murtaza quest had already been

The Chairman of WAPDA informed the CM that the water board owed Rs1 billion to WAPDA for the maintenance of the Hub Canal. The CM responded that his government would settle the outstanding dues, instructing Minister Local Government Saeed Ghani to send him a summary for

Manghopir from its source at Keenjhar Lake, Thatta. The WPDA is executing the project, and its completion date is June 2026.

On the other hand, the Sindh government is working on the distribution and augmentation system, es-Wahab, stated that the re- tablishing a power supply arrangement of 50 MW, and managing land acquisition and clearance of the rightof-way (ROW).

The Chairman of WAPDA provided an update on the status of the K-IV project, stating that it is being implemented through eight contract packages awarded to various local and international contractors. He emphasised that

work on all components of the project, including the Intake Structure, pumping stations, water conveyance system (pressurised pipeline), water reservoirs, and

State showing

great restraint

against PTI

rioters: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP)

Federal Minister for Infor-

mation, Broadcasting, Na-

tional Heritage and Culture

Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday

said that the state was

showing great restraint

against the protesters from

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf.

minister said that the

spouse of founder of PTI

Talking to media, the

'Mercenaries have

been brought to the front

and they want to use chil-

dren of the poor people",



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah meets WAPDA Chairman Lieutenant General (Retd) Sajjad Ghani at CM House.

Gilani calls for enhanced Pak-Saudi Arabia cooperation in trade, textiles sectors

During his official visit panied by his delegation, the Speaker of the Saudi Shura Council and the Saudi

Arabia relations, focusing

on economic cooperation, legislative collaboration, and regional stability. During high-level meetings, Chairman Senate

Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani proposed the establishment of a parliamentary friend-Syed Yousaf Raza ship committee between the

growing trade relations, noting that bilateral trade reached \$4.5 billion in 2023, and called for increased cooperation in sectors like textiles, agriculture, and technology.

gratitude for Saudi Arabia's humanitarian support during Pakistan's crises and for facilitating the Hajj and Umrah pilgrimage for Pakistani citizens.

RAWALPINDI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Ínsaf

(PTI) founder Imran Khan

has lauded his party's sup-

porters in Islamabad and D-

Chowk, urging them to re-

cil to promote regular dialogue and joint initiatives, particularly on economic and security matters. Gilani praised the

The protestors are armed, using weapons and opened fire on law enforcepersonal Shakargarh, said the minister adding that the government has shown extreme restrain however the Inspector General of Capital

He also expressed Police has been given full authority to deal with the

Tehreek-e-Insaf: Naqvi ISLAMABAD (APP): In- situation and government

will provide full support. terior Minister Mohsin Other day, three rangers and one police jawan a secret hand is controlling were martyred, two ranger jawans are still in critical condition, four police perkistan agenda but has failed sonal of islamabad police in its nefarious plan of are in critical condition, two ASPs and one SP were seriously injured, five jawans of Punjab police are critical

that secret hand is a root and seventy are injured, cause of law and order situ-Mohsin Naqvi sharing deation which is creating more tails said that the Government is showing extreme He said that governrestrain and is avoiding to ment had convinced the leadescalate the situation but ership of PTI to avoid bloodthe other side took full adshed and offered a place for vantage of government's soft stance.

sit-in at Sangjani upon which the leadership of PTI agreed The minister said that but that secret hand sabothe government had offered the PTI leadership a place He said the protestors at Sangjani for their protest massively used teargas and sit-in and they agreed shells upon rangers, police to this and twice requested and FC which were provide for ceasefire and removing to them by the government of containers from their way of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. to go back to the agreed place but all of sudden a secret

hand sabotaged the deal. Government shown restrain upon the presence of Head of State in the capital and such footages and teargas shelling was causing a bad name for the country specially in the presence of high level delegation from Belarus, the minister said.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with Ambassador of Qatar Mr. Ali Bin Mubarak Al-Khater at CM House.

DC chairs meeting regarding Polio arrangements

HYDERABAD (APP): mance. The Deputy Commissioner Zain ul Aabdinn Memon Shahbaz Hall on Tuesday.

According to handout issued by district Information office, Deputy Commissioner urged relevant authorities to devise a comprehensive strategy to

eliminate polio disease. He said that we should have to pay more attention to refusal cases in areas which are risky regarding emergence of Polio and if we be successful to motivate parents in such areas it will be a big achievement for district administration. DC also urged to avoid fake marking and lauded efforts of relevant officers of Latifabad and Qasimabad

DC also reviewed ongoing campaign of protecpresided over a meeting of tive vaccination (Big Catch district polio eradication up) and directed officers of committee to review ar- Health department to take rangements for upcoming necessary steps for ensurpolio campaign here at ing fumigation and other measures to prevent people from Dengue and Malaria, N stop officer of District eradication committee and

divisional N stop officer Dr Jamshed Khanzada apprised the meeting that over 50,0000 children upto 5 years age will be administered polio drops for which 1550 mobile teams, 160 fixed teams, 85 transit teams had been constituted while 387 area Incharges and 122 UCMs would per-

sioners of four talukas, District Health officer Hyderabad and other officers were also present in the Talukas on better perfor- meeting.

Assistant Commis-

form their duty



KARACHI: An AI teacher introduced with new technology, sits in her chair at a private school in Karachi.

Social Welfare Dept enhances services for drug addicts, senior citizens

KARACHI (APP): The able to support diagnostic Social Welfare Department, Sindh, is making significant strides in improving services for vulnerable segments of society, as outlined during a briefing by Secretary Social Welfare Department, Ahmed Seehar, to the Min-

Tarique Ali Khan Talpur here on Tuesday. The department announced that the construction of a state of the art Rehabilitation Centre for

ister for Social Welfare,

Drug Addicts is on track for completion by June 25, The facility will accommodate up to 50 drug

addicts at a time, offering comprehensive services such as food, medical care, and other basic necessities. In addition, the centre

will cater to walk-in clients and patients seeking assistance for addiction-related issues. A fully equipped laboratory will also be availTalpur, while appreciating

and treatment services. Mir Tarique Ali Khan the progress, stated, "This rehabilitation centre reflects our commitment to addressing the growing issue of drug addiction in society. By providing essential services and a pathway to recovery, we aim to restore dignity and hope for individuals battling addiction.

The Social Welfare Department is also advancing its efforts to support the elderly population with the construction of a Senior Citizen Building in District Central

This facility has a capacity to accommodate 50 senior citizens, with the first phase set to house 25 residents. The centre will provide essential amenities, including food, medical care, and other basic necessities, ensuring a safe and nurturing environment for the elderly.

Gilani, Chairman Senate, is Chairman Senate Syed currently in Saudi Arabia on Yousuf Raza Gilani on an official visit on the invi-Tuesday emphasized the tation of Dr. Abdullah ibn Muhammad Al need to strengthen trade ties ash-Sheikh, Speaker of the between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in key sectors such Shura Council and Saudi-Pakistan Friendship group. as textiles, agriculture, and technology to achieve The visit aims to shared prosperity. strengthen Pakistan-Saudi

to Saudi Arabia, he accomheld separate meetings with Arabia-Pakistan Friendship Group, according to a news

US urges Pak to respect human **Imran urges** supporters to rights, PTI protesters' right stand firm until to demonstrate demands are met

In the State Depart-

ment briefing earlier on

Tuesday, Miller was asked

to comment on the PTI sup-

WASHINGTON (INP): The United States has urged Pakistani authorities to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the PTI protesters' right to demonstrate peacefully, US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Tuesday.

As the PTI convoys from various parts of the country are enroute Islamabad to demand the release of its incarcerated founder Imran Khan, the federal government has vowed to not let them reach their desired destination in the capital, D-Chowk.

Containers and barbed wires have been strategi-cally placed to impede PTI supporters, while heavy police deployments indicate that the authorities are

porters' protest as well as their reported clashes with the police. "In Pakistan and around the world, we support freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and association," the spokesperson said. "We call on protesters to demonstrate peacefully and refrain from violence, and at the same time, we call on Pakistani authorities to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to ensure respect for Pakistan's laws and con-

maintain law and order." The statement comes after clampdown on PTI's 'do or die' protest in the

stitution, as they work to

main steadfast in their protests until their demands are In a statement shared via his official X account, Khan expressed his gratitude to the Pakistani nation and PTI activists for standing up for their rights and engaging in peaceful protests against what he described as a "mafia" that has taken control of the country.
"I salute the Pakistani

nation and PTI workers who are standing for their rights, protesting peacefully, and demanding real freedom in the face of the mafia imposed on this



Aurangzeb, in a meeting with Mr. Najy Benhassine, Country Director of the World Bank, and his team at the Finance Division.

Federal Ombudsman Sukkur hears complaints against SSGCL & SEPCO

SUKKUR (APP): The Federal Ombudsman's Regional Office Sukkur on Tuesday headed by Syed Mehmood Ali Shah, and Professor Dr Abdul waheed indhar conducted an outreach hearing in Larkana circuit House which aimed to address public complaints against Federal Government departments, specifically Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGCL) and Sukkur Electric Power Company (SEPCO).

A total of 52 complaints were heard, with 36 related to SSGCL and 16 related to SEPCO

Ahmed Korejo, and representatives from SEPCO, including Executive Engineer Riaz Ali Mangi, Revenue Officers Saddarudin Shaikh, Shah Murad Jatoi and Aijaz Ali were present to address the complaints.

The Regional head emphasized the importance of timely resolution of public complaints and advised the concerned agencies to establish effective internal mechanisms to prevent such issues from recurring. He warned that if the agencies fail to address public grievances promptly, the Federal Ombudsman's Office will be compelled to

Deputy Manager Billing from SSGC, Saeed intervene.

Punjab extends Section 144 till Nov 28 amid PTI protest

LAHORE (INP): The November 26 to Thurs-Punjab government has extended the imposition of Section 144 across the province until November 28 due to ongoing security situation.

According to the notification issued by the Punjab Home Department, all forms of protests, rallies, gatherings, sit-ins, and similar activities are prohibited for the next three days

day, November 28, aims to ensure peace and protect human lives and property.

The notification

further stated that, due to security concerns public gatherings could become soft targets for terrorists. Section 144 has been

in place in Punjab for the past three days based on the recommendations of

Neil Simon's play to be staged from Nov 27 to Dec 1 KARACHI (APP): Neil

Simon's acclaimed comedy, The Sunshine Boys, opens as "Budha mar gaya kya" at the National Academy of Performing (NAPA) Wednesday. Translated and

directed by Samina Nazeer, the play is about two comedians who were very famous in their hay days but now one of them has retired and the other is struggling. Samhan Ghazi and Saad Faridi play

the leading roles with Kashif Hussain and Rachna Kirplani.

The play will run
for five days at 8 pm everyday.

Dry weather in most districts of Sindh predicted

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Meteorological Department on Tuesday predicted dry weather in most districts of the Sindh province during the next 24

However, smog or fog (in patches) is predicted in Jacobabad, Tandojam and their surroundings during morning or night hours.

Mainly, dry weather is likely to prevail in the

The extension, ef-Vice Chancellor also obthe Cabinet Committee the last day of the BS prouse of law to target the PTI fective from Tuesday, on Law and Order. served the entry test program entry test at Governleadership Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah printed at Dhoom Printing Press Building No. RY/9/11/6X11/7, Mashoor Mahal, Off: I. I. Chundrigar Road, Karachi and Published from Room # 44, 3rd Floor, Handicraft Building, Abdullah

Amir Mughal.

At the outset, Mr Shah said that the Sindh cess of constructing a parallel canal aimed at enhanc-

the purpose, a communique The Greater Karachi

Bulk Water Supply Scheme K-IV (Phase-I) is planned to supply 260 MGD bulk water to the mega city of filtration plants, is cur-Karachi at three termination rently in full swing.

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President of Belarus H.E. Aleksandr Lukashenko introducing their respective delegations.

Sindh Chief Secretary emphasizes coordinated action against illegal poppy cultivation

Independent Report KARACHI: The Chief Secretary Sindh Asif Hyder Shah presided over a piv-otal meeting to address the issue of illegal poppy cul-

tivation in the province. The meeting was attended by Inspector General of Police, Ghulam Nabi Memon, Secretary Excise Muhammad Saleem Rajput, Secretary Agricul-ture Suhail Ahmed the 64 acres of poppy

Sindh Police, Sindh Rangers, and the district admin-

Anti-Narcotics Force Brigadier Umer Faroog informed that 35.5 acres of poppy crops were destroyed in 2022, 61 acres in 2023, and 64 acres have been identified this year for

destruction. It was highlighted that

Qureshi, Brigadier Umer crops carry an estimated (Commander value of 650 million rupees, ANF), and other senior emphasizing the urgency officials from the Anti- and importance of eliminat-Narcotics Force (ANF), ing this illegal cultivation.

Elephant Madhubala

shifted to Safari Park Karachi Madhubala, a 16-year-old elephant in Pakistan, who was in solitary confinement at Karachi Zoo, was shifted

to Safari Park on Tuesday. The elephant was moved in a container from Karachi Zoo to Safari Park and she will soon be reunited with her family members Sonia and Malika after a long wait of 15 years. The container carrying Madhubala elephant was lifted via crane from the

The shifting of Madhubala was supervised by Four Paws. Before shifting the training of the elephant's entering and exiting the container was completed, the Four Paws

With the arrival of the Madhubala elephant at Safari Park, the number of elephants will be three. Madhubala is one of four African elephants treated in Karachi by an eight-member team from the global



Khalil briefing the media about shifting of elephant 'Madhubala' from Karachi Zoological Garden to **Computerized entry test**

series for BS program 2025

KARACHI: Mission leader FOUR PAWS Dr. Amir

completed: Tayaba Zarif HYDERABAD (APP): Professor Dr Tayyaba Zarif, Vice Chancellor of Government College University Hyderabad, Tuesday said that the computerized entry test series for the four-year BS program 2025 has been successfully completed. After the entry test for the BS program, computer tests will also be

held for MS, MPhil and Our goal for the future will be a quality testing service that government and private institutions can benefit from for educational institutions and jobs.

She expressed these views at a media briefing on

ment College University Hyderabad.

The Vice Chancellor said that the journey of education and educational process from tradition to innovation is underway The process of digita-

lization is progressing rapidly at GC University Hyderabad. The entry test has been converted into a com-

puterized test. For which a system has been developed. On one hand, this system saves time and resources for students, teachers and the university and

on the other hand, transpar-On this occasion, the

Bushra Bibi had come with olan to fuel violence and get the protesters killed in clashes with the law enforcement agencies so that they could take advantage of the situation.

he remarked. Naqvi strongly condemns attack on Rangers and **Police Personnel**

by Miscreants ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has strongly condemned the attack on Rangers and police personnel on Srinagar Highway by the

miscreants on Tuesday. Interior Minister paid homage to the four Rangers personnel who were martyred in the attack and expressed heartfelt condoences to their families. He directed to provide the best medical facilities to the injured Rangers and police

ersonnel. **Bushra Bibi** insisted on **D-Chowk**

protest: Saif SLAMABAD (INP): Adviser to Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information, Barrister Saif. revealed the administration had suggested holding the rally on the outskirts of Islamabad, the proposal that PTI founder Imran khan had initially agreed to.

Speaking to a private TV channel, he explained that while the party's announcement focused on D-Chowk, the administration had not granted permission for the venue. The suggestion to hold the rally on the city's outskirt was taken to the PTI chairman and he consented. However, the proposal was later rejected

by the party members. He disclosed Bushra Bibi insisted on holding the protest at D-Chowk. "The release of our

chairman must follow due legal process, but the government is influencing these cases unlawfully," Saif asserted, reiterating that the protests are against the mis-

Haroon Road, Saddar, Karachi Cell No. 0300-3898091 E-mail: dailyindkhi@gmail.com, khi.editor@gmail.com