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Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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No negotiations being held at any level with PTI, says Atta Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture, Attaullah Tarar, on Saturday stated categorically that no negotiations are being held at any level with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Addressing a news conference, Tarar said that Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, following Islamabad High Court (IHC) orders, contacted PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar to convey that protests or sit-ins in the federal capital were illegal.

Tarar warned that those participating in violent protests would be arrested and held accountable for any damage, as the government would not tolerate actions jeopardizing public safety. The minister said protests are illegal and disrupting public life will have consequences, stressing the government's commitment

to law and order.

He said that PTI aims to create divisions between friendly countries. It's baffling that a protest is called on the same day a friendly country seeks to enhance cooperation with Pakistan, he maintained.

He stated that PTI and the country's enemies share the same goal of hindering economic progress. He mentioned that Belarus is Pakistan's close ally, and preparations have been finalized to welcome the president of Belarus in Islamabad.

He noted that similar protests and sit-ins occurred during the 2014 visit of the Chinese president and the SCO summit.

He said Belarus and Pakistan are planning to jointly manufacture tractors. "While the administration prepares to welcome Belarusian guests, it is also

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for information, Broadcasting and national Heritage, Attaullah Tarar addresses a press conference.

Islamabad march to be taken out at all costs: Sh. Waqas

Negotiations will begin after Imran Khan's release, says Ali Amin Gandapur

PESHAWAR (INP): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership said that Islamabad march would be taken out on tomorrow Sunday. The PTI also announced peaceful sit-in at D-Chowk.

"We will break all barriers and reach D-Chowk," said Waqas Sheikh, the PTI Central Information Secretary.

He said, "The Constitution grants the right to peaceful protest. We will not surrender under any circumstances." On November 24, the entire nation will take to the streets."

The meeting, chaired by PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar, was held at the Chief Minister's House in Peshawar.

The participants included Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, former President Arif Alvi,

Shibli Faraz, Information Secretary Sheikh Waqas Akram, and other senior leaders. During the meeting, a final decision was made to proceed with the Islamabad march.

Meanwhile Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur said on Saturday talks with the government would begin after the release of PTI founder Imran Khan, and assured that they would reach D-Chowk at all costs.

In a chat with a private TV channel, CM Gandapur emphasised that he would follow Imran Khan's orders at all costs.

He said his authority lied with Imran Khan and he would act as instructed.

He further stated that they would remain in Islamabad until the release of Imran Khan and other prisoners, and the approval of their demands.



ISLAMABAD: Vice Chairman Balochistan Board of Investment and Trade Bilal Khan Kakar and CEO Abdul Kabir Khan Zarkoon meeting with Chinese Minister Consular Yang Guangyuan

Balochistan govt imposes Section 144 amid PTI's protest

QUETTA (INP): The Balochistan government has imposed Section 144 in the province, which banned protests, rallies, and gatherings.

According to the Balochistan Home Department, there was also a ban on gatherings of more than four people and the display of weapons. This restriction would

remain in place for 15 days due to security concerns.

The decision comes in response to PTI's call for a protest in the capital with authorities taking preemp-

tive measures to ensure public safety and prevent any untoward incidents.

Earlier, the Punjab government had also enforced Section 144 across the province for three days, and a notification has been issued in this regard. The notification banned all types of protests, gatherings, rallies, and sit-ins throughout the province.

Former prime minister Imran Khan has called for a protest in Islamabad on November 24, warning that those who do not participate will be expelled from the party.



ISLAMABAD: Rangers personal walking alongside containers placed at in capital city due to PTI protest on 24 Nov.

Govt goes the extra mile to take sting out of PTI final call

Red Zone routes sealed, Rangers deployed at key government buildings; Routes to Islamabad closed, causing major inconvenience for citizens and commuters; Hospitals in Islamabad put on high alert ahead of PTI protest

ISLAMABAD (INP): As Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) prepares for its planned protest on November 24, authorities have implemented extensive security and transportation restrictions across major cities, causing significant disruption for residents and commuters.

In the capital city Islamabad, security measures were enforced early in the morning, with all major entry and exit points of the city being sealed. All the roads leading into the capital city were shut off, particularly those from the neighboring cities of Rawalpindi and other surrounding regions.

Container blockades have been set up along key thoroughfares like Iran Avenue and Margalla Road to prevent access to crucial parts of the city, including the Parliament House and the central business districts.

Terrorism threat alert issued by NACTA

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) has issued a security alert, warning of a potential terrorist threat during the upcoming Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest in Islamabad, Express News reported.

NACTA expressed concerns that a terrorist attack could target PTI's public gathering, particularly citing a threat from a group of militants who recently crossed into Pakistan from Afghanistan.

The alert highlights the risk of an attack and mentions that militants belonging to the "Fitna al-Khawarij," formerly known as TTP, entered Pakistan via the Pak-Afghan border on the night between November 19 and 20.

The warning specifically points to PTI's protest, suggesting that the militants might attempt to carry out an attack during the demonstration.

In response to the alert, security measures have been heightened across the capital. Authorities have been instructed to remain vigilant and reinforce security around the protest site to prevent any untoward incidents.

The Expressway, a major route connecting Islamabad with Rawalpindi, and Zero Point

were also closed as authorities braced for the PTI protests.

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Board of Investment presided high level meeting on Special Economic Zones.

Bushra Bibi stays back, will not join PTI protest

PESHAWAR (INP): Bushra Bibi will not participate in the protest rally on November 24th but has decided to oversee all the situation.

Sources within Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) reveal that Bushra Bibi, wife of PTI founder and former Prime Minister Imran Khan, has decided not to participate in the party's protest scheduled for tomorrow. Instead, she will monitor the event from the Chief Minister's House, where she will oversee the movements of party delegations arriving from various constituencies, including both provincial and national assembly members as well as PTI ticket-holders. According to PTI sources, Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur will lead the convoy from Swabi. He is expected to depart Peshawar around 11 a.m. and arrive in Swabi shortly thereafter.

PTI spokesperson Sheikh Waqas Akram confirmed Bushra Bibi's absence from the protest, emphasizing that she is a private individual and that Imran Khan has instructed her to refrain from political activities. Although Bushra Bibi had previously encouraged PTI supporters to participate in the protest, Akram reiterated that she would not be attending herself. He clarified, "Bushra Bibi is a housewife and has no intention, nor ever had any plans, to attend the protest, as we have clearly communicated for the past five days."

3 each Khwarij terrorists killed, injured in 2 separate engagements in KPK: ISPR

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Security Forces killed three Khwarij terrorists while three others injured in two separate engagements in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK).

"An intelligence based operation was conducted by Security Forces in general area Bara, Khyber District. During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged the Khwarij location, resultantly two Khwarij, Haqyar Afridi@ Khyberay and Gulla Jan, were sent to hell," said an Inter Services Public Relations news release.

In another incident, movement of group of Khwarij, who were trying to infiltrate through Pakistan-Afghanistan border, was picked up by the security forces in South Waziristan District. Own troops effectively engaged and thwarted their attempt to infiltrate.

Resultantly, one Khwarij was sent to hell, while three Khwarij got injured, it further said.

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday paid tribute to the security forces for conducting successful operations near the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in South Waziristan and district Khyber.

The president and the prime minister, in separate statements, lauded the security forces for killing two Khwarij in Khyber, one in South Waziristan and arresting three others.

President Zardari expressed his resolve to thwart any attempt of the terrorists to disrupt peace and security in Pakistan, reaffirming the commitment to continue operations until elimination of the menace of terrorism.



QUETTA: Provincial Advisor Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, Zia Baloch and others addressing a seminar regarding role of women Assembly organized by HARD Balochistan

Can't allow protest, sit-in or rally in light of IHC's order, Naqvi tells Gohar

ISLAMABAD (INP) - Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday said that the government cannot allow anyone to hold protest or sit-in in light of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) order.

He was speaking to PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar on telephone to discuss the situation in the wake of party's protest call for tomorrow.

"We are bound to follow the orders of IHC and therefore cannot allow any rally, protest or sit-in," Naqvi told PTI chairman.

The interior minister also briefed Barrister Gohar about the engagements of the eighty member high-level delegation led by the President of Belarus from 24th to 27th November.

He said Belarusian

President will arrive in Pakistan on Monday and the delegation will remain in Islamabad until Wednesday.

Barrister Gohar said that he would inform the interior minister after consulting the party leaders.

Earlier, Naqvi has warned that no one would be allowed to disrupt law and order in the federal capital.

The interior minister visited the Police Lines early in the morning to boost the morale of the police force and commended their dedication and spirit to serve.

Addressing the police force, he stressed that Islamabad must be secured at any cost as Belarus president would be in Pakistan on Nov 24 and 25.

"We are standing

shoulder to shoulder with the police force and will always do so," the minister affirmed.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has called for a protest in Islamabad on Nov 24 for the release of party founder Imran Khan.

Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko is set to visit Pakistan on November 25 to strengthen bilateral ties and exploring new avenues of cooperation in diverse fields between both countries. During the visit Pakistan-Belarus Trade Roadmap will be signed, source said.

During stay in Pakistan, President Lukashenko is scheduled to meet President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and military leadership.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi addressing the ICT police to boost their morale in Police Lines

Govt will not allow any mob to damage country's economic growth: Barrister Danyal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Danyal Chaudhry said that the government would not allow any mob to attack on Federal and damage the economic growth of the country and create hurdles for the citizens.

Addressing at a press conference here on Saturday, he said that due to the conducive policies of the incumbent regime after a long time again country's economy is on track and the

growth ratio increasing day by day but unfortunately some elements wanted to disrupt it.

The nation knew that these people were not sincere with the development and prosperity of the state.

Danyal also condemned the statement of Bushra Bibi regarding Saudi Arabia and blamed the PTI wanted to damaging the current strong Pakistan and Saudi bilateral relationships.

He said that Pakistan

had signed a number of MoUs with Saudi regimes recently and trade volume would be enhanced very soon, but some elements wanted to sabotage the journey of progress.

He criticized that the founder of PTI had sold the gifts of brother country adding that Saudi Arabia is the best and most trustworthy friend of Pakistan.

He said that the graph of inflation decreased from

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Cop among two martyred in Bajaur twin blasts

PESHAWAR (APP): At least two people including a policeman were killed in two separate blasts in Mamund tehsil of Bajaur district on Saturday.

Bajaur District Police Officer (DPO) Waqas Rafoeq confirmed the blasts, saying that both the explosions took place in Tehsil Mamund.

"The first bomb went off in the Eirab area, killing a citizen, identified as Malik Asghar, while the second explosion occurred in the jurisdiction of Loi Police Station, Mena Khwar, in which a policeman was killed," the DPO said. Adding that the martyred cop was identified as Ehsanullah.

Investigation into both incidents was started after cordoning off the areas and collecting evidence. No one has so far claimed responsibility for the blasts, police added.



ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary on Information and Broadcasting, Barrister Danyal Chaudhary addressing a press conference at PID media centre.

At least 30 killed, several injured in Kurram tribal clashes

KURRAM (Agencies): Amid the ongoing violent clashes between the tribal groups in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kurram district, 12 more people were killed over the past 24 hours, taking the death toll to 30, police said on Saturday.

At least 20 others sustained injuries during the fierce armed clashes between the rival tribes that took place in densely populated Bagan and Alizai areas of Lower Kurram.

The fresh violence came two days after gunmen opened fire on two separate convoys travelling with police escort in Kurram, killing 45 people.

At least 75 people have been killed over the past three days in the ongoing gun battles between different tribes, according to police.

Following the fresh clashes, around 300 families left their homes and

shifted to safe places, according to reports.

"Approximately 300 families have relocated to Hangu and Peshawar since this morning in search of safety," a senior official told AFP, adding that more families were preparing to leave the violence-hit district.

It is pertinent to mention here that tribal and family feuds are common in the area.

Last month, at least 16 people, including three women and two children, were killed in a clash in Kurram.

Previous clashes in July and September killed dozens of people and ended only after a jirga, or tribal council, called a ceasefire. HRCP said 79 people died between July and October in clashes.

Several hundred people demonstrated against the violence on Friday in Lahore and Karachi.

ISSI, PIPS ink MoU for mutual collaboration

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) and Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for mutual collaboration.

This partnership aims to enhance collaborative efforts in providing credible research-based analysis to key decision-makers and policymakers in Pakistan, said press release issued here on Saturday.

The MoU was signed by Ambassador Sohai Mahmood, Director General, ISSI and Muhammad Rashid Mafzool Zaka, Executive Director, PIPS. The ceremony was attended by senior representatives from the two Institutes.

Within the framework of this partnership, ISSI and PIPS will work together on a range of areas such as parliamentary affairs, legislation, governance, policy-making processes, foreign affairs, climate change, public health, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), National Action Plan, violent extremism, strategic communication, and other subjects relevant to development, prosperity, and foreign policy. By combining the strengths of both institutions, the partnership aims to contribute significantly to the discourse on governance and policy formulation in Pakistan.

The collaboration envisaged under this MoU is expected to facilitate knowledge-sharing and joint research initiatives that will help empower policymakers with informed insights on critical national issues. The two institutions also aim to more deeply engage the Next Generation (NextGen) by fostering youth-inclusive dialogue and amplifying their voices in the policy process.

The signing of the MoU further enhances ISSI's outreach to national counterparts, particularly research institutions with niche areas of specialisation. In recent weeks, ISSI has also concluded MoUs with the National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) and the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS).

Naqvi praises security forces for successful operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi lauded the security forces for their successful operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Saturday, resulting in the elimination of three terrorists.

In a statement issued on Thursday, the minister commended the swift and decisive actions of the security forces, which thwarted the nefarious plans of the militants. "We salute the security forces for bringing three extremist terrorists to a shameful end. Their prompt response has safeguarded the nation from potential harm," said Naqvi.

He further emphasized the nation's unwavering pride in its brave security personnel and reiterated the government's firm stance against terrorism. "We will not allow extremist terrorists to find refuge anywhere in Pakistan," he declared, adding, "With the support of the nation, we will continue to eradicate terrorism from its roots."

The operations, conducted in a challenging environment, reflect the commitment of the security forces to ensuring peace and stability in the region.



QUETTA: Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Waqar Kakar along with other raided and sealing the various petrol pumps of the city to check the petrol measurement after receiving complaints of the citizens on the instructions of Commissioner, in Quetta

Govt goes the extra mile to...

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In a move to prevent any public transport from becoming part of the demonstration, the local administration ordered a complete suspension of the metro bus service for the day. The Metro Bus service, which typically operates between various points in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi, including routes from the Secretariat to IJP Road, will remain completely closed.

Additionally, bus terminals within Islamabad have been shut down, and all intercity transport operations, including services to Rawalpindi, were suspended. This severely impacted those relying on public transport to travel to and from the capital city.

In Lahore, similar security measures have been implemented. The local administration has shut down key motorways leading out of the city, including those connecting Lahore to Islamabad and other cities. Specifically, the motorway routes from Lahore to Islamabad and from Lahore to Multan have been blocked. This includes sections of the M-3 and M-4 motorways, along with the M-11, which links Lahore to Sialkot.

One of the major choke points, the Babu Sabu Interchange, was also sealed off using containers and barriers, and a heavy police force was stationed at the location to maintain control. This step was taken to prevent any large gatherings or attempts to march into the city as part of the planned protest.

Additionally, all bus terminals located along the blocked roads were also shut down, further complicating travel within the city and to other destinations.

The Lahore Ring Road, another key route connecting various parts of the city, was closed for traffic, intensifying the congestion in the city center. Commuters and businesses were left struggling as roads remained gridlocked for hours, with authorities urging people to avoid traveling unless absolutely necessary.

In response to the potential scale of the protests, the government has mobilised significant security forces. A total of 30,000 additional police officers have been dispatched from various provinces, including 19,000 from Punjab, 5,000 from Sindh, and 1,000 from Azad Kashmir. These reinforcements have been deployed to assist the local police in controlling crowds and ensuring law and order.

In addition to the police force, approximately 5,000 personnel from the Frontier Corps (FC) and Rangers have also been deployed to Islamabad. These paramilitary forces are expected to play a crucial role in managing any violent outbreaks or public disorder. The federal government has granted these forces powers under the Anti-Terrorism Act, allowing them to take direct action if necessary to ensure peace and stability in the capital.

Given the rising tensions, the federal government has issued a notification regarding the deployment of Rangers and Frontier Corps (FC) personnel in the capital. These forces will assist the local police in maintaining control and preventing any potential violence. The decision was made after the Islamabad Commissioner sent a formal request to the Ministry of Interior, outlining the need for additional security measures.

The presence of the Rangers and FC was a clear signal that the government is taking no chances regarding the PTI's protest, especially after previous demonstrations that escalated into violent confrontations. The use of paramilitary forces is expected to help prevent any breakdown in law and order, ensuring the safety of both protesters and ordinary citizens.

The extensive security measures have led to considerable inconvenience for the general public. Commuters who rely on public transportation, including buses and the metro service, are particularly affected by the shutdowns. The blockade of key roads in Lahore and Islamabad

Lahore records AQI of 241

LAHORE (APP): Lahore recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 241 on Saturday, maintaining its position as the most polluted city in the world, according to IQAir rankings. Despite reduced traffic due to blocked entry and exit points, the city's skies remained hazy, creating an unpleasant experience for travelers.

Lahore topped the list with an AQI of 241, followed by Delhi (India) at 224, and Tashkent (Uzbekistan) at 177. Other cities in the top 10 included Dhaka (Bangladesh) 172, Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) 161, Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia) 159, Wuhan (China) 159, Mumbai (India) 159, Hanoi (Vietnam) 158, and Yangon (Myanmar) (155).



HYDERABAD: Workers of Tolerance March Committee hold banners and placards and shout slogans during a rally in the city

Modi gov't wants to label JKLF Chairman Yasin Malik as dreaded terrorist: JKLF

ISLAMABAD, (INP): The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) has said that the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, led extremist government is hell bent upon to fulfill its vicious political agenda of labelling the popular pro-freedom people's political leader of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and illegally detained party chairman Muhammad Yasin Malik as a dreaded terrorist.

The JKLF Chief Spokesperson, Muhammad Rafiq Dar, in a statement, responding to a suggestion put forward by division bench of Supreme Court of India said that transfer of cases and setting up of a separate courtroom inside the infamous Delhi Tihar Jail premises may once again provide ample opportunity to government of India to follow unfair means.

He termed the suggestion tantamount to giving free hand to the Indian government and its agencies to unfairly and unjustly punish Yasin Malik, like they did in a specially designated NIA court on May 25, 2022 in concocted cases filed by NIA.

He further informed that a peaceful political leader like Yasin Malik is not physically able to appear before the court of law and fulfill his right to cross examine the witnesses. For this, the Modi government ridiculously, through a vicious media campaign, is falsely portraying him (Yasin Malik) as a high security risk terrorist, the spokesman ridiculed.

Court fixes for hearing bail pleas of PTI founder in May 9 related 8 cases

LAHORE (Online): Petition seeking early hearing of the bail pleas of PTI founder in May 9 related 8 cases came up for hearing in Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Saturday.

The court fixed for hearing bail pleas of PTI founder on November 27. Judge Manzoor Ali Gill heard the petition.

Barrister Suleman Safdar counsel for PTI founder will complete his arguments on November 27. The court accepted the plea for early hearing of the bail pleas of PTI founder.

Prosecutor Rana Azar while opposing this petition said petition for early hearing cannot be filed in criminal cases.

No negotiations being held...

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ensuring citizen security. Can the system function effectively under such conditions?", he questioned.

He warned that officers involved in political activities will face strict action.

He said the investment is flowing into Pakistan, the economy is growing, inflation has dropped from 32% last year to 6.9% this year, and foreign remittances totalled \$8.8 billion in the first quarter. The economy is improving due to lower interest rates, and these figures cannot be disputed.

He said Pakistan's stock market is the second best performing in the world, and its growth reflects improvements in economic indicators.

"37 people were killed in Kurram Agency, but the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister did not visit to console the people. How could the Chief Minister forget Parachinar's pain?", the minister stated adding that said Pakistan Army soldiers are sacrificing to protect the people, while Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police need better training against terrorism.

He said that the province must focus more on law and order, as terrorism persists, even around Adiala Jail. Responding to a question, he said PTI is divided into the Aleema, Nooreen, and Bushra Bibi groups. He called it a melodrama between "Nand" and "Bhabhi".

The country they once sought gifts from is now speaking against them, the minister said and condemned PTI members for the disgraceful protest at the Prophet's (PBUH) Mosque, questioning if they remembered Sharia when raising slogans there.

In response to another question, he said PTI has continually caused chaos and tried to harm relations with friendly countries. Bushra Bibi doesn't even know how to spell "international relations", the minister remarked.

"PWD was closed due to corruption, while we are advancing toward digitization and billions of rupees have been saved through anti-smuggling efforts", the minister underlined.

Responding to another question, he said the Pak Army is sacrificing in the fight against terrorism, while the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister shows no concern for law and order. He condemned PTI supporters for setting fire to trees in Islamabad and noted that the Apex Committee had warned such actions wouldn't be tolerated.

The minister said that public anger is growing, and one day, people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will hold them accountable. He stressed that if PTI wants to protest, it should be in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as attacks on the federation won't be tolerated.

He also claimed they aim to drop bodies as part of a plan.

Sarfraz joins ICC Champions Trophy tour in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Former Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed, who led the country to their first-ever ICC Champions Trophy title in 2017, attended the trophy tour event at a private college in Karachi.

Sarfraz received a hero's welcome from students and faculty alike upon his arrival.

The wicket-keeper, while talking with students, reminisced about the unforgettable moments from their victorious campaign.

"All our players will remember every single moment from that event. It was a historic achievement for us," he shared.

He posed proudly with the gleaming Champions Trophy, surrounded by the eager students, who were thrilled to be part of the occasion.

Originally, Sarfraz Ahmed was scheduled to join the Champions Trophy tour at the iconic Mohatta Palace, however, due to permission issues, the photo shoot was relocated to the college.

The ongoing Champions Trophy tour commenced in Karachi on November 20, captivating the city. On the inaugural day, the trophy was showcased at the vibrant Burns Road food street, allowing fans to soak in the atmosphere of celebration.

Governor Kundi offers prayers, special Umrah for peace in KP

MAKKAH (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, has offered prayers and performed a Umrah in the holy city of Makkah, seeking Allah's blessings for the restoration and maintenance of peace and stability in the province especially in the Kurram district.

The gesture comes amid ongoing efforts to ensure law and order in the province, which has been facing challenges due to various security concerns.

Governor Kundi on Saturday emphasized the importance of spiritual well-being in times of difficulty. "In these challenging times, peace and harmony are essential for the progress of our province. Through this Umrah and my heartfelt prayers, I have prayed for Allah's mercy and guidance to help us overcome the difficulties we face," he said. He said that peace is not only a governmental responsibility but a collective effort of every citizen. "We must unite and work together for a prosperous and peaceful future for our children and communities," he remarked. During his Umrah, Governor Kundi prayed for the victims of violence, for the protection of innocent lives, and for lasting peace throughout the province.

Kundi has condemned in the strongest terms the recent attacks that led to the killing of innocent civilians and security forces in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Expressing deep sorrow over the loss of lives, the Governor called these acts of violence heinous and inhuman, reaffirming his commitment to ensuring the safety and security of the people.

He extended his condolences to the families of the victims and praised the sacrifices of security personnel, promising that the government would take all necessary measures to bring the perpetrators to justice and restore peace in the province. Governor Kundi emphasized that terrorism has no place in Islam, condemning acts of violence that falsely claim to represent the religion. He reiterated that Islam promotes peace, tolerance, and respect for all human beings, and any actions that harm innocent lives are completely against the teachings of the faith.

Governor Kundi called for unity among communities to confront extremism and terrorism, stressing that such acts of brutality contradict the core principles of Islam. He urged religious and political leaders to work together in fostering a society built on peace and harmony.



NASERABAD: Deputy Director Sports Rahim Bakhsh Joya presenting shield to Col. Commander Rizwan Ali Tayyab

Jaiswal slams unbeaten 90 as India seize control against Australia

Sports Desk

PERTH: Yashasvi Jaiswal hit a composed unbeaten 90 and KL Rahul a stylish 62 Saturday as India built a sizable 218-run lead over Australia to take a stranglehold on the opening Test in Perth.

A determined and gritty effort by both men against a world-class attack put the visitors in the driving seat as they look to draw first blood in the five-match series. Jaiswal faced 193 balls while Rahul fended off 153 to steer India to 172 without loss at the close of day two. India have won their last two Border-Gavaskar trophy series in Australia but came into the Perth Stadium clash after a devastating 3-0 home loss to New Zealand.

After making a miserly 150 on a lively pitch in their first innings, the pressure was again on. But their response proved admirable.

They took a 46-run advantage into the second innings after dismissing the hosts for a meagre 104 at lunch, with dynamic skipper Jasprit Bumrah blitzing 5-30.

Young gun Jaiswal, just 22 and in his 15th Test, failed to score in his first knock and began tentatively before a boundary off Mitchell Starc settled him.

Batting alongside the more experienced Rahul, who was playing in the absence of regular skipper Rohit Sharma, they were resolute against the new ball on a pitch more placid than the treacherous one that greeted the players on Friday.

Both ran well between the wicket and cracked anything loose to the boundary, playing their shots as their confidence grew.

With the ball not moving nearly as much, Australia were in dire need of some inspiration, but it failed to come as the partnership flourished. Left-hander Jaiswal brought up his ninth Test half-century off 123 balls, slapping Nathan Lyon for a single.

He had a let-off on 52 when attempting a drive off Starc, with the ball flying to Usman Khawaja at second slip, but he failed to take a difficult chance.

The elegant Rahul also had a scare, surviving a run-out on 42.

But he regrouped to reach his 16th half-century in his 54th Test, taking one more ball than Jaiswal, and with those landmarks reached they began playing more freely.

After an astonishing 17 wickets fell on a chaotic opening day, Australia resumed on 67-7 and put on 37 thanks to a dogged last-wicket holdout.

They reached three figures courtesy of Starc and Josh Hazlewood, with their 25-run stand the longest of the Australian innings.



JAFFARABAD: Commissioner Moinur Rehman Khan along with Deputy Commissioner Azhar Shahzad visiting Civil Hospital

Appeal to UN: KIIR highlights Kashmiri prisoners' plight, ongoing repression in IIOJ&K

ISLAMABAD (APP): Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR) has issued an urgent appeal to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, drawing attention to the deteriorating prison conditions and ongoing political repression in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K).

In a letter sent from Islamabad, Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairman of KIIR, raised concerns about the increasing use of draconian laws such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), and Public Safety Act (PSA) to imprison political leaders, human rights defenders, and journalists.

"These individuals are being falsely charged for their peaceful advocacy of Kashmiris' right to self-determination, a right upheld by the United Nations Security Council," the letter said. Wani condemned the detention of prominent figures such as Masarrat Alam Butt, Shabir Ahmed Shah, Mohammad Yasin Malik, Nayeem Ahmed Khan, and Asiya Andrabi, who are subjected to harsh conditions, denied fair trials, and denied adequate medical care. Their families are also

forced to endure significant hardships, including long and costly journeys to visit them. The appeal also highlighted the repression faced by human rights defenders like Khurram Parvez and journalists Irfan Mehriz and Sajjad Gul, who face seditious charges for merely documenting human rights violations in Kashmir.

Wani described the targeting of civil society leaders, including the seizure of the Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS) office, as part of a broader effort to silence dissent and curtail basic freedoms.

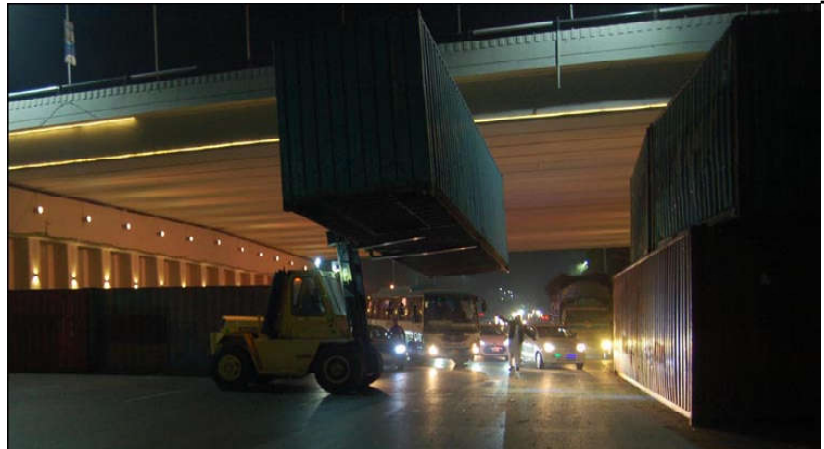
The KIIR called on

the UN High Commissioner to press the Indian government to abide by its international obligations, release all political prisoners, halt state-sponsored violence, and end reprisals against human rights advocates in IIOJ&K. The letter emphasized that the people of Jammu and Kashmir were entitled to the right to self-determination, as enshrined in international law.

The appeal also urged the international community to demand better medical care for Kashmiri prisoners and ensure their health and well-being were safeguarded in accordance with global human rights standards.



ISLAMABAD: A view of closed General Bus Stand at Faizabaddue to PTI protest on 24 Nov.



ISLAMABAD: A view of container placed at Zero Point during PTI protest on 24 Nov in capital city.

Wali alleges PTI for sabotaging relations with brotherly countries

ISLAMABAD (APP): Provincial spokesperson of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Ikhitar Wali Khan on Saturday alleged Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) for sabotaging relations with brotherly countries of Pakistan as Bushra Bibi, wife of the founder of PTI has delivered controversial remarks. "PTI does not let any opportunity to defame Pakistan", Wali said adding that the whole world is acknowledging the efforts of Pakistan to improve the economy which was hard for PTI to digest.

Addressing a press conference, he claimed the entire province was in deep social and economic turmoil due to mismanagement.

He asserted that the

Section 144 enforced in federal capital

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad authorities have enforced Section 144 across the federal capital to ensure law and order in the city, following the directives of the Islamabad High Court on Saturday.

Police officials have assured that all necessary measures will be taken to implement Section 144 effectively, a public relation officer told APP.

Citizens are urged to refrain from participating in any illegal activities, emphasizing the importance of adhering to the law for collective safety, he said.

Resources are being utilized to safeguard the lives, properties, and assets of residents, with police actively present to maintain law and order in the city, he added.

Authorities have warned that strict action will be taken against those found violating the law to uphold peace and security in Islamabad.

Death anniversary of Jamiluddin Aali observed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The eighth death anniversary of famous poet, writer and scholar Jamiluddin Aali was observed on Saturday.

He was born into a family with a rich literary background in Delhi on January 20, 1925.

After the partition, he migrated to Pakistan. Jamiluddin Aali composed several renowned patriotic songs, such as Jeeway Jeeway Pakistan, Hum Maain, Hum Behnain, Hum Baitiyan, and Mera Inam Pakistan.

He authored numerous books and travelogues, including Aye Mere Dasht-e-Sukhan, La Hasil, Nai Kiran, and Duniya Mere Aagye.

He was honoured with prestigious awards like the Hilal-e-Imtiaz and the pride of performance.

He passed away due to a heart attack on November 23, 2015, in Karachi.

Rana Afzal advises PTI to shun anarchy, work for country's betterment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister Rana Ishaan Afzal Khan Saturday called on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to abandon its "destructive politics" and instead work collaboratively towards the betterment of Pakistan.

In an interview to a private news channel, he emphasized the importance of collective efforts for the country's welfare, rather than pursuing a path of chaos and disruption.

Rana Ishaan Afzal Khan stated that Imran Khan's party's public gatherings would only serve to harm the economy and disrupt the daily lives of ordinary people.

Imran Khan's leadership has been a subject of controversy, with many questioning his political vision and tactics, he criticized.

14 students severely injured in Haryana Kot accident

ISLAMABAD (APP): A devastating road accident occurred in Haryana Kot, Malakand on Saturday morning, when a school van carrying students collided with a pole, leaving at least 14 children severely injured.

According to rescue sources, a tragic incident occurred in Haryana Kot, Malakand, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, when a school van collided with a pole, injuring multiple students, private

Nobody will be allowed to create chaos, anarchy in country: Talal

ISLAMABAD (Online): PML (N) leader Senator Talal Chaudhary has said nobody will be allowed to create chaos and anarchy in the country.

In a televised message, he said the state of Pakistan and its security forces are capable enough to thwart any such effort.

Senator Talal Chaudhary said the PTI founder is making desperate attempts to avoid accountability in corruption cases. He however said no NRO will be given to him.

Talal Chaudhary also criticized PTI for building narratives based on falsehoods and expressed regret that the party targets friendly nations that have

always supported Pakistan during difficult times.

Senator Talal Chaudhary has strongly condemned the allegation by Bushra Bibi against Saudi Arabia. Addressing the media person here on Saturday, Senator Talal Chaudhary said that Bushra Bibi made false allegations against Pakistan's friends which was an old tactic of PTI. He said Bushra Bibi has conspired to make Pakistanis unemployed abroad. "Earlier, Pakistanis in Saudi Arabia had become unemployed and imprisoned due to failed policies of PTI."

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif appealed to the Saudi leadership and obtained forgiveness in the past", the minister expressed adding that sometimes they blame America and sometimes Saudi Arabia, these people have dominated Pakistan for four years.

Those who received gifts, watches, and jewellery from Saudi Arabia have once again proven that they are benefactors and forgetful of kindness, he added.

He said that in the past PTI had made a narrative of cypher, now some females wanted to hold the party leadership and thus blaming the friends of Pakistan.

IRSA releases 96,500 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Saturday released 96,500 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 50,100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1503.25 feet and was 105.25 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 23,700 cusecs and 49,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1163.75 feet, which was 113.75 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 5,900 cusecs and 27,000 cusecs respectively.



ISLAMABAD: Students participating in Annual Sports day session 2024-25 of Dar-e-Arqam school PWD, Pakistan town and Sohan Garden branches at Naval anchorage Club.

Iqra University students visit ICT police security division

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of students from Iqra University visited the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police Security Division under the Friends of Police program on Saturday.

SSP Security Capt @ Syed Zeeshan Haider briefed them about the division's operations and responsibilities.

A public relation officer told APP that following the special directives of the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the SSP Security Capt @ Syed Zeeshan Haider welcomed the delegation of student volunteers of Iqra University and briefed them about security division police work.

He said the student delegation visited the Security



ISLAMABAD: Students taking part in a fashion show titled "Elegance of Flare" held at FG Home economics college F11/3 in Alumni Evening 2024.

Sohail Afridi launches digitalization initiative for KPK's C&W Department

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant for Communications and Works (C&W), Sohail Afridi launched the digitalization initiative of the C&W Department on Saturday, which includes the implementation of the Asset Management System and the Human Resource Information Management System (HRIMS). The event was attended by the Secretary of C&W, Chief Engineers, and other senior officials. Sohail Afridi emphasized that the digitalization of the C&W Department is part of the government's broader effort to modernize operations, improve service delivery, and promote transparency and accountability.

Details of cases registered against PTI founder: IHC issues notice again to NAB

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has issued notice again to NAB Balochistan, KP and Sindh on the petition filed by Noreen Niazi seeking details of cases filed against her brother PTI founder Imran Khan.

Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir issued order on Saturday for hearing petition filed by Noreen Niazi sister of PTI founder Imran Khan.

The order said neither any one appeared from NAB nor has any report

been presented by it. Notice is issued to NAB again. Complete report be presented.

Interior ministry should seek details of the cases, inquiries and pending cases against PTI founder from Sindh, Balochistan and KP.

Assistant Attorney General (AAG) should ensure implementation of court's orders.

The court has directed that copy of order be sent to interior ministry and NAB.

ICT Police arrest 69 absconders involved in heinous crimes

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police have arrested 69 absconders, proclaimed offenders and target offenders involved in heinous crimes during the ongoing week.

A police spokesperson told APP on Saturday that special tasks were assigned to all senior police officials to ensure the arrest of proclaimed offenders and absconders involved in different criminal activities in the federal capital. He said during the crackdown, the Islamabad Police teams have arrested 69 absconders, proclaimed offenders and target of-

fenders during the ongoing week.

DIG Syed Ali Raza said that the ICT Police is taking all possible steps to eradicate the crime from the city and those involved in heinous crimes and illegal activities will be dealt with iron hands. Safety of the lives and property of the citizens is the foremost priority of Islamabad Capital Police, DIG added.

Citizens are also requested to cooperate with police during the checking process and inform police about any suspicious activity around them through emergency helpline Pucar-15.

Fatima Khan criticizes Bushra Bibi's video remarks as 'diplomatic blunder'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) leader of Balochistan, Fatima Khan Saturday vehemently denounced the scandalous video statement of PTI's Bushra Bibi against Saudi Arabia, labelling it utterly reprehensible, irresponsible and deeply regrettable.

In an exclusive interview with the PTV news channel, Fatima Khan criticised Bushra Bibi's appalling statement, declaring it utterly unacceptable from someone who had once held

the esteemed position of First Lady. She excoriated Bushra Bibi for her blatant disregard for the sensitivities of Pakistan's fraternal relations with other countries, asserting that such reckless and immature remarks were an affront to the nation's dignity.

Fatima Khan emphasized that the bond between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan is deep-rooted and unforgeable, expressing her gratitude for the Kingdom's unwavering support during times of crisis.

Fans, media pay heartfelt tributes to Waheed Murad on his 41st death anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Media and fans came together to pay heartfelt tributes to the legendary actor Waheed Murad, affectionately known as the "Chocolate Hero", on his 41st death anniversary on Saturday.

Remembering his remarkable contributions to Pakistani cinema, fans took to social media to share memorable moments from his iconic films, praising his charismatic on-screen presence, and versatile acting skills. The media also celebrated his legacy through special broadcasts, highlighting his impact on the Pakistani film industry and the enduring love of his fans, PTV news reported.

He was born on October 2, 1938. He commenced his film career as a producer by joining the company established by his father, Nisar Murad. Waheed Murad's first production was titled "Insaan Badalta Hai" in 1961. His first film as an actor proved to be a hit and he impressed many directors and producers with his style and dialogue delivery.



ISLAMABAD: Heavy machinery in action for the construction of 9th Avenue F-9 underpass and flyover project in the Federal Capital.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent
Sunday November 24, 2024

Counterterrorism plan

With terrorist attacks surging, resulting in high casualties amongst both civilians and security personnel, it is time the state adapted its posture accordingly.

KP is at the centre of the militancy storm, though Balochistan has also experienced a significant upsurge in terrorist violence. Thursday's reprehensible attack in Lower Kurram targeting a convoy, in which over 40 people were murdered, along with the loss of 12 security personnel in Bannu earlier, are the latest examples of the challenges confronting the state on the counterterrorism front.

In this regard, the Foreign Office has reiterated the need for the Afghan Taliban to take action against militants on their soil while domestically, a multiparty conference has been called to discuss the security situation in KP. A grand jirga is also due to be held to defuse the situation in Kurram after the massacre.

Pakistan has long argued that militants are finding shelter in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. Indeed, the best efforts of its security forces will be neutralised if terrorists are able to find refuge in Afghanistan. That is why it is crucial for the state to regularly convey its concerns regarding terrorist sanctuaries to Kabul. It is also essential to calibrate our response with regional states, whose security is also affected by violent actors in Afghanistan.

Officials from China and Russia were in Islamabad recently to discuss this issue, and this coordinated approach to regional security must continue if the terrorist threat is to be eradicated. Domestically, it is important that terrorists are denied sanctuary. The Kurram atrocity, the constant attacks on our troops, as well as the Quetta railway station bombing two weeks ago all point to lacunae in our CT efforts, which need to be plugged quickly.

In fact, the number of security personnel — belonging to both the military and police — targeted by terrorists is disturbingly high, particularly for peacetime. Though official figures for the current year are not yet available, one estimate says that in 35 terrorist attacks in KP in October, 40 security men were martyred.

Meanwhile, while addressing a presser in early September, the ISPR chief had said that the army had lost 193 men "fighting terrorists". If all the numbers are added up, it would mean that Pakistan has lost hundreds of security men this year so far.

As this paper has previously suggested, specialised CT units should be formed within the military, paramilitaries, and police forces. Terrorists tend to use asymmetrical methods to target the state, and security forces need to study these methods to counter violent actors, as traditional tactics are not getting the desired results. If need be, experts from friendly countries can be consulted to train specialised units in the latest CT strategies, and bring down troop losses.

Zeba Sathar

There is growing concern regarding the shockingly higher-than-anticipated intercensal population growth rates of 2.55 per cent between 2017 and 2023.

An already high, unsustainable population growth rate has increased instead of going down. We have added 110 million people to our population in 25 years and boast the highest growth rate in South Asia.

The Population Council and UNFPA's report Pakistan@2050 addresses demographic change, future projections, and the consequent challenges and opportunities vis-à-vis Pakistan's development landscape. It leaves no doubt how important it is to tackle the existential crisis of population growth.

The study puts to rest much of the debate about a demographic dividend in Pakistan: a dividend is unlikely if each additional person consumes more than what is earned. It also underscores the flat trends in labour productivity which have cancelled out the expectation that the increase

in labour force would yield dividends.

The cost of inaction in achieving a fertility transition and a reduction in population growth rate since the 1980s is high. The study lays out the huge loss caused by high population growth in the last few decades in economic terms. Pakistan's GDP would have been 56pc higher if the population growth had been even half a percentage point lower since the 1980s. Poverty levels and maternal deaths — other important indicators — could have been severely reduced.

Of even greater concern is that we are on track to reach a population of 385m Pakistanis by 2050. Already stretched resources, water and food shortages and, above all, high unemployment and a troubled economy do not point to a rosy future for an additional 140m in Pakistan. There are also concerns regarding the lack of education, skills and knowledge base. This puts our labour force at a disadvantage in today's fiercely competitive markets.

The report calculates that 2.6m additional jobs are required annually be-

tween 2023 and 2050. At the moment, it is mainly the services sector which has largely absorbed the surge of additional workforce. We face challenges in absorbing the full workforce and will need to plan for it. Major structural changes are required to generate growth in manufacturing and agriculture to absorb the additional 65m Pakistanis who will enter the labour force in the next 25 years.

We can safely expect over 50pc of Pakistanis to be living in urban areas by 2050. The large volume of rural-to-urban migration is due more to the push of shrinking employment opportunities in agriculture and poverty, and less to the pull of better prospects in the urban areas. The lack of structural changes that accompany urban transitions elsewhere are of concern. This includes the lack of any sharp decline in the continuing high rates of fertility in cities and towns.

There is a message of hope though — if the leadership prioritises two clear policy directions. The two policy actions can effectively make a change in the number of Pakistanis, and how educated and how

economically sound they will be by 2050. These actions offer a way to redress some factors that impede development. Both are already accepted policies of the government. But there is evidence that immediate implementation can make a significant difference.

The strongest message is that bringing fertility down is a necessity. The goal of the Council of Common Interests is to bring fertility down to 2.2 replacement levels by 2030. This is unlikely, but not impossible. Many countries in this region like Iran and Nepal, and Bangladesh have accomplished a decline in fertility of over one child in a decade.

There is strong reason to believe that Pakistan can experience a fast fertility decline. A recent Population Council report estimates that almost half of the pregnancies in Pakistan are unplanned and 3.8m end annually as abortions and 2m as unplanned births. This confirms that there is a huge gap between demand for and supply of family planning services for families in need of these.

The second necessary policy is the implementa-

tion of compulsory primary education for all children by 2028. This is obligatory as mandated by Article 25A of the Constitution. Furthermore, the government has declared an education emergency. It is necessary also to rectify the shameful figure of 25m out-of-school children.

Immediate joint efforts by the centre and provinces should ensure that measures are put in place through expanding the school network, hiring more teachers and doing double shifts to meet this emergency. A full generation of Pakistani children in school completing primary education would signal the intent to walk the talk of an educational emergency.

These two actions alone will lead to 50m fewer Pakistanis and doubling of the per capita income by 2050. We will be able to claim a full generation of children having completed primary education and a generation of educated mothers in another few years.

Both these actions are based on the human rights agenda. Additionally, they will provide the tailwind to catch up with key SDG

goals on health, hunger and poverty, education and climate change by 2030. The report stresses that gender inequities, particularly involving women and girls, deserve special attention. Their education and labour force participation is essential for any social or economic transformation.

Evidence is given that Pakistan's demographic and development trajectory today would have been totally different had there been investment in female education. It would certainly have ensured that some key development outcomes and even our fertility levels would have been more in line with our neighbouring countries in South Asia.

The finance minister recently declared that a charter of economy must include population growth and environment. It is an ideal opportunity to prioritise the goals related to these and reverse the demographic crisis. It could be achieved by running a vigorous campaign to increase access to voluntary family planning. Pakistan's birth rate can be brought down to sustainable levels. -- Courtesy Dawn

Samia Liaquat
Ali Khan

As we take a moment to observe how the world has changed in the past few years, it always helps to think of what our younger selves may have thought or felt when faced with similar events.

It's one way to figure out how jaded or cynical we may have become over the years. And it helps in appreciating and understanding the concerns and worldviews of young people around us.

The Global Trends study that is carried out by Ipsos every decade, aims to capture how people across the globe view their lives and futures and reveals shared realities but also divergences. Research is conducted across 50 countries and 1,000 individuals in each, equal representation of gender and an age cohort stretching from 19 to 74. It is a robust dataset, but given that it is an online survey, it acknowledges that respondents are more educated, largely urban and probably better off than

many of their fellow citizens.

In 2024, the macro trends identified by the study don't hold any surprises. However, they do reveal how people are observing and reflecting on critical issues of our time. One of the trends is economic disparities, and data reveals that people realise they are in the midst of the downfall of the middle classes. What was once a clear trajectory for a majority (that children should and will prosper more than their parents), is now perceived to be out of reach.

The divide between the haves and have nots has been exposed for what it signifies — those in positions of power do not want the status quo to change. The economic trend also points to a fracturing of societies and impacts politics and social structures. Tensions around immigrants and refugees, the role of digital technology, populism and polarity of views all suggest that we are in the midst of massive transformations. Where the

collisions occur can already be partially predicted, but what it means for us as human beings and nation states, is as yet unknown.

Another shift reveals how people's thinking has changed on a particular issue. A decade earlier, people were worried about climate change, today according to the study, 80 per cent of respondents realise we are in the midst of an environmental emergency. Most also believe that our habits need to change quickly if we are to survive, and they hold companies and governments responsible for lack of action and initiative on environmental stewardship, and building a more sustainable future for all. However, individuals see themselves as doing as much as they can in this regard, and this is where the issue of environmental emergency becomes submerging to the immediate reality of rising costs of living, and disparities in wealth and health.

Over 70pc of people believe that technology

can be used to solve the problems we face. There is awe and wonder at what can be achieved, but more than half also believe that technology is destroying the very fabric of our lives. Fears about how the meta data that is collected invades our privacy, is taking our jobs and whether humans themselves will be able to control artificial intelligence in the future, are growing.

The use of digital technology to control our autonomy and independence, while our own expanding dependence on smartphones and the like reflect the innately complex and intricate nature of our relationship with technology and whether this will in the long-term be to our advantage or disadvantage.

Where does Pakistan stand across all these parameters of perception? Interestingly there are some similarities but also differences. We stand with the rest of the world when it comes to a distrust in elites and 72pc of us agree that the economy is rigged to the

advantage of the rich and powerful. Ninety-one per cent of Pakistanis believe that we are heading for environmental disaster if we don't change our ways. A significant majority — 89pc — also believe that modern technology provides the answer to the big challenges we face.

Our most prominent differences with the world are linked to personal and societal values. Eighty-two per cent of us still believe that the main role of women is to be good mothers and wives and this is linked to our traditionalist view on religion. Only 39pc of the rest of the world adheres to this view. I have become more aware over time of how deeply patriarchal and misogynistic our society has become, so while I should be surprised at this figure, I'm not. Just weary of the struggle that seems to go nowhere.

What did alarm me was that while saying our faith is very important to us, we also differ to the rest of the world on our opinion of material own-

ership. Seventy-nine per cent of Pakistanis compared to 46pc globally agree to the statement - I measure success by the things that I own. This juxtaposition of focus on wealth and possessions, yet convincing ourselves that we have strong faith, reflects a confusion, an internal dissonance in our value systems. This is troubling.

I titled this piece "Deep Fakes" for a reason. Our society is at a crossroads. We have a young population that we are failing. Politicians talk of Pakistan becoming great, but have betrayed us with falsehoods and false hope for far too long. They take the easy way out, as do most of us elites. And the examples we set for the rest of the country means they will do the same. This divergence between rhetoric and practice is our downfall. And it is reflected in the dissonance of values within our collective psyche. Is it possible to crawl out of this hole? The answer lies in intention. -- Courtesy Dawn

Edu-surveillance

Nazir A. Jozgezi

With the rise in insecurity, we have seen the increasing use of CCTV surveillance cameras and metal detectors in educational institutions globally. The security threats include, for example, school shootings in the US and attacks on schools in Pakistan. The use of surveillance technologies like CCTV may appear appropriate to combat insecurity faced by educational institutions, their staff, and students.

Although the initial deployment of CCTV cameras in many countries aimed to protect schools against dangerous outsiders, they soon extended across school playgrounds, hallways, classrooms, and libraries and even crept into more private spaces like staffrooms and locker rooms. Video scandals involving university students in parts of Pakistan and other societies have highlighted the abuse of such surveillance and have initiated a debate about its use in personalised areas and classrooms.

Educational institutions justify the use of CCTV surveillance cameras for access and conduct control, and evidence gathering. Access control is primarily associated with the protection of schools from dangerous outsiders. Conduct control is focused on making interventions to normalise school rules, such as attendance, assessment reports, uniforms, and punishments based on real-time monitoring. Evidence gathering is an effort to ease disciplinary investigation.

CCTV surveillance cameras have become the new administrative norm. They have proliferated to socially control a variety of student behaviours, including theft, bullying, truancy, smoking, and minor delinquencies, as well

as to evaluate teachers' performance and behaviour in the classroom.

In classrooms, they perform mostly as disciplinary tools to control teachers and students, maintain discipline, and ensure utmost compliance with organisational regulations. They are also used to supervise, monitor, and judge students' and teachers' overall performance.

These technological surveillance services are cost-effective for educational institutions. However, they come at the cost of neglecting the development of students and impeding their transition to becoming responsible citizens, and confident, self-directed learners.

Such surveillance in classrooms and personalised places has adversely impacted students and staff, and have contributed to a negative psychology on their part and a feeling of reduced safety in schools and in the classroom in particular. In addition to harsh disciplinary practices, such surveillance has resulted in a strained relationship between schools, teachers, and students.

Recent educational research indicates that increasing implementation of very visible security measures — akin to a prison system — in educational institutions may gradually diminish mutual trust and have a detrimental effect on the learning environment, academic performances, and the social development of students. Research has also demonstrated that this hyper-surveillance has led to an increase in students' feelings of mistrust, powerlessness, and vulnerability.

Students are more afraid of being observed, and they may consequently act in a way that is contrived because of the "observer effect" that

comes with CCTV cameras. Similarly, teachers will become demoralised at such an invasion of their personal and professional space and make attempts to counteract the surveillance through resistance.

Learning takes place in an environment of trust and healthy relationships between teachers and students and in a learner-friendly environment. CCTVs hamper the development of an anxiety-free environment when installed in classrooms and personal spaces. Their presence heightens alertness, camouflages genuine behaviour, and may even lead to the display of fake conduct.

There is evidence that they are used to criminalise student behaviour, transforming the learning atmosphere into a hyper-surveilled one, resulting in risks to privacy and human rights, as well as to the health and academic performance of students. In fact, intensified surveillance in schools has led to a growing mistrust among and oppression of students.

One is not proposing to entirely avoid the use of CCTV surveillance, but it must not hinder the learning process, and personal growth of the learners or deplete trust in students and teachers, or generate a sense of personal insecurity.

Their use in classrooms must especially be discouraged, and they should only be installed in places such as hallways and entrances. There should be proper rules and regulations for CCTV surveillance in educational institutions, which must be complied with. The consent of staff, students, and their parents must be obtained, and the school management must explain to them the purpose of CCTVs. -- Courtesy Dawn

Municipal affairs

Dr Noman Ahmed

The commissioner Quetta, who is also the administrator of the Quetta Municipal Corporation (QMC), lately announced that several municipal properties will be privatised to raise revenue. The provincial government and the Balochistan Public-Private Partnership Authority were also taken on board. However, it must be noted that key decisions related to Quetta's municipal issues must only be taken when an elected municipality is at the helm of affairs. Appointed administrators simply represent a stop-gap arrangement.

Some of the properties mentioned above are currently rented by powerful traders for nominal sums. They wish to neither vacate the premises nor increase the amount. Such immovable properties are an already under-resourced QMC's family silver. At the same time, one can question the district and divisional administration's inability to have the premises vacated after due process of the law. The QMC can be supported to make better utilisation of these assets. Parting from them will make the QMC a basket case for the provincial government.

Balochistan is entitled to 9.09 per cent of the funds from the Federal Divisible Pool, which translates to Rs894 billion. This share is an outcome of the 18th Amendment. However, the actual spirit of this amendment was the distribution of resources to the lowest level of the administrative units. Whereas the politicians want increasing financial shares for their provinces from the pool, no effort is made to constitute the mandatory provincial financial bodies and provincial de-

partments agree to coordinate, there can be quick progress.

To conserve the air quality, public transport must be encouraged and private vehicles using sub-standard fuel should not be allowed on the roads. Quetta's topography does not permit for enhanced emissions, which create health hazards. Natural land assets within municipal and regional limits must be carefully documented and protected.

The Balochistan government is at present in the process of finalising the Quetta Master Plan 2050. The planning process is based on the appraisal of the current urban and regional situation, the formulation of goals, immediate action proposals, and medium- and long-term recommendations. It attempts to obtain feedback from stakeholders in the public and private sector, as well as representatives from various strata of society.

It is a desirable move. To make it happen, institutional rearrangements, along with new measures, are being suggested to build the capacity of existing city institutions. The plan will only be meaningful if hoped legal cover.

It is provided that the Balochistan government takes the necessary steps to shore up the capacity of the QMC, the Quetta Development Authority, the Balochistan Water and Sanitation Department, and other outfits.

Located in a zone of high seismic activity, Quetta needs a strict building and zoning control regime to enable safe construction practices. Older buildings and structures also require assessment and retrofitting to enable them to survive disasters of various kinds. Quetta must be planned and managed well to live up to the hopes invested in it. -- Courtesy Dawn

CM Maryam suspends key officials over HIV outbreak in dialysis at Nishtar hospital

MULTAN (APP): Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has taken strict action by suspending key officials following an alarming incident of HIV transmission among dialysis patients at Nishtar Hospital.

The episode, attributed to gross negligence, has led to the suspension of senior officials, including the Medical Superintendent, key doctors, and staff of the Nephrology Department. During her visit to the hospital, the Chief Minister ordered the immediate suspension of Medical Superintendent Dr. Muhammad Kazim, Head of the Nephrology Department Dr. Ghulam Abbas, Associate Professor Dr. Poonam Khalid, Senior Registrar Dr. Muhammad Qadeer, and Dr. Maliha Johar, Medical Officer Dr. Muhammad Alamgir and Head Nurse Naheed Parveen were also relieved of their duties. Maryam Nawaz personally investigated the matter, meeting with the Vice-Chancellor of Nishtar Medical University, the Principal, department heads, and staff involved.

She reviewed reports and heard their accounts, uncovering a shocking violation of standard operating

ing procedures (SOPs). According to the inquiry, mandatory HIV and Hepatitis screenings for dialysis patients, required every three months, were not conducted. Disposable dialysis kits and dialyzers were reused across multiple patients, exposing them to life-threatening infections. It was further revealed that hospital staff sent samples to private laboratories in violation of official protocols.

Even after the detection of HIV in patients, the incident was concealed, highlighting a blatant disregard for patient safety. The Chief Minister expressed outrage at the failure of senior doctors to supervise the ward adequately, with some not visiting for weeks.

She called for the Health Secretary to initiate strict disciplinary action under the Punjab Employees Efficiency, Discipline, and Accountability (PEEDA) Act.

Speaking on the issue, Maryam Nawaz stated, "We have allocated vast resources to healthcare, but such negligence was unacceptable. Patients come for treatment, not to leave with incurable diseases." She emphasized the need for ac-

countability and immediate reforms to prevent such incidents in the future.

The Chief Minister directed the installation of a PET scan machine in Multan to strengthen diagnostic facilities. She also inspected the cardiology and other wards, ordering the immediate transfer of critical patients to intensive care units when required. Maryam Nawaz expressed dissatisfaction with the hospital's hygiene and cleanliness, instructing staff to address the issues immediately. During her visit, a sanitation worker complained about unpaid salaries, prompting the Chief Minister to ensure their timely disbursement. She stressed that the government would not tolerate any negligence in healthcare services.

The visit was attended by Senator Pervez Rasheed, Provincial Minister for Information Uzma Zahid Bukhari, Special Assistant Sania Ashiq, and senior government officials, including the Chief Secretary, Commissioner, and Regional Police Officer. Maryam Nawaz's decisive actions have sent a clear message that patient safety and healthcare standards remain a top priority.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presides over the meeting to review law and order situation in Multan Division.

Ethiopian ambassador praises Governor's initiatives

KARACHI (APP): Ethiopian Ambassador Jemal Beker Abdula commended the Sindh Governor's Initiative, highlighting their potential to significantly improve the quality of life for the public.

He made these remarks during his meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House, which was also attended by Ethiopia's Honorary Consul General Ibrahim Khalid Tawab.

Their discussions focused on strengthening bilateral ties between Pakistan and Ethiopia, enhancing trade, investment, and fostering exchanges of delegations.

The governor emphasized the attractive investment opportunities in Sindh and encouraged Ethiopian investors to benefit from profitable sectors in the province. He highlighted the increased exchanges facilitated by Ethiopian Airlines, which has furthered the bilateral relationship, contributing to job creation and poverty alleviation in the region.

He also praised the government's commitment to resolving the issues amicably, adding that the government delegation was holding Jirgas with local elders to defuse the prevailing tensions and ensure peace.

Highlighting the government's priority, he stated, "Our foremost objective is to achieve a ceasefire between both parties and establish lasting peace in the area."

Sindh CM calls for constitutional protection of 1991 water accord

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has called for constitutional protection of the 1991 Water Accord, emphasizing that the provincial government will never compromise on Sindh's water share.

"The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) demands constitutional protection for the Water Apportionment Accord of 1991, despite its shortcomings, to ensure its implementation in true letter and spirit."

This he said while replying to a question during a media talk at the World Children's Day celebrations

at Nissan-e-Pakistan. CM Shah said, "The chief minister clearly said that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) would never compromise on Sindh's water rights. He reiterated the party's longstanding opposition to the Kalabagh Dam, a position that dates back to the time of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, who staged a historic sit-in at Kamo Shaheed in district Ghotki.

Talking about the party's role as the representative of Sindh, Mr Shah said, "The PPP is the true voice of Sindh, and we will not allow a single drop of

Sindh's water to be taken away." His remarks underscore the province's consistent resistance to projects perceived as harmful to its water rights.

The CM emphasised the necessity for full implementation of the 1991 Water Accord and urged that it be granted constitutional protection to safeguard Sindh's water rights.

He also pointed out the PPP's significant position in the province, saying that it [PPP] holds a two-thirds majority in the Sindh Assembly and represents over 70 per cent of the province's population.



LAHORE: Deputy Speaker Punjab Assembly Zaheer Iqbal Chhanar meeting with Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at the Governor House.

Punjab Governor says: Success of the coalition govt important to deal with the challenges facing country

LAHORE: Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the success of the coalition government is very important to deal with the challenges facing the country. Pakistan Peoples' Party believe in strengthening the government for political and economic stability in the country, he expressed these views during a meeting with Deputy Speaker Punjab Assembly Zaheer Iqbal Chhanar at the Governor House Lahore. In the meeting, the overall situation of the province including the agreements between the Muslim League-N and the PPP was discussed.

Speaking on this occasion,

Governor Punjab said that there is no guarantee of PTI's peaceful protest. He added that PTI's protest is only to spread chaos in the country. He said that no patriot is ready to support PTI.

Governor Punjab said that I am sure that no one will come out of Punjab to protest against PTI. Governor Punjab said that no country was interested in investing in Pakistan during the tenure of the founder PTI.

He said that diplomatic relations improved during Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's tenure as Foreign Ministry and the confidence of foreign investors.

has never protested peacefully. Governor Punjab said that there is no guarantee of PTI's peaceful protest. He added that PTI's protest is only to spread chaos in the country. He said that no patriot is ready to support PTI.

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Saif says: Govt delegation holds constructive discussions for lasting peace in Kurram

PESHAWAR (APP): On the directives of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister, a high level delegation of the government reached district Kurram and held constructive discussions for defusing the prevailing situation and lasting peace in the area.

In an official statement issued here Saturday, Provincial Advisor for Information Muhammad Ali Saif revealed that the delegation held detailed meetings with Shia community leaders, resulting in constructive discussions aimed at resolving the problems.

"In the next phase, we will engage with Sunni leaders to further the peace process," he added.

Saif emphasized the government's commitment to resolving the issues amicably, adding that the government delegation was holding Jirgas with local elders to defuse the prevailing tensions and ensure peace.

Highlighting the government's priority, he stated, "Our foremost objective is to achieve a ceasefire between both parties and establish lasting peace in the area."

Two brothers shot dead in Abbottabad over personal enmity

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Two real brothers were killed on Saturday by their rivals, who ambushed them and opened fire as a result of an ongoing feud.

According to police sources, Muhammad Ilyas, the son of Wali Asghar, a resident of Doctar Dehmtor, filed an FIR stating that on the night between Friday and Saturday, his two sons, Fahad and Owais, residents of Dehmtor Doctar within the jurisdiction of the Nawan Shehr Police Station.



LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari addressing a Press conference at DGPR.

Azma Bukhari says: Parachinar fire spreading, but Gandapur sleeping

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari said on Saturday that the fire in Parachinar was now spreading to the streets, while Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Gandapur was sleeping on the issue.

Addressing a press conference at DGPR, she said the KP CM was only focused on one dream, how to launch an attack on the federal government with the help of provincial government employees. She regretted that Gandapur had never held any meeting regarding law and order in KP. She said the federal government would help the provincial government to solve its problems if the latter would become active first. Gandapur was more concerned with how to distribute billions of rupees

among protesters than the safety of his people. They should be ashamed of spewing venom against the very country from which they have been doing business with diamonds.

The provincial information minister said, "We cannot leave Islamabad at the mercy of these goons. Maintaining peace and order is the responsibility of both the provinces and the federal government, and we will fulfill this responsibility. Anyone who tries to take the law into their own hands will be treated like the Khawarij."

She added that the Islamabad High Court clearly stated that no one would be allowed to disrupt the situation, and they should be given a designated place for protests.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health and Chairman Cabinet Committee for law and order Khawaja Salman Rafique being briefed about security arrangements during his visit to Central Control Room.

Punjab govt mark's comprehensive plan to combat smog

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab government has initiated implementation of a comprehensive strategy to combat environmental pollution and smog.

Special focus is being placed on public and private housing societies, alongside plans to establish agricultural forests on millions of acres of barren land. These measures, directed by the Chief Minister of Punjab, are part of a short, medium, and long-term vision. Efforts are underway to plant trees along housing societies and highways, while expanding the protective greenbelt around Lahore. Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb urged the public and institutions to participate in this tree-planting mission, emphasizing that environmental protection is a shared responsibility.

She announced that standard vehicles will be banned from roads and must be certified to operate.

The Environment Protection Department has been conducting inspections of industrial units and brick kilns, sealing 14 units and filing 8 cases for legal violations. Additionally, fines amounting to Rs. 4.6 million have been imposed. Monitoring of commercial generators and barbecue outlets in green lockdown zones is ongoing, while squads are actively working to curb pollution caused by sand and soil overloading. Strict surveillance of sand-laden trucks is in place at Lahore's entry points.

Marriyum Aurangzeb stated that no leniency will be shown towards violations of environmental laws, and offenders will face strict penalties.

11 dead, 1,701 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least 11 people were killed and 1,701 others injured in 1,559 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

As many as 755 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 946 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by rescue medical teams.

The data analysis showed that 848 drivers, 53 underage drivers, 210 pedestrians, and 663 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes.



PESHAWAR: PTI MNA Shandana Gulzar addressing a press conference at Press Club.

NSICT&R, first govt cancer hospital to offer modern facilities: Health ministers

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Ministers Khawaja Salman Rafique and Khawaja Imran Nazir announced that the Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cancer Treatment and Research (NSICT&R) will be Pakistan's first public sector cancer hospital, offering cutting-edge facilities such as radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and endoscopy.

Chairing a meeting of the Health Advisory Committee at the Department of Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education on Saturday, they promised the government would do everything to improving healthcare infrastructure.

Minister for Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Khawaja Salman Rafique stated that the Infrastructure Develop-

ment Authority of Punjab (IDAP) has been tasked with making the institute operational at the earliest. "A 12-month target has been set for the completion of the hospital's first phase. The Punjab government prioritizes every effort that improves public life," he said. He also noted that the hospital's expansion will proceed in phases with the installation of modern medical equipment.

Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Khawaja Imran Nazir highlighted the broader scope of the project, calling it "not just for Punjab but for all of Pakistan." He assured that no cancer patient would be denied treatment and described the institute as a state-of-the-art facility providing high-quality, modern medical care. "This

will be the first public sector cancer hospital of its kind, following the Chief Minister's strict directives for its swift completion," he added.

The meeting reviewed progress on the institute's construction, updates to the hospital's master plan, and the procurement of advanced medical machinery. A detailed plan for the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment for cancer treatment was discussed. Emphasis was placed on establishing Punjab's largest bone marrow transplant unit. Proposals were made to increase bed capacity in the Cancer Care Hospital. A hospice center for Level 4 cancer patients was recommended. Plans were outlined to appoint highly qualified cancer specialists.

Urbom's visits in northern Sindh to bring sustainable development: Shafqat

SUKKUR (APP): Prominent Senior Politician, Advocate Sayed Shafqat Ali Shah has said that Pakistan is committed to fostering regional peace and stability in the region adding that Pakistan has long standing and historic ties with the United States.

He said that by enhancing the economic, trade and education, municipal services and health cooperation these ties can be further strengthened.

In his statement said on Saturday that US Council General Scott Urbom's visit in northern Sindh showed his commitment to

further strengthening the US-Pakistan economic partnership.

Shafqat Ali Shah emphasized the need for a comprehensive package of initiatives in various sectors in northern Sindh including digital trade, mining, energy, climate, services, and the environment. Shah stressed the need to build confidence in traders and investors.

He said that Urbom's visit concluded with exploring avenues to enhance the US-Pakistan partnership in Sindh, particularly focusing on areas of mutual interest which are laudable efforts.

Imposition of section 144 in Punjab challenged

LAHORE (Online): Imposition of section 144 in Punjab has been challenged in Lahore High Court (LHC).

The petitioner has taken plea in the petition that right to protest can be exercised under the constitution.

Azhar Siddique advocate counsel for PTI has filed miscellaneous petition in LHC against the decision of imposition of section 144 in Punjab.

Punjab government and others have been made respondents in the petition.

The petition said section 144 was imposed in Punjab to stop PTI protest.

Mayor urges students to excel in modern fields

PESHAWAR (APP): Mayor of the city, Haji Zubair Ali on Saturday urged students to concentrate on their studies to excel in modern fields of information technology, environmental sciences and artificial intelligence.

He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony held at Municipal Inter College Boys Wazir Bagh and distributed prizes among position holders in midterm examination. He emphasized the collective responsibility government, institutions, parents and students in prioritizing

education.

He also urged parents to actively participate in their children's education, ensuring they are well-informed about their progress. Later, the Mayor inspected ongoing renovation work at school. He directed display of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Iqbal portraits in classrooms.

The ceremony honored students who secured first, second and third positions in the midterm examinations from Prep to 11th grade with cash prizes and shields.



LAHORE: A view of road closed in Provincial Capital ahead of PTI protest, in Islamabad on 24th November.



H.E Hussain Muhammad, Consul General was the Chief Guest in an event hosted by Pakistanis in Dubai (PID) for reaching 200,00 members. The event titled "PID Business Summit" held in Ajman.

US CG visits northern Sindh to strengthen U.S.- Pakistan ties, supports economic development

SUKKUR (APP): The United States, Consul General Scott Urbom visited several districts of northern Sindh where he reinforced the United States' continued commitment to Pakistan's development and prosperity. From advancing education and empowering women to improving healthcare and municipal services, the Consul General highlighted the transformative impact of U.S. development initiatives in the province, said a release issued here on Saturday.

In Khairpur Mirs, Consul General Urbom inaugurated a state-of-the-art STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) laboratory at the Government Higher Secondary School of Hussainabad, developed in collaboration with The Dawood Foundation through a U.S. Consulate Public Diplomacy grant, the lab promotes hands-on learning for underserved communities. This lab embodies the U.S. Government's commitment to fostering creativity and equipping Pakistan's youth with skills to shape their future," said Urbom. The school, constructed under the USAID Sindh Basic Education Program, is one of 106 schools whose construction was funded by the U.S. government to promote quality education in Sindh.

At the Sachal Sarmast Library, Urbom met alumni of the U.S. Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) program, hearing how participants from the 2022 cohort have launched successful businesses, including food and handicrafts. "Empowered women entrepreneurs are key drivers of progress, and we are proud to support programs that unlock potential and inspire leadership," Urbom remarked.

During his visit to Sukkur IBA University, Urbom met 150 students from the English Works program, which equips youth with employability and entrepreneurial skills.

He applauded the program for training 375 students in Sindh and encouraged participants to embrace their roles as future leaders. Mr Urbom also met with Vice Chancellor, Dr. Asif Ahmed Shaikh and discussed the recent U.S.-government funded partnership between Vanderbilt University and Sukkur IBA. The partnership aims to enhance STEM education at Sukkur IBA through curriculum design and pedagogy while developing the capacity of leadership and faculty at the university.

In Jacobabad, Urbom visited the USAID-funded Jacobabad Institute of Medical Sciences (JIMS), a 133-bed hospital serving over one million people.

CM's Spl Aide says: Industrial enclave to be built on 500-acre land

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh government is planning to construct a new industrial enclave on 500 acres of land located next to the Hyderabad-Tando Muhammad Khan Road to serve as a valuable hub for industry and commerce for the industrialists and traders in Hyderabad as well as for neighboring cities. Additionally, it will offer appealing investment opportunities for foreign investors. Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Sindh, Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar, said this while presiding over a meeting of the Sindh Economic Zone Management Company (SEZMC) on Saturday.

He said that this industrial enclave will bring economic prosperity to Second tier cities and regions and also create thousands of employment opportunities in the province in line with the vision of the Pakistan People's Party.

During the briefing in the meeting, it was informed that a feasibility report and master plan of 500 acres of land at Ganju Takkar on Hyderabad-Tando Muhammad Khan Road near Hyderabad city for the proposed industrial enclave has been prepared and work is underway on other stages before placing the project before the cabinet. The briefing said that the proposed industrial enclave will provide strong development opportunities for various industries in the province, including textile, hosiery, cement, pharmaceutical, automobile, renewable energy.

Pak CG congratulates "PID" on achieving 200,000 memberships

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Consul General Hussain Muhammad on Saturday commended "Pakistanis in Dubai" (PID) for its evolution from a social media platform into a hub that united the Pakistani diaspora in the United Arab Emirates. He also congratulated "PID" and its 200,000 members for their remarkable achievement.

The consul general was speaking as a chief guest at an event hosted by Pakistanis in Dubai (PID) for reaching 200,000 members. The event titled "PID Business Summit", held in Ajman, was attended by Pakistani community members, business leaders, and entrepreneurs, a press release said.

The consul general applauded the administrators of the platform for their dedication and suggested exploring the creation of a data bank of the Pakistani diaspora in the UAE to enhance engagement and collaboration. Hussain acknowledged the significant contributions of the Pakistani community to the UAE's economy, culture, and social fabric. He also highlighted the recent initiatives such as the establishment of the Pakistan Business Council in Sharjah, which aimed to foster economic growth and collaboration. He expressed deep gratitude to the UAE leadership for their business-friendly environment and support for the Pakistani community.

IFAD promotes climate-smart agriculture to strengthen food security in Pakistan: Fernanda

ISLAMABAD (APP): The International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) Country Director in Pakistan Fernanda Thomaz has said that the organization promotes climate-smart agriculture to strengthen food security while enabling farmers to adapt to changing conditions.

"This includes supporting resilient infrastructure, water storage, irrigation systems, market access and climate-resistant crop varieties", she told APP in an interview.

Country Director said since 1978, IFAD has focused on fighting rural poverty in Pakistan, where over 80 percent of the poor population resides in rural areas. Smallholder farmers face challenges such as limited market access, small landholdings, and climate-related threats, she said, adding that the IFAD aligns its programs with Pakistan's development goals to address these issues effectively.

She also indicated that strengthening food security initiatives helps ultra-poor communities improve livelihoods through sustainable agricultural practices, with a focus on women and youth.

She said improving market access IFAD develops value chains to enhance farmers' productivity and connect them to larger markets, adding that in Gilgit Baltistan's Hunza Valley, IFAD helped women apricot farmers form cooperatives, improve product quality, and reduce food loss. These cooperatives now link with private companies to access bigger markets, benefiting everyone in the value chain.

Thomaz said promoting climate-resilient practices in remote mountainous areas, IFAD introduces innovations that enable year-round vegetable cultivation, ensuring steady incomes and access to nutritious food.

Enhancing livelihoods asset transfers, skills training, and enterprise-building initiatives empower communities to adopt sustainable practices like home-stead gardening and livestock rearing, improving food security and income, she added.

She commented that the IFAD's commitment to Pakistan's rural development reflects the broader goals of World Food Day. Addressing hunger and ensuring access to nutritious food require inclusive, sustainable food systems. By focusing on marginalized communities, promoting gender equality, and adapting to climate challenges, IFAD contributes to a stronger, more resilient rural economy.

To a question, she said that achieving food security is not just a global priority but a local necessity for Pakistan, adding that strengthening rural communities, empowering farmers, and adapting to climate realities will be critical to ensuring a future where everyone has access to the food they need, she concluded.

She said despite global efforts hunger still persist, adding that around 733 million people worldwide go hungry, including many small-scale farmers most vulnerable to climate change, economic instability, and extreme weather.

This year's World Food Day theme underscores a critical message: food is a basic human right, and every individual, regardless of location or circumstance, deserves access to it, she added.

Country Director said food systems are central to addressing hunger and nutrition challenges, with small-scale farmers playing a key role.

However, rural communities have long been marginalized. Achieving sustainable, inclusive, and fair food systems requires targeted investment in rural livelihoods and improved access to nutritious food for all, she added.



ISLAMABAD: A view of deserted fruit and vegetable market at sector I-11 due to road closed with shipping containers ahead of PTI protest, in the Federal Capital.

PBBC delegation meets PBIT management

LAHORE (APP): A delegation from Pakistan British Business Council (PBBC), UK, held a meeting with the top management of Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT).

The delegation, led by its Chairman John Tucknott, and Chief Executive Rashid Iqbal, held comprehensive discussions with PBIT Chairman Muntaha Ashraf and CEO Jalal Hassan, alongside other senior members of the PBIT management team.

The talks focused on enhancing bilateral trade, promoting skills development, and facilitating the transfer of technology between the two regions. Major collaboration opportunities were identified, particularly in the agribusiness sector for citrus exports, as well as in education and tourism.

PBIT Chairman Muntaha Ashraf assured the PBBC delegation of the PBIT's full support for their initiatives. He emphasized that Punjab is committed and well-prepared to assist their investment projects, highlighting the province's openness to international collaboration.

Moreover, the Pakistan British Council extended an invitation to Punjab to participate in upcoming Expos in the UK. This invitation aims to showcase Punjab as a leading investment destination on the international stage, further solidifying the relationship between the two regions.

Awards for farmers over wheat cultivation

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab government would give prizes worth billions of rupees to farmers cultivating wheat on a large area through balloting.

Provincial Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Ashiq Hussain Kirmani stated this while chairing a meeting in Sahiwal. He said a historic prize package had been introduced for wheat farmers, a target of 920,000 acres had been set for Sahiwal division, out of which wheat cultivation work had already been completed.



LAHORE: Chairman Punjab Board of Investment and Trade Muntaha Ashraf presenting shield to Pakistan British Business Council John Tucknott. CEO PBBC Rasheed Iqbal and others are also present.

DC Larkana inaugurates 7th Agricultural Population Census

LARKANA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Larkana Dr. Sharjeel Noor Channa has inaugurated the 7th Agricultural Population Census.

The opening ceremony was held in the office of the Additional Director of Agriculture Extension on Saturday, in which he addressed the trainers and said that the country is highly dependent on the agriculture sector.

He said that it is very important to get the information so that in the future, such steps can be taken in the agriculture budget that can help agriculture.

Universities to help solve industrial issues: PU VC

LAHORE (APP): Punjab University (PU) Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Muhammad Ali has said that the universities have to play a role to provide solutions to the problems, faced by industries in Pakistan.

He was addressing the concluding ceremony of 'Hailey Research Week 2024' organized by the Punjab University Hailey College of Commerce (HCC) here on Saturday. Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood, Dean Faculty of Commerce Prof Dr Mubsher Munawar Khan, Principal HCC Prof Dr Hafiz Zafar Ahmad, President Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry Mian Abuzar Shad, delegates from USA, Dubai, economists, industrialists, delegationists from various universities of Pakistan, faculty members and students were present.

China's leadership in AI shaping global innovation & cooperation

BEIJING (APP): China's rapid advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) are positioning the nation as a global powerhouse in technological innovation, playing a pivotal role in international collaboration and governance. Dr. Sean Heigeartaig, Director of the AI: Futures and Responsibility Programme, University of Cambridge told China Economic Net at the World Internet Conference Wuzhen Summit concluding today in China.

Themed Embracing a People-centered and AI-for-good Digital Future—Building a Community with a Shared Future in Cyberspace, the summit features a dazzling Light of Internet Expo that demonstrates cutting-edge digital solutions and 24 sub-forums that attract the participation of over a thousand guests from over 130 countries.

AI takes center stage during the summit. From humanoid robots, eVOTLS, and unmanned tour buses, to AI-empowered medical therapy, lively demonstrations of AI applications highlight the opportunities China brings to the global AI landscape.

China's AI Innovation Drives Progress

According to the China Internet Development Report 2024 released yesterday at the World Internet Conference, the number of effective artificial intelligence invention patents in China reached 378,000 by the end of 2023, a year-on-year growth rate of more than 40%, 1.4 times the global average growth rate. In the past several years, nearly ten thousand digital plants and smart factories have been built throughout the country.

"China has cemented its position as a leader in AI, with innovations seamlessly integrated into daily life and industries. From improving business operations to addressing critical global issues such as

poverty, climate change, and sustainable development, China's AI ecosystem demonstrates its ability to deliver solutions beyond commercial priorities," Dr. Sean Heigeartaig observed, noting that China's rapid innovation provides ideas for how AI can benefit people globally.

John Hoffman, CEO of Global System for Mobile communications (GSMA) told CEN that in China, AI, together with 5G and big data, allows great opportunities especially for the enterprise sector.

"Chinese enterprises has put into operation the world's largest terrestrial augmentation base station network, built China's first large-scale regional digital road, and the country's first cross-regional MEC and C-V2X fusion test bed... The size and scale that we've seen here in China is unprecedented," he said.

Statistics from China's national data bureau show that generative artificial intelligence applications have witnessed vigorous development. As of March this year, the number of large-scale artificial intelligence models in China with over 1 billion parameters each has exceeded 100, empowering an assortment of industries from education, healthcare, finance, and energy, etc. Between 2014 and 2023, China produced more than 38,000 generative AI inventions, ranking first globally.

Pioneering Global AI Governance At the World Internet Conference, an Artificial Intelligence Professional Committee was established, with 173 AI experts from the globe as the first batch of members, marking a step forward in global AI cooperation and governance.

"There can be no meaningful global AI governance without China. China's engagement in global AI governance has been widely recognized as essen-



PESHAWAR: A man selling handmade decoration gun along roadside at Ashraf road.



PESHAWAR: Vendor busy in filling LPG gas in to a cylinder for a customers at Ashraf road.

tial. It has actively participated in legislative efforts, and has contributed to discussions at the United Nations," remarked Dr. Sean Heigeartaig, stressing that collaboration is crucial, particularly as countries navigate differences in data privacy, risk management, and economic priorities. Recognizing these differences while fostering interoperability is key to creating effective governance frameworks.

Digital divides—both within and between nations—pose a significant challenge to global AI governance. Addressing disparities in access to AI technology, especially in rural areas and developing countries, is essential for achieving global equity.

While geopolitical tensions and intellectual property concerns present hurdles, there's an urgent need for China, Europe, and global countries to prioritize collaboration on AI against shared challenges.

Israel strikes Gaza after ICC issues arrest warrants

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Israel's military said on Friday (Nov 22) it had killed two commanders involved in Hamas's Oct 7, 2023 attack, pressing its north Gaza offensive a day after the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants over the war.

With Israel also fighting Hamas ally Hezbollah in Lebanon, live AFPV footage showed several strikes early Friday on Beirut's southern suburbs, where the Iran-backed group holds sway.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) on Thursday said that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defence minister Yoav Gallant may bear "criminal responsibility" for the war crime of starvation as a method of warfare and other crimes against humanity against Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip.

The Hague-based court's decision drew mixed reactions from world lead-

ers, with some vowing to arrest the Israelis if they entered their country's territory.

Other leaders, including US President Joe Biden, have condemned the court's decision which Netanyahu dismissed as "absurd" and "driven by anti-Semitic hatred of Israel".

Israel has similarly pushed back against accusations of genocide in its war against Hamas, with a case brought before the International Court of Justice in December and, more recently, a report issued by a UN special committee last week.

On the ground in Gaza, the military said an air strike on the territory's north killed five Hamas militants including two company commanders "who participated in the Oct 7 massacre" last year.

Medics said dozens were killed or missing after an overnight Israeli raid on Beit Lahia and nearby Jabalia, which are among the targets of a sweeping Israeli

assault on north Gaza.

The civil defence agency was not immediately able to provide an exact toll.

Biden, in a statement responding to the ICC's arrest warrants, called them "outrageous", vowing to "always stand with Israel against threats to its security".

China, which like Israel and the United States is not a member of the ICC, urged the court to "uphold an objective and just position".

Foreign ministry spokesman Lin Jian said that Beijing "supports any efforts... that are conducive to achieving fairness and justice".

The ICC also issued an arrest warrant for Hamas's military chief Mohammed Deif, accusing him of responsibility for war crimes and crimes against humanity over the attack on Israel that sparked the war, as well as "sexual and gender-based violence" against hostages.



BEIRUT: Fire and smoke erupt from a building seconds after an Israeli air strike in Lebanon's southern Shayah neighbourhood. The 11-storey building housed several apartments, a gymnasium and shops.

Record 281 aid workers killed this year, says United Nations

Monitoring Desk
GENEVA: A staggering 281 aid workers have been killed around the world so far this year, making 2024 the deadliest year for humanitarian workers, the UN aid chief said on Friday.

"Humanitarian workers are being killed at an unprecedented rate, their courage and humanity being met with bullets and bombs," said Tom Fletcher, the United Nations new undersecretary general for humanitarian affairs and emergency relief coordinator.

With more than a month left to go of 2024, the "grim milestone was reached", he said, after 280 humanitarians were killed across 33 countries during all of last year.

"This violence is unconscionable and devastating to aid operations," Fletcher said.

"States and parties to conflict must protect humanitarians, uphold international law, prosecute those responsible, and call time on this era of impunity." Israel's devastating action in Gaza was driving up the numbers, his office said, with 333 aid workers killed there — most from the UN agency supporting Palestinian refugees.

White House officials meet with telecoms executives on suspected China hack

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Senior White House officials met on Friday with telecommunications executives to discuss China's "significant cyber espionage campaign targeting the sector", the White House said.

Earlier this month, US authorities said China-linked hackers had intercepted surveillance data intended for American law enforcement agencies after breaking into an unspecified number of telecom companies.

Senator Mark Warner, the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, told the Washington Post on Thursday the breach was "worst telecom hack in our nation's history — by far".

The White House meeting was hosted by national security adviser Jake Sullivan and Anne Neuberger, deputy national security adviser for cyber and emerging technology.

"The meeting was an opportunity to hear from telecommunications sector executives on how the US Government can partner with and support the private sector on hardening against sophisticated nation-state attacks," the White House said in a statement.

Taiwan's president to visit Pacific allies, no details on US transits

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: Taiwan President Lai Ching-te will visit Taipei's three remaining diplomatic allies in the Pacific on a trip starting at the end of the month, his office said on Friday, but the government declined to give details on US transit stops.

Taiwanese presidents usually visit to allied countries to make what are officially stop-overs in the United States, Taiwan's most important international backer and arms supplier, which frequently an-

ger Beijing.

On two occasions in the past two years China staged military drills around Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its own territory, after presidential or vice-presidential stopovers in the United States. On those stopovers, Taiwanese presidents often meet with friendly politicians and give speeches. Reuters reported last week that Lai was planning to stop off in Hawaii and maybe the US territory of Guam while he was in the Pacific.



Peter Breuer, Senior Mission Chief for Sri Lanka at the IMF along with Katsiaryna Sviryzdenka, Deputy Mission Chief for Sri Lanka at the IMF and Martha Tesfaye Woldemichael, Deputy Mission Chief for Sri Lanka at the IMF, attend a press conference organized by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Five medics killed, high-rise toppled in southern Lebanon

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Israeli forces pounded southern Lebanon and the outskirts of Beirut on Friday, crumpling an 11-storey building and killing at least five medics as ground troops attempted to advance in the south.

Also, medics in the Palestinian territory said an overnight Israeli raid on Beit Lahia and nearby Jabalia resulted in dozens killed or missing.

Israel has pushed on with its intense military action in Gaza and southern Lebanon, a day after the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former defence minister Yoav Gallant in response to accusations of crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Five medics from a rescue force were killed in Israeli strikes on two villages in southern Lebanon on Friday, according to the Lebanese health ministry said.

More than 3,580 people have been killed in Lebanon, most of them since late September, the ministry added. Among them, were over 200 medics.

Earlier, the UN's humanitarian coordinator for the Palestinian territories said: "The delivery of critical aid across Gaza, including food, water, fuel and medical supplies, is grinding to a halt."

China's Xi visits Morocco, meets with crown prince

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping made a short visit to Morocco, according to state media from both countries.

Xi was welcomed in Casablanca by Crown Prince Moulay El Hassan and the visit reflected the strong bonds of friendship, cooperation, and solidarity between the Moroccan and Chinese peoples, Morocco's MAP said.

The Crown Prince and Moroccan Prime Minister Aziz Akhannouch met Xi at the airport, where Xi and Hassan had a "cordial conversation". China's state broadcaster CCTV said. Xi made the visit after being in Brazil for the G20 Summit.

Second Australian dies from tainted alcohol in Laos, sixth death reported

Monitoring Desk
BANGKOK: A second Australian woman hospitalised after drinking contaminated alcohol in a popular tourist town in Laos has died, the government said on Friday, the sixth fatality from suspected methanol poisoning.

Holly Bowles, 19, died in a hospital in neighbouring Thailand, where she had been evacuated for emergency treatment, the Australian foreign ministry said. Her friend died on Thursday in another Thai hospital.

"It is with broken hearts, and we are so sad to say that our beautiful girl Holly is now at peace," her father, Shaun Bowles, told Australia's Nine News.

Foreign Minister Penny Wong said Australia would continue efforts with Lao authorities to investigate what she described as a tragedy.

"I know tonight all Australians will be holding both families in our hearts," Wong said.

Altogether, six tourists — two Danes, two Australians, a Briton and an American — have died after visiting Vang Vieng, an idyllic town in the Southeast Asian nation that is popular with foreign backpackers.

Lao state-run news agency KPL said on Friday that authorities were gathering evidence and witness accounts following the foreigners' deaths due to suspected "consumption of tainted alcoholic beverages". An official statement was expected soon.

Romania and Bulgaria may become full Schengen members in January, Hungary says

Monitoring Desk
BUDAPEST: Romania and Bulgaria may become full members of Europe's border-less Schengen travel zone in January 2025, Hungary said on Friday, adding a final decision would be made at next month's meeting of EU interior ministers.

Romania and Bulgaria, both European Union and NATO members, partly joined Schengen in March, after an agreement with Austria which initially opposed their joining on the grounds they needed to do more to prevent illegal immigration.

While air and maritime border checks between them and the other 27 countries in the travel zone were lifted, negotiations with Austria over land entry have continued through 2024.

"The two countries have made significant steps to gain full membership," Hungarian Interior Minister Sandor Pinter told a news conference after talks with his Romanian, Bulgarian, and Austrian counterparts.

"We are...one step closer to Bulgaria and Romania becoming full members of Schengen."

Pinter said a package of security measures would be presented at a meeting of EU interior ministers on Dec. 11, including arrangements for at least 100 border guards to protect the border between Turkey and Bulgaria.

Trump 'fascinated' by dictators, Merkel says in memoirs

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: US president-elect Donald Trump has a fascination with dictators like Russian President Vladimir Putin, Angela Merkel says in her memoirs, according to excerpts published by Die Zeit newspaper on Thursday.

At their first meeting in Washington in March 2017 after Trump was elected to his first term in the White House, the US leader "asked me a series of questions", Merkel said.

Trump wanted to know about "my East German background and my relationship with Putin. He was clearly very fascinated by the Russian president," she said.

"In the years that followed, I had the impression that has captivated by politicians with autocratic and dictatorial tendencies," Merkel's memoir, "Freedom", co-written with her longtime political adviser Beate Baumann, is due to be published simultaneously in 30 languages on Tuesday.

Big money as Saudi makes foray into cricket with IPL auction

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Saudi Arabia hosts this year's Indian Premier League player auction in a partnership between a money-spinning cricket tournament expanding its global reach and a kingdom using sports to improve its image.

De facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has backed extravagant sports investments — set to culminate in Saudi Arabia hosting the football World Cup in 2034 — to diversify its oil-rich economy.

Critics point to Saudi Arabia's human rights record and the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in 2018, accusing the kingdom of "sportswashing".

The two-day auction beginning Sunday in Jeddah is the first cricketing event of this stature to be hosted in Saudi Arabia, a country with an under-served fanbase for the sport among millions of South Asian migrant workers.

Saudi Cricket Federation chairman Prince Saud bin Mishal said that staging the auction reflected the kingdom's "commitment to developing the sport and showcasing its position as a global destination for sporting events".

Saudi Arabia's big spending on sporting events had helped "to promote the narrative of a changing kingdom", Rice University's Kristian Coates Ulrichsen told AFP.

"To the extent that there is now a buzz associated with Saudi Arabia in football and in boxing, the spending has succeeded in changing the subject," he added.

Saudi Arabia has in recent years recruited top footballers including Cristiano Ronaldo and Neymar into its league while hosting world championship boxing, Formula One racing, tennis and golf.

Visit Saudi, the state tourism arm and state-owned energy giant Saudi Aramco have both been IPL sponsors. Cricket already has a fanbase in the kingdom among expatriate workers. Non-Saudi nationals account for more than 13 million of Saudi Arabia's 32.2m people, over 40 per cent of whom hail from cricket-mad Pakistan.

Students suffer as schools closed in Delhi

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Confined to her family's ramshackle shanty by the toxic smog choking India's capital, Harshita Gautam strained to hear her teacher's instructions over a cheap mobile phone borrowed from her mother.

The nine-year-old is among nearly two million students in and around New Delhi told to stay home after authorities once again ordered schools to shut because of worsening air pollution.

Now a weary annual ritual, keeping children at home and moving lessons online for days at a time during the peak of the smog in winter ostensibly helps protect the health of the city's youth.

The policy impacts both the education and the broader well-being of children around the city — much more so for children from poorer families like Gautam.

"I don't like online classes," she said, sitting on a bed her family share at night in their spartan one-room home in the city's west. "I like going to school and playing outside, but my mother says there is too much pollution and I must stay inside."

Gautam struggles to follow the day's lesson, with the sound of her teacher's voice periodically halting as the connection drops out on the cheap Android phone.



A man pulls a cart as he transports sacks filled with potatoes at a market in Colombo, Sri Lanka.



LAHORE: Passengers crowd to board a train at Lahore railway station going to their home towns, passengers travelling on train due to bus station closed in Lahore ahead of PTI protest.

Increased rush at Lahore Railway Station due to motorway closure

LAHORE (INP): The closure of the Motorways has led to a significant increase in passenger traffic at the Lahore Railway Station, causing considerable inconvenience to those traveling to other cities. With fewer transportation options available, many passengers are now opting for trains, leading to overcrowding at the station.

Travelers are facing a variety of issues, including difficulty obtaining tickets and delays in train departures. Some passengers have expressed concerns over the availability of seats, while others are frustrated by the lack of timely departures. The increased rush has put additional pressure on railway staff and systems, exacerbating the challenges for commuters. The passengers are facing mounting issues as they struggle to make their way to various destinations amid the disruption caused by the motorway closure.



HYDERABAD: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naem ur Rehman addressing a press conference at Markaz-e-Tabligh-e-Islam.

Sikh yatrees return to India thru Wagha border crossing

LAHORE (APP): After celebrating the birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak, Indian Sikh pilgrims returned to India with beautiful memories of the Guru's land, on Saturday.

They will always remember, what they said on their way back home, hospitality of the Pakistan government.

Speaking at the Wagha border crossing, the party leader of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, Sardar Gurmeet Singh, said: "we are very grateful to the federal government and the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) administration; Pakistan is a minority-friendly country, we enjoyed various facilities here." He said "the respect we received in Pakistan is impossible to describe in words".

The party leader of the Delhi Gurdwara Management Committee, Sardar Harjit Singh, said "our gurdwaras have been restored to their original condition and their beauty. The Pakistani government made excellent arrangements for medical trans-

port and hospitality". Sikh pilgrims expressed their feelings and thanked the government of Pakistan and especially the ETPB chairman, Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora, President of the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, and Saifullah Khokhar, Additional Secretary Shrires ETPB, bid farewell to the Indian guests and presented them gifts.

Ramesh Arora said minorities in Pakistan enjoy complete protection and religious freedom and all facilities including education and employment are equally available to them.

Saifullah Khokhar said Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Chaudhry Salik Hussain and ETPB Chairman Syed Atta-ur-Rehman were particularly interested in hospitality of pilgrims and interfaith harmony. "On their special instructions, we are always ready to welcome the guests coming from the neighbouring country, take the best measures for the pilgrims and performance of all the relevant institutions is commendable".



QUETTA: Awami National Party (ANP) Balochistan President, Asghar Khan Achakzai addresses during the Book Launching ceremony of the Poet Khan Zaman (Pencil on Love), held in Quetta.

Dr. Samiullah vows to provide health facilities to people

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Health Card Program Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Samiullah Kakar on Saturday said that NADRA was directed to deploy mobile registration vans in remote areas of the province so that the issuance of identity cards, marriage certificates and B forms is facilitated to patients who need tumor treatment would be provided facilities.

He said this while addressing a meeting of the Balochistan Health Card Program Coordination Committee.

The meeting was also attended by officers of NADRA and State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan.

A number of decisions were taken in the meeting including that a quaternary care hospital in Karachi will be included in the panel to provide super-specialized healthcare services to patients who cannot be treated within Balochistan.

Health Facility Officers (HFOs) posted at reception desks in panel hospitals would wear special uniforms and provide special care and assistance to patients visiting hospitals under the Health Card Program.

Health facilities will be prominently displayed at each reception desk.

It will be ensured that they are easily visible and accessible.

A public awareness campaign about BHCP will be prepared as soon as possible and disseminated in local languages to enable everyone to access the health card facilities, said in the meeting.

Dr. Samiullah Kakar said that NADRA has been directed to deploy mobile registration vans in remote areas of the province to facilitate the issuance of CNIC, Nikah Nama, and B Form. Patients who require tumor treatment would be provided facilities in both Cinar and BMC hospitals.

He said that hospitals would be directed to expedite the listing of firms to provide medicines for internal patients, these measures are aimed at further improving access to quality health services for the people of Balochistan.

No tannery allowed to operate outside special zone after December: Kh. Asif

SIALKOT (APP): Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif regretted on Saturday that the Sialkot Tannery Zone (STZ) project had been delayed for 16 years.

In 2008, a loan of Rs. 290 million was taken from the Punjab Environment Department for the project, but it could not be completed. However, he warned that tannery would be allowed to operate outside the special tannery zone after the deadline of December 30.

The administration would crack down if the project was not made functional by January 1. He said: "I will raise my voice on the floor of the assembly against those responsible for the delay and I will go to NAB with the case myself."

He expressed these views while reviewing the ongoing/proposed development projects of Sialkot district in the DC office committee room, here. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Zulqarnain Langrial, District Police Officer (DPO) Rana Umar Farooq, Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) Faisal Ikram, former Mayor Toheed Akhtar Chaudhry, Chaudhry Bashir Ahmed, President Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Ikram-ul-Haq, Ad-

ditional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Revenue Muhammad Iqbal, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Finance and Planning Muzaffar Mukhtar, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Anum Babar, Chairman Overseas Pakistani Commission Hafiz Shahid Ghug, Mian Ashfaq Ahmed, Khawaja Tipu, Rana Waheed and local police officials were also present.

Speaking at the meeting, Khawaja Asif ordered for expediting the work of shifting all offices of the District Courts to the designate place outside the city. He said the Government College Women University Sialkot (GCWU) would be shifted to a new campus on Aimenabad Road covering 200 acres and the vacant space in the Sialkot city court will be converted into a park at the same time.

Khawaja Asif announced that land worth Rs. 220 million would be acquired for relocation of the general bus stand on Daska Road. An underpass would also be constructed in front of the new bus stand to improve traffic flow. Additionally, traffic signals would be installed at key intersections across the city, under the supervision of the Municipal Corporation.

In a bid to ease con-

Kirmani claims Govt fell without establishment's support

MULTAN (INP): Senior Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Asif Kirmani has made a significant claim regarding the fall of the PML-N government, stating that it collapsed without the backing of the establishment. In a recent statement, Dr. Kirmani, a close ally of PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif, emphasized that if the establishment withdrew its support, the government would fall even before the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) could reach Islamabad for its planned November 24 protest. This remark comes as PTI gears up for nationwide protests against the current political situation in Pakistan. Meanwhile, PTI founder Imran Khan issued a strong message in support of the November 24 protest, calling it a "day of liberation from slavery." In his statement, Khan criticized the suspension of the rule of law, constitution, and human rights in Pakistan, urging the nation to rise and make sacrifices for their freedom. Drawing historical parallels, he asked whether the people would choose to live in "slavery until death like Bahadur Shah Zafar" or "wear the glory of freedom until death like Tipu Sultan."

gestion, Khawaja Asif stressed the need to make Sialkot's major markets, including Muslim Bazaar and Lahai Bazaar, traffic-free. He also suggested the district administration build a large parking plaza adjacent to the railway station. This project could be executed through a commercial or public-private partnership to help expand business activities in the city.

Addressing the ongoing traffic challenges, the federal minister identified encroachments as a major obstacle. He urged the municipal corporation, district administration, and police to collaborate on a comprehensive plan to eliminate encroachments, with strict action taken against officials responsible for permitting them. To further alleviate traffic congestion in the city, the federal minister proposed the expansion of the Eastern Bypass and the connection of Pasrur Road to Daska Road. He commended the success of the Safe Cities Project, which has made Sialkot safer. The project would be officially inaugurated soon by Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

In other transportation developments, the minister confirmed that the Sialkot-Kharaya Motorway would become operational by 2025.

ANP to observe black day on Nov 25 against Kurram massacre

PESHAWAR (APP): Awami National Party (ANP) on Saturday announced to observe a "Black Day" across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on November 25 against increasing incidents of terrorism in the province especially the tragic incident of Kurram.

In a statement issued, ANP Provincial President Mian Ifkhar Hussain said the party would stage protests at district headquarters across the province, with demonstrations taking place in front of press clubs

DC Ziarat for developing Health Dept on modern lines

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ziarat Zakaullah said that measures were being taken to develop the health department on modern lines to establish a healthy society.

He expressed these views while visiting District Headquarters Hospital Ziarat where he checked the attendance register of the employees, inspected the hospital's information desk and various wards.

The DC said that the salaries of absent employees would be deducted, absenteeism of doctors and support staff would not be tolerated at all.

He said that the cleanliness system in the hospital should be further improved, patients coming from far-flung areas should be treated in a timely manner so that the patients would not face any problems.

He said that measures were being taken to provide medical facilities in the hospital, saying doctors are the messiahs of the nation, they should perform their national duty honestly and treat the patients.



QUETTA: Registrar SBK Women's University Dr. Raheela Manzoor presenting shields to Director NAHE Salman Ahmed and others during Faculty Training Program organized by HEC at SBKWU.

Over 6300 innocent Kashmiris languishing in Indian, IIOJK jails: IFJHR unveils list

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): The Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu Kashmir based human rights outfit - International forum for justice & Human Rights Jammu Kashmir, on Saturday released a detailed report about the sufferings of thousands of Kashmiri Muslim prisoners in notorious Tihar Jail Delhi, besides other Indian Jails, says a report reaching here on Saturday from across the line of control (LoC).

Unriling the report, the IFJHR Chairman Muhammad Ahsan Untoo told media in occupied Srinagar that 6327 of innocent Kashmiri prisoners

have been jailed on fabricated charges only to spread fear and terror in the minds of Kashmiris so that they submit to the dictates of the fascist RSS/BJP Modi Government and the Indian home minister Amit Shah.

In his detailed report the human rights organisation' head Untoo said "Indian state institutions who have been engaged in one-sided war against the freedom and human rights loving Jammu Kashmir people just to strengthen their armed and dictated occupation. There have been countless massacres, rapes, torching of residential houses and this all is continuing for last more than seven decades. Millions of Kashmiries were jailed in last three decades and many of them have been behind the bars for more than 30 years, twenty seven years and many are jailed without any framing of charges for years.

The judiciary has never questioned the state authorities for framing innocent people and infact it has helped state in its nefarious designs to keep innocents in jails. Otherwise the popular saying, nerative in india goes like this "no jail only bail" but when it comes to kashmiries in IIOJK it changes into "no bail only jail".

The target for india are not only mail but females Kashmirid have also been the victims of indian state terrorism. Innocent Kashmiri women like 1=Swauba Mir Parimpora Srinagar 5 years, Tihar jail Arested at Srinagar Under UAPA, 2=Saika akhter pulwana 7 years, 3=Shaziya akhter islabad 5 years, 4. Asiya akhter khonmuh 5 years 5=Naseema begum Rampora kulgam 4 years 6=AlassAARAJouri.14 years. In central jail srinagar 7= Syed Asiya AndRabi. 5years Tihar jail 8=Fahmeda Sofi.



QUETTA: Former Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango and former Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar offering Faatoha for departed soul of mother in law of former Finance Minister Mir Khalid Lango, aunt of Mir Akhtar Hussain Lango and wife of Haji Muhammad Yousaf Lango. Mir Tanveer Lango, Amirul Mulq, ADC Kalat Dost Muhammad and are also present.

Patient dies in ambulance after being denied entry at Jhelum Bridge

SARAI ALAMGIR (INP): In an unfortunate incident, a patient died in an ambulance after being denied entry at the Jhelum Bridge.

As per details, the patient was being transported to the DHQ Hospital in Jhelum for emergency treatment. According to footage surfaced online, the ambulance was stopped at the Jhelum Bridge, and despite repeated requests, the authorities refused to allow it to pass.

The incident came at the time when the Lahore-Islamabad GT Road has been closed in multiple areas ahead of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest in Islamabad on November 24.

LHC issues written order on contempt of court petition against PM Shehbaz Sharif

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has issued written order on the petition seeking contempt of court proceedings against Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif for allegedly using inappropriate words against the judges.

It has been said in the written order that further proceedings in the case will be initiated in the last week of February 2025.

According to Deputy Attorney General (AAG) Raja Khurram case is not maintainable.

It has been mentioned in the written decision that PM enjoys immunity from proceedings and no criminal proceedings can be launched against PM.

The order said Counsel for the petitioner has sought time for preparations on this point.

The petitioner has requested that he is abroad at present. The petitioner has requested for adjournment of proceedings for three months. It is pertinent to mention that LHC while adjourning the hearing of contempt of court petition against PM Shehbaz Sharif for indefinite period had sought arguments from the respondents on the maintainability of petition.

APHC leader calls on UN for urgent action to resolve Kashmir dispute

ISLAMABAD (INP): APHC Hurriyat leader Zahid Ashraf Saturday issued a heartfelt appeal to the international community to intervene and resolve the longstanding Kashmir dispute, emphasizing the urgent need for a peaceful solution.

In an interview with pvt news channel, he also stressed that the UN must hold India accountable for its atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), citing the alarming deterioration of the situation in the region. He condemned that the people of Kashmir are facing immense difficulties, adding, they are victims of oppression and are fighting for their rights.

"However, unfortunately, they do not have access to media and social media platforms," he added. "They have no way to express their thoughts and views to the world," he mentioned. "The people of Kashmir need international community's support in their fight for their rights. We appeal to the international community to support the people of Kashmir in their struggle," he stressed. "India's actions in Kashmir have been shrouded in secrecy, with many accusing the government of hiding the true extent of the human rights abuses committed against Kashmiris," he said.



QUETTA: Grand Health Alliance Balochistan's Dr. Bahar Shah and others addressing a press conference.

Dr. Aafia Siddiqui sues US prison alleging abuse and rights violations

Monitoring Desk ISLAMABAD: Dr. Aafia Siddiqui, the Pakistani neuroscientist, who studied at institutions including Brandeis University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is serving an 86-year sentence at the Federal Medical Center (FMC) Carswell in Fort Worth, Texas, has filed a federal lawsuit accusing US prison officials of severe human rights abuses.

The 61-page complaint, lodged in the US District Court for the Northern District of Texas, claims Siddiqui has faced ongoing sexual assault, physical abuse, denial of medical care, and religious discrimination during her imprisonment since 2010.

The lawsuit names the US government, the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), and several prison officials, detailing numerous incidents of mistreatment.

Siddiqui alleges that prison guards, including male officers, subjected her to repeated sexual assault under the guise of routine searches.

She further accuses prison staff of retaliating against her for reporting the abuse, including an incident in which she was allegedly doused with a burning acidic substance.

A significant portion of the lawsuit highlights violations of Siddiqui's religious rights. Despite being a devout Muslim, Siddiqui has been denied access to an Imam for spiritual guidance, and her requests for religious items and participation in Friday prayers have been repeatedly blocked.