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

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Four security personnel martyred during PTI protest

Rangers begin arrests, regain control of D-Chowk after pushing back PTI protesters

Army deployed in Islamabad as PTI anti-govt campaign turns violent; Over 100 police officers injured, many critically, in ongoing unrest.

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Rangers have regained control of Islamabad's D-Chowk after beginning arrests and pushing back PTI protesters from the venue of the party's much-touted power show. A private tv channel report that PTI protesters began retreating from the site in the face of heavy teargas shelling and action by the authorities. Protesters earlier gathered at the site for the party's protest to demand PTI founder Imran Khan's release, among other things, amid reports of intense tear gas shelling by security forces to curtail the large crowds. The PTI convoys have been plying roads countrywide since Sunday, here were blackouts in many areas of Islamabad, including D-Chowk, Jinnah Avenue, G6, G8 and G9. Scores of people have also been injured, includ-

ing journalists who were attacked by demonstrators, as dozens of PTI supporters beat a videographer covering the protest for The Associated Press and took his camera. He sustained head injuries and was treated in a hospital. Earlier the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) convoy, led by Bushra Bibi, the wife of Imran Khan, is approaching Islamabad's Zero Point, which has been taken under the control of Pakistan Army soldiers. APP adds: At least four personnel of Rangers embraced martyrdom while five others and police personnel sustained seriously injuries when miscreants rammed a vehicle into them at Srinagar Highway in the wee hours of Tuesday. According to security sources, four personnel of Rangers and two of police have been martyred so far in attacks on law enforcement agencies by PTI miscreants.

Govt rejects any negotiations with PTI, accuses opposition of escalating tensions

Information minister warns against testing the state's patience, says Bushra Bibi seeking "blood and bodies"



ISLAMABAD (INP): The government has firmly rejected any possibility of negotiations with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protesters, escalating tensions following days of demonstrations in Islamabad. Interior Minister Moin Naqvi and Information Minister Atta

Tarar held a joint press conference on Tuesday, stating that the protesters, who had gathered at D-Chowk, had been pushed back and the area was cleared. The ministers stressed that no discussions would take place with the demonstrators. The interior minister

maintained that no negotiations would be held with the protesters, asserting that "now that they have come and seen the situation, there is no possibility of talks." The government has made a clear decision that there will be no negotiations with those on the sit-in. He detailed the actions taken by the government forces, stating that not only had the protesters been removed from D-Chowk, but they had been pushed back "two roundabouts away." Naqvi accused the PTI protesters of trying to provoke violence, claiming that their objective was to cause casualties, a situation the government worked hard to avoid.



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

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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Belarus on Tuesday agreed on the early realization of bilateral accords to enhance cooperation in trade, agriculture, food, defence and technology to monetize the decades-old political bilateral relations. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko, addressing a joint press stakeout following their bilateral meeting and delegation-level talks, said that both sides had reached an agreement to solidify the understanding reached between the two leaders and convert them into agreements by February next year.

Earlier, both leaders witnessed the exchange of important agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), encompassing cooperation in environmental protection, disaster management, halal trade, audit institutions, financial intelligence sharing, vocational education and science & technology. One of the key outcomes of the meeting was the signing of the "Roadmap for Comprehensive Cooperation between Pakistan and Belarus for 2025-2027," which outlines a strategic framework for enhancing economic ties through high-level meetings, inter-governmental commissions, and targeted collaborative initiatives.

Talking to the media, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif referred to the closeness between Pakistan and Belarus and said that in their "productive" bilateral meeting and the delegation-level talks, they discussed the cooperation in multiple sectors including commerce, tourism, defence, food and others. He lauded President Lukashenko's commitment to turning the bilateral understandings into practical agreements and actions. The prime minister told the media that the two sides would sit together later in the day to finalise the roadmap for cooperation in agriculture, joint ventures, mining and minerals, IT and possibilities for heavy machinery manufacturing. This will follow another discussion in Minsk to finalize and make arrangements for agreements to be signed in February next year by him and President Lukashenko to convert them into concert actions. The prime minister said that their meeting also featured a discussion on the heart-wrenching situation in Gaza where 45,000 people had been killed while the ceasefire could not yet take place despite the UN resolutions and the ruling by the International Court of Justice.



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

Imran urges supporters to stand firm until demands are met

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

freedom in the face of the mafia imposed on this country," Khan wrote. The PTI founder stated that his message to his team was clear: "Fight until the last ball, and we will not back down until our demands are fulfilled." He reiterated the party's resolve to push forward with their protests, regardless of the opposition.

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

Khan accused the authorities of violence against protesters, claiming that police and Rangers forces, under the direction of interim Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, fired upon PTI workers and used tear gas, resulting in injuries. He demanded accountability for the actions taken against the demonstrators.

PM hosts banquet in President Lukashenko's honour

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday hosted a banquet in the honour of President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko at the Prime Minister's House.

'Miscreants want bloodshed, not revolution': PM Shehbaz

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

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

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

The banquet was also attended by members of the Belarusian delegation and members of the federal cabinet, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

He said Pakistan cannot afford any form of chaos or bloodshed. He said bloodshed for nefarious political agenda is unacceptable and highly condemnable.

The PM further remarked that law enforcement agencies, tasked with maintaining peace and order, have been deliberately targeted by the disruptive group. He condemned the attack on security forces, particularly on the Rangers and police officers, noting that these personnel are essential in maintaining law and order in the city.

Earlier, President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko had arrived Islamabad on an official visit to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan at the invitation of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

PM Shabbaz stated that the violent actions of the protesters have devastated the families of the slain officers.

Bushra Bibi insisted on D-Chowk protest: Saif

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

Speaking to a private TV channel, he explained that while the party's announcement focused on D-Chowk, the administration had not granted permission for the venue.

The suggestion to hold the rally on the city's outskirts was taken to the PTI chairman and he consented. However, the proposal was later rejected by the party members.

He disclosed Bushra Bibi insisted on holding the protest at D-Chowk.

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NA Speaker leads parliamentary delegation to Russia for boosting ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): A parliamentary delegation led by Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq is set to begin a three-day visit to Russia on Wednesday, November 27, to strengthen Pak-Russia relations through enhanced inter-parliamentary contacts.

The visit, concluding on December 1, comes at the invitation of the Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, Volodin Vyacheslav Victorovich, aiming to strengthen, enhance, and expand friendly relations between the governments and peoples of both countries through parliamentary diplomacy.

Security Forces foil Khwarij attempts to enter Pakistan, kill 3 terrorists

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Security Forces killed three Khwarij terrorists by thwarting their attempt to infiltrate through Pak-Afghan border on Monday night in general area of Hassan Khel, North Waziristan District.

sent to hell, according to a news release by Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

"Movement of a group of khwarij, who were trying to infiltrate through Pakistan-Afghan border, was picked up by the security forces in general area Hassan Khel, North Waziristan District. Own troops effectively engaged and thwarted their attempt to infiltrate. Resultantly, three Khwarij were

Pakistan has consistently been asking the Interim Afghan Government to ensure effective border management on their side of the border. The interim Afghan Government is expected to fulfil its obligations and deny the use of Afghan soil by Khwarij for perpetuating acts of terrorism against Pakistan, it further said. Security Forces of Pakistan are determined and remain committed to secure its borders and eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country.

PTI spreading chaos to halt economic progress: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said that Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI), is spreading chaos to halt economic progress in the country.

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

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

Containers and barbed wires have been strategically placed to impede PTI supporters, while heavy police deployments indicate that the authorities are determined to use force, if need be. In the State Department briefing earlier on Tuesday, Miller was asked to comment on the PTI supporters' protest as well as their reported clashes with the police. "In Pakistan and around the world, we support freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and association," the spokesperson said.

PTI leadership is using different tactics to gain personal interest, he said while talking to a private television channel. PTI protest demonstration and public rallies could not pressurize the government for the release of PTI founder from jail, he said.

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



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

Govt to maintain writ of state at any cost: Info Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday said that the state was showing great restraint against the protesters from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. Talking to media, the minister said that the spouse of founder of PTI Bushra Bibi had come with a plan to fuel violence and get the protesters killed in clashes with the law enforcement agencies so that they could take advantage of the situation. "Mercenaries have been brought to the front and they want to use children of the poor people", he remarked.

He said that it seemed the PTI leadership wanted to achieve the objectives of May 9 arson again. He asked who should be held responsible for the blood of martyrs of police and rangers. The minister stated that the protesters wanted to sabotage the visit of the President of Belarus who was in Pakistan. He made it clear that no body would be allowed to disrupt the peace of the capital city. "The state will not allow to fulfill the targets of the rioters", said the minister. He pointed out no one came out to participate in the PTI protest from Balochistan and Sindh.



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

SHC regular benches recuses to hear constitutional petitions

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

Justice Panhwar observed that petitions involving restraining orders against provincial or Federal governments or their institutions should be addressed by the constitutional bench. He advised the counsel to obtain permission from Justice KK Agha and clarified that while conditional permission could be granted, it would first need to be determined whether the case should be heard by a regular or constitutional bench.

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

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Kurram ceasefire

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

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

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

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

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

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

Future socialisms

Dr Niaz Murtaza

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

But sociologist Karl Polanyi argued that these had existed even before capitalism for long. Capitalism rose only in the 17th century when capital's interests became society's dominant logic to replace other human concerns, with a false promise that its sway ensures common welfare.

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

Socialism is usually seen as a system with state-owned production assets. But Polanyi's insights about capitalism's core inspire a new vision of socialism as a system with common welfare as its dominant logic/aim (rather than an uncertain derived one as in capi-

talism) that allows all ownership forms that don't nix common welfare. This vision can spawn many forms of socialism, as the plural in the title suggests. The Nordic model is a form built on private capital, with common welfare ensured via provision of public social services, big state investment in education, health, and other human capital services and strong labour-force protection via unions and safety nets.

But poor states lack the globally competitive economies to generate enough taxes to fund a generous welfare state. They need a conjoint twin: a developmental-cum-welfare state where the first twin spawns an inclusive economy that gives income options to all able beings and the welfare twin that gives safety nets to the few labour-deficit beings. But new forms must avoid the ills of failed forms: over-centralised political and economic power that disempowers and disincites masses, kills energies and causes political autocracy and economic unproductivity.

Oddly, huge oligopolies are producing some such results even in capitalism that aged oligarchs did in former USSR. Donald Trump wants to keep afloat US oligarchies that can't compete with efficient Chinese units, just as Soviet oligarchs tried against efficient US ones 50 years ago.

Politically, new forms must embrace multiparty democracy over a one-party system and disperse power horizontally and vertically. Empowered local bodies must empower community organisations to help gain market power, protection, assets, skills and social services. The economic system must be similarly devolved

and encourage a wide range of ownership forms, ie, employee-owned, non-profit, producer cooperatives, dispersed ownership by different state levels and bodies and private companies, with a bias for micro, small and medium units.

The state must review the cause of poverty among small producers and labourers in rural and urban areas in different regions. Such bottom-up analysis will reveal not only the lack of economic and social investment by the state for such groups as key factors but also their exploitation and marginalisation by markets and local elites. This will give a wide, structural agenda that covers legislation, policies, strategies, projects, services and institutional reform at federal, provincial and local levels.

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

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

Such devolved and empowering socialisms will use the political and economic mobilisation of masses as the key force driving both a state and economy of the people, by the people and for the people. -- Courtesy Dawn

Banking shortcomings

Jawwad Farid | Rimmel Mohyidin

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

Banks are crucial to capital formation, documentation and digitisation of the economy. Implementers of monetary policy, banks are the first port of call when it comes to improving national savings rate, international trade or private sector credit. Without healthy banking, standards of living or the GDP will not improve.

So why isn't our banking there yet?

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

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

Our best banks reveal similar shortcomings in efficiency, profit-

ability, and growth, when measured against their peers in the region who compete by focusing on growing advances with innovative products and technology-driven improvements to credit allocation and disbursement. Pakistani banks focus on investments and returns on government debt. The outcome of both choices is clear.

When we widen our lens to include context that our banks operate in, course correction becomes urgent. By conservative estimates, frictional costs in Pakistan's tax collection system cause leaks of Rs2 trillion every year, including the opportunity cost of currency in circulation (Rs9tr) and non-interest-bearing current accounts (Rs6tr).

Part of the challenge in our over-regulated banking sector is the emphasis on safety, minimising risk at the cost of innovation. Innovation results from a desire to change but often breaks things. When safety is the prime motivator, breakage becomes a four-letter word.

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

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

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

processes and predictable returns deter innovation with both the regulator and within banking boards.

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

Is it just burdensome compliance and underwriting requirements that deter banks? Or is there more to the equation that prioritises larger exposures? The mystery element 'X' is scale. We scaled the liability side but left advances behind. Data-driven models, market-relevant pricing and customer-driven products are one solution.

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

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

Commerce News

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

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

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi witnessed the signing ceremony held at the conclusion of a day-long B2B Matchmaking Meeting on Animal Fodder and Fruits and Vegetable here.

Pakistan Embassy Beijing, in collaboration with the Board of

Investment (BOI), successfully hosted the third in a series of sector-specific B2B matchmaking meetings.

This event, focused on fostering joint ventures and investment partnerships in the animal fodder and fruits and vegetables processing sectors. The event featured insightful presentations, individual B2B meetings, networking opportunities, and the signing of 13 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) valued at approximately USD 250 million.

Over 150 productive B2B meetings, including 30 virtual engagements, took place, providing a

robust platform for Pakistani and Chinese companies to explore partnerships and expand trade in these priority sectors.

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

He noted that the event underscored Pakistan's ongoing efforts to bolster its trade relationship with China, focusing on creating opportunities for direct connections and long-term partnerships.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President of Belarus H.E. Aleksandr Lukashenko witnessing the MoUs and Agreements exchange ceremony held in Prime Minister's House.

Finance minister highlights govt's policy framework

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, here on Tuesday highlighted the government's comprehensive policy framework aimed at enhancing tax revenues through improved documentation and financial transparency.

During a meeting with a delegation of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) led by Dr. Andreas, Chairman IASB, the minister emphasized the importance

of standardizing financial regimes to align with global practices, which he said were crucial for fostering investor confidence, both domestic and international.

The delegation included Jianqiao Lu, Member IASB, Farukh Rehman, President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP), Rana Usman Khan, Chairman of the Asia-Oceania Accounting Standards Group, Ashfaq Tola, Chairman of the Reforms and Resource Mobilization Commission of Pakistan (RRMC) and senior officers from the Finance Division also attended the meeting.

According to press release issued by finance division, the minister reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring policy continuity to create a conducive environment for sustainable economic growth. On the occasion, Dr. Andreas acknowledged Pakistan's leadership in adopting international accounting standards and commended the country for being an early follower of global practices.

Qaiser Sheikh says: Economic stability contingent upon political stability

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, emphasized on Tuesday that achieving economic stability is contingent upon political stability. Talking to a private news channel, the minister highlighted the government's repeated efforts to resolve political issues through dialogue. He noted that multiple attempts were made in the

94% wheat sowing target achieved in Layyah

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

A spokesperson for the department revealed that wheat has been sown over 641,000 acres across the district's three tehsils. He noted that 92% of the target has been achieved in Tehsil Layyah, while Tehsil Karor Lal Eason has reached 93%.

Fertilizer available at low prices across Punjab: CM Maryam

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that for the first time, there is an abundance of fertilizer in Punjab, and prices have also come down.

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

The CM said that 125 percent more stock of urea fertilizer than required is available, and 25 percent reduction in its price has been observed in the province. She said that the

wheat cultivation target of 16.5 million acres across Punjab has been set and 82 percent of the target has been completed. She added wheat cultivation target will be completed across the province by December 10. She highlighted wheat cultivation on 326,000 acres of government land across Punjab has been set.

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



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

OGRA seeks support for uninterrupted transportation of petroleum products

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

"OGRA, in coordination with the Petroleum Division, has requested law enforcement agencies through Chief Secretaries and Local Administrations/ Law Enforcement agencies.

the unhindered transportation of tank lorries carrying petroleum products to the retail outlets," said an OGRA spokesperson in a statement.

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

Most Asian markets drop, dollar gains as Trump fires tariff warning

HONG KONG (AFP/APP): Asian markets fell and the dollar rallied Tuesday after Donald Trump warned he would impose huge new tariffs on China, Mexico and Canada on his first day in office, dealing a blow to hopes of a more moderate approach to trade policy.

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

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

with fears now of another trade war with China and warnings that the move — along with promised tax cuts — will reignite US inflation.

"On January 20th, as one of my many first Executive Orders, I will sign all necessary documents to charge Mexico and Canada a 25 percent tariff on ALL products coming into the United States, and its ridiculous Open Borders," he wrote.

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



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

Kundi flays martyrdom of Rangers personnel on Srinagar highway

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

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

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

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

masterminds behind May 9 attacks are still assaulting the state today."

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

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

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



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

Punjab Governor says: Business community playing a major role in the economic improvement of the country

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

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

markets at 8 pm. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the business community is playing a major role in the economic improvement of the country. He said that stakeholders should be taken on board while making any policy. Governor Punjab said that strengthening the business community is vital to

improve the economy as well as to create employment opportunities.

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

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

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

7th Maritime Security Workshop commences

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

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

MARSEW is a national-level forum organized under the auspices of the Pakistan Navy, with the theme "Secure Seas, Prosperous Pakistan."

The workshop seeks

to highlight the challenges and opportunities in Pakistan's maritime sector and its critical role in supporting the national economy. This forum provides a shared platform for participants from the public and private sectors, including senators, parliamentarians, senior bureaucrats, maritime industry professionals, business leaders, academia, think tanks, and media representatives, to deliberate on pressing national maritime issues.

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

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

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

RAWALPINDI (APP): The outsourcing of the cleanliness and sanitation system under the 'Suthra' Punjab programme is in progress in four Union Councils (UCs) and zero waste would be ensured in cities and villages through the 'Suthra' Punjab programme. According to a district administration spokesman, the 'Suthra' Punjab programme was launched on the directives of Chief Minister Punjab and it is a gift for the people. Rawalpindi Waste Management Company is taking solid steps regarding 'Suthra' Punjab programme, he added.

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

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

there should be no problem in ensuring 100 percent cleanliness. He said that outsourcing cleanliness and sanitation systems in rural areas would ensure manual, and mechanical sweeping, waste collection, drain cleaning and waste disposal. Local government departments would monitor the outsourcing system digitally, he said. The monitoring would include biometric attendance, vehicle tracking management system, vehicle weighing at dumping site, digital monitoring of the fleet and container clearance through geo-tagging and prompt resolution of the complaints, he informed.

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

Preparations underway for polio campaign in Battagram

BATTAGRAM (APP): Deputy Commissioner Battagram Asif Ali Khan Tuesday chaired a meeting to finalize preparations for the upcoming polio campaign in the district.

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

CS reiterates govt commitment to ensure rule of law

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Secretary (CS) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary has underscored the critical importance of restoring peace and stability in Kurram district reiterating the government's strong commitment to ensuring the rule of law.

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

PA resolution condemns attack on security personnel

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

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

Resolution demanding ban on PTI submitted in Punjab Assembly

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

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

The text of the resolution said that the



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

Resolution demanding ban on PTI submitted in Punjab Assembly

chief executive of a province and the former first lady are attacking the federation in droves.

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

International News

Israel pounds Beirut suburbs as Lebanon says 31 dead nationwide

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Monday that a war crimes case against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the Gaza war was insufficient and that he deserved a "death sentence".

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

His country, Israel's arch nemesis, backs armed movements in the region including Palestinian militant group Hamas, whose October 7, 2023 attack sparked the war.

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

"They issued an arrest warrant for him, it's not enough," said Khamenei, speaking to a group from the Basij paramilitary force which is linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

Moscow assures Taliban of removal from negative list

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

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

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

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

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

The Islamic Emirate is the name the Taliban government uses to refer to itself.

G7 ministers discuss ceasefire efforts in Mideast

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

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

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

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

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

"We are strongly committed to strongly pushing Israel and Hamas to end this war in Palestine," he said.

Tajani hinted however at difficulties in reaching "an unambiguous position on the International Criminal Court decision".

The ICC issued warrants against Netanyahu and his former defence minister Yoav Gallant as well as Hamas' Mohammed Deif on Thursday.

They have been accused of crimes against humanity and war crimes in Israel's war on Hamas in Gaza, triggered by the militant Palestinian group's October 7, 2023 attack.

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

Monitoring Desk
FIUGGI: The European Union's top diplomat said Tuesday there were "no excuses" for Israel to refuse to accept a ceasefire with the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, saying all its security concerns had been addressed in the U.S.-French-brokered deal.

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

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

Borrell said under the proposed agreement, the U.S. would chair a ceasefire implementation committee, with France participating at the request of Lebanon.

"On the proposed agreement brokered by the U.S. and France, Israel has all security concerns (addressed)," Borrell told reporters in Fiuggi, Italy.

"There is not an excuse for not implementing a ceasefire. Otherwise, Lebanon will fall apart."

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

Austrian far right shows strength with state election win in Styria

Monitoring Desk
VIENNA: Austria's far-right Freedom Party won a state election in Styria for the first time on Sunday in an echo of September's general election and a new show of strength while national coalition talks continue without it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Republican Rand Paul opposes Trump talk of using military in deportations

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

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

Trump vows big tariffs on Mexico, Canada and China

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

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

duties on all goods entering the country.

"On January 20th, as one of my many first Executive Orders, I will sign all necessary documents to charge Mexico and Canada a 25 per cent tariff on all products coming into the United States," he wrote.

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



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif hosts a banquet in the honor of President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko at Prime Minister's House.

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

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

During his official visit to Saudi Arabia, he accompanied by his delegation, held separate meetings with the Speaker of the Saudi Shura Council and the Saudi Arabia-Pakistan Friendship Group, according to a news release Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, Chairman Senate, is currently in Saudi Arabia on an official visit on the invitation of Dr. Abdullah

ibn Muhammad Al ash-Sheikh, Speaker of the Shura Council and Saudi-Pakistan Friendship group.

The visit aims to strengthen Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations, focusing on economic cooperation, legislative collaboration, and regional stability.

During high-level meetings, Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani proposed the establishment of a parliamentary friendship committee between the Senate and the Shura Council to promote regular dialogue and joint initiatives, particularly on economic and security matters.

Gilani praised the growing trade relations, not-

Interior Minister visits D-Chowk to review security arrangements

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday visited D-Chowk to review the security arrangements upto Shaheed Millat Chowk.

Despite the ongoing shelling by miscreants, Mohsin Naqvi reached Shaheed Millat Chowk and met with the personnel on duty.

The Interior Minister stood by the personnel during the shelling, boosting their morale, urging them to bravely counter the miscreants.

He individually met with the personnel of Rangers, FC, Police, and Sindh Police, appreciating their enthusiasm. The personnel on duty chanted slogans of "Pakistan Zindabad".

Talking to the personnel, Interior Minister said: "You are all soldiers of Pakistan, and you have to deal with the miscreants according to the law."

IG Islamabad Police, Chief Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, and other relevant officials accompanied the Minister.



ISLAMABAD: Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives addressing National Curriculum Summit 2024 on the theme "Empowering the Future by Reviewing Existing Curricula to Integrate Skills and Technology at Allama Iqbal Open University."

National Curriculum Summit 2024 inaugurated at AIOU Ahsan vows educational reforms to meet 21st-century needs during PML-N tenure

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal expressed a strong commitment on Tuesday to reform Pakistan's memorization-based education system and develop a world-class curriculum during the current tenure of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government.

"With the support of all stakeholders and experts, we will develop a curriculum that aligns with 21st-century requirements," he said while ad-

ressing the National Curriculum Summit titled "Empowering the Future by Reviewing Existing Curricula to Integrate Skills and Technology," organized by the National Curriculum Council (NCC) and the Inter-Board Coordination Commission (IBCC).

The minister said the government was pursuing a goal of equipping the country's youth with modern education, enabling them to compete internationally and contribute to national development.

Ahsan Iqbal also ex-

pressed a desire to establish a state-of-the-art Teachers' Training Center to improve education quality and produce skilled professionals who meet contemporary needs. The Ministry of Education has already been tasked with this initiative.

He said the PML-N government had initiated this project during its previous tenure but was unable to complete it due to political instability.

The center, in collaboration with provincial education departments, is expected to be the best in

South Asia, providing students with high-quality education focused on enhancing critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving and teamwork.

"It will be a paradigm shift from memorization-based education," Iqbal said, adding that the initiative would also reform the existing examination system.

Ahsan Iqbal stressed that memorization-based education was outdated in the modern era, where innovation and creativity were essential for development.

Litigants face problems in IHC due to PTI protest

ISLAMABAD (APP): The litigants in Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday faced severe problems due to the protest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in the capital. Chief Justice Aamer Farooq could not be available on this day, too, due to which the cause list of court-I has been cancelled.

The division bench comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Saman Rafiq Imtiaz also could not hear the intra court appeal of Punjab and Chief Commissioner ICT regarding the ban on prisoners.

NUST showcases innovative technologies at IDEAS 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) made its mark at the 12th edition of the International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS 2024), held recently at the Karachi Expo Centre.

As a leading institution in technological research and development, NUST's participation was a highlight, with its pavilion featuring three specialized booths: Defence Technologies, NUST Technologies and Emerging Technologies.

According to the NUST, the Defence Technologies booth showcased NUST's advanced research in defense solutions, while the NUST Technologies booth highlighted the university's contributions to advancements in various technological fields.

The Emerging Technologies booth featured innovative projects that reflect the university's commitment to pushing the boundaries of innovation, from AI-driven solutions to sustainable tech applications. IDEAS 2024 saw a diverse array of local and international delegates from over 70 countries, alongside representatives from national and global organizations. This year's event set the stage for meaningful collaborations in research and innovation. NUST's active participation underlined its role in fostering global partnerships and contributing to the growth of defence.



ISLAMABAD: A motorcycle burned from supporters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party during protest at D-Chowk, in the Federal Capital.

IHC upholds SECP orders against Moti

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court has delivered a landmark verdict, upholding the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan's (SECP) orders against the legal heirs of Siddiq Moti.

The Court dismissed the appeal filed against the decisions of SECP's Securities Market Division and its Appellate Bench. The judgment, issued on November 19, 2024, reaffirms SECP's regulatory authority and underscores the importance of safeguarding investor securities.

The case originated from a complaint alleging unauthorizedly transferred shares by brokerage house of Siddiq Moti from sub-accounts maintained by the complainant with Central Depository Company. The SECP, following an investigation, determined that these transactions were carried out in violation of the Central Depositories Act, 1997 and the findings were subsequently upheld by the SECP's Appellate Bench in 2015. The Islamabad High Court found no legal or procedural flaws in SECP's handling of the case. It observed that broad authorization clauses in account-opening forms do not grant brokers the authority to transfer securities from clients' sub-accounts without explicit and specific approval. The court emphasized that factual determinations made by SECP and its Appellate Bench, as specialized regulatory bodies, cannot be overturned in a second appeal unless substantial legal errors are clearly established.



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visits the D-Chowk to boost the morale of the security personnel.

Islamabad admin denies fuel shortage reports

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad's district administration on Tuesday dismissed the reports of fuel shortage in the city due to road closures and called the news regarding it "fabricated and baseless."

A spokesperson for the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration said that there is enough stock at petrol stations to meet demand and residents should not be concerned about any disruption in supply.

"The petrol stations in Islamabad are well-stocked, and the reserves are enough to last for at least five to six days," the spokesperson said and added, "There is no truth to claims of an impending fuel crisis."

Muqam strongly condemns attack on Rangers, police personnel

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON Engineer Amir Muqam strongly condemned the attack on Rangers and police personnel on Srinagar Highway by miscreants.

Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs paid tribute to four martyred Rangers personnel and police constable Mubashir, said a press release. Amir Muqam expressed heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the families of the martyrs.

Engineer Amir Muqam prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured personnel. Nation salutes the martyred personnel, Amir Muqam.

Federal Minister paid tribute to police constable Mubashir, who was martyred in the violence of protesters near Hakla.



ISLAMABAD: Amir Muqam, Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON Engineer, strongly condemned the attack on Rangers and police personnel on Srinagar Highway by miscreants.

SC constitutional bench in houbara bustards case dissolved

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan constitutional bench, tasked with hearing the case against the hunting of Taloor (Houbara Bustards), was dissolved after Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail excused himself from the case. Justice Mandokhail cited prior involvement in a related case at the Balochistan High Court (BHC) as the reason for his recusal.

During an earlier hearing on Tuesday, the five-member constitutional bench, led by Justice Aminuddin Khan, had taken up the matter. Additional Attorney General Amir Rehman informed the court that the concept of Houbara Bustard hunting is akin to trophy hunting for the Markhor.

Justice Jamal Mandokhail, however, pointed out the differences between Houbara Bustard hunting and trophy hunting. Justice Musarrat Hilali highlighted that Houbara Bustards are migratory birds.

WB appreciates govt's reform initiatives, assures continued support

ISLAMABAD (APP): Country Director World Bank, Najy Benhassine on Tuesday appreciated the government's reform initiatives and reiterated the bank's commitment to assist Pakistan in addressing economic challenges and achieving its developmental objectives.

During a meeting with Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, the WB Country Director assured continued support from the bank in key identified areas.

The meeting was also attended by the Finance Secretary and senior officers of the Finance Division, according to press release issued by finance ministry.

During the meeting, the federal minister highlighted the importance of collaboration with the World Bank to support Pakistan's economic reforms and development agenda.

He appreciated the World Bank's financial and technical assistance across various sectors and reiterated the government's commitment to fiscal discipline, sustainable growth, and efficient resource utilization.

President, PM laud security forces for foiling infiltration attempt on Pak-Afghan border

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday lauded the security forces for successfully foiling an infiltration attempt by terrorists of Fitna-al-Khawarij on Pak-Afghan border near North Waziristan.

The president appreciated the security forces for taking timely action against terrorists of Fitna-al-Khawarij. President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

He also lauded the bravery of security forces for sending three Khawarij to hell during the action, adding Pakistan's valiant security forces were always ready to protect the country's borders.

The president reiterated commitment to complete elimination of terrorism, and protection of country's borders.

While the prime minister commended the officers and personnel of the security forces for successfully thwarting an attempt by terrorists to cross from Afghanistan into Pakistan in North Waziristan.

He praised the professionalism of the officers and personnel for sending three Khawarijites to hell, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister also reaffirmed to continue the fight against terrorism till it was completely eradicated from the country.

He said the officers and personnel of Pakistan Army, who were guarding the country's frontiers, away from their loved ones, deserved appreciation.

Daniyal flays martyrdom of police constable, attack on Rangers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry, on Tuesday condemned the martyrdom of a Punjab Police constable and the attack on Rangers personnel on Srinagar Highway by PTI miscreants.

In a statement, Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry paid tribute to the martyrs and extended his condolences to the grieving families.

Vowing to take strict action against the culprits, Chaudhry stated that the government would ensure the perpetrators of the attack are brought to justice.

"The nation salutes the bravery of the martyrs who gave their lives in the recent attack, which was aimed at sabotaging the visit of the President of Belarus," Chaudhry said.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to preventing anti-state elements from succeeding in their malicious designs.

"Those behind these attacks will be held accountable, and the sacrifices of the martyrs will not go in vain," he added.



ISLAMABAD: People face problems to traveling in city due to container placed for PTI protest.

Rise of Hindutva terrorism poses grave threat to India's minorities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The rise of Hindutva ideology in India, promoted by the Bharatiya Janata Party led Modi regime, has been linked to a surge in religious extremism and terrorism.

According to Kashmir Media Service, political experts and civil rights activists, who wish to remain anonymous due to fear of reprisals from the Hindutva regime, are sounding the alarm. They warn that the Hindutva ideology is being exploited to justify violence against religious minorities, particularly Muslims.

According to experts, the history of the BJP and other right-wing Hindu organizations is deeply rooted in violence and bigotry. Since coming to power, the BJP has unleashed violence against India's religious minorities, with Sangh Parivar activists giving a free hand to implement their Hindutva agenda.

"This is a form of religious terrorism, where the oppression of religious minorities is a practical manifestation of the Hindutva ideology," says a political expert disclosing just last name as Ghatade.

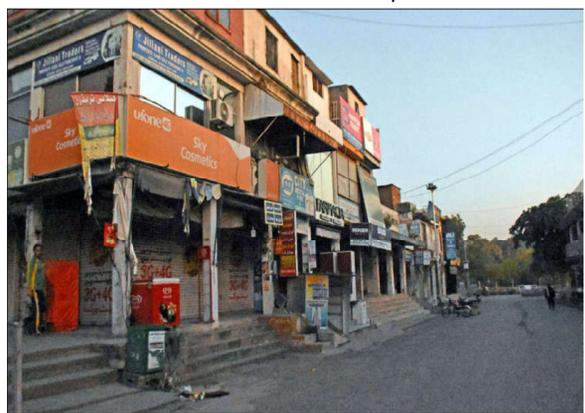
"The world must come forward to confront Hindutva terrorism and hold the Indian government accountable for its role in promoting this ideology."

Civil rights activists are also concerned about the impact of Hindutva ideology on Indian society. "The BJP is working to make India a Hindu state where minorities will be forced to live as second-class citizens," says a prominent activist.

"Hindutva activists are using violence to impose Hindu culture on religious minorities across India."

The Indian government and judiciary have been shielding groups sympathetic to its Hindu-nationalist agenda. "This is a clear case of state-sponsored terrorism, where the government is using its power to promote a particular ideology and suppress dissent," says a political analyst.

As the situation in India continues to deteriorate, experts and activists are calling for international intervention to stop the spread of Hindutva terrorism.



ISLAMABAD: Markets fully closed amid PTI protest in the Federal Capital.