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Four security personnel martyred during PTI protest

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

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

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Rangers have regained control of Islamabad's D-Chowk after beginning ar- protest for The Associrests and pushing back PTI protesters from the camera. He sustained head venue of the party's much-touted power show. A private tv channel report that PTI protesters began retreating from the site in the face of heavy teargas shelling and action by the authorities.

Protesters earlier gathered at the site for the party's protest to demand PTI founder Imran Khan's release, among other things, amid reports of intense tear gas shelling by security forces to curtail the large crowds. The PTI convoys have been plying roads countrywide since Sunday. here were blackouts in many areas of Islamabad, including D-Chowk, Jinnah Avenue, G6, G8 and G9.

Scores of people have

ing journalists who were attacked by demonstrators, as dozens of PTI supporters beat a videographer covering the ated Press and took his injuries and was treated in

a hospital. Earlier the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) convoy, led by Bushra Bibi, the wife of Imran Khan, is approaching Islamabad's Zero Point, which has been taken under the control of

Pakistan Army soldiers. APP adds: At least four personnel of Rangers embraced martyrdom while five others and police personnel sustained seriously injuries when miscreants rammed a vehicle into them at Srinagar Highway in the wee hours of Tuesday. According to security sources, , four personnel of Rangers and two of police have been martyred so far in attacks on law enforcement agen-



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

Imran urges supporters to stand firm until demands are met

(PTI) founder Imran Khan has lauded his party's supporters in Islamabad and D-Chowk, urging them to remain steadfast in their protests until their demands are

In a statement shared via his official X account, Khan expressed his gratitude to the Pakistani nation and PTI activists for standing up for their rights and engaging in peaceful protests against what he described as a "mafia" that has taken control of the coun-

RAWALPINDI (INP): Pa- freedom in the face of the kistan Tehreek-e-Insaf mafia imposed on this country," Khan wrote.

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

Khan accused the authorities of violence against protesters, claiming that police and Rangers forces, under the direction of interim Puniab Chief Minis-"I salute the Pakistani nation and PTI workers and used tear gas, resulting in injuter Mohsin Naqvi, fired who are standing for their ries. He demanded accountrights, protesting peace- ability for the actions taken fully, and demanding real against the demonstrators.

GoB grieved over martyrdom of Rangers' cops in attack of miscreants in Islamabad

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has expressed grief and sorrow over martyrdom of the personnels of Rangers in attack made by the miscreants in Islamabad.

In a statement issued here on Tuesday, the spokesman of provincial government, Shahid Rind expressed condolence with the bereaved families of martyr cops of Rang-

He said that personnels of Rangers embraced martyrdom while performing their duties.

He said that the incidents of torturing personnels of Rangers taking law in their hands by the armed groups are condemnable.

He said that the attack on federal capital by the armed groups in the name of a so-called party is matter of great concern.

He said that there is nothing above than supremacy of law, and as such stern action is needed against the elements involved in the violence.

The spokesman also said that the citizens of Islamabad are being made hostage under the garb of protest. He questioned that what protest is this to subject the state personnels to torture taking

law in hand. He stressed to take action against the elements involved in the violence, according to the law and constitution

QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Health Bakht Muhammad Kakar presides

over the meeting to ensure medicine supply in hospitals. Secretary Health

Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Panezai is also present.

accuses opposition of escalating tensions Information minister warns against testing the state's

Govt rejects any negotiations with PTI,

patience, says Bushra Bibi seeking "blood and bodies"



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

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and In-formation Minister Atta

PM hosts

banquet in

President

Lukashenko's

honour

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Sharif on Tuesday hosted a

banquet in the honour of

President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko at the Prime Minister's

attended by members of the

members of the federal cabi-

net, PM Office Media Wing

Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko had

arrived Islamabad on an of-

ficial visit to the Islamic

Republic of Pakistan at the

invitation of Prime Minis-

ter Muhammad Shehbaz

Security Forces

foil Khwarij

attempts to enter

Pakistan,

kill 3 terrorists

RAWALPINDI (APP): The

Security Forces killed three

Khwarij terrorists by

thwarting their attempt to

infiltrate through Pak-Af-

ghan border on Monday

night in general area of Hassan Khel, North

of khwarij, who were try-

ing to infiltrate through Pa-

kistan-Afghanistan border,

was picked up by the secu-

rity forces in general area Hassan Khel, North

Waziristan District. Own

troops effectively en-

gaged and thwarted their

attempt to infiltrate.

Khwarij were sent to hell

according to a news re

lease by Inter-Services

tently been asking the In-

terim Afghan Government

to ensure effective border

management on their side of

the border. The interim Af-

ghan Government is ex-

pected to fulfil its obliga-

tions and deny the use of

Afghan soil by Khwarij for

perpetuating acts of terror-

ism against Pakistan, it fur

kistan are determined and

remain committed to secure

its borders and eliminate

the menace of terrorism

from the country.

Security Forces of Pa-

Pakistan has consis-

Public Relations (ISPR).

Resultantly,

'Movement of a group

Waziristan District.

Earlier, President of the

said in a press release.

Shehbaz

Muhammad

Tarar held a joint press

conference on Tuesday,

stating that the protesters, who had gathered at D-Chowk, had been pushed back and the area was cleared. The ministers stressed that no discussions would take place with the demonstrators.

The interior minister mentworked hard to avoid 'Miscreants want bloodshed. not revolution': PM Shehbaz

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Funeral prayers of three Rangers officials, who embraced Shahadat yesterday during the ongoing protest, were offered at Chaklala Garrison, attacks on police and Rang-The banquet was also on Tuesday.

Prime Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Interior Minister Mohsin Nagvi, Minister for Information Attaullah Tarar, Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), senior serving military and civil officials attended the funeral, PM Office Media

Wing said in a press release. "Pakistan cannot afford any chaos and bloodshed for achieving vested political purposes. These acts of violence are unacceptable and highly condemnable which are bordering the limits of restraint by the Law Enforcement Agencies. The entire nation pays homage to the martyred Rangers soldiers and all those police officials who

have embraced shahadat.

and those who are injured during these riots", the press release quoted the prime minister as saying. He emphasised that the

maintained that no nego-

tiations would be held

with the protesters, as-

serting that "now that

they have come and seen

the situation, there is no possibility of talks.

The government has made a clear decision that

there will be no negotia-

tions with those on the

sit-in."He detailed the ac-

tions taken by the govern-

ment forces, stating that not only had the protest-

ers been removed from D-

Chowk, but they had been

pushed back "two roundabouts away." Naqvi pushed back

accused the PTI protesters

of trying to provoke vio-

lence, claiming that their

objective was to cause ca-

sualties, a situation the govern-

ers officers under the guise Minister of a peaceful protest are completely repre He said Pakistan cannot afford any form of

chaos or bloodshed. He said bloodshed for nefarious political agenda is unacceptable and highly condemnable. The PM further re-

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

PM Shahbaz stated that the violent actions of the protesters have devastated the families of the slain of-



Sharif and COAS General Asim Munir attend the funeral procession of the martyred Rangers officials.

Sadiq Umraniconcerned about bringing exceptional amendments in IRSAAct by federal government

Independent Report

QUETTA: The senior Provincial Minister for Irrigation and member of Central Committee of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani has expressed concern over the efforts being made by the federal government for bringing extraordinary amendments in the IRSA

He said that IRSA Act would not only be weakened with the efforts being made by federal government to bring exceptional amendments in the Act, but it would also be annulled.

He said that the amendments in the IRSA Act would cause differences among the provinces besides mounting misun-

derstandings further. Mir Muhammad Sadiq

Umrani said that the WAA was approved with mutual consent of the provinces in 1991, which is intact even today. He also mentioned that

all the provinces are being provided water from the Indus Main Irrigation System 1815. He said that the share

of Balochistan is very meager, and doesn't meet our requirements. He said that we fully

endorse the stance of Sindh on the matter of IRSA, and we would not withdraw from it.

He also mentioned that the Provincial Assembly has already adopted a resolution against amendments in the IRSA Act.



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

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

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

Earlier, both leaders witnessed the exchange of important agreements and Memoranda of Under- sectors including commerce, passing cooperation in environmental protection, disaster management, halal

ary next year.

nancial intelligence sharing, vocational education and science & technology.

One of the key outcomes of the meeting was "Roadmap for Comprehensive Cooperation between Pakistan and Belarus for 2025-2027," which outlines a strategic framework for enhancing economic ties through high-level meetings, inter-governmental commissions, and targeted collaborative initiatives. Talking to the media,

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif referred to the closeness between Pakistan and Belarus and said that in their 'productive" bilateral meeting and the delegation-level talks, they discussed the in Gaza where 45,000 cooperation in multiple people had been killed while tourism defence food and

He lauded President Lukashenko's commitment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- trade, audit institutions, fi- to turning the bilateral understandings into practical

agreements and actions. The prime minister told the media that the two sides would sit together the signing of the later in the day to finalise the roadmap for cooperation in agriculture, joint ventures, mining and minerals, IT and possibilities for heavy machinery manufacturing. This will follow another discussion in Minsk to finalize and make arrangements for agreements to be signed in February next year by him and President Lukashenko to convert

> them into concert actions. The prime minister said that their meeting also featured a discussion on the heart-wrenching situation the ceasefire could not yet resolutions and the ruling by the International Court



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti speaking to the participants of 14th National Workshop on Balochistan.

Backwardness not basic reason behind insurgency in Balochistan: asserts CM

Mir Sarfraz Bugti says any Punjabi, Sindhi, Siraiki or any other didn't keep Balochistan backward, rather there's hand of own people in it; says steps being taken to bridge gulf between State and youth in province on priority basis

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has categorically stated that backwardness is not the basic reason behind insurgency in the province, and added that any Punjabi, Sindhi, Siraiki or any other has kept the province backward, rather there's hand of the own people in it.

He said that backwardness in the province is not because of the people coming from outside, rather it is because of own

The Chief Minister also stressed the need to make the real concept of Balochistan compatible with facts.

He also stressed that there's a need to correct the historical facts.

The Chief Minister

The Chief Minister said that the merger of Balochistan in Pakistan was made with mutual consent and the narrative of forced accession is just

tion was conducted against the insurgency in limited area and that at the limited

level. He said that it is just balanced development is wrong to attribute the opthe issue of whole couneration in limited area as He said that measures

He stressed the need to correct the historic facts. Referring the province, Chief Minister said that Balochistan is being pushed towards instability in three

operation in the whole

province.

ways.
While resentment is being spread by killing innocent people through violence, he mentioned adding that hatred is being spread against the State through baseless propaganda on social media.

bility is being created through the negative social tricks, he added

cial government would bear Moreover, social insta-16 years' educational expenditures of the topper



are being taken to bridge

The Chief Minister

In addition to this, it

the gulf between State and

also mentioned that imple-

mentation has been started

on first Youth Policy after

has been decided to grant

scholarships to the stu-

dents of Balochistan for

Ph.D from 200 prominent

Similarly, the Provin-

universities of the world.

its formulation.

youth in the province.

Ayaz Sadiq being welcomed at Moscow on his arrival by Vice Chairman of Russian State Duma Mr.



MOSCOW: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Alexander Babakov.

Daily Soice of Masse Independent

Kurram ceasefire

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

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

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

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

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

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

Future socialisms

'Socialism is dead; Long Live Socialism," wrote fellow Berkeley scholar Roger Burbach in 1997, predicting socialism's rise in new forms even as older ones

Dr Niaz Murtaza

Wednesday November 27, 2024

were falling. As capitalism's damaging toll on humans expands hugely, the search for alternatives to the beast assumes urgency. Many other human capital serthink this means ending wage labour, profits and private capital, which unions and safety nets. they wrongly see as capitalism's core.

But sociologist Karl had existed even before capitalism for long. Capicentury when capital's interests became society's dominant logic to replace other human promise that its sway ensures common welfare.

its profits by penetrating all human spheres and coaxing humans to satisfy all their needs via political and economic markets that they are satisfying via family, com- and munity, state or nature masses, kills energies for free, arguing that and creativity and market solutions better causes political autoccater to all human needs. But the ills of this idea, spread cunningly by owners of big capital, are visible now in high inequity, environmental loss, resource wars and irrelevance of millions of USSR. Donald Trump workers as AI spreads wants to keep afloat US fast, as capital's dehumanising interests hold sway even over human realms that transcend commercial logics. Thus, ending capital's corrupting sway over all

Socialism is usually seen as a system with state-owned production tally and vertically. Em- will use the political assets. But Polyani's insights about capitalism's

other human concerns is

imperative

talism) that allows all and encourage a wide ownership forms that range of ownership don't nix common welfare. This vision can spawn many forms of socialism, as the plural in persed ownership by the title suggests. The Nordic model is a form built on private capital, with common welfare ensured via provision of public social services, The state must review the cause of povbig state investment in education, health, and erty among small producers and labourers in ru-

Polyani argued that these enough taxes to fund a generous welfare state. They need a conjoint talism rose only in the twin: a developmentalthe first twin spawns an gives income options to concerns, with a false all able beings and the welfare twin that gives safety nets to the few Capitalism expands labour-deficit beings. But new forms must avoid the ills of failed

force protection via

power that disempowers disincentivises racy and economic unproductivity.

forms: over-centralised

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

Politically, forms must embrace multiparty democracy over a one-party system and disperse power horizon- empowering socialisms powered local bodies and must empower commu- mobilisation of masses core inspire a new vision nity organisations to as the key force drivof socialism as a system help gain market power, ing both a state and with common welfare as protection, assets, skills economy of the people, its dominant logic/ aim and social services. The by the people and for (rather than an uncertain economic system must the people. -- Courderived one as in capi- be similarly devolved tesy Dawn

forms, ie, employee owned, non-profit, producer cooperatives, disdifferent state levels and bodies and private companies, with a bias for micro, small and medium

vices and strong labour- ral and urban areas in different regions. Such bottom-up analysis will But poor states lack reveal not only the lack the globally competitive of economic and social economies to generate investment by the state for such groups as key factors but also their exploitation marginalisation by marcum-welfare state where kets and local elites. This will give a wide, strucinclusive economy that tural agenda that covers legislation, policies, strategies, projects, services and institutional reform at federal, provin-

cial and local levels.

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

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

Such devolved and economic

Banking shortcomings

Jawwad Farid **Rimmel Mohydin**

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

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

So why isn't our banking there yet?

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

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

Our best banks reveal similar shortcomings in efficiency, profit- Cumbersome approval

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

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

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

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

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

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

ability, and growth, when processes and predictable returns deter innovation with both the regulator and within banking boards.

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

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

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

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

Commerce News

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

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

to China, Khalil Hashmi witnessed the signing networking opportunities, ceremony held at the conclusion of a day-long Matchmaking Meeting on Animal Fodder and Fruits and Vegetable

successfully hosted the third in a series of sectorspecific B2B matchmaking

meetings

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

Over 150 productive Pakistan Embassy B2B meetings, including Beijing, in collaboration 30 virtual engagements, with the Board of took place, providing a

Pakistani and Chinese companies to explore partnerships and expand trade in these priority

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

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

NEPRA

concludes

hearing into

FCA for

October

ISLAMABAD (APP)

National Electric Power

Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Tuesday

concluded public hearing into

public petition filed by

Central Power Purchasing

Agency (CPPA) on behalf of

XWDISCOs in power tariff

increase under monthly fuel

cost adjustment (FCA) for

The hearing was presided over by Chairman

NEPRA Waseem Mukhtar

while other members

Mathar Niaz Rana of

Balochistan, member Sindh

October.

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

Finance minister highlights govt's policy framework (APP): of standardizing financial

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, here on Tuesday highlighted government's

comprehensive policy framework aimed at enhancing tax revenues through documentation and financial transparency.

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

Federal Minister for

Maritime Affairs, Qaiser

emphasized on Tuesday

that achieving economic

stability is contingent

upon political stability.

Talking to a private news

channel, the minister

government's repeated

efforts to resolve political

issues through dialogue. He

attempts were made in the

that multiple

highlighted

Qaiser Sheikh says:

Economic stability

contingent upon

political stability

Sheikh,

regimes to align with global practices, which he said were crucial for fostering investor confidence, both domestic and international. The delegation included Jianqiao Lu, Member IASB, Farukh Rehman, President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP), Rana Usman Khan, Chairman of the Asia-

Oceania Accounting Standards Group, Ashfaq Tola, Chairman of the Reforms and Resource Mobilization Commission emphasized the importance of Pakistan (RRMC) and

consultations on

proposed "charter of economy," but these

initiatives faced resistance.

"The founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

(PTI) opted for a path of

disruption rather than

peace," said Sheikh.

Minister stressed the urgent

need to attract foreign

investors, pointing out that

the current political and

security situation has

deterred investment

Finance Division also

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

94% wheat achieved in Layyah

A spokesperson for the department revealed that wĥeat has been sown over 641,000 acres across the district's three tehsils.

the target has been achieved in Tehsil Layyah, while Tehsil Karor Lal Eason has reached 93%.

sowing target

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): The Agriculture Department Layyah has ISLAMABAD (APP): past, including offering announced achieving 94 percent of the wheat cultivation target set by the but these Punjab government for the district in the ongoing

He noted that 92% of

Punjab: CM Maryam wheat cultivation target of 16.5 million acres across Puniab has been set and 82 percent of the target has been completed. She added

Fertilizer available

at low prices across

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

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

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

wheat cultivation target will be completed across the province by December 10. She highlighted wheat cultivation on 326,000 acres of government land across Punjab has been

The CM said 40,000 agriculture graduate interns are available to assist farmers in the field across the province, adding that applications have been invited for free grant of 1,000 green tractors and 1.000 land levelers for wheat farmers under Chief been observed in the Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's scheme.



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

OGRA seeks support for uninterrupted transportation of petroleum products

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

coordination with the Petroleum Division, has requested law enforcement agencies through Chief Secretaries and local

transportation of tank lorries carrying petroleum spokesperson statement.

challenges faced by tank transportation, d e d i c a

communication channel has been established between Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and District Administrations/ administrations to ensure Law Enforcement agencies.

dollar gains as Trump fires tariff warning HONG KONG (AFP/ with fears now of another APP): Asian markets fell trade war with China and and the dollar rallied Tuesday after Donald

Most Asian markets drop,

Trump warned he would impose huge new tariffs on China, Mexico and Canada on his first day in office, dealing a blow to hopes of a more moderate approach to trade policy. The former and next president said on his Truth

Social account that he would hammer the United States' largest trading partners in response to the illegal drug trade and immigration. The news dampened

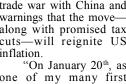
one of my many first Executive Orders, I will sign he wrote.

warnings that the movealong with promised tax cuts-will reignite US inflation

all necessary documents to charge Mexico and Canada a 25 percent tariff on ALL products coming into the United States, and its ridiculous Open Borders,"

'On January 20th, as

In another post, he added that he would hit China with a 10 percent tariff "above any additional Tariffs" on all of its





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

public and private sectors,

parliamentarians, senior

bureaucrats, maritime

industry professionals,

business leaders, academia,

think tanks, and media

deliberate on pressing

A total of 38

In his welcome

national maritime issues.

participants from the

public, private, and

military sectors are taking part in MARSEW-7.

address, Rear Admiral

workshop, emphasizing

intelligentsia to shift its

strategic focus towards the

representatives,

including

Kundi flays martyrdom of Rangers personnel on Srinagar highway

PESHAWAR Pakhtunkhwa, Karim Kundi, on Tuesday strongly condemned the martyrdom of Rangers and police personnel on the Highway Srinagar Islamabad, emphasizing that their sacrifices will

never be in vain. In a statement, Governor Kundi expressed his deep sorrow and solidarity with the families and colleagues of the martyrs, sharing in their

"The sacrifices made by these brave personnel will never be forgotten," he said, stressing the while engaging in terrorism importance of their service

out that the masterminds behind the May 9 incidents to the state, saying, "The remarked.

(APP): masterminds behind May 9 attacks are still assaulting the state today.

attack

activities in Islamabad.

Kundi further pointed been fostering terrorists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is engaged in terrorism in continue to pose a threat Islamabad as well," Kundi

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

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

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

provided by the Punjab Government, after which and in each Tehsil.

He labeled the recent

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

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

"The party that has

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

complaints, he informed. At the district level, a control room under the supervision of Assistant Commissioners is being All the required resources are being built in the Deputy Commissioners's Office

resolution



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

Punjab Governor says:

Business community playing a major role in the economic improvement of the country

CS reiterates govt

commitment to ensure

rule of law

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief devise a roadmap for

enduring peace.

attended by leading

religious figures of Sunni

consultative process with

local elders was integral to

craft a sustainable peace

framework. He assured

participants that the

would

their

and

emphasized that

The Chief Secretary

The

and Shia sects.

government

implement

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

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

Preparations

underway for

polio campaign

in Battagram

BATTAGRAM (APP)

Deputy Commissioner

Battagram Asif Ali Khan

Tuesday chaired a meeting

to finalize preparations for

the upcoming polio

The meeting was attended by District Police

Officer Ayaz Khan,

Commissioner, Additional

Assistant Commissioners

health department officials

WHO representatives, and

relevant

campaign

Additional

stakeholders.

other

district.

on the occasion, Governor well as to create Haider Khan said that the opportunities. business community is the country. He said that adding that tax payers stakeholders should be should be respected. taken on board while Punjab Governor further making any policy. said that the PTI's protest Governor Punjab said that is not a solution to the

Secretary (CS) Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary has

underscored the critical

importance of restoring

peace and stability in

the government's strong

commitment to ensuring

Grand Peace Jirga that was convened at

Commissioner House

He was addressing a

Kohat to deliberate on suggestions

the rule of law.

Kurram district reiterating

Punjab Sardar Saleem e m p l o y m e n t He said that a large playing a major role in the number of the business economic improvement of community pays taxes,

strengthening the business problems, they should community is vital to come to the negotiating

markets at 8 pm. Speaking improve the economy as table. Punjab Governor said that the visit of a highlevel delegation from Belarus to Pakistan is good news for the country's economy.

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

PA resolution condemns attack on security personnel

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

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

LAHORE (APP): Seventh to highlight the challenges edition of the Maritime and opportunities in Workshop Pakistan's maritime sector (MARSEW-7) aimed at and its critical role in supporting the national economy.This provides a shared platform for participants from the

7th Maritime Security

Workshop commences

enhancing knowledge and understanding of maritime security, geopolitical dynamics in the broader Indian Ocean region and the Blue Economy besides exploring Pakistan's untapped maritime potential commenced on Tuesday at Pakistan Navy War College.

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

national-level forum Azhar Mahmood outlined organized under the the purpose of the auspices of the Pakistan Navy, with the theme the need for Pakistan's "Secure Seas, Prosperous

The workshop seeks



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

Resolution demanding ban on PTI submitted in Punjab Assembly

LAHORE (APP): A chief executive of a

submitted in the Punjab Assembly. The resolution was submitted by PML-N states that miscreants member Hina Pervez and rioters injured

resolution demanding a province and the ban on the PTI has been former first lady are attacking the federation in droves.

The resolution Butt, in which it was said police personnel and set that this house strongly vehicles on fire, a condemns the PTI's specific group has attack on the caused damage to the federation in droves. lives and property of
The text of the the people under a welllives and property of resolution said that the planned conspiracy.

International News

prevailing situation in recommendations Kurram district and effectively.

Israel pounds Beirut suburbs as Lebanon says 31 dead nationwide

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Israeli strikes pummelled south Beirut, Lebanese official media said, and health authorities

reported 31 people killed across the war-hit country, most of them in the south. Israel's military said in a statement Monday afternoon it had hit "approximately 25 terror targets" belonging to Hezbollah across Lebanon, including in Nabatiyeh, Baalbek, the Bekaa Valley and southern

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

Beirut and the city's out-

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

Monitoring Desk

VIENNA: Austria's far-

right Freedom Party won a

state election in Styria for

the first time on Sunday in

an echo of September's gen-

eral election and a new show

of strength while national

coalition talks continue

Styria, home to Austria's

second city, Graz, raises

pressure on party leaders

currently attempting to

forge the country's first

three-way government

eurosceptic, Russia-friendly Freedom Party

(FPO) has ever won, the

first having been Carinthia,

the fiefdom of then-FPO

leader Joerg Haider in his

heyday in the late 1990s

and early 2000s.

It is only the second

which the

since 1949.

Sunday's election in

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

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

ministry said.

Israeli strikes on Tyre and Nabativeh after Israel issued evacuation warnings for parts of the main southern cities.

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

Austrian far right shows

strength with state

election win in Styria

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

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

Lebanon's Druze

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

Paul opposes Trump talk of using military in deportations

that he plans to do so.

was born The FPO will need a coalition partner to secure a majority in Styria's state assembly and form a gov-

"There's been a land-

slide in Styria. I didn't ex-

pect such a resounding re-

sult," the FPO's deputy

leader in Styria, Stefan

Hermann, told national

World War Two that neither

the OVP nor the Social

Democrats (SPO) have

won in the state bordering

Slovenia where actor

Arnold Schwarzenegger

It is the first time since

broadcaster ORF

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

Republican Rand

Monitoring Desk

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

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



Beirut's southern suburbs, amid the ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, in Lebanon.

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

Monitoring Desk TEHRAN: Iran's supreme

leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Monday that a war crimes case against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the Gaza war was insufficient and that he deserved a "death sentence". In his first remarks

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

His country, Israel's arch nemesis, backs armed movements in the region Revolutionary Guards.

including Palestinian militant group Hamas, whose October 7, 2023 attack sparked the war.

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

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

Trump vows big tariffs on Mexico, Canada and China

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON:

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

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

duties on all goods entering the country.
"On January 20th, as

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

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

Moscow assures Taliban of removal from negative list **Monitoring Desk**

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

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

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

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

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

The Islamic Emirate is the name the Taliban government uses to refer to it-

G7 ministers discuss ceasefire efforts in Mideast

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

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

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

"I am optimistic about Lebanon," Tajani told national efforts for a attack.

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

committed to strongly pushing Israel and Hamas to end this war in Palestine," he said. Tajani hinted however

at difficulties in reaching "an unambiguous position on the International Criminal Court decision". The ICC issued war-

rants against Netanyahu and his former defence minister Yoav Gallant as well as Hamas' Mohammed Deif on Thursday.

They have been accused of crimes against humanity and war crimes in Israel's war on Hamas in Gaza, triggered by the militant Palestinian a press conference as intergroup's October 7, 2023

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

Monitoring Desk

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

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

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

was dominated on Monday by the Mideast wars in Borrell said under the Gaza and Lebanon.

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

"On the proposal agreement brokered by the U.S. and France, Israel has all security concerns (addressed)," Borrell told reporters in Fiuggi, Italy. There is not an excuse for not implementing a ceasefire. Otherwise, Leba-

non will fall apart."

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



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President of Belarus H.E. Aleksandr Lukashenko introducing their respective delegations.

BA told Only Rs10.57 allocated per animal for medicine in current fiscal year

QUETTA Balochistan Assembly's standing committee on Livestock and Dairy Development on Tuesday expressed concerns over the small budget allocated in the current fiscal year for the provision of medicine, vaccination to livestock.

The livestock department has allocated a Rs 480 million budget for the provision of medicine to animals in 36 districts, estimated Rs 10.57 per animal for medicine in a year, which is less than Rs.1 for medicine per animal in a

In the budget 2024-25, Rs 60 million was allocated for vaccination of animals against 16 pestilence infectious diseases which is Rs 1.32 per animal in a year.

Secretary Livestock Tayyab Lehri while briefing the meeting said that currently there are 147 civil veterinary hospitals and 999 emergencies. The meeting

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Country Director World

Bank, Najy Benhassine on

Tuesday appreciated the

government's reform initia-

tives and reiterated the

bank's commitment to as-

sist Pakistan in addressing

economic challenges and

achieving its developmen-

Federal Minister for Fi-

nance and Revenue Senator

Muhammad Aurangzeb,

the WB Country Director

assured continued support

from the bank in key iden-

attended by the Finance

Secretary and senior offic-

ers of the Finance Division,

according to press release

issued by finance ministry.

the federal minister high-

lighted the importance of

provincial capital.

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial

Minister for Livestock and

Sardarzada Faisal Jamali has

stated that efforts are being

made to resolve the issues

being faced by department.

working on increasing bud-

get of the department and channelizing it.

stock and Dairy Develop-

ment was addressing the

meeting of standing com-

cial Assembly and Chairman

of the standing committee,

Rehman presided over the

meeting.

The Chairman of

standing committee ex-

pressed concern over the

challenges being faced by

department and

Maulana

mittee here on Tuesday.

He said that we are

The Minister for Live-

The Member Provin-

Hidayatur

stressed the need to resolve of the animals.

Development,

During the meeting,

LAHORE: Passengers rush to the railway station

due to closure of motorway and ring road in the

Efforts being made to resolve

problems being faced by

Livestock Dept.: Jamali

The meeting was also

During a meeting with

tal objectives.

tified areas.

veterinary dispensaries in the province. He added that 262 of the 999 veterinary dispensaries are without

proper buildings.

He said that a total of 6,452 employees are currently working in the livestock department, of which 319 posts of camelmen have been cancelled by the finance department.

Lehri said that the land of the livestock department is being occupied in various districts and the department is facing an acute shortage of power supply to dairy farms and dispensaries across the province. He said various buildings, Livestock Farms, CVHs, CVDs, and AI Centers buildings are dilapidated and need reno-

The committee ordered to establishment of a Block Allotment Fund in the livestock department to deal with epidemics and

collaboration with the

World Bank to support

Pakistan's economic re-

forms and development

agenda. He appreciated the

World Bank's financial and

technical assistance across

various sectors and reiter-

ated the government's

commitment to fiscal dis-

growth, and efficient re-

on the establishment of a

robust and transparent tax

policy framework to en-

hance revenue mobilization

and improve compliance

while ensuring equitable taxation. The World Bank

team also offered technical

assistance to streamline the

budget-making process,

adopting modern practices

to improve transparency

and accountability in pub-

ever ready for resolving the

Muhammad Tayyab Lehri

said that the department is

facing certain issues due to

the resources and financial

out of 999 veterinary dis-

pensaries, 262 are operat-

ing without buildings. He

said that at present, a total

of 147 civil veterinary hos-

pitals are working in the

6,452 employees in the de-

partment, however, the Fi-

nance Department has abolished 319 vacancies of

discussed about insuffi-

cient budget for medicines

There are a total of

The committee also

province.

camel man.

He pointed out that

Earlier, Secretary Live-

Department

issues of department.

lic financial management.

Discussions focused

source utilization.

sustainable

WB appreciates govt's

reform initiatives, assures

continued support

also decided on the formation of a Committee for the demarcation of land for cattle in all districts in collaboration with District Administration and the Board of Revenue.

The committee or dered to establish offices for Divisional Directors and District Livestock Officers and the installation of a solar energy power supply, aimed to convert solar energy to overcome power shortage. The committee stressed for the renovation of old buildings and modernization of the infrastructure of the depart

Chairman Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman expressed concern over the challenges of the department while stressing the need for immediate resolutions. He said that we are always ready to resolve the problems of the depart-

Speaker BA grieved over death of father of Farah Azeem

Independent Report QUETTA: The Speaker of Balochistan Assembly Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Khan Achakzai has expressed sorrow over death of father of Member Provincial Assembly, Ms. Farah Azeem Shah.

In a condolence statement issued here on Tuesday, the Speaker prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed soul into Its eternal peace and give enough strength and patience to the bereaved family to bear the tragic loss of his death.

Naqvi strongly condemns attack on Rangers and **Police Personnel** by Miscreants

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has strongly con-demned the attack on Rangers and police personnel on Srinagar Highway by the miscreants on Tuesday.

Interior Minister paid homage to the four Rangers personnel who were martyred in the attack and expressed heartfelt condolences to their families. He directed to provide the best medical facilities to the injured Rangers and police personnel.

PTI spreading chaos to halt economic

progress: Ahsan ISLAMABAD (APP):

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

PTI leadership is using different tactics to gain personal interest, he said while talking to a private television channel. PTI protest demon-

stration and public rallies could not pressurize the government for the release of PTI founder from jail, he said adding that

PTI founder is facing court trial in different cases including May 9 riots.

He made it clear that the court will decide the cases of PTI founder.

ing that bilateral trade reached \$4.5 billion in 2023, and called for increased cooperation in sectors like textiles, agriculture, and technology. He also expressed

Gilani calls for enhanced Pak,

Saudi Arabia cooperation

in trade, textiles sectors

ISLAMABAD

Chairman Senate Syed

Yousuf Raza Gilani on

Arabia in key sectors such

to Saudi Arabia, he accom-

panied by his delegation,

held separate meetings with

Shura Council and the Saudi

tation of Dr. Abdullah

ash-Sheikh, Speaker of the

Shura Council and Saudi-

Pakistan Friendship group.

strengthen Pakistan-Saudi

Arabia relations, focusing

on economic cooperation,

legislative collaboration,

meetings, Chairman Senate

Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani

proposed the establishment

of a parliamentary friend-

ship committee between the

Senate and the Shura Coun-

cil to promote regular dia-

logue and joint initiatives,

particularly on economic

and security matters.

and regional stability.

The visit aims to

During high-level

During his official visit

gratitude for Saudi Arabia's humanitarian support during Pakistan's crises and for facilitating the Hajj and Umrah pilgrimage for Pakistani citizens. Highlighting shared

Arabia-Pakistan Friendship religious and cultural ties, the chairman Senate pro-Group, according to a news posed closer cooperation Syed Yousaf Raza between the two legislative Gilani, Chairman Senate, is bodies to address regional currently in Saudi Arabia on challenges, including peace an official visit on the inviin Palestine and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and ibn Muhammad Al shmir (ÎIOJK).

He informed the Saudi side about the brutal use of force by the Indian army to suppress the voices. Violation of human rights has become a norm in IIOJK. The situation de-

mands the global community to take notice of the He further said that Israeli forces have made the

lives of the Palestinians

Crimes against humanity are being committed in Gaza, he said and added that Pakistan wants an amicable solution to these issues as per aspira-

Gilani praised the tions of the people in accordance with the UN resolutions and the international

> Chairman Senate reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to deepening ties with Saudi Arabia and strengthening the bond between both nations.

> Senate Chairman Gilani expressed deep gratitude for the warm hospitality extended to him and his delegation, recalling his previous visits to Saudi Arabia in 2008 and 2011, which further solidified the friendship between the two countries.

> He also acknowledged the recent visit of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to Pakistan and reiterated his commitment to strengthening bilateral rela-

> He commended the leadership of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in driving Saudi Vision 2030 and emphasized Pakistan's readiness to contribute to this ambitious vision, particularly in areas such as infrastructure development and technology.

As his visit continued, Gilani reiterated Pakistan's unwavering commitment to further strengthening the Saudi-Pakistan partnership across all sectors, including trade, security, and regional collaboration

Bushra Bibi

insisted on

D-Chowk

protest: Saif

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ad-

viser to Chief Minister of

Information, Barrister Saif,

revealed the administration

had suggested holding the

rally on the outskirts of Islamabad, the proposal that PTI founder Imran

khan had initially agreed to.

TV channel, he explained that while the party's an-

nouncement focused on D-

Chowk the administration

had not granted permission

the rally on the city's

outskirt was taken to the

PTI chairman and he con-

sented. However, the pro-

posal was later rejected by

Bibi insisted on holding the

"The release of our chairman must follow due

legal process, but the gov-ernment is influencing these cases unlawfully," Saif as-serted, reiterating that the

protests are against the mis-

use of law to target the PTI leadership.

Ch Naeem

flays attack

on Ranger

personnel in

Islamabad

QUETTA (APP): Pakistan

Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N)'s leader Chaudhry Naeem Karim

strongly condemned the at-

tack on Ranger personnel by

miscreants on the Srinagar

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is

once again trying to repeat

the events of May 9 saying

that chaos on the occasion

of the arrival of foreign

guests in Islamabad are in

no way in the interest of

the country and the people.

here, Chaudhry Naeem

open terrorism. He said that

the miscreants involved in

the attacks on Rangers and

police in Islamabad should

be arrested and brought to

In a statement issued

He said that Pakistan

Highway in Islamabad.

He disclosed Bushra

the party members.

protest at D-Chowk.

The suggestion to hold

for the venue.

Speaking to a private

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

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

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

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

The president reiterated commitment to com-

plete elimination of terrorism, and protection of

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

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

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

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



Speaker Balochistan Assembly Ghāzala Gola.

Secret Hand hostages entire leadership of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf: Naqvi

terior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday said that a secret hand is controlling the entire leadership of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, who is pursuing an anti Pakistan agenda but has failed in its nefarious plan of bloodshed in Islamabad. Addressing media at

D-Chowk, the minister said that secret hand is a root cause of law and order situation which is creating more troubles for PTI. He said that government had convinced the leadership of PTI to avoid bloodshed and offered a place for sit-in at Sangjani upon which the leadership of PTI agreed but that secret hand sabotaged

massively used teargas shells upon rangers, police and FC which were provide to them by the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The protestors are

armed, using weapons and opened fire on law enforcement personal Shakargarh, said the minister adding that the government has shown extreme restrain however the Inspector General of Capital Police has been given full authority to deal with the situation and government will provide full support.

Other day, three rangers and one police jawan were martyred, two ranger jawans are still in critical condition, four police personal of islamabad police

the dialogue. He said the protestors are in critical condition. NA Speaker leads parliamentary delegation to Russia for boosting ties

parliamentary delegation led by Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq is set to begin a threeday visit to Russia on Wednesday, November 27, to strengthen Pak-Russia relations through enhanced inter-parliamentary contacts. The visit, concluding on December 1, comes at the invitation of the Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, Volodin Vyacheslav Victorovich, aiming to strengthen, enhance, and expand friendly relations between the governments and peoples of both coun-

diplomacy. The Parliamentary Delegation comprises Members of the National

tries through parliamentary

ISLAMABAD (APP): A Assembly from all political parties including, Abdul Qadir Patel, Rana Muhammad Hayat Khan. Syed Agha Rafiullah and Dr. Muhammad Farooq Sattar. The parliamentary delegation will hold meet-ings with the Chairman of the State Duma, Volodin Vyacheslav Victorovich.

The call on will be followed by the signing of the MoU between the State Duma and the National Assembly of Pakistan, on expanding parliamentary cooperation and contact. Furthermore, Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq would also hold bilateral meetings with the Chairperson of the Federation Council, Valentina Matvienko; and with the



QUETTA: Former Provincial Minister Mir Umar Khan Jamali meeting with CEO QESCO Engineer

DC Harnai chairs meeting to improve law, order situation

QUETTA (APP): Deputy illegal and immoral activi-Commissioner (DC) Harnai Hazrat Wali Kakar on Tuesday chaired a meeting regarding improving the law and order situation in the

The Meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner General Harnai Syed Ali Kasi, SHO Levies Harnai, SHO Levies Delkona, SHO Levies Shahrag, in-charges of all Levies police stations and outposts and they presented detailed reports of their respective areas.

On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Harnai Hazrat Wali Kakar directed all concerned officials that immediate action would be taken against any

ties in any area and to intensify their operations to suppress law-breaking elements. He said that some of the police stations and outposts have vehicles and some have motorcycles. He directed the officials to patrol their areas and conduct strict checks by setting up checkpoints and ensuring the protection of lives and property of the people in the area.

He said that the Lev-Director

ies police stations and outposts would be repaired. He said that demand for more vehicles, motorcycles and uniforms for the Levies Force would be made to the General Balochistan Levies Force.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, in a meeting with Mr. Najy Benhassine, Country Director of the World Bank, and his team at the Finance Division. **SHC** regular benches recuses to hear

constitutional petitions KARACHI (INP): The clarified that while condi-Sindh High Court's (SHC) tional permission could be regular benches on Tuesday recused to hear constitutional petitions after formation of dedicated constitu-

tional benches. A SHC division bench led by Justice Salahuddin Panhwar was hearing a case related to the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA).

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

Justice Panhwar observed that petitions involving restraining orders against provincial or Federal governments or their institutions should be addressed by the constitutional bench.

He advised the coun-

granted, it would first need to be determined whether the case should be heard by a regular or constitutional bench. In a separate development, the court declined to entertain cases concerning call-up notices, account de-freezing, protection requests and postponed all these matters for an indefi-

nite time Additionally, a petition regarding the quashing of an FIR was directed to be converted into a Section 561 application and presented to the appropriate bench.

Just a day before, Judicial Commission of Pakistan nominated nine judges for constitutional benches in the SHC. Justice KK Agha has been appointed as the head of these constitusel to obtain permission tional benches as well as the constitutional committee.

Every section of society needs to play role against women violence: Speakers

QUETTA (APP): Speakers of a seminar organized on the issues of various forms the occasion of the Interna- of violence faced by tional Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, urged that every section of society has to play its role to protect women's rights and eliminate violence against them in respective areas.

The seminar was under the supervision of the Gwadar District Administration, Gwadar Police Department, and Social Welfare Department on Tuesday. The speakers emphasized that social awareness and educational awareness are of fundamental importance for protecting women's rights and preventing violence against them. They said that it is important to promote

awareness about women's

rights at all levels so that a

foundation can be laid for

positive attitudes in soci-

The event highlighted women, such as physical, mental, and sexual violence. At the same time, a detailed discussion was

held on the legal rights of women and the services and performance of the women police. The speakers said on the occasion that women would have to wage an organized struggle in society to protect their rights. This struggle will not only empower them but will also provide them with opportunities to live an independent life, they added. They said that the event proved to be an important effort to raise awareness about women's rights and bring about positive changes in social attitudes.

The event took on

Karim condemned the martyrdom of four Ranger permore significance with the sonnel when miscreants special participation of the rammed a vehicle into them SHO of Women Police Staon duty in Islamabad and tion. Fiza Elahi. said that the elements involved in the incident would not deserve any concessions. He said that targeting police and Ranger personnel present in Islamabad to maintain law and order is



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for C&W Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa presides over the meeting to review progress on works in

Ouetta. Secretary C&W Lal Jan Jaffar is also present.

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