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ISLAMABAD: Paramilitary soldiers alert at the D-Chowk in the Federal Capital ahead of PTI protest in the Federal Capital.

Final call PTI caravans en route to Islamabad amid arrests, clashes

Violent clashes across Punjab, Islamabad as PTI workers attack police; hundreds arrested; Protest paralyzes Islamabad, Rawalpindi; roads blocked, internet suspended

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): As PTI convoys from across the country were enroute to Islamabad on Sunday for the party's much-touted powershow — despite a court order and government warnings against it — the party claimed its workers were being arrested and dispersed using teargas.

On Nov 13, Imran Khan issued a "final call" for nationwide protests on Nov 24 (today), denouncing what he described as the stolen mandate, the unjust arrests of people and the passage of the 26th amendment, which he said has strengthened a "dictatorial regime".

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has ruled that PTI's planned protest is unlawful and directed the federal government to take all necessary measures to maintain law and order in Islamabad without disrupting public life, particu-

larly as the Belarusian president is scheduled to arrive over the weekend with a high-profile delegation.

As PTI supporters, who had set off on their journey earlier in the day, began reaching Islamabad despite government warnings of arrests, the party claimed the police was detaining its workers and using teargas to disperse them.

INP adds: In response to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest in Islamabad, authorities have completely sealed the entry and exit points of the twin cities, Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

PTI is all set to hold a countrywide protest today on the call of PTI founder Imran Khan.

Containers have been placed on major routes, including Faizabad Flyover, with heavy police deployment in the area.

Key roads such as

Murree Road, Motorway, Rawat, T-Chowk, Taxila, Margalla, and Mandraha have been blocked, along with major highways like Murree Expressway, Hazara Expressway, and connecting roads from Punjab.

Over 6,000 police personnel have been deployed across Rawalpindi, with security arrangements tightened.

Police conducted raids throughout the night to detain PTI workers, resulting in the arrest of over 170 activists from various areas. Prisoner transport buses have been brought into the city to manage detainees. Emergency measures have been implemented in hospitals, and rescue agencies have been put on high alert. Additionally, mobile internet services have been suspended in Rawalpindi, Islamabad, and Attock to prevent the spread of protest-related information.



SUI: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti talking with tribal elites and different delegations.

Political issues can only be resolved through dialogue constitutional supremacy, not force: Mehmood Achakzai

ZHOB (ANN): Chairman of the Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party and head of the opposition alliance "Tehreek Tahaffuz-e-Aeen Pakistan," Mehmood Khan Achakzai, has stated that military operations have neither delivered positive results in the past nor hold any promise for the future.



He emphasized that political issues can only be resolved through dialogue and constitutional supremacy, not force.

Speaking at a two-day Pashtun National Jirga in Zhob, organized as a follow-up to decisions made at the Bannu Jirga, Achakzai expressed his concerns over the ongoing violence in Pashtun regions, including terrorism and sectarian strife in areas like

Kurram. The jirga was chaired by Nawab Ayaz Khan Jogeza and hosted by the party's General Secretary, Abdul Rahim Ziaratwal, with significant participation from tribal elders, political representatives, and other stakeholders.

Achakzai criticized glo-

Interior Minister receives high-level Belarusian delegation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi warmly welcomed a 68-member high-level delegation from Belarus upon their arrival in Islamabad on Sunday. The delegation included Belarus' Foreign Minister, Minister for Energy Minister, Minister for Justice, Minister for Transport, Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Emergency Situations, and Chairman of the Military Industry Committee. Moreover, 43 prominent business personalities from Belarus are also part of the delegation.

The Interior Minister also met with Foreign Minister of Belarus, Maxim Ryzhenkov, and Energy Minister. He welcomed the delegation to Islamabad and expressed that the government and people of Pakistan are eagerly awaiting the visit of Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko. Mohsin Naqvi emphasized that the president's visit is crucial in strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

Interior Minister stated that Pakistan greatly values its relations with Belarus and aims to enhance cooperation in various sectors.

PTI leaders courting arrests to avoid participation in 'illegal' protest: govt

Ministers blame PTI for disrupting country's economic progress by spreading "chaos and violence"; Strict action to be taken against miscreants as per law: Naqvi; State will not permit "mob attack" on Islamabad: Asif.

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Strongly reacting to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's "do-or-die" protest in Islamabad, the federal ministers have termed it an "illegal and unnecessary", claiming most of the opposition party leaders and workers are "courting their arrest to avoid their participation in the so-called final call".

During his visit to different areas in Islamabad on Sunday, Information Minister Ataullah Tarar said that as per information came from Punjab and Islamabad, most of the former ruling party's top and mid tiers leaders were voluntarily surrendering to the police for their arrest to avoid participation in the Islamabad protest.

"One thing is pretty clear that the PTI's leadership does not want a release of their leader [Imran Khan] from the jail," he added.

He said the PTI had only one demand which was to get an NRO-like concession for the release of their leader from the jail, but the government cannot do anything in this regard.

This is the domain of the courts where the PTI is supposed to argue and fight for the release of their leader who has been facing different charges, he added.

"Life in Islamabad is normal as people are taking strolls in parks and children are playing various sports at different places, but some major highways have been closed to maintain law and order in the city," he noted.

He held the PTI responsible for the roads' closure and inflicting financial damage to traders and businessmen. The PTI did not only want to derail the economy but was also hell-bent on damaging the foreign relations of Pakistan with friendly countries.

Tarar said the PTI had a track record of creating chaos and anarchy, and vandalising public properties. He added the PTI had orchestrated the May 9 arson and vandalised the sensitive installations and memorials of martyrs, just to create chaos and anarchy.

"Our responsibility is to ensure security in

Islamabad," he said, adding the miscreants would be dealt with iron hands.

He said the PTI had only one demand which was to get an NRO-like concession for the release of their leader from the jail, but the government cannot do anything in this regard. This is the domain of the courts where the PTI is supposed to argue and fight for the release of their leader who has been facing different charges, he added.

Tarar said the PTI had a track record of creating chaos and anarchy, and vandalising public properties, citing the sit-in of 2014 when their workers

torched the Parliament and injured many policemen including SSP Asmat ullah Junejo.

He categorically said that nobody would be allowed to disrupt the economic progress achieved in the last eight months which witnessed a substantial increase in remittances that jumped to \$8.8 billion in the first quarter.

The interest rate has been reduced to 15 per cent and KIBOR stood at 13 per cent and inflation is down to 6.9 per cent from 32 per cent, he said while warning the PTI of strict action if it tried to derail the economy.

PM holds consultation meeting on PTI's protest

LAHORE (INP) Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired a consultative meeting held in Model Town Lahore on Sunday and discussed the current political situation.

According to media reports, National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan also participated in the meeting.

The situation after the final call of protest by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was also discussed in the meeting. During the meeting, Prime Minister

Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif directed to remove the reservations of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP). Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has also formed a committee to settle matters with the PPP.

Bugti visits Sui; concedes death of martyrs, pays homage:

Equal development of Balochistan, prosperity of masses top priority: CM

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti visited Sui on Sunday.

During the visit, Chief Minister expressed condolence the death of commander of Peace Force, Sadruddin and Allah Rakhya with their bereaved families, and offered fataha for their departed souls.

Meanwhile, paying homage to the martyrs, Chief Minister said that they (martyrs) rendered sacrifice of their lives for restoration of peace and survival of the nation.

He said that the sacrifices of martyrs would always be remembered.

He also expressed sympathy and solidarity with bereaved families of the martyrs.

He also assured every possible measures for the welfare of families of martyrs.

Later, Chief Minister visited Pakistan House

where he met the general public and heard their problems.

He also issued immediate instructions for resolving the issues of people.

Speaking on the occasion, Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that development of Balochistan and prosperity of the people is top priority of the government, and for the purpose, all resources would be mobilized.

He also assured to lay network of the equal development.

He said that the provincial government is taking steps for the public welfare. As a result of which, new era of development and prosperity would be started in the province benefiting the people, he maintained.

Meanwhile the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti visited the residence of President Peoples Lawyers Forum, Behram Khan Tareen here on Sunday.

Two more polio cases surface in Balochistan increasing tally of cases to 26 during 2024

Independent Report

QUETTA: Two more polio cases of poliovirus have been surfaced in Balochistan increasing the tally of cases of crippling disease to 26 during the current year 2024.

According to the National Institute of Health, the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication confirmed detection of three new cases of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) in the country including two from Balochistan bringing the total number of polio cases in the country to 55 in 2024. The Laboratory identified the cases in Zhob and DI Khan, where female children were affected, and in Jaffarabad district, where a male child contracted the virus.

It may be mentioned here that this is third case of polio reported from Zhob this year and second case of the year surfaced in Jaffarabad.



QUETTA: Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani and Chairman Higher Education Commission Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed in a group photo with Vice Chancellors of Universities of Balochistan after conclusion of meeting at BUTEMS.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi receiving High Level Belarusian delegation on their arrival.

Governor meets Saeed Hashmi; discusses political situation

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail met his long time friend and senior politician, Saeed Ahmed Hashmi in Quetta on Sunday.

During the course of meeting, the matters of mutual interests including political situation of the country were discussed.

The latest development in the country's politics and pleasant relations between the federal government and provinces were also discussed during the meeting.

Both the leaders also discussed prospects of bringing improvement in the lives of people of the province.

BA session to resume today

Independent Report

QUETTA: The session of Balochistan Assembly is scheduled to resume today (Monday) in Quetta. According to the agenda shared by the Provincial Assembly's secretariat for today's session, the draft law of Balochistan Employees Social security institution would be tabled.

The Minister Labour and Manpower would table the draft law.

In addition to this, the call attention notice would also be tabled in the session. The Member of Provincial Assembly belonging to National Party, Mir Rehmat Saleh Baloch would table the call attention notice about handing over the TTC Kharan to private set up.

All educational institutions to remain closed across Balochistan today

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Colleges, Higher and Technical Education Department, Government of Balochistan has announced to close all the educational institutions including schools, colleges and universities in the province today (Monday).

According to an official notification issued here by the Colleges, Higher and Education Department, the educational institutions would remain closed across the province in anticipation of closure of the transport on the highways.

The notification mentioned that the decision has been taken to save the students from the inconvenience that may be caused to them due to closure of the public and other transport on the highways.

It may be mentioned here that the All parties and traders organizations have already announced to observe wheel jam strike on all highways of the province against non-recovery of the child kidnapped from Quetta on November 15, 2024.

Nov 24 protest call 'end of PTI's political saga': Muqam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister and President Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Khyber



Muqam speaking at a press conference, strongly criticised PTI on Sunday, accusing the party of engaging in politics of chaos to destabilise the country's economy and disrupt public life.

Over 1,000 passengers stranded amid railway employees' protest

Independent Report

QUETTA (INP): Quetta Railway Station turned chaotic as over 1,000 passengers were stranded due to a protest by railway employees. According to reports, demonstrators blocked tracks, delaying key trains, including the Chaman Passenger, Jafar Express, and Bolan Mail, for up to four hours.

The protest was sparked by the alleged demolition of employee housing boundaries on

Zarghoun Road during a road expansion project.

Passengers, already frustrated by limited transport options, expressed their struggles, with one traveller lamenting, "Even trains aren't reliable now."

Railway unions accused project officials of unlawful actions and called for judicial intervention. After negotiations, the protest was paused for two days, allowing train services to resume.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Short-changed?

The COP29 climate summit in Baku has stretched past the Friday deadline into overtime, with negotiations still underway at the time of writing. Although the final outcome is not likely to be known for some time, suffice it to say that what started with a bang may end in a whimper. The central sticking point at the summit was the establishment of a New Collective Quantified Goal for climate finance over which the Global North and Global South continued to remain at an impasse. Developed countries, historically responsible for the bulk of GHG emissions, were expected to commit to a robust financial framework. Instead, they stalled, with their draft proposals offering placeholder numbers and prioritising private financing over public grants.

Reportedly the wealthy nations have agreed to raise the climate finance figure to \$300bn, while the developing nations want a bigger contribution. The amount proposed by the former is still in huge contrast to the minimum of \$1tr a year needed by 2030 just to meet Paris Agreement goals.

It is particularly concerning given that Pakistan alone faces a climate finance gap of \$348bn by 2030. Whatever the outcome, there will likely remain a deep disconnect between climate reality and wealthy nations' commitments. The fact that developing nations like Sierra Leone were thinking of walking out of the deal speaks volumes for how short-changed they feel. Besides how much must be paid, the question that emerged was who must pay. European nations insist that high-emitting economies such as China and Gulf states share the burden. However, the Global North cannot deflect responsibility for historical emissions. Meanwhile, the recent election of Donald Trump — who believes climate change is a hoax — as US president, cast a pall over the talks. Some of the wealthy nations believe the world's biggest economy will want nothing to do with the finance goal during Mr Trump's tenure.

Pakistan's delegation, led by negotiator Arif Goheer, aptly criticised the draft agreement as "disappointing". Our diplomatic efforts at the summit, including hosting over 40 events, demonstrate our commitment to global climate action. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reiterated the pressing need for grants, not loans, to avoid deepening debt traps. Domestically, Pakistan has taken steps to address climate vulnerabilities, unveiling its National Climate Finance Strategy and launching the Recharge Pakistan initiative to manage flood risks through ecosystem-based solutions. However, these ambitious plans require substantial financial backing. While the eventual target may unlock some funds, accessing them through the current maze of red tape will remain a challenge. As the nations continue to argue, the international community must recognise that climate finance is not merely about numbers — it is about enabling vulnerable nations to survive and adapt to a crisis they did little to create. For now, we remain far from this essential goal.

A city in peril

Ayman Zafar

Cities are an integral part of history and one of the most complex creations of mankind. The architecture of a city is the main tangible evidence of man's intellectual and cultural journey through the past — and Lahore, indeed, is a city where history, art and culture have been woven seamlessly into the lives of its people. Unfortunately, the Lahore we know today seems to be stifled by an unremitting haze of pollution, neglect, and indifference.

The city gasps for breath, choked by a thick blanket of smog that descends every winter, suffocating its citizens. Pollution is no longer just an inconvenience; it is a health emergency, a manmade catastrophe, fuelled by political apathy, regulatory failure, and unchecked urbanisation.

Imposing illogical bans on people's livelihoods is hardly a solution (in case anyone important enough to take action has stumbled upon this piece). The issue goes far beyond the present crisis. It dates to years of neglect — when activities endangering the environment should have been monitored, when the looming 'environmental crisis' should have been treated with urgency, and when there was still time to reverse the damage caused by the misdoings and sheer failures of those in charge. Instead, here we are, tangled in the noise of daily politics, fixated on power struggles, prejudiced rivalries, and judicial controversies, while the people of Lahore are left to suffer and quite literally, suffocate.

It's truly baffling that individuals occupying high-ranking positions — armed with de-

grees from prestigious universities and boasting decades of supposed experience — believe they are entitled to those seats, no matter how they were secured: through manipulation, deception, or outright disregard for the public. And yet, despite their credentials and claims of competence, the issues of environmental security are dismissed as unworthy of attention. As disappointing as it is, the mindset, cultural blind spots, and self-serving incompetence of the country's policymakers leave them incapable of understanding the severity of the crisis. But of course, priorities are clear — why focus on the suffocating air millions are forced to breathe when a quick trip to the UK for a throat infection is much more pressing? Meanwhile, the rest of us? Well, we can continue to suffer.

It comes as no surprise to anyone paying attention that environmental degradation has long been the price of so-called development in Pakistan. Successive governments have mastered the art of crafting policies full of promises and impressive jargon, yet the gap between these declarations and implementation is staggering. Take, for instance, the National Environmental Policy 2005, seen as a comprehensive blueprint to tackle environmental challenges at the time. It now gathers dust, undermined by a lack of enforcement and funding, and an even greater lack of political will.

Meanwhile, malpractice continues to thrive in the agriculture, food and water sectors, continuing to expose people to toxic chemicals and creating health crises that remain undressed. Like I said, if one is to examine the

country's environmental and climate change efforts diligently, a disheartening pattern emerges: policies churned out over the years like clockwork, each signalled as a breakthrough, but backed by little practical action. We seem stuck in an endless cycle of announcements and photo ops, while the air we continue to breathe, grows increasingly poisonous, and is unfit for life.

Where does the blame lie? It's tempting to point fingers in every possible direction — in-ept policymakers, un-interested administrators, and industries running wild — but the vacuum of accountability looms largest. In this void, the judiciary often steps in, attempting to address environmental crises through public interest litigation. But let's be honest — judicial intervention is a stopgap, not a long-term solution, which is what is required from the government. The judiciary can issue directives and develop laws, but without political will to enforce them, they are little more than mere words on paper. And as the air continues to thicken with smog and indifference, we're only left to wonder: is it too much to hope for leaders who prioritise lives over optics? Or perhaps this is the reality we must accept: in the grant hierarchy of priorities, the survival of a city and its people will always come second to the persistent pursuit of power.

For now, the sun is out and I'd like to soak it all in — who knows, when we'll get to see it again. My humble advice: do the same while you still can, and demand that those responsible for this crisis finally take action before it's too late.

Image of the past

Muna Khan

I envy my parents for living in Karachi when they did. My father, like others who lived here between the 1950s to Gen Zia's accession, describes a city that sounds alien. He narrates stories about how he would go to Café George (for the patties) after work or take my mother to watch a movie; he remembers watching Cleopatra in 1966. Weekends were spent listening to one of the many live bands, both local and visiting acts from abroad, or at various nightclubs.

My friend Mohsin's earliest memories are hearing his daada tell his mother to get the kids ready, after which he'd take all the children all over the city, on trams — like an adventure. Mohsin also remembers visiting famed tea cafés which were intellectual hubs in Karachi, as a kid with his professor father. I credit Mohsin's endless curiosity to the exposure he got here.

This Karachi was open for everyone; sometimes you needed to pay to get into clubs but it remained egalitarian in its attitude. Now, people with money work hard to keep others out. Signs of 'right to admissions reserved' represent the rot in society.

The beach, parks or spaces like Frere Hall are some spots where the rich and poor cross paths, though I have witnessed efforts to keep poor families out of parks in DHA. We have seen how real estate is trying to gobble up beach land to create exclusive residences.

When we gate ourselves into smaller spaces in the name of safety — I still don't understand what we are in danger of — we lose a sense of a wider community which brings

with it a sense of belonging, one that you can't get in silos or screens. The mohalla of your elders — which once raised children along with parents and extended family — no longer exists. We don't know our neighbours anymore.

Where can we go to meet each other in the open, except gated parks or arts and literary events, which only occur once a year?

After visiting several of the sites of Karachi Biennale a fortnight ago, and enjoying several interactions with folks from all over the city, I sought out similar experiences. I miss The Second Floor, which Sabeen Mahmud opened in 2007, because it provided a space for us to get together. I enjoyed visiting Pakistan Chowk Community Centre in 2018 when I took my students on a heritage walking tour through the Old Town neighborhood. I've taken a few friends on this walk which I recommend to get a glimpse of what our city was, and is, like.

Thankfully, last Sunday I went to the renovated Khaliqdina Hall on M.A. Jinnah Road to check out the exhibit 'Crafting Resistance' which showcased artisans' work.

Here visitors could try their hand at spinning cloth grown from flax, using several blocks to block print, or weave yarn on a portable loom under the advice of the artists. There were other art opportunities for children and adults. Entry is free, even for the qawwali scheduled this evening.

I met three people I hadn't seen in years and would have met more, like the curator of this initiative, if I had stayed longer. I liked being in the space, whose inte-

rior was restored though a collaboration between Numaish Collective and the Karachi Metropolitan Council — in three months, proving that if you have the will, funds and fortitude, anything is possible. I want to mention the brass lighting because one of the civil engineers of this project, Shakeel uz Zaman, discovered during the restoration that the lights were brass and had them restored. I mention this small detail to demonstrate that restoration need not be an extravagant affair. And that restoration purely for the sake of it is pointless if you aren't going to use the building. I appreciate Khaliqdina Hall and library are being used for the purpose its founder, Ghulam Husain Khaliqdina, intended: a space for literary and recreational pursuits. Incidentally, the architect of this 1906 building was the Iraqi Jewish man from Lahore, Moses Somake.

This was Karachi's diversity. It is not one that is difficult to reclaim. Alas, how do you expect a city to restore its past when it can't seem to manage its crumbling present? It will have to find a way.

Instead of demolishing old buildings to create new ones, either under the guise of cost-effectiveness or to show modernity, I join a chorus of voices — far more knowledgeable than I — beseeching the authorities to restore our buildings, return our city to a semblance of its past. The Numaish Collective has shown us the way.

Look at the Walled City project of Lahore which has done a remarkable job at conserving the city's heritage and helping people connect with it, feel pride in it. Surely Karachiites deserve the same.

Commerce News

Ambassador Harerimana says: Rwanda, Pak have huge trade potential; health sector needs to promote bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Rwanda to Pakistan, Ms Fatou Harerimana on Sunday said that bilateral cooperation between Rwanda and Pakistan in the health sector and public health is inevitable and there is potential on both sides in this sector.

There is a need to further increase the bilateral economic and trade relations between Pakistan and Rwanda, for which the role of the private sector from both sides is very important, the Ambassador said and added that Pakistan and Rwanda enjoy friendly relations underpinned by mutual respect, growing economic ties and cooperation at multilateral fora.

Rwanda and Pakistan,

with a longstanding relationship spanning sixty-two years, actively collaborate in various fields, including trade, health, and investment, she remarked.

She said that Rwanda's real GDP of Rwanda grew by 9.7% in the first quarter of 2024, exceeding the previous year's growth rate of 8.2% and the country has shown remarkable resilience, driven by strong consumer spending in key sectors such as services and industry.

The ambassador said that despite ongoing challenges, Rwanda's labor market experienced a strong recovery, with over half a million new jobs created in the fourth quarter of 2023, marking

the most significant reduction in unemployment since the COVID pandemic.

"The labor market expansion in Rwanda was broad-based, with women benefiting slightly more than men and to leverage its youth demographic, Rwanda needs to expand labor force participation, as only 2.8 million out of 8.1 million working age individuals are employed full time.

She said that Rwanda aspires to become a Middle-Income Country by 2035 and a High-Income Country by 2050.

It plans to achieve this through the implementation of the second National Strategies for Transformation (NST-2).

Iftikhar Malik says: Trade linked to preventing attacks on Pak from Afghan soil

LAHORE (APP): SAARC Chambers of Commerce and Industry's former president, Iftikhar Ali Malik, said on Sunday that Kabul's decisive action for prevention of Afghan territory use by terrorists for attacks on Pakistan could unlock immense opportunities for bilateral trade and economic growth in both neighbouring Muslim countries.

In a statement issued here, he said the region holds tremendous potential for trade, energy projects and connectivity initiatives like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Trans-Afghanistan Pipeline. He said such mega ventures require stability and cooperation, making it imperative for both states to prioritise trust and dialogue bringing an end to perpetual menace of terrorism.



LAHORE: Petrol Pump on Ravi Road closed due to ongoing protest.

Memon expresses concern over deteriorating condition of roads in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD (APP): President of Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry (HCSTSI), Muhammad Saleem Memon, expressed grave concern over the deteriorating condition of roads, infrastructure, and other civic amenities in Hyderabad.

In this regard, Chamber President also wrote a letter to Deputy Commissioner, Hyderabad in which he has stated that despite earmarking a total budget of Rs.356 billion for 2024-

25 by the Sindh Government, including Rs. 959 billion for development projects and Rs 55 billion for district development programs, Hyderabad's roads and basic facilities remain in deplorable condition.

Highlighting non-repairing of major roads such as Auto Bhan Road, Badin Stop, Hali Road, Tilak Incline, Station Road, Foudjari Road, Grunagar, Tando Yousuf and all units of Latifabad, he noted that these have not only caused

severe traffic congestion but also led to a significant increase in accidents. Additionally, the absence of streetlights has exacerbated street crime in the city, adding to the citizens' woes.

Lamenting local government, he remarked that despite the allocation of billions in developmental funds, Hyderabad's roads present a dilapidated picture, reflecting the lack of priority given to the city's development by local authorities.

Handmade carpet industry urgently needs govt support: PCMEA

LAHORE (INP): A delegation of Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) called on Chief Collector Customs Peshawar, Khawaja Khurram Naem, and Collector Matin Alam to discuss issues related to the Torkham border.

Pattern-in-Chief Abdul Latif Malik, Vice Chairman Riaz Ahmed, and Senior Central Leader Usman Ashraf apprised the FBR officials of the problems faced in the import of partially

manufactured carpet goods through the Torkham border and the resulting unusual delays in the dispatch of export orders to various countries, negatively impacting exports and foreign exchange earnings.

Chief Collector Khawaja Khurram Naem assured the delegation that all possible steps would be taken to resolve the issues.

The delegation also presented shields to the FBR officials on behalf of the association.

Various food points penalised over law violations

MULTAN (APP): The food safety teams took action against non-standard food production and delivery units and imposed heavy fine over hygiene rules violations. According to details, a water plant on Jalalpur Road was closed till improvement due to water sample failure. Similarly, Rs. 80,000 fine was imposed on Sweets and Bakers at Bilal Chowk, Sohan Halwa Unit at Chowk Fawara and Bakery at Chowk Khuni Burj for dirt in the production area, lack of food grade certificates for hacking.

Malaysians show interest in importing Pakistani food

LAHORE (APP): Malaysians have expressed strong interest in importing high-quality Pakistani food and snacks to meet the rising demand.

A delegation of Pakistani food exporters, led by Coordinator of Federal Tax Ombudsman Saifur Rehman, is currently on a two-week tour of Malaysia to explore untapped export markets.

According to a report received from Kuala Lumpur, here on Sunday, the growing interest is driven by the increasing popularity of Pakistani snacks and food products, which are known for their rich blend of flavors, spices,

and traditional recipes. Pakistani basmati rice, spices, confectionery, processed food, and various types of internationally recognized nimko have particularly gained traction in the Malaysian market.

Saifur Rehman said that with Malaysia's diverse multicultural population, there is a significant demand for Halal-certified products. Pakistan, with its strong Halal compliance standards, is well-positioned to meet this demand, creating more opportunities for Pakistani exporters to penetrate the Malaysian market.



KARACHI: A mechanic busy in repairing sewing machine at his workplace in the Provincial Capital.

SBP asked to give collateral-free loans to woman entrepreneurs

FAISALABAD (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) should provide long-term loans without collateral at 3pc to women entrepreneurs in order to ensure their active participation in the national economy.

This was demanded by Imran Mehmood Sheikh, Central Chairman All Pakistan Bedsheet and Upholstery Manufacturers Association (APBUMA).

Addressing an awareness session, organised by the SBP in connection with World Women Entrepreneurship Day, he said that the ultimate objectives of such

events are to encourage women to become active participants of the national building process instead of becoming a burden on society.

He particularly underlined the role of Small & Medium Entrepreneurs (SMEs) and said that APBUMA is one of the largest representative bodies of the SMEs with 600 members out of which 350 belong to Faisalabad alone.

He said that high markup has become a threat to the existence of small and medium entrepreneurs as most of the businessmen have limited financial resources.

Governor Kundi issues directives for TDPs relief in Kurram

PESHAWAR (APP): Crescent has been deployed to the areas of Hangu and Thall for rapid emergency response. This deployment aims to ensure that relief efforts are swiftly and effectively carried out in response to the needs of the TDPs. Additionally, Governor Kundi assured that food supplies for the displaced populations in Darsmand and Thall have been secured for the upcoming days, ensuring that no individual is left without essential resources during this challenging time. Today, in collaboration with the district administration, the

Pakistan Red Crescent conducted a thorough assessment of the situation. A comprehensive report based on the findings will be submitted shortly to further guide the relief efforts. Pakistan Red Crescent Khyber Pakhtunkhwa remains steadfast in its commitment to providing continuous support and assistance to the displaced individuals, ensuring their immediate needs are met with the utmost urgency. It is worth mentioning here that dozens of persons were died and injured during the ongoing clashes between local tribes.



LAHORE: Provincial Information Minister, Azma Bukhari addressing a press conference in the Provincial Capital.

KP CM acting as puppet: Bukhari

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari has said that situation in Kurram, Bannu and Bara is sensitive, but unfortunately Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur is busy in making preparations to run over the federation. In a statement issued here on Sunday, she said that today 12 people were killed in firing incident in Kurram, adding that during last three days in various clash incidents, 75 person were killed and 80 others injured. Azma Bukhari said

Kundi pledges ending violence against women

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has vowed his commitment to ending violence against women, calling it a matter of not only human rights but of national progress. He said this in a special message on the International Day for the 'elimination of violence against women' here on Sunday.

He emphasized that societies and nations move forward when women are empowered and allowed to thrive in all areas of life. Governor Kundi said that the elimination of violence against women is not merely an aspiration but a fundamental necessity for the development of any society. He acknowledged that true progress is achieved when women are treated as equal participants in economic, political, and social spheres. In his message, the Governor highlighted that the silence around violence must be broken and that the systemic norms which perpetuate such abuse need to be challenged.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Minority Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora in a group photo with Sikh community at Dera Sahib Gurdwara.

CM pays tribute to female martyr flying officer

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has paid glowing tribute to Mariam Mukhtiar, Pakistan's first female martyred pilot, on her ninth death anniversary. In her message, she praised martyred pilot's exceptional courage, patriotism, and unwavering dedication to her country. "Mariam Mukhtiar proved that the daughters of the nation are second to none in their efforts for the construction and defence of the country," the CM stated.

Recalling Mariam's heroic actions, she highlighted the pilot's selfless sacrifice in preventing her aircraft from crashing into a populated area, thereby saving countless lives. "She set an eternal example of sacrifice," she remarked, emphasising the lasting legacy of such courage. The CM also pointed out that martyrs like Mariam Mukhtiar are a source of pride and inspiration for future generations. "Martyrs remain alive forever in the hearts of their people," she

added. In recognition of the broader role of women in national progress, the CM underscored that women are contributing equally alongside men to every sector, displaying immense talent and commitment. "Every daughter of Pakistan is a source of pride for the country," she affirmed. The CM said that Mariam Mukhtiar's unparalleled sacrifice serves as a shining example of patriotism and selflessness that will continue to inspire the nation for years to come.

Govt committed to safeguarding rights of minorities: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minorities Ramesh Singh Arora attended a seminar on "Minorities' Rights & Constitutional Protection" held at the Renewal Centre Auditorium in Youhanabad on Sunday. The event brought together a diverse group of participants, including Parliamentary Secretary of HR&MA Sonia Asher, former Minister Ejaz Alam, Augustine, government officials, religious leaders, and representatives from various minority communities. The seminar served as a vital platform for discussing the protection of minority rights under the Constitution of Pakistan and raising awareness about the importance of safeguarding these rights in the contemporary social and political landscape. In his keynote address, Minister Ramesh Singh Arora highlighted the government of Punjab's firm commitment to ensuring the constitutional protection of minorities. He emphasized the provincial government's ongoing efforts to create an inclusive society where equal opportunities and rights are guaranteed for all citizens, irrespective of their religion or ethnicity.



HYDERABAD: Transgender community (gathered from all over Sindh) celebrating their annual function Moorat March, demanding equality, protection and creating the opportunities in public and private sectors for betterment in their lifestyle, in the city.

Franchised PTI collapsed: Marriyum

LAHORE (APP): The tragic incident in Kurram Agency has ignited widespread grief and anger among the people and political leaders of provincial metropolis on Sunday. Civil society and political party leaders have expressed deep sorrow over the loss of innocent lives. Residents are demanding swift justice and the arrest of those responsible for the attack. Awami National Party (ANP) President Aimal Wali Khan has announced a protest on November 25th to express solidarity with the bereaved families. Marriyum Aurangzeb added that Bushra Bibi and Aleema Baji have sided with the PTI founder. "The instigator is behind bars. First, he was involved in looting the nation, and now he has been busy spreading unrest. They have always advocated for shutting the country down and acted upon it. Half of their so-called revolution was arrested before it even began, while the other half fled. Neither the revolution arrived.

60 shops sealed for smog SOPs violation

LAHORE (APP): The district administration has intensified its crackdown on smog-causing activities, sealing 60 shops and imposing fines amounting to Rs 60,000 on violators over the past 24 hours. A total of 2,564 shops, markets, and shopping malls were inspected citywide to enforce anti-smog SOPs, with 92 establishments shut down for non-compliance. Assistant commissioners across Lahore's zones conducted targeted operations. In City Zone, 477 locations were inspected with no violations reported. In Cantt, 250 establishments were checked, with action

taken against seven violators. Model Town saw inspections at 422 sites, resulting in action against 12 violators. Similar efforts in Raiwind, Shalimar, Ravi, Allama Iqbal Town, Wahga, Nishtar, and Saddar zones led to swift penalties for non-compliance, showcasing the administration's commitment to enforcing smog control measures. Deputy Commissioner Syed Musa Raza emphasized the administration's proactive stance in addressing smog and urged citizens to take necessary precautions, including wearing masks.

Kurram Agency tragedy sparks outrage, grief

PESHAWAR (APP): The tragic incident in Kurram Agency has ignited widespread grief and anger among the people and political leaders of provincial metropolis on Sunday. Civil society and political party leaders have expressed deep sorrow over the loss of innocent lives. Residents are demanding swift justice and the arrest of those responsible for the attack. Awami National Party (ANP) President Aimal Wali Khan has announced a protest on November 25th to express solidarity with the bereaved families.

International News

Israel attacks central Beirut; 120 more killed in Gaza

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: A powerful airstrike killed 15 people in central Beirut and 13 others were killed in attacks north-east of the Lebanese capital, while around 120 Palestinians were killed as Israel continued to press its offensive in Gaza and Lebanon. Eight of the victims, four of them children, were killed in a strike on the Lebanese village of Chimstar and five people died in an attack on the village of Bodai, the ministry said. Both villages are in the Baalbek district. In Beirut, an eight-storey building was struck with four missiles, including bunker penetrating types designed to hit un-

derground targets, said a Lebanese security source. At the site of the Israeli strike in central Beirut, Amin Chirri, a member of parliament, said there had been no Hezbollah leader in the building that was struck. The Israeli military made no immediate comment. Saturday's blasts shook the Lebanese capital at around 4am and left a deep crater. Beirut smelled strongly of explosives for hours afterwards. Rescuers searched through rubble, in an area of the city known for its antique shops. It was the fourth Israeli airstrike this week targeting a central area of

Beirut, in contrast to the bulk of Israel's attacks on the capital region. "There was dust and wrecked houses, people running and screaming, they were running, my wife is in hospital, my daughter is in hospital, my aunt is in the hospital," said Nemir Zakariya, who held up a picture of his daughter after the strike. "This is the little one, and my son also got hurt — this is my daughter, she is in the American University (of Beirut Medical Centre), this is what happened." Separately, at least five people were killed and two wounded in an Israeli strike on Roum village in southern Lebanon on Saturday.



Leader of the radical right Alliance for Uniting Romanians (AUR) George Simion stands with his wife Ilinca at a polling station, during the first round of the presidential election in Bucharest, Romania.

Romanians vote in presidential election focused on high living costs, Ukraine war

Monitoring Desk BUCHAREST: Romanians started voting on Sunday in the first round of a presidential election that may give hard-right politician George Simion a chance of winning, with voters focused on high living costs and the country's support for Ukraine. Opinion surveys show leftist Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu, 56,

leader of Romania's largest party, the Social Democrats, will make it into the runoff vote on Dec 8, with Simion, 38, of the Alliance for Uniting Romanians the likely runner-up. About 3.7 million Romanians, or 20.7% of registered voters in the European Union and NATO state, had cast their ballots across the country by 1045 GMT, data showed.

Iran protests 'violent' arrest of students in Russia

Monitoring Desk TEHRAN: Iran has lodged a protest with Moscow regarding what it described as the "violent" arrest of Iranian students at a university in the Russian city of Kazan, state media reported on Saturday. Two Iranian students who visited a visa extension centre at Kazan Federal University on Friday were arrested after being subjected to "inhumane and unprofessional beating" by the police, according to the IRNA state news agency, which cited a statement from Iran's consulate in the city.

In response Iran submitted "a protest note" to the Russian Foreign Ministry condemning the "violent treatment of the Iranian students by the police", IRNA said. Iran, a close ally of Russia, has requested "explanations" for the incident. The two students were released late on Friday following interventions by the consulate.



Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli strike on a mosque at Nuseirat refugee camp, in central Gaza Strip.

Nato chief discusses 'global security' with Trump

Monitoring Desk BRUSSELS: Nato chief Mark Rutte held talks with US president-elect Donald Trump in Florida on the "global security issues facing the alliance", a spokeswoman said on Saturday. "They discussed the range of global security issues facing the Alliance," spokesperson, Farah Dakhlaallah, said in a brief statement. The meeting took place on Friday in Palm Beach, spokesperson said. In his first term Trump aggressively pushed Europe to step up defence spending and questioned the fairness of the Nato transatlantic alliance. The former Dutch prime minister

had said he wanted to meet Trump two days after Trump was elected on Nov 5, and discuss the threat of increasingly warming ties between North Korea and Russia. Trump's thumping victory to return to the US presidency has set nerves jangling in Europe that he could pull the plug on vital Washington military aid for Ukraine. Nato allies say keeping Kyiv in the fight against Moscow is key to both European and American security. "What we see more and more is that North Korea, Iran, China and of course Russia are working together, working together against Ukraine."

Afghan women turn to entrepreneurship under Taliban

Monitoring Desk KABUL: When Zainab Ferozi saw Afghan women struggling to feed their families after Taliban authorities took power, she took matters into her own hands and poured her savings into starting a business. Two-and-a-half years after putting 20,000 Afghanis (\$300) earned from teaching sewing classes into a carpet weaving enterprise, she now employs around a dozen women who lost their jobs or who had to abandon their education due to Taliban government rules. Through her business in the western province of Herat, the 39-year-old also "covers all the household expenses" of her family of six, she told AFP from her office where samples of brightly coloured and exquisitely woven rugs and bags are displayed. Her husband, a labourer, cannot find work in one of the poorest countries in the world. Ferozi is one of many women who have launched small businesses in the past three years to meet their own needs and support other Afghan women, whose employment sharply declined after the Taliban took power in 2021. Before the Taliban takeover, women made up 26 percent of public sector workers.

EU cannot pick and choose as ICC warrants are binding, says Borrell

Monitoring Desk NICOSIA: European Union governments cannot pick and choose whether to execute arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court against two Israeli leaders and a Hamas commander, the EU's foreign policy chief said on Saturday. The ICC issued the warrants on Thursday against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, his former defence minister Yoav Gallant and Hamas leader Ibrahim Al Masri, for alleged crimes against humanity. All EU member states are signatories to the ICC's founding treaty, called the Rome Statute. Several EU states have said they will meet their commitments under the

statute if needed, but Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has invited Netanyahu to visit his country, assuring him he would face no risks if he did so. "The states that signed the Rome convention are obliged to implement the decision of the court. It's not optional," Josep Borrell, the EU's top diplomat, said during a visit to Cyprus for a workshop of Israeli and Palestinian peace activists. Those same obligations were also binding on countries aspiring to join the EU, he said. "It would be very funny that the newcomers have an obligation that current members don't fulfill," he said.

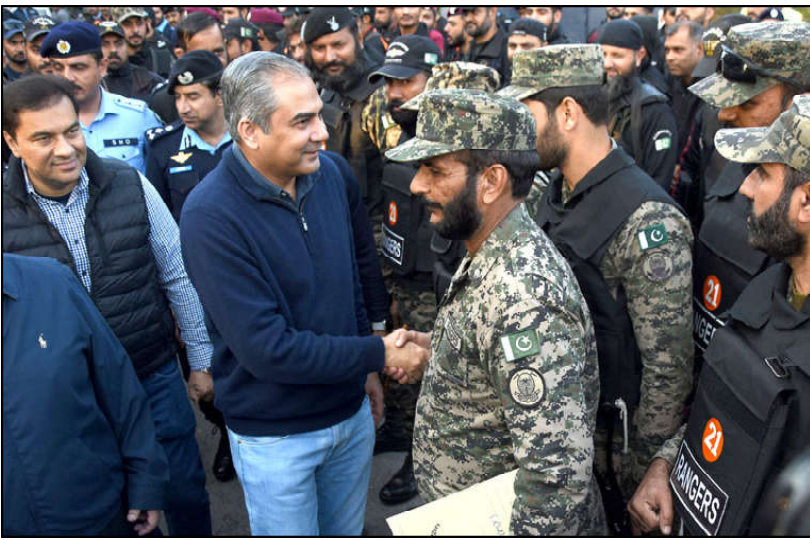


US president-elect Donald Trump shakes hands with Nato Secretary General Mark Rutte in Palm Beach, Florida.

Russia says US using Taiwan to stir crisis in Asia

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: The United States is using Taiwan to provoke a serious crisis in Asia, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Rudenko told TASS news agency in remarks published on Sunday, reiterating Moscow's backing of China's stance on Taiwan. "We see that Washington, in violation of the 'one China' principle that it recognises, is strengthening military-political contacts with Taipei under the slogan of maintaining the 'status quo', and increasing arms supplies," Rudenko told the state news agency. "The goal of such obvious US interference in the region's affairs is to provoke the PRC (People's Republic of China) and generate a crisis in Asia to suit its own selfish interests." The report did not cite any specific contacts that Rudenko was referring to. China views democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory, a claim that Taiwan's government rejects. The US is Taiwan's most important international backer and arms supplier, despite the lack of formal diplomatic recognition.

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi shake hands with Paramilitary soldiers before a press conference at the D-Chowk in the Federal Capital ahead of PTI protest in the Federal Capital.

PTI wants to sabotage national development again: Ahsan Iqbal

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal said on Sunday that the PTI wanted to sabotage the journey of national development once again.

Addressing a press conference here at Model Town, he said that only courts were empowered to release the PTI founder, and "we will never let Pakistan be damaged for the ego of a single person". He said the PTI founder could not be released through an executive order, and he should prove his innocence in the court. He said the PTI founder was in jail not to fulfill legal requirements but on the charges of theft, fraud and sedition.

During the PTI regime, he said, the PML-N leaders got justice from the courts and did not appeal to the government for their release from jails.

Ahsan Iqbal said that there was irrefutable evidence against the PTI founder in the cases of Tosha Khana and Al-Qadir Trust, and his legal team was using delaying tactics in his cases. Bushra Bibi is not appearing in the court despite taking bail, as she fears that she would not be able to avoid punishment by participating in the court process, he added.

The federal minister said that Pakistan was moving on the way to development, and the stock market was showing bullish trends. He said maintaining law and order was a

responsibility of the government. Necessary measures were inevitable to thwart ambitions of the "anarchist" group, he said and offered apology for the inconvenience caused to citizens due to road closures.

The PTI acted like a terrorist organisation on May 9, and no good could be expected from it now, the minister said adding that those who invited external powers to intervene in Pakistan could not be well-wishers of the country. Ahsan said those calling for protests and sit-ins again and again had been rejected by people, as their real faces had been exposed now. He said the PTI wanted to spread chaos in the country through sit-ins.

DPM/FM Dar terms PTI's calls for protest as conspiracy against country's prestige

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Sunday questioned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) repeated calls for strikes, terming them as a well-thought-out conspiracy against the country's prestige.

In a press statement, the DPM/FM expressed his regret over PTI's protest announced for November 24 in Islamabad.

He said that the party announced its protests at a time when important global personalities were on a visit to Pakistan, adding whether it was on 14th October on the occasion of the Chinese premier's visit or on 15-16 October when the heads of government of SCO arrived to participate in high-level event hosted by Pakistan.

DPM/FM Dar said, similarly, the Belarusian President was due on Monday on his official visit to Pakistan and prior to it, Belarusian ministers and business delegations were also arriving on Sunday.

Fatal shooting in Balochistan claims 3 lives

QUETTA (APP): Three people, including two brothers of a groom who were going to Quetta with a wedding party, were ambushed and killed on Sunday by armed men in Balochistan. According to a private news channel, this sad incident has taken place near the Patri area of Gandawah, Tehsil of Jhal Magsi district. According to sources from Jhal Magsi Levies, armed men riding a motorcycle opened fire and killed the groom's two brothers, Fida Hussain, Zakir Hussain son of Mehrab Ali Lashari, and son-in-law Babul Khan.



LAHORE: Buses loaded with goods stationed at the lorry stand due to the closure of the Motorway, Ring Road, due to the PTI's Islamabad rally in the provincial capital.

Musadiq Malik says: People rejected PTI's politics of confrontation

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum Musadiq Malik on Sunday said people had rejected PTI's politics of agitation and confrontation, which is aimed at destabilizing the country and no any convoy was taken out from Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa CM and Bushra Bibi heading towards Islamabad but they would never succeed in their nefarious designs, he said while addressing a press conference here at PSO head office. Federal Petroleum minister said PTI was ruling in KP since last 11 years and during their rule in the province several major terrorist incidents were occurred. He cited APS tragedy, Police Lines incident and several other terrorist incidents claiming lives of innocent civilians as well as security forces Jawans.

Senator Musadiq said

in the past our security forces had initiated successful operations like Zarab-e-Azab and eliminated terrorist networks from our soil and terrorists had fled away but when PTI took over the reins of power in KP they brought all terrorist elements back to our soil.

He said terrorists were involved in killing of miners, innocent people in tribal areas of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and PTI is responsible of all these terrorist incidents.

Senator Musadiq Malik said PTI wanted to storm the capital and at that time when foreign leaders are coming to Pakistan. The aim of this agitative step is to bring bad name for Pakistan, Musadiq Malik said and warned no one would be allowed to harm Pakistan's stability.

Petroleum minister said Pakistan had overcome economic crisis and heading towards stability.



QUETTA: Activists of Civil Society hold a protest against former prime minister Imran Khan's wife, Bushra Bibi, comments allegedly implicating Saudi Arabia in his government's ouster.

Sohailur Rehman posted as Secretary Culture, Tourism, Zohaib posted as DC Dera Bugti

Independent Report QUETTA: The senior bureaucrat of Balochistan Civil Service (BCS), Sohailur Rehman, who was awaiting posting order, has been posted as the Secretary Tourism, Culture and Archives department, with immediate effect.

This was announced in an official notification issued here by the Services and General Administration Department (S&GAD) the other day.

According to the notification, another BCS officer, Zohaibul Haq, who was serving as Deputy Secretary in CM's secretariat, has been posted as Deputy Commissioner Dera Bugti.

Warring tribes agree on 7-day ceasefire in Kurram as dozens killed in clashes

PESHAWAR (INP): The warring tribal groups in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kurram district have finally agreed to a seven-day ceasefire after days of clashes that left at least 30 dead and injured dozens, a KP government spokesperson said on Sunday.

President reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to women's rights, end to violence

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has reaffirmed on the 'International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women', that they were united in solidarity with women and girls across the world who endured violence in many forms.

"This day serves as a reminder to intensify our efforts to end violence against women and girls," he said in a message on the observance of International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on November 25. On this day, he reaffirmed commitment to protect the rights of women, provide them with a safe and enabling environment, and reduce gender-based violence.

"We need to empower women by providing them education, focusing on their skill-building and ensuring their financial independence. It is also essential to raise awareness about women's rights and eliminate violence against them," he stressed.

The president said that violence against women was a pervasive human rights issue that affected nearly one in three women globally. The urgency for immediate and collective action could be gauged from the fact that thousands of women lost their lives annually in acts of violence, he observed. "This year's theme 'Every 10 Minutes, a Woman is Killed. #NoExcuse. UNITE to End Violence against Women' calls upon us to increase investments in prevention strategies, survivor support, and systemic reforms to address this grave violation of human rights", President House Media Wing, in a press release, quoted the president as saying.

The president said Pakistan stood committed to this cause, aligning its national efforts with this global call to action.

Former Prime Minister Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto championed the rights of women, he said, adding in her address at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, she called for economic independence, social equality, and education of women.

"She firmly believed in creating a society free from exploitation and maltreatment of women where they could rise to the highest level in politics, business, diplomacy, and other spheres of life," he further added.

The president expressed his satisfaction that in Pakistan, they were making meaningful efforts to end violence against women.



SUI: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti offering Fateha after condoling with relatives of Shaheed Sadrudin. Provincial Ministers and tribal elites are also present.

Bilawal for collective efforts to end all form of violence against women

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has underscored the importance of collective efforts to end all forms of violence against women.

In a message on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, he emphasized the need to empower women and safeguard their safety, dignity, and rights.

Reaffirming the PPP's dedication to gender equality and women's empowerment, he called for a society free from fear, discrimination, and violence. He expressed grave concern over the widespread prevalence of gender-based violence, urging immediate action to address its causes through comprehensive legislative, social, and cultural reforms.

"Violence against women is a gross violation of human rights and a major impediment to achieving a just and equitable society. We must commit ourselves to eliminating it from all aspects of life, be it at home, in the workplace, or public spaces," he said.

Highlighting the PPP's pioneering role in advancing women's rights in Pakistan, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said, "The PPP has a proud history of empowering women by electing them as Prime Minister, Speaker, and Ministers, besides appointing judges and other key posts for the first time in the history of Pakistan."

Train services b/w Lahore, Rawalpindi, Peshawar suspended amid PTI protest

LAHORE (INP): In response to the PTI protests, Pakistan Railways has suspended all train services between Lahore, Rawalpindi, and Peshawar.

Train services have been halted on the routes between Peshawar and Rawalpindi, Lahore and Rawalpindi, as well as Multan and Faisalabad to Rawalpindi.

Railway officials confirmed that all 25 train tickets for Sunday, November 24, have been canceled. Passengers who had booked tickets for the day will be refunded immediately.

To ensure security, a heavy police presence has been deployed at railway stations, and entry to stations has been completely shut down. Passengers will receive ticket refunds at temporary counters set up at the stations.

He credited Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto with laying the foundation for gender equality through the 1973 Constitution, which ensures protection against gender-based discrimination and promotes women's participation in all walks of life. "Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto opened new avenues for women by focusing on their education, empowerment, and protection," he added. He paid tribute to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto as a global icon of women's empowerment. Bilawal Bhutto highlighted her transformative initiatives, including the establishment of women's police stations, the First Women Bank, and the Lady Health Workers Program, which created opportunities for women across Pakistan.

Governor directs QESCO's CEO to ensure voltage power supply in Zhob

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has directed to the Chief Executive Officer of Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) to ensure electricity supply with full voltage to the consumers of Zhob Division.

He also directed to stop the unannounced load shedding of electricity in the Division just because the good consumers paying bills on regular basis have also become fed up of the situation.

He also directed to the high ups of WAPDA to improve their official timing and behave well with all the consumers.



QUETTA: Relatives of missing persons hold a rally of the release of their love ones at Adalat road.

Indian SC weighs Yasin Malik's trial amid security concerns

MIRPUR (AJK): (APP): The bench, comprising Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Augustine George Masih, is currently deliberating on the matter, the report said.

In a related statement, Raja Muzaffar, US-based acting Chairman of Yasin Malik faction of the JKLF-Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front, on Sunday urged the Indian government to reconsider its stance on Malik, arguing that he should be viewed not as a terrorist, but rather as a figure akin to Gandhi or Nelson Mandela for the people of Kashmir, says a message reaching and released to the media here Sunday night.

The JKLF acting Chairman contends that acknowledging this perspective was essential for resolving the longstanding issues in the region, emphasizing the need for political will to foster change, he concluded.

MIRPUR (AJK): (APP): In a significant legal development, the Supreme Court of India has reportedly emphasized the importance of a fair trial, drawing comparisons to the case of terrorist Ajmal Kasab, during the ongoing appeal by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) concerning veteran Kashmir freedom struggle leader Yasin Malik, says a report reaching here Sunday from across the line of control (LoC).

Malik, the report said, is embroiled in a fake case linked to the alleged killing of an Indian Air Force personnel.

As the CBI challenges a directive for Malik's physical appearance in a Jammu court, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta expressed serious security concerns, highlighting potential risks to both Malik and witnesses involved in the trial.

Imran Khan is only making missed calls, says Tessori

LONDON (INP): Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori has stated that former prime minister Imran Khan was making "missed calls" and would not be able to reach anyone for the next five years.

In a conversation with a private TV channel in London, Tessori said that PTI members would eventually "go in circles and return to where they started," describing the current political situation as a "game of emotions and the last over."

He added that the situation will soon come to an end, and that frustration was evident in their statements.

Peace to be ensured in Islamabad at all costs: Defence Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Defence Minister Khawaja Asif warned the PTI on Sunday that any violent protests would be met with a firm response.

He emphasized that the state will not permit any illegal mob to attack Islamabad, noting the party's history of organizing demonstrations that have often escalated into violence.

"The government will take a tough stance on individuals who disrupt law and order in Islamabad", the minister warned in a recent private news channel interview. Islamabad has been placed on high alert, with the government warning of zero tolerance for violent mobs, he added.

Khawaja Asif has emphasized that peace will be ensured in the capital city at all costs. He accused the PTI of habitually using innocent people to attack state institutions, adding

that the state will not be blackmailed by the PTI's protests, which have a history of turning violent.

He said that the government will take firm action against any illegal activities and will not allow the party to use innocent people to attack state institutions.

The Defence Minister expressed disappointment that the PTI tends to protest whenever a country announces to visit Pakistan, adding that Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, should focus on improving the law and order situation in the province.

"Both government and military leadership are jointly moving the country forward. We will not permit any violent mob to attack Islamabad under any circumstances," Defence Minister Khawaja Asif stated.

He emphasized the government's firm stance on maintaining law and order.

Interior Minister conducts aerial visit of Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Attock

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday conducted an aerial visit of Islamabad, Rawalpindi, and Attock to review security arrangements in the three cities.

During his visit, Interior Minister took an aerial view of the security arrangements in various areas of the three cities. He also observed the overall situation on the Motorway, Swabi, and Pathar Gharh, expressing satisfaction with the security arrangements.

Mohsin Naqvi stated that necessary measures have been taken to ensure public peace and order in compliance with the

Islamabad High Court's order. He added that police, FC, and Rangers personnel are diligently performing their duties.

The Interior Minister emphasized that the government has taken all possible measures to protect the lives and property of citizens, and that strict action will be taken against miscreants in accordance with the law.

Interior Minister made it clear that no one will be allowed to disrupt the peace and order situation in the capital, and the administration, police, and law enforcement agencies are prepared to deal with any possible situation.



QUETTA: Director General Public Relations Balochistan, Noor Khetran along with others cutting cake during Foundation Day ceremony of the local news channel, held in Quetta.

Governor directs QESCO's CEO to ensure voltage power supply in Zhob

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has directed to the Chief Executive Officer of Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) to ensure electricity supply with full voltage to the consumers of Zhob Division.

He also directed to stop the unannounced load shedding of electricity in the Division just because the good consumers paying bills on regular basis have also become fed up of the situation.

He also directed to the high ups of WAPDA to improve their official timing and behave well with all the consumers.

The Governor was speaking to the CEO of QESCO during his meeting with him on Sunday.

The QESCO Chief on the occasion assured to Governor that another big transformer/ trolley would also be installed in order to increase the production of Zhob Grid Station.

The Governor stressed that the complains of electricity consumers should be addressed effectively just to maintain high standard of customer service.

He also directed to take special care of electricity supply during official timings in the government offices including the health and education departments.



QUETTA: Chairperson Ejwaji Alliance Sana Durrani addressing a press conference at Quetta Press Club.

Sri Lanka High Commissioner donates eye corneas to AFIO

ISLAMABAD (APP): Sri Lanka's High Commissioner Admiral Ravindra C Wijegunaratne (Retd) handed over donated eye corneas to Lieutenant General Arshad Nasim HI(M) at the Armed Forces Institute of Ophthalmology, Rawalpindi, marking 75 years of the Sri Lanka Army with a gesture of goodwill and humanitarian collaboration. The Sri Lankan High Commissioner in Pakistan commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Sri Lanka Army through a profound act of generosity, donating human eye corneas to the Pakistan Military, said a

press release issued here Sunday. Organised by the Defence Wing of the Sri Lankan High Commission in Islamabad and the Sri Lanka Eye Donation Society, the ceremonial handover took place on November 20, at the Armed Forces Institute of Ophthalmology (AFIO), Rawalpindi, it further said. Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to Pakistan, Admiral Ravindra C Wijegunaratne (Retd), Brigadier Kaminda Silva, and representatives from the Sri Lanka Eye Donation Society presented the corneas to Lieutenant General Arshad Nasim HI(M), Surgeon General of the Armed Forces.