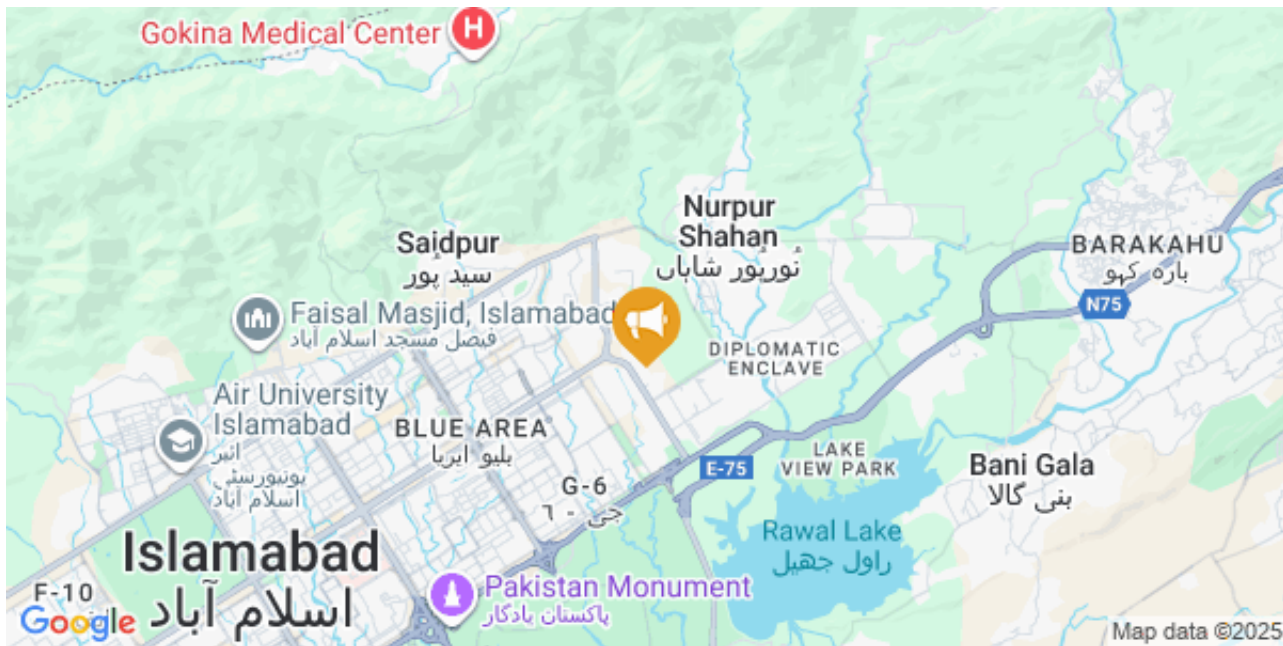


Protest



30

DEC
5:53 UTC

Pakistan Tactical: Business groups to hold protest march from Aabpara Chowk to FBR Building in Islamabad from 13:00 (local time) on December 30; maintain vigilance

Current Situation:

- Business groups, supported by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), will hold a protest march from Aabpara Chowk to the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) building in Islamabad from 13:00 (local time) on December 30.
- The demonstrators will hold a sit-in protest outside the FBR following the march.
- The protest will condemn the alleged forced installation of Point of Sale (POS) systems by the FBR, given its high operational costs and technical failures that could lead to business disruptions.



Source: [The Nation](#)

Assessments & Forecast:

1. Participation in the slated protest is likely to range in the mid-to-high dozens, given the limited resonance of the issue within the business community in the city. In accordance with standard security procedures, the authorities are likely to bolster the security measures in the vicinity of Aabpara Chowk and the FBR building as well as along the march route. These measures will include the deployment of police personnel and placement of barricades to monitor the protest proceedings.
2. The risk of localized skirmishes between the police and the protesters remains, in case the latter are perceived to be engaging in disruptive activities such as breaching security cordons or blocking major thoroughfares. The authorities are liable to respond with crowd control measures in such instances, including detaining protesters and forcibly removing them from the site. Localized travel disruptions to pedestrian and vehicular traffic are expected in the vicinity of the march route due to the anticipated turnout and associated security measures during the protest hours on December 30.

Recommendations:

Those operating or residing in Islamabad on December 30 are advised to maintain vigilance in the vicinity of the aforementioned locations due to the slated protest march and the associated risk of localized scuffles, while allotting for travel disruptions.