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We'll break hand that wants to sacrifice Pakistan PM Shahbaz 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; Lauds LEAs in foiling miscreants' nefarious designs

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 members 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

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QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti talking with office bearers of Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Trade during his visit.

'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



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

MoHR Minister Azam Tarar calls on Ibrahim bin Ali Al Mohannadi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, Minister for Law & Justice and Human Rights held a bilateral meeting with Ibrahim bin Ali Al Mohannadi, Minister of Justice and 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 collaboration 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.

SCP refuses to take suo moto notice 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.

Babar Awan pleaded before the court that FATA is already merged in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and there is no need for any action in this regard.

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.

The resolution states that PTI has become a symbol of political chaos in the country and accuses it of attempting to incite conflict between Pakistan's armed forces and the public. It urges the federal government to impose an immediate ban on the party to maintain law and order.



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).

Sarfaraz Bugti announces to set up Balochistan Bank: Genuine issues of traders and business community to be resolved; illegal trade to be discouraged: CM

Independent Report
QUETTA: While announcing establishment of the Balochistan Bank, the Chief Minister, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has stated that the economic prosperity of any country and province is not possible without developing trade and business.

He said that all the genuine issues being faced by the traders and business community of the province would be resolved. The issues related to the province would be resolved immediately while the issues related to the federation would be got resolved by approaching the concerned federal quarters.

However, adding he asserted that the smuggling or illegal trade would be discouraged as simply the

same can't be described as legal one.

He assured the business community of the province that he would become their voice. He also said that the law and order situation in the province is not better, however, we have to improve it.

The Chief Minister was speaking to the media persons on occasion of his visit to the Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI) here on Wednesday.

He on the occasion condemned the situation of anarchy created by a political party and provincial government of KP saying that it is condemnable and matter of concern.

He expressed heartfelt condolence with the be-

reaved families of the jawans of Rangers martyred in Islamabad.

He said that Rs. 13 billion have been approved from the federal government for dualization of N-50 highway. The work on the project would be started soon, he added.

He said that it is an alarming to declare Balochistan red zone by the State Bank and others and assured to speak on the matter with concerned quarters.

He said that all the genuine issues being faced by the business community of Balochistan would be resolved.

Regarding the law and order situation, the Chief Minister said that the issue

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QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail inaugurating 7th Job Fair at BUTEMS.

BUTEMS Job fair an excellent opportunity of formulation of better future for new generation, says Governor

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the 7th Job Fair being organized in Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUTEMS) is an excellent opportunity of formulation of a better future for the new generation.

He said that the students can meet representatives of different companies and industries through this Job Fair. They can also have know how about the job market and can find new prospects of the career.

He said that it is clear that our youth are the future of Balochistan and we have to provide necessary guidance and support in finding opportunities of livelihood according to their capabilities.

In addition to this, this

is also responsibility of the federal and provincial governments to take concrete steps for providing them the opportunities of more livelihood and learning modern skills to youngsters.

The Governor was addressing the the participants of the opening ceremony of 7th Job Fair organized at the BUTEMS on Wednesday.

Also present on the occasion were Vice Chancellor of BUTEMS, Professor Dr Khalid Hafeez, Principal Secretary to Governor, Hashim Khan Ghilzai as well as the representatives of over 50 participating industries, factories, banks and non governmental organizations besides a large number of male and female students.

The Governor said that

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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.

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.

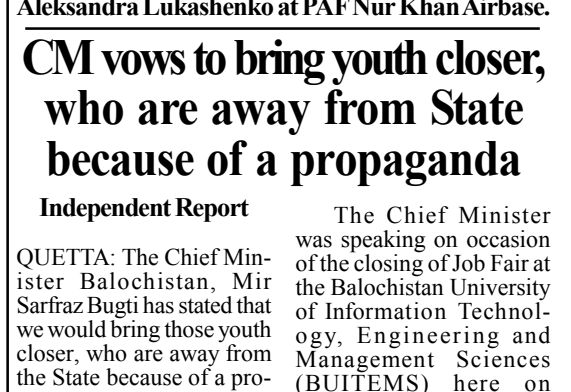
He affirmed that this historic partnership has withstood the test of time and is poised to grow further. The COAS thanked Chinese leadership for standing firmly with Pakistan, irrespective of changes in the international and regional environment.

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.



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

CM vows to bring youth closer, who are away from State because of a propaganda

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has stated that we would bring those youth closer, who are away from the State because of a propaganda.

We would not only hear the issues of these youngsters, but would resolve the same.

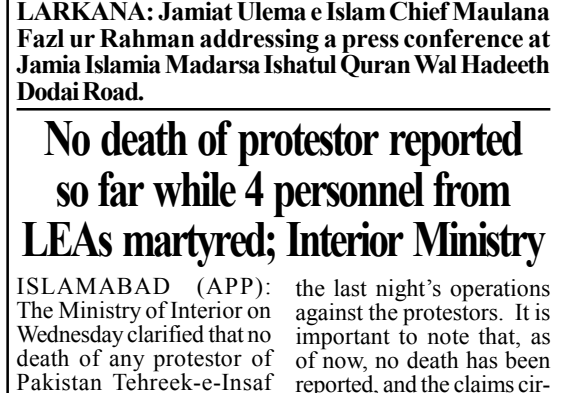
He said that we had made commitment with our youth that we would not let anyone sell their jobs. So, we are fulfilling our that promise today.

It is our topmost endeavour to make all recruitments on merit and no negligence would be acceptable in it.

The Chief Minister was speaking on occasion of the closing of Job Fair at the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUTEMS) here on Wednesday.

The Vice Chancellor of BUTEMS, Dr. Khalid Hafeez, other concerned high ups, representatives and officials of different departments, companies and industries were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister said that registration of over 4,000 students in Job Fair is matter of satisfaction for him.



LARKANA: Jamiat Ulema e Islam Chief Maulana Fazl ur Rahman addressing a press conference at Jamia Islamia Madarsa Ishatul Quran Wal Hadeeth Dodai Road.

No death of protestor reported so far while 4 personnel from LEAs martyred; Interior Ministry

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Interior on Wednesday clarified that no death of any protestor of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has been reported so far during the successful operation carried out by the law enforcement agencies (LEAs).

According to the statement issued by the Ministry, on the other hand, one police official and three personnel from the Rangers have been martyred in Rawalpindi and Islamabad. A total of 223 personnel from law enforcement agencies have got injured including 171 from the Punjab and 52 from Islamabad.

The protest organized by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in Islamabad has been peacefully resolved in

the last night's operations against the protestors. It is important to note that, as of now, no death has been reported, and the claims circulating regarding any such incidents are baseless and unverified.

While the protestors had caused damage to both state and private properties as well as loss of lives from the law enforcing agencies. The law enforcement agencies took swift action to maintain order and ensure public safety.

The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration, in collaboration with law enforcement agencies, has emphasized its commitment to maintaining peace, order and security in the city.

China, Pakistan to deepen strategic cooperation: Chinese CG

KARACHI (APP): The Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Karachi, Yang Yundong Wednesday stated that under the guidance of Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperation will continue to deepen.

He said the recent visit to Pakistan by Chinese Premier Li Qiang, following Prime Minister Shehbaz's visit to Beijing, exemplifies this high-level cooperation.

During media briefing at Chinese Consulate, here, Yang Yundong said currently, China-Pakistan iron-clad friendship is everlasting and ever-refreshing.

The Pakistan-China relationship is of strategic significance and both sides firmly support each other's core interests and development paths, the China-Pakistan relationship has always been a priority in China's foreign relations. Any attempt to disrupt or undermine Pakistan-China cooperation would be failed, he added.

Chinese CG said the two sides will continuously strengthen practical cooperation across various fields, jointly upgrade the CPEC and accelerate the construction of major projects in railways, highways, and ports. Following the important common understanding between leaders of the two countries, both sides are ready to advance the upgradation of ML-1, and agreed to build Karachi-Hyderabad section in line with the modality of implementing in a phased manner.

He said the two sides will work together to refine and optimize the construction plan of Karachi-Hyderabad section and formulate financing and implementation plans that are feasible and sustainable at the earliest.

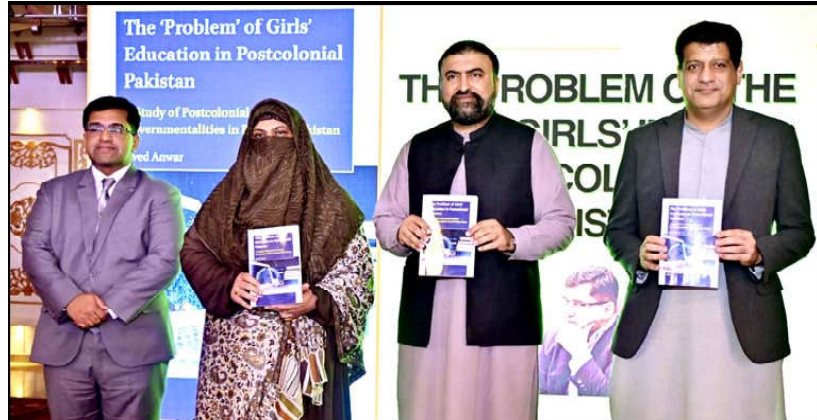
He said the two countries will actively seek financial support for the Karakoram Highway (Raikot-Thakot) realignment project under the terms of the Framework Agreement of the project, and facilitate the project's early execution.

He said Pakistan and China will speed up the development of the auxiliary infrastructure of the Gwadar Port, steadily attract more cargo shipments to the port, find a solution to inadequate water and power supply at an early date, accelerate the development of the port's industrial zone, and solidly enhance connectivity between the port and other parts of Pakistan.

The New Gwadar International Airport project aided by China has been completed.



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



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, Provincial Minister Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi and Provincial Advisor Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi attending book launching ceremony of Dr. Muhammad Anwar Shahwani.

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.

Aseefa Bhutto attends Global Women's Forum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Member of National Assembly Aseefa Bhutto Zardari has attended the Global Women's Forum, being held in Dubai.

The forum was organized by Dubai Women's Establishment, said a news release issued by the party secretariat here on Wednesday. The inaugural session of the forum was attended by the Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE HH Sheikh Mohammed, First Lady of Türkiye Emine Erdogan, and Louise Araneta Marcos, First Lady of the Philippines.

The event attracted approximately 6,000 dignitaries and advocates for women's empowerment and gender balance.

President of Belarus meets COAS, praises Pak Armed Forces

RAWALPINDI (APP): President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko Wednesday 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.

Daniyal, Dahani rule out of One-Day International series against Zimbabwe

BULAWAYO (INP): Fast bowlers Ahmed Daniyal and Shahnawaz Dahani have been ruled out of the ongoing One-Day International series against Zimbabwe and will return to Pakistan today (Wednesday).

Ahmed sustained a hamstring injury, while Shahnawaz suffered a left ankle injury during Sunday's training session. Initial scans and clinical assessments confirmed their respective injuries.

Upon their return to Lahore, both players will report to the National Cricket Academy, where they will undergo rehabilitation and follow the prescribed protocols to ensure a safe return to competitive cricket.

AJK PM seeks media's constructive role to bring about positive change in society

MIRPUR (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that a positive change can be brought about in society provided the media plays a constructive role in accordance with established codes of conduct and ethics of journalism.

The AJK premier said this while talking to the Azad Kashmir Newspaper Society (AKNS) delegation, which, led by its president, Amjad Chaudhry, called on him in the state metropolis on Wednesday.

Speaking on the occasion, the AJK PM, while

highlighting the importance of the media, said, "The media should promote positive thinking to bring improvement in the society." "The role of the media is essential to rid the state of the menace of corruption, prejudices, and regionalism," the AJK PM remarked.

The AJK Prime Minister said that the AKNS and the Ministry of Information should jointly form a task force to look into all matters, including media policy.

Stressing the need for promoting investigative journalism, he said that the essence of responsible journalism was to bring truth and expose wrongdoing.

He assured the visiting delegation that the problems faced by the media industry and publishers would be resolved on a priority basis.

"Fair distribution of advertisements to newspapers will be ensured at all costs," the PM maintained.

The government, he said, was using all possible resources to improve the quality of life of the citizens of the state. He said that protecting the rights of citizens was the government's responsibility.



RAWALPINDI: General Zhang Youxia, Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) of the People's Republic of China accompanied by General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) lays floral wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada, paying homage to Pakistan's martyrs, upon his arrival at General Headquarters (GHQ).

Humanity Welfare Foundation shines at BUTEMS Job Fair

QUETTA: The Humanity Welfare Foundation (HWF) desk at the BUTEMS Job Fair 2024 proved to be a resounding success, with an overwhelming response from students and young professionals eager to contribute to welfare society work.

The event, held at the BUTEMS campus, provided a platform for HWF to showcase its mission and objectives, and to connect with like-minded individuals who share its passion for creating positive social change.

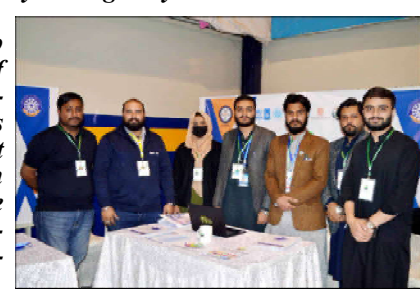


HWF extends special gratitude to the Honorable Governor of Balochistan and the Vice Chancellor of BUTEMS for their kind words and encouragement. Their support and recognition of HWF's mission have further strengthened our resolve to continue working towards creating a more compassionate and equitable society.

The BUTEMS Job Fair 2024 proved to be a pleasant day for HWF, and we look forward to continuing our collaboration with the university and its students to promote social welfare and community development initiatives.



"We are thrilled to see the enthusiasm and interest of students and young professionals in welfare society work," said a spokesperson for HWF. "Their eagerness to contribute to our cause is a testament to the growing awareness and commitment to social responsibility among the youth."



BUTEMS Job fair an excellent...

Continued from page 1

The Job Fair is in fact a joint project, which enables access of the industrialists and owners of different companies to the concerned experts and talented manpower. This also provides opportunities of jobs and economic growth to the graduating students, he added.

He said that all the parties means academy, industry and students are benefitted from the joint project which is aimed at strengthening cooperation between academy and industry.

He stressed that all students of the University should fully benefit from this important event.

He exhorted the students to ask questions, connect them

with the companies and make their bright future safe.

The Governor appreciated all the companies, industries and other institutions on their participation in Job Fair saying that they are ready to provide opportunities of livelihood to the youth and get their services.

He also praised the untiring efforts of Vice Chancellor of BUTEMS and his team for creating venture between the academia and industry.

Earlier, the Governor visited all the stalls set up in the Job Fair. He distributed commemorative shields among representatives of the industry sector and organizers of the event.

Genuine issues...

Continued from page 1

of law and order was discussed at the level of Prime Minister and Apex committee.

Regarding the kidnapping of 10-year old child, Muhammad Musawwar, Chief Minister said that he is personally grieved over the issue saying that abduction of a child is really sorrowful and painful.

He said that dharna is right of the family members of kidnapped child, but dharna is causing disturbance to the general public, he added.

He said that the issue of kidnapping of child is being politicized, which is not good as it can pose threat to his life.

He assured that the issue would be taken to logical end and kidnapped child would be recovered safely.

Referring the border trade, Mr. Bugti said that we fully encourage the legal trade, but smuggling can't be termed legal trade.

PM Shahbaz for firm decisions to end...

Continued from page 1

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. These miscreants had become the permanent enemies of Pakistan's progress. But after restoration of peace, the PSE rallied and crossed the earlier figure, he said, adding the trend in business was like a flight of a soaring bird and investments poured in where the peace and opportunities existed.

The prime minister regretted that such like dangerous trend of upheaval and attacks was set by a party of troublemakers as it was not visible prior to the year 2014, because none of the political parties had ever thought of mounting attacks on the federal capital. During 2014, Chinese President Xi's visit to Pakistan was postponed due to 126 days sit-in by the same figures and their leadership created mess and used foul language, which was still haunting their minds, he added.

The prime minister also referred to the launching of protest on the eve of SCO heads of government summit in Islamabad, which had prompted concerns among a number of heads of close friendly countries about their visit to host Pakistan.

He also criticized staging of protest by the same party during a visit by the delegation of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The prime minister said the mischief makers had also injured and killed security personnel during the recent attack. No patriotic or even a resident of the country could imagine to harm the country for personal interests and could go to such extreme of damaging the country.

He opined that the law and constitution ensured right for a peaceful protest.

About the recent visit of President of Belarus, the prime minister said that they were taking decisions to enhance bilateral ties and cooperation between the two countries and on the other hand, there were scenes of battles.

A number of Rangers and police personnel were martyred whereas dozens others were injured, he added.

The prime minister said that they could no longer waste their energies to tackle these spectacles on daily basis and stressed to ponder as to why the country was still mired in foreign debts even after passage of 77 years.

He also viewed that if the culprits of 9th May riots were given exemplary punishment by the courts, such like spectacles would not have happened.

The prime minister also appreciated the Islamabad, Punjab, Sindh police force and other law enforcement agencies for quelling the fresh wave of attack and particularly thanked the chief of army staff for his cooperation with regard to law and order situation.

He said that in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the terrorists and insurgency was on the rise while in Kurram, dozens of people were killed, but instead focusing on the law and order situation there, the provincial government had left the residents in the lurch and led an armed attack on Islamabad.

The prime minister said that the provincial government of KP did not pay heed to the hardships of the poor people but instead indulged in foul language and hurled threats against the federal government.

The recent mayhem had caused Rs190 billion daily damages to the country's economy adversely affecting country's exports and imports, he said, adding for the personal interests, their leadership was damaging the country's interests which is a bigger crime and will not be forgiven.

He said that today's meeting had only one point agenda that was to discuss the situation seriously emerging after repeated assaults by a party as they could no longer sap their energy and resources in confronting them.

Pakistan reports 56th WPV1 case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health (NIH) has confirmed the detection of the 56th wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) case of 2024 from the country.

On Wednesday, the lab confirmed the case from D.I.Khan where a male child is affected. This is the seventh polio case of the year from D.I.Khan, one of the seven polio endemic districts of southern KP.

Police repulse attack by terrorists on check post

DERA GHAZI KHAN

(APP): The law enforcement agencies successfully repulsed a cowardly late night attack by over two dozen Khwarij terrorists on Likhani police check post, an inter-provincial checking point on Punjab-KPK boundary in DG Khan.

A police spokesman said in a statement on Wednesday that around 25-30 terrorists were spotted around the check post through thermal image cameras. They were armed with rocket, hand grenades and other weapons, and attacked the post from four directions. However, their attack was repulsed by timely response by police using machine and mortar guns. The joint counter-offensive by police, Rangers, Elite Force and CTD inflicted heavy losses and casualties on terrorists and forced them to escape.

The operation was carried out under the command of Regional Police Officer (RPO) DG Khan Captain (retd) Sajjad Hassan Khan while back-up teams of Elite Force and ORF, operating under the command of DPO Syed Ali, had reached the spot immediately. The spokesman said all check posts on Punjab-KPK boundary in DG Khan were in a high state of alert and LEAs bravely thwarted the attack. IGP Punjab Dr Usman Anwar commended the teams that repulsed the terrorists attack and announced to award galantry medals, appreciation certificates and cash awards to all the staff deployed at the check post.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-242511596483 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The EXEC ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIV: DERA BUGTI invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates Tender Fee Rs.1000/- and Bid Security 2%

| S.No | Name of Works | E/Cost |
|------|--|--------|
| 1 | IMPROVEMENT OF WHELFLOOD IRRIGATION 486,365,100 SCHEME TESHIL PHELAWAGH DISTRICT DERA BUGTI. | |

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 1 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 340,455,570 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-3 and above (Upto 500 million) In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE04(ii) (Irrigation & Flood Control Systems), CE04(iii) (dams only), CE04(v) (Irrigation Only). The bidder must have completed 1 No Similar Nature Scheme in the last 5 years. The bidder must have 1 No of Similar Nature Scheme in hand. The Bidder must provide Green challan of Rs.1000 from the National Bank of Pakistan. The Bidder must provide CDR or Bank Guarantee of 2%. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 12 December, 2024 till 10:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 11:00 AM on EPPS System Address: Irrigation Department Dera Bugti Phone no: 0835410564 Fax no: 03456070155 Email: nisarahmedmughenr650@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION DERA BUGTI

PRQ No.2109/27-11-2024



Pakistan Navy Ship ZULFIQUAR conducting Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the Republic of Korea Navy Ship WANG GEON in the North Arabia Sea.

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.



Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi visiting F-8 Exchange Chowk Interchange Project

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-

name' (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 no 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.

Warn against false allegations 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 the university's satisfactory responses to each one, said a press release.

The resolution emphasized that UAJK has a robust system of checks and balances in place. If any current or retired employee feels aggrieved, they are encouraged to seek redress through appropriate forums, including the university syndicate.

MNA blames PTI for violating law, order near D-Chowk

ISLAMABAD (APP): Member National Assembly of Pakistan Muslim League-N, Bilal Azhar Kiyani on Wednesday blamed the supporters and workers of Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI), for violating law and order situation near D-Chowk. Ali Amin Gandapur had brought official machinery of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to sabotage peaceful environment of the federal capital, he said while talking to a private television channel.

Many armed men including Afghan people have found participating in the rally of PTI last day. Chief Minister Gandapur should utilize the official resources.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Barrister Danyal Chaudhry 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.

"No political party has the right to harm people," he warned.

The government showed restraint, while they brought people with them by inciting them, Danyal Chaudhry said.



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

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 cooperation between Somalia and COMSTECH in the fields of science, technology, health, and education. COMSTECH also plans to organize another eye surgery camp in Somalia.

lia in 2025, as part of its continued commitment to improving healthcare in the region.

Additionally, both sides agreed to enhance cooperation 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 education. Ambassador Ibrahim thanked Dr. Choudhary and COMSTECH for their ongoing cooperation and support for Somalia's development in Science and Technology.

During the meeting, Ambassador Ibrahim congratulated Dr. Choudhary on his reappointment as Coordinator General of COMSTECH and expressed appreciation for the ongoing collaboration between Somalia and COMSTECH.



ISLAMABAD: CDA workers busy in cleaning the area following PTI protest in the Federal Capital.

954 suspects arrested, over 200 vehicles seized; says IGP

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 impounding 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

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 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.



ISLAMABAD: IGP and other officials at a press conference.

Project launched for capacity building training of QEC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC), via its flagship World Bank supported project Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP), has focused on improving the quality of teaching and learning in decentralized higher education institutions i.e. Affiliated Colleges (AC) and Affiliating Universities (AUs) by establishing quality enhancement units. These tertiary level institutions are often resource starved and need continuous support.

The Quality Enhancement Cells in Affiliated Colleges (QECACs) within the

Quality Enhancement Cells (QEC) in affiliating universities aim at supporting the colleges affiliated with them. The QECACs oversee various aspects of the quality of education imparted at affiliated colleges e.g., faculty, evaluation system and curriculum etc. It is the responsibility of these universities to ensure the quality of the education of the programs authorized in their affiliated colleges, said a press release issued here Wednesday. The QECACs also periodically assess all academic activities being undertaken by colleges and develop self-assessment reports.

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. Shafaqat 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 penalists 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.

Naqvi directs immediate shifting of injured ASP to Lahore

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday directed for the immediate shifting of injured ASP Muhammad Aleem to Lahore for better medical treatment.

ASP Muhammad Aleem was severely injured in the eye due to stone-pelting by miscreants and was admitted to PIMS Hospital.

Interior Minister said that every possible effort will be made to save ASP Muhammad Aleem's eye from damage. He directed that the injured ASP be shifted to one of the best private hospitals in Lahore for treatment.

IHC rejects DG NADRA's plea against degree cancellation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday rejected the petition of Zulfiqar Ahmed, the Director General of NADRA, against cancellation of his equivalent degree by Higher Education Commission (HEC). The court said that the petition is not as per the merit. Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani heard the case and issued six-page written order into the matter.

It said that the court has given several opportunities to the petitioner after arguments on the report of concern university.



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 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.

How twin cities' shopkeepers speak in codes to outsmart buyers

ISLAMABAD / RAWALPINDI (APP): If you're a regular customer in the markets of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, you've probably overheard covert phrases being spoken by salesmen among themselves and most common echoed word is "Bulla". It's a term that, at first glance, seems out of place but to the seasoned salesmen it is a code for any buyer. It's the gateway to a world of coded language and hidden tactics.

The sales representatives, masters of their craft, speak in ciphers that seem like everyday chatter but are actually subtle signals meant to outsmart buyers. "Bulla Chokas hai" "Bulla Sohl or Kasso Kahr ha" and countless others, these phrases create a hidden mode of communication that keeps buyers unaware of the true game being played.

So, who created this market lingo? Where did it come from? According to many elderly shopkeepers, the origins are unclear. "It comes from our forefathers," says one elderly Pindi salesman. "We call it 'Batori,' a collection of self-created phrases from nowhere that no one outside the market understands." Most shopkeepers responded similarly to APP when asked whereabouts of these mysterious technical terms.

Though there's no official record of "Batori" in trade talk history, yet it continues to thrive in the streets of the twin cities and beyond.

Muhammad Afzal, a salesman with over 30 years of experience in Pindi, Islamabad's markets, who assisted APP in decoding these words, shares his insights with a grin. "This secretive set of slangs is

passed down like a sacred trade secret. Every newcomer to the market is taught as an initiation ritual."

Afzal revealing few more covert terms to this agency said there is an entire arsenal of latent words to deal with every kind of situation and buyer.

Like, "Bulla chokas ee khial rakhi," for example, roughly translates to, "This shopper is well-off, treat him with respect." The message is clear from the senior or the shop owner to make sure this person walks out with something expensive in their bag.

Conversely, if a client is just browsing, there's a code too, "Diwo ha aitch karo." It instructs a junior store associate to wrap it up and focus on more promising buyers.

"Bulla palsi aa" (The shopper is serious and will definitely buy).

"Chabbian lamtar dassisiko" (This regular visitor is accustomed to offer a low price; quote the highest to cover the profit margin). ("Chabbian" means amount and "lamtar" means high).

"This insider jargon is in decline, and young store associates aren't picking it up anymore. It's dying out, and at places like Saddar and Raja Bazaar, it's mostly the older folks who still use it," said Shafique Ahmed, a shopkeeper at Family Wear.

Faisal, a buyer at Aabpara's Club Shoes, responding to an APP inquiry about his understanding of this coded communication,

said, "I've heard some strange words before in the shops, but I thought it was just casual chatter between them. Never realized it could be a whole coded system."

This coded communication also raises ethical questions. Is it clever marketing or just manipulation? Some see it as part of the competitive market and a fair practice; others as deceiving buyers.

"It's like a hidden toolkit for understanding shoppers. Just a few words help us figure out the right approach, saving time and makes the job more rewarding as we are paid extra bucks for each deal, in addition to our salary," Mahroof and Farooq, two seasoned sales representatives in Commercial Market, Satellite Town, echoed in agreement while sharing their thoughts with this scribe.



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

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Independent

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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.

Rafia Zakaria

It is not news anymore that women live in a moment where male anger and violence is a constant threat. Everywhere in the world, women are being subjected to violence against their bodies, their minds, their families, and their livelihoods. According to the United Nations, which is currently commemorating 16 days of activism against gender violence, a woman or girl is intentionally killed every 10 minutes by a partner or family member. It is not surprising then that 60 per cent of femicides are committed by partners and relatives.

Further research shows that intimate partner violence causes enduring consequences, such as acute and chronic conditions, physical disabilities, persistent health complications, psychological conditions, and even mortality. It was reported some years ago, that this sort of violence leads to approximately two million injuries and 1,200 deaths in the US alone.

Death and beatings

are the most egregious forms of violence but some emphasis must also be put on all other forms of violence that are daily and hourly lobbed at women from all sides. In Pakistan, death or physical violence is often held up as 'real' violence against women while other forms of violence are somehow considered permissible or are disregarded. Because physical violence is itself rampant in the country, women who face lesser forms of it are told to consider themselves lucky. Women who face verbal, financial and psychological abuse are told that they are not abused at all.

The truth is that many non-physical forms of violence can cause just as much and just as enduring harm as physical forms of violence. Often, these forms of violence can be even more insidious because they are not very visible to others and can therefore continue unchecked for very long periods of time. Emotional and psychological abuse refers to the emotional distress caused to an individual through ver-

bal aggression, threatening behaviour, intimidation, or coercive tactics that abusers use to exert control, instil fear, and undermine the self-worth of their victims.

Unfortunately, there is no standard definition of psychological abuse but it can be understood as intended to belittle and humiliate the victim and to take away their dignity so that they do not protest against continuing abuse. Arguably, in almost all cases, this form of abuse is a precursor to other forms of domestic violence.

One example of this sort of abuse manifests itself in damaging objects belonging to the victim or infusing toxicity into the environment around the victim as a way of frightening and mentally torturing her.

Take, for instance, an angry husband who proceeds to throw out all of his wife's clothes from an apartment balcony onto the street below. While this is not causing any immediate physical harm to the woman, it is a way of belittling and harming her psychologi-

cally and in front of the neighbourhood.

Another case may be one of isolation where the abuser gets so angry every time the victim leaves home to visit her own relatives that she stops making such visits altogether. This isolates the victim so that the abuser can control her sense of reality, thus increasing the extent of control he exercises over her.

Coercive control, then, is a way of controlling the environment, resources and sense of physical, psychological and emotional security of a victim in a way that she can be manipulated into doing just what the abuser wants. Some emotional and psychological abuse is obvious such as name-calling, hurling abuses, isolating the victim, jealousy, monitoring locations, stalking, controlling the victim's appearance, public humiliation, accusations of unfaithfulness, blaming the victim for the abuser's actions, gaslighting, or damaging belongings. All these create an environment of coercive control where otherwise benign actions are

weaponised to create a web that traps the victim in the abuser's realm of control.

Although everyone knows that physical beatings are abuse and that abusers have become adept at hiding evidence of them, there needs to be more discussion of these other forms of abuse in Pakistani society. While women are the primary focus of marital or intimate partner abuse, all women in a household are vulnerable and face violence at home.

These include older women particularly if they are infirm, disabled or are ill. And as the gruesome case of 10-year-old Sara Sharif, murdered by her Pakistani father in the UK reveals, young female children are just as vulnerable to abuse at home.

Even if women — daughters, wives, mothers, and sisters — do not end up dead they bear the scars of the abuse that haunts their lives. Pakistani women are tough — they have to be in such a patriarchal society — but increasingly, their emotional lives are buried un-

der the weight of scar tissue left by near-constant onslaught of abuse at the hands of the men in their lives.

This means that they are unable to freely enjoy the simple joys that make life worth living — for instance, being able to celebrate their own and their children's successes, without worrying about repercussions, or being able to call a friend and visit a parent without having to worry about the explanations that would have to be handed to a jealous and abusive spouse and in-laws.

Life in Pakistan is already full of stresses, but the addition of social sanction and approval for this sort of treatment of women and a gross ignorance of all these forms of coercive control that are flourishing unchecked is a ghastly reality. The women who die are killed in one fell swoop and robbed of all the potential within life; the women who are left alive die a thousand cuts, their spirit gone before their body perishes. -- Courtesy Dawn

On a collision course

Zahid Hussain

A panicking administration is desperately trying to prevent raging crowds from storming the capital, breaking through all the barriers on their way. For the past several days, Islamabad has been in a virtual state of lockdown with containers blocking the main arteries. Most of Punjab's motorways and highways were closed to stop the marchers.

Yet all those measures seemed to have failed. The rampaging multitudes broke through the siege and entered the city. The army has been called in after a night of violence that left security personnel dead and wounded.

According to reports, the troops have been given shoot-on-sight orders, as the situation is slipping from the hands of the civil administration. Troop deployment is generally seen as the last resort to prevent a looming collapse.

It may not be the first time in the country that the army has been called in to act in aid of the civilian administration but never before has it faced

such a challenging situation in the capital. The decision will have its own repercussions, with the troops confronting a highly volatile crowd not willing to back down. It's a dangerous situation that may lead to a direct confrontation between the troops and protesters. What happens next is anybody's guess.

It is, perhaps, the most serious situation the country has faced of late. The worsening confrontation between the PTI-led opposition and the establishment-backed ruling coalition threatens to plunge the country into anarchy.

Tensions had been building up since the controversial Feb 8 elections, which deprived the PTI of its majority in the newly elected National Assembly. Moreover, the continued detention of former prime minister Imran Khan and several other senior leaders of the PTI, allegedly on fabricated charges, fuelled an already combustible situation.

But what is happening now has shaken the dispensation. It's true that the PTI has made several failed attempts to storm

the capital in the past but the intensity and ferocity of the latest march has come as a big surprise to even many of its supporters. The measures taken by the government to stop the angry protesters have failed. Even the use of brute force by the administration and the deployment of troops are unlikely to crush what has been described by the PTI leaders as the final onslaught.

It appears to have been a well-calculated move by Imran Khan to give the Nov 24 protest call when the ruling coalition, with the support of the security establishment, had pushed through some controversial changes in the Constitution, undermining judicial independence. The attempt to turn the apex court into an extension of the executive had also raised concerns in opposition ranks. For many, it was the end of hope of getting any relief from the tamed courts.

Scores of opposition leaders are languishing in prison without trial. Despite his getting bail from the courts on major charges, the government

has refused to release the former prime minister, framing new cases against him instead. The government's highhandedness has further infuriated his supporters. Imran Khan's call for the final protest galvanised not only his party supporters but also others who were unhappy with the security apparatus's growing influence.

Notwithstanding his flawed populist rhetoric, the incarcerated former prime minister is undoubtedly the most powerful political leader in the country. Perhaps, no other political leader in the country's history has enjoyed such wide support that cuts across the class divide. The Feb 8 elections when the people came out in large numbers to vote for unknown PTI-supported candidates, despite the fact that the party had been deprived of its symbol and not even allowed to campaign, was rightly described by some analysts as a revolution through the ballot.

Yet, massive manipulation kept the party out of power and a government with questionable le-

gitimacy was installed. All that has further enhanced Khan's support base as seen in the large turnout of protesters this week on his call. Although most of the marchers came from KP that is being ruled by the PTI, there has also been significant participation from other provinces.

Surely, the PTI's control in KP has massively boosted the party's political position, while the province's proximity to the capital has proved highly advantageous for the party in organising the march. But there has been sizeable participation from Punjab despite the closure of highways and the clampdown on party activists. The impressive show of strength by the party in Islamabad will also activate party supporters in the country's largest and most powerful province.

It is also a moment of reckoning for a fragile ruling alliance and the powers that be. Any move to crush the protest through brute force would have far-reaching political consequences. The government stands on a weak wicket. Panic underlies the bravado of some of the fed-

eral ministers. Not even the backing of those at the top can protect the political dispensation against the consequences of its doubtful legitimacy and vanishing support base.

Most worrisome, however, is that any direct confrontation between the protesters and the security forces could lead to a civil war-like situation with disastrous consequences for the safety and unity of the country. The troops are already fighting insurgents in KP and Balochistan and any clash with protesters in the capital could have serious consequences.

It is imperative that the security forces be withdrawn from the capital before the situation reaches a point of no return. Most importantly, it is the political forces that should be allowed to resolve the political crisis through negotiations. The onus lies mainly on the government to initiate talks with the opposition.

The government must realise that it cannot stay in power for long without a public mandate. It cannot stand against the power of the people.

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 Azer-bai-jan, 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-Kara-bakh. 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 to

wards compensating 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 disinherit, 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 emotions of morality, nationalism and religion ap-

pealing 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 diaspora 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

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."



HYDERABAD: Federal Minister of Education & Professional and Training Science & Technology Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui inaugurating Hyderabad Institute of Technology and Management Sciences at Kohsar.

Dr Khalid inaugurates Institute of Technology and Management Sciences

HYDERABAD (APP): Chairman MQM Pakistan and Federal Minister for Education Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui has said that the constitution and law allow protests, but not violence. He made these remarks during his speech at the inaugural ceremony of the Hyderabad Institute of Technology and Management Sciences here on Wednesday, which he said was a long-awaited dream and demand of the people of Hyderabad, now realized.

Addressing the gathering, Dr Siddiqui highlighted the significance of education, calling it a right, not charity. He stated, "The establishment of this university in

Hyderabad is a historic moment. This demand is before my age, and today we are fulfilling it." He went on to stress the importance of the youth, calling them the country's most valuable asset.

"The world is changing rapidly, and no scientist or futurist can predict what it will look like in the coming years. If we do not act in the next five years, artificial intelligence and biotechnology will bring about profound changes," he said and added that why Hyderabad city got this university after 70 years, is also a question, education is a fundamental right, not charity, and we have taken this right.



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 join him in Kurram 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.

He extended an invitation to the Chief Minister, as well as to all political parties, to participate in this conference, which he believed could help find a

resolution to the security challenges in the province.

Governor Kundi also discussed humanitarian efforts in Kurram.

"Red Crescent is actively assisting the victims of the violence. However, he expressed disappointment with the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), which had requested assistance but claimed to have no resources to offer," he mentioned.

The Governor emphasized the need for full implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) to address security concerns nationwide.

PTI should wait for 2029 election: Nasir

SUKKUR (APP): Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi, who controlled the situation with tolerance. He said that people have been misled through social media, now the situation is in front of everyone. How many people from Sindh, Punjab, and Balochistan went to Islamabad, Sukkur is such a big city, how many people from here went to Islamabad, he added.

Minister Shah said that PTI hired people for attacking Islamabad which also include foreign national and terrorists. The minister said that all the resources of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are being spent on spreading chaos in the country.

He was of opinion that country is moving forward in terms of progress, so let the country develop and advised PTI to wait for 2029 for general election. If these people continue to make such moves, they'll have no future, the minister added.

He praised the role of

Minister Shah said that PTI members were giving the impression that Imran Khan would be taken out of jail and would take oath at the Prime Minister's House, but nothing of the sort happened.

He expressed these views while talking to the media at Sukkur Press Club on Wednesday. The Minister said that PTI members were giving the impression that Imran Khan would be taken out of jail and would take oath at the Prime Minister's House, but nothing of the sort happened.

He praised the role of



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

Shah inaugurates fashion design studios & distributes scholarship cheques

SUKKUR (APP): Member of the National Assembly (MNA), Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah inaugurated the state-of-the-art Fashion Design Studios, marking a significant milestone in the Aror University of Arts, Fashion and Design Sukkur, said a release on Wednesday.

Addressing the event MNA Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah praising university's efforts in promoting education and creativity in the region. He emphasized the importance of such institutions in empowering the youth of Sindh and beyond.

The Vice Chancellor of Aror University, Prof. Dr. Zahid Hussain Khand, in his address focused on the importance of such initiatives for the community, fostering talent and promoting entrepreneurship.

particularly in the field of Fashion Design & Arts.

The Distribution of Scholarship Cheques and Research Awards took place, recognizing outstanding students and faculty for their academic achievements and contributions.

This gesture further reinforces Aror University's mission to support and motivate its students, helping them reach new heights.

Later, souvenirs were presented to the MNA as a gesture of respect for his unwavering support in uplifting Aror University to the status of a state-of-the-art institution.

The event wrapped up with a delightful dinner accompanied by live music, providing guests with an opportunity to celebrate the occasion and network in an informal setting.



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

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 martyred

through mercenary terrorists.

They had come to D Chowk to collect bodies of Rangers and Police. In 2014 they had too 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.

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."

In his address, Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Aqif Anwar Chaudhry highlighted the importance of integrating scientific research with the socio-economic needs of society.

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.

Furthermore, he reported that target offenders have also been arrested by the Lahore police. The arrests include 1,684 target offenders in the Cantt Division, 702 in Civil Lines, 3,289 in the City Division, 1,572 in Iqbal Town, 1,564 in Saddar and 1,102 in the Model Town Division, he added.

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.

The court while directing the counsel to complete the arguments regarding bail adjourned the hearing of the case till December 10. Yasmin Rashid has filed bail pleas in two cases of torching police vehicles in the chowk near Jinnah House.



LARKANA: Commissioner of Larkana Division Ghulam Mustafa Phull along with Regional Director Colleges Professor Altaf Hussain Abro, Principal Professor Samina Naz Abro and other inaugurating the Steam Exhibition Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics at Begum Nusrat Bhutto Government Girls Degree College.

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.

24,266 Hajj applications received under govt scheme

LAHORE (APP): The number of Hajj applications under the government scheme have reached 24,266.

Punjab Religious Affairs Department sources told APP that the collection of Hajj applications under the government scheme has accelerated. Hajj applications are being received in designated branches of 15 banks in the country.

They further informed APP that the first installment of Hajj expenses of Rs.2 lakh will be deposited with the application, while another Rs.4 lakh will have to be deposited within 10 days of the draw.

According to the sources, 4,000 applications were received only on Tuesday, bringing the total number of Hajj applications to 24,266. The collection of Hajj applications will continue till December 3, and the draw for the government Hajj scheme will be held on December 6.

Court adjourns hearing of Punjab Assembly illegal recruitment case till Dec 11

LAHORE (APP): An anti-corruption court on Wednesday adjourned the hearing of the Punjab Assembly illegal recruitment case till December 11.

Anti-Corruption Court Judge Sardar Muhammad Iqbal Dogar conducted the proceedings, where the accused, who are currently on bail, appeared to mark their attendance. However, former chief minister Punjab Chaudhry Parvez Elahi was absent from the hearing, while co-

accused Muhammad Khan Bhatti could not be produced due to security concerns amid the prevailing law and order situation. During the proceedings, a counsel representing Parvez Elahi submitted an exemption request, citing his client's health condition and medical advice to rest. The court accepted the request and postponed the hearing.

The case, registered by the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) Punjab.



KARACHI: All KMC, TMCs Retired Employees and Pensioners Alliance are protesting in front of the KMC office on MA Jinnah Road for payment of dues.

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.

Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare, Khawaja Imran Nazir, reiterated the project's significance, calling it a milestone not just for Punjab but for the entire country. He outlined the hospital's advanced facilities, including radiotherapy, chemotherapy, endoscopy, and more, and expressed hope that it would set a benchmark as the most modern cancer hospital in the public sector. He also mentioned Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's keen interest in ensuring the hospital's early completion. The meeting extensively discussed the procurement of advanced cancer treatment machinery and the establishment.

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 (Rs.2,500 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.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in a group photo with delegation of the Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry Lahore Division at the Governor House.

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.

FPCCI, CCIs hails Tashkent, Lahore direct flight starting from November 29th

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) from different regions on Wednesday declared the direct flight from Tashkent (Uzbekistan) to Lahore on November 29th as significant for the bilateral economic ties between the two brotherly countries.

The national airline of Uzbekistan, 'Uzbek Airways,' will land at Lahore Airport from Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, on Friday, November 29 at 9:00 a.m. and will start its direct flight operation, and this weekly flight operation is likely to be increased in the coming months.

The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and other business bodies have hailed the commencement of a direct air link between

Pakistan and Uzbekistan on November 29 as it would help to enhance bilateral economic cooperation.

It would prove to be useful in forging bilateral business and economic integration with the Central state of the Central Asian region, Uzbekistan and other Central Asian states, President of, Federation Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Atif Ikram Sheikh, said while talking to APP here.

President FPCCI said one flight in a week from Tashkent, the industrial hub of Central Asian States, to Lahore, would help enhance economic and trade activities and regional economic integration. Atif Ikram said the Uzbekistan embassy in Islamabad deserved appreciation for playing a significant role in the launch of a direct air link between Uzbekistan and Pakistan.



PESHAWAR: A vendor displaying old woolies to attract the customers in the Hashtnagri area.

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. He said that people could also apply through the app by writing the PLC (space) ID card number in the message from their mobile and send it to 8070.

For more information, the nearest animal hospital or department can be contacted on 080009211, he added.

Public hearings continue across LESCO region

LAHORE (APP): A series of open courts is being conducted in the LESCO region with the aim of solving problems faced by the consumers in electricity bills and other matters immediately.

Chief Executive Engineer Shahid Haider said here Wednesday that public/customers hearings are being conducted in all eight circles of LESCO. The public is also being informed about this in advance through the media and other sources.

All the SDOs, along with their teams, are ensuring regular holding of open court in their subdivisions on a daily basis.



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.

WAPDA chairman reviews construction progress on K-IV Project

LAHORE (APP): Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) Chairman Engr. Lt-Gen (ret'd) 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. Financial progress, as well as the funding required to complete the project on schedule, were also discussed. With the cumulative progress currently at 52.65 percent, the phase I of the project is scheduled for completion in June 2026.

Finance Minister chairs a special meeting of ECC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Wednesday chaired a special meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, Minister for Power Sardar Awaiz Ahmed Khan Leghari, Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervaiz Malik (virtual),

federal secretaries, and senior officers from concerned ministries and departments.

The meeting reviewed the implementation status of various earlier policy decisions of the ECC concerning matters related to finance, interior, industries and production, inter-provincial coordination, housing and works, food security and research, power, national health services regulation and coordination.

The ECC was briefed on the overall implementation status of its past decisions followed by separate presentations

by the relevant ministries on the current status of the issues, pending with them and the steps taken and required to get a closure on them.

The ECC noted with concern the delays in the implementation of its decisions and directed the concerned ministries to improve their coordination and work with stakeholder ministries and divisions proactively through a proper escalation mechanism to ensure a timely compliance and completion of the tasks and responsibilities assigned to them for implementation of the ECC's decisions.

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.

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. The board also approved the minutes of its 46th meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Provincial Minister Chaudhry Shafay Hussain said that Punjab had been transformed into a hub for business activities.



KARACHI: President of the Pakistan Eye Bank Society, Qazi Sajid Ali, presenting memento during celebrate the prestigious elevation of Mian Abrar Ahmed, Former President of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as Vice Chairman of the Businessman Group (KCCI) during ceremony.

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-member delegation of businessmen.

The delegation

consisted on SCCI's 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 Fuaed Azeem, Aftab Iqbal, Nadeem Rauf, former senior vice president Imran Khan Mohmand, Affaf Ali Khan, Syed Ejaz Ali Shah, along with a large number traders and shopkeepers attached with various businesses. Traders apprehensions regarding unannounced electricity, gas loadshedding, imposition of 2 percent provincial cess on export.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Agriculture & Livestock Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani witnessing the signing ceremony between tractor manufacturing industry and the Agriculture Department. Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture Usama Khan Laghari and Secretary Agriculture Iftikhar Ali Sahoo are also present.

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.

Political instability hampers economic growth: Iftikhar Malik

LAHORE (APP): SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President, Iftikhar Ali Malik has said that Pakistan with its vast potential, cannot afford the politics of protest and confrontation that hinder progress and undermine economic growth.

In a statement issued here on Wednesday, he said political instability

disrupts industrial activities, hampers economic development and deters both local and foreign investments, adding that prolonged protests lead to sabotaging friendly business environment, tumbles down supply chains and public services, exacerbating economic challenges in an already fragile economy.



LAHORE: A vendor displaying winter stuff (Warm Caps, Gloves and socks) to attract the customers on his handcart in the city.

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 tonnes during the last fiscal year.

On a year-on-year

basis, the seafood exports increased by 12.78 percent to \$46.009 million in October 2024 as compared to the exports of \$40.797 million in October 2023.

In terms of quantity, the exports witnessed a 27.93 percent increase by going up from 16,724 metric tonnes last October to 21,395 metric tonnes during October 2024.

On a month-on-month basis, the seafood exports inclined by 31.45 percent when compared to the exports of \$35,000 million in September 2024, according to the PBS data.

In terms of quantity, fish exports increased by 35.57 percent in October 2024 compared to the exports of 15,781 metric tonnes in September 2024.

Women Chambers establishment in remote areas would contribute women empowerment: Governor

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has said that performance of women in various fields including business and politics is commendable but Bushra Bibi is tarnishing women's politics.

Talking to a delegation of the Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry Lahore Division at the Governor's House here on Wednesday, he said women have an important role in the development and progress of the country and they have become an important part of the

society not only in their families but also in their professional careers.

"The Women's Chamber Lahore Division is playing an important role in highlighting the business capabilities of women and ensuring their representation in business sector, the Governor said.

He further said that the establishment of Women Chambers in remote districts would contribute to women empowerment.

The Governor Punjab said improvement in the country's economy and the

interest of foreign investors bodes well for a prosperous Pakistan.

Commenting on the killing of Rangers and police personnel by miscreants during the Islamabad protest, he said that peaceful protests are the right of every political party, but violent incidents against law enforcement agencies under the guise of protests are in no way right.

He said that loss of precious lives of Rangers and police personnel by miscreants during the PTI protest is very sad and condemnable.

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 ignited 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 francinfo 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.

Some cars waved Lebanese flags, others honked, and one woman could be seen flashing the victory sign with her fingers.



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

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 demanded 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.

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 USAF 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 De-

velopment Berhad (1MDB), 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 1MDB 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.

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-Tabaen 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 Lahiya 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.

Iran-backed 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.

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.



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen speaks on the day of a plenary session of the European Parliament, before a vote to approve the new European Commission, in Strasbourg, France.

Far-right minister says Israel should halve Gaza's population

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM/VIUGGI: Far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich has said Israel should occupy the Gaza Strip and halve its Palestinian population by encouraging "voluntary emigration".

"We can and must conquer the Gaza Strip, we should not be afraid of that word," Smotrich said late Monday at an event organised by the Yesha Council, an umbrella group representing Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank.

"There is no doubt that in Gaza — with the encouragement of voluntary emigration — there is here, in my opinion, a unique opportunity that is opening up with the new administration," the minister said, referring to Donald Trump's recent re-election.

"We can create a situation in which, within two years, the population of Gaza will be reduced by half," Smotrich said.

Smotrich leads the ultranationalist Religious Zionism party and has courted controversy with his comments in recent months. In August, he triggered international uproar by suggesting it would be justified to starve two million Gazans to free Israeli prisoners in the Palestinian territory. On Nov 14, a Human Rights Watch report alleged that Israel's mass displacement of Gazans amounted to a "crime against humanity", a claim which Israel dismissed as "completely false".

"I came here at 0630 (0430 GMT) but the queue was long. Previously in 2019 I didn't experience this," said Tuna Alweendo, a teacher.

"The majority of the young people feel like they want to be involved in politics, they want to bring change to their country. Perhaps that has motivated them to say, let's go out (and) vote," she said.

SWAPO has governed the southern African nation since leading it to independence from apartheid South Africa in 1990. Its presidential candidate, Vice President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, would be the country's first female leader if she wins.

Political analysts said there is a possibility SWAPO will be ousted by youth fed up with high un-

employment, inequality and corruption allegations, although longstanding loyalty to the party among older and rural voters could help it pull through.

Polls opened at 0700 local time (0500 GMT) but some voters had been in place since the night before.

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300 Afghan reporters suffer rights breaches: UN

Monitoring Desk
KABUL: More than 300 Afghan journalists have suffered rights breaches since the Taliban surged back to power in 2021, a United Nations report said on Tuesday, documenting dozens of cases of torture and arbitrary arrest.

Afghanistan's media sector has dramatically shrunk under three years of Taliban government, while international monitors have criticised Kabul's new rulers for allegedly trampling reporters' rights.

Research by the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and its Geneva-based Human Rights Office said journalists and media outlets "operate under an environment of censorship and tight restrictions".

William Hague elected new Oxford chancellor

Monitoring Desk
CAPE TOWN: British former Conservative party leader and ex-foreign secretary William Hague was elected as the University of Oxford's 160th chancellor on Wednesday, after four rounds of voting.

The career politician and member of the House of Lords who graduated from Oxford in 1982 will now lead the prestigious university in the largely ceremonial post that has been occupied continuously since 1224.

The result dashed hopes that the university would elect its first woman chancellor in the role's 800-year history, with Hague's final round opponent Elish Angiolini garnering 11,006 votes, compared to his 12,609.



Workers remove debris from an apartment building that was damaged during a Russian drone strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kyiv.

Philippine VP labelled 'mastermind' of assassination plot

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: The Philippines justice department on Monday labelled Vice President Sara Duterte the "mastermind" of a plot to assassinate the country's president, giving her five days to respond to a subpoena.

Duterte is being asked to explain herself in the wake of a blistering weekend press conference where she said she had instructed that President Ferdinand Marcos be killed should an alleged plot to kill her succeed. "The government is

taking action to protect our duly elected president," Justice Undersecretary Jesse Andres said at a Monday press briefing.

"The premeditated plot to assassinate the president as declared by the self-confessed mastermind will now face legal consequences." Speaking to reporters an hour later, Duterte said she planned to respond to the subpoena. "I will gladly answer the questions they want to ask, but they must answer my questions as well."

Bangladesh arrests 6 after lawyer murdered in Hindu protests

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Bangladeshi police have arrested six people in connection with the murder of a lawyer during clashes between Hindu protesters and security forces, the government said on Wednesday.

Another 21 people have been arrested "for vandalism and assaults on police" during the violence on Tuesday in the port city of Chittagong, the government statement said.

Angry supporters of outspoken Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari — arrested a day earlier on charges connected to disrespecting the national flag during a rally

— battled with police on Tuesday after he was denied bail. Protesters hurled rocks as security forces fired tear gas canisters, and police said a public prosecutor was killed in the chaos, naming him as Saiful Islam Alif, a Muslim. Religious relations have been turbulent in the Muslim-majority nation of 170 million people since a student-led August revolution forced long-time autocratic prime minister Sheikh Hasina to flee to India.

Brahmachari is the spokesman of a newly-formed Hindu group leading protests calling for the protection of the Hindu minority.

Eight migrants drowned 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. Greece, in the southeast corner of the European Union, has long been a favoured gateway to Europe for migrants and refugees from the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

More than one million crossed from Turkey to Greece's outlying eastern islands in 2015-2016. Many have drowned while attempting the perilous journey on flimsy boats. The number of arrivals later dropped before surging again last year. Greek Shipping Minister Christos Stylianides said Greece's priority was to put an end to human trafficking networks which were putting profits above the lives of innocent people.

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.

Romania's top security body to discuss election after far-right success

Monitoring Desk
BUCHAREST: Romania's top security body will meet on Thursday to discuss possible risks to the country and its electoral process stemming from social media, the president's office said, after the far-right's shock win in the first round of a presidential ballot.

Having polled in single digits before Sunday's election first round, independent far-right politician Calin Georgescu, 62, surged to a bombshell victory that raised questions over how such a surprise had been possible.

He will face centrist contender Elena Lasconi in a run-off on Dec 8. Georgescu gained many votes from young voters and Romanians living abroad and his campaign was heavily driven by TikTok.

Romania's Supreme Defence Council would meet to analyse "possible risks to national security generated by the actions of state and non-state cyber parties," the president's office said in a statement. The Council is led by the president. Romania's National

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.

Audiovisual Council on Tuesday called on the European Commission to investigate the role TikTok played in the vote, due to what it said was "suspicious" manipulation of public opinion.

Council Vice President Valentin-Alexandru Jucan said it believed the platform's algorithms had amplified material favourable to a single candidate and that it had lacked transparency about who was sponsoring election content. A TikTok spokesperson dismissed such concerns.

"These... reports about the Romanian elections are inaccurate and misleading, as most candidates have established a TikTok presence and the winners campaigned on other digital platforms beyond ours," the TikTok spokesperson said.

The European Commission confirmed by email that it had received a request to launch a probe.

"If the Commission suspects a breach based on the evidence at our disposal, it can open proceedings to look into TikTok's compliance.



Police baton-charge protesting supporters of jailed Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari during a demonstration in Chittagong after a court denied his bail plea.

Service delivery system is not satisfactory even despite posting of 250,000 "babus" in Balochistan, says Chief Minister

Mir Sarfraz Bugti asserts hurdles are intolerable in affairs of public interest under garb of protest; directs to complete process of recruitments in Health Department

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has directed to the concerned authorities to complete the process of recruitments in the health department. He warned that stern action would be taken against those making recruitments or those being appointed against the merit.

He regretfully pointed out that some 250,000 government babus (clerks) are posted in the province, but the system of service delivery is not satisfactory. He said that the hurdles in the affairs of pub-

lic interest are intolerable at all under the garb of protest. He said that those having reservations on the reforms in the health sector may come and talk to us as our doors are open for them.

The Chief Minister was chairing a review meeting about performance of the Health department here at the CM's secretariat on Tuesday.

Those who were in attendance were included the Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Chief Secretary, Shaheel Qadir Khan, Secretary Health, Mujeebur

Rehman, Director General Health Services, Dr. Amin Khan Mandokhail.

The Chief Minister asserted that the results of comprehensive reforms should be seen on ground.

He said that 80 percent issues of people would be resolved with solution of the health and education related problems.

He stressed that the common men must benefit from the resources allocated for health sector. He on the occasion warned that stern action would be taken against those creating hurdles in way of reforms in the province.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti visiting different stalls during concluding ceremony of 7th Job Fair at BUTEMS.

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 co-

operation 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 adding that the Grand Mufti has consistently provided direction on issues of unity and modern challenges facing the Muslim Ummah.

He acknowledged the Grand Mufti's exemplary role in resolving conflicts and addressing pressing issues, stressing that the government and people of Pakistan greatly value his positive contributions.

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, ac-

curring 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 leaders 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.



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

President SCBA says: Interior minister should step down for issuing barbaric order against people

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Mian Rauf Atta has said the way Interior minister has issued order of barbarity and tyranny, we demand he should step down.

"Interior minister deliberately got taken the action against those who were there for protest for the sake of their constitutional right."

"As interior minister is not elected representative of people and he has been merely selected forthwith. It is our opinion that these matters could be resolved through talks."

It is our demand he should resign from his office as interior minister forthwith and some elected representative be appointed

on this post.

He has said with reference to Chief minister KP Ali Amin Gandapur he had brought Awami March and due to him law and order situation deteriorated in federal capital. He should also step down.

He went on to say the legal fraternity cannot close its eyes to loss of precious lives and basic rights of the injured persons during protest in Islamabad.

He demanded resignation from interior minister Mohsin Naqvi and chief minister KP Ali Amin Gandapur in communiqué issued on Wednesday.

Mian Rauf Atta said Bar has always raised voice for protection of basic rights and civilian supremacy.



HUB: Spokesman of President Asif Ali Zardari and Provincial Advisor for Industries issuing directives on applications of citizens at khuli kutchery.

Ahsan Iqbal criticizes CM KP for violating laws through official machinery

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday criticized the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur for violating laws in the public meeting by using official machinery.

Gandapur had utilized official resources to sabotage peace and business environment in the federal capital, he said while talking to a private television channel. The KP chief minister should utilize the

official machinery to maintain law and order situation in the provincial areas, he said. There is an urgent need to pay attention to the deteriorating situation in Parachinar, he said adding that CM KP should take immediate measures for controlling the law and order situation in some provincial parts.

In reply to a question about PTI protest demonstration near D-Chowk, he said PTI is responsible for damaging business environment across the country.

MoU signed to enhance living conditions for women

QUETTA (APP): A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Wednesday between Aurat Foundation (AF) and Inspector General (IG) Prisons Department at the IG Prisons Office Quetta.

The MoU was signed by Mr. Allauddin Khilji, Resident Director of Aurat Foundation, and Mr. Ishaque Zehri, Superintendent of Central Jail Quetta under the supervision of Malik Shuja Uddin Kasi, Inspector General of Prisons.

Allauddin Khilji and Ishaque Zehri said that the partnership aims to improve the living conditions and welfare of women and juvenile inmates in Quetta District Jail 2024-2025, with the financial support of Muslim Charity.



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

Normalcy returns to Islamabad: roads, shops reopen

ISLAMABAD (APP): Following a large-scale operation against protestors, life in the capital returned to normal on Wednesday with all major roads, highways and other areas are operational now.

The Srinagar Highway and 26 number bridge and Fateh Jang Road, as well as 26 number bridge and Fateh Jang Road, are now fully accessible. Commuters can also use Peshawar Road and Sangiani 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

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 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.



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.

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 Damir Mukhmetdinov, 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 re-

garding 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.

Furthermore, Ayaz Sadiq lamented the ongoing brutality and senseless violence in Palestine. Both sides expressed solidarity with the Palestinian People.

The parliamentary delegation led by Speaker Ayaz Sadiq is on an official visit to Moscow from 27th to 29th November 2024.

An initiative for empowerment of women: Government of Balochistan decides to provide pink scooters to female employees, students of province

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Balochistan government has decided to provide pink scooters to the female employees and students, as an initiative to empower women of the province.

As part of the decision, the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti gifted the pink scooters to a female student of Federal Government (FG) Degree Girls College namely Tahira Arif and a lady police constable.

Speaking on the occasion of handing over the

pink scooters to the female student and lady constable, Chief Minister said that the scooters would be provided to the female students of universities, colleges and secondary schools in the province. He said that the implementation on the policy regarding pink scooters scheme would be started soon after its formulation.

He said that we want to make the women and students of province self-reliant and confident. He also said that we are determined

to provide wholehearted opportunities to the women of Balochistan in all sectors of life.

Referring the appointment of women on the administrative positions in the province, Chief Minister said that at present five female Deputy Commissioners are posted in different districts of the province.

He said that the female Deputy Commissioners have been performing excellent administrative service in the province.

Aimal Wali criticizes PTI leadership for exploiting workers

PESHAWAR (APP): Awami National Party (ANP) President Aimal Wali Khan held the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership accused of deliberately keeping it's leader in jail to maintain their grip on power.

Speaking at a press conference here Aimal, criticized PTI leaders for risking workers' lives for their ulterior motives and political ambitions.

He deplored that PTI leaders left workers in danger during protests, but abandon them when the situation escalates.

The ANP chief further stated that no harm has come to any PTI's member of Parliament during protests, as the leadership strategically uses ordinary workers to confront police.

He urged the KP government to focus on improving security in the province rather than engaging in adventures.

Chairman PCP flays attack on media houses, journalists by PTI protesters

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Press Council of Pakistan (PCP), M Arshad Khan Jadoon, has strongly condemned the violent actions of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protesters against media houses and journalists, including the National Press Club (NPC), in Islamabad on Tuesday.

Expressing grave concern over the incidents, the chairman termed the attacks on media institutions and personnel as a blatant violation of press freedom and journalistic integrity. "No one will be allowed to intimidate or harm media professionals or institutions under any circumstances," he stated.

The attack saw a group of 50 to 60 protesters attempting to forcibly enter the National Press Club. Reports indicate that they tried to breach one of the gates, harassed staff, and even scaled the walls of the premises.

149 out of 678 schools in Quetta found non-functional: 48 teachers found absent in 140 schools of Quetta; committee to take action against 25 chronic absentees

Independent Report
QUETTA: In all 48 teachers were found absent during visit to some 140 schools by the monitoring team in Quetta district. Out of them, 25 have been absent for last one or two years. About the absentee teachers, a committee has been formed, which would take action against them.

The necessary orders would be issued for dismissal of the chronic absentee teachers after necessary scrutiny.

This information was shared during a review meeting of District Educa-

tion Group chaired by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Muhammad Anwar Kakar here the other day.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Sariaab, District Treasury Officer, District Education Officers (Male and Female) Quetta, representatives of the RTCM and UNICEF besides other concerned officials.

The detailed report about the functional and non-functional schools as well as absentee teachers and other staff of Educa-

tion department was presented in the meeting.

It was informed that the RTCM visited some 140 middle and primary schools last month. Similarly, the report about 678 schools of Quetta was also presented in the meeting. These included 149 non-functional schools, it was informed further.

The names of these schools were submitted to the department for further action.

It was decided to deduct salary of the teachers found absent during visit of the RTCM.



QUETTA: Provincial President Jamaat-e-Islami Maulana Hidayatur Rehman talking with media men at protest camp for Baloch missing persons.

0.6 mln acres of land to be cultivated from Kachhi Canal: Umrani

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Minister for Irrigation Mir Sadiq Umrani on Wednesday said that 0.6 million acres of land would be cultivated with the completion of the Kachhi Canal to bring development and prosperity in green belt of Balochistan.

He expressed these views while talking to the media here. Provincial Irrigation Minister Mir Sadiq Umrani said that the federal government has been working on the Kachhi Canal for 24 years saying that 57,000 acres of land would be irrigated in Dera Bugti.

He said that he had met Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in this regard to address issues of farmers for enhancing of agriculture

sector.

He said that the provincial government is trying to increase the funds for the Kachhi Canal in the next financial year. The Minister noted that if this project is handed over to the provincial government and it would complete this project in two years.

He said that the livelihood of the people of Balochistan is depended on agriculture sector and thousands of farmers and landowners would be benefited from the completion of Kachhi Canal.

He said that the government is working to eliminate unemployment saying that in this regard, 30,000 skilled youth are being sent to Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Turkey and other countries.

Appointment of Dar as Dy PM challenged

LAHORE (Online): Appointment of deputy prime minister Ishaq Dar has been challenged in Lahore High Court (LHC).

Federal government and others have been made respondents in the petition filed in LHC.

The petition said there is no post of deputy prime minister in the constitution of Pakistan. Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif appointed Ishaq Dar as deputy prime minister in repugnant of constitution.

Record of cases against Qureshi presented in ATC

LAHORE (Online): Record of cases against PTI leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi has been presented in Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Lahore.

The hearing of the case was adjourned till December 11 due to non appearance of counsel for PTI leader.

Five cases of torching police vehicles in Mughal Pura, Zaman Park and in chowk near Jinnah house on May 9 against Shah Mehmood Qureshi came up for hearing in AC Lahore led by judge Manzar Ali Gill.



QUETTA: MPA Haji Malik Shah Gorgage, Chairman PAC Asghar Ali Tareen and others meeting with Senator Maulana Abdul Wasay.