

Independent

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Vol. XIV No. 274 Reg. mails-B/ID-445 Tuesday November 26, 2024, Jamaadi ul Awwal 23, 1446 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

A police constable died from injuries

PTI convoys enter Islamabad amid violent clashes with police

First round of PTI-govt talks ends inconclusively; PTI stands firm on demand to release Imran Khan, rejects offer to change sit-in venue; Over 70 police officers injured during violent clashes with PTI protesters

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: PTI convoys led by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and Opposition Leader, Omar Ayub, entered Islamabad on the call of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan.

The convoys, originating from the Hazara Interchange, are heading towards D-Chowk in Islamabad.

As the convoys advanced, they encountered heavy resistance from the police at the Ghazi Brotha Bridge, where intense shelling was reported.

Despite the police crackdown, Omar Ayub's convoy managed to push back Punjab Police forces at the Hazara Interchange. Ali Amin Gandapur, who is leading the Hazara Division convoy, played a crucial role in helping the convoy break through the po-

lice barricades.

After overcoming the police blockade, the convoys continued their journey, with vehicles stretching over two kilometers as they moved forward. On the Hazara Motorway, PTI supporters successfully forced police to retreat, with reports of violent clashes and heavy stone-pelting. Several police personnel were injured in the scuffles, and two officers were severely wounded and transferred to hospitals.

Among the injured officers were DSPs Chaudhry Zulfiqar and Shahid Gilani, as well as ASI Tabassum. DSP Zulfiqar suffered significant injuries to his back and legs during the confrontation.

A police constable has died from severe injuries,

and over 70 officers were injured during violent clashes with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protesters in Islamabad.

Constable Mubashir, 46, succumbed to head injuries after PTI protesters allegedly attacked police personnel near Hakla. The injured officer was rushed to Tehsil Headquarters Hospital in Hassan Abdal, where he was later pronounced dead. Mubashir is survived by his wife, two daughters, and a son.

The first round of talks between the government and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) ended inconclusively, sources told Geo News.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi held negotiations with PTI leaders Barrister Gohar Ali Khan

and Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif on behalf of the federal government.

They said PTI stood firm on its demand to ensure the immediate release of PTI founder Imran, who has been behind bars since August last year.

The PTI leaders, insiders said, also rejected the government's offer to hold a sit-in at the Parade Ground or Peshawar Mor in the federal capital.

The interior minister will inform Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif about the talks with the PTI leaders, sources said.

They said these is a possibility of the next round of negotiations between the government and the PTI leaders.

Barrister Gohar Khan and Saif held a 90-minute meeting with Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan in Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi.

Following the meeting, Barrister Gohar described the discussion as significant, confirming that Imran Khan's call for a protest remains final and that rumors about it being canceled were untrue. Speaking to journalists after the meeting, Barrister Gohar emphasised that the PTI founder's stance on the protest was unchanged, and the movement would proceed as planned. The meeting focused on strategic discussions regarding the ongoing political situation and the party's future course of action.

When asked about the ongoing negotiations surrounding the protest, Barrister Gohar assured re-



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif receives President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko at PAF Nur Khan Air Base.

PM orders to identify, bring to justice those involved in policeman's martyrdom

Shehbaz Sharif extended his condolences to the family of Constable Mubashir Shaheed, prayed for officer's soul

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday strongly condemned the killing of a policeman by those elements who came to protest.

The prime minister expressed his condolence to the bereaved family of constable Mubashir Shaheed and prayed for his high ranks, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister directed for immediate identification of those involved in the incident and bringing them to justice.

He also directed to

provide the best medical facilities to the police personnel injured as a result of stone pelting and violence stoked by the protesters.

The attack on police personnel in the name of so-called peaceful protest was condemnable, the prime minister said, adding the police personnel and law enforcement personnel were on their duty to maintain law and order.

He said the perpetrators involved in May 09 riots were once again resorting to violent acts and they had destroyed the life of 46-year-old shaheed constable

Mubashir and his family. The entire nation, including him, paid tribute to constable Mubashir Shaheed, he added.

The prime minister said that whenever the country moved on path of progress, these miscreants resorted to acts of burning and laying siege throughout the country.

He further said that constable Mubashir was martyred by a clique that was an enemy of the country's development, adding the act of so-called peaceful protesters by injuring and martyring policemen was condemnable.



ISLAMABAD: A view of Rangers personals stand on closed road to PTI protest in twin cities.

Judicial Commission forms Constitutional Bench in SHC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Judicial Commission of Pakistan has constituted a nine-member Constitutional Bench within the High Court of Sindh for a period of two months. Pakistan's cuisine

The Bench will be headed by Justice Muhammad Karim Khan Agha and will be comprising Justice Salim Jessar, Justice Omar Sial, Justice Yousaf Ali Syeed, Justice Abdul Mubeen Lakho, Justice Zulfiqar Ali Sangi, Justice Ms. Sana Akram Minhas, Justice Khadim Hussain Soomro and Justice Arbab Ali Hakro.

Following extensive and thoughtful exchange of views, the Commission considered the formation of the Constitutional Bench in Sindh High Court and approved the names of the judges with a majority of 11 to 4.

Meeting of the Judicial Commission was held Monday under the 26th Constitutional Amendment in the Supreme Court

premises on a one point agenda of formation of the Constitutional Bench in Sindh High Court.

The meeting was chaired by the Chief Justice of Pakistan and Chairman of the Judicial Commission Justice Yahya Afridi and attended by Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar (via video link), Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui, Chief Justice, Sindh High Court, Justice Naimatullah Pulpoto, Senior Puisne Judge, SHC, Mr. Azam Nazeer Tararr, Federal Minister of Law and Justice, Mr. Mansoor Usman Awan, Attorney General for Pakistan, Senator Farooq Hamid Naek, Sheikh Aftab Ahmad, Member National Assembly of Pakistan, Ms Roshan Khurshid Barucha, Mr. Zia ul Hasan Lanjar, Minister of law, Sindh, Mr. Akhtar Hussain, Senior Advocate Supreme Court and Qurban Ali Malano, Member Sindh Bar Council.

Belarus President arrives in Islamabad on three-day official visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko on Monday arrived in Islamabad on his three-day official visit to Pakistan at the invitation of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

The Belarus President arrived at the Nur Khan Airbase, Rawalpindi where he was received by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif along with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Ishaq Dar, Minister for Interior, Senator Mohsin Naqvi, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar, and other senior officials.

Children dressed in traditional attire presented bouquets of flowers to the President of Belarus.

Heartiest welcome to Excellency Alexander Lukashenko in Pakistan



It is our esteemed privilege to extend a warm and respectful welcome to His Excellency President Alexander Lukashenko, the distinguished Head of State of the Republic of Belarus.

We are deeply honoured by your esteemed presence, Mr. President, and we pay tribute to your visionary leadership, which has been instrumental in shaping the prosperity and progress of the Belarusian nation.

We look forward to strengthening the bonds of friendship and cooperation between our nations and to exploring new avenues of collaboration and mutual understanding.

Courtesy: Independent Group of Newspapers

Nation has rejected politics of 'chaos and anarchy': Tarar

RAWALPINDI (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Monday called out the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf for pursuing the politics of "chaos and anarchy", citing its violent conspiracy of May 9 arson.

Talking to the media at the Nur Khan Airbase, the minister said the people of Pakistan wanted the politics of progress and welfare which is manifested by the people-friendly initiatives of the government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

He said the national economy is taking off with the Pakistan Stock Exchange crossing the histori-

cal milestone of 100,000 points, and inflation plummeting to 6.9 per cent from 32 per cent, while foreign exchange reserves are swelling with a significant increase in exports, and also remittances that jumped to \$8.8 billion in the first quarter. He said two major commodities including electricity and petrol are cheaper than previous years, while interest rate and KIBOR stood at 15 per cent and 13 per cent, respectively. "This shows the economy is progressing and attracting foreign investment," he added.

The minister said a high-level delegation from Belarus has already arrived in Pakistan the other day, while its President

Alexander Lukashenko has just arrived in Islamabad. He said this is a historical visit for the bilateral relations of the two countries that enjoyed three decades of diplomatic ties.

Tarar called the two countries' friendship and partnership "exemplary" while lauding the sentiments of the President for the people of Pakistan.

The visit of the President of a friendly country to Pakistan is welcoming development, he said, adding a number of business-to-business Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) would be signed during the visit to enhance the cooperation in multiple areas which would eventually benefit the masses.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan presents a souvenir to Belarusian Minister Alexey Kushnarenko during the Pakistan-Belarus Business Forum 2024, where both witnessed the signing of 8 MoUs/Agreements.

Fazal urges PTI to choose dialogue option for resolving political matters

ISLAMABAD (APP): Member National Assembly of Pakistan Muslim League-N, Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Monday urged the leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to choose dialogue option for resolving political matters.

Adopting uncivilized way to address political issues would not be helpful for the leadership of PTI, he said while talking to a private television channel.

He said that PTI should approach the courts

for the release of PTI founder from jail.

In reply to a question about granting permission to PTI workers and supporters to gather at D-Chowk, he said PTI had a long track record of spreading violence through public meeting and protest demonstration.

The diplomatic enclave and security buildings are situated in the federal capital and we cannot allow anyone to create law and order situation near the sensitive places, he added.

Violent protests on November 24: Case registered against PTI founder, Bushra, Arif Alvi

ISLAMABAD (Online): Police registered a case against former Prime Minister Imran Khan, his wife Bushra Bibi and former President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi, among others, for violent protests by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf on November 24.

The first case of the protest was registered under anti-terrorism provisions at Taxila police station. More than 300 local leaders and workers, including Opposition Leader Omar Ayub, Chief Minister KP Ali Amin Gandapur, Aleema Khan, Azam Swati, Taimur Masood, Shehryar Riaz, have been named in the case.

According to the text of the case, the protesters damaged a government motorcycle and vehicle, while the accused kidnapped a police driver and tortured him before releasing him.

The PTI founder planned to march party leaders from Adiala Jail to Islamabad.

Pak believes in Intl cooperation to address common challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Danesh Kumar on Monday said that Pakistan believed in international cooperation to address common global challenges.

Speaking at the 1st Plenary Session titled "Advancing Global Architecture of Peace, Peacebuilding, Reconciliation, and Tolerance: Synergy of Governments, Parliaments, and Civil Society" in Cambodia, he said, "Our collective efforts to promote peace and harmony hold great importance in a world divided by conflict and inequality."

Highlighting the roles of various stakeholders, Senator Danesh Kumar noted that governments, parliaments, and civil society have distinct yet complementary responsibilities in fostering peaceful societies. Senator Danesh Kumar and Misbah Khar, Advisor to the Chairman of the Senate, are representing Paki-

stan at the conference, according to a news release received here on Monday. "In Pakistan, our journey toward peace and reconciliation is ongoing. Despite enormous human and economic losses due to terrorism, Pakistan remains committed to unity and understanding.

We will continue our efforts to combat terrorism and restore social harmony," the Senator said, underscoring Pakistan's stance on peace building.

He urged governments and parliaments worldwide to adopt an inclusive approach to advance tolerance, stressing that education and dialogue are essential for fostering understanding.

Calling the session a valuable platform, he said, "This is a great opportunity to reflect on shared goals and responsibilities to ensure a peaceful future for current and future generations."



CAMBODIA: Senator Danesh Kumar signing Universal Peace Charter: For People and the Planet at the International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace (IPTP).

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Anti-women state

Globally, women are tormented by the worst tools of exploitation: rape, sexual abuse, GBV, IPV, and more are among the most pervasive human rights violations that strip females of bodily autonomy. Unicef estimates show that over 370m women and girls today have endured rape or sexual violence before the age of 18. On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and the launch of the 'UNiTE to End Violence against Women' campaign, which focuses on the upsurge in crimes against women and the revival of obligations as well as demands action from policymakers, Pakistan looks back on a harrowing crime graph. The human rights ministry states that in the last three years, 63,000 cases of violence against women were reported; unfortunately, most cases do not come to light. In August, the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan was alarmed by the escalation in GBV nationwide; its report, Unveiling Shadows: An Overview of Gender-Based Violence Cases, 2023, exposed an 81pc rise in the backlog of unresolved GBV cases.

While it is true that GBV incidents surge in times of conflict and socioeconomic distress, the blame for an odious state of affairs lies at the door of successive governments who did little to build protective systems, or counter patriarchal narratives. This, alongside a corrupt, feeble and prejudiced criminal justice system, has resulted in an environment where a rape occurs every two minutes due to a pathetic 3pc conviction rate. The JPC study shows a conviction rate of 5pc and a high acquittal rate of 64pc. Additionally, a slew of pro-women laws to curtail excesses against females and protect their inheritance, with ensuring amendments in several decrees, such as a mandatory prison term for honour killing, were rendered lifeless by the state's inability to end impunity. The toxic machismo in assemblies ensured that a few were watered down: Sindh raised the marriageable age of females from 16 to 18 years through the Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2014, but KP and Punjab maintained the age of marriage at 16 years. Balochistan continues with the colonial Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929.

Culture wars cannot be fought over women's bodies. Violence — the daily reality of rural and urban women — has placed Pakistan among the most dangerous countries for females. This silent epidemic, a sobering commentary on the hold of misogynistic power structures that prevent equity and diversification, has to be acknowledged. Women parliamentarians need to unite for greater female representation in parliament and agitate for women's education and stringent application of the laws. Orthodox elements, operating in consonance with the state to dilute the national discourse on women empowerment, must be defused. Without justice, the social contract between women and the state will unravel.

Protecting women

Van Nguyen

As Pakistan embraces the digital age, women face a troubling new reality: technology-facilitated violence.

Digital platforms, intended to open opportunities in education, employment, and civic engagement, have also become instruments for gender-based abuse. This threat — from cyber harassment and stalking to deepfake pornography — is more than a personal affront; it is an assault on women's digital freedom, mental well-being, and societal participation, demanding urgent and targeted reforms to reclaim online spaces for all.

This rise in technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) against women mirrors a troubling global trend that intensified during the Covid-19 pandemic as women increasingly turned to digital platforms for work, education, and social connection. This surge in abuse has exposed critical gaps in legal protections, calling for urgent regulatory reform.

According to the Economist Intelligence Unit, 85 per cent of women worldwide report experiencing some form of online harassment, with rates even higher in the Asia-Pacific region at 88pc. In Pakistan, this issue is acute: nearly 90pc of harassment complaints received by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) are filed by women, according to the Digital Rights Foundation. This abuse impedes women's access to education, employment, and political engagement: 70pc of female students report harassment, with 20pc considering dropping out while 45pc of working women face online abuse, with 15pc leaving their jobs as a result. Women in public office face triple the

online abuse of men, with 67pc contemplating leaving politics altogether. These statistics underscore the critical need for comprehensive protections to ensure women's safety in digital spaces.

The psychological and social toll of these attacks is profound. Victims report depression, anxiety, and isolation, leading many to withdraw from online spaces, which further impacts their social and professional lives. For young women, TFGBV can disrupt their education and discourage them from pursuing careers in fields such as STEM or public service.

Pakistan's Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (Peca), 2016, was introduced to address cybercrimes, yet its provisions fall short of adequately addressing TFGBV. While the Act includes clauses aimed at protecting personal dignity and privacy, it lacks explicit provisions for TFGBV and suffers from limited enforcement capacity. The FIA's Cyber Crime Wing, tasked with enforcing the Act, operates only 15 cybercrime stations with 144 officers nationwide to serve a population exceeding 240 million.

Additionally, the requirement for victims to file complaints in person discourages many women, particularly in rural areas, from reporting incidents of online violence. Peca also lacks a transnational mandate to require social media companies to share data necessary for prosecuting offenders, allowing perpetrators to act with relative impunity.

Addressing TFGBV in Pakistan requires a collaborative approach that engages governments, technology companies, feminist organisations, and digital rights advocates.

First, legal reforms

are essential. A comprehensive legal framework with specific provisions for TFGBV is needed to address current ambiguities, with laws regularly updated to keep pace with technological advances. Equally essential is strengthening enforcement by equipping the FIA's Cybercrime Wing with adequate resources, providing gender-sensitivity training, in-creasing cybercrime stations, and eliminating the in-person reporting requirement.

Collaboration with technology companies is also vital to ensure social media platforms adhere to local regulations. Platforms should be re-quired to share data necessary for investigations and implement transparent, gender-sensitive content moderation to curb abusive content. Le-creating AI to flag harmful content can further enhance these efforts.

Providing victims with accessible support services is crucial. Strengthening referral systems to offer counselling, legal assistance, and digital literacy training can empower women to navigate the legal landscape and protect themselves online. Public awareness campaigns are also key to educating communities about TFGBV, fostering greater understanding of its impacts, and promoting proactive responses.

Addressing TFGBV is not just about safeguarding victims — it's about realising a Pakistan where digital opportunities are equally available to all. By creating a digital space that is inclusive, safe, and empowering, we unlock the full potential of women's contributions to Pakistan's progress, ensuring that no one is left behind in the journey towards a just and equitable society. — Courtesy Dawn

The greatest asset

Huma Yusuf

It's not easy being a child in Pakistan. Just this past week, children across the country have endured the following: some caught polio; some were targeted in sectarian violence; millions were exposed to toxic levels of air pollution; some were dragged out of their school vans at gunpoint and kidnapped; millions had to stay away from their schools due to environmental degradation and political instability.

And that's aside from the systemic issues. Twenty-six million children are permanently out of school; 70 per cent of all 10-year-olds cannot read or understand basic texts. According to 2018 data, Pakistan has one of the highest rates of child malnutrition in the developing world, with 33pc of children underweight and 44pc stunted. Almost 800,000 are severely wasted, says Unicef. Meanwhile, climate shocks, including droughts, floods and heatwaves, are affecting Pakistani children, undermining their access to food, healthcare and education. And this challenge will be exacerbated as the number of children affected by climate crises will increase fourfold by 2050.

This is the baseline for Pakistani children in a world that is not going to be kind to them over the coming decades, as made clear in The Future of Childhood in a Changing World, a new Unicef report. We cannot ignore this demographic. By the 2050s, Pakistan will be among the four countries that is home to one-third of the world's children, along with India, China and Nigeria. We will have 129m children, comprising 32.9pc of the population (around 5.5pc of the global child population). Indeed, Pakistan is one of the few countries in the world where

the percentage of children in the population remains stable — rather than reduces — over the coming decades.

There will be some differences in the state of childhood over the next quarter century, however. The report captures these in the form of 'megatrends' set to define childhood through the 2050s: demographic transitions, climate and environmental crises, and the growing prevalence of frontier technologies.

Here's what this means for us: more Pakistani children will live in urban settings, which bring different pressures ranging from heatwaves to severe inequality (for example, the report points out that urban children in the poorest quintile are twice as likely to die before they turn five than children in the richest quintile). More children will also migrate (internally or abroad), and so endure the challenges of displacement and dislocation, including issues ranging from food insecurity to family disruption. And more will be the victim of environmental hazards. The severe toll of this over the coming years is best understood by considering a contemporary — and currently horribly relevant — data point: that air pollution is the second leading risk factor for death in children younger than five years.

Much of the report focuses on the potentially transformative role of new technologies: "Connectivity and digital skills, when used correctly in learning environments, could equip millions for future jobs, boosting economies and breaking generational cycles of inequality. AI and neurotechnology could drive transformations in education and healthcare." But the re-

port is quick to recognise that technological advances and resulting advantages will not be evenly spread. Today, over 95pc of people in high-income countries have an internet connection, compared to 26pc in low-income countries. Poor investment in digital infrastructure, lack of funding, and growing obsessions with limiting internet permissions means that this digital gap will not be addressed anytime soon, and may in fact worsen.

Pakistan is not currently on a trajectory to reap the benefits of neurotechnologies or artificial intelligence. Instead, our youth will be subject to their pitfalls — surveillance, exploitation, manipulation and discrimination. The spread of AI will only worsen the digital divide experienced by young Pakistanis, particularly those who are already marginalised on the basis of language, ethnicity or gender.

Some may remember how at the turn of the century Pakistan was in a thrall to fantasies about how the country would reap its demographic dividend. Two decades in, we know that the predicament of our youth will be dire — much as described at the outset of this piece, possibly worse — unless significant additional investment is made in education, healthcare, job creation, climate resilience and adaptation, digital literacy and infrastructure, and maternal and infant health. Instead of prioritising these, our state is squandering its resources on quashing political opposition and stifling free speech. In the name of national security, we are forgetting to secure the nation's greatest asset and treasure — its children. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Tanveer for promoting industrial, agricultural trade ties with Belarus

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain here on Monday highlighted the importance of expanding bilateral trade relations with Belarus specially in the industrial and agricultural sectors.

The minister stressed the need to explore ways and means to increase the industrial cooperation between the two countries in diverse fields.

During a meeting with Belarusian delegation, which was led by Minister for Industries Aliaksandr Yafimua, Rana Tanveer said Pakistan has considerable export potential with Belarus for items like inflatable footballs, articles of bedding and similar stuffed items, sports and outdoor games equipment, footwear, rubber, plastic and metal products, said a news release.

During the meeting, both sides reaffirmed their

commitment to advancing the partnership between Pakistan and Belarus in multifaceted areas.

Highlighting the trade potential, Minister Yafimua shared that Belarus imports goods worth \$17.2 billion annually, noting that Pakistan's current share in this trade is not reflective of its true export potential.

He said that Pakistani products will be given space in the Belarusian market. He identified key products that Pakistan could export to Belarus, including inflatable footballs, bedding items, sports and outdoor equipment, footwear, and rubber, plastic, and metal goods. Rana Tanveer discussed cooperation in the field of agricultural machinery and tractor manufacturing plants, following which the delegation showed keen interest in the production

of agricultural machinery and establishing tractor plants besides technology transfer under Joint Ventures (JVs).

The minister extended invitation to the Belarusian counterpart to start a pilot project on agricultural productivity enhancement in Pakistan.

Similarly, he said M/s Millat Group dealing with agricultural machinery wanted a JV for manufacturing agricultural equipments in Pakistan. During the meeting, both sides also deliberated on the prospects of Belarusian investment and JVs in the area of electric vehicles (EVs).

Rana Tanveer said that around thirty-one companies have issued manufacturing licenses by the Engineering Development Board (EDB) enabling them to produce two/three-wheeler EVs in Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan and Belarusian Minister Alexey Kushnarenko witness the signing of 8 MoUs/Agreements at the Pakistan-Belarus Business Forum 2024.

Finance Minister stresses Reforms in DAC to promote transparency, good governance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday visited the office of the Auditor-General of Pakistan (AGP) where he expressed his appreciation for the work being done by the DAGP, the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) of Pakistan, stressing the importance of reforms in ensuring transparency and accountability in government finances.

The Finance Minister took keen interest in the professional work carried out by the Department of the Auditor-General of Pakistan and emphasized upon reforms in the paradigm of Department Accounts Committee, making the Principal Accounting Officers pay heed to the audit recommendations timely for promotion of transparency and good governance.

PQG, ILMA university sign MoU to enhance talent pool in Islamic finance industry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pak-Qatar Group (PQG), Pakistan's premier and pioneer Islamic financial services group, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ILMA University, marking a significant step towards enhancing the talent pool in the Islamic finance industry.

The partnership aims to address Pakistan's capacity constraints in Islamic finance and Takaful by leveraging ILMA

University's pool of professionals with expertise in business and technology said a news release issued here on Monday. This collaboration will enable Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Limited to enhance its service quality by inducting skilled talent from ILMA University across relevant fields. Kamran Ali Khan, Head of Human Resources and Training at Pak-Qatar Group expressed enthusiasm about the collaboration.

Gold prices dip Rs.4,300 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold decreased further by Rs 4,300 and was sold at Rs 278,400 on Monday against its sale at Rs 182,700. All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also went down by Rs 3,657 to Rs 238,683 from Rs. 242,370 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold decreased to Rs 218,793 from Rs 222,172.

The price of per tola gold declined by Rs 50 to Rs 3,400 whereas that of ten gram silver went down by Rs 42.87 to Rs 2,914.95.

SNGPL disconnects 186 connections

LAHORE (APP): A crackdown against illegal gas usage continues as the Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) disconnected 186 connections in various regions, including Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and Islamabad. In addition to the disconnections, a fine of Rs 7 million was imposed on people.

CM Punjab, ADB official discuss development projects

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif met with Country Director for Pakistan Resident Mission of Asian Development Bank, Dr. Emma Xiaojin Fan, to discuss ongoing development projects, strengthening of the economy, providing cooperation for improving basic infrastructure along with enhancing cooperation in agriculture, health, education, environmental cooperation and digital development.

Matters pertaining to the 'Jalapur Irrigation Project' and 'Clean Energy' came under discussion. Country Director Asian

Development Bank Dr. Emma Xiaojin Fan, appreciated steps being taken by the Punjab government for women empowerment and other public welfare initiatives.

The Chief Minister appreciated financial and technical support of Asian Development Bank in various projects of Punjab. She said, "ADB's is playing a pivotal role in prosperity of the people and restoration of the national economy."

She added, "The Punjab government is moving forward under a comprehensive plan to attain socio-economic development."



KARACHI: A stockbroker monitors share prices during a trading session at Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in Karachi. The Pakistan Stock Exchange's KSE-100 index gained 1,519.24 points, or 1.55%, to reach 99,317.47 points.

Total amount deposited in Roshan Digital Accounts reaches near \$9 billion

KARACHI (APP): The number of Roshan Digital Accounts has reached 757,587 with an addition of over 11000 new accounts by the end of October 2024 while the total amount funded in the RDAs so far reached near \$9 billion.

According to the statistics issued by the State Bank of Pakistan, Non residents Pakistanis seeking to undertake banking, payment and investment activities in the country opened 757,587 Roshan Digital

Accounts till October 2024 and the accumulative amount received in the accounts totaled as \$ 8,953 million.

The total RDA deposits, on the current monthly growth rate, would easily cross the \$9 billion mark in November 2024. As many as, 11,336 new Roshan Digital Accounts were opened and \$ 204 million has been received in the month of October 24 by Non residents Pakistanis.

Successful organization of IDEAS Expo termed important milestone for Pakistan's defence

KARACHI (INP): Javed Jilani, Senior Vice Chairman of Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP) has termed the successful organization of Ideas Exhibition 2024 as an important milestone for Pakistan's defence, industrial and technological development.

He paid tribute to Army Chief General Asim Munir and his team and said that their leadership and vision made this big event possible.

He said that this exhibition has highlighted the strong and peaceful identity of Pakistan across the world, but it also showcased the independence and capabilities of the country's defence system at the global level. This exhibition made it clear that Pakistan is in the field of advanced defence technology and cre-

ativity.

He said that such events open up new avenues for trade and defence cooperation with Pakistan in the international community. At the exhibition, delegations from all over the world showcased the latest weapons, technologies, and equipment.

Javed Jilani said that such events have a positive impact on the economy of Pakistan and play an important role in promoting the country's industry. This increases the confidence of international buyers and they also prefer to participate in other trade and agricultural exhibitions in Pakistan.

The contacts between traders and international buyers increase which is beneficial in the economic development of the country.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Five ships namely, Apollon D, Han Ren, OM Singapore, Amir Gas and Alba Gas scheduled to load/offload, Containers, Rice, Palm oil and LPG, berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Liquid Terminal, and Oil Terminal respectively during last 24 hours.

Meanwhile four more ships, America, Chemroad Wing, Hafnia Precision, and Hafnia Eagle carrying Containers, Chemicals and Gas oil also arrived at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim during the same period. Nine ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Aqua 1 and Singapore Bulker left the port on Monday morning and three more ships, Amir Gas, OM Singapore and Apollon-D are expected to sail on today afternoon.

CM Punjab says: Govt committed to safeguarding women's rights

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that the protection of women is a top priority for the Punjab government, which remains fully committed to safeguarding their rights and ensuring their well-being.

In her message on International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women being celebrated on Monday, the CM said the honor of mothers, sisters and daughters is a part of our social traditions and religious values. "Women are my red line, violence or cruelty against them is absolutely not tolerable" she said.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister, Maryam Nawaz Sharif exchanging views with Dr. Emma Fan, Country Director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Pakistan during meeting held in Lahore.

KU issues admission lists for academic session 2025

KARACHI (APP): The University of Karachi on Monday uploaded the admission lists for the academic session 2025 and informed the students to submit admission fees from December 09 to 17, 2024.

According to KU in-charge of the Directorate of Admissions Professor Dr Saima Akhtar, the admission lists for BS (Morning Program), Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm-D Morning and Evening), Doctor of Physical Therapy, BE, and

BE(d) (Hons) programs have been released.

She mentioned that students whose names appear on these lists can submit their admission fees from December 9 to 17, 2024, between 10 am and 3 pm.

Students should print the enrollment fee voucher and enrollment form from their online portal and get their documents verified at the admission committee counters to be set up in the gymnasium hall at the University of Karachi.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in a group photo with delegation of Ulama Mashaikh led by Pir Nazim Hussain Shah at Governor House.

Punjab Governor says: Islam teaches us lesson of peace and security

LAHORE (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the visit of the Belarus delegation to Pakistan for economic improvement and unfortunately the capital is once again under attack. He said that the call for protest by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf at this time is tantamount to anti-nationalism. Governor Punjab said that the PTI is demanded to avoid the politics of sit-ins and sit at the negotiating table, which is the country's improvement. He said that whenever there is improvement in the

country's economy and other sectors, PTI sometimes attacks the federation under the guise of sit-ins and sometimes protests. Punjab Governor said that Bushra Bibi has made a statement against the country that has supported Pakistan in every difficult time. He said that I ask Bushra Bibi not to attack the country's security for politics. Punjab Governor said that Saudi Arabia has always considered Pakistan its second home and Saudi Arabia's role in rescheduling a loan of Rs 3 trillion is important.

Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan further said that the Ulama Mashaikh have always played a full role for the security of the country. He said that the religion of Islam teaches us the lesson of peace and security. Punjab Governor said that terrorism in the country is a big obstacle to peace and security.

He said that to eradicate terrorism from the country, we have to create unity and consensus in our ranks.

Azma Bokhari says: Police officer martyred, 70 others injured by 'Tehreek-e-Fasad'

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Information Minister Azma Bokhari has condemned actions of "Tehreek-e-Fasad", accusing the group of martyring a police officer and severely injuring 70 other officers.

At a press conference at the DGPR, she said, "Bushra Bibi, this is not a jungle where you can act like a 'Sultana Daku' to free your husband." Azma Bokhari said that Bushra Bibi was inciting Pashtuns to attack the state, leading armed mobs, and adding a religious veneer to their aggression with chants of "Allah-ho- Akbar". She criticized her for posing as a guardian of Islamic values while lacking even basic knowledge, such as properly reciting "Durood Sharif". Azma Bokhari asserted that the PTI and its armed factions were seeking casualties to advance their disruptive political agenda. "Life continues as normal across Punjab. Not even a bird has stirred here," she said and emphasized that commercial and social activities remain uninterrupted in the province.

Azma Bokhari condemned continued violence by "Tehreek-e-Fasad" on the second day of unrest, which included torching police vehicles and attacking officers.



KARACHI: Rescue operation is underway after boat overturned into deep waters, near Ibrahim Hyderi in Karachi.

Nawabshah Pacer won first match in under 20 sports festival

HYDERABAD (APP): The Under-20 Sports Festival continued on the consecutive second day with outstanding competitions in various sports at Bilawal Sports Complex.

A cricket match between Nawab Shah Pacer and Skrand Striker was held at Bilawal Sports Complex, the Nawab Shah Pacer's team set a target of 198 runs for Skrand Striker's team however the Skrand Striker's team was all out for 67 runs and Nawab Shah Pacer won the first match, the winning team was awarded a trophy on this occasion.

Hockey competitions were held at Askari Hockey Stadium Nawabshah. In the first match, the GBHS Society team won the match by defeating Afzal Shah High School team by 6-0. In the second match, the Shah Waliullah School team defeated QUEST School by three goals to two. While in the third match, the Municipal High School team defeated DC High School by scoring 6 goals, DC High School team could score 2 goals.

Five cops among seven injured in Tank

PESHAWAR (APP): An attack on a police picket in Tank district left at least seven people including five policemen injured, police informed on Monday. The miscreants attacked Gul Imam police checkpoint with heavy arms, leaving seven people injured. The injured included five policemen and two drivers of the poultry-carrying vehicles.

The injured were shifted to Tank hospital from where two the injured were referred to Dera Ismail Khan in critical condition. Large police force reached the area soon after the incident and started a search operation to nab the involved.

All set to launch 'Suthra Punjab' Program on 3 Dec

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab government is set to launch a new, standardized and sustainable solid waste management system under the "Maryam Nawaz ka Punjab, Sathra Punjab" programme. The event will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif scheduled to be held on December 3, 2024.

Preparations for the event were finalized in a meeting chaired by the Provincial Minister for Local Government,

Zeeshan Rafiq at the Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) office here on Monday.

During the meeting, arrangements for the launch ceremony were thoroughly reviewed, and necessary directives were issued.

LWMC CEO Babar Sahib Din provided a briefing on the event's logistics.

Minister Zeeshan Rafiq expressed pride in being part of this unique public-private partnership project.

Four killed, two injured in Bahawalpur tanker accident

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Four persons including three children were killed and two others sustained injuries in a tanker accident that hit a house near Pull Sadiqabad area of Bahawalpur district, TV channels quoting police reported on Monday.

According to initial reports, a rashly-driven tanker hit a house located near Pull Sadiqabad area of Bahawalpur district. As a result, three children and a driver of the water tanker died on the spot. The two other persons were also injured in the same incident.

International News

Iran's Khamenei calls for death sentence for Israeli leaders

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: The supreme leader of Iran, which backs the Hamas and Hezbollah militants fighting Israel in Gaza and Lebanon, said on Monday that death sentences should be issued for Israeli leaders, not arrest warrants.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was commenting on a decision by the International Criminal Court to issue arrest warrants on Thursday for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, his former defence chief and a Hamas leader, Ibrahim Al-Masri.

"They issued an arrest warrant, that's not enough... Death sentence

must be issued for these criminal leaders", Khamenei said, referring to the Israeli leaders.

In their decision, the ICC judges said there were reasonable grounds to believe Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant were criminally responsible for acts including murder, persecution and starvation as a weapon of war as part of a "wide-spread and systematic attack against the civilian population of Gaza".

The decision was met with outrage in Israel, which called it shameful and absurd.

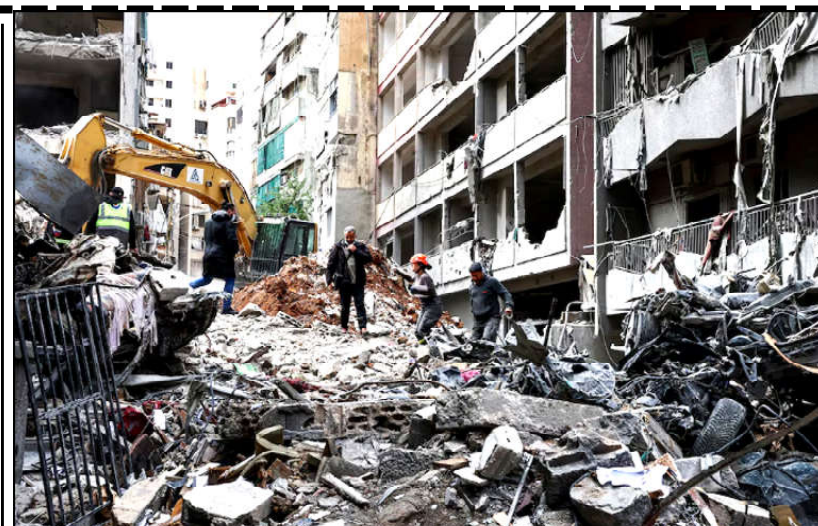
Gaza residents expressed hope it would help end the violence and bring

those responsible for war crimes to justice.

Israel has rejected the jurisdiction of the Hague-based court and denies war crimes in Gaza.

The warrant for a Hamas leader, Ibrahim Al-Masri, lists charges of mass killings during the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks on Israel that triggered the war on the long-blockaded Palestinian enclave, and also charges of rape and the taking of hostages.

Israel has said it killed Masri, also known as Mohammed Deif, in an airstrike in July but Hamas has neither confirmed nor denied this.



Civil defense members and people work at a damaged site in the aftermath of Israeli strikes, amid the ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, in Beirut's Basta neighbourhood, Lebanon.

Iran to hold nuclear talks with three European powers

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Iran said that it would hold nuclear talks in the coming days with the three European countries that initiated a ceasefire resolution against it adopted by the UN's atomic watchdog.

Foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said the meeting of the deputy foreign ministers of Iran, France, Germany and the United Kingdom would take place on Friday.

"A range of regional and international issues and topics, including the issues of Palestine and Lebanon, as well as the nuclear issue, will be discussed," the

spokesman said in a foreign ministry statement.

Baghaei described the upcoming meeting as a continuation of talks held with the countries in September on the sidelines of the annual session of the UN General Assembly in New York. Japan's Kyodo news agency, which first reported that the meeting would take place on Friday in Geneva, said Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's government was seeking a solution to the nuclear impasse ahead of the inauguration in January of US president-elect Donald Trump.

Taiwan reports Chinese balloon, first time in six months

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: Taiwan's defence ministry on Monday reported that a Chinese balloon had been detected over the sea to Taiwan's north, the first time since April it has reported such an incident in what Taipei views as part of a pattern of harassment by Beijing.

Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, complained that in the weeks leading up to its presidential election in January Chinese balloon activity took place at an "unprecedented scale".

It described the incidents as part of a Chinese pressure campaign - so-called grey-zone warfare designed to exhaust a foe using irregular tactics without open combat.

Taiwan strongly objects to China's sovereignty claims and says only the island's people can decide their future.

The ministry, in its regular morning update on Chinese military activities over the previous 24 hours, said the single balloon was detected at 6:21 p.m. (10:21 GMT) on Sunday 60 nautical miles (111 km) to the north of Taiwan's Keelung port. It then vanished some two hours later, having flown at an altitude of 33,000 ft (10,000 metres), but without crossing Taiwan itself.

Russia will not intimidate us with cyberthreats, UK minister tells NATO

Monitoring Desk
BUCHAREST: A hard-right critic of NATO who has praised Russia is set to face a centre-right opposition leader in a presidential election run-off in Romania that could undermine its pro-Western stance after a shock outcome in the first-round vote. Independent hard-right politician Calin Georgescu, 62, won 22.94% of votes in Sunday's voting, the electoral authority said. Centre-right contender Elena Lasconi, leader of the opposition Save Romania Union, lay second with 19.18%.

The outcome was a huge shock as pre-election opinion polls had made Social Democrat Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu the frontrunner. Ciolacu said he would resign as party leader

following the result but would remain in the role of prime minister until a parliamentary election scheduled on Dec. 1.

The candidate of the centre-right Liberals, Ciolacu's coalition partners, also failed to secure a place in the election run-off, which will be on Dec. 8.

Campaigning focused largely on the soaring cost of living in Romania, which is a member of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance and has the EU's biggest share of people at risk of poverty.

"I have voted for the wronged, the humiliated, those who feel they do not matter in this world," Georgescu said on Sunday. "Today, the vote is a prayer for the nation."

NATO and Ukraine to hold emergency talks after Russia's attack with new hypersonic missile

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: NATO and Ukraine will hold emergency talks Tuesday after Russia attacked a central city with an experimental, hypersonic ballistic missile that escalated the nearly 33-month-old war. The conflict is "entering a decisive phase," Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk said Friday, and "taking on very dramatic dimensions."

Ukraine's parliament canceled a session as security was tightened following Thursday's Russian strike on a military facility in the city of Dnipro. In a stark warning to the West, President Vladimir Putin said in a nationally televised speech that the attack with the intermediate-range Oreshnik missile was in retaliation for Kyiv's use of U.S. and British longer-range missiles capable of striking deeper into Russian territory. Putin said Western air defense systems would be powerless to stop the new missile.

Ukrainian military officials said the missile that

hit Dnipro had reached a speed of Mach 11 and carried six nonnuclear warheads each releasing six submunitions.

Speaking Friday to military and weapons industries officials, Putin said Russia is launching production of the Oreshnik.

Testing the missile will continue, "including in combat, depending on the situation and the character of security threats created for Russia," Putin said, noting there is "a stockpile of such systems ready for use." Putin said that while it isn't an intercontinental missile, it's so powerful that the use of several of them fitted with conventional warheads in one attack could be as devastating as a strike with strategic — or nuclear — weapons.

Gen. Sergei Karakayev, head of Russia's Strategic Missile Forces, said the Oreshnik could reach targets across Europe and be fitted with nuclear or conventional warheads, echoing Putin's claim that even with conventional warheads.

Trump's mass deportation plan could end up hurting economic growth

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: President-elect Donald Trump's hardline immigration proposals — including a controversial mass deportation plan — could prove economically damaging, analysts say, with US sectors that rely heavily on foreign workers like agriculture and construction especially hard hit.

US authorities estimate that there are around 11 million unauthorised people living in the United States, the vast majority of whom come from Mexico.

Around 8.3m unauthorised people were in the labour force in 2022, according to a recent estimate from the Pew Research Center. That was equivalent to just under five per cent of the overall

workforce.

"Today our cities are flooded with illegal aliens," Trump said on the campaign trail earlier this year, adding: "Americans are being squeezed out of the labour force and their jobs are taken."

The reality, however, is more complex; many of the sectors that could be the hardest-hit have long struggled to attract US workers.

"The construction and agriculture industries would lose at least one in eight workers, while in hospitality, about one in 14 workers would be deported due to their undocumented status," the non-profit American Immigration Council (AIC) said in a recent report on Trump's deportation plans.

Maximum term demanded in French rapetrial for husband who drugged wife

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: French prosecutors said on Monday they were seeking the maximum 20-year jail term for the man charged with enlisting dozens of strangers to rape his heavily-sedated wife, in a trial that has shaken France.

Dominique Pelicot has since September been in the dock in the southern city of Avignon with 49 other men for organising the rapes and sexual abuse of his now ex-wife Gisele Pelicot. One man is being tried in absentia.

The case has shocked a France still working through its version of the #MeToo movement, with a prosecutor telling the court that the trial needed to herald a fundamental change in relations between men and women.

Direct flights to Moscow, trade corridor with Belarus, Central Asia on the agenda: Aleem

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan on Monday emphasized Pakistan's commitment to enhancing connectivity through the launch of direct flights to Moscow and Belarus, alongside the development of trade corridors linking China, Afghanistan, Central Asia, and Belarus.

These priorities were shared during a joint meeting with Belarusian Minister for Transport Alexei Lyakhnovich, attended by senior officials from the communication sectors of both countries, said a press release. Speaking on the occasion, Alexei Lyakhnovich, accompanied by the President of Belarus, extended an invitation to the Federal Minister to visit Belarus, emphasizing the importance of enhancing connectivity through railways and roads.

"Cross-border trade is pivotal for strengthening the economy and promoting bilateral relations," Lyakhnovich stated, terming the visit a significant step toward fostering collaboration.

Abdul Aleem Khan welcomed the delegation comprising 68 members, including the President of Belarus and other dignitaries, noting its potential to leave a lasting positive impact on Pakistan-Belarus relations.

"We want to further enhance G2G and B2B activities with Belarus in the future for which both the countries will make serious efforts", he added.

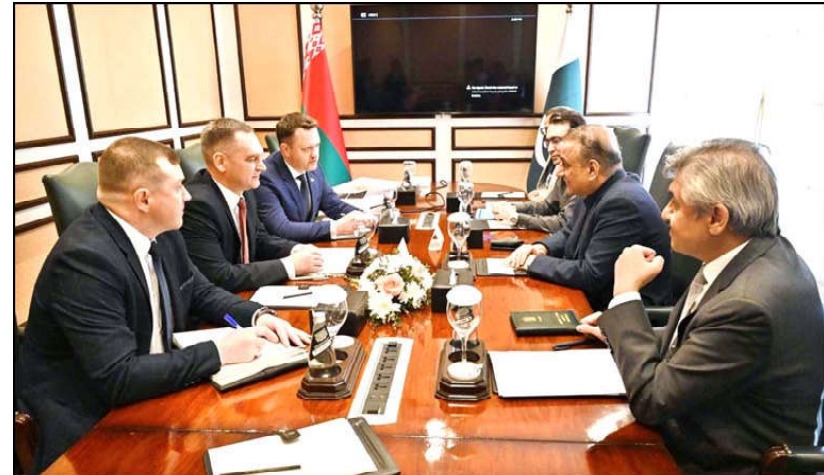
"Like Azerbaijan and Turkey, we also want to make Belarus an investment partner with our country as Pakistan is rich in natural resources and blessings of Allah Almighty while positive results can be achieved with our skilled workforce", he remarked.

"The communication sector is of utmost importance and we want a Trade Corridor to Central Asia on the lines of the Karakoram Highway and CPEC to promote business activities in this region", the minister said.

The meeting also discussed the pending construction of various motorways and highways in Pakistan's communication sector, while both sides agreed to continue taking steps in future, in this regard.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the PM on Climate Change Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam in a group photograph with Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Belarus Sergey Maslyak.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan meeting with Minister of Transport and Communications Belarus H.E. Alexei Lyakhnovich.

2,353 Kashmiri women martyred, 11,265 molested by Indian troops since 1989

ISLAMABAD (APP): The world is observing the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, today, while women in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) continue to suffer from Indian state terrorism, injustice, atrocities, fear, agony and the pain inflicted by India.

According to a report released by Kashmir Media Service in connection with the day, India has weaponized draconian laws to target the sanctity and dignity of Kashmiri women.

Particularly after the illegal actions of the Indian BJP government on August 5, 2019, the Indian army, paramilitary forces, police personnel, and their agencies have used legal cover

to openly pursue their agenda by targeting, detaining, and passing derogatory remarks about Kashmiri women while ignoring their social, political, economic, human, and other rights.

The report stated that 2,353 women have been martyred, and 11,265 molested and disgraced by Indian troops in the occupied territory since 1989.

Indian state terrorism has rendered 22,980 Kashmiri women widowed in the past 36 years. It added that over three dozen women, including 65-year-old Aasiya Andrabi, Naheeda Nasreen, Fehmeeda Sofi, Aashiya Bano, Aafreena, Nigeena, Ishrat Rasool, Munira Begum, Sarada Begum, Saifeeqa Begum, Rubena Nazir, Nusrat Jan,

Shabroza Bano, Mudifa, and Sheema Shafi Waza, have been illegally detained in infamous Tihar Jail and other prisons in India and IIOJK for more than seven years.

In 2024, Indian troops arrested several women during house raids based on fabricated cases, including the wife of a nomad, Aqam Din, and Gulshan Naaz, wife of Talib Shah, in Rajouri, Poonch, Samba, and Kathua districts of the territory. The report highlighted that India is using rape as a weapon of war in IIOJK to humiliate Kashmiris. Incidents like the Kunanposhpora mass rape, the Shopian double rape and murder, and the Kathua rape and murder remain glaring examples.

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MARSEW-7 brings together insightful minds to deepen of maritime security: CNS

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf has said that Maritime Security Workshop (MARSEW-7) brings together some of the most insightful minds from the government, military, academia, media and industry, with a common goal: to deepen our understanding of maritime security in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

In his message on the occasion of MARSEW-7, the Naval Chief said it is a matter of great satisfaction for me to observe the evolution of Maritime Security Workshop from its humble beginning in 2017 to an event of national significance with the organization of 7th edition of MARSEW at Pakistan Navy War College.

He said the Workshop has provided a shared platform to maritime stakeholders for raising awareness about maritime potential of Pakistan and dilate upon ways and means to harness this untapped domain, said a news release issued by Directorate General Public Relations (Pakistan Navy) on Monday.

The Naval Chief said as the global maritime landscape evolves, our immediate neighborhood, the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) is facing unprecedented challenges including geo-political contestation

and nuclearization. He said the growth of international trade, the rise of transnational threats and the rapid pace of technological advancements have created both opportunities and risks in the IOR. In this background, securing our maritime domain is not merely a national priority but a necessity, requiring cooperation, innovation, and vigilance, he added.

Besides security challenges in the maritime domain, our rich maritime resources offer great potential for economic prosperity. The country's economic future is inextricably linked to the sea which serves as mankind's last reservoir for sustenance, he said. The Naval Chief said despite the fact that oceans and seas are regarded as the common heritage of mankind, claims and counter claims overseas resources are spawning friction as never witnessed before.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf.

PM's climate aide, Belarusian Minister meet, agree to work for environmental sustainability, climate resilience

ISLAMABAD (APP): PM's Coordinator on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam and Belarusian Minister for natural resources and environmental protection, Sergey Maslyak have agreed to closely work together to boost cooperation for achieving common environmental sustainability and climate resilience-related goals, with focus on eco-tourism, water conservation, circular economy, green technology transfer, exchange programmes, biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation.

Both sides met on Monday and highlighted and discussed the potential for launching joint projects between Pakistan and Belarus to build up climate change adaptation and resilience against the exacerbating impacts of global warming, particularly floods, heatwave, droughts, groundwater depletion and renewable energy.

The PM's climate aide emphasized that collaboration between the two countries on biodiversity research and innovative wetland preser-

vation techniques by leveraging Belarus's expertise would prove to be of unprecedented value.

Romina Khurshid Alam also called for joint efforts in policy development to align strategies with international standards, aiming to bolster sustainable climate development in Pakistan.

Collaborative initiatives between two countries for enhancing biodiversity conservation would be of paramount importance, aiming at restoring native species in Pakistan, enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem stability, she said and

stressed the importance of preserving natural resources for achieving environmental sustainability goals, suggesting that Belarus's innovative approaches could assist Pakistan in managing its diverse climate actions.

Romina Khurshid Alam would appreciate collaboration with Belarus on the exchange of academia, exchange of technical know-how, knowledge sharing and capacity building to promote green education and awareness in the field of nature and environmental protection.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit Baltistan and SAFRON, Engr. Amir Muqam exchanging views with Gulbar Khan, Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan during meeting held in Islamabad.

GB's development top priority of Federal Govt: Amir Muqam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam said that the development and prosperity of Gilgit Baltistan was a top priority of the Federal Government and progress work on all announced projects by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif recently would be started very soon.

Talking to the Chief Minister of Gilgit Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan in a meeting here on Monday, the minister said that to maintain the

law and order situation in GB, Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) would be established very soon.

The minister underlined that the incumbent regime was committed to launching mega projects for the promotion of tourism and speeding up the local mobility of the citizens.

Federal Secretary Waseem Ajmal was also present in the meeting.

CM GB thanked the Federal Minister for taking a personal interest in the development of GB.

Ensuring law & order in capital, top most priority: IGP

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, visited D-Chowk and various duty points on Monday.

IG Rizvi met with the officials of Islamabad Police and other law enforcement departments in order to boost their morale while performing duties to maintain the law-and-order situation in the capital, a spokesman told APP.

On the occasion, IG Rizvi has instructed the officials to be highly alert and vigilant to deal with any emerging law and order situation.

"We shall take every

possible necessary measure to protect the lives and property of citizens as well as private and commercial property and ready to thwart adventurism from any element" IG said while addressing the officials.

Rizvi further said that, all the officials, while performing duties, were putting in their best efforts to maintain the law-and-order situation.

He said all the officers have been directed to stay vigilant in their own respective areas and brief the personnel to deal with any law-and-order situation and check all the duties by themselves.

World 'End violence against Women Day' observed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Like other parts of the world the country observed the Elimination of Violence against Women day on Monday.

This year the UN has launched the unite campaign, which will run from November 25 to December 10, under the theme 'Every 10 Minutes, a woman is killed. #NoExcuse. Unite to End Violence against Women'.

This campaign highlights that in 2023, every

10 minutes a woman lost her life to violence, and made it a part of their campaign theme.

This 2024 campaign Every 10 Minutes, a woman is killed across the world. #NoExcuse.

Unite to End Violence against Women will draw attention to the alarming escalation of violence against women to revitalize commitments, call for accountability and action from decision-makers.



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

Strengthening police-press bond for public Safety: DIG

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Headquarters, Jawad Tariq, on Monday emphasized the importance of strengthening ties between the police and media to ensure public safety and effective communication during law-and-order situations in the federal capital.

According to a police spokesperson, following special instructions from Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the Islamabad Police is actively working to assist representatives of both public and private media organizations during the ongoing law and order situation.

In light of these directives, DIG Headquarters Jawad Tariq instructed

Islamabad Police's Public Relations Officer, Taqi Jawad, to ensure complete coordination with all local and international journalists.

Measures have been taken to provide journalists with full access to cover events and implement timely security arrangements to ensure their safety and the protection of their equipment during any violent occurrences, Jawad Tariq added.

Highlighting the role of journalists in society, PRO Taqi Jawad acknowledged that journalists play a vital role in every field. Taqi emphasized that the information provided by journalists helps the police improve their performance. Furthermore, Jawad stated that the partnership between journalists.

Fauzia says: Violence against women remains significant issue

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Ombudsperson for protection against harassment of women at workplace Fauzia Waqar on Monday said that violence against women has been a significant issue in Pakistan.

Talking to a private news channel, she said that cases of domestic violence, honor killings, and harassment are frequently reported in different parts of the country. She emphasized the urgency of addressing the rising cases of workplace harassment.

She said that victims, often unaware of available support, can seek assistance by filing complaints in the offices of federal or provincial ombudsmen. She further highlighted the role of the Federal Ombudsman against Harassment in delivering swift, efficient and free justice to the affected.

Workshops held on best practices in online education

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education System Strengthening Activity (HESSA), in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission (HEC), organized two training workshops on Sunday at the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) Islamabad. The workshops, aimed at enhancing the state of online education, featured presentations and interactive sessions led by distinguished experts including Dr. Deborah Keyek-Franssen, Dr. Chanté Wilson and Dr. Abaidullah Anwar.

The sessions were a significant step towards advancing online education readiness and internationalization, with participants engaging in discussions on a comprehensive playbook, readiness index, and next steps for the sector. Advisor HEC Awais Ahmed presented souvenirs to the esteemed trainers as a token of appreciation.



RAWALPINDI: Motorcycles facing difficulties during roads blocked in the twin city ahead of PTI protest in the Federal Capital.

SC for intel-based system to check drugs use at educational institutions

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan's constitutional judge Justice Musarrat Hilali on Monday suggested introducing a system of intelligence in the educational institutions akin to that of the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in order to keep an eye on the people selling drugs to students.

During the hearing of the petition filed against the sale of narcotics in the country's educational institutions, she remarked that a large quantity of drugs were supplied to prisoners. "Even in border areas, they are not supplied in such large quantities as they are supplied in prisons."

A five-member bench, headed by Justice Aminuddin, heard the plea. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar asked what

the government had taken so far to deal with the scourge. "I have read in a report that people in Balochistan have stopped consuming heroin," the judge added.

Justice Musarrat remarked jokingly, "Is it because the people have consumed the drug so much that it is now no longer available?" "I don't know which heroin has been mentioned in the report."

The judge went on to say she was pleased as well as amazed at the same time to learn about the findings of the report.

"However, KP is the most affected province," she said, adding, "I am at a loss to understand why the government of the province is not taking steps in this regard."

The bench ordered the ANF as well as the provincial government to submit

their replies in writing in which a complete mechanism should be given to eliminate the practice of drugs supply at educational institutions. The bench later adjourned the case's hearing for an indefinite time period.

Also on Monday, the bench disposed of the petition related to making rules about the Exit Control List (ECL).

Speaking on the occasion, Additional Attorney General (AAG) Amir Rehman said that it was the federal government's prerogative to frame rules for the purpose. "If somebody's name is on the ECL, it will be deleted after the passage of 180 days," he added.

The bench also sought a detailed report from the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in the jurisdiction harassment case.

Mashhood stresses Collective efforts to end discrimination against women

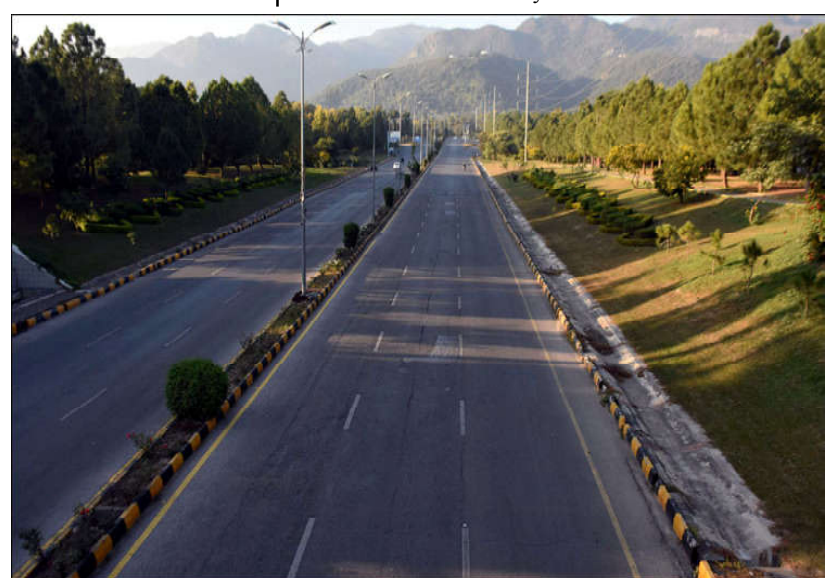
ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Prime Minister Youth Program Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Monday emphasised the need for collective efforts to work to create a world where women and girls are free from violence and fear.

In a message on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, he said that despite progress, violence against women remains a major problem, affecting

millions of women around the world.

Mashhood said that as individuals and as a society, "We must understand our responsibilities to end violence against women."

He said committing violence against women in any form was a sheer violation of human rights and dignity, adding "We must raise our voice against attitudes and systems at all levels that promote discrimination against women."



ISLAMABAD: View of deserted roads of the Federal Capital during lockdown.