

# QUETTA VOICE

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Friday, November.22.2024.

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Security personnel stand alert in the aftermath of terror attack

## 21st Convocation of University of Balochistan: 501 Graduates Honored

**Education Desk:**  
**QUETTA:** Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail lauded the achievements of 501 graduates, including 25 PhD scholars, during the 21st convocation of the University of Balochistan on Wednesday. Addressing the gathering, he emphasized the graduates' role in shaping a brighter future for Pakistan and humanity in the era of artificial intelligence and the fourth industrial revolution. The event celebrated 27 MPhil scholars, 415 graduates, and 34 gold medalists. Governor Mandokhail expressed pride in the university's commitment to modern technology and innovation, stating, "The University of Balochistan is at the forefront of promoting cutting-edge technologies and global trends. This is the path to development and prosperity." He acknowledged the university's financial and teaching challenges and assured full support for resolving these issues under Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Zahoor Ahmed Bazai's leadership.

## Pakistan Terror Attack: 38 Dead in Kurram District of KPK

**News Desk:**

A tragic attack on passenger vehicles claimed the lives of at least 38 people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Lower Kurram region on Thursday. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi echoed this grim tally during a media address outside the Islamabad High Court. "This past week has been devastating," he said. "A further 38 innocent lives have been lost in Kurram. We're witnessing relentless violence and are in constant communication with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa authorities."  
 "They are an integral part of Pakistan, and we will not abandon them," the minister vowed. "We'll provide all possible assistance."  
 Earlier reports from Tehsil Head Quarters (THQ) Hospital Huzarai indicated 33 fatalities and 30 injuries, with some of the wounded being transferred to other hospitals within the district and even Peshawar.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur expressed outrage and ordered that those responsible will face the full force of the law. President Asif Ali Zardari strongly condemned the incident and expressed his condolences to the bereaved of the deceased. "Attacking innocent passengers is a cowardly and inhumane act," he was quoted as saying in a post on X by PPP's media cell. He added that those responsible for the incident should be punished. He urged that timely medical aid be provided to the injured. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif similarly ordered that the best medical facilities be provided to the people injured in the attack in a statement condemning the attack. "The enemies of the peace of the country attacked the convoy of innocent citizens which is tantamount to brutality. All attempts of anti-national elements to destroy the peace of the beloved country will be thwarted. "The evil elements involved in the incident will be identified and punished accordingly. Saboteurs cannot demoralise the brave Pakistani nation by such cowardly actions," he said. The incident comes amid a sharp uptick in the number of terrorist attacks in Balochistan and KP. Attacks escalated after the banned terrorist Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan outfit broke a fragile ceasefire agreement with the government in 2022 and vowed to target security forces. Last month, two terrorists were killed during an intelligence-based operation in KP's North Waziristan district. Twelve security personnel were martyred after a checkpoint was targeted in the Malakhel area of KP's Bannu, the military's media affairs wing said a day ago.

## Adil Khan Bazai of PTI Disqualified: NA-262 Seat Vacant After ECP Ruling

**News Desk:**

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has disqualified Adil Khan Bazai and declared the NA-262 seat vacant. The decision follows a reference filed under Article 63A of the Constitution, citing Bazai's violation of party directives. Adil Bazai, elected as an independent candidate, later joined the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

PML-N President Nawaz Sharif to file the disqualification reference with the National Assembly Speaker. The ECP's ruling reinforces Article 63A, which mandates party loyalty from members elected on its platform. With Bazai's disqualification, the NA-262 constituency will now await a by-election to fill the vacant seat. his marks a significant moment in the ongoing political accountability process, emphasizing the importance of adherence to party policies.



## Power Supply Suspension in Northern Balochistan Amid DC-QESCO Dispute

**From Our Correspondent:**

**LORALAI:** A clash between the Deputy Commissioner of Loralai, Mehran Baloch, and a Superintending Engineer of Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) has disrupted power supply in seven districts of northern Balochistan. Police reports indicate that the confrontation occurred when a QESCO team disconnected what they claimed was an illegal connection at the circuit house in Loralai. Allegedly, the DC and his security staff reacted aggressively, leading to a heated argument and physical altercation with the QESCO personnel. The fallout from the incident resulted in QESCO suspending power supply across multiple districts, paralyzing life in the affected regions. Residents are enduring severe hardships due to the outage. Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner accused QESCO officials of storming the circuit house without prior notice and behaving inappropriately. Efforts to mediate and restore power are reportedly ongoing.



## Balochistan Government to Launch Facilitation Centers for Investors

**Manan Mandokhail:**

**QUETTA:** The Balochistan Board of Investment and Trade (BBOT), under the leadership of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, has announced significant initiatives to attract domestic and foreign investment. A meeting chaired by the Chief Minister focused on fully activating the board, launching facilitation centers, and hosting a high-profile "Balochistan Business Summit." The facilitation centers aim to provide streamlined support to investors, ensuring the availability of essential services such as gas, water, and infrastructure. Chief Minister Bugti emphasized the province's untapped potential, citing its rich mineral resources, expansive coastline, and strategic location as ideal for industrial and business ventures. "The provincial government is committed to providing a secure and

business-friendly environment for investors," said Bugti. " Foolproof security measures will ensure that investors can operate without fear while contributing to Balochistan's economic self-sufficiency." A committee led by Chief Secretary Balochistan has been tasked with implementing these initiatives. The provincial government also plans to facilitate private industrial estates and enhance investor confidence by addressing key infrastructure needs. With these steps, Balochistan aims to boost its economic growth, attract long-term investments, and drive prosperity across the province. Prominent figures, including OTT Major (Retired) Kabir Zirkoon, attended the meeting, highlighting the government's dedication to fostering sustainable economic development.

### بلوچستان کی زرعی اور معاشی ترقی کا نیا باب

صدر پاکستان آصف علی زرداری اور وزیر اعظم پاکستان میاں محمد شہباز شریف کی زیر قیادت  
 اور وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان میر سرفران بیگی کی خصوصی کاوشوں کی بدولت  
 سیلاب 2022 میں شدید متاثر ہونے والی

## کچھی کینال، فیز 1 میں پانی کی روانی بحال

اس زراعت دوست اقدام کی بدولت  
 157,000 ہیکڑ سے زائد زرعی رقبہ بچھے ہو گا سہراب ✪ رواں برس 11 ارب روپے سے زائد زرعی پیداوار کا حصول  
 ✪ روڈگار کے اٹکوں سے موٹوں کو بچاؤ فریغ

صرف 2 ماہ میں نہری کھل صفائی اور پانی کی بحالی مکمل کرنے پر اس سیزن میں گندم کی بھرپور کاشت شروع  
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WOMEN

Editor: Asim Khan

Ensuring Lasting Peace in Balochistan: A Call for Revamped Security Strategy

Editorial:

The recent suicide attack at Quetta's railway station, claiming 26 lives and leaving 60 injured, marks yet another grim chapter in Balochistan's ongoing struggle with terrorism. This devastating event underscores the urgent need for a reinforced, comprehensive approach to securing the province. Balochistan has endured an escalating pattern of terror attacks, each incident deepening the public's sense of insecurity and fear. Now more than ever, it is critical for the federal and provincial authorities to take decisive, lasting action to protect the lives and property of the people of Balochistan.

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi's recent meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti in Quetta demonstrates a renewed commitment to peace in the province. Their dialogue and pledges of increased federal support are timely and necessary steps. However, the promise to expand intelligence-based operations and modernize the Levies, Police, and Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) should now translate into immediate, visible actions that citizens can feel.

A long-term, people-centered approach is essential. Government officials must prioritize public safety by strengthening on-ground security, upgrading intelligence networks, and fortifying critical infrastructure. Comprehensive coordination between federal and provincial law enforcement agencies is vital to address the evolving tactics of terror groups and dismantle their operational networks. Immediate reforms to the security strategy, along with increased community engagement, will play a vital role in restoring confidence among the masses.

This tragic incident calls for more than emergency responses; it demands a reevaluation of existing strategies to ensure lasting peace and security across Balochistan. The people of Balochistan deserve to live free from the shadow of violence. The government's commitment to achieving this must be unwavering, with resources allocated not only to prevent such attacks but to provide swift justice and relief for affected families. It is time for a sustained, strategic response that prioritizes the safety and well-being of every resident in Balochistan, turning promises into impactful action for a peaceful future.

Resource dilemma

By Umer Farooq:

PAKISTAN has yet to lay a single pipe on its side. The fear of American sanctions, Iran, having completed the pipeline project with Iran. Does this sound familiar? It should if we recall Reko Diq. Just recently, Pakistan settled a lawsuit with Barrick Gold over the Reko Diq mining project. And here we are again, starting down the barrel of another costly legal showdown—estimated around \$18 billion. Pakistan's most profound lesson from history may be this: it seldom truly learns from it. The same mistakes are replayed like a broken record. The past seems to hold wisdom, but for some reason, we don't heed it, and then arrive at a point when the world's courts have to chase us down. Action only begins when a summons arrives—until then, we're content to sit back and watch.

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In 2009, Islamabad inked a deal with Tehran to import up to a billion cubic feet of gas daily via a cross-border pipeline. Fast forward to 2024, and

As the global balance shifts from West to East, and as Donald Trump becomes the next US president—the rules of the power game are bound to change. Western hegemony is on the decline. Pakistan—and many other countries—no longer have to navigate their energy needs under the shadow of Western power. This transfer of power will not only alter the way international challenges are addressed but will also redefine the very nature of those challenges.

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The US threat of sanctions over this pipeline project with Iran is a reminder of Western influence dictating local energy choices. Pakistan faces a massive gas supply-demand gap that is only growing wider. This cross-border pipeline could deliver up to a billion cubic feet of gas per day to an energy-starved nation, which is desperate for relief. The winds of change are blowing, and America is set to have a different administration. However, its Iran policy may remain unchanged or even take a harsher turn. We must anticipate a hard-line stance from the new Trump administration, which is likely to increase the pressure on Pakistan to abandon projects that involve Iran.

With Trump's re-election, Pakistan faces even greater urgency in addressing the pipeline issue. We must anticipate a hard-line stance from the new Trump administration, which is likely to increase the pressure on Pakistan to abandon projects that involve Iran.

Delivering clean air

By Ali Tauqeer Sheikh:

In recent days, we saw economic and social life in almost all of Punjab and KP come to a standstill. The air quality in Punjab, the most populous and most urbanised province of the country and parts of KP endowed with pristine mountains has become a more serious climate crisis than the magnitude of the 2022 floods.

With almost 100 million people inhaling polluted air, the maximum toxic than WHO standards—the scale of this crisis has become a health emergency. The rain will provide temporary respite as it will help improve visibility but not permanently bring pollution levels down to healthy standards. The problem has not emerged suddenly, nor can it be resolved quickly. The warnings were ignored by policymakers, even though the study also pointed out that air pollution was costing up to 5.5 percent of GDP annually. Healthcare expenditures amount to \$47.7 billion (about 5.8pc of GDP), while lost labour output reaches \$6.6bn. The cost of environmental degradation at the time was estimated at Rs365bn annually.

Given the gravity of the challenge, the study set a target for air quality improvement in air pollutants by 2030 and 81pc by 2040. These goals required coordinated interventions across transportation, industry, agriculture, and waste management sectors, supported by strengthened institutional capacity and regulatory frameworks.

The Lahore High Court's Smog Commission (2017) and the Judicial Water & Environment Commission (2019), could not persuade the provincial government to bring the issue to the forefront. The report showed that air pollution contributed to approximately 235,000 premature deaths and over 80,000 hospital admissions annually. The air quality index (AQI) rose by up to 2.7 years across Pakistan. It seems that

the report in 2014 was predicting the new wave per headlines of November 2024. The problem of pollution, while lost labour suddenly, nor can it be resolved quickly. The warnings were ignored by policymakers, even though the study also pointed out that air pollution was costing up to 5.5 percent of GDP annually. Healthcare expenditures amount to \$47.7 billion (about 5.8pc of GDP), while lost labour output reaches \$6.6bn. The cost of environmental degradation at the time was estimated at Rs365bn annually.

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Romancing the word

By FS, Aijazuddin:

COULD this space be better used than to pen a requiem to a fellow writer and columnist? Khaled Ahmed passed away last Sunday in Lahore, just as the suffocating smog lifted, making life for those who have survived him livable. Inevitably, any memoir of a friend must begin with one's first encounter with him. I met Khaled in the winter of 1966. I had returned from London after qualifying as a chartered accountant. Khaled was still studying at Government College, Lahore. We were both invited to perform by Farrukhniaq Aziz to perform in Anton Chekhov's heavy drama 'The Seagull' in Nawab Kalabagh (then governor West Pakistan) had banned plays being performed by women. Mixed studies in Government College could not act together but the GC stage was available to host amateur actors. Farrukhniaq

cobbled together a small group which christened itself the Alpha Players (the first of hopefully many). Shamin Ahmed (later Lt. Saira Hina) played the lead role of Nina. Agha Ghazanfar (later Khaled's colleague in the Civil Service) played her love sick swain Konstantin. Khaled had a lesser role as the village doctor Dom. With more ambition than talent, I played the lead role of the arrogant, ambitious, and self-centered character, the Russian countess and the actress. Khaled chose to live in his own world. The challenge came in finding a dead end street in Nawab Kalabagh. I fabricated a facsimile in cloth. It should have worked, except that when Konstantin tossed the bird at Nina's feet, it bounced, and bounced, and bounced. After graduating but before joining our Foreign Ser-

vice, Khaled worked with Sohail Iftikhar (son of the Congre politician Mian Iftikharuddin). Sohail had established Nigarishat, with the aim of publishing Urdu translations of historical classics. Khaled's bilingual talents were evident in its first publication, Urdu translation into Urdu of Niccolao Manucci's 'Storia Do Mogor, Vol. 1: Or Mogul India, 1653-1708, an account of Mughal history under Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb. Khaled often recalled Nigarishat's teething problems, of Sohail's overzeal desk that got wedged on the staircase, forcing every visitor to clamber up or slide down. Khaled's facility with languages enabled him to master Russian. He served in Moscow under ambassador Jamsheed Marker. Khaled recalled Marker and himself being summoned to the Kremlin before the early hours of one wintry morning. The Rus-

sians wanted to express their displeasure over the Indo-Pak conflict in December 1971. Ambassador Marker and Khaled were made to wait some time. Then they heard feet stride purposefully along a very long corridor. The sound reached the door of the waiting room. A senior Russian diplomat entered, looked at them, and said: "You will regret this." He then left abruptly and slammed the door behind him. His footsteps resounded as he retraced his heavy tread along the cavernous corridor. In the meantime, Khaled had returned to his own devices. He re-joined an earlier love—philology. He consorted with a harem of volumes. He chose to live in his own world, one in which suits and ties and perfume and ambition had no place. He preferred a motorcycle to a motor car. He wore shalwa-kameez before an officer Mr. Z.A. Bhutto and Gen Ziaul Haq had made it mandatory. He helped an upwardly mobile Pathan entrepreneur Rehmat Shah Afridi establish an English newspaper 'The Frontier Post' here in Lahore. Despite Khaled's editorial skills, the newspaper lost money by the bagful. Once, Rehmat Shah admitted that when he asked his co-Pathan sponsor in Peshawar whether they should not cut their losses, he was told: "Your job is to run the paper. Our job is to find the money for it." He added candidly: "We see it as an admission fee. How else can we penetrate the Punjab upper class?" During his long career, Khaled jumped from one pursuit to another—writing for whichever party or journal could sustain his interests and pay. He wrote inimitable, endearing articles as a consultant with the Pakistani edition of Newsweek.

Is the economy improving?

By Khuram Husain:

IT has now become a routine question. Every TV anchor and people I meet in any gathering want to know: is it true that the economy is 'improving'? The short, and best, answer here is 'yes and no'. Yes, because the deficits that plagued it have been plugged. No, because growth remains a far-off dream. The proper term to use is the economy is stabilising, but it is not yet, and will not be for a long time, ready to boom. This presents a problem. Without growth, you don't get employment generation to absorb the new entrants to the labour force, of which there are an estimated two million every year. You also don't get income growth, meaning all the purchasing power that was destroyed in the inflationary fire of 2021 to

implemented, we cannot say the economy is 'improving'.

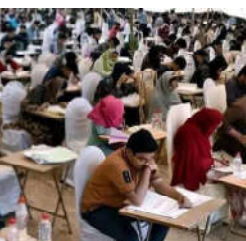
Since July 2024, a set of policies have been implemented steadfastly that have finally averted the dire situation we faced back then. These policies included a very high interest rate and very high tax burden, and not only for those already in the tax net. Between these measures, the IMF programme. There are no surprises here. This is precisely what the IMF medicine is supposed to do. Every government that has ever implemented an IMF programme in its first year in power has touted these achievements as its success. This history goes back to 1988, and even earlier. It has happened every single time. A new government enters office. The economy is nearly bankrupt.

SZABMU Postpones MDCAT Reconduct What's new Potential Date

Syed Muhammad Yaseen:

ISLAMABAD: The Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University (SZABMU) has officially announced a delay in the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) scheduled, originally scheduled for November 24th.

The decision comes in the wake of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) announcing a major protest in the capital on the same day. The announcement has added to the stress and uncertainty faced by medical aspirants who have already undergone multiple delays and controversies surrounding the MDCAT this year. The Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) has also postponed the National Registration Exam (NRE-1) to December due to the im-



While the exact date for the rescheduled MDCAT remains uncertain, sources suggest that December 8th is a potential date. This date also coincides with the National Registration Exam (NRE-1) to December due to the im-

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## Resolution of Kashmir, Palestine disputes essential for global peace: Ayaz Sadiq

ISLAMABAD (INP) Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, has emphasized that durable global peace cannot be achieved without resolving the long-standing disputes of Kashmir and Palestine.

According to Kashmir Media Service, speaking during a meeting with Hamish Falconer, Minister/Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign,

Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom, and a UK parliamentary delegation, Ayaz Sadiq expressed grave concern over the ongoing human rights violations in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and Palestine.

He stressed that addressing these issues is crucial for ensuring regional stability and peace. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq reiterated Pakistan's

unwavering commitment to promoting peace and stability in the region.

He also highlighted Pakistan's historic and longstanding ties with the United Kingdom, noting that strengthening parliamentary and economic cooperation would further enhance bilateral relations.

The Speaker mentioned that Pakistan has rendered immense sacrifices in the global fight against

terrorism and it has always strived for regional peace.

The UK parliamentary delegation, which met with the Speaker, included British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott, Personal Assistant to the Minister Calum Matthews, Political Counsellor Zoe Ware, Deputy Political Counsellor Mark Bailey, and Principal Political Adviser to the High Commissioner Saqib Riaz.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mobsin Naqvi in a meeting with British Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Hamish Falconer.

## Qaiser dismissed any claims of relief in case involving Khan's bail

SWABI (INP) Central leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Asad Qaiser, has reiterated the party's firm stance against any "deals" and emphasized the demand for legal rights.

Speaking to a private TV channel, Qaiser confirmed that PTI's leadership, including Imran Khan, remains resolute in their position to stay in Pakistan and fight for justice.

"Imran Khan will stay in the country and will not go to London or any other country," he stated, further asserting that the leadership's imprisonment in what they consider to be fabricated cases should be addressed on merit.

Qaiser dismissed any claims of relief in the case involving Imran Khan's bail, particularly in the

Toshakhana case-II, describing it as a false case.

He praised some members of the judiciary, particularly Justice Aurangzeb, for making decisions based on courage and justice, untainted by external pressures. "If decisions are made according to the constitution and law, the country will move forward," he added.

On the political front, Qaiser revealed that the PTI had been in touch with key figures, including Ali Amin, who was recently in Adiala Jail. Although the specifics of these contacts remain unclear, Qaiser suggested that negotiations might be underway, though he stressed that any such discussions would not undermine PTI's stance. "Whatever is done will be done with progress beyond nego-

tiations, and only Ali Amin can tell who contacted him," Qaiser said, further confirming that the government was behind these talks.

As the November 24 protest looms, Qaiser stated that PTI's preparations are complete.

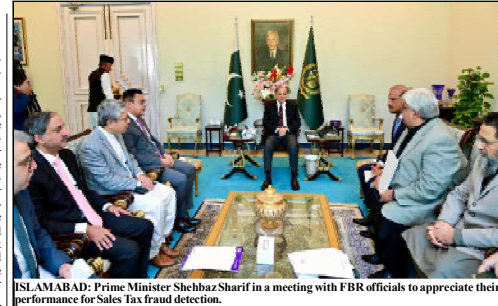
The protest, which he emphasized is exclusively a PTI movement, will not involve other parties like JUI-F or Mahmood Achakzai. He condemned the government's handling of unemployment, highlighting the deteriorating situation in the country. "More than a hundred soldiers have been martyred in a month, and the government has shown no real effort to address the crisis," he added.

Qaiser confirmed that the protest would be led by Hamid Azhar from Punjab and Ali Amin from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Despite expected government barriers, PTI plans to carry out its protest wherever necessary.

"It is our legal right to protest, and we will reach Islamabad no matter how long it takes. Our target is Islamabad, and we will achieve our goal through protest," he asserted.

The demands driving the protest are clear, according to Qaiser: resolution of the alleged mandate theft cases, the release of PTI leadership from jail, and the pursuit of justice.

With tensions high, the November 24 protest marks the party's strong call for accountability and justice, as they continue their struggle for legal rights without compromise.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in a meeting with FBR officials to appreciate their performance for Sales Tax fraud detection.

## Govt starts placing containers across Rawalpindi, blocking key roads

RAWALPINDI (INP) In a major move to thwart the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest scheduled for November 24, the government has started placing containers across Rawalpindi, blocking key roads to prevent the demonstration.

As part of heightened security measures, containers have already been delivered to several critical locations, including Favara Chowk and Liaquat Road. One container has been positioned near the church on Liaquat Road, while two more containers are blocking access to the Favara Chowk parking plaza.

In response to PTI's call for a protest in Islamabad, both the Punjab and federal governments are taking aggressive steps to ensure law and order. Additional containers are expected to be deployed along the

city's main highways and streets in the coming days. Meanwhile, the Rawalpindi Police have decided to seal 47 locations across the city, setting up police pickets at 34 strategic points in the cantonment and nearby areas. To reinforce security, over 4,500 law enforcement personnel will be on duty across Rawalpindi on November 24. Special security measures have also been implemented on Adiala Jail and on Adiala Road, where access points will be sealed off. In addition, police commandos have been stationed at key facilities throughout the city and cantonment to ensure the protection of important sites.

Rawalpindi's security efforts have been further strengthened by the imposition of Section 144, prohibiting public gatherings, processions, or rallies of more than four people in the city until November 26. Authorities

have issued formal notifications to enforce the ban on public assemblies.

In a series of preemptive actions, Rawalpindi Police have arrested 28 PTI workers across various districts, including Taxila, Wah, Saddar, Rawat, and Gujjar Khan. The arrests, carried out as part of ongoing crackdowns, are connected to cases involving anti-terrorism provisions.

Police are also intensifying raids on containers and dumpers in a bid to seal off key routes between Rawalpindi and Islamabad. Additional containers have been deployed along GT Road, Rawat, Taxila, and the Margalla Check Post, with checkpoints extending to the motorway and Jamalpur.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has expressed strong concerns over the government's actions. Barrister Saif, advisor to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister, criticized the arrests and deployment of security forces as an overreaction.

He argued that the government's claim that it was only trying to prevent gatherings of 50 people was contradicted by the large-scale security measures. He accused the government of using "high-handed tactics" and said that PTI supporters would find a way to reach Islamabad and press their demands, despite the government's best efforts.

As tensions rise ahead of the November 24 protest, the situation in Rawalpindi and Islamabad remains fluid, with authorities on high alert and PTI supporters determined to carry out their demonstration despite the government's strong opposition.

## ECP wants Khan's appearance through video link in contempt case

ISLAMABAD (INP) The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has directed authorities to ensure the appearance of PTI founder Imran Khan in the ECP contempt case hearing.

The ECP four-member commission, headed by member

Sindh Nisar Durrani, heard the contempt case against PTI founder Imran Khan.

During the hearing, ECP's KP member stated that Imran Khan was acquitted on Wednesday in Toshakhana case. Lawyer Faisal Chaudhry said Imran Khan was arrested in another case however,

his appearance was necessary for evidence record.

During the hearing, the officials informed the court that the PTI founder's appearance through video link would be possible. The ECP directed the authorities to ensure Imran Khan's

appearance before the court through video link in the next hearing.

Member Sindh Nisar Durrani remarked that the ECP would record the statements of witnesses in the next hearing. Consequently, the ECP adjourned the case until Dec 17.

## Govt must reconsider its project of more canals from Indus: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (INP) Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has urged the federal government to reconsider its project of more canals on Indus River.

"If the reservations of Sindh and Baluchistan not considered the project will become disputed," Bilawal Bhutto said in a video statement.

"Don't plan the projects that become disputed like Kalabagh

Dam," he said. PPP chairman said that instead of launching disputed projects all stakeholders should be taken into confidence.

He urged for creating consensus in provinces to ensure success of the Green Pakistan initiative. Imposing one's opinion by force will cause political instability and it has negative impact on the economy, Bilawal Bhutto said.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari yesterday declined a meeting with

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, requested by the federal government following his criticism.

Bilawal said that his refusal was not based on personal issues with government but stemmed from the concerns of his voters and provincial governments.

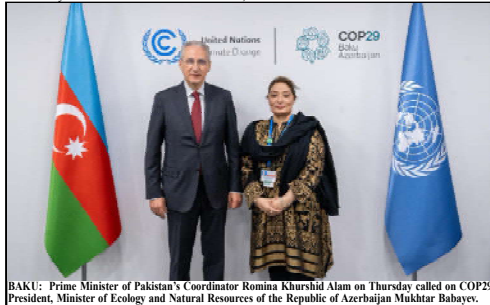
He emphasized that the PPP had grievances with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) over its handling of adminis-

trative matters in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

Bilawal also raised concerns over the federal government's approach towards the development plans in Sindh and Baluchistan, highlighting the PPP's reservations over the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) in these provinces. On Wednesday, PPP chairman also formed a committee to raise grievances with the federal government.



ISLAMABAD: Chief guest Rana Mashood, Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme and Van Nguyen, Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP Pakistan in a group photo with participants during a market-driven vocational and technical skills training programme concluded ceremony organized by Government of Japan, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Sarhad Rural Support Programme.



BAKU: Prime Minister of Pakistan's Coordinator Romina Khurshid Alam on Thursday called on COP29 President, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mikhtar Babayev.

## India warns of 'further damage' to Canada ties

NEW DELHI (INP) India warned Canada of "further damage" to already strained ties after Toronto's Globe and Mail newspaper alleged Prime Minister Narendra Modi knew about a purported campaign targeting Sikh activists.

Canada is home to the largest Sikh community outside of India and includes activists for the "Khalistan" a fringe separatist movement seeking an independent state for the religious minority carved out of Indian territory.

Ottawa has previously accused India of orchestrating the 2023 killing in

Vancouver of 45-year-old naturalised Canadian citizen Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a prominent Khalistan campaigner, and targeting other Sikh activists connected to the movement.

Nijjar, 45, was shot dead by masked gunmen outside the Sikh temple he presided over after being wanted by Indian authorities for alleged terrorism offences and conspiracy to commit murder accusations he denied.

India has repeatedly dismissed the allegations, which have sent diplomatic relations into freefall, with both nations last month expelling another round of senior

diplomats.

New Delhi has previously denied that interior minister Amit Shah had plotted to target Sikh activists on Canadian soil, and officially rebuked Ottawa over what it said was an "absurd and baseless" allegation.

The Globe and Mail reported Tuesday that Canadian security agencies "believe" Modi knew about the alleged campaign targeting Canadian Sikh activists.

"Such ludicrous statements made to a newspaper purportedly by a Canadian government source should be dismissed with the contempt they deserve," India's

foreign ministry said in a statement late Wednesday.

"Smear campaigns like this only further damage our already strained ties," the newspaper quoted an unnamed Canadian official as having said that Indian foreign minister Sushrma naya naya Jaishankar and national security advisor Ajit Doval were "also in the loop".

"The assessment is that it would be unthinkable that three senior political figures in India would not have discussed the targeted killings with Mr. Modi before proceeding," the official told the Toronto daily.

## Balochistan Food Authority Hosts Training Workshop on Food Fortification

QUETTA: The Balochistan Food Authority (BFA) organized a one-day training workshop under the Social Security Support Programme for Adolescent Nutrition project at its head office in Quetta.

The initiative was a collaborative effort by the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), GIZ, and Nutrition International.

The workshop aimed to enhance awareness and capacity among BFA and food department officials regarding food fortification and quality assurance strategies. Participants received training in quality control systems, nutrient testing, and fortification techniques for staple food items such as flour.

Prominent attendees included Provincial Food Minister and BFA Chairman Haji Noor Mohammad Dumar, Secretary Food Muzaffar Zeshan Leht, and BFA Director General Atiqullah Khan. Addressing the workshop, Haji Noor Mohammad Dumar em-

Staff Reporter:



phasized the importance of ensuring safe food from farm to plate. He highlighted the BFA's commitment to promoting food safety as a basic right and acknowledged the technical support provided by Nutrition International.

"Food fortification is a cost-effective way to boost immunity and prevent diseases, contributing to a healthier society," said Dumar. He praised the SOPRAN

project for its efforts in addressing nutritional challenges across Pakistan.

Master Trainer Professor Yasir Durrani and Provincial Program Manager Syed Khalil Agha delivered detailed sessions on fortification methods and nutrient testing techniques.

Certificates were distributed to participants at the conclusion of the workshop.

## Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani Condemns Bannu Suicide Attack

Staff Reporter:



QUETTA: Provincial Irigation Minister and Pakistan People's Party Central Committee member Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani has strongly condemned the suicide attack on a security forces check post in Bannu, which left several personnel martyred and injured.

In a statement, Umrani denounced the attack as a conspiracy by non-state actors working on the agenda of enemy forces to destabilize Pakistan. He emphasized that

such acts of terror will never succeed in disrupting the country's law and order.

"The country is progressing due to the effective strategies of the current government," he said.

"To eliminate the scourge of terrorism, we must overcome political differences and take serious steps to ensure national security and prosperity."

He also prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured in the blast.

## Letter to Pakistan PM: DFP highlights Kashmiri political prisoners' harrowing plight

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a letter addressed to Pakistan's Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, the Democratic Freedom Party (DFP), led by the illegally detained senior APHC leader Shabir Ahmed Shah, highlighted the grave situation of Kashmiri political and human rights activists languishing in prisons within and outside Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The letter issued by Acting Chairman of DFP Mehmood Ahmed Saghar from Islamabad expresses deep concern over the ongoing abuse and mistreatment of these prisoners, who are enduring torture, prolonged detention and denial of basic rights, simply for their political beliefs and commitment to human rights.

The letter underscores the widespread and systematic repression faced by Kashmiri activists, including raids, surveillance, digital repression, arbitrary arrests and unprecedent appearances. Since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, hundreds of activists

have been detained and are enduring harsh conditions in jails far from their homes, with many incarcerated in notorious prisons like Tihar Jail. The letter specifically mentions prominent Kashmiri leaders, including Shabir Ahmed Shah, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Masarrat Aalam Butt, Nayeem Khan, Asiya Indrabi, and Khurram Parvaiz, whose health has severely deteriorated due to the extended periods of detention and mistreatment. The letter further highlights the dire conditions faced by these prisoners, including physical and psychological abuse, solitary confinement, denial of medical treatment, poor living conditions, lack of legal representation and ongoing psychological trauma.

"These abuses have led to physical and mental health issues, including depression and anxiety, among the Kashmiri prisoners," it states.

The letter also points out that nearly 5,000 Kashmiris, including top Hurriyat leaders, have been detained under draconian laws and are enduring

widespread abuse.

The letter condemns India's failure to honor its international obligations as a signatory to the Geneva Convention, which governs the treatment of political prisoners. "India has miserably failed to fulfill its international obligations and implement the laws governing prisoners' rights," it adds.

The DFP has urged Pakistan's leadership to use all available diplomatic channels to press the Indian government for a comprehensive investigation into these abuses and to ensure the safety and security of the incarcerated Kashmiri activists. The letter also raises grave concerns about the denial of legal representation and ongoing psychological trauma, whose lives are at grave risk in the Indian prisons. It concluded with an appeal to the Pakistan's government to continue advocating for the Kashmiri cause on the international stage, emphasizing that a strong and stable Pakistan is key to the success of the Kashmiri freedom struggle.



ISLAMABAD: The Deputy Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan, Mr. Ali Bek Bakayev, meeting with Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain.

## Saif criticizes Govt's actions ahead of PTI's Nov 24 protest

PESHAWAR (INP): Barrister Saif, the Information Advisor to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has sharply criticized the government's handling of the political situation in the lead-up to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest scheduled for November 24.

In a statement, Saif accused the government of losing control due to its aggressive crackdown on PTI workers, labeling the government as "fake" and claiming that its actions are a sign of desperation.

Saif highlighted the inconsistency in the government's approach, noting that while they claim not to have enough support for a protest of 50 people, they are simultaneously rounding up PTI workers in a wide-scale effort.

"Containers from all over Pakistan have been delivered to Islamabad for the 50 people," Saif remarked, suggesting that the government's response is exaggerated and disproportionate.

The Advisor also pointed out the extensive security measures being put in place, stating that forces from Punjab, Sindh, and Kashmir have been deployed in Islamabad in a bid to suppress the PTI's protest.

According to Saif, the government's fear is palpable as it resorts to "high tactics" and is breaking records of fascism in its attempts to prevent PTI from reaching Islamabad. He added that the government's actions are trampling the constitution and the law, all in the name of their hatred for Imran Khan.

Despite these efforts, Saif remained confident that PTI would successfully reach Islamabad and press its demands. He emphasized that PTI leaders, office bearers, workers, and supporters across the nation are united in their demand for the release of political prisoners, including Imran Khan.

Saif also dismissed rumors of internal divisions within PTI, suggesting that such news is being exaggerated by the government in a bid to create unrest within the party. "The news of PTI differences may be the wish of the fake government, but this is not the truth," he said. He expressed optimism about the growing enthusiasm among PTI's youth for the upcoming protest, insisting that the party remains united.

## Interior Ministry directs KP govt to ensure state machinery, equipment or finances not used for PTI's power show

ISLAMABAD (INP): The interior ministry on Thursday wrote to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief secretary to ensure that state machinery, equipment or finances were not used for PTI's power show planned for November 24 (Sunday).

PTI founder and ex-premier Imran Khan issued a "final call" for the Sunday protest last week, denouncing what he described as the stolen mandate, the unjust arrests of people, and the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment, which he said has strengthened a "dictatorial regime".

Since Imran's arrest in August 2023 on several counts, his party has been holding protests across the country for his release and against the alleged rigging of the Feb 8 elections.

Thursday's letter to Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam

Chaudhry, stated "Protest call on November 24" as its subject, specifying the PTI as the organizer later.

It asked Chaudhry to ensure that the KP government "does not utilise state machinery, equipment, officials or finances for political protest by the political party".

The interior ministry's directives come a day after the government approved the deployment of both Pakistan Rangers and Frontier Constabulary (FC) personnel in Islamabad from November 22 onwards to "handle" the law and order situation, ahead of the planned power show.

The notification said the exact number of personnel and the date and area of their deployment would be "worked out in consultation with concerned stakeholders". Similarly, the date

of de-requisitioning would be decided after mutually consulting all relevant stakeholders.

The federal and Punjab governments have decided to take strict measures to deal with the PTI's call. The police have been placed on "high alert" throughout Punjab while Section 144 has been extended in the federal capital for two more months, in addition to heavy security arrangements. The government's concerns about the use of state machinery emerged when last month, around two dozen KP cops were among 1,000 PTI supporters arrested by the Rawalpindi and Islamabad police during the PTI's October 5 D-Chowk protest. Following a simultaneous protest in Punjab, the Attock police had also arrested as many as 11 KP policemen who were participating in the PTI's march.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Health Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed Bharath addressing on National Action Plan for Health Security ceremony.

## APHC-AJK pays tribute to Majaz Kashmiri on his death anniversary

ISLAMABAD (INP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter has paying tribute to the Kashmiri liberation leader Majaz Kashmiri on his death anniversary.

The APHC-AJK organized a prayer meeting at its office in Islamabad on the eighth death anniversary of the late leader under the chairmanship of Convener Ghulam Muhammad Safi.

Ghulam Muhammad Safi in his address on the occasion, paying tributes to the late Majaz Kashmiri, said the unprecedented sacrifices of Kashmiris for freedom from illegal Indian occupa-

tion will definitely bear fruit one day.

He also paid tributes to the soldiers of the Pakistan Army who were martyred in the terrorist attack in Bannu and expressed full solidarity with their families. APHC-AJK senior leader Mehmood Ahmed Saghar in his address paid rich tributes to the late Majaz Kashmiri and the martyrs of Kashmir and said the great sacrifices of Kashmiris will never go waste. At the end of the meeting, Ghulam Muhammad Safi prayed for the elevation of the ranks of all the martyrs of Kashmir and the martyrs of the Pak Army. Meanwhile, Hurriyat lead-

ers from Jammu region, including Qazi Imran, Khalid Shabbir, Intiaz Butt and Abdul Rashid Butt, have strongly condemned the arrest of several social activists from Doda district of illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir by Indian troops. During a meeting they said the Modi government has been committing atrocities on unarmed civilians in the occupied territory, but despite this, it has failed to suppress the freedom sentiment of the Kashmiris. They appealed to the international community to put pressure on India to end the atrocities on innocent Kashmiris and resolve the lingering Kashmir dispute.



ISLAMABAD: The Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal inaugurated the National Productivity, Quality and Innovation (PQI) Summit 2024.

## IG Islamabad 'seeks' additional contingents from Punjab police

ISLAMABAD (INP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi has requested additional support from Punjab police ahead of PTI's November 24 protest.

It reported in media that the request includes 2 DIGs, 10 DPOs, heavy contingents, shells, and elite force vehicles to ensure security and maintain law and order in the federal capital.

Punjab police have already deployed personnel to Rawalpindi, Attock, Murree, and nearby districts. They've also begun considering deploying more personnel to Islamabad.

To maintain peace, Punjab police have completed preparations and assigned focal persons for each district. In an earlier development, section

144 enforced in Rawalpindi over reports of 'unrest' ahead of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest.

The decision was taken in a district intelligence committee meeting chaired by Rawalpindi DC Hassan Waqar Cheem. Public gatherings, rallies and gatherings of more than four people have been banned in Rawalpindi in the wake of 'unrest', 'extremism' and 'terrorism' reports, the notification read.

It is to be noted that incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan has given a call for country-wide protests on November 24.

In a separate development, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) presented 'conditions' to hold negotiations if withdrawal is November 24 protest call.

The PTI demanded immediate relief for party founder Imran Khan, the sources said.

"In exchange for relief to its founder, the PTI is ready to call off the protest," they added.

The party asked for the government to quash all 'fabricated' cases against Imran Khan and his immediate release.

"If legal proceedings delay his release, Imran Khan should be transferred to Peshawar Jail," one of the conditions set by PTI read.

The party also demanded an immediate release of other leaders imprisoned in various jails. Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur said that negotiations on the November 24 protest will only be commenced after the release of PTI founder Imran Khan.