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We'll break hand that wants to sacrifice Pakistan

PM for firm decisions to end future mayhems, sit-ins

Says no room for violence; country cannot afford chaotic protests; We have to decide whether we save Pakistan or allow sit-ins to take place

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed his zero tolerance for any future violent onslaught and sit-ins by a group of miscreants in Islamabad and resolved to take stern decisions to put an end to repeated string of violent chaos and damages to the country's economy.

Addressing a meeting of the federal cabinet, the prime minister without mentioning the name of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) led recent onslaught on the federal capital, said that repeated attacks by a clique of miscreants had forced them to rethink. With the collective deliberations, they had to take strict measures, to quell such scenes in future as they could no longer put all their resources and energies into it, leading to economic destruction, he observed. "They should have only one option before them; that is progress and prosperity of Pakistan. As a Prime Minister, chief executive, as mem-

bers of the cabinet and parliamentarians, they will not let that coterie of anarchy to inflict further harm on country's economy," he maintained. The prime minister said that once again an assault was mounted on Islamabad, but on previous night, all the law enforcement agencies had collectively and with good strategy dispersed the protest and provided relief to the public. As a result of such riot, Islamabad in particular and the country in generally, witnessed huge economic losses as businesses were closed, traders were raising hue and cry, owners of the factories were in distress; daily wagers found it hard to get one time meal while the patients were stranded, he added.

In twin cities, the prime minister said the life was paralyzed. In the larger context, the economic losses were manifold, the country's stock exchange market which had crossed the historic mark of 99,000 points few days back, lost 4,000 points in one day due to chaos.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs the Federal Cabinet Meeting



RAWALPINDI: General Zhang Youxia, Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) of the People's Republic of China and General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) exchanging documents of mutual cooperation, followed by delegation-level discussions during his visit to General Headquarters (GHQ).

'Masses have rejected PTI's 'politics of fraud, hypocrisy & violence'; says Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday said that the people of Pakistan had rejected the 'Politics of lies, hypocrisy & violence' pursued by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Talking to media here, he said the narrative of the PTI had failed miserably and its leaders had to run to avoid arrest.

He strongly rejected the PTI's claims of killing of their activists in cross firing from the law enforcement agencies, terming it "Totally baseless propaganda".

He said the PTI concocted fake story of workers' death after its workers

had martyred personnel of the Rangers in a hit and run incident and also martyred the police personnel.

He said Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur was accompanied by the provincial police personnel in plain clothes who were armed with modern weapons including guns and tear gas shells. He remarked that the rioters were using slingshot and sharp stones to harm the police and law enforcement agencies.

He said since morning the PTI had started propaganda about killing of party workers. The management of Polyclinic Hospital had issued a statement denying claims of dead bodies shifted there.

MoHR Minister Azam Tarar calls on Ibrahim bin Ali Al Mohammadi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, Minister for Law & Justice and Human Rights held a bilateral meeting with Ibrahim bin Ali Al Mohammadi, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs of the State of Qatar on the sidelines of the Second Ministerial Meeting of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), being held in Doha. They discussed various avenues for enhancing bilateral cooperation in the areas of legal and judicial reform, combating corruption and promotion of the rule of law.

Both Ministers emphasized the importance of further strengthening col-

laboration to exchange best practices in law enforcement, and share knowledge and expertise in legal domains. The discussions were marked by a shared commitment to advancing regional and global efforts to combat corruption and promote transparency. They acknowledged the growing importance of multilateral cooperation within the OIC and pledged to continue working together toward mutual goals. Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar is leading Pakistan's delegation at Second Ministerial Meeting of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), being held in Doha from November 26-27.



Federal Minister for Law & Justice and Human Rights, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, represented Pakistan at the OIC Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting in Qatar and signed the historic Makkah Convention in Doha.

Belarusian President winds up 3-day Pakistan visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko on Wednesday departed after completing a three-day official visit to Pakistan.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif saw off the Belarusian president at the airport, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

During the visit, the two leaders comprehensively reviewed the full range of bilateral relations and reaffirmed their mutual commitment to deepening friendly ties between the two countries across political, trade, economic, cultural, social, and other areas.

The two sides signed fifteen important agreements and MOUs, including the Roadmap for Comprehensive Cooperation for the period 2025-2027.

Resolution to ban PTI to be presented in BA today

QUETTA (UNA): The Balochistan Assembly is set to deliberate on a resolution calling for a ban on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). The resolution has been included in today's assembly agenda and will be presented by Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) parliamentary leader Saleem Khosa.

The resolution, submitted jointly by lawmakers from the PML-N, Pakistan People's Party (PPP), and other assembly members, accuses PTI of promoting political anarchy. Signatories include PPP parliamentary leader Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, Rahila Hameed Durrani, Bakht Mohammad Kakar, Wali Mohammad Noorzai, Barkat Ali Rind, and Zarak Mandokhail.

Mohsin Naqvi, DG Rangers visit PIMS Hospital

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and DG Rangers Punjab Major General Muhammad Atif visited PIMS Hospital to inquire about Rangers, FC and police personnel injured during the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf protest. They praised their high morale.

COAS discusses regional security with Chinese general

RAWALPINDI (APP): General Zhang Youxia, Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) of the People's Republic of China, along with a high-level delegation, visited here Wednesday at General Headquarters (GHQ).

The distinguished guest held a one-on-one meeting with General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), followed by delegation-level discussions, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release.

The engagements focused on matters of mutual interest, regional security dynamics, measures for regional stability, and enhancing bilateral defense cooperation. General Asim Munir underscored the enduring and all-weather nature of Pakistan-China relations, emphasizing their foundation of mutual trust and cooperation.

He affirmed that this historic partnership has

withstood the test of time and is poised to grow further. The COAS thanked Chinese leadership for standing firmly with Pakistan, irrespective of changes in the international and regional environment.

Vice Chairman Zhang Youxia expressed China's deep appreciation for Pakistan's steadfast commitment to their strategic partnership.

He commended the Pakistan Army's resolve and professionalism in its ongoing counter-terrorism efforts and reiterated China's determination to further strengthen this enduring relationship.

Earlier, upon his arrival at GHQ, General Zhang Youxia laid a floral wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada, paying homage to Pakistan's martyrs.

He was accorded a warm reception, including a guard of honor presented by a smartly turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Army.

SCP refuses to take suo moto on use of force against PTI protesters

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court has refused to take suo moto notice of reports of killings in the protest of PTI continued for a couple of days in Islamabad.

The five-member Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, was hearing miscellaneous petitions regarding climate change and the PTI Chairman's petition regarding the merger of Federally Administered Tribal Areas into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

On the request of the Counsel for Chairman PTI Advocate Babar Awan the Court disposed of the petition.



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif sees off President of Belarus, Aleksandra Lukashenko at PAF Nur Khan Airbase.

Mohsin Naqvi commends security forces for restoring peace in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi conducted a visit from D-Chowk to Khyber Plaza on early Wednesday morning, where he reviewed the efforts of law enforcement agencies in restoring order. During his visit, Naqvi met with security personnel on duty at D-Chowk and praised their bravery and dedication in handling recent unrest.

The minister lauded the collective efforts of the Rangers, Islamabad Police, Punjab Police, Sindh Police, FC, and the Pakistan Army for successfully clearing the area of miscreants. He expressed gratitude for their

role in maintaining peace and ensuring the safety of the capital city.

Naqvi also inspected the damage caused to buildings and installations during the disturbances and directed the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to immediately begin cleanup operations. He emphasized the importance of removing obstacles from roads to restore normalcy.

"We thank Almighty Allah that the conspiracy to spread unrest has failed miserably," Naqvi said, adding that the valiant efforts of law enforcement had ensured a peaceful outcome.

Terrorism cases filed against Imran, Bushra Bibi, Gandapur over D-Chowk protest

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad police have filed eight cases against the leadership of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), including its founder Imran Khan, along with thousands of party workers, in connection with protests in the capital's D-Chowk area.

The FIRs name PTI founder Imran Khan, his wife Bushra Bibi, party leaders Ali Amin Gandapur, Salman Akram Raja, Sheikh Waqas Akram, and several local leaders, as well as thousands of unidentified individuals.

According to a private tv channel, the charges against the PTI leaders and

their supporters include terrorism, violation of the Assembly Act, attacks on police personnel, abduction, interference in government affairs, and defiance of Section 144, which prohibits gatherings of more than four people.

The cases have been registered at various police stations in the capital, including Shehzad Town, Sohala, Bani Gala, Khanna, Shams Colony, Tarnol, Noon, and Nilor.

The charges reflect the severity of the unrest caused by the protests, which led to clashes with law enforcement and disruption of public order. The PTI leadership and their

supporters continue to face legal challenges as the government seeks to address the situation through the judicial system.

Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur said on Wednesday that the PTI protest is still ongoing, asserting that only party founder Imran Khan has the authority to decide when it will be called off.

In the early hours of Wednesday, the party announced a "temporary suspension" of its "do-or-die" protest, following a midnight crackdown by law enforcement officials that successfully dispersed PTI workers.



ISLAMABAD: Police officials showing the weapons recovered from PTI protesters during press conference of Chief Commissioner of Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa and Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Ali Nasir Rizvi at PID Media Center.

President of Belarus meets COAS, praises Pak Armed Forces

RAWALPINDI (APP): President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko met with General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), in Islamabad.

The discussion encompassed matters of mutual interest, prospects for defense cooperation, and regional security dynamics, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release.

The COAS emphasized Pakistan's appreciation for Belarus's contributions to global and regional affairs, expressing a desire to strengthen and expand bilateral ties. President Aleksandr Lukashenko praised the Pakistan Armed Forces for their significant role in fostering regional peace and stability, as well as their sacrifices in the fight against terrorism.

Normalcy returns to Islamabad: roads, shops reopen

ISLAMABAD (APP): Following a large-scale operation against protesters, life in the capital returned to normal on Wednesday with all major roads, highways reopened and business activities were resumed.

According to the spokesman of ICT administration, all the educational institutions in the federal capital will reopen tomorrow (Thursday) following a three-day closure due to protest.

The district administration has reopened all major roads, highways, and intersections, ensuring smooth traffic flow across the city. The roads that had been closed due to the protests are now accessible again, he added.

The authorities

have lifted all restrictions in the Faizabad area, opened all entry and exit routes and the bus terminals in Faizabad and other areas are operational now.

The Srinagar Highway and 26 number Chungi, as well as 26 number bridge and Fateh Jang Road, are now fully accessible. Commuters can also use Peshawar Road and Sangjani Toll Plaza without disruptions, he added.

In addition, the containers from Kati Pahari, Margalla avenue, and GT Road have been removed and old Margalla Road has been completely reopened following the removal of containers. Barriers at various interchange points and other routes in the city have



MOSCOW: Speaker National Assembly along with delegation at near Wall of Kremlin Moscow after laying wreath at the tomb of Unknown Soldier.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Islamabad march

With emotions running high, chaos closes in. As these words were being written, rumours and speculation were all there were to go by as the citizenry wondered what exactly was unfolding in Islamabad.

With the electronic media kept from doing its job, it remained difficult for most to separate fact from fiction. We do know that two extraordinary meetings between PTI leaders and the party's incarcerated founder, Imran Khan, arranged on late Monday night, came to nought. And, defying all predictions and the government's war-like preparations to keep them out of the federal capital, crowds of charged PTI supporters finally managed to enter Islamabad in the early hours of Tuesday. Before the protesters broke through the city's container defences, skirmishes between marchers and security personnel, as well as other incidents, resulted in several deaths. At least three Rangers personnel, several police officers, and two protesters lost their lives. Countless others were injured.

Meanwhile, on social media, partisan 'analysts' and opinion makers competed for attention, with one side portraying the events as nothing short of a revolution while the other celebrated reports that the army had been called in, apparently with orders to shoot on sight. As their war of words accelerated to alarming levels, the authorities failed to keep temperatures down.

While statements from the police chiefs of Punjab and Islamabad had remained needlessly confrontational, the interior minister made matters worse when he declared that "five minutes of firing" by security forces would force the protesters to disperse. Shortly after, there were reports that live rounds had indeed been used at one of the blockades, injuring several protesters. A little later, a fast-moving vehicle ran over several security personnel, causing multiple deaths and injuries. These events may not necessarily have been connected, but they did make such statements look unwise in retrospect.

It was clear by Tuesday afternoon that matters were slipping out of the government's hands. While the interior minister blamed a "hidden force" for the PTI's surprising advances, one wondered what came of the more than 20,000 security personnel and the equipment that had been requisitioned to keep the party out of Islamabad. Rumours swirled of backdoor negotiations in Islamabad, and there was danger that things could spiral out of control when the protesters forced themselves into D-Chowk, though they were subsequently pushed back. It was unclear how much control the PTI leadership had over the crowd that had marched on Islamabad and how far they would exercise that control if their goals remained unmet. Still, one hopes that this stand-off will be resolved through politics and dialogue. Compromises will be necessary to avoid further confrontation and violence; it is up to the PTI leadership and the government to find a way out.

Annual COP-out

Mahir Ali

Even the low expectations that preceded the 29th Conference of Parties (COP29), which concluded in the early hours of Sunday, turned out to have been too high.

After the gavel came down in Baku on a deal proposing \$300 billion in financial assistance by 2035 to developing nations struggling to decarbonise and cope in other ways with the swiftly mounting consequences of climate change, Indian representative Chandni Raina justifiably decried a "stage-managed" process that had produced "nothing more than an optical illusion".

A week earlier, Pakistan's former climate change minister Sherry Rehman had declared: "We're here for life and death reasons", demanding "internationally determined contributions" from the biggest historical contributors to global heating, and pointing out the pitfalls of leaving too much to the private sector.

Inevitably, given the timing of the conference, the malevolent spectre of Donald Trump hung over the proceedings. Even at the best of times, the US has hardly stood out as a leader in the combat against devastating climate change, with the majority of its legislators — all too many of them addicted to contributions from fossil fuel firms and lobbyists — turning pale at the prospect of a Green New Deal. But Trump and some of his closest associates are seemingly determined to pump up the volume of oil and gas extraction because all the hullabaloo about climate change is, after all, no more than a hoax.

He may well agree with Argentina's Javier Milei, a kindred spirit from the loony right who claims to have been hailed by Trump as his

"favourite president" — and who withdrew his nation's delegation from Baku after the first three days — that the climate crisis is just a "socialist lie".

What is a little more perturbing is that Azerbaijan's leadership appears to be on more or less the same page, with President Ilham Aliyev hailing oil and gas as a "gift from God", with no acknowledgement of the various other natural wonders that are at risk because humans insist on burning fossil fuels for energy. Besides, aren't alternative sources of energy such as sunshine and wind equally gifts from the same source?

There's no dearth of sunlight in Azerbaijan, but 90 per cent of its foreign income comes from fossil fuel exports — which include nearly 40pc of Israel's oil imports, currently facilitating a genocide. The quid pro quo is weapons supplies from Israel, which may well have facilitated the ethnic cleansing of Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh. It certainly might be worthwhile conducting such conferences in oil- and gas-producing nations genuinely interested in reducing their reliance on fossil fuels. But this year's host appeared to be even less interested in investigating that path than last year's previous petrostate venue.

COP28 in Dubai was presided over by the head of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, and swarmed with oil and gas lobbyists. The conference formally acknowledged for the first time the link between fossil fuels and climate change, something that was evident decades earlier. And it did so in the face of staunch resistance from Saudi Arabia, where the crown prince's now diminished Vision 2030 excludes any inclination towards compen-

sating the victims of its incredibly lucrative oil boom. By all accounts, the Saudis were again desperate to achieve the same outcome at Baku. Their ploy flopped again. But does it matter?

The previous \$100bn-a-year finance deal did not add up until well after its 2020 deadline. Its tripling (or doubling, if inflation is taken into account) is likely to meet the same fate. The 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold might be breached as soon as this year, amid an increase in emissions notwithstanding previous COPs, and a near-consensus that 2024 will turn out to be the hottest year on record. Climate scientists are constantly being flabbergasted by what Harold Macmillan might have designated as "events, dear boy, events". Who knows where the world might be in 2035, by when the \$300bn level is supposed to be reached. That's only a fraction of the notionally required resources, and it may even be too late to make much of a difference with the trillions that no one seriously expects to be doled out.

It is hardly necessary to point out that the UN's efforts to tackle the climate emergency have been ineffective. But anyone who suggests that a failing process should be abandoned must present a viable alternative.

That's not easy, short of straying into fantasy world. It's a small mercy that COP30 will take place in Brazil, whose present government is dedicated to thwarting climate change.

Perhaps putting the remarkably astute Greta Thunberg and fellow young activists from around the world in charge of working out the way forward might be the ideal option. But I must be dreaming. — Courtesy Dawn

Lessons from US

Touqir Hussain

America and Pakistan are two totally different countries, and their democracies are very different breeds. Yet the recent US elections have some relevance, if not lessons, for Pakistan.

The majority of Trump supporters were no doubt concerned about jobs, inflation, and open borders. But more important than that, they felt neglected and marginalised by democracy, more precisely by the politicians.

The shine had long come off the vaunted democratic system of America. Politics had become all about the pursuit of power. The system was largely led by the elites who competed with each other for power, minimally satisfying the needs of their core supporters, without reference to the aspirations of the public at large.

Trump challenged the status quo with his insurgent politics. The majority of his supporters were 'unheard and unseen' little people, working-class folk, many of whose lives revolved around economic hardships and challenges, family breakdowns, and drifting youth in search of purpose. American democracy had left them behind. Trump made them feel important.

Different people voted for Trump for different reasons but one theme was common. They were all supporting him to overthrow a system they felt had let them down. The NBC reported that at the exit polls when voters were asked what quality mattered most to them in a candidate, the majority said they wanted either someone with 'the ability to lead' or one who could 'bring about needed change'.

There is a certain parallel here with the

situation in Pakistan where a democracy in name gives respectability to the well-entrenched system of elite capture but lacks legitimacy and moral purpose. It is a democracy needed by the elite but unwanted by people.

Pakistan's democracy is just a political tool for the dominant social groups to maintain their wealth and status. The beneficiaries are justifiably seen as the whole panoply of power — the top tier of politicians, bureaucrats, the military and judiciary, business people and the landed, many of whom monopolise the country's economic resources.

Ironically in both countries, neglected people have thought of similar solutions, gravitating towards extremists or populists who they think would fight the system on their behalf. Trump widened his support base by fusing populism with extremist White/Christian nationalism and by fomenting his supporters' belief that the politicians and politics had failed them.

Pakistan's populist had a similar playbook. He saw that there was a large body of disinherited, marginalised people including dispirited and drifting youth looking for desperate solutions; some of them had been lured by the extremist agenda. A range of grievances had been released in Pakistan thanks to the media explosion which the ruling elite had not addressed. He took up their cause.

By stoking long-standing public anger and feelings of injustice at the hands of the country's established political leadership, and a sense of victimhood, incited by the US-led post 9/11 wars, and by supporting the Afghan Taliban, Imran Khan evoked powerful emo-

tions of morality, nationalism and religion appealing to large numbers of Pakistanis at home and abroad.

Most of Khan's supporters were those who felt neglected or oppressed. Like Trump he said what his base wanted to hear but made them believe that these were his own views, thus creating an illusion that he spoke for them. In conditions of despair and frustration, poor people found easy solace and escape in the idea of being protected by a 'savi-our'. The young and educated found inspiration about the future of the country. And the disapproving looked up to him to restore their pride in the country.

The people saw that regular politicians neither spoke to nor for them, and asked themselves what democracy had done for the common man, the minorities, women and the smaller provinces especially Balochistan. Populists may be wrong but their supporters are invariably right. The popularity of populists basically shows that something is wrong with the system. You cannot extinguish the hope they kindle by treating them as 'arsonists'. The way to deal with them is to let them come to power if they win in free and fair elections. If they succeed that is good for the country. If they fail then people will discover they are not what they had put their faith in. That too will be good. They should not be suppressed. They can be diminished only politically. If suppressed, the restless, aggrieved and alienated PTI supporters will never be reconciled, which will lead to a large swath of the population continuing to disrupt or destabilise the system. Is this good for the country or for democracy? — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Economy observing sustained recovery in FY2025: Finance Ministry

ISLAMABAD (APP): The first four months of the current fiscal year showed better than expected improvement marked by receding inflation, a significant increase in remittances and IT exports, sustained external and fiscal sectors and a downward trend in interest rate, finance ministry said in a report released here Wednesday.

According to Monthly Economic Update and Outlook for November, the fiscal sector stability has been evident on the back of prudent fiscal consolidation as during July-September (FY2025), the net federal revenues grew by 186 percent to Rs.4,019 billion from Rs.1,406 billion during the same period of last year.

"The unprecedented increase in revenues was mainly driven by the surplus profit of the State Bank of Pakistan (Rs2,500 billion)," the report said. According to the report, the tax and non-tax revenues increased by 25.5 percent and 566.9 percent to Rs.2,563 billion and Rs.3,022 billion respectively.

On the other hand, total expenditure grew slightly by 1.8 percent to Rs.2,483 billion against Rs.2,438 billion last year while the mark-up expenditure declined by 5.3 percent owing to the gradual decline in the policy rate.

Resultantly, the fiscal balance posted a surplus of Rs.1,896 billion (1.5% of GDP) compared to the deficit of Rs.981 billion

(0.9% of GDP), while the primary balance (surplus) reached Rs.3,202 billion (2.6% of GDP) as compared to Rs.400 billion (0.4% of GDP) same period last year.

During July-October FY2025, the FBR net tax collection grew by 25.3 percent to Rs.3,442.6 billion as compared to Rs.2,748.4 billion last year. In October 2024, FBR collected 24.5 percent more taxes to reach Rs.879.7 billion against Rs.706.8 billion in October 2023.

According to the report, Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation is on a downward trajectory while staying at single digit. During Jul-Oct FY2025, CPI Inflation stood at 8.7 percent against 28.5 percent.

US, China and UK top 3 destinations of Pakistani exports during Jul-Oct 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the first four months of the current financial year 2024-25, followed by China and the United Kingdom (UK).

Total exports to the US during July-October 2024-25 were recorded at US \$2037.270 million against the exports of US \$1862.086 million during July-October 2023-24, showing an increase of 9.40 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US \$813.441 million against the exports of US \$952.441 million last year, showing a decrease of 14.59 percent.

UK was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth US \$761.393 million during the month under review against the exports of US \$690.576 million, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani exports to UAE stood at US \$737.432 million against US \$624.432 million last year while the exports to Germany were recorded at US \$579.141 million against US \$487.832 million last year, data said.

During July-October 2024-25, the exports to Holland were recorded at \$501.316 million against \$448.260 million whereas the exports to Italy stood at \$394.407 million against \$409.403 million.

Pakistan's exports to Spain were recorded at \$478.883 million against the exports of US \$516.576 million while the exports to Afghanistan were recorded at \$291.773 million against \$182.616 million last year.

Cattle-owners to get interest free loans

SARGODHA (APP): Deputy Director (DD) Livestock and Dairy Development Sargodha Dr. Muhammad Tanveer Kalyar said on Wednesday that the Punjab government had decided to give interest-free loans up to Rs. 270,000 to the livestock farmers, for which Rs. 11 billion have been allocated.

While talking to APP here on Wednesday, he said that interest-free loan from Rs. 135,000 to Rs. 270,000 for four months would be given to those cattle owners who have valid CNIC card, having their mobile-phone SIM registered and activated in their names and they have five to 10 male calves.

He said that facility desks had been set up in all livestock hospitals to receive applications under the livestock card initiative, where trained staff were helping farmers to file applications through the app.



Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chaired a special meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) at the Finance Division in Islamabad.

SCCI demands prompt steps to resolve business community issues

PESHAWAR (Online) Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Fazal Moqem Khan demanded uninterrupted electricity, gas supply to businesses and industries, abolishment of 2 percent provincial cess on export and elimination of double/unjust taxes forthwith.

He made these demands during a meeting with Deputy Commissioner Peshawar Capt (retired) Sarmad Saleem Ikram at the DC office while leading a delegation of an 85-

members delegation of businessmen.

The delegation consisted on SCCI senior vice president Abdul Jalil Jan, vice president Shehryar Khan, former president of the chamber Haji Muhammad Afzal, executive committee members Junaid Altaf, Hassan Zahideen, Abbas Fuad Azeem, Aftab Iqbal, Nadeem Rauf, former senior vice president Imran Khan Mohmand, Afiaf Ali Khan, Syed Ejaz Ali Shah, along with a large number traders and shopkeepers attached with various businesses.

Pakistan exports seafood worth \$116m in 4 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan earned \$116.115 million by exporting 54,539 metric tonnes of fish and fish preparations during the first four months of fiscal year 2024-25, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

As compared to the exports of \$123.965 million during fiscal year 2023-24, the fish exports during the period under review witnessed a decline of 6.33 percent, according to PBS data.

In terms of quantity, the exports of fish and fish preparations decreased by 0.04 percent during the period when compared to exports of 54,562 metric

Rupee sheds 12 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Wednesday depreciated by 12 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs.277.96 against the previous day's closing of Rs.277.84.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs.277.50 and Rs.279.00 respectively.

The price of Euro increased by 86 paise to close at Rs.291.98 against the last day's closing of Rs.291.12, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen went up by 03 paise and closed at Rs.1.83.

Gold Prices surge by Rs1,600 per tola

LAHORE (APP): Gold rates in Pakistan saw another big surge here, as price moved up by Rs.1,600 per tola on Wednesday. According to local Sarafa Association sources, the price of gold per tola surged by Rs1,600, reaching Rs275,900, while the price of 10-gram gold rose by Rs1,372, settling at Rs236,540. These hikes were in line international gold market.

WAPDA chairman reviews construction progress on K-IV Project

LAHORE (APP): Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) Chairman Engr. Lt-Gen (retd) Sajjad Ghani visited the Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme (K-IV) to review the construction progress at various components, including intake works, pumping stations, and pressurised pipelines.

During the visit, the chairman underscored the critical importance of the K-IV Project for addressing Karachi's growing water needs. He urged the project team to accelerate construction activities and adhere to the project

timelines, according to WAPDA spokesman here Wednesday. The chairman highlighted the need for seamless collaboration and maintaining close coordination with all stakeholders especially the Government of Sindh to ensure timely execution of power supply component and augmentation works critical to the project's completion.

Earlier, the General Manager/Project Director of K-IV Project briefed the Chairman about the progress on each milestone and timelines for remaining work and strategies to meet the targets.

47th PBIT Board meeting six-point agenda

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain and Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT) Chairperson Muntaha Ashraf co-chaired the 47th Board of Directors (BoD) meeting to deliberate on a six-point agenda, here on Wednesday.

Industries and Commerce Department's Provincial Secretary Dr. Ehsan Bhutta, Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Mian Abuzar Shad and other directors of the PBIT

Board attended the meeting. PBIT CEO Jalal Hassan gave a detailed briefing on the board's performance, operations, and the strategic plan for the next six months.

During the meeting, the formation of seven committees including the Audit Committee, Risk Management Committee, and Human Resource Committee, was approved. The committee for the hiring of the PBIT CEO and related matters would finalise its recommendations within two weeks.

PTI's protest on Nov-24 failed like its May-9 protest: Azma

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari said on Wednesday that whether it was May 9 or November 24, PTI's protest failed. Addressing a press conference, she said the PTI called for protest for five times, and it failed every time. She said people did not come out in Punjab for any protest. The minister said that Bushra Bibi escaped from the protest on Tuesday night, while KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur faced criticism from the party workers. She said Gandapur's car was set on fire by workers. Azma Bokhari said that 22 Punjab police vehicles were damaged during the protest, the record of Afghan citizens caught in the protest would be shared soon. The PML-N leader said that Imran Khan's own children were outside the country, while there was no food available for children of people during the protest.



PESHAWAR: Former Senior Minister Sikander Hayyat Khan Sherpao addressing a press conference at PPC.

5th Intl conference on material sciences commences at UoE

LAHORE (APP): The fifth two-day International Conference on Advances in Material Sciences kicked off Wednesday at the University of Education (UoE) Lahore. The inaugural ceremony was graced by the Chief Guest Rector Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering and Technology Prof Dr Fazal Ahmed Khalid while UoE Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Aqif Anwar Chaudhry presided over the event as the patron-in-chief. The conference has brought together over 500 participants, including 150 keynote speakers, experts, and analysts from 15 countries, including Australia, the UK, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia, China, Algeria, Malaysia, Peru, Egypt, South Korea, Morocco, and Pakistan. The event aims to delve into emerging opportunities and challenges in material sciences, exploring advanced learning in artificial intelligence, economic industry applications, commercial innovations, and nanotechnology for the upcoming era. Addressing the audience, Prof Dr Fazal Ahmed Khalid congratulated the University of Education for organizing a global platform that fosters advanced thinking in material sciences. He remarked: "This conference will significantly contribute to achieving the country's developmental goals by promoting cutting-edge research and international collaboration."



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presides over the special meeting to review progress on IT City.

Kundi to lead efforts for peace in Kurram, invites CM to join hands

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday expressed concerns over the deteriorating security situations in the province especially in Kurram district and announced to visit Parachinar to look into the matter. Addressing the press conference here at Governor House, soon after performing Umrah, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said, "The current major issue in KP is law and order that destabilized the whole system." "The deteriorating security situation in Kurram District, where around 150 people have lost their lives and more than 200 have been injured due to ongoing violence since October," Governor Kundi highlighted. He expressed concerns over the lack of attention from the Chief Minister of KP, saying, "While the Chief Executive is preoccupied with issues in Islamabad, the situation in Kurram remains dire. He said, "I will personally visit Kurram to assess the situation and work towards restoring peace there." Kundi also called for unity among the province's political leadership, stressing that when they come together, solutions to issues could be found. He invited the Chief Minister to play a role in controlling the situation. "When the political leadership unites, the way forward becomes clear," he added. In an effort to address the ongoing crisis, the Governor announced plans to hold an All-Party Conference at the Governor House in the first week of December.

Lahore police arrest 24,000 POs this year so far

LAHORE (APP): Lahore police have arrested over 24,000 proclaimed offenders and 9,900 target offenders this year. This was disclosed by a spokesman for Lahore police in a statement issued on Wednesday. According to the spokesman, operations against criminals had been carried out across multiple divisions. In the Cantonment Division, 5,131 proclaimed offenders were arrested, while 2,139 were apprehended in the Civil Lines area; in the City Division, 5,858 proclaimed offenders were caught followed by 3,260 in Iqbal Town; 4,032 in Saddar and 3,994 in Model Town.

Crucial changes finalised for Nawaz Institute of Cancer Treatment and Research

LAHORE (APP): Crucial changes to master plan of Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cancer Treatment and Research have been finalised. A meeting of the Health Advisory Committee, chaired by Provincial Ministers for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique and Khawaja Imran Nazir, was held in this regard on Wednesday at the Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department to discuss the project. The meeting also finalised the procurement of state-of-the-art medical equipment and machinery. CEO of the Infrastructure Development Authority of Punjab (IDAP) provided a comprehensive briefing on the project, highlighting key developments. Punjab Minister for Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education, Khawaja Salman Rafique, emphasized the importance of timely completion and directed IDAP to meet the twelve-month target for the first phase of the hospital. He assured that the Punjab government prioritizes initiatives that improve citizens' lives and pledged to expand the hospital in phases, equipping it with modern facilities for cancer treatment and care.

Hearing of bail pleas of Yasmin in cases of torching police vans adjourned

LAHORE (Online): Hearing of bail after arrest pleas in two cases of torching police vans in chowk near Jinnah House against PTI leader Dr Yasmin Rashid has been adjourned till December 10. Judge Manzar Ali Gill of Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) took up for hearing bail after arrest plea of Dr Yasmin Rashid in two cases Wednesday. Burhan Moazzam Malik advocate counsel for Dr Yasmin Rashid did not appear in the court. The junior counsel requested the court that senior lawyer Burhan Moazzam Malik did not appear in the court due to closure of roads. Time be given for arguments.

CM thanks people for rejecting mischief-makers

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Maryam Nawaz Sharif has expressed her gratitude to the people of Punjab for not supporting the mischief-makers and disruptor, thanking them for their continued resilience and unity. In a message issued here on Wednesday, she acknowledged the sacrifices made by the people of Punjab, who remained steadfast despite the challenges posed by elements seeking to create unrest. The CM issued instructions to open the roads across the province, ensuring smooth transportation and public mobility. She emphasized the importance of facilitating the daily routines of the citizens, who had been facing significant disruptions. CM Maryam Nawaz took decisive steps to stabilize the supply of essential goods. She directed the administration to ensure the uninterrupted availability of food and other necessities. She directed the strict monitoring and control of prices for essential items, stressing that no one should exploit the situation for personal gain. Reflecting on the hardship caused to the public by the ongoing disruptions, Maryam Nawaz expressed deep concern over the difficulties faced by ordinary citizens. She conveyed her sincere apologies for the inconvenience, stating, "I am truly saddened by the suffering the people have had to endure due to these disturbances."



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi addressing a press conference at Governor House.

May 9 "No" plan has been frustrated: Maryam Aurangzeb

LAHORE (Online): Punjab senior minister Maryam Aurangzeb has said May 9 "No" plan has been frustrated. She said this in a statement issued here Wednesday. She went on to say on May 9, attack was made on military installations by provoking the workers. On November 26, Rangers and police men were got martyred through mercenary terrorists. They had come to D Chowk to collect bodies of Rangers and Police. In 2014 they had to come to dig graves in D chowk. In 2024 they fled after martyring Rangers and police men. She said Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi and Gandapur are responsible for martyrdom of Police and Rangers.

International News

Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire takes effect, civilians head back to south Lebanon

Monitoring Desk
TYRE: A ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah came into effect on Wednesday after both sides accepted an agreement brokered by the US and France, a rare victory for diplomacy in a region traumatised by two devastating conflicts for over a year. At least 55 people were killed on Monday in Israeli attacks on Lebanon, bringing the death toll since October 2023 to 3,823, the Lebanese Health Ministry said on Tuesday. A total of 160 others were wounded over the past 24 hours, raising the number of injuries to 15,859. In the hours leading up to the ceasefire, Israeli airstrikes on the Lebanese capital Beirut and its southern suburbs, as well as the southern and eastern provinces of the country, had intensified, resulting in dozens of deaths and injuries. While the ceasefire largely held on Wednesday morning, Israel said it identified Hezbollah operatives returning to areas near the border and had opened fire to prevent them from coming closer. Lebanon's army, tasked with helping ensure the ceasefire holds, said in a statement on Wednesday it was preparing to deploy to the south of the country. The military also asked that residents of border villages delay returning home until the Israeli military, which has fought against Hezbollah on several occasions and pushed around six kilometres into Lebanese territory, withdraws. The agreement, which promises to end a conflict across the Israeli-Lebanese border that has killed thousands of people since it was signed by Israel's invasion of Gaza last year, is touted as a major achievement for the US in the waning days of President Joe Biden's administration. "Force must give way to dialogue and negotiation. This has now been achieved in Lebanon, and it must happen as soon as possible in the Gaza Strip," French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot told Franceinfo radio. Bursts of gunfire could be heard across Lebanon's capital Beirut after the ceasefire took effect at 0200 GMT. It was not immediately clear if the shooting was celebratory, as gunfire had also been used to alert residents who may have missed evacuation warnings issued by Israel's military. Later, cars and vans piled high with mattresses, suitcases and even furniture streamed through the southern port city of Tyre, which was heavily bombed in the final days before the ceasefire, heading further south.



Vehicles drive near damaged buildings in Beirut's southern suburbs, after a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah took effect, in Lebanon.

Israeli strikes on Gaza Strip leave 15 dead, medics say

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip killed 15 people on Wednesday, some of them in a school housing displaced people, medics in Gaza said, adding that the fatalities included two sons of a former Hamas spokesman. Health officials in the Hamas-run enclave said eight Palestinians were killed and dozens of others wounded in an Israeli strike that hit the Al-Taba'een School, which was sheltering displaced families in Gaza City. Among those killed were two sons of former Hamas spokesman, Fawzi Barhoum, according to medics and Barhoum himself. In the Shejaia suburb of Gaza City, another strike killed four people, while three people were killed in an Israeli air strike in Beit Lahya on the northern edge of the enclave where army forces have been operating since last month. Separately, a ceasefire between Israel and Iran-backed group Hezbollah came into effect on Wednesday after both sides accepted an agreement brokered by the US and France, a rare victory for diplomacy in a region shaken by two wars for over a year. I r a n - b a c k e d Hezbollah began firing missiles at Israel in solidarity with Hamas after the Palestinian militant group attacked Israel in October of 2023, killing around 1,200 people and capturing over 250 hostages.

COP29 president blames rich nations for 'imperfect' deal

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: The tough-fought finance deal at UN climate negotiations was "imperfect", the Azerbaijan COP29 leadership has admitted, seeking to blame richer countries for an outcome slammed by poorer nations as insulting. The contentious deal agreed on Sunday saw wealthy polluters agree to a \$300 billion a year pledge to help developing countries reduce emissions and prepare for the increasingly dangerous impacts of a warming world. COP29 president Mukhtar Babayev conceded that the deal was insufficient to meet escalating needs and suggested that China would have agreed to stump up more cash had others agreed to budge. Writing in Britain's Guardian newspaper on Monday, he said wealthy historical emitters had been "immovable" until very late in the negotiating process. "This deal may be imperfect. It does not keep everyone happy. But it is a major step forward from the \$100 billion pledged in Paris back in 2015," he said. "It is also the deal that almost didn't happen." Azerbaijan, an authoritarian oil and gas exporter, came under heavy criticism for its handling of COP29, notably France and Germany. Babayev banged the deal through in the early hours of Sunday after nearly two weeks of fractious negotiations that at one point appeared on the verge of collapse.

Eight migrants drown off Greek island

Monitoring Desk
ATHENS: Greece's coastguard has found the bodies of eight migrants — six minors and two women — who drowned off the island of Samos, authorities said on Monday, in the second migrant shipwreck in the Aegean Sea this month. Greek police found a further 36 people alive in the northern part of Samos, while three people, trapped in a rocky area of the island, were rescued by coast guard officers, the coast guard said. Aircraft and vessels assisted a search and rescue operation, it added. According to a coastguard official, authorities were alerted to the incident by a non-governmental organisation and estimate that about 50 people had been on board the vessel that brought them off Samos.

Putin to discuss energy ties on visit to Kazakhstan, Kremlin says

Monitoring Desk
ASTANA: Russian President Vladimir Putin will discuss energy ties on a visit to Kazakhstan this week, the Kremlin said on Tuesday, a trip that comes amid trade tensions with the Central Asian nation, which exports most of its oil through Russia. Kazakhstan, which has tried to distance itself from Moscow's war in Ukraine, remains highly dependent on Russia for exporting oil to Western markets and for imports of food, electricity and other products. "Our countries are ... constructively cooperating in the oil and gas sector," Putin wrote in an article "Russia - Kazakhstan: a union deepening by life and looking to the future" for the Kazakhstanskaya Pravda newspaper and published on the Kremlin's website late on Tuesday. Putin's article came after Kazakhstan's energy minister said on Monday his country could sharply increase its crude oil exports out of Turkey's port of Ceyhan, a move that would reduce the share of flows it currently sends via Russia. Since the first small unmanned aerial system was first spotted on Nov 20, the number of drones has fluctuated and there have been a range of different sizes and configurations, said the US Air Forces in Europe spokesperson. The drones have also been seen over RAF Fairford, in western England, the spokesperson said, adding to the sightings reported on Tuesday over three bases in eastern England, RAF Lakenheath, RAF Mildenhall, and RAF Feltwell. The drones have to date not impacted the bases, which are leased by the USAF from Britain. "Our units continue to monitor the airspace and are working with host-nation authorities and mission partners to ensure the safety of base personnel, facilities and assets," the spokesperson said.

US Air Force says drones still being spotted over bases in England

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Unidentified drones are still being spotted over United States Air Force (USAF) bases in England on Wednesday, a USAF spokesperson said, confirming that a fourth base had also been targeted by the week-long airspace incursions. Since the first small unmanned aerial system was first spotted on Nov 20, the number of drones has fluctuated and there have been a range of different sizes and configurations, said the US Air Forces in Europe spokesperson. The drones have also been seen over RAF Fairford, in western England, the spokesperson said, adding to the sightings reported on Tuesday over three bases in eastern England, RAF Lakenheath, RAF Mildenhall, and RAF Feltwell. The drones have to date not impacted the bases, which are leased by the USAF from Britain. "Our units continue to monitor the airspace and are working with host-nation authorities and mission partners to ensure the safety of base personnel, facilities and assets," the spokesperson said.

Malaysia drops 1MDB-linked charges against ex-PM Najib, former treasury official

Monitoring Desk
KUALA LUMPUR: A Malaysian court on Wednesday allowed corruption charges linked to the multibillion-dollar 1MDB scandal filed against jailed former Prime Minister Najib Razak and the former treasury chief to be dropped, their lawyers said. Najib faces several trials linked to the scandal at state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (IMDB), from which Malaysian and US authorities say about \$4.5 billion was stolen in a complex, globe-spanning scheme between 2009 and 2014. Najib, who helped found IMDB when he was premier in 2009, was found guilty of corruption and money laundering in a case linked to the scandal and sentenced to 12 years in prison in 2022.

Ukraine says Russian attack sets a new record for the number of drones used

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Russia launched 188 drones against most regions of Ukraine in a nighttime blitz, the Ukrainian air force said Tuesday, describing it as a record number of drones deployed in a single attack. Most of the drones were intercepted, according to the air force, but apartment buildings and critical infrastructure such as the national power grid were damaged. No casualties were immediately reported in the 17 targeted regions. Russia has been hammering civilian areas of Ukraine with increasingly heavy drone, missile and glide bomb attacks since the middle of the year. At the same time, Russia's army has largely held the battlefield initiative for the past year and has been pushing hard in the eastern Donetsk region where it is making significant tactical advances, according to Western military analysts. Ukraine faces a difficult winter, with worries about the reliability of the electricity supply amid Russia's attacks and how much U.S. support it can count on next year after President-elect Donald Trump takes office in January. The air raid alert in the Kyiv region overnight lasted more than seven hours. Russia is trying to unnerve civilians and wear down their will to resist in the almost 3-year-old war. Meanwhile, Ukraine's General Staff said Tuesday that over the past 24 hours roughly half of the clashes along the about 1,000-kilometer (600 mile) front line occurred near Pokrovsk and Kurakhove in the Donetsk region. Ukraine has a critical manpower problem on the front line, and though the Russian army's gains have been incremental its momentum is adding up as the Ukrainians yield ground. The Russian advance is threatening important supply routes in Donetsk, the Washington-based Institute for the Study of War said late Monday.

F-8 Interchange underpass to open by Dec 31, project completion in Feb: Naqvi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday visited the F-8 Exchange Chowk Interchange project to review the ongoing construction progress.

He announced that the underpass will be opened for traffic on December 31, while the entire project will be inaugurated in the second week of February.

The minister emphasized the importance of completing the project within the set timeframe and commended the contractor, CDA (Capital Development Authority), and work-

ers for maintaining round-the-clock construction even during protests. He urged them to sustain their high level of commitment.

In a major development for traffic management, Naqvi revealed plans to make F-10 Chowk signal-free to ensure smoother traffic flow on Jinnah Avenue. He reviewed the out-plan for the F-10 Chowk project, recommended changes and instructed for the construction to begin promptly.

"Our aim is to provide maximum convenience to the public," said Naqvi, adding that the successful

completion of these projects will result in significant improvements to Islamabad's traffic system.

During a detailed briefing, officials informed the minister that Piling work will conclude by December 3 and Pile caps will be completed by December 12 while

the entire interchange project is on track to be finalized within a record timeline.

The F-10 Chowk initiative is expected to be completed in tandem with the F-8 Interchange, promising long-term benefits for commuters.

954 suspects arrested, over 200 vehicles seized; says IGP

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said on Wednesday that the law enforcement agencies has so far arrested

954 suspects with impending over 200 vehicles during the grand operation launched last night to clear D-Chowk and adjoining areas from protesters in the Federal Capital.

The IGP, in a joint press conference with Chief Commissioner Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa, revealed that the authorities have also recovered around 39 weapons of different sorts, including Kalashnikovs from the protesters.

IG Rizvi claimed that the protesters were armed, used tear gas shells, and employed large fans to blow

suspects and weapons linked to the unrest.

Chief Commissioner Randhawa reaffirmed the state's commitment to law and order, emphasizing that no Afghan national without

tear gas fumes towards security forces. He said the law enforcement agencies responded with non-lethal measures, such as tear gas and batons, to regain con-



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IG Rizvi claimed that the protesters were armed, used tear gas shells, and employed large fans to blow

control of D-Chowk and adjoining areas. The violence, Rizvi said, resulted in 71 security personnel injured, 27 by gunfire, while three Rangers personnel tragically lost their lives. The protesters also damaged 167 Safe City cameras and caused significant disruption to public life.

"Armed terrorists used the guise of protests to attack law enforcement personnel," said Rizvi, vowing that such acts of violence would not be tolerated.

Search operations were underway to locate

a valid no-objection certificate (NOC) will be allowed to reside in Islamabad.

He assured citizens that normalcy has been restored, with all roads reopened.

"No one will be allowed to challenge the writ of the state," Randhawa stated, commending the sacrifices of security forces in restoring order. Legal action against the protesters and their abettors is already underway.

The Chief Commissioner pledged to bring all perpetrators to justice, ensuring the safety and security of its residents.

Ayaz Sadiq meets Deputy Chairman of Council of Muftis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Wednesday met with Deputy Chairman of the Council of Muftis, Professor Dahir Mukhtadinov, during his official visit to the Cathedral Mosque in Moscow, Russia.

According to a news release received here, the Speaker expressed content over the expanding friendly relations between the Muslim World and Russia.

He lauded Russia's principled stance against

Islamophobia and expressed gratitude on behalf of the Parliament of Pakistan.

He also praised President Putin's statement regarding upholding the utmost respect for the religious personalities of all faiths.

The Speaker extolled the promotion of interfaith harmony and religious pluralism in Russia. Moreover, it was mutually agreed to enhance religious and cultural cooperation between both countries.

National Curriculum Summit 2024 ends with key recommendations

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Curriculum Summit 2024 concluded on Wednesday with key discussions, deliberations and recommendations on Pakistan's education future.

The summit brought together policymakers, educators and curriculum experts to explore reforms aimed at improving the country's education system.

Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad in his speech emphasized the need for an adaptable and inclusive education system.

He stressed the importance of STEM education which encourages problem solving, critical think-

ing and creativity to be in consolidated form from each discipline to address real world challenges.

Dr. Shaqat Ali Janjua, Joint Educational Advisor at the National Curriculum Council, updated participants on the progress of curriculum reforms, highlighting advancements in skills development, IT integration and financial literacy, with a focus on cybersecurity. He also thanked all the guests, participants and penalis for their participation insightful suggestions.

On behalf of Federal Secretary Mohyuddin Ahmed Wani, he reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to the reforms suggested at the summit.



ISLAMABAD: Rangers personnel stand alert at Jinnah Avenue in the Federal Capital.



Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi inquiring about the health of injured ASP Muhammad Aleem at PIMS Hospital.

Gilani praises Grand Mufti's contributions to Muslim world

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Wednesday expressed gratitude for the Saudi Arabi Grand Mufti's contributions to the Muslim world and his efforts in promoting Islamic values during challenging times.

During a meeting with the Grand Mufti, he highlighted the deep-rooted ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, founded on shared religious values and mutual respect.

He underscored the importance of unity within the Muslim Ummah and reiterated the commitment of both nations to jointly address modern challenges.

"Pakistan seeks collaboration with Saudi Arabia in educational and religious sectors," Gilani said, adding that such cooperation would help highlight Islam's message of peace. He emphasized that fostering peace and stability in the region is a shared responsibility of the Muslim leadership.

The Chairman also praised the Grand Mufti's efforts in promoting tolerance and harmony, advocating for increased exchange of scholars and religious experts to strengthen mutual understanding.

He further commended the Grand Mufti's exemplary role in resolving

conflicts and addressing contemporary issues, acknowledging his vital contribution to the unity and guidance of the Muslim Ummah. Gilani proposed accelerating religious education initiatives and facilitating expert delegation exchanges between the two countries.

He also extended an invitation to the Grand Mufti to visit Pakistan, praising the deep connection between the people of Pakistan and the religious leadership of Saudi Arabia.

"The fatwas issued by the Grand Mufti serve as guidance not only for Saudi Arabia but for the entire Islamic world," Gilani said.

Irfan Siddiqui says: Failed 'Final Call' tsunami leaves organizers embarrassed after clashes in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): The much-hyped "Final Call" tsunami, which threatened to bring Islamabad to a standstill, ended in an embarrassing retreat for its organizers as clashes with security forces left several injured and protesters fleeing at night, abandoning their vehicles and motorcycles.

Senator Irfan Siddiqui, PML-N's Parliamentary Party Leader in the Senate, said in a statement on X, "Those shouting 'mur-

der' (kill and kill) slogans killed some security personnel and workers and fled in the middle of the night through a road surrounded by forests in the Margalla Hills." He said that now factories of lies and misrepresentations would emerge, creating baseless fictional stories of bodies and bloodshed, but the shameful retreat of the "Final Call" will keep PTI from recovering for a long time.

The government of Pakistan, he said is cur-

rently grappling with two critical issues. Firstly, it needs to ascertain whether the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is a legitimate political party or a lawless entity that employs violence and vandalism.

Secondly, the government must find a constitutional solution to address situations where a provincial government makes it a routine to utilize state resources to launch attacks on the federal government, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Officials busy removing the burnt container from the site at Jinnah Avenue following PTI protest in the Federal Capital.

Speakers demand an end to atrocities against women in Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (APP): A webinar was organized by Friends of Kashmir International on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, in which various international and Kashmiri leaders participated. In the webinar, the speakers expressed serious concern over the ongoing atrocities, sexual violence, and human rights violations against women in Kashmir and demanded immediate action from the international community, said a press release.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairperson Peace and Cultural Foundation Mashal Hussain Malik said that sexual and mental violence against women in Kashmir is an unforgivable crime. This issue is a global crisis for human rights. The violation of the dignity, freedom and rights of women in Kashmir is a serious problem, and international organizations will have to take practical steps to protect them. He said that Kashmiri women are setting a strong example against oppression through their courage and sacrifices, but they need global support. Chairperson Friends of Kashmir Ghazala Habib (USA) said that women are being systematically subjected to oppression and oppression in Kashmir. Immediate intervention of the international community is necessary to stop these atrocities. In her speech, expert in law and international affairs Dr. Asma Khawaja said that the atrocities of the Indian forces are a clear violation of international human rights laws, and strict action must be taken against them.

Somalia to have National Coordination Office for COMSTECH

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator General of COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary and the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Somalia, Shirwa Abdullahi Ibrahim have agreed to expand their collaborative efforts with the establishment of a National Coordination Office for COMSTECH in Somalia. COMSTECH will monitor and coordinate education, science and technology programs in the country, they agreed during a meeting held here Wednesday.

COMSTECH will send an officer to Somalia for three months each year, while Somalia will also deploy an official on deputation to the COMSTECH Secretariat to work on bilateral programs.

The two sides discussed future initiatives

aimed at strengthening co-operation between Somalia and COMSTECH in the fields of science, technology, health, and education. COMSTECH also plans to organize another eye surgery camp in Somalia in 2025, as part of its continued commitment to improving healthcare in the region.

Additionally, both sides agreed to enhance co-operation between universities in Pakistan and Somalia, focusing on areas such as higher education, agricultural technologies, and ENT (ear, nose, and throat) training.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Choudhary expressed his unwavering commitment to supporting Somalia in its efforts to advance in science, technology, health, and educa-

UAJK officers reaffirm commitment to University's integrity

ISLAMABAD (APP): An emergency meeting of the Officers' Welfare Association of the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) was held on Wednesday at the Chehla Campus. The meeting presided over by President of the Association Sardar Mujeeb-ur-Rehman, was attended by a large number of the University's staff.

During the meeting, a unanimous resolution was adopted, strongly condemning the continuous filing of baseless and fabricated complaints by a few retired employees and a convicted individual against the University in the Accountability Bureau. The resolution highlighted that these complaints, aimed at blackmailing and achieving personal objectives, continue despite university's satisfactory responses to each one, said a press release.

Terms "final call" as missed call Muqam slams PTI leaders for fleeing protests, abandoning workers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON and President PML-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Engineer Amir Muqam, has strongly criticized leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for fleeing the scene of violent protest while leaving their supporters behind.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, Muqam stated that "We've said it before this 'final call' will prove to be a missed call". He said there is a clear divide between the PTI and its leaders who wanted to create anarchy in the country. He condemned the actions of PTI leadership, accusing them of inciting chaos under the guise of political protests.

Muqam said that the agenda of these people was to shed blood which was not fulfilled. "This is not a party but a group working on an agenda to destabilize the country." He said that such actions are part of a broader plan to spread chaos and anarchy in the country. Muqam said PTI's so-called political protests often end in chaos, with lead-



ers abandoning their supporters once violence erupts. He pointed out how leaders like "Bushra Bibi" and Ali Amin Gandapur, ran away from the workers in the darkness of the night and held a press conference again.

Once again, PTI workers were used for personal gains and the so-called leaders ran away. "These leaders used workers for their personal gains, then left them behind," Muqam said.

He said, "A new chapter of courage was written last night, as they ran away second time and insulted the Pashtuns." The minister said that PTI leaders, including Bushra Bibi and Ali Amin Gandapur, would be held accountable for the violence, loss of lives, and destruction of public property that occurred during the protest.



ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Barrister Danyal Chaudhary addressing a press conference at National Press Club.

Danival refutes PTI's allegations, stresses no weapons used during D-Chowk operation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Barrister Danyal Chaudhary on Wednesday refuted PTI's allegations for widespread killings at D-Chowk last night, stressing that the operation was unarmed and intended to prevent casualties.

In a press conference, Danyal accused Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of attempting to incite deaths to disrupt the visits of foreign dignitaries.

"PTI is spreading misleading propaganda regarding the deaths of its workers," he claimed.

He categorically said that no protesters were killed by gunfire. Instead of making them responsible for the deaths that occurred while fleeing in a hurry.

PTI sought to politicize deaths but was peacefully managed by the interior minister.

"The call for this violent protest has proven to

be the final nail in the coffin of PTI's violent politics," the minister said.

PTI spread fake news, accusing the government of the killings, and shared it on social media to deceive the international community. A video was made after going to Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Hospital and it was said that there were bodies here. They had planned to come and find the bodies. Despite requests from their protesters not to leave, former First Lady Bushra Bibi and Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (CM-KP) Ali Amin Khan Gandapur were at the forefront in fleeing from D-Chowk.

He said the sit-in was poorly planned, with the intention of disrupting government operations. PTI workers continued firing under the instructions of Ali Amin Gandapur and Bushra Bibi. PTI protesters also attacked police personnel, resulting in the deaths of six security officers.



RAWALPINDI: GoP/NDMA dispatched 21st consignment in collaboration with Pakistan Air Force, comprised of 17 tons of supplies via chartered aircraft from Chaklala, Rawalpindi to Damascus, Syria.

Islamabad Police conducts flag march to maintain peace and tranquility

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police conducted a flag march in the city with a purpose to maintain peace and tranquility in the city, a public relations officer said.

He said that Islamabad Police have taken comprehensive security arrangements in federal order to tackle any emergency situation. In this regard, flag marches are being conducted in the federal city to make security more effective and efficient.

The flag march started from the Express Chowk and culminated at the zero point after passing through various areas of the city.

DIG Islamabad Syed Ali Raza emphasized that the Islamabad Police are taking all possible steps to

maintain peace in the city adding that all forces are always alert to tackle any untoward incident.

He said that the security has been enhanced at all entry and exit points while the Dolphin Squad is patrolling in different areas of the city, adding that all senior police officers have been directed to remain in their relevant areas and check the duty points according to the security point of view.

He also appealed to the citizens to cooperate with police during checking and inform police about any suspicious activity around them through emergency helpline Pucar-15, adding that no stone would be returned to secure the lives and property of the citizens.