

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Sunday, November 24, 2024.

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Pak-Iran Trade Target of \$10 Billion in Sight, Says Iranian Consul General

Syed Kaleem Shah:



QUETTA: Iranian Consul General in Quetta, Hasan Darvishwand, has expressed confidence in achieving the ambitious \$10 billion trade target between Pakistan and Iran through enhanced mutual cooperation. Speaking at a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Quetta Balochistan, he assured full support in addressing trade challenges and fostering stronger economic ties.

During the meeting, Chamber President Muhammad Ayub Mariani, along with Senior Vice President Haji Akhtar Kakar and Vice President Engineer Mir Vice Khan Kakar, highlighted key obstacles in bilateral trade, including the issue of i-forms, which is currently under a Supreme Court injunction. They presented suggestions to facilitate smoother trade and sought the Iranian Consul

General's assistance in addressing these hurdles. The Consul General assured the delegation of his commitment to resolving trade barriers and pledged to relay the Chamber's concerns to relevant authorities. He emphasized that achieving the \$10 billion trade goal would significantly boost economic growth for both countries. The Chamber also congratulated its newly elected officials, expressing optimism about their continued efforts in promoting Pak-Iran trade relations. To honor the Consul General's dedication, a commemorative shield was presented to Hasan Darvishwand. This meeting marks another step forward in strengthening Pakistan-Iran trade ties and underscores the shared vision of enhancing bilateral economic cooperation.

DigiBizz Empowers Youth in Balochistan: A Success Story under CM Bugti's Leadership

Education Desk:

QUETTA: The Science and IT Department Balochistan, under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, has been successfully running the DigiBizz program for the past three years. This flagship initiative is transforming the lives of Balochistan's youth by equipping them with essential skills for the digital economy.

Key Training Areas of DigiBizz: Digital Marketing, Amazon E-commerce, Creative Designing. By enabling the youth to excel in digital marketing, build careers in e-commerce, and master creative design, DigiBizz is ensuring that



DigiBizz has emerged as a vital platform fostering entrepreneurship and creating freelancing opportunities for the talented youth of the province. The program has empowered participants to se-

cur financial independence by leveraging modern tools and platforms. CM Mir Sarfraz Bugti praised DigiBizz, calling it "a cornerstone for unlocking Balochistan's digital potential." The program aligns with the government's mission to promote innovation and economic growth through technology.



BUITEMS

Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering & Management Sciences, Quetta



20th CONVOCAION

19th December, 2024

The 20th Convocation of the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering & Management Sciences (BUITEMS), Quetta, marks 22 years of remarkable education, and nation-building and restoring hope among youth in the province. BUITEMS remains one of the top universities in Pakistan and worldwide, ranking 1201-1500th in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. BUITEMS, a UN SDG Hub for Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), prepares globally competitive professionals with cultural awareness, academic rigor, and technology skills. Due to its SDG alignment and sustainable development focus, the university leads in educational innovation and social impact. BUITEMS leads education and research offering 64 Bachelor, Master and PhD programs hosted at Quetta, Muslim Bagh and Zhab campuses. In its 20th Convocation, the university is proud to graduate nearly 700 students in various fields of science, technology and humanities to help harness economic potential of Pakistan's economy and address global issues. BUITEMS trains youth to become effective future leaders and innovators to improve the nation and planet. BUITEMS 20th Convocation honors academic achievements and reaffirms excellence and sustainability.

SCHEDULE

FULL DRESS REHEARSAL
Wednesday, 18th December, 2024
at 9:30 AM

CONVOCAION
Thursday, 19th December, 2024
at 9:30 AM

Last Date of Registration:
Friday, 13th December, 2024

VENUE Arfa Karim Randhawa Expo Center Takatu Campus, BUITEMS Airport Road Baleli, Quetta

Registration Fee **RS. 7000/-** Late Registration Fee **RS. 8500/-**




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Balochistan Education Department and WFP Launch School Meals Program for 20,000 Students

Education Desk:

QUETTA: The Balochistan Education Department, in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide nutritious school meals to children across the province.

Balochistan Education Minister, Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani played a key role in ensuring this programme to boost students enrolment. Under this two-year initiative, 20,000 students in 65 schools will receive 5 million meals. The program aims to address nutritional deficiencies, improve school attendance, and enhance students' focus and learning outcomes. Research highlights the benefits of school meal programs:

- Increased Attendance: Encouraging regular school participation.
- Improved Learning: Boosting focus and academic performance.
- Better Nutrition: Tackling deficiencies that affect growth and development.



This initiative is expected to significantly improve food security while promoting education in underserved areas of Balochistan.

'Party consultation' to decide if PTI to go ahead with Nov 24 protest as Naqvi contacts Gohar

NEWS DESK: PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said on Saturday that "party consultation" would decide whether the PTI would go ahead with its planned protest tomorrow after Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi contacted him over the matter. According to Radio Pakistan, the interior minister contacted the PTI MNA in light of the Islamabad High Court's (IHC) Thursday order, which had ruled the planned protest as unlawful. PTI founder and ex-premier Imran Khan last week issued a "final call" for a protest tomorrow, denouncing what he described as the stolen mandate, the unjust arrests of people, and the passage of the 26th Amendment, which he said has strengthened a "dictatorial regime". Following a "detailed discussion about the current situation", Radio Pakistan reported. The interior minister told Gohar about the IHC's order, stating: "We are bound by the high court's order and cannot permit

Balochistan Government Imposes Section 144 to Ban Public Gatherings

Staff Reporter: QUETTA: The Balochistan government has imposed Section 144 across the province, banning all types of public meetings, processions, and gatherings. According to a notification issued by the Home and Tribal Affairs Department, gatherings of more than four people are strictly prohibited to prevent potential security breaches. The government has also banned the public display of weapons as part of enhanced security measures. These restrictions aim to maintain law and order and safeguard public safety across Balochistan. Citizens have been urged to comply with the directives to avoid any legal consequences. The provincial administration remains vigilant to address any security concerns.



Editor: Asim Khan

Unlocking Balochistan's Potential Through Digital Connectivity

Editorial:

Balochistan, Pakistan's largest yet most underserved region, stands at the crossroads of a digital revolution. With the provincial cabinet's approval of a comprehensive digital policy, a transformative opportunity emerges to bridge the province's persistent digital divide.

Leveraging internet connectivity and digital technologies could improve governance, enhance security, boost economic growth, and protect fundamental human rights.

For Balochistan, with its rugged terrain and remote settlements, adopting satellite internet can enable e-governance, foster educational opportunities, and support healthcare systems through telemedicine.

However, as global experiences demonstrate, the internet's transformative power must be deployed in the public interest.

The dominance of private corporations, like SpaceX, poses challenges to accountability and universal access. For Balochistan's digital policy to succeed, public-private partnerships are essential, ensuring that technological progress is inclusive and prioritizes citizens' welfare over profit margins.

Moreover, internet availability is critical to combating extremism and insecurity. By connecting communities and improving access to information, digital tools can empower citizens, fostering unity and progress. Similarly, enhanced connectivity can unlock economic opportunities, supporting local businesses and integrating Balochistan into global markets.

International collaborations, such as the G7's involvement in global digital initiatives, could bolster this effort, as seen in projects like CERF and the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. A similar commitment to public-oriented technology deployment can secure Balochistan's future.

This is a pivotal moment for Balochistan. By ensuring robust implementation of its digital policy, the government can not only transform the province's socio-economic landscape but also uphold the human rights of its citizens. Digital connectivity is no longer a luxury—it is a necessity.

Lahore's suffocating truth

By Anna Hashmi:

E

ach year, Lahore chokes under a blanket of smog, transforming a vibrant city into a health hazard. With an average of ten in the "hazardous" range, millions face severe health risks. The root causes are multiple: unchecked industrial emissions, crop burning, vehicular pollution and reliance on the power. However, pinning this crisis entirely on Pakistan oversimplifies a complex, global issue.

Pakistan emits less than 0.9% of global greenhouse gases but is one of the worst affected countries by climate change. This smog is not just Lahore's creation; it's a regional problem: air pollution from India and other areas blows over the city and is held in place by the topography. Mountains are like a wall which traps polluted air. This phenomenon underpins a harsh truth: air pollution does not distinguish between boundaries.

The world's largest polluters are the global superpowers and developed countries which burn fossil fuels with impunity. However, Third World countries such as Pakistan are required to contribute to global clean-energy transitions, even as they did not significantly contribute to climate change. As expected, critics have been right to label this as a short-sighted and unfair approach.

Such work as the Human Rights Watch report, demanding Pakistan switch to clean energy, shows an impor-

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Balochistan's Youth Empowered: 30,000 to Gain Global Job Opportunities

Manzoor Ahmed Magsi :

Balochistan is taking a bold step to combat unemployment with the launch of its Youth Skills Development and Overseas Employment Program.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti deserves appreciation for translating his words into action.

Aimed at equipping 30,000 young people with practical skills, this initiative opens doors for overseas job opportunities, marking a critical move in addressing the province's high unemployment rates.

With limited local job prospects, Balochistan has long struggled to provide adequate employment for its growing youth population.

The program focuses on trades such as Information Tech-



Balochistan.

nology, healthcare, hospitality, and electrical work, preparing participants for international markets, including Europe and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations like Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain.

A key aspect of the program is its merit-based selection process, ensuring equal representation from all districts in

Balochistan.

In the first phase, over 2,300 young individuals will be sent abroad by November, with work permits allowing them to gain valuable international experience.

This not only benefits the participants but also bolsters the province's economy through increased foreign remittances.

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mitment to covering all costs, including training, visas, and job placements.

This ensures that financial barriers do not prevent talented individuals from seizing these opportunities.

By focusing on skill-building and international employment, Balochistan's Youth Skills Development and Overseas Employment Program has the potential to uplift thousands of young people.

With strong implementation, this initiative can transform the province's economic landscape, reduce poverty through remittances, and promote long-term prosperity.

The writer is a former press secretary to chief minister Balochistan and currently serves as the assistant director in the Balochistan Information Department

Mass murder, rights violations and divine justice

BY Intiaz Gul:

In an ironic twist of fate, Bangladesh's former police chief Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun appeared in court (November 20) to respond to a long list of charges, including massacres, genocide and crimes against humanity until August 5, when farmer Sheikh Hasina was forced to flee to India.

Chief prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam from Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal, said Al-Mamun and eight others men had committed crimes "that even devils dare not do".

The police chief's appearance at the court offered a stark reminder that the axe of accountability can fall on you any time — at times sooner than anticipated.

Al-Mamun and scores of other civil-military loyalists had used their position to fulfill their anti-state, traitors and fanatics.

Hasina herself had publicly condemned the Digital Security Act, a new law enacted in 2018 which has resulted in arrest of thousands of individuals and critical of the government.

While listening to countless anecdotal evidence of repression during the time of her rule, it is hard to resist drawing comparison between the repressive regime of her father's departure was the police and the notorious

semi-military Rapid Action Battalion - both instrumental in muzzling and neutralising opposition parties and vocal critics of the government.

Their common repressive tools involved criminal cases, harassment, illegal detentions, physical elimination, enforced disappearances and exclusion from government jobs.

Established in April 2004 during former prime minister Khaleda Zia's tenure, RAB is organised into 15 battalions with as many as 12,000 personnel across the country.

Their officers are drawn from both the Bangladesh police and the country's armed forces. It has also been alleged that powerful businessmen and politicians sub-contract RAB for their interests.

Under the Hasina government, RAB also became involved in enforced disappearances, particularly of individuals involved in opposition politics. RAB has also been involved in the persecution of individuals involved in opposition politics. RAB has also been involved in the persecution of individuals involved in opposition politics.

Tens of thousands of criminal cases, predominantly of individuals, were instituted against them as punitive measures. Critical voices were muzzled and whatever it took to do so.

Post August 5 public sentiment sounds so much like Bangladesh, India influence and unprecedented goodwill for

Pakistan. It is no fiction but a recount of what young and old Bangladesh students, intellectuals, activists and academics told me and the broader audience during and on the sidelines of an international conference titled "Fractured World" under the auspices of the Bangladesh University and Tapos Jonu, for example spoke of "real freedom" ahead when recalling the bloody summer weeks.

The dilemma for most Bangladeshis, nevertheless, is a bitter inescapable reality: the mindset that ruled them in last two decades or so in particular, is still in vogue. Youself! the graffiti that currently adorns the boundary walls of various campuses of the Dhaka University, said Dr Mohammad Yunus, the chief of the interim administration, to the conference participants.

Even Yunus used the phrases such as "fascist, dictatorial and authoritarian" when speaking of the fallen Hasina regime.

The youth have put us on the path to a New Bangladesh, he said. And a visit out to the Dhaka university campuses turned out to be a blood warming, heart-wrenching experience. Sketches of Sheikh Hasina and her father Mujeebur Rahman - etched on the columns of the metro that cuts through the crowded city - with their faces painted in blood and iron teeth popping out to depict the repression that the society experienced under Hasina.

Freedom fighters of yesterdays meanwhile despised as traitors and dictators in what should

be eye-opening to many in the region.

It was indeed sad to see how Hasina, through her dictatorial regime - tarnished the image of her father who until August 5 was revered as the Father of the Nation.

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BY Zeba Sathar

HERE is growing concern regarding the shockingly higher-than-anticipated interannual population growth rates (2.55 per cent between 2017 and 2023).

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

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

The study puts to rest much of the debate about a demographic dividend in Pakistan: a

dividend is unlikely if each additional person consumes more than what is earned. It also underscores the flat trends in labour productivity which have cancelled out the expectation that the increase in labour force would yield dividends.

The cost of inaction in achieving a fertility transition and a reduction in population growth rate since the 1980s is high. The study lays out the huge loss that 2.6m additional jobs are required annually between 2023 and 2050. At the moment, it is mainly the services sector which has largely absorbed the surge of additional workforce.

We face challenges in absorbing the full workforce and will need to plan for it. Major structural changes are required to generate growth in manufacturing and agriculture to absorb the additional workers who will enter the labour

force in the next 25 years. The cost of inaction in achieving a fertility transition and a reduction in population growth rate since the 1980s is high. The study lays out the huge loss that 2.6m additional jobs are required annually between 2023 and 2050. At the moment, it is mainly the services sector which has largely absorbed the surge of additional workforce.

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Israel strikes Gaza after ICC issues arrest warrants

JERUSALEM (INP): Israel's military said that it had killed two commanders involved in Hamas's Oct 7, 2023 attack, pressing its north Gaza offensive a day after the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants over the war. With Israel also fighting Hamas ally Hezbollah in Lebanon, live APFV footage showed several strikes early Friday on Beirut's southern suburbs, where the Iran-backed group holds sway.

The Hague-based court's decision drew mixed reactions from world leaders, with some vowing to arrest the Israelis if they entered their country's territory.

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

Israel has similarly pushed back against accusations of genocide in its war against Hamas, with former defence minister Yoav Gallant having bear "criminal responsibility" for the war crime of starvation as a method of warfare and other crimes against humanity against Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip.

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Court of Justice in December and, more recently, a report issued by a UN special committee last week.

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

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

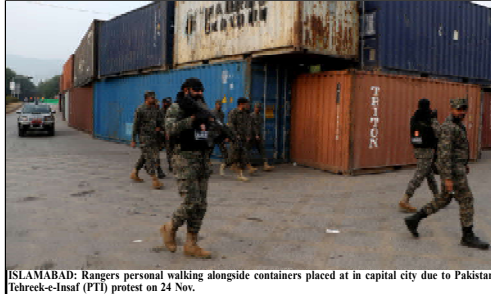
Biden, in a statement responding to the ICC's arrest warrants, called them "outrageous", vowing to "al-

ways stand with Israel against threats to its security".

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

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

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



ISLAMABAD: Rangers personal walking alongside containers placed at in capital city due to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest on 24 Nov.

Two fresh new cases filed against Bushra Bibi, wife of PTI founder Imran Khan

RAJANPUR (INP): Two fresh new cases have been registered against Bushra Bibi, wife of PTI founder Imran Khan, in Dera Ghazi Khan and Rajanpur for allegedly making inflammatory statements to incite hatred.

Following a video statement made by Bushra Bibi, cases were filed under the Telegraph Act of 1885. Police have stated that the proceedings are being conducted under Section 126 of the Telegraph Act and other relevant laws.

The content of the cases accuses Bushra Bibi of making provocative remarks intended to stir public emotions. It claimed that the statement,

made with intent and planning, targeted Saudi Arabia, playing on the public's sentiments.

The video also allegedly contained statements contrary to the country's foreign policy and public interest. The first case was filed in Dera Ghazi Khan on the complaint of a citizen named Ghulam Yaseen.

Additionally, a second case was filed in Rajanpur, with another citizen, Hakeem, as the complainant. On November 22, PTI leaders distanced themselves from Bushra Bibi's recent statement regarding Saudi Arabia reflects, stating that her personal views and should not be considered as party's policy.

According to sources, concern arose between PTI ranks regarding the statement made by the wife of Imran Khan. Leaders emphasized that Bushra Bibi has no formal role in party affairs, and only the founder, Imran Khan, is authorized to outline party policies. Sources further revealed that the Imran Khan has previously clarified Bushra Bibi's non-involvement in politics. They also stated that her remarks should not be misrepresented or taken out of context.

The controversy stems from a statement by former First lady, alleging interference by former COAS General Qamar Javed Bajwa under foreign influence. PTI founder's wife claimed that after the Imran Khan visited Madinat, barefoot and returned, General Bajwa began receiving phone calls.

According to Bushra Bibi, Bajwa was told, "Who have you brought forward? We don't want such individuals." She further alleged that Bajwa was informed, "We are planning to abolish Sharia in this country, and you have introduced such a person."

Bushra Bibi stated that following these remarks, a campaign of defamation was initiated against her and the PTI founder, Imran Khan. "They spread slander about me and began labelling the PTI founder as a Jewish agent," she added.

Peace efforts underway as 18 killed, 30 injured in fresh Kurram clashes

KURRAM (INP): Efforts were underway on Saturday to restore peace in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kurram District as 18 more people were killed and another 30 injured in fresh clashes.

The violence follows Thursday's deadly attack when a convoy of around 200 vehicles came under heavy gunfire in Kurram's densely populated Bagan town, killing at least 43 people and injuring 16 others.

The convoy was carrying passengers between Peshawar and Parachi-nar city, which is in Kurram, a district near the Afghanistan border with a history of sectarian violence and land disputes.

Meanwhile, Kurram Deputy Commissioner (DC) Javedullah Mehsud said efforts were being made to re-establish peace in the area, reiterating yesterday's statement.

He lamented that the security provided to the convoy that was

attacked was less than the required amount. DC Mehsud said officials of security forces and local administration were attending the meeting convened at the DC Conference Hall.

"With the help of local elders, forces and the administration, peace will be established as soon as possible," the official said.

According to witnesses, the vehicles were ambushed from four sides. Muhammad, a 14-year-old survivor, told Dawn that the assault lasted around 30 minutes.



ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary of Information and Broadcasting Minister Danyal Chaudhry addressed a Press Conference.



QUETTA: In the training facility program organized by Higher Education in Surdar Bahadur Khan Women University, Registrar Dr. Rabia Manzoor is giving shield to Director NAHE Subhan, Ahmed and others.

Louis 97, Athanaze 90 give West Indies slight edge after day one

ANTIGUA (INP): Mikyle Louis and Alick Athanaze both suffered the heartbreak of falling in the nineties on the first day of the Antigua Test against Bangladesh.

Otherwise, the West Indies pair did enough to make the opening day of the series theirs. The 140-run fourth wicket stand between the pair revitalised West Indies' innings, adding pace to the overall scoring. It led to West Indies dominating proceedings for more than two sessions. Louis came agonizingly close to his maiden Test century, but fell on 97. Despite showing great restraint throughout his 218-ball stay, Louis spent 27 balls

in the nineties before falling to Bangladesh stand-in captain Mehidy Hasan Miraz. Athanaze fell to Taijul Islam a few overs later, the second time he got out in the nineties in his short Test career.

The Bangladesh bowlers would be disappointed that they couldn't hold back the Louis-Athanaze partnership after keeping West Indies' scoring rate in check in the first 54 overs. Taskin Ahmed took two wickets, while Taijul and Mehidy took one each, average returns that beat his but. Taskin then had Keacy Carty

Bangladesh choosing to bowl first at the toss. After the Louis-Athanaze pair fell to the spinners, Justin Greaves and Joshua Da Silva scored freely against the second new ball towards the end of the day. Play was called off after 84 overs when a drizzle started, while the light was not great either.

Bangladesh's fast-bowling trio of Hasan Mahmud, Shoriful Islam and Taskin challenged West Indies early in the day, but Louis held his own. Hasan kept beating him outside the off stump. Shoriful tested him around the off stump with the delivery always threatening to shape in. Taskin used the wobble seam, sometimes bowled the yorker, and pressed Louis to fish outside off.

Shoriful, who got more swing from the Curtly Ambrose end than the Andy Roberts end, was playing his first Test since mid-August. He missed the previous five Tests but looked in tune with the red ball. He rumbled Kraig Brathwaite, who was not flowing from his bat. Louis meanwhile waited for the short ball, which got him two fours with the pull shot.

Taskin then removed Brathwaite, trapping him low with a hint of inward movement that beat his bat. Taskin then had Keacy Carty

caught at mid-on when he couldn't keep his wristsy whip down, ending up as a tame dismissal. Brathwaite and Joshua Da Silva made four runs in 38 balls, while Carty ended on an eight-ball duck.

Louis found Kavem Hodge a little more forthcoming as they tried to rebuild the innings. The pair struck four boundaries before the lunch break, but then consolidated in the second session. Louis brought up his fifty when he struck Taskin with a punch down the off stump. Shoriful tested him around the off stump with the delivery always threatening to shape in. Taskin used the wobble seam, sometimes bowled the yorker, and pressed Louis to fish outside off.

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with his several reverse sweeps in the second session. Louis, who lifted Taskin for a four over the bowler's head towards the end of the second session, remained mostly quiet in his approach.

Athanaze took the initiative to raise West Indies' scoring rate after tea. He started the final session with two square-cut boundaries, before he finally got a four with a reverse sweep off Mehidy.

Louis then lifted Mehidy for the sixth of the day, which took him into the eighties. Then, Mehidy dropped Louis at slip when he reached 90. Louis picked up Mahmud for his ninth boundary as he edged closer to his maiden century, while Athanaze opened up at the other end too.

He swept Taijul before hitting Carty for consecutive fours in the 71st over, cut and flicked away. Athanaze with Bangladesh's continued discipline. In the afternoon, it was the spinners Mehidy and Taijul, who kept things tight. Athanaze skied a couple of balls that fell slightly away from the fielder's reach. One of them, a top edge towards mid-on, could have become a catch had Taskin moved slightly faster. Athanaze struck Mehidy with a sweep for four, but couldn't quite connect



DUBAI: H.E. Hussain Muhammad, Consul General was the Chief Guest in an event hosted by Pakistanis in Dubai (PID) for reaching 200,000 members. The event titled "PID Business Summit" was held in Ajman.

Putin says Russia will keep testing new missile in combat

MOSCOW (INP): President Vladimir Putin said that Russia would keep testing its new Oreshnik hypersonic missile in combat and had a stock ready for use. Putin was speaking a day after Russia fired the new intermediate-range weapon into Ukraine for the first time, a step he said was prompted by Ukraine's use of US ballistic missiles and British cruise missiles to hit Russia. The Kremlin leader described the missile's first use as a successful test, and said there were no follow-up tests, including in combat conditions, depending on the situation and the nature.

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
ISLAMABAD

SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

Whereas, you, Mr. Faisal Manzoor, a BS-17 Officer of Electrical Engineering Department of Pakistan Railways, are informed through this publication that you were served with Show Cause Notice No. 1/29/Dis/2024 (P&D) dated 05.09.2024 on account of your absence from duty w.e.f 09.04.2024 which amounts to misconduct and could not be accepted without fulfillment of agreed terms and conditions. Thus, you were required to submit your defence/reply to the Show Cause in writing within 14 (fourteen) days from the date of receipt of it, but you did not submit any defence to the Show Cause Notice till date despite issuance of reminders dated 02.10.2024 and 07.11.2024 through Chief Personnel Officer, Pakistan Railways, Headquarters Office, Lahore.

Now, therefore, you, Mr. Faisal Manzoor, a BS-17 Officer of Electrical Engineering Department of Pakistan Railways, are required to submit your response/reply in writing within ten (10) days from the date of publication of this Notice in the Newspapers, failing which ex parte action will be taken against you under extant E&O rules.

(MALIK FAKHAR IQBAL)
Deputy Director / (P&D)
Ph: (051) 9103925

Kirmani claims Govt fell without establishment's support

MULTAN (INP): Senior Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Asif Kirmani has made a significant claim regarding the fall of the PML-N government, stating that it collapsed without the backing of the establishment.

In a recent statement, Dr. Kirmani, a close ally of PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif, emphasized that if the establishment withdrew its support, the government would fall even before the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) could reach Islamabad for its planned November 24 protest.

This remark comes as PTI gears up for nationwide protests against the current political situation in Pakistan.

Meanwhile, PTI founder Imran Khan issued a strong message in support of the November 24 protest, calling it a "day of liberation from slavery." In his statement, Khan criticized the suspension of the rule of law, constitution, and human rights in Pakistan, urging the nation to rise and make sacrifices for their freedom.

Drawing historical parallels, he asked whether the people would choose to live in "slavery until death like Bahadur Shah Zafar" or "wear the crown of freedom until death like Tipu Sultan."

Imran Khan also took the opportunity to clarify recent statements made by his wife, Bushra Bibi, regarding the PTI's political situation. He stressed his "exemplary relations" with Saudi Arabia and explained that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman had reached out to him personally following the Wazirabad assassination attempt.

Khan recalled that during his tenure, Saudi Arabia had played a crucial role, including hosting the OIC Foreign Ministers' Conference in Islamabad just two weeks before his government's downfall.



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

Azma Bukhari says KP CM least bothered about terrorism in his province

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari said on Saturday that at a time when there was unrest in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), the provincial chief minister Ali Amin Gandapur and PTI founder Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi were busy hatching conspiracies against the federal government.

Addressing a press conference in Lahore, she said that a terrorist attack on innocent civilians had taken place in Parachinar and all Gandapur was doing was making preparations for a sit-in at D-Chowk in Islamabad.

"Can't I see that over 40 people have lost their lives in the incident?"

Azma also raised questions over the use of money given to the KP government by the Center.

She alleged that the provincial government planned to

spend Rs2 billion on the November 24 protest, which she called Part-II of the May 9 riots. "If we leave the federal capital at their mercy, then they will wreak havoc."

She also accused the KP government of arming the PTI's youth wing as well as the Afghans residing in the province and tasking them with creating a law and order situation in the capital city.

The information minister opined that the PTI founder was so desperate that he wanted his workers' bodies so that he could use these for his political gains. "But the government would not let this happen," she vowed.

"She went on to say that it did not suit Bushra to talk about Shariah."

Azma said it was not because of his struggle for the rule of law in the country that Imran was in jail, but because

of his corruption. "Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif gave Rs500 million to the Shaukat Khan Hospital. Look what Imran did to him in return?"

Quoting the former first lady, the minister said she had said that despite the fact that her husband was 72 years old, he still wanted to enjoy life.

She made it clear that the Punjab government knew fully well how to deal with the PTI rioters. "We can even call Rangers to rein in the protesters. But the provincial chief minister Maryam Nawaz will take the decision in view of the situation."

Azma said whoever would try to take the law into his own hands would face the music. "They will be treated like Khawarij should be treated." She also hit out at the courts for granting bail to what she called PTI miscreants.

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

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

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

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

He said that PTI aims to create divisions between 23% of the countries. It's baffling that a protest is called on the same day a friendly country seeks to enhance

cooperation with Pakistan, he maintained.

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

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

He said Belarus and Pakistan are planning to jointly manufacture tractors. "While the administration prepares to welcome Belarusian guests, it is also ensuring citizen security. Can the system function effectively under such conditions?", he questioned.

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

He said the investment is flowing into Pakistan, the economy is growing, inflation has dropped from 32% last year to 6.9% this year, and foreign remittances totalled \$8.8 billion in the first quarter. The economy is im-

proving due to lower interest rates, and these figures cannot be disputed.

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

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

Responding to a question, he said PTI is divided into the Alema, Nooreen, and Bushra Bibi groups. He called it a melodrama between "Nand" and "Bhabhi". The country they once sought gifts from is now speaking against them, the minister said and condemned PTI members for the disgraceful protest at the Prophet's (PBUH) Mosque, questioning if they remembered Sharia when raising slogans there.



QUETTA: Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Provincial Amir Maulana Abdul Wasey is meeting Chairman Public Accounts Committee Worker Provincial Assembly Asghar Ali Tareen. Members of Provincial Assembly Mir Zahid Ali Riki and Zafar Agha are also present on this occasion.

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

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

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

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

The Expressway, a major route connecting Islamabad with Rawalpindi, and Zero Point were also closed as authorities braced for the PTI protests.

In a move to prevent any public transport from becoming part of the demonstration, the local administration ordered a complete suspension of the metro bus service for the day.

The Metro Bus service, which typically operates between various points in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi, including routes from the Secretariat

to JP Road, will remain completely closed.

Additionally, bus terminals within Islamabad have been shut down, and all intercity transport operations, including services to Rawalpindi, were suspended.

This has severely impacted those relying on public transport to travel to and from the capital city.

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

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

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

The Lahore Ring Road, another key route connecting various parts of the city, was closed for traffic, intensifying the con-

gestion in the city center. Commuters and businesses were left struggling as roads remained gridlocked for hours, with authorities urging people to avoid traveling unless absolutely necessary.

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

In addition to the police force, approximately 5,000 personnel from the Frontier Corps (FC) and Rangers have also been deployed to Islamabad. These paramilitary forces are expected to play a crucial role in managing any violent outbreaks or public disorder.

The federal government has granted these forces powers under the Anti-Terrorism Act, allowing them to take direct action if necessary to ensure peace and stability in the capital.

Given the rising tensions, the federal government has issued a notification regarding the deployment of Rangers and Frontier Corps (FC) personnel in the capital. These forces will assist the local police in maintaining control and preventing any potential violence.

Roads leading to Islamabad, Pindi blocked ahead of PTI protest

ISLAMABAD (INP): The roads leading to twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi, have been blocked ahead of the PTI's November 24 protest.

Hostels, guest houses and hotels have been vacated, while entry boards for vehicles have been installed at motorways.

The entry points of twin cities have been blocked at 33 places while containers placed at all points.

The authorities have blocked the Faizabad Interchange, while the Metro bus service connecting Pindi and Islamabad has also been suspended.

Islamabad Police has closed all key entry points of the capital city. The road leading to Adiala Jail has been blocked with hurdles.

Containers have been placed around Iran Avenue Margalla Road. Murree Road Faizabad has also been closed.

Sadhuki G.T. Road and bridges at Chenab and Jhelum rivers have also been closed for traffic. Moreover, Gujranwala Expressway, which connects the Sialkot-Lahore Motorway has been blocked. The authorities have deployed additional 30,000 law enforcement personnel in Islamabad including 5,000 from Sindh and 1,000 policemen from Azad Kashmir apart of 5,000 personnel of the FC.

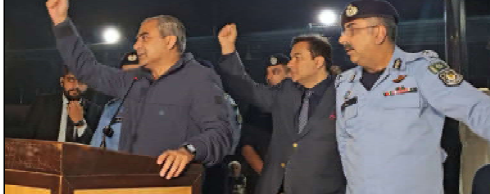
Opposition leader Omar Ayub has said that the arrangement has been made to remove government obstacles against the protest. "We will reach Islamabad at any cost", he added.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, addressing policemen at Police Lines has said every person found to be involved in lawlessness will be arrested. "No one will be allowed to return back".

A delegation of Belarus arriving tomorrow and the President of Belarus will visit Pakistan on Monday, we have to keep Islamabad secured at any cost", the minister told the policemen.

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

In a separate development, the government of Punjab has imposed section 144 across the province ahead of PTI protest in Islamabad on November 24.



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

Interior Minister, PTI Chairman discuss current situation

ISLAMABAD (INP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi contacted PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan in light of Islamabad High Court's order.

They held a detailed discussion about the current situation. Barrister Gohar about the post-Islamabad High Court order situation.

He said we are bound by the high court's order and cannot permit any procession, sit-in or rally.

The Interior Minister also briefed Barrister Gohar about the engagements of the eight-member high-level delegation from the disgraced protest at the Prophet's (PBUH) Mosque, questioning if they remembered Sharia when raising slogans there.

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

Barrister Gohar said he will inform the Interior Minister about the final response after primary consultation.

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

During stay in Pakistan, President Lukashenko is scheduled to meet President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minis-

ter Shehbaz Sharif, and military leadership.

Expanding collaboration in modern farming techniques and equipment, enhancing trade ties and boosting bilateral commerce, security and defence relationship will also come under discussion between both sides.

Pakistan has expressed keen interest in cooperation in the tractor manufacturing sector, highlighting Belarus's expertise in agricultural machinery. Several agreements are expected to be signed between the two countries, fostering collaboration across multiple sectors and paving the way for stronger economic and strategic ties, the source said.



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