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Tarar accuses PTI's Murad Saeed of leading armed protesters, hiding in CM House Peshawar

Information Minister says there is a concerted effort to create a false narrative around the protests; Dares PTI to show video evidence of straight firing by LEAs on protestors; Govt followed IHC order to ensure law and order during PTI protest: Secretary Interior

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Sunday dared the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to share the video evidence with the public which could prove that the Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) had opened straight firing on its protestors who descended on Islamabad a couple of days ago.

"I have shared the video evidence that show how a person from the protest told the protestors to open indiscriminate firing on the police. Now, I challenge the PTI to share one video of straight firing or live ammunition by the LEAs against

the protestors," said the minister while addressing a news conference.

The minister was flanked by Federal Secretary for Interior Khurram Ali Agha, IG Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi and Chief Commissioner Islamabad Ali Randhawa. Different videos were played during the press conference that shown how the PTI protestors used guns, shells and marbles against the LEAs.

Tarar categorically rejected the propaganda being peddled by the PTI on the social media regarding the direct firing on protestors, saying it was the PTI which brought professional criminals and Afghan Na-

tional to the protest to ensure that there would be a bloodshed in the whole city.

He said Murad Saeed, who was hiding in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister House, was also present in the protest and led an armed group that wielded guns, shells and glass marbles which were recovered from them later on their arrest from the frontline.

No personnel of the LEA is allowed for the live ammunition, he said, adding that the fake videos and pictures were being created to cover up their humiliation and political failure from the so called final call. He said that the Paki-

stan Institute of the Medical Sciences (PIMS) and Poly Clinic had already issued their press releases that clearly stated that no death occurred due to the firing of the law enforcement agencies.

"Likewise, we are calling them out for their fake propaganda and communicating the fact to the people through different channels," he added.

He said the armed protestors were being identified through video evidence as there were a large number of people who were directly involved in creating chaos and anarchy in the country.

The minister underlined the need for effective prosecution of those involved in challenging the writ of the state and martyring and injuring the personnel of different LEAs. We had received the intelligence reports that an attempt was being made to create chaos, anarchy and killing under the garb of the so called final call so that some political scores could be made over dead bodies."

He said the government had indicated time and again during different press conferences that they wanted the dead bodies to achieve ulterior motives and for that matter, they used tax payer money and resources of the KPK government.

The minister said the Government had proposed

them to hold the protest at the Sangjani area but they were hell bent on holding the protest at D-chowk which is just near to the red zone where the Belarusian President was staying.

He said that the PTI had a track record to stage violent protests in the country and had been giving a call for protest whenever there was a visit of foreign delegation in the country, citing the recent protests by the party at the time SCO summit which was attended by 12 countries' prime ministers.

He said the visit of the Chinese Prime Minister got delayed for seven months and the PTV came under attack just due to the PTI protests in the past. SSP Asmatullah Janejo was attacked and beaten by the PTI during 2014 protest that showed their mindset to pressurize the state by showing violence. "States never bow down before anyone," he said, adding that the government of Pakistan would maintain the writ of state and law and order at all cost by ensuring the safety of the public.

In Paris, London and Washington DC, the governments proposed the areas for protests, he said, asking whether any civilized country allowed the protestors to wield AK-47 guns and possessed shells and glass marbles during the protests.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif attending funeral of Captain Muhammad Zohaib-ud-Din Shaheed.

Info Minister slams PTI for spreading false propaganda

Officer among 2 soldiers martyred, 8 terrorists killed in separate KP operations

Eliminated militants were involved in numerous terrorist activities against security forces as well as innocent civilians; ISPR affirms forces determined to wipe out terrorism; Says "such sacrifices further strengthened our resolve."

RAWALPINDI (APP): Security Forces killed eight Khwarij terrorists and others 9 injured while a captain and a soldier embraced martyrdom in two separate operations conducted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from November 29 to December 1.

"An intelligence based operation was conducted in general area Baka Khel, Bannu District on the reported presence of khwarij. During the conduct of the operation, own troops effectively engaged the khwarij location and resultantly killed five khwarij, while nine khwarij

got injured," said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release.

However, during the operation, Sepoy Iftikhar Hussain (Age: 29 years, resident of: District Jhang), having fought gallantly, embraced shahadat.

"In another operation conducted in general area Shagai, Khyber District, three Khwarij were sent to hell, while two were apprehended by the security forces," it further said.

During an intense fire exchange, Captain Muhammad Zohaib Ud Din (Age: 25 years, resident of: District Lahore),

who was leading his troops from the front, fought bravely, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced shahadat.

These khwarij were involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces as well as innocent civilians.

"Sanitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any other kharij found in the area as security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," the news release said.

President, PM reaffirm resolve to eliminate terrorism

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday praised the security forces for their successful operations in Bannu and Khyber districts.

They commended their bravery for eliminating eight Khawarij terrorists and arresting eleven others injured in two separate operations.

The president and prime minister paid tributes to Shaheed Captain Muhammad Zohaibuddin and soldier Iftikhar Hussain, who were martyred during the operations, and acknowledged their sacrifices, President Secretariat Press Wing and PM Office Media Wing, in separate press releases said.

President Zardari em-

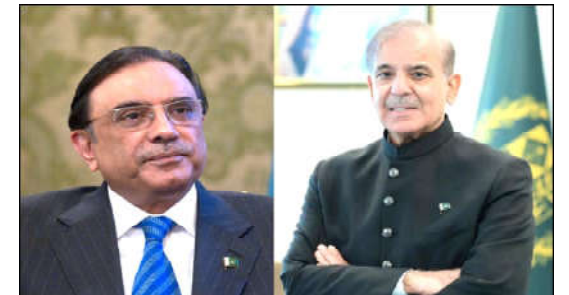
phasized that the sacrifices of the martyrs for the country's security would not be in vain and that the entire nation would remember the sacrifices of those

who laid down their lives for the motherland.

He reiterated the commitment to continue operations till the eradication of terrorism and assured the nation that they would stand with their brave security forces in the fight against terrorism. The

president also prayed for the elevation of the martyrs' souls and patience for their families.

The prime minister prayed for the high ranks



of the Shaheed personnel of the Pakistan Army and a grant of patience for the bereaved families.

The fight against terrorism would continue till the complete eradication of this menace from the country, the press release quoted the prime minister as saying.



Mr. Attaullah Tarar Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage, addressed a press conference in Islamabad.

OPC Punjab official meets PM in Lahore

LAHORE (APP): Vice Chairperson Overseas Pakistanis Commission (OPC) Punjab and Chief Coordinator of International Affairs, Barrister Amjad Malik, held a special meeting with Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Lahore.

During the meeting, Barrister Malik congratulated the Prime Minister for his tireless efforts in restoring investor confidence and reviving the national economy. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated Barrister Amjad Malik on assuming the position of Vice Chairperson of OPC Punjab and emphasized

that the federal and provincial governments would work together to resolve the issues faced by overseas Pakistanis.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif stated that overseas Pakistanis are very dear to him, and the appointments in the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis, Overseas Pakistani Foundation, and the Overseas Commission serve as evidence of the government's commitment to addressing the problems of overseas Pakistanis. He also highlighted that with the retreat of disruptive groups, relief efforts for the public will gain further momentum.

Dar to represent Pakistan at ECO meeting in Iran

ISLAMABAD (Online): Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar will leave for Iran tomorrow to attend 28th meeting of Council of Ministers of Economic Cooperation Organization.

In his address at the meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister will reiterate Pakistan's commitment to ECO charter and highlight potential of greater connectivity in region through development of rail and road networks, liberalization of visa regimes and simplification of border procedures. Ishaq Dar will also reiterate Pakistan's concerns over hostilities in the Middle East, endangering the regional peace and security.

Sindhi Culture is culture of peace, love, traditions & solidarity.

CM Bugti calls for celebrating important days of all nationalities at national level to promote peace

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has stressed that there is a need to celebrate the important days of all nationalities at national level, in order to promote our peaceful mutual survival so that they could play their role in development and prosperity of the country.

He said that it is our top priority to keep all cultures of Pakistan alive and motivate our young generation towards the knowledge and consciousness.

Culture Day and said that the culture spreads the colour of joys in life of the people. He said that the culture of Pakistan is a bouquet of different cultures and the Sindhi Culture is also prominent in that bouquet.

The Chief Minister also said Sindhi Culture is the culture of peace, love, traditions and solidarity, which is included in the ancient cultures of the world.

He said that it is our top priority to keep all cultures of Pakistan alive and motivate our young generation towards the knowledge and consciousness.

UoB's faculty members, students visit FC HQs (North), meet IGFC

Independent Report

QUETTA: The faculty members and students of University of Balochistan (UoB) visited the Frontier Corps (FC) Headquarters Balochistan (North) here.

During the visit, the faculty members and students of UoB visited monument of the martyrs and presented salute to them.

They also paid tributes to sacrifices of the martyrs rendered for establishing peace. Meanwhile, they also met the IGFC.

Later, the members of delegation were briefed about the border management, security as well as the anti-smuggling and narcotics initiatives of FC besides

other public welfare.

After the briefing, IGFC answered the questions in detail which were posed by the students.

Speaking to them, IGFC called them the guarantor of peace and development of Pakistan and Balochistan.

The faculty members and students on the occasion termed their visit to FC Headquarters as very useful. They said that they got very useful information during the visit. They said that Army and FC is taking certain measures for security of the province. They said that a lot of wrong information was being spread on the social media, but they got right picture through visit.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister of Pakistan and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar is lighting traditional oil lamp at Sri Lanka stall during Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) charity bazaar 2024 at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the Federal Capital.

Ministry of Interior shares details of protest fiasco orchestrated by PTI

PTI violent protests caused Rs192b daily losses to economy; Army neither came in direct clash with PTI miscreants nor were employed for riot control, says statement; KP gov't resources used without restraint in PTI's violent protests in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on November 21 directed the federal government to take all necessary measures to maintain law and order in the federal capital, says the handout issued by the Ministry of Interior on Sunday, sharing all the details of the protest fiasco orchestrated by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

The High Court directed the Interior Minister to engage with the PTI leadership in this regard, says the handout adding that given the sensitivity of the Belarusian President

and Chinese high-level delegation visit, PTI was initially asked to postpone the protest but on their persistence to continue with the protest, PTI was subsequently offered Sngihani area as a designated location. In this regard, out of the ordinary and at odd timings, meetings were also allowed between PTI leadership and its founder. On the contrary and in spite of the extraordinary concessions extended, PTI violated the court's orders blatantly and instead of holding protest at designated place (Sangjani), unlawfully

breached entry towards the Red Zone of Islamabad. Throughout the protest march from Peshawar to Red Zone Islamabad, violent protestors of PTI aggressively engaged LEAs repeatedly using fire arms and all sorts of other weaponry including steel slung shots, stun grenades, tear gas shells and nail studded batons to force their way to Red Zone Islamabad. This violent protest was primarily orchestrated and logistically & financially sustained and supported by the resources of the government

of KP. Alarmingly, PTI's protest included violent and trained miscreant elements including many illegal Afghan nationals who spearheaded the riots and violent activities throughout the march. These miscreants, employed as violent vanguard, comprised of approximately 1500 hard core fighters working directly under absconder and proclaimed offender Murad Saeed. This vanguard group, using militant tactics violently attacked the LEAs and breached the blocks with the help of government

personnel paving the way for the second wave of vehicles and protestors to cross. It must be noted that LEAs personnel, despite sustaining grievous injuries, exhibited high degree of restraint against these violent protestors led by trained miscreants.

During this, a vehicle also ran over Rangers personnel performing duty at a check post in Islamabad, resulting in the shahadat of three Rangers soldiers and critical injuries to five. Besides, during the violent protest, one policeman embraced shahadat and 232 LEAs

personnel were also grievously injured by these miscreants. This violent mob not only attacked security forces but also set multiple police vehicles on fire, showcased firearms, burnt trees and police tents, damaged properties and created terror among the common citizens.

Pakistan Army was deployed in Islamabad under Article 245 of the Constitution only to secure key government installations and foreign diplomats in the sensitive Red Zone ensuring secure environment for high-profile foreign dignitaries visiting the country.

Dr. Malik says NP continues its struggle for social change rather than mere political gains

QUETTA (Online): President of National Party, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, has criticized the dictatorial regimes of General Zia and General Musharraf, emphasizing their detrimental impact on democracy and civil rights in Pakistan.

He said this while speaking at a reception organized by National Party's Alamdaar Road and Hazara Town units to honor the party's central and provincial cabinet members, he lamented the 8th February elections, claiming the public mandate was stolen, and a powerless assembly was brought into existence to suppress political forces and public interests.

Dr. Baloch expressed



QUETTA: President National Party former chief minister Dr Abdul Malik addressing during a ceremony hosted by member Central Committee National Party Ramzan Hazara.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Flying ban reversal

The European Aviation Safety Agency has finally lifted the ban on flights of the national flag carrier to and from Europe after more than four years. Nevertheless, it will take months and potentially heavy investment in new planes before the airline can resume operations on lucrative European routes. The ban on PIA flights to the UK is yet to be revoked.

Still, celebrations are in order since the EU ban has been lifted after repeated failures of the Civil Aviation Authority since 2020 to address EASA's safety concerns. The European aviation watchdog has apparently "re-established sufficient confidence in the [CAA's] oversight capabilities". The decision to approve the resumption of commercial operations was based on the CAA's "significant efforts".

However, EASA clarified that the EU states would continue monitoring through the "prioritisation of ramp inspections of the air carriers certified in Pakistan and their crew to ensure compliance with aviation regulations and standards and identify safety concerns and trends before they become a threat".

Besides causing reputational damage, the ban, which came in the wake of a fatal PIA plane crash in Karachi, followed by a scandal over alleged fake pilot licences sparked by the claims of the then aviation minister, has cost the airline an annual revenue loss of nearly Rs40bn. It was also one of the several reasons for the government's failed attempt to privatise the national carrier a month ago when only one bidder showed up to buy the airline for a paltry Rs10bn for a 60pc stake in the company, against the asking price of Rs85bn. Undoubtedly, the resumption of flights to profitable European routes is being seen as a recovery point for the air carrier and may lead many to call for cancelling plans to sell it off and turn it around by investing in EU operations under a new management.

Similar efforts made by successive governments in the last one decade to resurrect PIA have amply exposed the futility of such exercises. There are many, including the incumbent privatisation minister, who have argued that the last attempt to sell the airline was structured in such a way as to scare away potential investors. Many influential leaders of the ruling PML-N are not in favour of disinvesting the airline. But only the naive can expect the reinstatement of European operations to help restore PIA's profitability. The reasons that have brought PIA to this pass are many, and deep-rooted. At best, the new development can only help the government fetch a better response from bidders when the airline is put up for auction again. It is, therefore, advisable that the authorities continue to focus on selling the company rather than investing public money in its fleet to resume its European operations.

Our own PTSD

Muna Khan

I am proposing a new ailment unique to Pakistanis: Perpetual-Traumatic Stress Disorder. I am not making light of our situation. On the contrary, I'm asking we recognise how this PTSD unites us, irrespective of income or political affiliation or even a lack of interest in politics. It requires recognition and then treatment, one of which is mobilising powerful nations to impose change on social media platforms and AI companies' incentives. They will not self-regulate. And I don't want any Pakistani government to regulate them because their solution to everything is to ban it.

In almost two decades, social media has gone from being the place we (re)connected with to becoming a source of major conflict in families and societies for disinformation. It is an uncontrollable beast that no one can tame.

But this column isn't about the dollar-proliferating disinformation industry per se; it is about its impact that, along with a curb on our liberties, is making us...umm...ill. We are in a perpetual state of traumatic disorder caused by the uncertainty of when the internet will return to normal, for example. And normal wasn't even that amazing to begin with.

This state of anxiety has reached a perpetual level because we do not get good governance or balanced, fair information from the government or media. Karachi may be a better city at the moment due to "low AQI no PTI" (thank you Teepu Sahab for this joke on X) but our stress levels begin when we step out into a crumbling infrastructure. Friends in Lahore say the smog is killing them. Islamabad is in some form of

lockdown every day. Fear rules KP and Balochistan every day. And this is without them turning on screens.

Who is responsible for this constant form of anxiety? Will banning the PTI cure us of these ailments?

There are plenty of studies to show how exposure to TV following mass traumatic events — violence, war, natural disasters, disease outbreaks — leads to post-traumatic stress disorder. They can result in health issues like depression, which can be a life-long issue, says the National Institute of Health. In the last decade, studies show anxiety is heightened among people who use social media more than those who don't. Social media is responsible for young peoples' mental health troubles. It is responsible for the increasing polarity in societies the world over.

The trouble is not the studies documenting what we all know. It is a failure to address these issues that causes this perpetual state. No one paid heed to the warning signs like a 2015 study in the UK by Dr Pam Ramsden which suggested that watching gruesome videos and images online at home could lead to the same types of symptoms most associated with combat veterans. Its publication caused a lot of controversy at a time before TikTok or 'fake news' was a phenomenon.

"How could someone who merely watches events on a screen suffer the same problems as, for instance, a combat veteran," asked the BBC. One expert replied "vicarious PTSD is a well-established phenomenon". The vulnerable are especially susceptible. Social media doesn't come with a warning, like traditional media, about harmful

content. In fact, it lures you in knowing the harmful consequences. Unesco said on Thursday that 62 per cent of social media influencers do not verify their content.

You see this play out on our streets every day like the controversy around the number of dead PTI protesters. No one is willing to believe anyone. Also notice how no one is even talking about the documented deaths in Kurram. Our PTSD is also selective.

The trouble is we are left to fend for ourselves in the absence of adequate services, from utility to health to information. We have limited access to resources to help us. A two-day wellness festival in Karachi offers lots of options to help you deal with a number of issues — if you can afford it. Imagine if this was offered as a national service.

For that, you'd need to have a government which prioritises the healthcare industry in the same manner it spends locking up dissidents.

Imagine living in a country where you feel cared for, secure knowing that a lockdown won't deprive you of access to essentials. Of equal import is knowing the information you receive is fair, accurate and responsible. People are turning to social media because traditional media has over the years eroded public trust. The last few months have shown us the violent consequences of disinformation campaigns. Maybe, they can be the wake-up call for journalists to unite and come up with strategies to win back public trust. I am hopeful people will return to news outlets because social media will trick them and fail them. Until then though, I fear we will remain in this perpetual state. — Courtesy Dawn

Water deficit

Naseer Memon

Rather than augmenting water productivity, our planners are obsessed with building new reservoirs and expanding irrigated areas. The reason? More structures mean more money. Barring the wet monsoon years, the Indus basin frequently endures water scarcity. For the last 25 years, the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) has declared water shortages every year and has not allocated water shares as enshrined in the 1991 Water Apportionment Accord.

Sindh has thus questioned the water availability certificate for the Cholistan irrigation scheme issued by Irsa early this year. In its summary to the Council of Common Interests, Sindh argued that Irsa's own water accounts (1999-2023) reveal that Punjab and Sindh have experienced annual water shortages of 13.7 per cent and 19.4pc respectively.

The water availability data presented by Punjab before Irsa was misleading. It left out the amount of water committed for some existing and future needs thus creating an impression of surplus water availability. It also failed to mention several current and future possible reductions. These reductions relate to the eastern river flows (2.98 MAF), India's use of the western rivers (2 MAF), the possible use by Afghanistan of the Kabul river (0.5 MAF), the overestimation of water supplies in the water accord (a shortfall of 21.5 MAF), Bhasha dam storage (6.4 MAF), Mohmand dam (0.88 MAF), Nai Gaj dam (0.16 MAF), Kurram Tangi dam (0.9 MAF), flood canals including the Kachhi, Raine, Greater Thal, Jalalpur and the Pat Feeder extension (3.34 MAF), the Chashma

Right Bank canal (1.19 MAF), the minimum outflow to the sea (8.6 MAF) and the LBOD reclamation supplies (2.2 MAF).

Put together, these requirements mean 50.65 MAF water every year. This amount dwarfs the purported surplus flow by a wide margin. From 1999 to 2023, the average annual flow below Kotri Barrage remained 14 MAF. Altogether, there is a colossal annual deficit of 36.63 MAF water in the Indus basin.

Various reports indicate a bleak picture of future river flows due to the impact of climate change. The chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority recently shared worrying data at a moot. He revealed that the country's snow cover has decreased by 23.3pc in recent years.

He said that the glaciers are melting at an alarming rate of 3pc every year, resulting in the loss of 16pc of the glacial mass over the past five years. He warned that while the melting glaciers might result in temporary water surpluses, the long-term implications were dire.

With the cryosphere touching a precarious tipping point, planning a sprawling irrigation web for corporate farming is an impractical venture. The Greater Cholistan scheme entails the building of three dams on the Chenab river. These include the Chiniot dam, the Mid Ranjha dam and the Shah Jiwana dam, which will collectively store 3.5 MAF of water.

The scheme also entails the construction of two barrages — the Bahawal Nagar and Hasilpur barrages on the Sutlej river. Additionally, the scheme involves the 195 kilometre-long Chiniot-Hasilpur link canal with a capacity of 15,000 cusecs and two feeder canals with a capacity of 8,500 and 5,500

cusecs. The Greater Cholistan scheme is designed to irrigate a command area of over 6m acres. If we add the 1.2m acres to be irrigated through the Smaller Cholistan scheme, the ambitious proposition would require even larger quantities of water.

Overall, the scope of corporate agriculture is not confined to Cholistan. In August, during a session of the National Assembly, the minister for food security, Rana Tanveer Hussain, revealed that under the Green Pakistan Initiative, 4.8m acres of barren land had been earmarked across the country for corporate farming.

Since corporate agriculture projects are being designed to produce grain for international trade, a reliable commodity supply is essential. This translates to the need for reliable water supplies to sustain corporate farming. According to a media report last month, Pakistan is seeking up to \$6 billion in investment from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar and Bahrain over the next three to five years for corporate farming, with the aim of cultivating 1.5m acres of previously unfarmed land and mechanising the existing 50m acres of agricultural land across the country.

Cultivating such an enormous land mass would require a massive irrigation network. Such an extensive infrastructure and investment of several billion dollars cannot be left at the mercy of erratic flood flows. An uninterrupted water supply is possible only through perennial rivers and canals. Punjab's own share of water is already committed for existing canals. Therefore, it makes sense when Sindh, the lower riparian expresses concern at the development of new command areas.

Commerce News

Shaza Fatima pledges to revamp Internet infrastructure

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecoms Shaza Fatima Khawaja Sunday pledged to revamp the country's internet infrastructure, vowing to restore optimal internet speeds and bolster the telecom sector's infrastructure.

"My ministry is leaving no stone unturned to ensure seamless continuity in the industry. The recent surge in cyber attacks has put us on high alert and we are taking swift and decisive action to address these challenges and fortify our digital defenses," she said in an interview with a private news channel.

Shaza Fatima Khawaja also reaffirmed the government's commitment for protecting IT and Telecom industry, citing it as a top priority. To achieve this goal, the government is upgrading

existing systems and focusing on key areas, including enhancing tower intensity, broadening broadband internet access and tackling pressing cybersecurity concerns to provide better coverage, boost economic growth and ensure a secure online environment for citizens, she added.

Responding to a query, the minister said that the Ministry of Interior will instruct the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) to probe and resolve issues faced by citizens when sending videos while ensuring overall 100% internet speed remains unaffected.

The minister revealed that in the event of any issues, the Interior Minister reaches out to the P a k i s t a n T e l e c o m m u n i c a t i o n Authority (PTA) for assistance. She

acknowledged that challenges exist, but assured that the government is diligently working to address them.

She emphasized that every citizen has the right to express their opinions and while digital platforms provide ample opportunities for self-expression, their temporary unavailability does not stifle citizens' freedom of speech.

Responding to another query, the minister stated that the government is currently upgrading its web management system, with a focus on enhancing cybersecurity measures to effectively counter and control cyber attacks and terrorist activities.

The minister also announced that the government plans to expand 4G and 5G internet services across Pakistan by April.

Agri. dept achieves surplus wheat sowing in Lodhran dist

LODHRAN (APP): The agriculture department has achieved a surplus wheat sowing target as wheat was sown over 398,000 acres of land against the set target of 396,000 acres for district Lodhran this year. Talking to APP here on Sunday, Deputy Director Agriculture Malik Zafar said that wheat sowing of 'Grow More Wheat' campaign remained successful. He said the teams of department were present in the field to guide and motivate farmers for maximum sowing to meet food security in the country.

He further informed that 16.5 million acres wheat sowing target was set for Punjab province during the current year. The agriculture official further informed that the provincial government,



ISLAMABAD: German Ambassador to Pakistan Alfred Grannas participate in Annual Christmas Market under the auspices of the German embassy in Islamabad at a local hotel in the Federal Capital.

Diversification vital for growth: Iftikhar Malik

LAHORE (APP): SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik has said that diversification of economic activities across various sectors including technology, renewable energy, agriculture, healthcare, and manufacturing can shield Pakistan from the uncertainties of global markets.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, he said as

Pakistan continues to navigate the complexities of the international economy, diversification can prove to be a pivotal strategy for sustainable growth and resilience. He said in today's interconnected world, economies are increasingly interdependent. "By investing in diverse sectors, we can mitigate risks associated with economic downturns in specific industries," he

added. He said more over, diversification fosters innovation and entrepreneurship. Encouraging a wide range of industries not only creates job opportunities but also nurtures a culture of creativity and adaptability, adding that innovation is a driving force behind economic progress, and diverse industries provide a fertile ground for new ideas and inventions.

WFP in partnership with govt ensures people have access to safe, health food: Ms Coco

ISLAMABAD (APP): World Food Program Country Director Ms Coco Ushiyama has said that the WFP in collaboration with the government and other partners is working to ensure that people have access to safe and healthy food.

"Access to nutritious and affordable food remains a critical issue in Pakistan, especially in rural and underserved areas and the World Food Program (WFP) is working to address these challenges, focusing on food accessibility and

affordability as part of its broader efforts to support the fundamental right to food," she told APP in an interview.

Elaborating on her organization's work, she said WFP's approach is rooted in partnerships and by joining forces with organizations like the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), WFP works on both policy and community levels. This includes contributing to food security and nutrition

policy discussions and advocating for stronger social protection systems, she said, adding that at the community level, WFP collaborates with local governments to ensure that people have access to safe, nutritious food.

She said that one of WFP's key initiatives is the Benazir Nashonuma Program—a nationwide effort to prevent stunting. She said this program combines health and nutrition services to support mothers and children, especially those under two years old, adding that through this

'FDI in corporate farming vital for food security'

LAHORE (APP): Convener of the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Regional Standing Committee on Food, Shahid Imran, emphasised the importance of foreign direct investment (FDI) in corporate farming as a means to counter food insecurity and meet the population's staple food needs.

Talking to a delegation of progressive farmers led by Chaudhry Shaheer Asif Arain from Sahiwal, here on Sunday, he underscored the critical need for FDI to bolster Pakistan's agriculture sector and foreign exchange reserves.

"Pakistan requires substantial foreign investment to bridge its current investment gap, improve agricultural and industrial production, create jobs, increase exports, and generate additional tax revenues," he stated.

He cited examples from countries like India and Indonesia, where public-private partnerships with foreign collaborators have enhanced local production of high-yielding seeds. These partnerships circumvent the lengthy process of developing new cultivars while ensuring affordable access to high-yield seeds, ultimately boosting crop productivity and farm incomes.

ISLAMABAD: Vendors displaying seasonal fruits to attract the customers at Sunday Bazaar, Peshawar Morr.



ISLAMABAD: Vendors displaying dry fruit to attract the customers at Sunday Bazaar, Peshawar Morr.

Pakistani food exporters extend Malaysian visit amid positive response

LAHORE (APP): Encouraged by the enthusiastic response from Malaysian buyers, a delegation of Pakistani food exporters has extended their two-week visit by an additional week to capitalize on the growing interest and finalize trade agreements. According to a message received on Sunday from Kuala

Lumpur, Saif Ur Rehman, the delegation leader, shared that the group has been successfully showcasing Pakistan's diverse and high-quality food products, particularly varieties of Nimko, which have garnered significant attention. "By the grace of Allah, Pakistani products meet international standards and are exceptional in taste," he remarked.

WFP brings decades of experience in school meal programmes, implemented in over 100 countries. These initiatives are effective in increasing school attendance, retention, and learning outcomes. The impact goes beyond education, as better health and nutrition are directly linked to a child's ability to focus and succeed academically. She said by integrating school meals with broader health and hygiene efforts, WFP ensures a comprehensive approach to child development.

We must resolve our own issues; no other country or province can do this for us

Governor Kundi chairs 'grand jirga' to restore peace in Kurram

KOHAT (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, expressed his commitment to restoring peace in Kurram district and stressed the need for local efforts in resolving the region's security challenges.

Speaking at a grand jirga of political leaders and tribal elders in Kohat, Kundi said, "I am ready to go to Kurram and sit with the jirga for as many days as they ask. We must resolve our own issues; no other country or province can do this for us."

The grand jirga was attended by various political figures, including Federal Minister Engineer Amir Muqam, Awami National Party's Mian

Ifthikhar Hussain, PPP Provincial President Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha, Jamaat-e-Islami's Professor Ibrahim, Qaumi Watan Party's Sikandar Hayat Khan Sherpao, National Democratic Movement's Bushra Gohar, former Federal Minister Sajid Hussain Tori, Kohat Mayor Qari Sher Zaman, Ibn-e-Ali, Ahmed Ibrahim Pracha, Asif Pracha, Haji Noor Jat, Maulana Abdullah Wahid, and other tribal elders.

Commissioner Kohat, Motasim Billah Shah, moderated the event.

Governor Kundi emphasized the need to end the use of social media to spread hatred and called for identifying the elements responsible for disturbing

peace within the community.

He urged public cooperation with security forces to carry out joint operations aimed at disarming the province. "We cannot bring food and medicine to the area, but I issued instructions to the Red Crescent Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to provide all possible aid while I was on my Umrath trip," he added. Praising the Kurram Peace Jirga members, Kundi acknowledged the political leadership for coming together despite differing ideologies.

He pointed out that, for the sake of peace and stability in the province, political parties must unite, regardless of differences.



LAHORE: Citizens visiting parks on holiday in the provincial capital.

PTI leaders at new heights of cowardice: Azma

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said that the current leadership of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is at the lowest level of cowardice.

In a statement, she said the PTI is hiding its disgrace and infamy behind fake news and rumours. She said, "Those who ran away, leaving the workers behind,

now have no shame in talking about their workers?" She said that attacking the federation with mobs does not lead to an NRO. The real culprits behind PTI's downfall are Gandapur and Bushra Bibi, she added. The media around the world witnessed how Ali Amin Gandapur and Bushra Bibi's vehicles were attacked.

Two killed in separate violent incidents in DI Khan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Two people were killed in separate incidents of violence in different areas of Dera Ismail Khan, police said on Sunday.

According to details, the first incident took place on Dera-Chashma road where a man was killed by unknown armed men in the limits of Shorkot police station. Amjad son of Muhammad Afzal, a resident of Himmat, reported to police that he along with his two brothers namely Aziz Ullah alias Bugti and Sana Ullah were travelling from Dera city towards their home on a motorcycle when two unknown men riding another bike intercepted them and opened fire. As a result, his brother Aziz Ullah alias Bugti died on the spot. The assailants escaped from the scene.



KOHAT: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi speaking at a grand jirga of political leaders and tribal elders in Kohat.

KP CM inaugurates CTD investigation, Intelligence block

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Sunday visited the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Headquarters here and inaugurated the newly constructed Investigation and Intelligence Block.

The facility is equipped with state-of-the-art amenities, including an auditorium, conference rooms, a library, offices, and advanced technological infrastructure.

During the visit, CM Gandapur received a detailed briefing on the provincial government's

initiatives to enhance CTD's capacity. CM Gandapur praised the progress made in forensic labs, with advanced equipment and expert personnel now in place.

He said that CTD has also been provided with bulletproof vehicles, jammers, drones, night vision devices, and thermal guns to effectively seal with terrorists. On the occasion it was said that CTD's significant achievements include a 50 percent increase in convictions and a rise in remand durations from an average of 1.4 days to 25 days.

GCU campus to be inaugurated in Chiniot this month: Minister

FAISALABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh said that GC University campus will be inaugurated in Chiniot this month to provide quality education to people.

Addressing the 8th convocation of FAST University Chiniot-Faisalabad Campus on Sunday, he said that quality education was prerequisite for progress and prosperity. "Therefore, the government is concentrating on the provision of quality

education to materialize the dream of national progress and prosperity," he added.

He said that Pakistan was bestowed with huge resources. "There is immense potential in the country due to which Pakistan remained ahead of India for 40 years in national progress. Now a temporary break occurred in national development but this issue would be resolved very soon," he added.

He said that national unity was imperative for

development of the country. "We should end our personal vendetta and prefer to national interests", he added.

He said that Pakistan was passing through a crucial stage as more than 100 million people were living near or below the poverty line. However, the government under dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sherif will overcome this issue by promoting quality education and providing this facility at doorsteps of the masses, he added.

Harnessing youth potential for nation building

MULTAN (APP): With approximately one third of country's population falling in 15-29 years bracket out of total 64% below 30 years, the coming years will pose serious challenges to governments for harnessing this potential amidst fluctuating economic situation.

As the lesser education and employment opportunities make the youth easily lured by vested interests and extremists to sabotage activities. So, this bulge can only be fruitful if political parties ensure continuity of policies, cordial atmosphere to education and employment and an overall political will for a strong democracy in the country.

Statistics and findings of experts reveal that out of over 60 million young Pakistanis between 15-29 years of age, a vast majority either is illiterate or left schools and colleges prior to reaching 12th standard with a marginal number out of whom more than half still searching for jobs.

Like many other parts of the world, being young in Pakistan is also both exciting and frustrating. The space for young in Pakistani society is vast and full of possibilities if the potential in different sectors of economy is fully exploited. But there are fears as well in view of a major chunk generally being intolerant as recently seen in protests of political parties.

The youth bulge can have positive impact if economy is strong enough to absorb new entrants in the labor force. Otherwise, the idle and frustrated youth would raise the incidence of crime, violence and embrace radical political and religious views.

"Our educated youth is mostly zealous in pursuit of career building and excelling in practical life," stated Prof. Anwaar Ahmad Khan, Former head of National Language Authority.

"They become mature once in practical life and like to be productive, if groomed properly. Earning livelihood and leading a respectable life is always their foremost priority."

"But, when they have limited resources and opportunities amidst growing poverty, they detract from their mission and engage in different unhealthy activities," Prof. Anwar said. "Therefore, we need comprehensive strategies to harness this potential through access to education and employment."

Before exploring the significance of youth involvement in nation-building, the challenges of formulating better strategies and policies must be addressed. For fostering their participation in fruitful activities, we must heed youth's demand of justice and merit in all arena of life.

"Youth are often less

constrained by established norms and more open to creative solutions that may lead them to innovative ideas in technology, climate change, education, healthcare and social justice," noted Senior Lawyer Chaudhry Waqas Anjum.

"Democracy also thrives when its citizens especially youth actively engage in political process. But, this needs awareness that emanates from literacy otherwise they can be swayed by any extremist political entity or sectarian factions," he pleaded.

"Empowering them through education, entrepreneurship and employment would help them contribute directly to nation's economic development," Waqas said.

International News

Syria launches counterattacks in an attempt to halt insurgents' surprise advance

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: The Syrian military rushed in reinforcements and struck Idlib city Sunday in an attempt to push back insurgents from advancing farther after seizing Aleppo and surrounding strategic locations in a surprise offensive.

The insurgents led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham took over most of Aleppo on Saturday and claimed to have entered the city of Hama. There was no independent confirmation of their claim.

The swift and surprise offensive is a huge embarrassment for Syrian President Bashar Assad and raises questions about his troops' preparedness. It also comes at a time when Assad's allies — Iran and groups it backs and Russia — are preoccupied with their own conflicts.

Turkey, a main backer of Syrian opposition groups, said its diplomatic efforts had failed to stop

Syrian government attacks on opposition-held areas in recent weeks. Turkish security officials said a limited offensive by the rebels was planned to stop government attacks and allow civilians to return, but the offensive expanded as Syrian government forces began to retreat from their positions.

Syrian opposition fighters got on a motorcycle as opposition supporters stand on top of a captured army armoured vehicle in the town of Maarat al-Numan, southwest of Aleppo, Syria, Saturday Nov. 30, 2024. (AP Photo/Omar Albarm)

The insurgency, led by Salafi jihadi group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and which includes Turkey-backed fighters, launched their offensive on Wednesday with a two-pronged attack on Aleppo and the Idlib countryside, before moving toward Hama province.

In Aleppo province, they captured a strategic

town that lies on the high-way linking Aleppo with Damascus and the coast.

Rebel commander Col. Hassan Abdulghani said that despite the government counteroffensive, his fighters were making gains in Aleppo. He says they took control of Sheikh Najjar, also known as the Aleppo Industrial City, Aleppo's military academy and the field artillery college. Abdulghani said 65 Syrian troops were taken prisoner in eastern Aleppo. Elsewhere, he said the insurgents advanced in the Idlib countryside, putting all of the province under their control.

The United Nations special envoy for Syria said the shock push by the rebels poses a risk to regional security and called on resuming diplomatic efforts to end the conflict. "I have repeatedly warned of the risks of escalation in Syria, of the dangers of mere conflict management rather than conflict resolution," Geir Pedersen said in a statement.

Serbia to cooperate in investigation over Kosovo explosion, President Vucic

Monitoring Desk
BELGRADE: Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic pledged on Sunday his country would help investigate after an explosion in Kosovo that disrupted water supplies and that the government there blamed on Belgrade.

The explosion on Friday evening hit a canal that sends water to Kosovo's two coal-fired power plants - accounting for most of the country's power production. It also caused water supply cuts in some parts of the country, but there were no power cuts.

The incident inflamed longstanding tensions between Kosovo and Serbia. The Kosovo government called the explosion an act

of terrorism by Serbia, which Serbia denied. "Finding out the truth is in the best interest of our country," Vucic told reporters on Sunday. "We are ready to share information with everyone even with Pristina."

He reiterated that Serbia had nothing to do with the explosion. He also accused Kosovo Prime Minister Albin Kurti of using the incident to firm up his grip in the north of the country, where a Serb majority refuses to recognise Pristina institution and sees Belgrade as their capital.

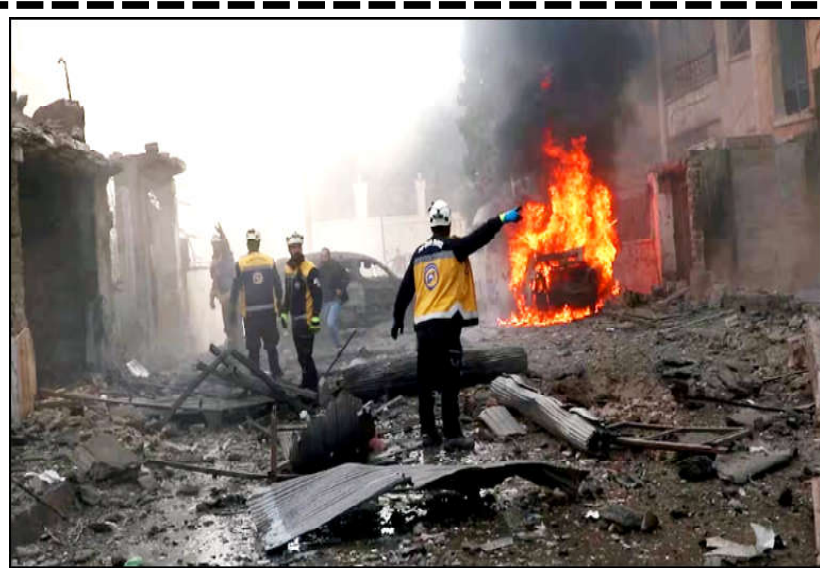
The Kosovo government has not said why it believes Serbia was responsible for the explosion.

Trump announces loyalist Kash Patel as choice to lead FBI

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US president-elect Donald Trump aims to make loyalist Kash Patel the next director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), he said on Saturday, in a move that would mean replacing the agency's current leader.

Trump announced the former advisor and Pentagon official, who has been critical of the bureau and is known for his controversial views on a so-called government "deep state", as his choice for the post on his Truth Social network.

The FBI's current director, Christopher Wray, was appointed to a 10-year term in 2017, meaning he would either need to step down or be fired.



White Helmets members work at the scene of what the organisation says is a strike, in Idlib, Syria.

War has no winners, Taiwan president says in visit to Hawaii

Monitoring Desk
HONOLULU: War has no winners and peace is priceless, Taiwan President Lai Ching-te said on Saturday in Hawaii after visiting a memorial to the attack on Pearl Harbor on a trip to the United States that has angered Beijing.

Lai is making a sensitive two-day trip to Hawaii that is officially only a stop-over on the way to three Pacific island nations that maintain formal ties with Taiwan, which China claims as its territory.

Speaking to members of the overseas Taiwan community and Hawaii politicians, including members of Congress Ed Case and Jill Tokuda, Lai referred to his visit to the USS Arizona Memorial earlier in the day and laid a wreath in memory of those who died in the 1941 Japanese attack.

"Our visit to the memorial today in particular reminds us of the importance of ensuring peace. Peace is priceless and war has no winner."

Biden's long-awaited Africa trip to tout a win against China

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Joe Biden sets off for Angola on Sunday on a trip that will deliver on a promise to visit Africa during his presidency and focus on a major US-backed railway project that aims to divert critical minerals away from China.

The project, partly funded with a US loan, links the resource-rich Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Zambia to the Angolan port of Lobito on the Atlantic

Ocean, offering a fast and efficient route for exports to the West.

At stake are vast supplies of minerals like copper and cobalt, which are found in Congo and are a key component of batteries and other electronics. China is the top player in Congo, which has become an increasing concern to Washington.

China signed an agreement with Tanzania and Zambia in September to revive a rival railway line to Africa's eastern coast.

Russia, North Korea agree to boost military ties

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: Russian Defence Minister Andrei Belousov met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and agreed to boost military co-operation between the two isolated nations, Pyongyang state media said on Saturday. The United States and South Korea have accused the nuclear-armed North of sending more than 10,000 soldiers to help Russia fight Ukraine, with experts saying Kim is eager to gain advanced technology, and battle experience for his troops, in return.

Residents said the military blew up clusters of houses in the northern

Ex-defence minister accuses Israel of ethnic cleansing

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Israel's former defence minister Moshe Yaalon on Saturday accused the Israeli army of ethnic cleansing in the Gaza Strip, sparking an outcry in the country.

"The road we are being led down is conquest, annexation and ethnic cleansing," Yaalon said in an interview on a private TV channel. Pressed on the ethnic cleansing appraisal, he continued: "What is happening there? There is no more Beit Lahia, no more Beit Hanoun, the army intervenes in Jabalia.

Israeli strikes kill 15 in Gaza, Cairo holds fresh talks with Hamas

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Israeli military strikes killed at least 15 Palestinians in Gaza on Sunday, medics said, as Israeli forces kept up bombardments across the enclave and blew up houses on its northern edge.

In the central Gaza camp of Nuseirat, an Israeli airstrike killed six people in a house, and another attack killed three in a home in Gaza City, medics said.

Two children were killed when a missile hit a tent encampment in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, while four other people were killed in an airstrike in Rafah, near the border with Egypt, medics told Reuters.

Residents said the military blew up clusters of houses in the northern

Gaza areas of Jabalia, Beit Lahia and Beit Hanoun, where Israeli forces have operated since October this year.

Palestinians say Israel's operations on the northern edge of the enclave are part of a plan to clear people out through forced evacuations and bombardments to create a buffer zone — an allegation the army denies.

The military says it has killed hundreds of Hamas militants there as it fights to stop the faction regrouping almost 14 months since the war in Gaza started.

Hamas's armed wing says it has killed many Israeli forces in anti-tank rocket and mortar fire attacks, and in ambushes with explosive devices since the new operation started.

Georgian protesters clash with police for a second night after EU talks are suspended

Monitoring Desk
TBILISI: Thousands of demonstrators protesting the Georgian government's decision to suspend negotiations to join the European Union rallied outside the parliament and clashed with police for a second straight night on Friday.

The night before, police used water cannons, pepper spray and tear gas to disperse protesters who took to the streets of Tbilisi, the Georgian capital, after Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze of the ruling Georgian Dream party announced the suspension. The interior ministry said it detained 43 people during the protests.

On Friday evening, protesters again swarmed the parliament, with some trying to break the metal gates to the building. Riot police used water cannons to push them away from the building and later moved to force them further back along the Rustaveli Avenue, the

city's main boulevard. Some of the protesters used garbage bins and benches to try to build barricades.

Clashes between police and protesters also erupted late Friday in the Black Sea port of Batumi.

Georgian Dream's disputed victory in the Oct. 26 election, which was widely seen as a referendum on the country's aspirations to join the European Union, has sparked massive demonstrations and led to an opposition boycott of the parliament. The opposition said the vote was rigged under the influence of Russia seeking to keep Georgia in its orbit.

The year will test even the most robust democracies. Read more on what's to come here.

Take a look at the 25 places where a change in leadership could resonate around the world. Keep track of the latest AP elections coverage from around the world here.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister of Pakistan and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar is visiting at a stall during Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) charity bazaar 2024 at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the Federal Capital.

'PCB, BCCI agree on hybrid model for Champions Trophy and future ICC tournaments'

LAHORE (INP): The Pakistan Cricket Board and the Board of Control for Cricket in India have retracted from their earlier stance, agreeing to play their future matches in ICC tournaments on a hybrid model and easing the way for next year's Champions Trophy to be held.

The two boards held dialogue on Saturday after the International Cricket Council had convened a meeting on Friday and came to a consensus on a hybrid model for the Feb 19-March 9 Champions Trophy after the Indian government refused to allow its

team to travel to Pakistan but the PCB has stressed that it will also like the same model to be applied for its team when tournaments are held on the other side of the border in the next three years. The final approval to the plan will have to be given by the ICC Board to ensure it is implemented fully. The PCB had been sticking to its stance of not accepting the hybrid model after the Pakistan team went to India for last year's ODI World Cup. It expected India to do the same for the Champions Trophy — the first ICC tournament in Pakistan since it co-hosted the 1996

ODI World Cup — but has now sounded the BCCI not to expect any future favours. "Yes the past experience is bitter for Pakistan and the ICC has to give a solid guarantee that the hybrid model will be implemented in letter and spirit in future and no Pakistan team will go to India to play any matches of the ICC events and on the same pattern the Indian team will not come to Pakistan" a source in the PCB told. The source added that the ICC had asked the two cricket boards to reach at a decision with mutual understanding, before its Board takes any decision.

President, PM condole death of Syed Ali Hassan Gilani

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the passing away of former MNA of Pakistan Peoples Party Makhdoom Syed Ali Hassan Gilani in a road accident.

The president extended his condolences to the family members of the late Syed Ali Hassan Gilani.

In a press statement issued by the President House Media Wing, he prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace. He also prayed for the grant of courage to the bereaved family members to bear the loss with equanimity.

The president lauded

the services of the late Ali Hassan Gilani to democracy and the Pakistan Peoples Party. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday expressed heartfelt grief and sorrow over the death of Pakistan People's Party's former member of the National Assembly Makhdoom Syed Ali Hassan Gilani in a traffic accident. The prime minister, in a press statement issued by the PM Office, offered his condolences to the family members of the late Syed Ali Hassan Gilani. He prayed to Allah Almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed soul and grant courage to the bereaved family members to bear the loss with patience.

Raisani mourns tragic demise of Ali Gillani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) MNA Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani expressed deep sorrow and regret over the untimely death of former PPP MNA Makhdoom Syed Ali Hassan Gilani, who passed away in a tragic traffic accident. In his condolence message, Raisani paid tribute to the late leader, highlighting his significant contributions to the party and his unwavering dedication to public service.

Describing Gillani as a committed politician and a true advocate for the people's welfare, Raisani termed his passing a great loss for the PPP.



QUETTA: Different delegations meeting with Provincial Advisor for Environment and Climate Change Naseem ur Rehman Mulakhail.

Efforts afoot to make Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Gyne Hospital Loralai: Amin Mandokhail

QUETTA (APP): Director General Health Services Balochistan Dr Amin Mandokhail said that the Health Department would make the Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Gyne Hospital Loralai a model hospital for the treatment of women.

The meeting held under the chairmanship of Director General Health Services Balochistan Dr Amin Mandokhail, was informed that the plan of the establishment of Nutrition Stabilization and EPI Static Center at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Gyne Hospital Loralai would be executed soon. A meeting was held with the support of Maternal and Newborn Child Health Program (MNCH) regarding the functioning of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Gyne Hospital Loralai under the chairmanship of Director General Health

Services Balochistan Dr Amin Mandokhail.

Amin said that the operationalization of the Gyne Hospital Loralai will significantly reduce the number of maternity cases while the hospital will also provide uninterrupted medical facilities to women.

The Director General Health also said that with the rapid increase in the population ratio, the burden on the health centers has also been increased many times and along with this, primary health care hospitals are also being focused on in a phased manner. In this way, by strengthening healthcare at the primary level, the burden on the tertiary care hospitals will be significantly reduced, while Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Gyne Hospital Loralai will be the best treatment center in the area.

Maulana Khalil Ahmed Mukhlis passes away

QUETTA: The central Ameer of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan (Nazarayati), Maulana Khalil Ahmed Mukhlis died due to heart attack in Peshawar on Sunday morning.

According to the central Secretary Information, JUI-N, Syed Abdul Sattar Chishti, Maulana Khalil Ahmed Mukhlis suffered severe heart attack in week hours of Sunday, and could not survive it.

Meanwhile, the funeral prayer of Maulana Khalil Ahmed Mukhlis was

offered in Sawabi where he was laid to rest in the ancestral graveyard.

The acting Ameer of JUI-Nazrayati, Maulana Abdul Qadir Luni, Anjmal Qadri, Syed Abdul Sattar Chishti and other leaders have expressed grief and sorrow over the death of Maulana Mukhlis.

They also prayed that May Allah Almighty rest the departed soul into its eternal peace and give enough strength and patience to the bereaved family, relatives, and the workers of JUI-N.

Sardar Khetran greets Sindhi people on Culture Day

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering (PHE) Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran has congratulated Sindhi people on eve of the Sindhi Culture Day.

In a message issued here on Sunday, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran said that it is a day of loving their culture and respecting culture of others.

He said that Sindh province is the hub of beautiful civilizations.

He stressed that Sindhi people should make pledge to promote their language and traditions.

Heavy snowfall leads to closure of Kaghan Valley for tourists

KAGHAN (INP): The entry of tourists in Kaghan Valley was banned on Sunday following heavy snowfall in Mansehra district.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Khalid Iqbal said that the area between Kaghan and Naran had been closed for tourists as all hotels in the area had been closed, while the inclement weather had also resulted in the suspension of cellphone service as well as power supply in the area. "The road connecting Mansehra to Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) has been closed due to heavy snowfall," he said, adding, "Police personnel manning the checkpoints on the mountains have been asked to abandon them." The deputy commissioner said that the land connection between Mansehra and GB lay severed.

Political stability imperative for economic growth: Qaiser

FAISALABAD (APP): Political stability is imperative for economic growth and we must realize a difference between politics and violent protestation, said Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh.

Talking to media persons on Sunday, he said that no decision had been made in the federal cabinet regarding imposing ban on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) or the imposition of governor's rule in KP. "Such measures have historically proven ineffective in fostering political stability," he said and urged political leaders to opt for dialogue as a path to resolve conflicts.

He condemned violent protests as counterproductive for any political party

and said that democracy had no room for violent politics. While acknowledging the right to protest, he stressed that demonstrations should not disrupt daily life. The minister highlighted the critical role of political stability in economic growth and said that without stability, Pakistan cannot achieve progress comparable to its neighboring countries.

He urged all political stakeholders to take a step back to improve the political environment. He emphasized that turmoil often hampered national development whenever the country was on the brink of economic progress.

Reflecting on Pakistan's electoral history, Qaiser Sheikh pointed out

that controversies had surrounded every election after 1970. He highlighted Chiniot's central position in Punjab and its importance as a business hub. He expressed concern over Pakistan lagging behind its neighbors despite being a regional economic corridor with vast opportunities for development.

He stressed the need of unity among politicians, the judiciary, and institutions and said that political infighting was the root cause of economic decline. It is the time for all stakeholders to prioritize national interests and work towards mutual understanding which is imperative for national progress and prosperity, he added.



PISHIN: Chairman Public Accounts Committee and MPA Haji Asghar Ali Tareen inaugurating a road in Killil Malangabad.

Muqam announces compensation for Parachinar victims

PESHAWAR (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan,



and SAFFRON, and President of PML-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engineer Amir Muqam has announced compensation for all victims of recent incidents of violence in Parachinar on behalf of the federal government.

He has directed the Kohat Commissioner to prepare a detailed report on the damages, said a press

release issued on Sunday.

Speaking at a grand jirga in Kohat, the minister stressed the importance of restoring peace in Parachinar for the greater good of the country and its people. He expressed condolences on behalf of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the federal government over the tragic incidents, praying for the departed souls and the swift recovery of the injured. Muqam emphasized that the issue transcends politics, urging all stakeholders to unite for a common resolution.

"This is not just a provincial issue; it concerns the entire nation," he said and highlighted his efforts to foster unity.

Pakistanis continue to face problems as internet services slowed down significantly

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistanis continue to face problems as internet services across the country have slowed down significantly.

As per details, the slow internet service is causing widespread disruptions in social media usage and online work.

According to the report, popular platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok have either been suspended or are operating at reduced speeds, leaving users frustrated with limited access.

Reports indicate that the slowdown began on Saturday night and continues to affect internet services, including PTCL and

Google, disrupting both personal communication and professional tasks.

Users have particularly struggled with downloading content on WhatsApp.

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has yet to issue a statement explaining the cause of the outage.

The reasons behind the disruptions remain unclear, adding to public frustration as the country faces ongoing internet reliability challenges.

People in Pakistan are facing slow internet speed after the government reportedly installed firewall to monitor anti-state content on the social media apps.

Power theft: Pakistan recovers over Rs133b from defaulters

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Power Division has recovered over Rs133 billion during a countrywide power theft crackdown from September 2023 to date.

The crackdown launched by the Pakistan government and military leadership's measures to restore the country's economy is now showing positive results.

According to the details, over 133 billion rupees have been recovered from individuals involved in power theft while over 87,516 electricity thieves were arrested.

During last week, the power division recovered

Rs920 mln from the power thieves, while 173 violators were arrested.

The Pakistan government has vowed to continue the crackdown until the menace of power theft ends across the country.

On September 6, last year, the then caretaker federal government announced plans to launch a crackdown across the country on electricity theft in a bid to reduce the ballooning circular debt in the power sector.

The power minister said that there are 10 distribution companies in Pakistan that are facing a total loss of Rs589 billion annually.

6 more people died, eight injured in Kurram firing incidents

KURRAM (INP): At least six more people died, and eight others were injured as clashes and firing incidents continuing at various places in Kurram district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Deputy Commissioner Javedullah Mehsud has stated that the police and forces contingents have been deployed in several areas adding that an effort being made today to ensure ceasefire.

Hospital sources said that in skirmishes and firing incidents over vehicles 130 people have been died while 186 persons have sustained injuries.

PTA delays ban on unregistered VPNs after deadline passes

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's telecom regulator has decided not to block unregistered Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) despite an earlier deadline expired on November 30.

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) had asked businesses, freelancers and information technology (IT) companies to register their VPNs by the end of November to ensure compliance with government regulations. While the original deadline ended on Saturday, officials say there will be an extension, though it remains unclear what the new deadline will be. In recent years, Pakistan has implemented measures to control online content, including social media restrictions, drawing criticism from digital rights activists, who argue that such policies suppress free speech and hinder access to information.

Paying tribute to Captain

Legal dimensions of Kashmir dispute discussed at Muzaffarabad workshop

MUZAFFARABAD (INP): The Kashmir Policy Research Institute (KPRI) organized the first workshop of its "Youth Dialogue Program" as part of the Kashmir Conflict series in Muzaffarabad.

The workshop brought together youth leaders and students to discuss the complex dimensions of the Kashmir dispute.

Justice @ Manzoor Hussain Gilani, Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairman of the Kashmir Institute of International Relations, and Dr. Raja Muhammad Sajad Khan, Director of KPRI, delivered lectures on various aspects of the conflict, followed by a Q&A session with the participants.

Justice Gilani discussed the legal dimensions of the Kashmir issue, emphasizing that the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India was not legally valid. He argued that the legal agreement between the British government and princely states had expired on August 15, 1947, invalidating the Instrument of Accession.

He also noted that both Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan had fought for their freedom, with the support of tribal forces and



Federal Minister For Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, talking to the Media persons during the Convocation ceremony at National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences, Chiniot - Faisalabad Campus.

DPM Dar inaugurates Charity Bazaar at Foreign Office

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister

Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Sunday inaugurated the Charity Bazaar organized by the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA). Cultural stalls from various foreign embassies were displayed at the event held at the Foreign Office. The Bazaar, aimed at supporting underprivileged communities, brought together diplomats and their families, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of different countries.

Speaking at the occasion, the deputy prime minister said that the bazaar provided a great opportunity to the people of Islamabad and Rawalpindi to visit the foreign office and have a glimpse of the rich culture of other countries, through their food and handicrafts, and help in charitable causes being pursued by PFOWA.

"Today's bazaar is a captivating blend of diverse cultures and a variety of experiences, fostering harmony and fraternity among different nations," Ishaq Dar added.

He extended his gratitude to the diplomatic community and the residents in Islamabad for their 'active and colorful participation' in today's event.

"Wonderful to see that every country has done a great demonstration of the culture in their country, the food and different other articles which is a unique experience for the visitors."

He emphasized that one of the aims of this event was to promote a better understanding of the social, cultural, and economic life of Pakistan. Towards this end, he said PFOWA also arranges various events such as exhibitions, cultural shows, and social meetings.

DPM Ishaq Dar noted that the theme of today's event, 'Joining hands, Joining hearts' was very interesting. "It is a beautiful theme and apt under the current challenges which the whole globe is suffering."

Indian troops martyr 9 Kashmiris in November

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indian troops in their unabated acts of state terrorism in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K), martyred nine Kashmiris, including a woman, in the month of November.

According to Kashmir Media Service, four of those killed were victims of fake encounters and custodial killings.

During the month, 12 Kashmiris sustained critical injuries, while 160 people, mostly Hurriyat activists, were arrested under draconian laws like the Public

Safety Act (PSA) and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), according to data released by the Research Section of KMS.

These injuries and arrests occurred during 196 cordon-and-search operations and house raids conducted by Indian troops across the territory.

The killings left three children orphaned, and Indian forces damaged two houses during the operations. Additionally, the BJP-led Indian government confiscated and attached 140 properties.

Bilawal lauds security forces for eliminating 8 terrorists in operations

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has lauded the security forces for eliminating eight terrorists in operations conducted in Bannu and Khyber districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to a press release issued by the Media Cell Bilawal House on Sunday, he said that the successful operation against terrorists was a source of pride for the nation.

Paying tribute to Cap-

tain Muhammad Zohaibuddin and Sepoy Iftikhar Hussain, who embraced martyrdom during the operation, he said, the terrorists responsible for the martyrdom of these brave sons of the nation will face a dreadful end.

Bilawal Bhutto offered prayers for the elevation of ranks of the martyred soldiers and expressed heartfelt condolences to their families, praying for their strength and patience in this time of grief.

Legal dimensions of Kashmir dispute discussed at Muzaffarabad workshop

MUZAFFARABAD (INP): The Kashmir Policy Research Institute (KPRI) organized the first workshop of its "Youth Dialogue Program" as part of the Kashmir Conflict series in Muzaffarabad.

The workshop brought together youth leaders and students to discuss the complex dimensions of the Kashmir dispute.

Justice @ Manzoor Hussain Gilani, Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairman of the Kashmir Institute of International Relations, and Dr. Raja Muhammad Sajad Khan, Director of KPRI, delivered lectures on various aspects of the conflict, followed by a Q&A session with the participants.

Justice Gilani discussed the legal dimensions of the Kashmir issue, emphasizing that the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India was not legally valid. He argued that the legal agreement between the British government and princely states had expired on August 15, 1947, invalidating the Instrument of Accession.

He also noted that both Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan had fought for their freedom, with the support of tribal forces and

India's army. He criticized India's efforts to undermine UN resolutions and their inconsistent approach to the Kashmir issue.

Altaf Hussain Wani highlighted the ongoing human rights violations in Indian occupied Kashmir, stressing the need for a research-driven approach to expose the historical and current injustices faced by Kashmiris.

He urged the youth to bring these violations to light through investigation and global advocacy.

Dr. Raja Sajad Khan discussed the impact of misinformation on global political and economic issues. He emphasized that peace and development are impossible without truth, and urged the youth to recognize the difference between propaganda and facts, especially concerning the Kashmir issue.

The workshop concluded with the distribution of certificates to participants by Altaf Hussain Wani, underscoring the importance of youth engagement in policy-making and the Kashmir movement. He emphasized that peace and development are impossible without truth, and urged the youth to recognize the difference between propaganda and facts.