Https:// www.quettavoice.com/

**ABC** Certified

# JETTA VOICE

Email adderss: quettavoice@gmail.com

> Saturday 30 April ,2022

O Y Quettavoice



Punjab CM-elect Hamza Shehbaz moves LHC for third time



Russia's Lavrov invites Bilawal to Moscow

# BA adopts joint condemnation resolution against Karachi terror attack

Staff Reporter

QUETTA: Balochistan Assembly has adopted a joint condemnation resolution against the Karachi terror attack on Friday. The session of the provincial assembly began with Qadir Nail, one of the chairmen of the panel in the chair. The house unanimously passed the reso-lution condemning the terrorist attack against Chinese nationals outside the Karachi university the other day. Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Quddus Bizenjo, provincial ministers, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran, Noor Muhammad Dumar, Muhammad Khan Lehri, Mir Sikandar Umrani, Mir Zia ullah Langove, Bushra Rind, Mahjabeen Sheran and submitted the condemnation resolution against the terror act. "This house strongly condemns the terrorist attack and terms it against the Baloch tradi-tions", Mir Ziaullah Langove told the house while tabling the resolution. He said it was against the basic principle of Baloch traditions to target guests and teachers.



Treasury, opposition members lash out at the perpetrators of the attack

Members from the treasury and opposition benches lashed out at the perpetrators of the ter-rorist attack and vowed to defend the country and nation. They said that such coward acts would not harm time-tested and historic rela-tions between Pakistan and China. "Nobody can harm strong ties between Pakistan and China through such coward acts of terrorism", Mir Quddus Bizenjo, Chief Minister of Balochistan said. He termed targeting teachers and guests as

Mr. Bizenjo urged political parties to join hands to foil the conspiracy against Pakistan and China relationship. He reiterated that China Pakistan Economic Corridor would open new vistas of development and prosperity in the

region.

The people of Balochistan strive for peace and development

The members stated that the majority of the The members stated that the majority of the people of Balochistan strive for peace and development and they oppose terrorism in all forms. "We condemn this terrorist act", Asghar Tareen of the Jamiat ul Ulema e Islam (JUI) said. "Government would bring the perpetrators of the terror attack to the book", Mir Ziaullah Langove vowed. The lawmakers from the treasury and opposition benches strongly constitution of the constitut ury and opposition benches strongly con-demned the terrorist attack and called for unity to battle conspiracies against the Pak China relationship. Subsequently, the chair put the resolution for voting and it was unanimously passed by the house.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir. Abdul Quddus Bizenjo is addressing a session of the Provincial Assembly.

# **Balochistan Assembly strongly** condemns untoward incident in Madina

Manan Mandokhail

QUETTA: Balochistan Assembly has strongly condemned the untoward incident in the holy place of Madina. Lawmakers from treasury and opposi-tion benches condemned the supporters of the former ruling party, Pakistan Tehrik e Insaf (PTI) for chanting slogans in the

holy place.
"This incident was against the stability of Pakistan", Asghar Tareen, a member provincial assembly from Jamiat ul Ulema e Islam (JUI) said. The session of the assem-bly began here with Qadir



Minister said.

Members from treasury and opposition benches

lashed out at the former

Prime Minister Imran Khan for promoting the

politics of hatred and intol-

erance in the country. "Treason cases should be

Nail, the chairman of the

panel on Friday.

The house adopted a condemnation resolution against the untoward inci-dent in the holy place. "This is unacceptable and the perpetrators should be brought to justice", Mir Ziaullah Langove, the Balochistan Home gans in the holy place". Asghar Tareen, the JUI lawmaker demanded. He said under a pre-planned conspiracy some elements manhandled Nawabzada Shah Zain Bugti and Maryam Aurangzaib. Asghar Khan Achakzai, the parliamentary leader of the Awami National Party

the Awami National Party (ANP) also condemned the incident and demanded stern action against the perpetrators of the inci-

The house expressed serious concern over the untoward incident in the holy place and termed it a conspiracy against Pakistan and Saudi Arabia

## filed against the elements involved in chanting slo-Police register FIR against attack on Qasim Suri in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police on Friday registered a case against attack on former Speaker National Assembly Qasim Suri and others.

The case was registered at Kohsar police station on the request of Qasim Suri in which he said that he went to Kohsar market for having Sehri with his

anti-PTI elements Some attacked us and attempted to kill us, Suri said adding, he and his associates could identify those who attacked them. According to the former deputy speaker, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) activists and guards of Federal Minister for Narcotics Control Shahzain Bugti carried out attack on him when he reached a hotel located at Kohsar

Qasim remained unhurt in the attack while his friend received minor injuries.INP

# Russia's Lavrov invites Bilawal to Moscow

ISLAMABAD: Russia's Foreign Minister (FM) Sergey Lavrov has congratulated Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on taking oath as the country's foreign minister.

Lavrov also extended an invita-

conveyed to Bilawal his country's desire to take steps to strengthen the bilateral ties.INP

of Islam's second holiest place by political zealots has become the top trend on Twitter MADINAH: The social media is brimming with scathing criticism being poured on the PTI activists

Anti-PM protest at Masjid-e-Nabvi triggers scathing criticism of PTI

Maulana Fazl, Ashrafi, Shahid Afridi, condemn desecration

on Friday.

The deplorable incident even impelled the Saudi government to arrest the sacrilegious elements who not only defiled the sanctity of who not only defiled the sanctity of the holy mosque but also embar-rassed their honoured guests. The Saudi government took into cus-tody as many as 150 people in this regard. In a video uploaded last night, Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb and member of the National Assembly and fed-eral minister Shahzain Bugti were seen along with others. Ms Aurangzeb indirectly blamed former prime minister Imran Khan

former prime minister Imran Khan (who has ironically been vociferous for establishing Madinah state model in Pakistan) for giving direc-tions for such despicable protest.

A few days ago, former interior minister Sheikh Rashid has given a hint regarding the happening of this shameful act during a press conference. "See what the people will do (to PM and his companions) when they reach there for Umrah," he told the media. It is pertinent to mention here that Sh Rashid has recently come back from Saudi Arabia after performing Umrah recently come back from Saudi Arabia after performing Umrah there during which he also visited Madinah. The former aide to ex-PM Imran Khan, Maulana Tahir Ashrafi who is also part of incumbent Premier Shehbaz's Umrah entourage condemned the incident, stressing such acts must be stopped. I strongly condemned such an act and use of immoral and unethical words at the holy place. INP

# his Umrah entourage making their way to Masjid-e-Nabvi. Seeing the abdominal incident of staging a protest at the holy floor of Masjid-e-Nabvi, the Twitteratis went into frenzy and started scribbling their aversive comments on their Twitter posts and hashtag Toheen-Masjid-Nabvi-Namanzoor CM Bizenjo approves 15% disparity allowance for government employees

Staff Reporter

who have been blamed for arranging the anti-Prime Minister and his entourage protest as they entered Masjid-e-Nabvi in Madinah Munawwara.

A video went viral on social media platforms showing hundreds of pilgrims raising "chor chor" [thieves] slogans upon seeing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and

Chief Minister Balochistan. Quddus Bizenjo has approved a 15% disparity reduction allowance government employees.

allowance would be paid to the employees from grade-1 to 19 on a basic salary, an official handout issued by the Minister's Secretariat said on

Thursday night. This was one of the longstanding demands of government employ-"We welcome this approval by the CM Balochistan", Abdul Malik Kakar, the cen-

Health Desk

Pakistan reported a second poliovirus case within one week

from North Waziristan on Friday. A

from North Wazırıstan on Friday. A two-year-old minor girl fell prey to the crippling virus, local health officials confirmed. This is the fourth case of wild polio to be recorded globally in 2022 and the second in Pakistan which was reported on April 22 in the same district. This case has sent alarm hells among the polio vol-

sent alarm bells among the polio vol-unteers battling the crippling virus across the country. Today, the Pakistan National Polio Laboratory

at the NIH, Islamabad, has confirmed the detection of Type-1 Wild Poliovirus from the stool specimen from a 24-month-old girl from dis-trict North Waziristan, K-P. The girl

onset of paralysis on 14 April

an official statement said. Pakistan had reported only one



tral leader of the Balochistan Employees and Government Alliance (BEWGA) said.

Summary approval to be sent to the provincial cabinet The summary for the approval would be sent

to the provincial cabi-net very soon. The allowance would be paid to the employees from March 1st, 2022. The Balochistan gov-

Second poliovirus case

reported from

ernment would bear an additional financial burden of Rs.4 bs, the official handout stated. Government should address all our out-standing issues", Mr. Kakar demanded.

CM Balochistan gave this approval on a summary sent by the finance department.
BEWGA had staged
more than 12-days long

protest demonstrations to mount pressure on the Jam Kamal Khan led government for acceptance of their demands. However, the previous government had not accepted their demands despite repeated protests and demands

#### Punjab CM-elect Hamza Shehbaz moves LHC for third time

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister-elect Hamza Shehbaz on Friday filed a constitutional peti-(LHC) for the third time, in which he prayed to the court to appoint a person for administering the oath to him and declare the steps taken by Punjab Governor Umar Sarfaraz Cheema and President Arif Alvi to prevent him from tak-ing oath of his office unconstitu-

In his petition, in which he made both the federal and Punjab gov-ernments respondents, Hamza said that despite the fact that the LHC had ordered the Punjab governor to take oath from him or appoint somebody else for the purpose, the latter was still to comply with its

Therefore, the CM-elect added in the petition, it was prayed to the court to not only appoint a person for taking oath from him but also fix time and place for the oath-tak-

ing ceremony.
Only two days ago, (Wednesday, April 27, 2022), LHC Chief Justice (CJ) Muhammad Amir Bhatti had ordered Punjab Governor Omer Sarfraz Cheema to administer the oath to Chief Minister-elect Hamza Sharif on Thursday or appoint another person who could adminis-

ter the oath to him.

The LHC CJ gave the ruling while hearing a petition filed by Hamza Shehbaz for the appointment of a person for the oath-tak-

In his ruling, CJ Bhatti had directed that if the governor did not want to perform the swearing-in then another person should be appointed for this task.

The judge asked the president to perform his role and order the

perform his role and order the

completion of the constitutional requirement of swearing-in of the Chief Minister-elect.

The judge ordered to take steps to administer the oath to CM-elect Hamza Shehbaz.INP

### ISLAMABAD: Saudi embassy on Friday confirmed the arrest of a number of pilgrims after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led delegation, who is in Saudi Arabia on a three-day official visit, were 'welcomed' with "chor chor" [thieves] slogans while making their way to Masjid-e-Nabawi. It may be recalled that a tragic incident took place at the Masjid-e-Nabawi yesterday in which the sanctity of the mosque was violated when hundreds of people chanted slogans against delegation making their way. Market for Sehri. However, hundreds of people chanted slogans against delegation making their way to the mosque The incident has drawn strong condemnation from social, political and all walks of life, including on social media, and Saudi officials have been called upon to take action.

The Saudi embassy in Islamabad has confirmed that several people have been arrested in connection with the tragic incident at the Masjid-e-

MADINA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif offers Jumma Prayer in Masjid-e-Nabwi (PBUH). Madina.

Saudi embassy confirms arrest of

several pilgrims for protest at

Masjid-e-Nabawi

On Thursday, a group PTI supporters violated the sanctity of the Masjide-Nabvi in Medina by chanting the slogans of "chor, chor" against Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his delegation.

The unfortunate incident took place when PM Shehbaz along with his delegation was on their way to the mosque to pay respect at the Roza-e-PM Shehbaz Sharif is visiting Saudi Arabia on a 3-day official visit along with his cabinet members, family members, and others at the invitation of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz.

The delegation accompanying the premier includes Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, Finance Minister Miftah Ismail, Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Shahzain Bugti, Mohsin Dawar, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqi, Chaudhry Salik, and four members of PM Shehbaz Sharif's staff.

Meanwhile, the protesters also misbehaved with the JWP chief and Federal Minister for Narcotics Control Shahzain Bugti and pulled his

tion to his Pakistani counterpart to visit Russia.

The Russia's foreign minister



WPV1 case in 2021 which had onset of paralysis on 27 January in Killa Abdullah, Balochistan, it added. Fortunately, no polio case has been reported from Balochistan during last more than one year. The statement said that genetic analysis of the new Type-1 Wild Poliovirus case shows that the virus belongs to the YB3C cluster and is linked to the poliovirus cluster and is linked to the poliovirus case reported last week.

"This indicates well-established wild poliovirus circulation within district North Waziristan," it warned.

# Protest in Dera Bugti against Madina incident with federal ministers

Faiq Ali

DERA BUGTI: Workers of Jamhoori Watan Party (JWP) and Jamiat ul Ulema e Islam (JUI) staged a joint protest demonstration against the Madina incident with federal ministers Shah Zain Bugti and Maryam Aurangzaib. Some supporters of Pakistan Tehrik e Insaf (PTI) had accosted, heckled, and chanted slogans against Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif's delegation on Thursday night.
"We strongly condemn the incident with Nawabzada Shah Zain
Bugti in Madina", Naseer Ahmed Bugti, one of the protesters said. He said the former ruling party under a pre-planned conspiracy attacked federal ministers in the holy place. Dr. Muhammad Hussain Bugti and Maulana Hayat Bugti led the protesters. Rallies were also taken in Zain Koh, Pir Koh

Protest demonstrations were also held in Zain Koh, Pir Koh, and other parts of the district. The protesters were carrying placards and banned inscribed with slogans against the elements involved in the attack. They also chanted full-throated slogans against the PTI and former Prime Minister Imran Khan. 'Holy place is for worship not for chanting slogans", Niamat Bugti,

another protester said. He said the former ruling party has lost its cred-

ibility and dignity in the country In Sui: the protesters marched from Bugti Bazar to Allah Wallah



Chowk. They demanded of Pakistan and Saudi governments to take action against the elements involved in the manhandling and attacking federal ministers.

Religious scholars in Kalat condemn the incident in the holy place Kalat: Religious scholars strongly condemned the incident in the holy place and termed it a conspiracy against Islam and Pakistan. They lashed out at the former ruling party and held it responsible for the politics of intolerance and hatred across the country. The religious scholars demanded of the government of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to take strict action against the elements involved in chanting slogans in

In their Friday sermons, the religious scholars urged the people to tolerance as taught in Islam.

PM Shehbaz Sharif reaches Saudi Arabia on his first foreign visit as

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reached Saudi Arabia on an important visit. This is his first foreign visit after assuming the charge as the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

He is accompanied by Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, Miftah Ismail, Nawabzada Shahzain Bugti, Marriyum Aurangzeb, Khawaja Asif, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Mohsin Dawar and Maulana Tahir Ashrafi, among others. The officials landed in the country on Thursday afternoon and later offered prayers at the Prophet's Mosque.

# QUETTA VOICE Editor Asim Khan Flaws in LBs wards,

# delimitations in Balochistan

Initial delimitations of union councils and formation of wards suggest serious flaws regarding the upcoming local bodies elections in Balochistan. Technically or deliberately, the election commission of Pakistan has surpassed all past records of mismanagement/faults in terms of formation of new wards and delimitations of union councils

across the province, which covers half of the country in terms of area.

Local bodies elections are scheduled to be held on May 29th throughout Balochistan except Quetta and Lasbella districts because of some delimitation issues. The Balochistan High Court (BHC) has also ordered the election commission of Pakistan to address the grievances of the people in Zhob, Pishin and other districts of the province regarding the formation of new wards.

For instance, in Pishin's Chur Badizai and Toorkhail union councils. the election commission has made one ward comprising 32 voters, whereas, another ward comprising of more than 5,000 voters. Votes of people from quite far away have been registered in the union council. This has created doubt among the people of the area about the credibil-

ity and transparency about the upcoming LBs elections. In Naseerabad district, political and tribal personalities have also expressed serious reservations and apprehensions about the establishment of new wards and delimitations of union councils. People have accused the ECP of making special wards for politically and tribally influential people, thus depriving majority of the people.

This daily has received scores of complaints regarding the flaws in the establishment of new wards and delimitation of union councils. The ECP has to take an urgent notice of the complaints of the people and make sure fair and transparent elections to devolve the power on grassroots level in a transparent way.

LBs elections play crucial role in the development of country and nation. The ECP has to perform its constitutional responsibility and address the grievances of the masses and restore their confidence. Every individual has to be given the right to vote in his and her area to elect

future representatives. The ECP's Quetta office has responded to the complaints of the political parties and individuals. However, it needs to step up efforts to address the grievances of voters before it is already late.

# The conspiracy that wasn't

of no-confidence in the National Assembly, the former prime minister and his coteries have been talking about a foreign conspiracy. Now once again the National Security Committee (NSC) has confirmed that there was

**EDITORIAL** 

no such conspiracy to top-ple the Khan government. The NSC issued a statement clearly stating that the telegram came from the Pakistan embassy in Washington. It means that there was no letter or memo sent by any foreign government to threaten Imran Khan and his gov-Imran Khan and his government. Interestingly, in the latest meeting of the NSC, Pakistan's former ambassador — Asad Majeed — was present to give a first-hand account of the events and talks that did or did not take place.

It was a wise move by

It was a wise move by the new government to call the ambassador so that he could in person clarify any misgivings or lack of communication. His briefing to the committee cov-ered both the content and context of the telegram. Since the National National Security Committee is the highest forum for coordination on security issues. there is no question of lack of integrity in its members. Nobody can cast aspersions on such an apex body which includes in its fold both civilian and military leadership, especially when a democratically elected government is in

were present in the meet-ing as was the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee. There were minsters of all relevant ministries and the meeting was chaired by the prime minister himself.

When such a top leader-ship is in consonance and examines the contents of the communication, there is no question of any partiality or favouritism or vice versa. The meeting has reaffirmed the decision of the last NSC meeting and now this discussion should have ended. But the former prime minister is in no mood to end or suspend the campaign that he launched nearly a month

ago.
The PTI chairman and all its leaders and activists are pedaling a highly dangerous narrative Imran Khan was ousted by a 'foreign conspiracy'.
This they are doing by continuously referring to a cable containing 'evi-dence' of the conspiracy. In a time when Pakistan is beset by so many other economic and security threats, it is a pity that the top leadership has to engage in investigating a conspiracy that wasn't. If repeatedly the country's NSC has to hold meetings to review a non-issue, its time and energies are being wasted. The whole narrative of the PTI is now revolving around a sup-posed 'intervention' rather than 'conspiracy'. It is true that no foreign interfer-ence should be acceptable under any circumstances, but first there has to be some evidence of interfer-

It seems that both Imran Khan and Shah Mahmood Qureshi are intent on twisting the story to suit their own ends. Even after the latest statement by the NSC, they are sticking to their guns without realizing how much damage they have already done to they nave already done to the country's diplomacy. Their pack of lies is increasing by the day as they lead their followers to believe that the PTI stance has been strengthened. The PTI leaders are issuing one statement after another and endorsing each other's false opin-ions. They have mastered the art of fabricating and

twisting 'conspiracies'.
The relentless onslaught of the PTI on the country's institutions including the judiciary, the NSC, and parliament is not only damaging these institutions but also tarnishing the credibility of the credibility of Pakistan's Foreign Office. For any democratic system to thrive - or at least sur-vive - people's trust in the country's institutions plays a crucial role. Not that we cannot criticize institu-tions, we can. If they vio-late human rights or betray the constitution, one can decry or even deride them But for that there has to be some evidence; you can-not target individuals and institutions just on the

basis of some conjecture. It is becoming clear that the PTI is trying to divert people's attention from its own corruption and incompetence in office. It is a cover-up attempt to hide its own siphoning off and mismanagement, from the Toshakhana scandal to the helicopter splurge. If you look at Imran Khan's politics of the past 25 years, it has revolved around a couple of reductionist strategies like any other populist leader who does not want his follow-ers to think much.

First, he consistently

boasted about his Cricket World Cup win, as if it was his personal victory. Then he concocted a yarn over corruption and in his spinning there were other spin masters who applied condiments to his petri dish. Many of his erst-while promoters are now either retired or trans-ferred. Once in power, he himself relied on mostly 'imported' advisers and assistants. Then he reignit-ed his old love for the Taliban, thus antagonizing the European Union and the US. To top it all, he visited Russia right on the day when President Putin was invading Ukraine. Imran called it 'interesting times'. His foreign policy was never independent; in fact he had no foreign policy at all, or any policy for

that matter to guide any department or ministry. Most of the time he was just shooting in the dark, and that is what he is doing

even after his ouster. In his blatant attempt to subvert the constitution, he refused to follow constitutional provisions and violated all democratic norms. He even infected his own party members to use them for violating their oath of office. People like Asad Qaisar and Qasim Suri and his selected governor and president who held federal offices and who were supposed to act in accordance with the constitutions put their own personal loyalty to the Khan over the constitution, the country and its federation. The speaker

and deputy speaker tried to dismiss the no-trust move. Even after the court's verdict, they attempted not to hold the voting. Their loyalty lay with their master and not with the country and its constitution.
That was the real conspiracy; and now they want people to forget their own conspiracies against the country and focus on an imaginary conspiracy the-ory. Imran Khan and the PTI are dragging the country to an abyss of civil war that Fawad Chaudhry hint-

The entire PTI leader-ship was clueless about governing a country. They led the country into an age of bewilderment and pushed it to the brink of collapse. They had no realtime understanding of internal or foreign affairs, and possessed only some rudimentary knowledge of as critical a matter as edu-

# Disruptive and dangerous By Ghazi Salahuddin

from this space last week, I feel that I have a larger vista of Pakistan's politics to cover. And the past two weeks do contain multitudes, in terms of the traumatic transformations that have been set into motion. We have to contend with some new realities – and new illu-sions. Meanwhile, the abiding problems of our existence are quietly becoming more menac-

But before I proceed, a little disclaimer. My wife and I are travelling in Europe, with our base camp in a little town in northern Italy where our younger daughter lives. writing these words in Lisbon, crowded with tourists in the midst of this receding,

enigmatic pandemic. need to explain that this is a long distance view, not sure how being in Europe for over influence my emotional response to what is hap-pening in Pakistan. It does matter that I feel so strongly about the derelictions we suffer in our homeland and these are particularly "the times that try men's souls".

Across the entire spectrum of the ongoing political developments, the change in regime being at the heart of it, one dominant task of the observer is to reflect on the Imran Khan phenomenon and what it means for the survival of democracy and of democratic values in Pakistan. We are enter-ing, in that respect, a

dangerous territory. With whatever shortcomings democracy that our far, Imran tioned so Khan and his party's ouster from power was effected through due process. The devices that Imran Khan had resorted to in his noholds-barred attempt to thwart this process would certify his obsessive resolve to block his political adversaries' ascent to power. We are now witnessing the fury of a cult leader scorned.

Looking at it from a different angle, the role that the Supreme Court of Pakistan played in upholding the dictates of the constitution and burying, as they said, the doctrine of necessity inspires hope in the future of our democra-cy. But the campaign that Imran Khan has mounted, arousing passion in his freshly enthused band of sup-porters, is increasingly becoming a threat to the democratic process of resolving our fundamental conflicts.

Already, PTI activists are spouting venom against the Supreme Court judges who passed the crucial judgment. The so-called establishment has also been their target, this time for its avowed neutrality. But everything that they do or say is ephemeral, depending on the moment's whims

of their leader. That is how the PTI is now becoming more of a cult than a political party that soberly reflects on a

developing situation and defines its strategy

to deal with it. In that sense, the PTI may be a better expres-sion of what Pakistani society has become than other mainstream parties. Not for nothing was Imran Khan designated as Taliban Khan, without losing the support of his Westernized and socially liberated followers. In fact, we are now finding evidence that the externdence that the extremism and intolerance that we thought had infected the orthodox sections of our society has also seeped into some sec-tors of our urban elite. One measure of what

our society has become is the behaviour of the mob that easily lapses into violence. Last week, we observed the fifth anniversary of the lynching of Mashal Khan which had hap-pened on the campus of a university, with the involvement of post-graduate students. Whether it is by design or not, Imran Khan's party has excelled in using foul language against its adversaries.

There is a manifest lack of civility in the PTI's political activities pronouncements This is how the seeds of fascism are being planted in Pakistan's body politic. This point was highlighted in a graphic manner during the Supreme Court hearing this moun. Salahuddin earlier Lawyer Ahmed had drawn a historical parallel to the PTI's refusal to count the votes in the National Assembly: Germany,

Sadly, the political alliance now in power will not be able to creatively resolve this crisis of democracy by setting the country on the path of social harmony, peace, tolerance and meaningful human development. bound to be over-whelmed by its immediate task of putting its economic house in order. The challenges are daunting and the freedom to operate is restricted.

Now, will the revelations about Imran Khan's stint in power that are beginning to emerge matter for his followers? Ostensibly, toshakhana story in itself is sufficient indictment of a leader was put on a pedestal as incorruptible. In any case, the story of who Imran Khan is in terms of his loyalty to principles and individuals who con-tributed to his struggle for power has not yet been fully explored.

But, in the immediate context, Imran Khan is riding a wave, propelled by an inherent capacity of our people for protest and airing of griev-ances. How far his poli-

Russia and Iran con-

tics of rallies and incendiary speeches will carry him is yet to be seen. The tempo that Imran Khan is building could be translated into PTI votes if elections are held within a few months. That however. months. That, however,

is not feasible. So, how is this situa-tion likely to develop? On Thursday, an expectedly large rally in Lahore concluded the first phase of the PTI protest. Here, Imran Chan announced the launching of a move-ment for 'haqiqi azadi'. A day of prayers will be held on the 27th of Ramazan and then peo-ple will have to wait for a call to congregate in Islamabad.

In his Lahore speech, Imran Khan claimed that he did not want a confrontation violent and he obliquely asked those who exercised power in this country, in a deviation from his insistence that he was ousted through a for-eign conspiracy to make amends for the mistake that was made. But there are others, such as Sheikh Rashid and Fawad Chaudhry, who have raised the spectre of a civil war if elections are not held readily. What a civil war

would actually mean is too scary to imagine. Yet a very toxic and socially disruptive polarization is visibly taking shape. And this does not bode well for

Zamir Akram

# Climate reparations By Daniel Willis

window secure a live-able future". That's the sobering assessment made by sci-entists on the United entists on the United N a t i o n s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which earlier this week published its latest report, on the impacts of the climate crisis. In it, the IPPC argues that roughly 3.5 billion people – 45 percent of the world's population – currently live in areas of 'high vulnerability' to climate change, meaning they will be heavily impacted by floods, droughts or extreme weather in the extreme weather in the

decades to come. Yet even more striking than the sheer scale of these impacts is their inequality and unfairness. The vast majority of those 3.5 billion people east Africa, south Asia, Central and South America, small island developing states and the Arctic. These regions – which have some of the lowest per capita carbon emissions in the world -are now suffering the effects of a crisis that has been driven and exacer-bated by the looting of their lands for wealth and natural resources.

Not only are these countries and communities faced with displace-ment, food shortages,

more, unless there is concerted global action, the report also asserts that many losses are already happening now, and are irreversible. This situation is a result of the failure (or perhaps more accurately, refusal) of rich countries to support the Global South against the climate crisis in UN the climate crisis in UN negotiations. Not only have these 'Annex 1' countries, including the US, UK, Canada, Australia and most of the EU, repeatedly resisted ambitious, binding targets on emissions reducgets on emissions reduc-tions, they have also repeatedly broken prom-ises on financial assistance. November, at

COP26 in Glasgow, the Global South had three key demands on finance: greatly increased climate finance grants; far more funding for climate adaptation; and a new pot of the loss and damage already being suffered by frontline communities. This week's report highlights that, despite a 2009 pledge (at COP15) to commit roughly half of \$100bn a year in climate finance to adaptation, only 4-8 percent of funding has supported projects that help vulnerable communities live with the impacts of the climate crisis (and some of those projects actually increase climate vulnerability). Those communities are

now being sacrificed to the selfishness of rich governments that resist paying for the crisis they have caused every step of the way. The demand for loss

and damage compensa-tion has also been heavi-ly resisted at every previ-ous COP At COP26, the establishment of a new funding pot was rejected and almost all references were removed in the final agreement, the Glasgow Climate Pact. Campaigners have hailed the promise for further discussions on loss and damage as a small win, and will push hard to make it a key issue at COP27 in Egypt this coming November. Yet, insiders have now raised concerns that there was concerns that there was significant pressure from the Biden administration to remove any mention of loss and damage from the latest IPCC report.
Meanwhile, frontline

ommunities. Sub-Saharan South East Asia and small island states in the Pacific and Caribbean, continue to lose homes, livelihoods and families to the climate crisis. For example, just before Christmas, while it also Christmas, while it also dealing with a steep rise in COVID-19 infections, the Philippines was hit by super typhoon Rai (also called Odette), which displaced half a million people and impacted nearly five million in total.

# The gathering storm

War clouds have once again gathered 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 startbetween 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 tol-erant and responsible image in order to increase their domes-tic and international acceptability.

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

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 outcome.

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, a b a n d o n i n g 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 govern-ment. The Indian objective was clearly spelt out recently by former Indian Foreign Secretary Sham Seran that an Afghan civil war would be prefer-able to a Taliban gov-

ernment. 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 Minister separatists against Pakistan. The Uzbeks Chechens, Uzbeks, Uighurs of the ETIM and ISIS will also gain greater freedom of

> and Iran. In these circum-stances, Afghanistan will not only face further devastation but will also be denied the benefits of its poten-tial role as a hub for regional connectivity. Projects like TAPI and CASA-1000 will remain unimplement-

action to increasingly

target China, Russia

ed. 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 geo-political interests of

verge 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 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', there-fore, hold the most promising option to secure peace in A f g h a n i s t a n. 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-owned Afghan-owned peace process is laud-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 nationinterests. 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.

# Migration & health ODAY, more than 3.6 per cent of the world's population com-

prises migrants. About 39pc of the total refugee population is hosted by only five countries, Turkey, Colombia, Uganda, Pakistan and Germany Pakistan continues to host more than 1.4 million refugees, most of them hailing from Afghanistan. In a shift from its previous pol-icy after the Taliban takeover, Pakistan decided to fence its borders to pre-

vent another deluge of Afghan refugees from entering the country. However, Pakistan still hosts a significant number of refugees who are either in transition or temporarily stuck here while trying to relocate to Western countries.

Due to their being disenfranchised by the govern-ment of their home, destination or transition country, refugees often face discrimination, poor living conditions and inadequate access to basic rights and facilities, including healthcare. The Covid-19 pandemic, while posing a number of other challenges, helped renew interest in the intricate and crucial relationship between

healthcare and migration. One way to think about delivering healthcare to refugees and migrants is to think of health challenges linked with each phase of the migration framework

Health policies should be sensitive to migration patterns. The migration process can be categorised into pretravel, travel, destination and return phases. Each

process throws up its own unique and specific healthrelated challenges.

For example, the predeparture phase, covering the period before migrants or refugees leave their country of origin, assumes importance with reference to local chronic disease patterns, pathogens and infec-tious diseases. Non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and infectious ones such as tuberculosis — both prevalent in Pakistan need prior and different management even in the pre-departure phase. Many Western countries require visa applicants to get tested for tuberculosis. From the global health

perspective, the travel phase, involving transition and interception countries, is deemed critical since people may become carriers of different pathogens or diseases and carry them across borders. The travel restrictions imposed by countries during the Covid-19 pandemic are a classic example of this phenomenon.

However, for illegal migrants or victims of

human trafficking, who often travel on flimsy boats or trek for long periods of time through harsh terrains, only to be stopped or detained by border forces, access to a fraction of the scant healthcare provisions at the border becomes an insurmountable challenge.

Meanwhile, the destination phase comprises the period when individuals settle in a country either for temporary or long-term purposes. Most of the existing

Arif AzadPublished

research in this area focuses on this group of migrants/refugees due to the availability of better data and well-funded research programmes in host countries.Even though most of the migrants tend to be younger, the effect of their journeys on their mental health and low socioeconomic status in host coun-tries exacts a heavy toll on their long-term physical well-being. The final phase of the migration cycle is the return of refugees or migrants. This mainly happens for two reasons Governments of host countries deport refugees after finding their claims to be unsubstantial Meanwhile, a large number of Pakistani migrants tend to return to their home countries after spending years abroad. This phase also carries its own challenges Depending on the manner of

deportation, many returnees come back with serious injuries and, in extreme cases, in body bags. However, even if the return of migrants appears rela-tively safe, health systems in Pakistan are ill-equipped to offer the level of services availab-le in the West. This also tends to affe--ct the health of elderly returnees. In Pakistan, several

international organisations, such as the WHO, UNHCR and IOM, are involved in the health assessment process, along with a number of national and interna-tional NGOs. However, policymaking on the conjoined areas of health and migration is weak and dis-

# 03 NATIONAL

# Widespread protests against power crisis in IIOJK

SRINAGAR: There is no end to people's resent-ment against the electricity crisis in Indian illegal-ly occupied Jammu and Kashmir which has made their living miserable forcing them to stage

forcing them to stage protests at various places across the territory against authorities' failure to control the unscheduled power cuts. According to Kashmir Media Service, residents of Batmaloo area of Srinagar lodged a strong protest against the non-availability of electricity and said that the IIOJK administration has failed administration has failed to provide power to the people especially during the holy month of

Ramadhan. Talking to media, a group of women protesters said the people at helm have miserably failed to provide basic necessities like power and water to the people of Kashmir.

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Women's

Women's Conference Conference Women's Wing said the power crisis in the territory is deepening with each passing day, saying people are seeing no relief from unscheduled outages. This was said by the party's Women's Wing functionaries in a protest held in Srinagar against held in Srinagar against the worst ever and pervasive power crisis in Kashmir.Led by the

party's Women's Wing president Shameema Firdous, the protesting Women's Wing func-tionaries raised placards demanding relief from the unscheduled power cuts and unsteady water cuts and unsteady water supply. Traders of different markets in Jammu under the banner of Traders Federation Ware House Nehru Market (TFW NM) held a protest demonstration against the 15 to 18 hours power cut in the Jammu region, par-ticularly in the Ware House Nehru Market. The protest was led by Deepak Gupta, president TFWHNM. They came down heavily on the administration.INP

# **Sherry directs measures** against glacial food threats as temperature rise in northern areas

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman has called upon the home departments. provincial departments, provincial disaster management authorities and provincial teams of PMD to take precautionary actions in an effective manner to an effective manner to mitigate against possible GLOF events and flash-floods in the GB and KP due to increases in

regional temperature.
She said, "The Ministry of Climate Change has issued an official warning in an advisory note addressed to the concerned executive. to the concerned organizations, with particular attention drawn towards the possible occurrence of glacial lake outburst floods and flash-floods in

the KP and GB regions.
As per observations by
the Ministry of Climate Change, there has been a climatic shift in the region which has led to an increase in GLOF events and flash floods. Whilst the NDMA is the competent authority for competent authority for the matter, it is impera-tive for all of the stakeholders to take precau-tionary actions in an effective and timely manner to prevent any possi-

ble loss of lives or livelible loss of lives or liveli-hood of vulnerable com-munities in the wake of any eventuality. This is the first time in decades that Pakistan is experi-encing what many call a "spring-less year" in March 2022."

Sherry Rehman was of the view that, "Due to a rise in temperatures, glaciers in Pakistan's northern mountain ranges (the Hindu Kush, Himalayas and Karakorum) are melt-ing rapidly and a total of 3,044 glacial lakes have developed in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

(KP). Of these, 33 glacial lakes have been assessed to be prone to hazardous glacial lake outburst flooding (GLOF). GLOF are sudden events which can release millions of cubic metres of water and debris, leading to the loss of lives, property and livelihoods amongst remote and impoverished mountain communities. Over 7.1 million people in GB and KP are vulnerable; in these areas, 26.7% and 22% of the population, respectively. population, respectively, are below the poverty line. Current initiatives are in place to help vul-

nerable communities prepare for and mitigate GLOF risks through early GLOF risks through early warning systems, enhanced infrastructure and community-based disaster risk management. However, any further directives issued must be adhered to."

The minister climate change further stated, "South Asia, particularly

"South Asia, particularly India and Pakistan are faced with what has been a record-breaking heat wave. It started in early April and continues to leave the people gasping in whatever shade they find. The global weather forecasting organizations have predicted that temperatures in Pakistan and India this year could see India this year could soar up to 49 to 50 degrees Celsius, which is a direct repercussion of climate

It has been predicted that temperatures in Pakistan could rise by 6 to 8 degrees Celsius above-average temperatures. According to the Meteorological Department's reports, March has remained the bettest month recorded hottest month recorded since 1961. In addition to that, rainfall in this sea-son was 62% less than in the previous years.INP



NEW YORK: Yannick Glemarec, ED of Green Climate Fund called on Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent Representative Of Pakistan to the UN.

# Pakistan's dependence on foreign loans due to its non-productive economy: PEW

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Friday said despite being a rich country, Pakistan depends on foreign leans for its survival because loans for its survival because its economy is non-produc-

Profit in non-productive sectors is much higher than in the productive sectors therefore the investment continues to find its way to the non-productive sectors,

President PEW Dr.
Murtaza Mughal said that
many countries that gained
independence after Pakistan
have stood on their own feet because they have focused

on production and exports.

However, he said that
Pakistan has become a perfect example of elite capture

ISLAMABAD: President,

Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI), Muhammad Shakeel Munir has

expressed grave concerns over

the rising power crisis in the country as the power shortage

has reportedly shot up to 6000 to 7000 MW and called upon the government to take urgent meas-

ures to overcome the worsening energy shortage as it would badly affect the economic activ-

ities besides making life of the common man more miserable in this sweltering heat. He said this

while addressing a meeting of ICCI Executive Committee

and they will never allow the productive sector of Pakistan to develop as their interests are linked to the promotion of non-productive sectors.

The industrial and agricultural elite are addicted to subsidies packages and

subsidies, packages and amnesty schemes and it is difficult to form positive policies as long as they con-trol important matters, he observed. Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves fell to 400 million dollars in 1998 but that crisis was not enough to act as a wake-up call and no real effort was made to

improve the economy.

Now the situation has become so unfavourable due to negative policies that it has become increasingly different the country.

ficult to run the country.

Dr. Mughal said that at

dark at a time when the temper-

atures were on the rise. He said that the urban areas were report-

edly experiencing 6 to 10 hours loadshedding and rural areas 8 to 16 hours loadshedding, which

showed that the energy crisis has worsened in the country. Muhammad Shakeel Munir

Munammad Snakeel Munification of the Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has assured to end the loadshedding soon, which was encouraging, but the situation demanded war footing measures to tackle this serious

crisis.

He that energy was the key requirement for trade and indus-

present, the country's survival is at stake, but milk, butter, cheese, honey, chocolate, fruits, vegetables, beverages, fish, tobacco, cigarettes and even food for dogs and cats are being imported.

is spent on unnecessary imports leaving little room for industrial raw materials and machines. He noted that as long as important eco-nomic policies continue to be planned in the interest of the ruling elite, borrowing to run the country would continue. He said that a political group had played a piv-otal role in destroying the national economy and now it has become the biggest threat to the national econo-

Precious foreign exchange my despite losing the power.INP

Govt needs to take urgent measures to end power crisis: President ICCI businesses and the homes in the country. He said that the elec-

tricity was an important economic indicator as its availabili-ty or shortage encouraged or dis-

couraged the local and foreign

investors.
ICCI President said that the main reason of gap between demand and supply was the country's dependence on fossil fuel for power generation. He stressed that the government should focus on increasing the hydropower and renewable energy share in the energy mix of the country, which was more cost effective and would bring down the cost of doing business

significantly. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President and Muhammad Faheem Vice President, Islamabad.INP

### Woman attempts suicide with three children

KARACHI: Woman attempts suicide along with three children by jumping into sea here on Friday but was rescued.

According to details, a woman Ayesha hailing from Manzoor Colony area of Karachi was in in

Colony area of Karachi was in in dispute with husband Faizan Ali over financial issues. The poverty stricken women jumped down into sea from Netty Jetty Bridge. However, the rescue personnel managed to save the woman and her three children. INP

#### Constituting Economic Advisory Council without consultation matter of concern: FPCCI

KARACHI: President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh has expressed grave concerns over the formation of Economic Advisory Council under the leadership of Prime Minister Mian Shehbaz Sharif without consulting the business, industry and trade community of Pakistan. We have also not given a representation in also not given a representation in the council; and, it is counterpro-ductive – to say the least, he added.

In statement issued here on Friday Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh maintained that FPCC1 is the apex maintained that FPCCl is the apex chamber of the country and its representation would provide the able and timely assistance to the Prime Minister and his economic team in the matters of budget-making; taxation & tariffs; governance & administrative reforms; rapid industrialization; textiles & allied industries; promotion of information & communication technolotion & communication technologies; EPZs & SEZs; export growth & import substitution; rupee-dollar

& import substitution; rupee-dollar parity and SMEs.

He noted with concern that current account deficit (CAD) will be close to \$20 billion, which is well above 5 percent of GDP; inflation has crossed 12 percent and heading towards 15 percent by the year end; trade deficit has crossed \$35 billion in the nine months of July – March: KIBOR is 14.10 percent March; KIBOR is 14.10 percent after 13 years and 6-month treas-ury bills at 14.99 percent after 22

years. Interestingly, this is happening in spite of record proceeds from exports, remittances and taxes, he added.

While proposing the imposition of an economic emergency a few days back, FPCCI President has also expressed his willingness to engage with the government in a productive consultative process to productive consultative process to take on the economic challenges collectively in the broader national interest. INP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Iran Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini called on Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf at parliament house.

# Possibility of increase in interest rates by SBP perturbed businessmen: Mian Zahid

KARACHI: National Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance and Former Provincial Minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that the business community is perturbed over the possibility of further increase in interest rates by the central bank.

In a statement issued here on Friday, he said that further increases in inter-est rates will affect businesses while inflation will rise, so before taking such a step, its implications should be considered as it will harm the economy, he

Mian Zahid Hussain said that raising interest rates would increase the cost of debt servicing, the private sector would feel the pain, the cost of doing business would increase, many businesses would close, jobs would be reduced, exports would be affected and investment would be affected.
"The move will hit the growth rate which is already unsatisfactory," he maintained. The business leader said

that a continuous decline that a continuous decline in the foreign exchange reserves of the central bank for several months, continuity of unnecessary imports, sharp rise in prices of oil, gas and other commodities in the international market and the IMF's demand for the elimination of oil subsi-dies have made the situa-

tion worrisome.
The increase in interest on loans given to the com-mercial banks by the government is adding to the problems.Mian Zahid Hussain said that commer-cial banks are reportedly in agreement to get more profit on loans, which

merits an investigation. The previous government had estimated that the fiscal deficit would be up to Rs3.9 trillion but unnecessary and wasteful expenditure has aggravated the situation and now Finance Minister Miftah Ismail says that the fiscal deficit could increase to Rs6.4 trillion which would be equal to ten percent of

the GDP.

In such a situation, when the government has only a few hundred rupees left and the affairs are get-ting out of hand, it would be better to take foreign loans instead of borrowing from local sources and this would also reduce the dif-

would also reduce the dif-ficulties in making the upcoming budget.

There is a possibility for economic cooperation by the IMF, Saudi Arabia and China in view of the good governance of Mian Chink Sharif If that governance of Mian Shahbaz Sharif, If that happened, then it would be very good for Pakistan. India and Bangladesh do not need IMF loans but

Pakistan cannot function without the help of international institutions because its economic model is flawed. At pres-ent, there is a need to plan a workable strategy.INP

# meeting. In a statement issued here on Friday, he said that the menace of loadshedding has swept across the country leaving the trial activities while the uninter-rupted and affordable power supply was essential for acceler-ated economic growth of the Diesel crisis destroying

outages irks people: Rasheed ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt has said that people who buy the most expensive electricity in the region should not be punished

agriculture sector, power

In a statement issued here on Friday, he said that the masses should not be penalized but action should be taken against those responsible for the crisis.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that long load shedding is an injustice to the people fasting in the holy month.

He noted that the shortage of diesel is further affecting the devastated agriculture. Storage of fuel and black marketing is also being carried out in different areas against

which farmers are also protesting.

The diesel crisis is engulfing the country but con-

cerned departments are relying on positive statements, he said, adding that scarcity of fuel was affecting wheat sowing and cotton cultivation which should be taken seriously by authorities. The business leader said that on the one hand, there was a shortfall in the import of diesel and on the other hand, the oil mafia has started stockpiling it due to the possibility of a price hike after the IMF demanded an end to oil subsidy. Some oil marketing companies have also cut supply so that billions of rupees can be earned overnight due to the expected increase in prices of fuel INP

# "Juma-tul-Wida" offered at Faisal Masjid

ISLAMABAD: Faithful from twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad offered 'Juma-tul-Wida' with great religious solemnity and fervor here at Faisal

Director General Dawah Academy, Dr. Muhammad Iyas delivered Jumma sermon and led Juma tul Wida Prayer at Faisal Masjid, Islamabad.

In the sermon, Dr. Muhammad Ilyas highlighted the importance and sanctity of the month of Ramzan ul Mûbarik and last ten days ibadah of Muslim during aitekaf at mosques. He emphasized on the importance of the study of Quran stating that the Holy Month is the best source to get close to the sacred book

He said that this month is a blessing and a gift for Muslims to get back to the track which has been identified by the Almighty. He stressed to observe remaining few days of Ramadan with full spirit while saying that it teaches about tolerance in the life.

Dr. Ilyas called for unity of Muslims and urged that education must be top priority to deal with the challenges of hour. He said that Islam is the religion of peace and moderation and Muslims must disseminate true message of Islam. On this occasion he also prayed for the peace and prosperity of the country. INP

#### Modern techniques can help boost fishing sector in Pakistan: WealthPK

(PBUH). Madina.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has significant potential in boosting fish exports if research is con-ducted to expand the resource base and catching techniques are mod-

"Modern technology can help Pakistan improve fish production and exports, and protect the environment at the same time," Zahid Mehmood Akhter, an assistant professor and coordinator of the economic department at the National University of Modern Languages. Islamabad, WealthPK

"Modern boats and cut-ting-edge fishing equip-ment need to be introduced on a priority basis as this will not only help control overfishing and marine pollution but also protect fish resources," he said. "The government

should develop the mar-itime fisheries infrastructure and also extend financial support to the fishing communities," he The NUML teacher

stressed that sustainable development of the fisheries sector can be attained through evolving proper mechanisms with input from academia media and the people involved in fishing trade. Meanwhile, Dr Sajid Mehmood Shahzad, Vice-Chancellor of Minhaj University, Lahore,

underscored that the strategically-located Gwadar Port can play a big role in boosting Pakistan's fisheries sector. He said the development of port infrastructure on Chinese assistance and modern lines China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has the potential to turn.INP

# NOTICE INVITING TENDER

MADINA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at Roza-e-Rasool (PBUH) after offering Jumma Prayer at Masjid-e-Nabwi

> The Executive Engineer (Building), CW, PP&H Department, Quetta invites sealed bids from eligible bidders who can prove their eligibility and qualification as mentioned in the bidding documents for the work mentioned below. The estimated cost and other information of works are as under percentage tender based on Composite Schedule of Rates 2018, Government of Balochistan amended up-to-date from interested contractors/firms for the work listed below under BPPRA Rules. Bid Security @ 2%, Tender Fee Rs.3000-In shape of green challan form deposited in head of account (C-02716) and Time Limit 24 Months for the work.

i. No Name of Work
1. Construction of Media Town in Quetta. PSDP
No.1635/2021-22 Z2021.1211

251204000/

The office of the Executive Engineer (Building), CW, PP&H Department, Quetta invites technical proposal of Contractors/firms along with sealed financial proposals (Single Stage-Two Envelope Bidding Procedure) for above mentioned works from interested firms / Contractors, All interested bidders are required to submit documents as per following brief in support of their technical/Financial proposal:The procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory, Rules 2014 and Pakistan Engineering Council By-Laws.BASIC ELIGIBILITY: The Contractor must have fresh valid registration i.e 2020-2021 registered with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in category C-3 and above with specialized codes of (CE-01, CE-09 & CE-10) and registration with tax authorities i.e (NTN, Sales Tax Department and BRA). The Technical Proposal shall consist of the Following Documents: Name of Firm / Contractor with year of the establishment along with the postal address and telephone number. Name of Technical Supervisory staff / Management Staff along with their qualifications/experience and proof of their stay with the firm, with fresh affidavit as per criteria specified in bidding data. Number of Projects similar nature in hand and completed (Details should be given as per criteria specified in bidding documents). Fresh Registration / Clearance from income tax Department and BRA Original must show on Submission / Opening the technical Proposals. As per BPPRA rule 25 sub rule (2) serial 3 only one bid can be submitted against one NTN.Detail Financial Soundness with required Turn Over given as per criteria specified in the Bidding Documents. Undertaking on judicial stamp paper that the firm was never black listed by any Government / Semi-Government Organization. It is mandatory that the Contractor must show the original fresh PEC valid registration i.e. 30th June 2022 with the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) on the time of submission/opening the Technical Proposals. The Financial Proposal shall consist of the Following Documents: Detail BOQ with Quoted Rates in sealed enveloped the name & Title of the coheren Bid Security © 2 % of bid quoted amount. mentioned the name & Title of the scheme. Bid Security @ 2 % of bid quoted amount must be in the form of call deposit in favor of the office Name of the under signed from a scheduled bank of Pakistan. No any Pay Order, Bank Drafts & Banker Cheque will be acceptable. BIDDING / TENDER DOCUMENTS: The Contractors/firms having registered with PEC in the relevant category & relevant discipline can obtain the bidding documents from the address mentioned below on the production of green challan form an amount mentioned above (non-refundable) deposited through the Government Treasury/National Bank of Pakistan or can be downloaded from website of BPPRA, from the date of publication of this invitation in newspapers/ BPPRA website till 16-05-2022, at 11:00 PM. The contractors/firms who obtain Bidding documents by downloading them from the BPPRA website will also be requise be required to produce deposited green challan form of above-mentioned fee. The documents if requested by mail will be promptly dispatched by registered mail for which cost of mail will be borne by the applicant, however, under no circumstances the Procy will be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the documents so mailed. Earnest Money as mentioned above should be submitted in the form of Call Deposit from a scheduled Bank DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION: Technical and financial proposals from intending contractors/firms sealed in two separate envelopes clearly marked with Work title & type of proposal must be delivered by hand or through registered mail to the address mentioned below on or before 16-05-2022 at 11:00 on the same day 16-05-2022 at 12:00 Hrs before the procurement committee in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend. The Second sealed envelope containing "fids" of technically responsive/qualified bidders will be opened later, the date of which will be communicated after evaluation of the technical bids.Bids.Validity: Ninety (90) days.Place; The place of issuance, submission, inquiries and opening will be The office of the Executive Engineer (Building), CW, PP&H Department at Spinny Road Quetta office Phone No. 081-9213555. Note: It may be noted that no Pay Order will be Accepted/Entertained and firm's complete Title/Name should be written on the Call

Deposit. Only original contractors are allowed to participate in the tender's, agent /

must provide authority letter along with CNIC

PRO NO.3530.29-04-2022

CW, PP&H Department, Quetta Phone No. 081-9213555 🕏 www.dpr.gob.pk. 💌 @dpr\_gob 🙍 dpr.gob 👍 @dgpr.balochis

# Pakistan, China to work together for agricultural mechanization

BEIJING: Pakistan, China have reiterated their resolve working together for agricultural mechanization, Economic Net reported on Friday.

"Slow adoption of mechanization technology has been a key reason for low yields and ineffi-ciencies in agriculture in Pakistan, resulting in lower profit for farmers''. said Dr. Muhammad Waqar Akram, a lecturer in the Department of Farm Machinery and Power, University of Agriculture Faisalabad.

attending 18 Agriculture of China-Workshop

Pakistan Regional Innovation Institute for Pakistan Modern Agriculture organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China and undertaken by Jiangsu

University.
The five-month workshop, starting from the end of March, provides inclusive training on the usage and maintenance of modern agricultural machinery, field management, water saving irrigation, food processing, etc.

According to Dr. Muhammad Waqar Akram, There are no updated existing proper studies or surveys conducted on the present status of farm mechanization in Pakistan.

However, according to rough studies, the utilization of Agricultural machinery and adoption rate is very low. "In Pakistan, farm mechanization has been limited to few basic tools

for land preparation and outdated models of combined harvesters when harvesting grain crops", he said. Infusion of the right mechanization technology will be crucial for the productivity increase and growth of agriculture in Pakistan.

In his opinion, the machines that should be popular and common in

Pakistan are related to rice, cotton, maize and sugarcane crop as these are the major crops of Pakistan, but usage of machinery for these crops is very less or zero, for example, planters for cot-ton, maize and sugarcane crops, transplanter for rice crop, cotton picker for cotton crop, maize

harvesters, sugarcane harvesters, drone spraying technology, etc.

The planters and harvesters/diggers for vegetables and other crops also has huge potential to be applied in a wide scope.

He also noted that due to the seasonal nature of

the agriculture, the farm machinery remains idle for much of the time. unnecessary incurring high costs unless proper alternate use of such machinery in the off-sea son is made. To cope with this situation, multi-crop lanters and multi-crop harvesters have huge potential to be applied in wide scope. Lack of awareness, low

standard manufacturing of agricultural machinery, lack of repair and replacement facilities especially in the remote rural areas, absence of standardization of agricultural machinery, and cultural machinery, and weak knowledge.INP

ISLAMABAD, : A top government official and economic development specialist says China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is moving in the right direction, creating a wealth of opportunities for the economic revival of Pakistan, reports WealthPK.

In an interview with WealthPK, Dr. Hassan Daud Butt, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade (KP-BOIT) and former project director of CPEC, said CPEC was moving in the right direction, and currently, more expansion was happening under it. He said CPEC had created a lot of opportunities for the economic revival of Pakistan.

"Under CPEC, involvement of stakeholders from both countries is constantly growing and their interests are also increasing. It is bringing synergy in many areas at government to government business to business and

also increasing. It is bringing synergy in many areas at government to government, business to business and gross-root levels", he said.

Under the multibillion-dollar project, he added, a platform was being established for relocation of Chinese

and global enterprises.

All projects under CPEC – including socioeconomic, agriculture, road infrastructure and other sectors – have great importance and are benefiting the country. So, CPEC is creating a win-win situation. Now it has also increased discussion about integration of supply chains.

"CPEC has also increased bilateral cooperation at the higher education level. On the academician side, higher education institutions are now looking for exploring new areas. Interaction among academicians has increased and collaboration in research and development is also growing. We are learning from China and have



QUETTA: People buying flour and Suger from mobile utility store.

## Four injured in Bajaur bomb blast

BAJAUR: As many as four people were injured in a bomb explosion here on Friday, police said.

DSP Gulzar Khan said that the blast took place in Airab area of tehsil Mamund in district Bajaur after lumma prayers at 3 pm

Jumma prayers at 3pm.

In bomb explosion four people including Aziz ur Rehman s/o Gul Muhammad, Shatar s/o Sher Gul, Noor Hussain s/o Muhammad Din and Khan s/o Saeed were injured

The injured were shifted to DHQ Hospital Khar where they were referred to Peshawar due to critical

condition.

The police after registering a case into the incident have started an investigation.INP

#### Governor disposes of appeal of BZU affiliated colleges, law students

LAHORE: Governor/Chancellor Omer Sarfraz Cheema disposed of the appeal of Bahauddin Zakaria University affiliated colleges and law

He instructed the university to make arrangements for conducting immedi-

ate examinations of students. Furthermore, Omer Sarfraz Cheema also directed to take strict disciplinary action against the affiliated colleges for violating the rules in accordance with the university rules and regulations. He issued instructions to the University Syndicate to implement the recommendations of the Probe Committee and submit a report within 40 days.INP

### Man killed, two injured in motorcycles collision

CHINIOT: One person was killed and two others injured in collision between two over speeding motorcy-cles here, police said on Friday.

According to details, two over speeding motorcycle collided head-on at Lahore road near Police Line in

A motorcyclist Shahid Ali was killed in the accident while Ali Abbas and Nasir Ali were injured.

The body and injured were shifted to District Headquarter Hospital.INP

#### **Imran visits Chinese** Embassy, offers condolences over Karachi University blast

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan visited the Chinese Embassy to meet the Charge d Affaires of China and offered his condolences on the Karachi University van blast, Dunya News reported on Friday.

According to details, the former Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed deep sorrow and grief over the inci-

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman said that he is equally griev-ing over the deceased as their families. The former Prime Minister also stated that the relation of Pakistan and China and their partnership is what our enemies cannot bear. INP

#### New rules framed tightening security at Karachi University

KARACHI: The government on Friday decided to tighten security on the premises of Karachi University (KU) after the recent incident of suicide bombing.

According to the KU management, the security of foreigners including the Chinese has been tightened. The Chinese nationals have been prevented from moving have been prevented from moving without security.

From now on, no one will be allowed to enter Karachi University without being thoroughly checked, and, a walkthrough gate will be installed at the entrance of the university.

Anyone carrying steel, iron and ammunition inside the university will be arrested, and, only two lanes will be reserved for the students and staff to enter the university.INP

# Pakistan imbued with spirit of religious freedom, inter-faith harmony: Masood Khan

WASHINGTON DC,
Ambassador of Pakistan to the
United States, Masood Khan has
said that Pakistan is a country
imbued with the spirit of religious
freedom and inter-faith harmony.

"Ours is a plurally to spirit and was reedom and inter-faith harmony. "Ours is a pluralist society and we promote respect for diversity", he said. The Ambassador was addressing an interfaith Iftar dinner hosted by the Embassy of Pakistan in which members of the Muslim, Cristian, Jewish, Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist faiths participated and spoke. A large number pated and spoke. A large number of State Department and National Security Council officers, Congressional staff, members of the think tanks and prominent Pakistani-Americans attended the event. The keynote speaker was Ambassador Rashad Hussain, United States' Ambassador at large for International Religious Freedom. Ambassador Masood Khan said that fasting, practiced in all religions in one form or the other, promotes sacrifice, discipline, fortitude and empathy with the poor. "Ramadan is a great

equalizer. Rich and poor, privileged and underprivileged all experience hunger and thirst and together strive for physical and spiritual cleansing", he said.

The Ambassador said that Pakistan was trying to create a democratic society where all citizens enjoyed equal rights, without discrimination. Father Dan Rooney, Dr. Talib M. Shareef, Rabbi Lustig, Bhante Upartana, Ms. Lee Bachu, Mr. Jasvinder Singh highlighted the themes of peace, religious harmony and peace, religious harmony and respect for human rights. Rashad Hussain, US' Ambassador on Religious Freedom lauded Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's vision for religious freedom, protection of rights of all minorities and a polity based on the tenets of equality and tolerance for all. The famous anthropologist and a renowned author, Dr. Akbar S. Ahmad cited the last letter of Prophet's life written to the Monks of Mount Sinai which had affirmed protection of the rights of the minorities.INP

# SHC admits plea seeking order for surgery of four ailing elephants

KARACHI: Admitting the petition, seeking court order for conducting the surgery of four ailing African elephants at Karachi's zoo and Safari Park, for immediate hearing, the Sindh High Court (SHC) on Friday sought replies from the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), the advocate general and others by the third week of May.

In his petition, Abbas Laghari Advocate said that on December 22, 2021, a foreign veterinary, in his report, had recommended surgery of these elephants namely Malaika, Sonu, Noor Jahan and Madho Bala keeping in view their deteriorating health. "But so far they have not been operat-ed upon," the petition read.

The petitioner went on to add that Malaika and Sohnu had been kept in a cage at Safari Park while Noor Jahan and Madho Bala at the zoo. "Keeping these animals chained for 14 to 15 hours may have life threatening consequences," he said, and added, "Another issue is that when these elephants keep stand-ing at a certain place for so many hours, it makes the ground they are standing on filthy. And when this happens, their feet develop infection which is the most common cause of death in ele-

Abbas Advocate prayed to the court to order removal of these elephants from their cages so that they could be kept at open

places. He also sought court order for the management of the zoo as well as the Safari Park to get these elephants operated upon.

# ECP rejects PTI's plea seeking Yousaf Raza Gillani's disqualification

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday rejected PTI pleas seeking disqualification of for-mer Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani over a video scan-dal of his son Ali Haider Gillani.

The ECP announced its verdict reserved on Pakistan Tehreeke-e-Insaf (PTI) pleas on

A three-member bench, headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, heard the disqualification case against Yousaf Raza Gillani over a video scandal of

his son. The Election Commission pronounced its judgement say-ing that PPP senior leader and former prime minister Yousaf Raza Gilani would continue to remain senator while disposing of the PTI's petitions challeng-

ing education summit.

ing his election.
In its ruling, the ECP said that the commission was not presented with correct facts in the Yousaf Raza Gilani case. As

many as 20 hearings of the case were held and I2 times the hearings were adjourned.

The verdict in this case has not been reserved even for one

However, the district election commissioner has been directed

to register a case against Ali
Haider Gilani for employing
corrupt political practices.
The ECP ordered to launch an
inquiry against Ali Haider,
Faheem Khan and Captain
Lamil for corrupt practices. Jamil for corrupt practices.

The commission has announced judgement on the PTI petitions submitted by Farrukh Habib, Maleeka Bokhari, Kanwal Shauzab and Aliya Hamza INP

started creating special technology zones", Dr. Hassan Daud Butt added.

He said CPEC had demonstrated that Pakistan in a very less time could attract investment of \$28 billion in different sectors including energy, projects under the private public partnership.

"CPEC is also bringing novelty in many sectors. Under the private-public partnership, new avenues were introduced such as Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in which China is also a partner. Such projects were never conceived before. You can see development at Gwadar; it's again in the public-private partnership mode and such development did not happen in the last 70 years", he highlighted.

Dr Butt added that in the current circumstances, Pakistan needed industrial development and creation of an enabling environment to attract investment. CPEC is pushing the country in this direction. So SEZs are being constructed to attract industry by focusing on the manufacturing sector or efficiency seeking industry, particularly in the mobile phone or high-tech industry.

"CPEC has brought these things in our household discussions. For example, the media is discussing why the industrial sector is not developing fast. Before it, only politics was discussed in the media.

Again, I will compliment CPEC in which we are seeing Chinese development whether it is socioeconomic development or industrial development as a model. Our prime minister has presented China as an example multiple times because it has done unprecedented things in human history and achieved great benefits of globalization. China has become a factory of the world and research studies suggest that it will also remain so in future? The said INP

# Senate Body on Communication takes briefing from NHA on its recommendations

ISLAMABAD: Meeting of the Senate Standing committee on Communications was held under the Chairmanship of Senator Prince Ahmed Umer Ahmedzai here at the Parliament House on Friday to take briefing by the National Highway Authority (NHA) on the status of the recommendations by the Senate Standing committee in its meetings from July,

While inquiring about the mechanism for the toll plaza rates escalation the committee was apprised that the toll rates applicable to national highway shall be approved by the National Highway executive Board and the NHA has the authority to increase toll levels to meet the ever rising maintenance need. It was also informed that the increase is based on results in form of Robotic Process Automation RPA or (Constant Prepayment Yield) CPY or inflation (source Economic Survey of Pakistan by MoF) and the time period for escalation is three years or as need arises.

The NHA presented that the 10 pc annual toll esca-The NHA presented that the 10 pc annual toll escalation shall be applied from the 2nd operational year till 12th year of concession period and the 07 pc annual escalation shall be applied from the 13th year of concession period till last year of the concession period for the toll Rates Mechanism for Build-Operate-Transfer BOT PPP Contract as per the concession agreement M-2. Senator Kamil Ali Agha the law under which toll rates are determined. inquired on the law under which toll rates are determined and escalated and also sought briefing on the legal authenticity of the Concession Agreement (M-2).

The committee also showed concern over the rising rates of the tuck shops and restaurants with a cost of tea @ of Rs. 60 per cup on the motor way service areas. The committee recommended the NHA to give more powers to the district magistrate and the Price magistrate as to monitor and control the service rates of the motorway outlets. The committee also recommended paying surprise visits in order to control fair prices on the items at the service areas.

The NHA also presented before the committee the

plan for decongestion and up gradation of national highways. The NHA has planned to enhance the Traffic Capacity and level of services of Lahore—Gujranwala section and Rawalpindi-Hassan-abdal section or N-5 through construction of additional lease. The NHA eleasurement of the deduces the lanes. The NHA also presented that to address the congestion on urbanized sections of the national highways the local administration through local police must ensure that rickshaws motorcyclist, Qing Qi to use extreme outer lanes so that the main traffic can

move freely
While discussing the filling of the vacant positions of woman, minorities and disables quota the committee was informed that the NHA is not making recruitments for more than 5 years now and the judgment of the Supreme Court is awaited in this regard. The com-mittee showed dissatisfaction over the indefinite answer of the NHA authorities and directed to take proper steps to fill seats of the disable and the minorities. The NHA presented the summary of the sanctioned and the working employees in the NHA including the 2 pc disabled quota and 6 pc Baluchistan quota.

The meeting was attended by Senator Saifullah Abro, Kamil Ali Agha, Danesh Kumar, Abida Muhammad Azeem, Shamim Afridi, and Senator Muhammad Akram. Secretary Communications and other senior officers of the attached department were also in attendance.INP

#### K-Electric announces new load shedding schedule till Eid

KARACHI: The K-Electric has announced new load shedding sched-ule for the metropolis till

Eid.
Spokesman of KElectric said that Bin
Qasim Power Plant III of
the K-Electric was nonfunctional despite a delay of one year due to which the city will have to wit-ness additional load shedding till Eid.

He said that closure of

business activities during Eid holidays can improve the power supply situa-

the power supply situa-tion.

The spokesman said that K-Electric was facing 300 megawatt shortfall. Non-provision of required fuel has also affected the power supply, he added.INP

#### Hajj applications to be received from May 1 to 13

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Mufti Abdul Shakoor on Friday Shakoor on Friday announced that applica-tions for Hajj will be received from Sunday to

May 13. Mufti Abdul Shakoor addressing a press confer-ence in Islamabad said applicants will deposit token money of fifty

token money of fifty thousand rupees.

It is to be noted that Saudi Arabia has allotted second-highest quota of Hajj pilgrims to Pakistan after the Kingdom allowed one million people to perform the holy pilgrimage this year.INP

### Pakistan reels under intense heat wave,

PESHAWAR: Pakistan issued a heat warning after the hottest March in 61 years as heat wave touched highs of 47 degrees Celsius (116.6 Fahrenheit) in parts of the country on Friday.

Federal Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman in a statement urged the federal and provincial governments to take precautionary meas-

take precautionary measures to manage the intense heat wave.

"South Asia, particular-ly India and Pakistan are faced with what has been a record-breaking heatwave. It started in early April and continues to leave the people gasping in whatever shade they find."INP

# PIA inducts airbus 320 in its fleet: Saad Rafique

International Airlines (PIA) has inducted Airbus 320 in its fleet after the plane landed at Islamabad

International Airport on Friday.
The details of the plane were shared by Federal Minister for Aviation and Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique from his Twitter handle. He shared that the plane was

acquired on lease.

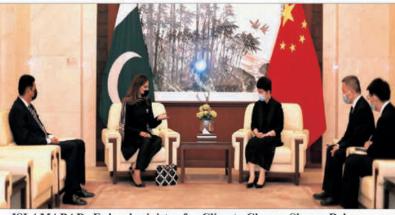
"The plane comprises of 170 seats and will begin its operations after Eid," he said adding, three more plane will be added to PIA fleet in next couple of months.

Saad Rafique said that the induction of new planes will help in smoothly running PIA operations. Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has recently launched the modern Airbus A-320 simulator for the training of pilots, refresher courses and air safety. The PIA CEO Arshad Malik

launched the modern Airbus A-320 simulator which is the first simulator of its kind in the entire region.

Arshad Malik said that the simu-Arshad Mark said that the simulator complex is being established for the training of pilots in which Airbus A-320, Boeing 777 and jumbo jet simulators are available under one roof. He added that other airlines are also contacting the national airline for the training of their pilots.

He said that it takes usually many years to install the simulators but the PIA team completed its installation work within only five



ISLAMABAD: Federal minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman meet

## 'Supporters' of Shahzain **Bugti allegedly attack Qasim** Suri in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: The supporters of Shahzain Bugti, President of Jamhoori Wattan Party (JWP) and Federal Minister for Narcotics Control, allegedly attacked former National Assembly deputy speaker Qasim Suri at a private hotel in Islamabad in retaliation of what happened to Shahzain in Madinah.

The attack came shortly after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his coterie of ministers were catcalled and jeered at allegedly by the supporters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf PTI) at Masjid-e-Nabawi (Prophet's Mosque) in Madinah.

Epithets like "chor chor" (thieves), traitors and beggars were hurled at them by the protesters.

It is to be noted here that the Shehbaz Sharif-led delegation is on a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia. The delegation comprises newly sworn-in Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Shahzain Bugti, and other government offi-

Talking to media persons in Madinah, Marriyum Aurangzeb indirectly blamed Imran Khan and his party workers for the protest at Masjid-e-Nabawi.

"I will not name this person on this holy land because I do not want to use this land for politics. But they have destroyed the [Pakistani] society, she had said.

The protest at Masjid-e-Nabawi drew criticism from the people belonging to all walks of life. People including Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Maulana Tariq Jamil, Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi, Hafiz Hamdullah, Shahid Afridi, Muhammad Yousaf, Reham Khan, and others vehemently con-

# Standardised stone quarries can generate huge revenue for Pakistan: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: World-class dimension stone quarries can be developed at several points in Pakistan which can generate handsome revenue and create

job opportunities.
Haroonur Rasheed, Director Mining (South Region) Mohmand Dada Minerals Mining Company, said while talking to WealthPK that the potential of Pakistan in this sector remains untapped

He pointed out that only in the area of Nagarparkar in Sindh province, at least 15-20 world-class quarries can be developed. "From this area, Pakistan can get a regular income of at least \$100 million in normal circumstances. Pakistan can earn handsome revenue from surface rent, and it will help local communities for a sustainable livelihood," he said.

Haroonur Rasheed said that due to the lack of marble/granite mining in Pakistan, imported synthetic tiles are used in multiple building projects.

"The availability of marble/granite to a large extent will help Pakistan keep the precious foreign exchange," he stated. He also shared that 10 to 20 world

class quarries can be developed in the areas of Gilgit-Baltistan, and 30-35 quarries can be set up in Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa province.

"Although a large area in Balochistan province is still unexplored, still 10-15 quarries can be opened there as well. The Government of Pakistan must put emphasis on touching the international

emphasis on touching the international standards for the socio-economic prosperity of its people," he stated.

Sharing his views with WealthPK, Yaqoob Shah, Principal Geologist/Resident Representative in Global Mining Company (Pvt) Ltd. Islamabad, said that systematic mining is an important element to reap the maxis an important element to reap the max-imum yield of minerals. "Preventing the loss of precious earth products must be made mandatory. World-class quarry development in Pakistan is the need of time. Awareness to adopt scientific and systematic mining is needed to make systematic mining is needed to make this sector environment-friendly," he said. Assistant Director Mukhtiar Ghani from Geological Survey of Pakistan (Peshawar office) in discussion. INP

