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Security measures following PTI protest

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, addressed a press conference at D-Chowk on Sunday, emphasized Islamabad Police's dedication to ensuring smooth traffic flow, maintaining law and order, upholding public peace, and safeguarding lives and property in the federal capital.

IG Islamabad Rizvi highlights security measures following PTI protestDuring the press conference, IG said that no citizen is facing any obstruction while traveling, and instead of completely blocking areas where there are restrictions, Islamabad Police ensured that traffic continued to flow so that citizens did not face difficulties.

Additionally, where there are obstacles in remote areas, the Chief Traffic of Islamabad has arranged complete alternative routes to ensure that traffic continues smoothly in all areas.

IG Rizvi further mentioned that citizens were kept informed about today's security arrangements through various means, and information was also shared regarding police forces from other districts deployed in Islamabad.

IG emphasized that, they were present to ensure that all duties are carried out professionally, in line with the law.

IG Rizvi also stressed that all resources are being utilized to implement the orders of the High Court to maintain peace and order in the federal capital and to ensure the protection of citizens' lives and property.

IG Rizvi further said that, one thing i want to clarify is that as police officers, our foremost responsibility is to ensure adherence to the law, and we are fully committed to performing this duty.

Islamabad Police is taking all possible measures to protect citizens' lives and property, and no one will be allowed to disturb public peace, IG added.

Meanwhile: Ahead of planned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protests in Islamabad, police had initiated a wave of arrests targeting party leaders and workers.

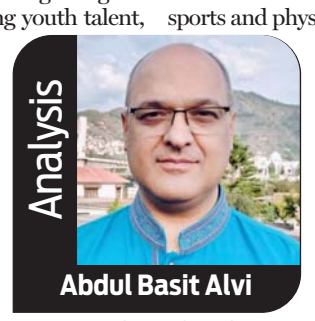
Prominent figures taken into custody include National Assembly members Amir Dogar, Zain Qureshi, and Moeen Riaz.

Dogar was apprehended while traveling to Islamabad and his location remains undisclosed. Rai Hassan Nawaz Khan, an MNA from Chichawatni, was also arrested at a bypass checkpoint. In Multan, a preemptive crackdown resulted in the arrest of Zahid Hashmi (son-in-law of Javed Hashmi) and numerous other PTI workers.

Police also raided the home of Senator Aun Abbas Bappi, arresting six of his employees. Farukh Javed Moon was taken into custody at Jinnah Hospital.

Furthermore, 13 PTI workers were detained near Faizabad in Islamabad. Police cite concerns over potential threats to public order as the justification for these arrests, alleging that those detained were either participating in or planning to participate in the protests.

Kashmir Volleyball Super League


Analysis
Abdul Basit Alvi

The Pakistan Army has long been recognized not only for its role in defending the nation's borders but also for its contributions to sports development, particularly among the youth. Through various programs and initiatives, the Army has played a crucial role in fostering athletic talent, promoting fitness, and instilling discipline in young people across the country. Its influence in the sporting arena has been significant, helping to nurture individual achievements and instill a sense of national pride. In a country where sports often face challenges due to limited resources, the Pakistan Army has been a key player in driving sports development from the grassroots level, providing young people with opportunities that they might not have had otherwise. The Pakistan Army has played a pivotal role in fostering a sports culture across the country, from building state-of-the-art sports infrastructure to mentoring young athletes. One of its most significant contributions has been the development of world-class sports facilities. The army has been instrumental in establishing and maintaining numerous sports complexes and stadiums nationwide, offering young athletes the platforms they need to refine their skills. For instance, the Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) Kakul, while training cadets for military service, also serves as a center for sports excellence, with top-tier facilities for a variety of sports, including football, hockey, and athletics. These military-run institutions provide young talent with opportunities for competitive sports, and many of the country's most promising athletes have emerged from these programs. Similarly, the Rawalpindi Sports Complex and Lahore Garrison Sports Complex are hubs where youth from diverse backgrounds can participate in sports, receive professional coaching, and compete in national tournaments. The Pakistan Army's investment in sports facilities has had a profound impact, especially in making high-quality sports infrastructure accessible to youth across the country. The Neelum Sports Complex in Muzaffarabad, for example, offers top-notch sports and fitness services to the youth of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The Army's involvement in sports goes beyond just building infrastructure; it includes training and coaching the next generation of athletes. Recognizing the importance of nurturing youth talent, the Army has developed programs that provide not only equipment and facilities but also professional coaching and mentorship.

The Army has been instrumental in strengthening Pakistan's national sports teams, with many athletes from its programs going on to represent the country internationally and achieve great success. For instance, figures like Sohail Abbas (hockey) and Qamar Zaman (squash) either joined the military or were trained through its sports initiatives, bringing home accolades and pride to the nation. To foster competition and identify emerging talent, the Army organizes a variety of sports competitions across the country, including national-level Army Sports Championships. These events, open to youth from all regions and backgrounds, provide opportunities for young athletes to showcase their skills and develop healthy competition, teamwork, and perseverance. Additionally, the Army's efforts have led to an increase in inter-university, inter-school, and inter-district tournaments, enriching the competitive sports environment for young people nationwide.

Beyond competitive athletics, the Pakistan Army's focus on sports is also aimed at instilling discipline, physical fitness, and a healthy lifestyle in youth. Its commitment to fitness is reflected in its sports programs, where physical conditioning is prioritized alongside technical skill. By promoting regular exercise and sports participation, the Army encourages youth to stay active and adopt lifelong healthy habits, aligning with broader initiatives to combat sedentary lifestyles and health issues like obesity and cardiovascular disease. Additionally, sports and physical training are central to the values of discipline, responsibility, and teamwork. The army's commitment to these core principles has played a key role in shaping the character of countless young people, equipping them not only for success in sports but also for the broader challenges of life. The Pakistan Army has been instrumental in fostering a national sports culture that highlights both physical excellence and sportsmanship.

This has been particularly important in a country where, at times, sports have been overshadowed by issues like political instability and economic difficulties. Through its various sports initiatives, the army has played a key role in elevating sports to a position of national significance. The army's involvement has made sports more mainstream and provided many young people with a sense of purpose, with athletes in the military serving as role models. Whether through serving in the armed forces or participating in military-run sports programs, the youth are inspired by the army's dedication to excellence and national pride in sports. Beyond traditional sports, the Pakistan Army has also encouraged participation in newer, more dynamic activities, including e-sports and extreme sports. Recognizing the growing popularity of gaming among young Pakistanis, the army has become a major sponsor of e-sports tournaments, helping to foster teamwork and strategic thinking while staying aligned with modern youth trends.

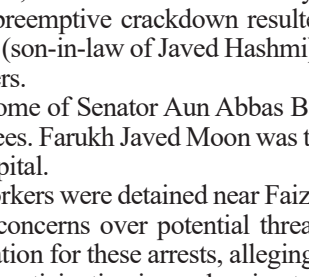
One notable example is the 5AK Brigade of the Pakistan Army's initiative of the Kashmir Volleyball Super League (KVSL), a pioneering event designed to promote competitive sports at the state level. The second season of KVSL was recently concluded in Muzaffarabad, AJK, with significant involvement from the Commander of the 5AK Brigade and his staff, ensuring the event's smooth execution. KVSL not only provided a platform for huge number players from 32 tehsils, 10 districts, and 3 divisions of Azad Jammu and Kashmir to showcase their talent, but also fostered discipline and team spirit. Talent scouts from various national departments were invited to identify potential players for national and international opportunities.

The event was a powerful expression of the Kashmiri youth's spirit, with participants proudly declaring, "We Are The Best" and "Second To None." It was a remarkable opportunity for the youth to demonstrate their potential and engage with the world. The Pakistan Army's active role in organizing sports events in Azad Jammu and Kashmir has been widely appreciated by the local population.

Ultimately, the youth are the backbone of our nation, and initiatives like these to engage them in sports, fitness, and discipline are crucial for the country's development and progress. Continued efforts to promote such healthy activities will help in harnessing the potential of our youth for the betterment of the nation.

Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

Child Labor in Pakistan: A Stark Reality


Analysis
Muzafar Ahmed Khan

Child labor is a ticking bomb threatening to undermine the very fabric of our society and destroys the dreams of millions of children worldwide. Despite the presence of millions of adolescents in Pakistan, a significant number are working rather than receiving an education. Child labor is a menace that undermine the future of our children The country has a population of 36 percent in the age range of 0 to 14 years according to the latest census of 2023. The International Labor Organization (ILO) has put the number of child laborer's within the age range of 5 to 14 in Pakistan at 3.8 million. This is quite a considerable figure, and the situation is exacerbated further when the child labor industries are analyzed including agriculture (73 percent), manufacturing (13 percent), and the services sectors (15 percent).

In fact, we observe such children working in hotels, petrol pumps, and offices and some others working at automotive repair shops. It is true that these children are not only skipping school but rather they are also engaged in work which is quite dangerous, involve abuse both verbally and physically, and even sexual violence. Just like the case of eight year old Zohra Shah, who used to work as a house help and was killed by her owner. The children are working in coal mines in Baluchistan province as Baluchistan has not fixed a minimum age for hazardous work. Similarly a large number of children are working in brick kilns and in the agricultural works like working in the fields of rice, wheat and sugarcane. Almost 700000 children in Sind province work as a bonded laborers in the agricultural sector under exploitative condition.

In Pakistan, child labor is exacerbated by poverty and impoverished conditions. Figures show that children account for 55% of the working population in Pakistan owing to poverty. Families who are poor are usually looking for an additional source of income and as a result, send their children as domestic help. About 264,000 children are believed to be serving in households and kitchens in Pakistan. As Nelson Mandela said "Education is they key to unlocking the potential of our children".another important area of concern is education, as woefully, Pakistan has the second-most out-of-school children in the world, and it is estimated that many more than 22.8 million children aged 5-16 are out of school. Overpopulation also attributes to child labor in Pakistan as It creates more children to look after and a similar income demand. Here, children s earnings are required for a spouse. Other important reason of child labor in the country is unemployment which is case of out of jobs adults who make their little ones go to work and earn for them.

The Employment of Children Act, 1991 bans employing children below the age of 14 in industries such as factories, carpet industries and mines which are considered as unsafe and dangerous. Children also are not allowed to be bonded as domestic labor. And THE Restriction on Employment of Children Act 2016. Which stated that no child should be employed in any occupation or process which is likely to be harmful to health, safety or morals, and that the minimum age of employment shall be at least 15 years. However, the existence of so many laws has not deterred 3.8 million children within the age bracket of 4 and 15 years from working as supra". Child labor is described as the modern form of slavery that has shackled our country. According to survey there are 745,165 children work as laborer's only in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of the country

The absence of administration in the country, coupled with the corrupt officers of government institutions has made it practically impossible to enforce these laws. Actually putting into practice these laws in true spirit and the letter is very difficult. The most fundamental problem is the weak law enforcement. This is the key barrier to address this problem. The government is taking steps to eliminate this child labor in the country. Law enforcement authorities should stop this illegal child labor. The government needs to come up with the best strategy to enforce the law. Providing free quality education to poor children can stop this crime. The government should prioritize the education sector and increase the education budget and to Conduct awareness events in society to prevent child exploitation. The role of NGOs Is very important. International Labor Organization (ILO) and Society for Protection of Children's Rights (SPARC) are working very effectively in Pakistan to protect children and promote social equality and justice throughout the country. Both government, NGOs and social welfare should work together to eliminate this child labor in Pakistan.

In a nutshell Child labor remains a pervasive issue in Pakistan, with 3.8 million children aged 5-14 engaged in hazardous work. Poverty, lack of education, and weak law enforcement exacerbate this problem. The government, NGOs, and social welfare organizations must collaborate to eliminate child labor. Providing free quality education, increasing the education budget, and conducting awareness events can help prevent child exploitation. Strengthening law enforcement and implementing existing laws is crucial. The government should prioritize the education sector and increase the education budget. Conducting awareness events in society can also help prevent child exploitation. The role of NGOs, such as the International Labor Organization (ILO) and Society for Protection of Children's Rights (SPARC), UNICEF Pakistan, The Asia Regional Child Labor (ARC) project, Save Children Pakistan is vital in protecting children and promoting social equality and justice. Collective efforts are necessary to ensure that no child is forced to sacrifice their childhood and education for labor.

Author is a student of BS History from University of Punjab, Lahore.

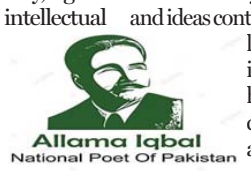
Bangladesh Celebrates Allama-Iqbal Birth Anniversary with Pride - I

Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq

On November 9th the day of pride, Bangladesh celebrates the birth anniversary of Allama Iqbal, the esteemed philosopher, poet and great politician who played a role in shaping the ideology of Pakistan. Bangladesh admired the influence of Iqbal's poetry on Bengali people and culture. Allama Iqbal poetry transcends time and border, reason with people across the subcontinent. Allama Iqbal, a prominent philosopher and poet of the early 20th century, significantly influenced the cultural and intellectual landscape of Bangladesh. His philosophical ideas, rooted in Islamic thought and modernity, resonated deeply with the Bengali intelligentsia. Iqbal's emphasis on self-discovery and empowerment inspired many to seek a renewed sense of identity amidst colonial subjugation.

This serves as a day of reflection and tribute, allowing Bengali citizens to honor and celebrates the legacy the national poet with pride and respect. Allama Iqbal also the poet of East, the vision of Nationalism in his poetry inspired the independence movement in the Indo-Pak subcontinent. His poetry a sense of profound patriotism, advocating for rights and empowerment of the Muslim community. His poetry not only advocated for political but also called for a deeper introspection into spiritual and moral of individual. In Bangladesh, Allama Iqbal's birth is marked with various events and activities that homage to his rich literary contributions. Mostly in schools, colleges and universities host seminars and events to introduced Iqbal's poetry and the legacy. These events encourage younger generation introduced to the profound wisdom and ideology present Allama Iqbal's poetry fostering a sense of national pride and belonging. Furthermore, Allama Iqbal philosophy creating lasting impact on the cultural and intellectual landscape of Bangladesh. His concept of Khudi promotes the importance of self-realization with excellence and shaped the struggle of Muslims.

Allama-Iqbal philosophy had a profound impact on the cultural and intellectual landscape of Bangladesh. This impact seen in various places and different aspects of Bangladeshi society, including literature, politics and education. They examining Iqbal's philosophy has permeated Bangladeshi culture, and people of Pakistan also appreciate the lasting legacy he has left on this nation. Allama Iqbal known as the poet of Pakistan but a significant influence on the entire South Asian region, was a visionary philosopher of all time. His poetry and ideas continue to shape the worldviews. Bangladeshi poets and writers have drawn inspiration from Iqbal's work such as his famous Persian and Urdu poetry collections. The philosophy of self-realization and spiritual awaking the similar themes of self-respect delves into the Bengali culture. His famous Persian and Urdu poetry collection such as 'Asrar-e-Khudi' (Secrets of the Self) and 'Bang-e-Dra'(The call of the Marching Bell) have become iconic works that continue to resonate with readers worldwide.



His poetry articulated themes of nationalism and spiritual awakening, encouraging the Bengali populace to embrace their cultural heritage while also engaging with contemporary global ideas. This duality fostered a unique intellectual environment that blended traditional Islamic values with modernist thought, paving the way for new literary movements in Bangladesh. Iqbal's vision of a united Muslim identity played a crucial role in shaping political consciousness among Bengalis during the struggle for autonomy. His works continue to be studied not only for their literary merit but also for their profound socio-political implications, solidifying his legacy as an architect of cultural revival in Bangladesh.

To be continued

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