

Imran Khan's party observes 'Black Day', several leaders arrested

PTI, ISLAMABAD/LAHORE: Several leaders of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party were arrested on Saturday as it held rallies to mark February 8 as 'Black Day' over the alleged rigging of the general elections last year.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) held its main rally in Swabi, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where the party is in power. It also asked its workers and supporters to protest across the country.

Earlier, the party had planned a rally at

Lahore but it was denied permission by the Punjab provincial authorities. Punjab government had imposed restrictions on gatherings under section 144. However, despite that, the ruling Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) held a rally in Lahore to mark the completion of one year of the government.

Addressing the Swabi rally, PTI chairman Barrister Gohar Khan said that Pakistani politics was incomplete without Imran Khan and urged the establishment to dismiss the "fabricated cases" filed against the former prime minister by the "mandate thieves".

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, in a message to the army chief, said there is terrorism in the province and to win the war against terrorism, unity was essential.

Gandapur said the 'Black Day' was being marked to protest the "historic theft of the

people's mandate" and said it will be observed every year.

Addressing the government's alleged involvement in last year's November 26 and May 9, 2023 events, Gandapur claimed the ruling party was afraid to form a judicial commission to investigate these matters.

The chief minister said that when PTI calls for revolution, their opponents will not be able to bear it and accused the Shehbaz Sharif-led federal government of inciting the public.

According to local independent circles, the rally saw a low turnout. Convoys of PTI workers travelled from Nowshera, Kohat, and Jamrud to join the rally.

Earlier, the party had planned a rally at the historic Minar-e-Pakistan in Lahore. The plan was, however, shelved because of the denial of permission from Punjab province authorities.

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- 5th May 2024 - Pilerne
- 12th May 2024 - Cunchelim
- 13th July 2024 - Kala Academy
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- 12th December 2024 - Vaddem
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- 30th December 2024 - Sanguem
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- 8th May 2025 - Cortalim
- 13th July 2025 - Ahmedabad

For Shows Contact: 8788809860 / 9405195343

Zelensky confirms new Ukrainian offensive in Russia's Kursk region

AP, KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky confirmed a new Ukrainian offensive in Russia's Kursk region and said that North Korean troops were fighting alongside Russian forces there.

In the areas of the Kursk operation, new assaults have taken place," Zelensky said during his Friday address, adding, "Russia has once again deployed North Korean soldiers alongside its troops."

According to Zelensky, a "significant number" of enemy troops were destroyed. He gave no details but said the losses were in the hundreds. Russia's Ministry of Defence said on Saturday that it had repelled a Ukrainian counterattack in the Kursk region.

Russia said Friday its forces had captured the mining town of Toretsk in their latest breakthrough in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region, where Ukrainian defenses are creating, Ukrainian officials did not confirm the report.

South Korea's military said last month that it suspected North Korea was preparing to send additional troops to Russia after its soldiers suffered heavy casualties. North Korea has been supplying a vast amount of artillery and other conventional weapons to Russia, and last October it sent about 10,000-12,000 troops as well, according to US, South Korean and Ukrainian intelligence.

Meanwhile, one person was killed and 10 wounded Saturday in a Ukrainian strike on the city of Makiivka, a town in Ukraine's partially occupied eastern Donetsk region, Moscow-installed officials said.

Moscow sent 139 drones into Ukraine overnight into Saturday, Ukrainian officials said. According to Ukraine's air force, 67 drones were destroyed and 71 electronically jammed.

AUDIENCE DECLARED BEST SHOW OF THE SEASON WITH DIALOGUES SCRIPT. RIB TICKLING COMEDY BY SUPREMO HUMBERT. GOOD MORAL SONGS

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THANKS TO: **RATZINGER A/C HALL, VERNA**
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