

# QUETTA VOICE

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## FM Qureshi, Egyptian counterpart discuss bilateral ties, global issues

**Syed Ali Shah**  
After thorough deliberations, finally, Pakistan has signed the Reko Diq agreement with the Barrick Gold Company in Islamabad. Prime Minister, Iman Khan, Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo, Federal Ministers Shaikat Tareen, Hamad Azhar and Chief of Barrick Gold Marks Bristow witnessed the agreement-signing ceremony in the federal capital. Prime Minister Iman Khan took to social media network Twitter and announced that Reko Diq would liberate Pakistan from "crippling debt" and it would also generate 8,000 jobs in the area. Under the agreement, Balochistan would get a share of 25 percent, Islamabad 25 percent and the company would get 50 percent share. "Balochistan would also be paid royalty and taxes", CM Bizenjo told the participants of the function. Bizenjo termed it a positive stride towards attracting foreign investment in Balochistan, the country's resource-rich province. "Balochistan would be now known for investment rather than terror-

ism", the CM said. The multi-billion-dollar project was suspended in 2011. The multi-billion-dollar was suspended in 2011 by the then government over a dispute over its licensing legality. Reko Diq, an area of Chagai district of Balochistan hosts the world's largest undeveloped open pit copper-gold porphyry deposits. "Barrick has successfully partnered with host countries across the globe", Mr Marks Bristow, the Chief of the Barrick Gold told the function. He stated that the company shares economic benefits generated by mines with core stakeholders. **Reko Diq** On July 29, 1993, BHP Minerals (BHP) and the Balochistan Development Authority (BDA) had signed the Chagai Hills Exploration Joint Venture Agreement (CHEJVA). Subsequently, on Nov 23, 2006, the TCC had bought BHP's interests in CHEJVA for US\$ 240 million and became a party to the CHEJVA pursuant to a Novation Agreement with BHP and the Government of Balochistan. On August 26, 2011, the TCC had submitted its feasibility report

and an application for mining lease which was rejected by the Licensing Authority on November 15, 2011. On November 6, 2011, a petition was filed before the Supreme Court asking the top court to order the Balochistan government to refrain from issuing a mining license in an arbitrary and unlawful manner. On January 6, 2013, the Supreme Court held CHEJVA to be void ab initio. **TCC instituted proceedings before ICSID** On December 12, 2011, the TCC had instituted proceedings before the ICSID for alleged violations by Pakistan of Australia-Pakistan BIT, 1997; and, before ICC for alleged breach by the Balochistan government of contractual obligations under CHEJVA. The ICC Tribunal had stayed its proceedings in deference to the ICSID proceedings. On February 12, 2016, the Tribunal had issued a draft decision on jurisdiction and liability and held that (i) it has jurisdiction over TCC's claims; (ii) TCC had made an investment in Pakistan; and, (iii) Pakistan has expropriated TCC's investment in Pakistan and breached its BIT obligations.



## Security arrangements for OIC session finalized: Rashid



Prime Minister Imran Khan, CM Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo and others witnessing the agreement signing ceremony about Reko Diq Project: Photo provided by DGPR

## Improved economy: 'Pakistan jumps 7 points at world happiness index'

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Shaikat Tarin on Sunday said that Pakistan has jumped up seven points at world happiness index that shows improved economic conditions of the country, ARY NEWS reported. Addressing a press briefing in Islamabad, he said factors counted in the world happiness index shows Pakistan has performed better in GDP, life expectancy level, generosity, social protection programs and perception of corruption. "Due to several economic measures of PTI government, our current account deficit has reduced to just 545 million dollars that was more than 20 billion dollars before we came into power," he was quoted as saying by Radio Pakistan. He shared that the country's imports are decreasing while exports including services exports have increased manifold besides large scale manufacturing also witnessing 8.2 percent growth. He expressed hope that the overall growth rate of the country will be above five at the end of current fiscal year. Previously, Finance Minister Shaikat Tarin shared a cost of living index highlighting how Pakistan is least costly among 139 countries globally. Taking to Twitter, Shaikat Tarin shared the cost of living index graph showing Pakistan as the least costly country, ranking last out of 139 countries being assessed for their living expenses. He shared that a four-member family would need Rs171,783 for their living expense minus rent in Pakistan, a 71.52 percent lower expense than a family would require in the United States. INP

## Governor convenes Balochistan Assembly session on March 22

Staff Reporter



Governor Balochistan, Syed Zahoor Ahmed Agha has convened the Balochistan Assembly session on March 22nd. According to a notification issued by the Governor's Secretariat, the session has been convened Tuesday. The house would discuss issues relating to the province. The agenda of the session has already been shared with the members of the assembly, sources at the Assembly Secretariat said on Sunday evening.

## PM Imran announces pardon for dissident PTI MNAs

Malakand: Prime Minister Imran Khan has announced pardon for the dissident Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Members of the National Assembly (MNAs) if they decide to return to the ruling political party. Addressing a massive public gathering in Dargai tehsil of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) Malakand district, PM Imran Khan said that it would be better for him to leave the government instead of being in power by stealing the public money and selling the conscience for horse-trading. "I will forgive those [PTI] MNAs who have committed mistakes if they choose to return. I am like a father to the political party who will pardon mistakes of his children." PM Khan said that the future generations of the turncoats will see the consequences of their elders for selling their consciences and no one would even choose to be part of their families by marrying their children. "First of all, I am answering to Allah Almighty. It is better to let lose the government instead of saving it by stealing the public money and paying bribes for running a trade of consciences." "Notorious dacoits of Pakistan have joined hands against those who continue their struggle for the last 25 years to get rid of them. There is a difference between those who are selling their consciences and others who are turncoats. Turncoats used to run towards power while those selling their conscience are actually selling their country." INP

## No confidence motion: Speaker NA convenes session on March 25

Dawood Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly, Asad Qaiser has convened a session of the NA on March 25 regarding the no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan. According to a notification issued by the assembly secretariat on Sunday, the Speaker has convened the session on March 25. The Speaker has convened the session following the opposition's no-confidence motion against

Prime Minister Imran Khan. The opposition had submitted a no-trust motion against the PM on March 8.

The session will convene at 11 am on Friday and will be the 41st session of the current National Assembly. It was summoned after the joint opposition made the requisition for it along with the submission of the no-confidence motion against the prime minister on March 8. According to Article 54, a session of the NA can be requisitioned if at least 25 percent of the members

sign it, following which the speaker has a maximum of 14 days to summon a session.



## PTI dissidents to face lifetime disqualification: Fawad

ISLAMABAD: Information and Broadcasting Minister Fawad Chaudhry said on Sunday the PTI dissidents have one week to explain their position over "defection" from the ruling party. Taking to Twitter, the minister said a show-cause notice has been issued to the defectors to "explain their position within seven days." "The process to declare their [National Assembly] seats vacant will begin after a week and all the MNAs will be disqualified for lifetime," he said, adding the ruling PTI would nominate new members on the reserved seats. On Saturday, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) served show-cause notices to its 14 members of National Assembly (MNAs) for joining hands with opposition for the no-trust move against Prime Minister Imran Khan. The show-cause notice issued by PTI Secretary General Asad Umar said that the MNAs have violated the party discipline and joined hands with opposition for a no-trust motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan. The notice said that as per the article 63 (1) (A), the lawmakers are bound to implement the party policy. INP



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## Accidental fire broke out at Sialkot garrison, no loss incurred: ISPR

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Army on Sunday shared that an accidental fire broke out at an ammunition shed near Sialkot Garrison, however, no loss was incurred during the incident, the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said. According to the ISPR, due to short circuiting, accidental fire broke out in an ammunition shed near Sialkot Garrison. The response from the ISPR came after social media was abuzz with reports of fire and explosions from the Sialkot area. INP

## Seven perish in Sehwan road accident

SEHWAN: Seven passengers died when a car and passenger coach collided in Sehwan on Sunday. The dead have not been identified yet. The victims included a woman and three children. The local Police said that the victims were from Dadu district and travelling in the car. INP

## Man fined Rs150,000 for trying to illegally hunt Markhor

CHITRAL: A man was fined Rs150,000 by the Chitral Wildlife Division for an attempt to illegally hunt Markhor in Tooshi Game Reserve on Sunday. According to the official sources, the community watchers of the Chitral Wildlife Division caught the person who was attempting to illegally hunt Markhor in Tooshi Game Reserve and fined him Rs150,000. INP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Mr. Shaikat Tarin addressing a press conference.

## FM Qureshi, Egyptian counterpart discuss bilateral ties, global issues

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi and his Egyptian counterpart Sameh Shoukry Sunday discussed the bilateral ties, cooperation in diverse fields and important regional and global issues. During a meeting, the foreign minister said that Egypt was an important brotherly country of the region and it was achieving political stability and strength under the leadership of President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. Qureshi said both countries were linked on basis of common faith and cultural affinities and expressed satisfaction at the shared views of both the countries with regard to various regional and international issues. The Egyptian foreign minister had arrived to attend 48th session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Council of Foreign Ministers (OIC-CFM). Foreign minister Qureshi observed that bilateral ties between the two countries had been further strengthened during the last few years due to increased interaction at the highest level. He noted that bilateral trade between the two countries surged to \$423 million during the last fiscal year. Both sides also agreed to further increase bilateral trade. Participation in the joint air defence exercises in Egypt was also a manifestation of the strong defence ties between the brotherly countries, Qureshi added. The foreign minister said that cultural relations could also serve as a platform to bring the people of the two countries closer and they would welcome solid proposals from the Egyptian side to further strengthen these ties. He said the meeting of the OIC- Council of Foreign Ministers was being held in Islamabad when Pakistan would be celebrating its 75th anniversary of its independence. INP

## Balochistan cabinet approves proposed agreement about Reko Diq

Syed Ali Shah

QUETTA: Balochistan Cabinet on Saturday approved the proposed agreement and settlement regarding the Reko Diq Project. Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo chaired a special meeting. "The cabinet thoroughly reviewed all aspects and points of the agreement", an official handout issued said. The provincial cabinet expressed satisfaction over the stance of the Balochistan government regarding the multi-billion dollars copper and gold project. All members of the provincial cabinet attended the special meeting, which made this important decision regarding the proposed agreement. **Reko Diq to guarantee the**

development of Balochistan. Reko Diq project would guarantee an end to the prevailing sense of deprivation and backwardness of Balochistan, the statement stated. "It would be a game-changer", it mentioned. Secretary Minerals briefed the Cabinet about the benefits of implementing the proposed agreement and project for Balochistan and its people. Full details of the agreement and settlement will be released after a meeting chaired by the Prime Minister on Sunday (tomorrow). **New agreement was signed between Pakistan and Barrick Gold** According to sources, a new agreement was signed by representatives of the federal government and Balochistan with a delegation of Barrick Gold led



by Chief Executive Dr. Mark Bristow. As per the terms of the new agreement, the Reko Diq project shall be revived and developed by Barrick Gold in partnership with Pakistani entities. 50 percent of the new project's shares will be owned by Barrick Gold, while the remaining shares shall be owned by Pakistan, divided equally between the federal government and the provincial government of Balochistan. The federal government's shares of 25% shall be divided equally amongst three state-

owned entities (SOE), namely Oil & Gas Development Corporation Limited (OGDCL), Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), and Government Holdings Pakistan Limited (GHPL). **BA had discussed Reko Diq in an in-camera briefing** This decision has come after a 10-hour long discussion during an in-camera briefing about the multi-billion dollar project Reko Diq in the Balochistan Assembly. Lawmakers from the opposition and treasury benches had thoroughly discussed the proposed agreement and reviewed all aspects of the project. **Reko Diq** On July 29, 1993, BHP Minerals (BHP) and the Balochistan Development Authority (BDA) had signed the Chagai Hills Exploration

Joint Venture Agreement (CHEJVA). Subsequently, on Nov 23, 2006, the TCC had bought BHP's interests in CHEJVA for US\$ 240 million and became a party to the CHEJVA pursuant to a Novation Agreement with BHP and the Government of Balochistan. On August 26, 2011, the TCC had submitted its feasibility report and an application for mining lease which was rejected by the Licensing Authority on November 15, 2011. On November 6, 2011, a petition was filed before the Supreme Court asking the top court to order the Balochistan government to refrain from issuing a mining license in an arbitrary and unlawful manner. On January 6, 2013, the Supreme Court held CHEJVA to be void ab initio.

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## QUETTA VOICE

Editor Asim Khan

## The tragic demise of 8-year old Almas Khan

The tragic demise of an eight-year-old boy, Almas Khan has shocked and saddened people. The dead body of Almas Khan was retrieved after 15-hours from the well in Balochistan's Killa Saifullah district. The broken parents and family members of the victim suffered from a dumb agony during the rescue operation.

Despite repeated calls, the rescue team of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) reached the spot of the incident after 10 hours. This was unacceptable given the sensitivity of the case, which required an urged response. Human life was lost because of the delayed response of the PDMA.

Abdul Hadi, the broken father of Almas Khan lamented had the PDMA rescue team arrived on time, the life of his son would have been saved. The video of the rescue operation was on air on social media for the whole day. Unfortunately, the mainstream media also gave a cold shoulder to the story.

Neither the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo nor other concerned quarters took notice of the tragic incident.

Neither the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo nor other concerned quarters took notice of the tragic incident. This is not the first time that such an incident has taken a place, Thanks to the mushroom growth of social media that highlighted the tragic incident. Otherwise, so many incidents have gone unnoticed in Balochistan.

The portfolio of the PDMA is with the CM Balochistan. The authority needs complete overhauling in terms of equipment, training, and manpower. Bitter fact, the authority is famous for being white-elephant in the time of natural disasters. Look at the irony, officers from the education and health have also been posted in the PDMA.

Balochistan prone to all-natural disasters

Balochistan is prone to natural disasters. The PDMA should go beyond a few trucks and some selected officers rather it should evolve a better mechanism to tackle future emergency situations. Quetta and other parts of Balochistan have already faced earthquakes, floods, and drought-hit-like situations. For this, PDMA should be made an effective authority to make sure timely response in the time of any incident.

To be precise, the heartbreaking incident involving the demise of Almas Khan has exposed the commitment and capacity of the PDMA.

## Good news for higher education

Dr Pervez Tahir

Some glaring examples of PTI government's 'shoot in its foot' interventions relate, unfortunately, to higher education. One was the grossly unmerited removal of an acknowledged reformer from the chair of HEC well before the end of his term. This was done at the behest of vested interests by a government claiming to wage a jihad against such interests. The other, pushed by the same vested interests, is the thoughtless establishment of new universities at a time when the existing universities are failing to meet their current financial liabilities. Good news is, however, coming.

In the first case, the detailed judgement of the Islamabad High Court regarding the restoration of the Chairperson has now been made public. It is a severe indictment of the execu-

the judgement. "The role of the Chairman PM's Task Force was significant in the entire process. It has become obvious from the record that he appears to have been affected by the policies of the HEC and the resistance is affirmed from the correspondence. The factor of conflict of interest should have been taken into consideration by the policy making executive authorities." He was resisting academic audit by the HEC of Rs40 billion utilised by institutions of his direct or indirect interest. Instead of dealing with this conflict and respecting the autonomy of the HEC enshrined in law, notifications were issued to remove its Chairperson. The court declared these notifications illegal, as "the competent authority to appoint or remove the Chairperson under

the HEC Ordinance is the Controlling Authority i.e. the Prime Minister". Even the competent cannot remove the Chairperson before the expiry of the term "save on the proven charges of corruption, inefficiency, permanent disability or failure to attend to consecutive meetings without intimation in advance". The government has not given up and has gone into appeal. All eyes, all hopes are now fixed on the Supreme Court.

In the second case, the Senate Standing Committee on Federal Education has rejected the Pak University of Engineering & Technology Bill, 2022 earlier passed by the National Assembly. It observed that instead of establishing new universities, the existing universities should be strengthened. If any new dis-

ciplines/subjects are to be introduced, the financial resources should be utilised to enrich the existing institutions.

In an earlier column, 'No more universities' (September 10, 2021), we had pleaded: "It can be said without fear of contradiction that quantitative expansion of the universities is always and invariably at the expense of quality. This time around, however, it has to stop, nay, a time bound moratorium is required, to save the universities already there from closure. Even well-established universities are unable to pay visiting faculty, temporary staff, and pensions. Maintenance of services is short-funded, and in some cases, salaries of permanent staff have been delayed or paid less than fully." It seems that a first step has been taken.

## OIC: giving due credence

Arham Siddiqi

On 22 March, 2022 - on the eve of 82 years of the passage of the Pakistan Resolution - Islamabad is set to host the 48th meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Council of Foreign Ministers. The theme for this year is 'Partnering for Unity, Justice and Development' which fittingly encapsulates the OIC's mandate for the conference which among other objectives includes discussions on provision of humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan, combating Islamophobia, deliberations on the plight of the Palestinians and Kashmiris and recovery in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The OIC was founded more than half a century ago and belted as the collective voice of the Muslim Ummah. Its prime objective has always been to safeguard and ensure Muslim eco-

nomic and political interests and help appease and alleviate challenges faced by the Muslim community. The basic doctrine is that the ideological commonality among its members supercedes any differences member states may have. The OIC stands as a beacon of hope for the Muslim world, the single platform where they can raise their concerns and have no fear of being denied their due rights.

Even though the OIC is criticised for not delivering on its promises, circumventing optics and, if viewed holistically, the OIC has made tremendous achievements over the years. Through its subsidiary organs, the organisation encases, under its broader umbrella, various institutions that specialise and target various issues of concern for the Muslim Ummah. Examples include the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF) and COM-STECH, which is the ministerial

standing committee for scientific and technological cooperation and is chaired by the President of Pakistan.

As is human nature, high expectations have been attached to the OIC. What needs to be understood is that the OIC has limited political means. Yes, it is not living up to its pledges at the moment. But nonetheless, it would be wrong to entirely discard it.

The world is entering a new phase where multipolarity is on the rise and former enemies are now becoming allies. Amidst these rapprochements, the OIC has an opportunity to make significant contributions. In the economic avenue, the OIC has huge potential in energy and trade cooperation especially given the emerging energy crisis. As it has in the past, the OIC can use its leverage to resolve energy crisis and form channels within the organisation where rich resource

member states can help poorer counterparts stay afloat. Further convergence on political agendas would be incremental in making the organisation stronger and more effective. There are complementarities among member states where they can assist each other. Voids in poorer member states can be plugged in from resource rich member states. There must also be greater collaboration with civil society.

Over the years, Pakistan has been closely engaged in supporting cooperation amongst member states and advocating for equitable solutions for various issues faced by the Muslim community. In 1974, Pakistan played a leading role in enabling the PLO to get observer status at the UN. Recently, as a result of Islamabad's untiring efforts, the UNGA declared March 15 as the international day to combat Islamophobia.

Last year,

Pakistan also hosted the 17th extraordinary session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers on the situation in Afghanistan during which Pakistan proposed a framework to help resolve the ongoing humanitarian crisis. In view of the level of engagement that took place during the extraordinary meeting, without doubt, Pakistan's diplomatic output is commendable.

Undoubtedly, international catastrophic events have shed light on the structural weaknesses and abilities of multilateral fora such as the UN. Hence, the OIC must be careful not to become another elitist club. In the face of adversity, a collective approach is the need of the hour and it is hoped that the upcoming 48th OIC CFM will be able to translate rhetoric into actions. If anything, the efforts towards countering Islamophobia are evidence that persistence in the right direction always pays off.

## Lebanese default

By Dr Farrukh Saleem

Politicians playing their games in the midst of a serious economic crisis has disastrous consequences. On March 9, 2020, Lebanon could not repay a \$1.2 billion Eurobond. That day Lebanon defaulted, the first sovereign default in Lebanon's 77-year history (Lebanon's public debt had reached \$90 billion). That day, the Lebanese pound, officially pegged to the dollar, lost 40 percent of its value in the black market. Banks did not have the hard currency to repay depositors. "How can we pay the creditors while there are people in the streets without the money to buy a loaf of bread?" said Hassan Diab, an academic who served as the 137th prime minister of Lebanon.

Post-default, three-quarters of the population now lives in poverty. Post-default, the rate of unemployment has hit 50 percent. Lebanon's "economic collapse has been compounded in recent days by a looming political crisis..." Lebanon now has no dollars to buy oil to run power plants. The Beirut-Rafic Hariri Airport has little or no electricity and every- one else is facing long

hours of total blackouts.

The Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), founded in 1945, has 80,000 ground troops, 2,500 air force personnel, 1,700 in the naval force and an annual budget of \$2.5 billion. On average, a soldier is paid 1.2 million Lebanese pounds a month, which is "\$800 at the official exchange rate but only about \$80 on the black market." At \$80 a month, soldiers are now below the line of poverty. According to Brig-Gen Youssef Haddad, "each soldier needs an additional bonus to help him cover his basic needs on a monthly basis...which should total around \$90 million to \$100 million." For the record, the local currency has lost "more than 90 percent of its value on the black market."

General Joseph Aoun, the commander-in-chief of LAF, said, "We are doing the impossible to ease the suffering and the economic woes of our soldiers." Last year, the army "scrapped meat from the meals offered to on-duty soldiers, because of rising food prices."

In June 2021, France hosted a virtual conference in order to gather donations for LAF. According to

the French Ministry of Defense, the "crisis was alarming because the Lebanese military was the key institution maintaining security." The LAF highlighted "very specific needs for milk, flour, medicine, fuel and spare parts for maintenance." Among the LAF's main food donors are France, Egypt, the UAE and Turkey (Spain offered medical assistance).

Last year, Qatar announced that it would "provide Lebanese armed forces with 70 tonnes of food a month for a year." In February 2022, President Biden paid salaries to the soldiers of LAF under a new 'livelihood support' for members of the LAF. According to Senator Chris Murphy, "It is in the US national security interest to help these servicemen make ends meet..." In March, Italy donated military vehicles - including two 20-seat buses, a tanker and an inflatable boat-as the first installment of a larger donation.

Sovereign default has serious consequences - food inflation, high unemployment, rampant poverty, food shortages, widespread crime and a complete wrecking of the country's war-waging capacity.

## The gathering storm

Zamir Akram

War clouds have once again gathered over Afghanistan. Even as American's longest war in its history has ended, the Afghan people are unlikely to enjoy the dividends of peace. In fact, a renewed civil war has already started between the Taliban and the Afghan government. The impact of such a conflict will not remain confined to Afghanistan but will engulf the entire region.

The Taliban have already made extensive territorial gains. They claim to now control 85 per cent of Afghanistan, especially the rural areas and the crucial highways, thereby encircling the major cities with fighting currently raging for the control of Herat, Kandahar and Lashkar Gah. The Taliban are also trying to rebrand themselves, projecting a more tolerant and responsible image in order to increase their domestic and international acceptability.

Rejecting Taliban claims, the Afghan government has asserted that its forces are regrouping to halt the Taliban advance and will retake lost territory. The government has also enlisted local Tajik, Hazara

and Uzbek militia to boost the capabilities of its troops while relying heavily on military support by Washington and New Delhi. In these circumstances, a protracted civil war is now the most likely outcome.

Prime Minister Imran Khan is correct in stating that the Americans made a mess in Afghanistan. Now they are leaving a mess behind. Instead of ensuring a peaceful transition, the Biden administration has rushed for the exits, abandoning Afghanistan to its fate. American "over the horizon" military operations in support of the Ghani government, such as recent air strikes against the Taliban, have encouraged Kabul to reject any compromise solution. The recent meetings in New Delhi between US Secretary of State Blinken and the Indian leadership indicate that India will also militarily assist the Afghan government. The Indian objective was clearly spelt out recently by former Indian Foreign Secretary Sham Seran that an Afghan civil war would be preferable to a Taliban government.

A more sinister aspect of such Indo-

US cooperation, underscored by the meeting between Secretary Blinken and Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, is that Indian and Afghan intelligence agencies would feel encouraged to intensify support for terrorist groups like the TTP and Baloch separatists against Pakistan. The Chechens, Uzbeks, Uighurs of the ETIM and ISIS will also gain greater freedom of action to increasingly target China, Russia and Iran.

In these circumstances, Afghanistan will not only face further devastation but will also be denied the benefits of its potential role as a hub for regional connectivity. Projects like TAPI and CASA-1000 will remain unimplemented. China's extension of its BRI into Afghanistan as well as its investments in the country would have to be put on hold. For Pakistan, the costs would be even higher - continued instability and security threats on its western and eastern borders, influx of Afghan refugees, and denial of access to the region. Since Afghan instability will have regional implications, the geopolitical interests of

Pakistan, China, Russia and Iran converge on the need for a peaceful transition in Afghanistan and avoidance of a renewed civil war. As such, all four countries have individually and collectively reached out to the Afghan parties. The Taliban have, in their engagement with these countries, stressed their willingness to accept a political solution, sought international recognition and promised to ensure that the Afghan territory is not used against any other country. In a significant development, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told the visiting Taliban leader, Mullah Bradar that the "Taliban... is a pivotal military and political force in the country and will play an important role in the process of peace, re-conciliation and reconstruction there." Similar endorsement for the Taliban has also been expressed by the Russians and Iranians. Efforts by this "Quartet", therefore, hold the most promising option to secure peace in Afghanistan. Intensified collective initiatives by them can still prevent a full scale civil war and lead to a peaceful

transition.

While the Ghani government will prove to be a hurdle, it can still be given a safe and honourable exit under conditions that could be guaranteed by the 'Quartet'. More troublesome would be the spoiler's role by India which views its strategic interests against Pakistan and China being better served by continuing warfare in Afghanistan. But the Indians or the Americans will not deploy their forces in Afghanistan to protect Ghani, having learnt the lessons of history. Consequently, the Kabul government cannot survive for long and would be eventually forced to find a political solution. Pakistan's support for an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process is laudable. But given the high stakes involved and the obvious Indian interference in Afghanistan, there is need for a proactive Pakistan policy in collaboration with China, Russia and Iran to protect shared national interests. Such a collective approach needs to be based on the ground realities, in particular that the Taliban must play a key role in a future Afghan government.

## Where to invest your money in a volatile economy?

M Bilal Lakhani

They say there are decades when nothing happens and weeks when decades happen. We're certainly living through these weeks at the moment with Russia's invasion of Ukraine, inflation spiraling out of control across the world and oil prices putting Pakistani consumers in a tight squeeze. Moreover, the US is hiking interest rates and the era of easy money is about to come to an end. If the FED doesn't manage this well, it could even spark a global recession. And all this is happening before we even account for the political instability we may experience in Pakistan if the no-confidence motion against Imran Khan succeeds.

So, what are the macro-economic trends to watch out for because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and how could they impact your wallet? While Russia is a sizable economy, the contagion effect of a Russian collapse is relatively limited. Where we will see an impact is on commodity pricing on items like wheat and oil. This means rising import bills for Pakistan. Moreover, as the US raises interest rates to slow inflation, this will reduce demand

and economic activity in America and around the world. This could negatively impact Pakistan's export earnings and remittances and when you couple this with rising commodity prices, Pakistan will not just see rising inflation but also a depreciation of our currency, which will spike inflation even further.

This macroeconomic context will also impact an emerging area of opportunity for Pakistan i.e. start-ups. In the last few years, the global financial system has been flush with liquidity and inflation and borrowing rates have been low, which has fueled a bubble like frenzy when it comes to start-up valuations and fundraising. As venture capitalists enhanced their risk appetite while chasing higher returns, they even entered frontier markets like Pakistan. But with interest rates rising and easy money drying up, valuations - particularly for non-profitable growth businesses - will begin coming down. Beyond the economic impact, this will also challenge a social revolution currently underway in Pakistan. Ten years ago, Pakistani graduates from top universities wanted to join multi-national companies. Today, they want to get into start-ups. How

will this change, as start-up valuations come down and fundraising becomes harder? It'll be painful to watch.

So, where should you invest your money in such a volatile, inflationary economy? While most asset classes can be dangerous and volatile in these circumstances, we know that you'll lose out holding cash in such a high inflationary landscape, especially with further depreciation coming. If you want to hold cash, as much as I hate to say it, hold your cash in dollars. Next, over the long term we know equity markets pay out historically, even if they're volatile in the short term. But instead of chasing high growth or tech stocks, you want to pick up strong companies, with solid, sustainable cash flows. Gold is another safe haven in volatile times. Crypto could swing either way but with easy money drying up, most experts argue Crypto isn't a great place to enter right now, if you aren't a player already.

Another all-time favourite for Pakistanis is real estate. Inflation and devaluation are actually great periods to hold real assets in, even though they're a non-productive investment for our society and economy more broadly.

Tarin group demands removal of Buzdar

ISLAMABAD: A group of ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) dissident lawmakers...

of seventeen lawmakers, presented a detailed list of demands before the government...

before Prime Minister Imran Khan and the Chief Minister. Another meeting between government representatives...

Special Eco. District to get tax free status under Gwadar Master Plan

ISLAMABAD: Under Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan, the proposed Special Economic District (SED) is likely to get tax-free status...

undergoing rigorous brainstorming sessions by government authorities. Simultaneously, PC-I of business plan revision...

hopefully using Rs 11 billion as seed money, GDA will develop Central Business District (CBD) of Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan...



KARACHI: Finance Minister Finance & Revenue Shaukat Tarin is being presented with memento during the signing ceremony of MoU between Rotary Pakistan and Saylani Welfare Trust.

Horse-trading: PTI govt to submit presidential reference to sc tomorrow

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government will submit the presidential reference to the Supreme Court (SC) on Monday...

regarding the legislation to curb horse-trading following the instruction of PM's Adviser on Parliamentary Affairs Babar Awan.

tation of Article 63 (A) of the Constitution. Attorney General of Pakistan Khalid Jawed Khan said in a statement...

Man, dacoit killed in Karachi firing incidents

KARACHI: Two people including a dacoit were killed and at least eight others including two police officers were injured in different firing incidents in Karachi...

least 21 people have died in firing by dacoits for putting up resistance to robbery bids during the current year.

Police identified the deceased as Majeed. They also recovered arms from his possession. On the other hand, seven people including a police officer were injured in different firing incidents...



ISLAMABAD: Egyptian Foreign Minister arrived at Islamabad airport.

Ties with Islamabad through diplomatic channels: US

WASHINGTON: The Biden administration has indicated its desire to continue a careful engagement with Pakistan without committing to either improving or degrading ties with a country that was once a close ally.

we engage with Pakistan and a range of leaders at a number of levels through the State Department, through our national security team...

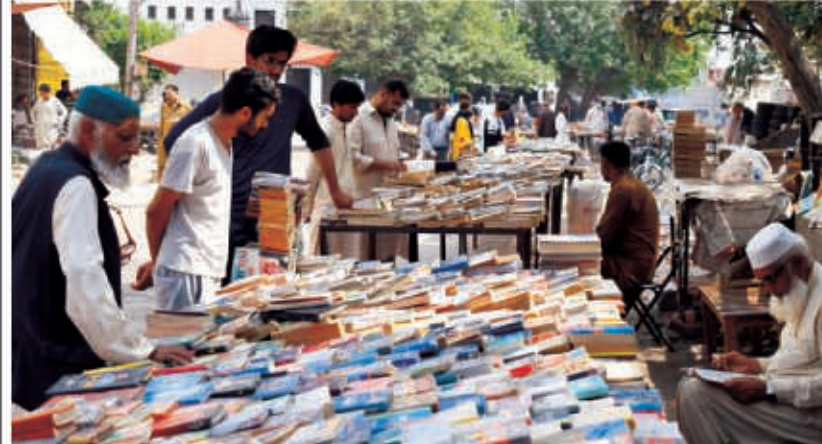
gic partner and Islamabad does not need to strain its relations with Beijing to maintain ties with Washington. "Pakistan is a strategic partner of the United States. We have an important relationship with the government in Islamabad, and it's a relationship that we value across a number of fronts."

Girl escapes from captivity after being abducted from Karachi

KARACHI: A girl allegedly abducted from Karachi was able to deceive her captors and runaway in Sadiqabad, a bordering area of Punjab province with Sindh.

PPP warns of possible petrol crisis in country

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader and Senate Deputy Chairman Saleem Mandviwalla Sunday expressed fear of a severe petrol crisis in the country due to poor policies of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government.



LAHORE: People are busy buying old books from stalls at Nila Gumbad area, in Provincial Capital.

Broad space for China-Pak footwear industry as Pakistan's exports soar

BEIJING: There is broad space of cooperation for the development of China-Pak footwear industry as Pakistan's exports soar, according to a report of China Economic Net (CEN).

cooperation between the footwear industries of the two countries? Chen Qianjiang, CEO of a Chinese footwear company Zung Lan Trading (Pvt) Ltd, who has four years of business INP

As the seventh-largest footwear producer, Pakistan accounts for more than 2.4% of world footwear production, but footwear contributes less than 1% to its global exports.

PM urges Islamic world to brace for 'new realities' with collective efforts

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has underlined that the Islamic countries must carefully navigate the "new realities" and actively shape the emerging world order to realize their individual and collective interests.

minister said in an article published in the "Arab World" on March 19. The prime minister further said that as a force for peace with justice, the OIC must continue to support the just causes of Palestine and Kashmir for self-determination and liberation from foreign occupation.

Ministers (OIC-CFM) on March 22-23. He said that the convening of the Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference in Islamabad on the 75th anniversary of Pakistan's independence is an extraordinary display of Muslim solidarity with Pakistan.

new "cold war" and growing inequalities among and within nations, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact of climate change and the technology revolution.

had proactively advanced the shared interests and objectives of the Islamic world. "It has sought to promote international peace and security, understanding and dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions, and to foster the noble Islamic values of peace, justice and mutual respect," he said.

Advertisement for Royal Villas footwear industry, featuring text in Urdu and English, and a logo.

## NA speaker violated Constitution by convening session for no-trust move after 14-day limit: Bilawal

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Sunday hit out at the government and Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser for allegedly "violating the Constitution" by exceeding the 14-day limit of convening a National Assembly session after a requisition of the session was filed by the opposition.

The speaker has summoned the session of the lower house to deliberate on the opposition's no-confidence resolution against Prime Minister Imran Khan on March 25 (Friday) at 11am.

The session, which will be the 41st of the current National Assembly, was summoned after the joint opposition made the requisition for it under Article 54 of the Constitution along with the submission of the no-confidence motion against the prime minister on March 8.

According to Article 54, once a session of the National Assembly has been requisitioned with signatures of at least 25 per cent of the members on it, the speaker has a maximum of 14 days to summon a session. Therefore, the speaker had to call the lower house in session by March 22.

Reacting to the development at a press conference today, Bilawal accused the NA speaker of flouting the Constitution, saying the opposition would pursue the matter legally at the Supreme Court. "Our lawyers will raise legal and constitutional points on the matter and our case is strong," he said.

He pointed out that there was a 14-day limit after the requisition to call a session, stressing that the speaker could not go beyond the limit as it was "unconstitutional".

The PPP leader said he was thankful to the Supreme Court for issuing notices to political parties in con-

tion to a petition filed by the Supreme Court Bar Council (SCBA) seeking the SC's intervention to prevent "anarchy" ahead of the no-confidence vote against the premier.

The Supreme Court had on Saturday issued notices to four political parties — PTI, PML-N, PPP and JUI-F — in connection with a petition filed by the SCBA.

The SCBA, in its petition, had demanded that officials tasked with the responsibility to maintain law and order in Islamabad must "prevent any assembly, gathering, public meetings and/or processions that could hamper the assembly proceedings or participation of members in the session".

It had also sought the court's directions for all state functionaries "to act strictly in accordance with the Constitution and the law and they be restrained from acting in any manner detrimental to and unwarranted by the Constitution and the law."

Bilawal said no political party was a party to the SCBA's petition, however, "I commend that the court gathered on a weekend on Saturday and issued notices while hearing this important plea."

The PPP leader said he had not thought that the government would move to "violate" the Constitution. "The government is now sensing its defeat and it is now making unconstitutional attempts."

He also alleged that the prime minister was hoping that the "neutrality status" of the establishment underwent a change. He said the opposition wanted one of the ISPR or the top court to take notice of the prime minister's "campaign". Web Desk



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing a Press Conference at Zardari House, in Federal Capital.

### Speaker bound to call NA session within 14 days of requisition: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb on Sunday said that it is stated in the Article 54 of the constitution that the Speaker of National Assembly (NA) is bound to call an assembly meeting within 14 days.

The PML-N leader, in a statement, said that the opposition filed the requisition of National Assembly for no-confidence motion against the Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan on March 8.

According to the filing date the last date for the speaker to call the meeting is March 22, she continued to say.

The PML-N spokesperson further said that if the Speaker does not call the NA meeting before the said date, he will be breaking the constitution of Pakistan. INP

### JUI leader's son dies

in AJK road accident  
MUZAFFARABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, Muzaffarabad Division Amir Prof Maulana Altaf Hussain Siddiqui's car crashed near Shabdara in Hattian Bala on Sunday in which his son lost his life.

Maulana Altaf was not in the car at the time of the accident.

Maulana's son was driving the car when the accident occurred and he was killed in the accident.

Hattian Bala is a district of Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK). INP

### Ruthless woman throws hubby's 2 minor nephews into canal; one dies

PESHAWAR: A woman threw her husband's two minor nephews into a canal in Renala Khurd over some domestic dispute on Sunday. The rescuers fished out dead body of one of the kids from the water.

Reportedly, two minors had to pay with their lives when their elders got involved in a dispute. In a vicious act, kids' maternal uncle's wife threw them into Lower Bari Doab Canal in Renal Khurd.

After getting information of the incident, the rescue officers started an operation to find the minors. The divers were able to take out body of one child who was four-year-old and identified as Hamad.

However, the divers are still looking for the other kid. INP

### PTI MNA claims PPP offered Rs160m to back no-trust motion

ISLAMABAD: PTI MNA Nusrat Wahid on Sunday claimed the PPP offered her Rs160 million bribe to support the no-trust motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan.

On Saturday, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) served show-cause notices to its 14 members of National Assembly (MNAs) for joining hands with opposition for the no-trust move against Prime Minister Imran Khan.

The show-cause notice issued by PTI Secretary General Asad Umar said that the MNAs have violated the party discipline and joined hands with opposition for a no-trust motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan. INP

### Passenger plane narrowly escapes crash landing at Lahore airport

LAHORE: A passenger plane of a private airline narrowly escaped a crash landing at the Allama Iqbal International Airport, Lahore following intervention from traffic control officials. According to details, a private airline's passenger plane attempted to land at the under-construction runway at the Lahore airport. The air traffic controller while taking in view the approach of the plane understood that it was going to land at the under-construction runway and stopped it from landing. The pilot was forced to change the trajectory of the plane to ensure a safe landing at the other runway of the airport. In late January this year, it was reported that the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said the upgradation of Lahore's Allama Iqbal airport main runway has entered the final phase. INP

## Balochistan Awami endowment fund faces financial problems

QUETTA: The Balochistan Awami Endowment Fund facing financial problems in providing healthcare facilities to patients as the monthly demand goes above the available funds, it was on Sunday.

The government provides assistance to the poor and needy patients suffering from different chronic diseases under the programme to get them treated in the best public and private sector hospitals.

"The patients applications for healthcare funds demand reach to 400 million rupees, while the available funds in a month are 40 million," sources at provincial social department said.

Due to shortage of funds in endowment programme, the board meetings for approval of funds being held after an interval of three to four months, according to sources.

The chief minister has

enhanced the seed money from four billion rupees to six billion but the order has yet to be implemented, sources said.

Parliamentary Secretary for provincial social welfare department has said that the matter has been raised with the finance department. The department didn't yet invest additional two billion rupees so far, parliamentary secretary Bushra Rind said.

"The increase in seed money will enhance additional 20 millions in funds," the secretary added.

Balochistan's Minister for Social Welfare earlier said that the medical board of the province gave approval of 200 to 300 cases in each meeting.

It should be noted that the treatment of cancer, liver and kidney transplantation is the most expensive which requires millions of rupees. INP

## Hooligans attack female assistant commissioner in Mansehra

MANSEHRA: Three hooligans attacked Assistant Commissioner Marvi Malik Sher near Ghazi Kot, Mansehra last week, it emerged on Sunday.

Marvi Malik is one of the five sisters who have set a record of clearing CSS examination and join bureaucracy.

The three accused were arrested on March 18 when they tried to overtake the assistant commissioner's car several times. They also kept taking her pictures and videos and then stopped their vehicle in front of her car in Ghazi Kot. The accused expressed their dismay at having a "Woman as an assistant commissioner in

their area".

The hooligans also tried to hit the assistant commissioner by trying to pull her out of the vehicle, injuring her and the guard.

Some people present at the site rescued them and handed the three men to the police.

A case under various sections including those pertaining to harassment was registered on the complaint of Marvi Malik.

Marvi Malik Sher is among those five sisters who had set a unique record to clear CSS examination and join bureaucracy. The success story of these five Sher sisters in CSS examinations embodies exemplary instances of women empowerment. INP

## Sardar Tanveer says he considers politics as form of worship

ISLAMABAD: The President of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and the most senior minister, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan said that he considers politics as a form of worship that was based on improving public service delivery.

Talking to public delegations at the wedding ceremony of the nephew of Minister Chaudhry Ali Shan Soni in Gujrat on Sunday, he vowed to make the AJK a model state to set an example for the whole region. He said that he would establish good governance in the base camp (AJK) by upholding the rule of law and justice.

He said that the system based on plunder, looting and commission was unparalleled in any civilized society in the world. He said that the PTI government would also take historic steps for the welfare of the marginalised segments in Azad Kashmir as directed by Imran

Khan.

Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan stated that as a result of Imran Khan's courageous leadership, Pakistan was getting rid of corruption. "Imran Khan is the true messiah and saviour of the nation whom the people gave the mandate to eradicate corruption from the country and root out corrupt elements. The government measures have exposed the corrupt gangs and exposed them to the public," he maintained.

Speaker of the AJK Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, Minister of Local Government Khawaja Farooq, Advisor to Government Chaudhry Akbar Ibrahim, Member Assembly Javed Butt, Deputy Secretary-General PTI Sardar Murtaza Ali Ahmed, Abdul Wadood Qureshi, Sardar Ifrikhar Rashid, Sardar Imtiaz Shaheen were also present on the occasion. INP



FAISALABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Political communication Dr. Shahbaz Gill led by a PTI rally in connection with showing solidarity with Prime Minister Imran Khan at Jail Road in the City.

## Opposition 'walks back' threat to disrupt OIC meeting

ISLAMABAD: Hours after threatening to take the extreme step of disrupting the all-important meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in case National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser did not put the no-confidence resolution against Prime Minister Imran Khan on the day's agenda by Monday (tomorrow), the joint opposition toned down its stance by stressing that Pakistan's political turmoil will not be allowed to affect the event in any way.

Though the opposition did not make a categorical announcement withdrawing its threat to stage a sit-in inside the National Assembly, the venue of the OIC event, it assured the foreign ministers of the Muslim countries that upon their arrival and during their stay in Islamabad, "a conducive atmosphere in accordance with the traditional spirit of hospitality, respect and zeal would be ensured".

The assurance was given by the joint opposition through a statement released to the media on Saturday night by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) information secretary Marriyum Aurangzeb, around five hours after the opposition leaders' press conference where they had announced staging a sit-in inside the National Assembly hall ahead of the OIC meeting, if the speaker did not include the resolution on the agenda of the sitting to be called on Monday (tomorrow). The threat had been hurled by Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and was immediately endorsed by PML-N president Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) president Maulana Fazlur Rehman and chief of his own faction of Balochistan National Party (BNP), Akhtar Mengal, were also present. Leaders had warned of sit-in in NA if no-trust move not placed on agenda.

The joint opposition, however, in its statement later

said it would warmly welcome the foreign ministers, delegates and other dignitaries of the Islamic world to Pakistan on the occasion of the 48th meeting of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, adding "the arrival of distinguished guests is a source of joy and pride for us". "The opposition pledges to do its utmost to create an atmosphere in which the distinguished guests will be able to carry out their activities with full attention, dedication and determination," said the statement.

Later, Zulfikar Ali Bader, the spokesperson for Bilawal, also issued a clarification of sorts, declaring the PPP chairman was not against the OIC meeting, "but against the government's escape from the no-confidence motion".

"If the NA speaker delays the no-confidence motion under the guise of the OIC meeting, then there will be a reaction," he said.

Mr Bader said PM Khan wanted to postpone the no-confidence motion till April under the garb of the OIC conference "but we will not allow Imran Khan to do so".

Sources in the opposition told Dawn that after their news conference, their leadership met again and reviewed their announcement after receiving a reaction, not only from the government, but also from some public and other circles, as there was a general view that any attempts to disrupt the OIC event would bring a bad name to the country.

Earlier, during the news conference, Mr Bhutto-Zardari had stated that if the speaker did not introduce the no-confidence resolution in the assembly immediately after offering fataha (for a deceased PTI MNA) on Monday (tomorrow) then "my plea to my own party and the opposition parties will be that we will not leave the hall". Web Desk

### Pakistan logs 375 fresh Covid cases, one death

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan witnessed 375 fresh Covid cases and one fatality in the past 24 hours, according to the government's database.

The total number of confirmed cases is 1,521,888 while the death toll is 30,329.

The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said a total of 33,225 samples were tested during the last 24 hours, out of which 375 turned out to be positive, showing the positivity rate of 1.12 per cent.

The number of critical Covid patients in various hospitals across the country has come down to 506.

The NCOC said 286 additional recoveries from the coronavirus were also reported, taking the country's total recoveries to 1,475,759.

So far, Sindh has reported as many as 573,579, Punjab 504,393, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) 218,629, Balochistan 35,458, Islamabad 134,951, Azad Jammu and Kashmir 43,214, and Gilgit Baltistan 11,664.

Of late, the NCOC announced withdrawal of all Covid-19 related restrictions in Pakistan.

Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar, who also heads the NCOC, an umbrella body leading Pakistan's fight against the pandemic, made the announcement, a key step for the country to move to normalization. INP

### 40 faint after eating substandard bakery items

KAMOKE: More than 40 people fell prey to substandard food items they bought from a bakery located at the GT Road near Kamoke city on Sunday.

The Kamoke assistant commissioner did not seal the bakery despite the passage of two days after the incident.

The food poisoning victims were admitted to the hospitals of Kamoke, Sheikhpura and Lahore for further treatment. INP

## No-trust motion: Opp lawmakers told to stay in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: The leadership of opposition parties has instructed their parliamentarians to stay in the federal capital to ensure their presence in a National Assembly session that could be convened on March 25 for voting on the no-trust motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Opposition leaders said the speaker of the lower house of the parliament could convene the assembly session any time and directed the lawmakers belonging to their parties to stay put in Islamabad.

They said the speaker cannot delay calling the session as per the law and Constitution.

The NA speaker is bound to

convene the assembly session by Monday (March 21) after submission of the requisition notice to the National Assembly Secretariat on March 8 by the joint opposition and he could not delay convening the session beyond 14 days.

A session of the National Assembly will be convened on Monday but it won't take up any agenda. According to parliamentary traditions, the assembly doesn't take up any agenda on the first sitting after the death of a member.

The NA speaker will likely adjourn tomorrow's session after offering fataha for PTI MNA Khayal Zaman. INP



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Air Force aircrafts perform aerobatic maneuvers during a rehearsal ahead of Pakistan's Day parade, in Federal Capital.

## IMDC distributes prizes among medical students

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Medical & Dental College (IMDC) held a prize distribution ceremony of Co-Curricular Week that was organized in collaboration with Dr. Akbar Niazi Teaching Hospital. Students from MBBS, BDS, Allied Health Sciences and Nursing participated in various co-curricular and sports activities enthusiastically.

The co-curricular week included sports like cricket, volleyball, basketball, badminton, table tennis along with fun fair and arts, quiz, debates & poetry competitions.

Senior management of IMDC and ANTH, including Managing Director Yasir Khan Niazi, Principal Dental Section Prof. Dr. Haroon Qazi, Dean IMDC Prof. Dr. Syed Shoab Hussain Shah and HODs were present at the closing ceremony to encourage students. Yasir Niazi said on this occasion

that the college organizes sports week every year and that besides promoting education and research activities, IMDC always believed in enhancing students' capabilities through sports and co-curricular activities so they could serve the society by knowing the value of professionalism, life-long learning, scholarly activities, competent practice of medicine and ethical research.

Communications lead at IMDC Imran Ali Ghouri told journalists that IMDC and ANTH management is determined to provide a conducive environment to each of the students so their intellectual and physical capabilities are groomed in the best possible way.

Students and their parents welcomed IMDC's co-curricular week after a 2 years break due to COVID-19 pandemic and found it to be full of healthy, creative and positive activities. INP

## Koral Police handed over looted cash worth 1.2m to the citizen

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Koral police station has recovered cash worth Rs. 1.2 million looted from a citizen, a police spokesman said.

He said that the recovered cash was handed over to its rightful owner during a ceremony held at Central Police Office Islamabad. IGP Islamabad Muhammad Ahsan Younas and SP Rural were also present at the occasion.

The citizen thanked IGP Islamabad and police team of koral police station for returning him his looted money.

The IGP of Islamabad, while talking on the occasion said that Islamabad police have arrested numerous criminal gangs involved in heinous crimes and recovered looted valuables which were handed over to the rightful owners adding that the AVLC has recovered 46 vehicles recently.

Islamabad police chief maintained that Islamabad police will not let any stone unturned to secure the life and property of the citizens. He said that the recovered cash was handed over to its rightful owner during a ceremony held at Central Police Office Islamabad. IGP Islamabad Muhammad Ahsan Younas and SP Rural were also present at the occasion.

The citizen thanked IGP Islamabad and police team of koral police station for returning him his looted money.

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