

Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Islamabad

Vol. XIV No. 273 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Monday November 25, 2024, Jamaadi ul Awwal 22, 1446 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12



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 caravans from across the country were en route 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.



ISLAMABAD: Police taken to arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers towards prison van.

All educational institutes in twin cities to remain closed today amid protest

ISLAMABAD (INP): All the educational institutions in Islamabad and Rawalpindi will be closed tomorrow (Monday) amid protest of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in Islamabad. According to reports, the decision was made in light of the ongoing protests and disruptions in the city. The district administration of Islamabad will issue a formal notification regarding the closure of schools and colleges.

This closure will apply to all educational insti-

tutions across the city to ensure the safety of students and staff amid the ongoing PTI protest.

Authorities have emphasized that the closure is a precautionary measure, taking into account the uncertainty of the situation and potential security concerns. The decision will help avoid any possible disturbances or harm to the educational community while maintaining peace and order in the city.

Earlier in the day, authorities completely sealed

the twin cities, Rawalpindi and Islamabad in response to the Pakistan PTI protest in Islamabad.

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.

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 low 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.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Muhammad 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 glo-

bal 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.

Bilawal expresses deep concern over deteriorating law, order situation in Kurram

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed deep concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in the Kurram district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, urging that the safety and security of citizens be ensured immediately.

In a press release issued by the Media Cell Bilawal House, Chairman PPP stated, "On one hand, the Kurram district is burning in the fire of unrest, and on the other, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is absent from the scene." He pointed out that in the last few days, 80 citizens had been killed in Kurram, and

people are not even safe in their homes.

"The government's silence during this turmoil is tantamount to being an ally of the terrorists", he said.

Bilawal Bhutto emphasized that maintaining law and order is the primary responsibility of the provincial government, but the PTI-led provincial government has failed to protect the lives and property of the citizens. "We condemn the criminal negligence of the PTI government in Kurram." He concluded by saying, "My heart is bleeding for the victims, and we cannot stand to see Khyber Pakhtunkhwa burn in the flames of lawlessness."



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

Three more polio cases reported

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health (NIH) has confirmed the detection of three wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases in Pakistan.

With report of fresh cases, the number of total cases in the country this year reached to 55.

On Saturday, November 23, the lab confirmed the case from D.I. Khan and Zhob districts, where female children are affected, and Jaffarabad district where a male child is affected.

D.I. Khan, one of the seven polio endemic districts of southern KP, has now reported six polio cases, while this is the third case this year from Zhob and second from Jaffarabad.

Pakistan is responding to an intense resurgence of WPV1 this year with 55 cases reported so far. Of these, 26 are from Balochistan, 14 from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 13 from Sindh, and one each from Punjab and Islamabad.

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.



ISLAMABAD: A view of Constitution Avenue decorated with portraits of Pakistani Prime minister, Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, President Asif Ali Zardari and Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko on a green belt in connection with President of Belarus visiting at Pakistan, in the Federal Capital.

Residents of twin cities facing problems due to PTI protests: Dr. Tariq

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior Leader of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said that the residents of twin cities facing hardships and problems due to the protests call of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Addressing at a press conference here on Sunday, he said that due to the misleading role of PTI country's politics facing problems and earning bad name at the international level. He underlined that PTI workers had mistreated with bureaucrats and major political figures in abroad which was a condemnable act.

Fazal blasted PTI's political decline, saying

Bushra Bibi's statement laid bare the party's internal chaos, where members are battling for control in a fractured leadership.

He emphasized that Pakistan's strong relations with Saudi Arabia remain unaffected, with recent agreements serving as proof that such statements won't alter these vital ties. He condemned PTI for accusing the same countries from which they've accepted gifts, calling it a glaring example of their political bankruptcy. Reconciliation, he said, is Pakistan's strength—not a weakness—and protests must operate within the bounds of the Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Act, 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 Pakhtunkhwa Engineer Ameer Muqam, referring to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) November 24 'final protest call' at D-Chowk Islamabad, predicted that it would mark the 'end of PTI's political saga,' describing the agitation as purposeless and damaging.

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.

He claimed that PTI's protests have led to significant economic losses, shutting down businesses and

leaving millions struggling. "They [PTI leadership] aim to paralyse the entire country, causing billions in losses to the national exchequer," he remarked, questioning PTI's commitment to patriotism.

He dismissed claims of mass mobilisation, challenging PTI's assertion of leading nine lakh people from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) to Islamabad.

"KP is grappling with worsening law and order, yet the provincial chief minister is busy fuelling protests instead of addressing the province's crises," he said. Muqam criticised KP's leadership, particularly Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, for allegedly misusing provincial resources and in-



volving government employees in political demonstrations.

Highlighting recent violence in Kurram, where dozens have lost their lives, Muqam condemned the provincial government for neglecting the affected communities.

He accused PTI of be-

ing the upcoming visit of Belarus' president.

Muqam alleged that such actions reflect PTI's unwillingness to see the country succeed on the global stage.

In a pointed remark, he dismissed the notion that PTI's protests would lead to the release of their detained leader. "Court cases must be faced, not evaded by inciting unrest or storming the federal capital," he asserted.

Commenting on the recent remarks of Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi against friendly countries, Muqam said this disgraceful statement from an uneducated and uninformed individual shows she was working on the agenda of enemies.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Short-changed?

The COP29 climate summit in Baku has stretched past the Friday deadline to 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 — inept policymakers, uninterested 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 there.

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.

China to upgrade 5G to 5G-A network

BEIJING (APP): China has unveiled draft guidelines for country's data infrastructure construction, including upgrading its 5G network to 5G-A standard and promoting 6G-related research, development and innovation.

China will balance the deployment of international communication gateways across its eastern, central and western regions, and expand international submarine and land cable information channels.

A satellite internet that integrates space and ground facilities will also be established, according to the document released by the National Data Bureau.

The guidelines, which were released to solicit opinions, say that China will facilitate large-scale, low-cost, secure free flow of data, and encourage industries and regions to actively explore new technological infrastructure in such areas

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, Foudari 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 Turkham 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 Turkham 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.

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 to 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: 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 martyr 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): Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb expressed her gratitude to the people of Punjab and Lahore, stating that the "franchise PTI" has collapsed today as it stands rejected by the public. She remarked, "It would have been better if internal matters were resolved privately. The people of Punjab are aligned with Pakistan's and the province's progress." She further commented, "Al-Jihad' has fallen victim to chaos and disruption. Bushra Bibi and Aleema Baji are both missing, and soon there will be news of Ali Amin Gandapur's disappearance as well." 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.



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.

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 Cant, 250 establishments were checked, with action

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.

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 Dakhllallah, 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

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 Afghans (\$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.

Russia supplied air defense missiles to North Korea in return for its troops, South Korea says

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: Russia has supplied air defense missile systems to North Korea in exchange for sending its troops to support Russia's war efforts against Ukraine, a top South Korean official said. The U.S., South Korea and Ukraine say North Korea sent more than 10,000 troops to Russia in October, some of whom have recently begun engaging in combat on the front

lines. North Korea's troop deployment threatens to escalate the war, and what Russia could give to the North in return has been a source of rampant international speculation. The most alarming development for South Korea and the U.S. would be Russia transferring sophisticated weapons technology that can enhance North Korea's nuclear-capable missiles targeting its rivals.

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 partner and arms supplier, despite the lack of formal diplomatic recognition.



Leader of the radical right Alliance for Uniting Romanians (AUR) George Simion stands with his wife Iliuca 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.

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 indepen-

dence. It is also essential to raise awareness about women's rights and eliminate violence against them," he stressed.

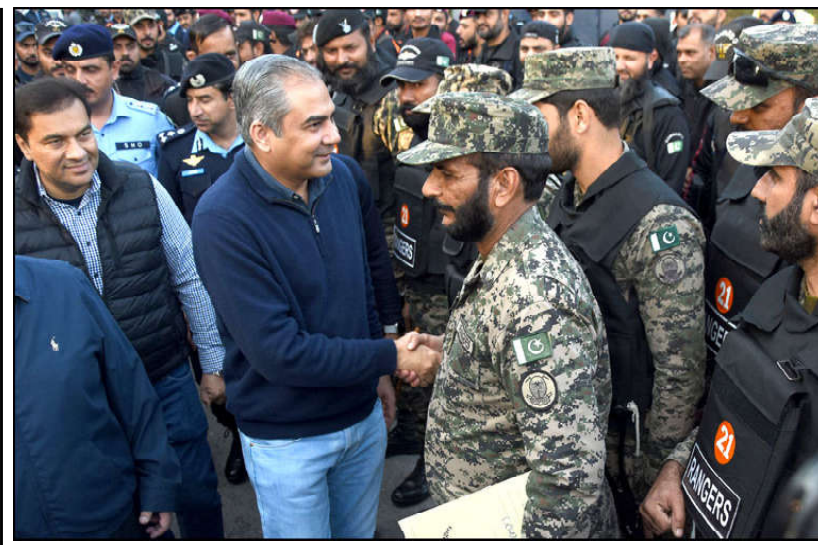
The president said that violence against women was a pervasive human rights issue that affected nearly one in three women globally. The urgency for immediate and collective action could be gauged from the fact that thousands of women lost their lives annually in acts of violence, he observed. "This year's 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.



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.



SIALKOT: Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif is listening the problems of people at his residence.

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."

He credited Shaheed Zulfiqar 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 Zulfiqar 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.

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.

Tessori also commented on the controversial statement by Bushra Bibi, noting that even her own party did not endorse it. He said if Imran Khan made such a statement to Bushra Bibi, he would have violated his oath.

He further explained that if any such matters did occur, Imran Khan had taken an oath as prime minister not to disclose state secrets.

Tessori emphasized that any attempts to link these issues would go against the country's sovereignty and integrity. Regarding Pakistan's economic stability, the Governor stated that the country was making efforts towards recovery, with support from friendly nations.

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 Lanka 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 Lanka 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.

Fatal shooting in Balochistan claims 3 lives

QUETTA (APP): Three people, including two brothers of a groom who were going to Quetta for 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.

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



ISLAMABAD: Administration open road at Islamabad Expressway at Zero Point for public in the Federal Capital.

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.

Romina lauds Baku govt for successful COP29, pledges to work jointly on climate risks

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister for Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has extended congratulations to the president COP29 and Azerbaijan team on the successful adoption of the Baku Climate Unit Pact.

Addressing the closing plenary of COP29, she said "We look forward to joining all colleagues in continuing the spirit of international cooperation on the road from Dubai to Baku and Belem adding the delivery of the UAE consensus and Baku climate unity pact through the next generation of NDCs, NAPs and a decisive shift in the international climate finance architecture requires us to work together to keep 1.5 and global resilience within reach."

flecting the spirit of multilateralism.

"Pakistan stresses that the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities form the very basis of global climate change. We also reaffirm that COP remains the most essential and critical forum for forging global consensus toward the achievement of the goals of UNFCCC and Paris Agreement, especially Paris Agreement's global temperature target of 1.5 degree Celsius", she added.

The Coordinator said "We came to Baku with the spirit that our decisions here on critical issues such as new collective quantified goal (NCQG), the global stocktake (GST), and the just transition will put us back on track to achieve goals of the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement". "However, we are leaving Baku with mixed feelings and a heavy heart. We note critical gaps in the decision we all adopted here. Global solidarity is important but the goal put forward by the developed countries does not match with the needs of the developing countries for the implementation of their NDCs and National Adaptation Plans", Romina Alam stated.



ISLAMABAD: A view of closed Margalla road with barbed wires ahead of PTI protest in the Federal Capital.

Indian SC weighs Yasin Malik's trial amid security concerns

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.

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 would be essential for resolving the longstanding issues in the region, emphasizing the need for political will to foster change, he concluded.

Photographic competition announced to mark Int'l Mountain Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) has announced a photographic competition to commemorate International Mountain Day 2024, to be observed on December 11. According to an official source, this day will be marked under this year's theme, "Mountain Solutions for a Sustainable Future-Innovation, Adaptation, and Youth," which highlights the importance of preserving mountainous landscapes and promoting sustainable development.

This initiative aims at engaging youth, inspire innovation, and raise awareness about the role of mountains in fostering a sustainable future.

The event is part of ongoing efforts to celebrate Pakistan's natural heritage and encourage responsible tourism.

The photographers and nature enthusiasts are encouraged to participate in this unique opportunity to showcase their talent while supporting a meaningful cause.

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.

69 absconders involved in heinous crimes arrested by ICT Police

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police have arrested 69 absconders, proclaimed offenders and target offenders involved in heinous crimes during the ongoing week.

A police spokesperson told APP on Sunday that special tasks were assigned to all senior police officials to ensure the arrest of proclaimed offenders and absconders involved in different criminal activities in the federal capital. He said during the crackdown, the Islamabad Police teams have arrested 69 absconders, proclaimed offenders and target offenders during the ongoing week.

DIG Islamabad Raza reviews duty points across district

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Syed Ali Raza conducted a late-night visit to various duty points across the federal capital on Saturday.

A public relation officer told APP that, during the visit, DIG Raza briefed officers on law-and-order responsibilities, emphasizing the importance of performing their duties diligently and efficiently.

DIG Raza reiterated that ensuring the safety of citizens' lives and property remains the top priority of the Islamabad Police. "No one will be allowed to take the law into their own hands, and violators will face strict legal action," DIG warned.

He further expressed hope that the peace-loving citizens of Islamabad would continue to cooperate with the police in maintaining law and order in the city.



ISLAMABAD: Heavy machinery being used at the site of under-construction PTCL Chowk underpass project during development work in Federal Capital.