

Independent

dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Karachi

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 tear gas 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

in many areas of Islamabad, including D-Chowk, Jinnah Avenue, G6, G8 and G9.

Scores of people have also been injured, including journalists who were attacked by demonstrators, as dozens of PTI supporters beat a videographer covering the protest for The Associated Press and took his 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

Constitution in response to escalating security concerns in Islamabad.

Naqvi said that the PTI wanted "bodies to advance their disruptive agenda" but the authorities would not give them the chance. He warned that if the police fire bullets in response to the protesters' firing, they could not even cross Pathargarh, yet the law-enforcement personnel exercised restraint.

"No one has ever been given 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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan 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 decades-old political bilateral relations.

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

important agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), encompassing 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, inter-governmental commissions, and targeted collaborative initiatives.

Talking to the media, Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif referred to the 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 others.

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 ventures, mining and minerals, IT and possibilities for heavy machinery manufacturing.

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"

Monitoring Desk
ISLAMABAD: The government has firmly rejected any possibility of negotiations with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protesters, escalating tensions following days of demonstrations in Islamabad.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Information 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 demonstrators.

The interior minister maintained that no negotiations 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

there will be no negotiations with those on the sit-in."

He detailed the actions taken by the government forces, stating that not only had the protesters been removed from D-Chowk, but they had been pushed back "two roundabouts away." Naqvi accused the PTI protesters of trying to provoke violence, claiming that their objective was to cause casualties, a situation the government worked hard to avoid.

"We saw the type of people who came in these protest caravans," he remarked. "Their goal was to provoke violence and create martyrs, but we managed to clear the area without any loss of life," he added.

He also referred to Bushra Bibi, wife of PTI founder Imran Khan, as being responsible for instigating the unrest.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah meets with the 51st Specialized Training Program officers of the Initial Command Course at CM House.

CM Sindh Murad says:

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

KARACHI (APP): Sindh 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 Iqbal Memon, PSCM Agha Wasif, IG Po-

lice Ghulam Nabi Memon, 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 capacity and efficiency. One important project in

Sindh, he mentioned, was 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 streamlining police operations using advanced intelligence tools," he said.

According to the CM, the Karachi Safe City Project is designed to significantly enhance the Sindh Police's capabilities, ensuring greater public safety in Pakistan's largest city.



Bushra Bibi, wife of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan, and PTI supporters attend a rally demanding his release, in Islamabad.

Govt to launch solarization program, aiming to benefit 500,000 households: Nasir

SUKKUR (APP): Provincial Minister for Energy, Planning and Development, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah said that numerous complaints have been received regarding the Peoples Housing Program in the Sukkur division and directed that irregularities be removed and FIRs be registered against those involved.

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

HANDS- a non-government organisation to take the lead in this regard as flood victims are a weak segment of society who are not position to make any complaint or Lodge FIRs.

The minister directed this during a meeting at the Commissioner's Office in 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

also suffered significant destruction and damages due to the floods, the reconstruction of houses has only started in Sindh, under the instructions of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, he added.

He said that Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and the Sindh Cabinet members are making efforts to implement the chairman's vision. He said that Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has given strict instructions to give ownership to people's housing program.



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and COAS General Asim Munir attend the funeral procession of the martyred Rangers officials.

'Miscreants want bloodshed, not revolution': PM

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Funeral prayers of three Rangers officials, who embraced Shahadat yesterday during the ongoing protest, were offered at Chaklala Garrison, on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Minister for Information Attallah Tarar, Chief of Army Staff General Syed 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

political purposes. These acts of violence are unacceptable and highly condemnable which are bordering the limits of restraint by the Law Enforcement Agencies. The entire nation pays homage to the 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 reprehensible.

He said Pakistan cannot 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 refuses to hear constitutional petitions

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court's (SHC) regular benches on Tuesday refused 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 Authority (SBCA).

During the proceedings, the petitioner's counsel argued that the matter fell under Article 199(2) of the Constitution and sought an urgent hearing.

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

eral governments or their 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.

Four security personnel martyred as PTI protest escalates in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least four personnel of Rangers embraced martyrdom while five others and police personnel sustained seriously injuries when miscreants rammed a vehicle into them at Srinagar Highway in the wee hours of Tuesday.

According to security sources, four personnel of Rangers and two of police have been martyred so far in attacks on law enforcement agencies by PTI miscreants. Over 100 police officials

have also been injured and many of them sustained severe injuries, they further said.

The security sources said that under Article 245 of the constitution, Army has been summoned to deal with the miscreants and troublemakers with iron hands. Shoot at sight orders have also been issued, they said.

The security sources further said that all necessary measures were being taken to deal with anarchists and miscreants in response to any act of terrorism.

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 terrorism.

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

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 - Jashn-e-Karachi from December 5 to 8.

During the meeting, the President Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi, Muhammad Ahmed Shah, provided a briefing on the conference. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Sindh Syed Asif Haider 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 Council of Pakistan Karachi Muhammad Ahmed Shah appreciated and congratulated the Chief Secretary Sindh for the successful security arrangements for the of the 38-day World Culture Festival Karachi, highlighting the proactive measures taken by the government. He expressed gratitude for the continuous support of the Sindh government.

Sharjeel condemns attack on Rangers in Islamabad

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 personnel.

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 the families of the martyred personnel and pray for the swift recovery of the injured.



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

Kundi flays martyrdom of Rangers personnel on Srinagar highway

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Tuesday strongly condemned the martyrdom of Rangers and police personnel on the Srinagar 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 grief.

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

Kundi further pointed out that the masterminds behind the May 9 incidents continue to pose a threat to the state, saying, "The

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 added.

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 been fostering terrorists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is engaged in terrorism in Islamabad as well," Kundi remarked.

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

RAWALPINDI (APP): 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 'Suthra' Punjab programme, he added.

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

All the required resources are being provided by the Punjab Government, after which

there should be no problem 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. Local government departments would monitor the outsourcing system digitally, he said. The monitoring would include biometric attendance, vehicle tracking management system, vehicle weighing at dumping site, digital monitoring of the fleet and container clearance through geo-tagging and prompt resolution of the complaints, he informed.

At the district level, a control room under the supervision of Assistant Commissioners is being built in the Deputy Commissioners' Office and in each Tehsil.



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

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

markets at 8 pm. Speaking 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 community is vital to

improve the economy as well as to create employment 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 come to the negotiating

table. Punjab Governor said that the visit of a high-level 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's economy.

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 campaign in the district.

The meeting was attended by District Police Officer Ayaz Khan, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Additional Assistant Commissioners, health department officials, WHO representatives, and other relevant stakeholders.

CS reiterates govt commitment to ensure rule of law

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Secretary (CS) Khyber 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 the rule of law.

He was addressing a Grand Peace Jirga that was convened at Commissioner House Kohat to deliberate on prevailing situation in Kurram district and

PA resolution condemns attack on security personnel

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

Resolution demanding ban on PTI submitted in Punjab Assembly

LAHORE (APP): A resolution demanding a ban on the PTI has been submitted in the Punjab Assembly.

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 people under a well-planned conspiracy.

7th Maritime Security Workshop commences

LAHORE (APP): Seventh edition of the Maritime Security Workshop (MARSEW-7) aimed at 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 is a national-level forum organized under the auspices of the Pakistan Navy, with the theme "Secure Seas, Prosperous Pakistan."

The workshop seeks to highlight the challenges and opportunities in Pakistan's maritime sector and its critical role in supporting the national economy. This forum provides a shared platform for participants from the public and private sectors, including senators, parliamentarians, senior bureaucrats, maritime industry professionals, business leaders, academia, think tanks, and media representatives, to 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 Azhar Mahmood outlined the purpose of the workshop, emphasizing the need for Pakistan's intelligentsia to shift its strategic focus towards the sea.



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

LAHORE (APP): A resolution demanding a ban on the PTI has been submitted in the Punjab Assembly.

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 people under a well-planned conspiracy.

International News

Israel pounds Beirut suburbs as Lebanon says 31 dead nationwide

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Israeli strikes pummeled 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 outskirts.

AFPTV 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,

saying "enemy warplanes launched strikes on (the) Haret Hreik and Shiyah" districts. The attacks came after a weekend of heavy raids in the area, despite ongoing 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.

Israel's army 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.

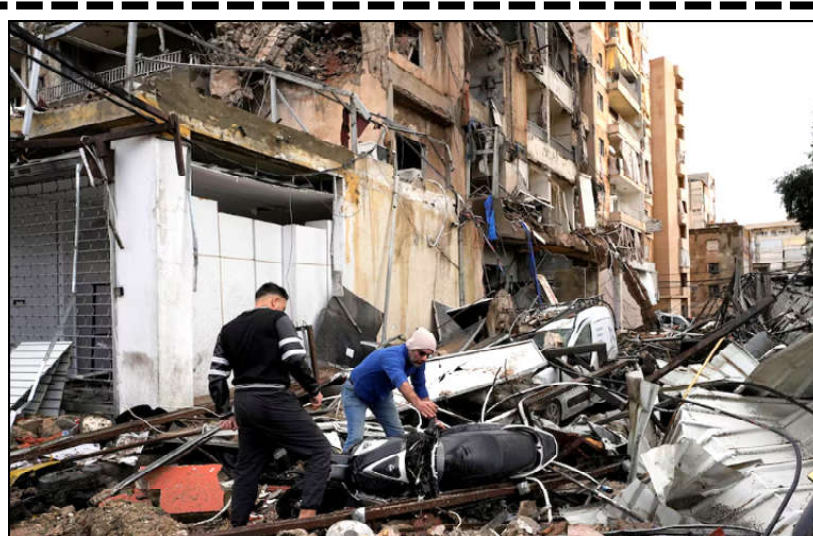
The NNA reported Israeli strikes on Tyre and Nabatiyeh after Israel issued evacuation warnings for parts of the main southern cities.

Lebanon's health ministry said Israeli strikes killed at least 31 people on Monday.

A statement listed "the casualty toll of Israeli enemy strikes on a number of Lebanese cities and towns" in the east, south 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 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 number of surrounding areas, citing "the current dangerous conditions".



A man moves a scooter amidst the rubble, in the aftermath of Israeli strikes on Beirut's southern suburbs, amid the ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, in Lebanon.

Iran's Khamenei says ICC warrant for Netanyahu 'not enough'

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: 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 enough".

His country, Israel's arch nemesis, backs armed movements in the region

Moscow assures Taliban of removal from negative list

Monitoring Desk
KABUL: Top Russian security 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 recent 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 itself.

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.

"I am optimistic about Lebanon," Tajani told a press conference as international efforts for a

ceasefire intensify—even if it was "more complicated than Gaza".

"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 warrants 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 in Gaza, triggered by the militant Palestinian group's October 7, 2023 attack.

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

Monitoring Desk
FIUGGI: The European Union'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 outgoing EU 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 fall 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 U.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.

Austrian far right shows strength with state election win in Styria

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 general election and a new show of strength while national coalition talks continue without it.

Sunday's election in Styria, home to Austria's second city, Graz, raises pressure on party leaders currently attempting to forge the country's first three-way government since 1949.

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

"There's been a landslide in Styria. I didn't expect such a resounding result," the FPÖ'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 FPÖ will need a coalition partner to secure a majority in Styria's state assembly and form a government.

Nationally, FPÖ 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

Monitoring Desk
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.

"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.

Trump vows big tariffs on Mexico, Canada and China

Monitoring Desk
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."

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 the country.

"On January 20th, as 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.

In another post, Trump said he would also be slapping China with a 10pc tariff, "above any additional Tariffs".

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

KARACHI (APP): The 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 Karachi.

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

At the outset, Mr Shah said that the Sindh government is in the process of constructing a parallel canal aimed at enhancing the water supply infrastructure and ensuring a more reliable source of wa-

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 Wahab, stated that the request had already been made.

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 the purpose, a communique said.

The Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme K-IV (Phase-I) is planned to supply 260 MGD bulk water to the mega city of Karachi at three termination

points - Pipri, NEK, and Manghopir from its source at Keenjhar Lake, Thatta. The WAPDA 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, establishing a power supply arrangement of 50 MW, and managing land acquisition and clearance of the right-of-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 filtration plants, is currently in full swing.



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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Tuesday emphasized the need to strengthen trade ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in key sectors such as textiles, agriculture, and technology to achieve shared prosperity.

During his official visit to Saudi Arabia, he accompanied by his delegation, held separate meetings with the Speaker of the Saudi Shura Council and the Saudi Arabia-Pakistan Friendship Group, according to a news release.

Syed Yousaf Raza

Gilani, Chairman Senate, is currently in Saudi Arabia on an official visit on the invitation of Dr. Abdullah ibn Muhammad Al ash-Sheikh, Speaker of the Arabi Council and Saudi-Pakistan Friendship group.

The visit aims to strengthen Pakistan-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 friendship committee between the

Senate and the Shura Council to promote regular dialogue and joint initiatives, particularly on economic and security matters.

Gilani praised 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.

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

Secret Hand hostages entire leadership of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf: Naqvi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday said that a secret hand is controlling the entire leadership of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, who is pursuing an anti-Pakistan agenda but has failed in its nefarious plan of bloodshed in Islamabad.

Addressing media at D-Chowk, the minister said that secret hand is creating more troubles for PTI.

He said that government had convinced the leadership of PTI to avoid bloodshed and offered a place for sit-in at Sangiani upon which the leadership of PTI agreed but that secret hand sabotaged the dialogue.

He said the protestors massively used teargas shells upon rangers, police and FC which were provide to them by the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The protestors are armed, using weapons and opened fire on law enforcement personal at Shakargah, said the minister adding that the government has shown extreme restraint however the Inspector General of Capital Police has been given full authority to deal with the

situation and government will provide full support.

Other day, three rangers and one police jawan were martyred, two ranger jawans are still in critical condition, four police personal of Islamabad police are in critical condition, two ASPs and one SP were seriously injured, five jawans of Punjab police are critical and seventy are injured, Mohsin Naqvi sharing details said that the Government is showing extreme restraint and is avoiding to escalate the situation but the other side took full advantage of government's soft stance.

The minister said that the government had offered the PTI leadership a place at Sangiani for their protest and sit-in and they agreed to this and twice requested for ceasefire and removing of containers from their way to go back to the agreed place but all of sudden a secret hand sabotaged the deal. Government shown restraint 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): The Deputy Commissioner Zain ul Aabidin Memon presided over a meeting of district polio eradication committee to review arrangements for upcoming polio campaign here at Shahbaz Hall on Tuesday.

According to handout issued by district Information office, Deputy Commissioner 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 are 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 Qasimbabad Talukas on better performance.

DC also reviewed ongoing campaign of protective vaccination (Big Catch up) and directed officers of Health department to take necessary steps for ensuring fumigation and other measures to prevent people from Dengue and Malaria. N stop officer of District eradication committee and divisional N stop officer Dr Jamsheed Khanzada apprised the meeting that over 50,000 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 perform their duty.

Assistant Commissioners of four talukas, District Health officer Hyderabad and other officers were also present in the meeting.



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 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, Parwez Ahmed Sechar, to the Minister for Social Welfare, Tariq Ali Khan Talpur here on Tuesday.

The department announced that the construction of a state of the art Rehabilitation Centre for Drug Addicts is on track for completion by June 25, 2025.

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 available to support diagnostic and treatment services.

Mir Tariq Ali Khan Talpur, while appreciating 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.



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 pivotal meeting to address the issue of illegal poppy cultivation in the province.

The meeting was attended by Inspector General of Police, Ghulam Nabi Memon, Secretary Excise Muhammad Saleem Rajput, Secretary Agriculture Suhail Ahmed Qureshi, Brigadier Umer Farooq (Commander ANF), and other senior officials from the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF).

Sindh Police, Sindh Rangers, and the district administration.

During the meeting, Anti-Narcotics Force Brigadier Umer Farooq 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 the 64 acres of poppy crops carry an estimated value of 650 million rupees, emphasizing the urgency and importance of eliminating this illegal cultivation.

State showing great restraint against PTI rioters: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday said that the state was showing great restraint against the protesters from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf.

Talking to media, the minister said that the spouse of founder of PTI Bushra Bibi had come with a plan to fuel violence and get the protesters killed in clashes with the law enforcement agencies so that they could take advantage of the situation.

"Mercenaries have been brought to the front and they want to use children of the poor people", he remarked.

US urges Pak to respect human rights, PTI protesters' right to demonstrate

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 strategically placed to impede PTI supporters, while heavy police deployments indicate that the authorities are determined to use force, if

needed.

In the State Department briefing earlier on Tuesday, Miller was asked to comment on the PTI supporters' 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 constitution, as they work to maintain law and order."

The statement comes after clampdown on PTI's 'do or die' protest in the federal capital.

Imran urges supporters to stand firm until demands are met

RAWALPINDI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has lauded his party's supporters in Islamabad and D-Chowk, urging them to remain steadfast in their protests until their demands are met.

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 country," Khan wrote.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, in a meeting with Mr. Najib 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.

Deputy Manager Billing from SSGCL, Saeed

Ahmed Korejo, and representatives from SEPCO, including Executive Engineer Riaz Ali Mangi, Revenue Officers Sadaudin Shaikh, Shah Murad Jatoi and Ajjaz 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 intervene.

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 Arts (NAPA) on 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.

Punjab extends Section 144 till Nov 28 amid PTI protest

LAHORE (INP): The 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.

The extension, effective from Tuesday,

November 26 to Thursday, 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 the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order.

Elephant Madhubala shifted to Safari Park Karachi

KARACHI (INP): 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 truck.

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 said.

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 animal welfare group Four



KARACHI: Mission leader FOUR PAWS Dr. Amir Khalil briefing the media about shifting of elephant 'Madhubala' from Karachi Zoological Garden to Safari Park.

Computerized entry test series for BS program 2025 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 PhD.

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 the last day of the BS program entry test at Govern-

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 digitalization is progressing rapidly at GC University Hyderabad.

The entry test has been converted into a computerized 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, transparency.

On this occasion, the Vice Chancellor also observed the entry test pro-