

QUETTA VOICE

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Saturday 30
April, 2022

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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 resolution condemning the terrorist attack against Chinese nationals outside the Karachi university the other day. Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo, provincial ministers, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran, Noor Muhammad Dumar, Muhammad Khan Lehari, 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 traditions", 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 terrorist attack and vowed to defend the country and nation. They said that such coward acts would not harm time-tested and historic relations between Pakistan and China. "Nobody can harm strong ties between Pakistan and China through such coward acts of terrorism", Mir Qudus Bizenjo, Chief Minister of Balochistan

said. He termed targeting teachers and guests as against the Baloch norms and values. 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 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 Ulama 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 condemned 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 Qudus 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 opposition benches condemned the supporters of the former ruling party, Pakistan Tehrik e Insaaf (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 Ulama e Islam (JUI) said. The session of the assembly began here with Qadir



Nail, the chairman of the panel on Friday. The house adopted a condemnation resolution against the untoward incident in the holy place. "This is unacceptable and the perpetrators should be brought to justice", Mir Ziaullah Langove, the Balochistan Home

Minister said. Members from treasury and opposition benches lashed out at the former Prime Minister Imran Khan for promoting the politics of hatred and intolerance in the country. "Treason cases should be filed against the elements involved in chanting slogans 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 (ANP) also condemned the incident and demanded stern action against the perpetrators of the incident. The house expressed serious concern over the untoward incident in the holy place and termed it a conspiracy against Pakistan and Saudi Arabia relations.

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

Maulana Fazl. Ashrafi, Shahid Afridi, condemn desecration of Islam's second holiest place by political zealots

MADINAH: The social media is brimming with scathing criticism being poured on the PTI activists 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 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

has become the top trend on Twitter on Friday. The deplorable incident even impelled the Saudi government to arrest the sacrilegious elements who not only defiled the sanctity of the holy mosque but also embarrassed their honoured guests. The Saudi government took into custody as many as 150 people in this regard. In a video uploaded last night, Information Minister Mariyum Aurangzeb and member of the National Assembly and federal minister Shahzain Bugti were seen along with others. Ms Aurangzeb indirectly blamed former prime minister Imran Khan (who has ironically been vociferous for establishing Madinah state model in Pakistan) for giving directions 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 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



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

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 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-Nabawi. On Thursday, a group PTI supporters violated the sanctity of the Masjid-e-Nabwi 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-Rasool (PBUH). 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 Mariyum Aurangzeb, Shahzain Bugti, Mohsin Dawar, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, 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 hair. INP

Police register FIR against attack on Qasim Suri in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police on Friday registered a case against attack on former Deputy 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 friends. Some anti-PTI elements 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 Market for Sehri. However, Qasim Suri 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 invitation to his Pakistani counterpart to visit Russia. The Russia's foreign minister conveyed to Bilawal his country's desire to take steps to strengthen the bilateral ties. INP

CM Bizenjo approves 15% disparity allowance for government employees

Staff Reporter

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo has approved a 15% disparity reduction allowance for government employees. The allowance would be paid to the employees from grade-1 to 19 on a basic salary, an official handout issued by the Chief Minister's Secretariat said on Thursday night. This was one of the longstanding demands of government employees. "We welcome this approval by the CM Balochistan", Abdul Malik Kakar, the central leader of the Balochistan Employees and Workers Government Alliance (BEWGA) said. Summary for approval to be sent to the provincial cabinet. The summary for the approval would be sent to the provincial cabinet very soon. The allowance would be paid to the employees from March 1st, 2022. The Balochistan gov-



ernment would bear an additional financial burden of Rs.4 bs, the official handout stated. "Government should address all our outstanding 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.

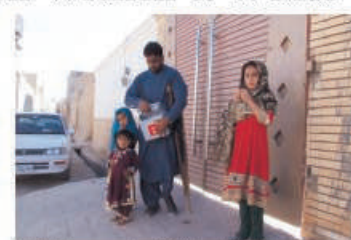
Punjab CM-elect Hamza Shehbaz moves LHC for third time

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister-elect Hamza Shehbaz on Friday filed a constitutional petition in the Lahore High Court (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 taking oath of his office unconstitutional. In his petition, in which he made both the federal and Punjab governments 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 order. 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-taking ceremony. Only two days ago, (Wednesday, April 27, 2022), LHC Chief Justice (CJ) Muhammad Amir Bhatti had ordered Punjab Governor Omer Sarfaraz Cheema to administer the oath to Chief Minister-elect Hamza Sharif on Thursday or appoint another person who could administer 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-taking. 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 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

Second poliovirus case reported from North-Waziristan within a week

Health Desk

Pakistan reported a second poliovirus case within one week from North Waziristan 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 bells among the polio volunteers 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 district North Waziristan, K-P. The girl had onset of paralysis on 14 April 2022," an official statement said. Pakistan had reported only one



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 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 Ulama 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 Insaaf (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 credibility 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 the holy place. 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 premier. 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, Mariyum 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.

Local bodies elections are scheduled to be held on May 29th throughout Balochistan except Quetta and Lasbella districts because of some delimitation issues.

For instance, in Pishin's Chur Badzai and Toorkhail union councils, the election commission has made one ward comprising 32 voters, whereas, another ward comprising of more than 5,000 voters.

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.

This daily has received scores of complaints regarding the flaws in the establishment of new wards and delimitation of union councils.

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.

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

By Dr Naazir Mahmood

Ever since Imran Khan faced a defeat in the vote of no-confidence in the National Assembly, the former prime minister and his coterie have been talking about a foreign conspiracy.

The NSC issued a statement recently 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 government.

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 covered both the content and context of the telegram.

power. The chiefs of air, army, and naval forces were present in the meeting as was the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee.

When such a top leadership is in consonance and examines the contents of the communication, there is no question of any partiality or favouritism or vice versa.

The PTI chairman and all its leaders and activists are pedaling a highly dangerous narrative that Imran Khan was ousted by a 'foreign conspiracy'. This they are doing by continuously referring to a cable containing 'evidence' of the conspiracy.

that no foreign interference should be acceptable under any circumstances, but first there has to be some evidence of interference.

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 the country's diplomacy.

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 Pakistan's Foreign Office.

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.

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.

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.

The entire PTI leadership 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 real-time understanding of internal or foreign affairs, and possessed only some rudimentary knowledge of as critical a matter as education.

Disruptive and dangerous

By Ghazi Salahuddin

With my absence 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.

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.

I need to explain that this is a long distance view, not sure how being in Europe for over a week now would influence my emotional response to what is happening in Pakistan.

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 entering, in that respect, a dangerous territory.

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 democracy.

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.

There is a manifest lack of civility in the PTI's political activities and pronouncements. This is how the seeds of fascism are being planted in Pakistan's body politic.

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 expression 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.

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 happened on the campus of a university, with the involvement of post-graduate students.

But, in the immediate context, Imran Khan is riding a wave, propelled by an inherent capacity of our people for protest and airing of grievances.

manner during the Supreme Court hearing earlier this month. Lawyer Salahuddin Ahmed had drawn a historical parallel to the PTI's refusal to count the votes in the National Assembly: Germany, 1933.

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.

Now, will the revelations about Imran Khan's stint in power that are beginning to emerge matter for his followers? Ostensibly, not, though the Toshakhana story in itself is sufficient indictment of a leader who was put on a pedestal as incorruptible.

But, in the immediate context, Imran Khan is riding a wave, propelled by an inherent capacity of our people for protest and airing of grievances.

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.

So, how is this situation likely to develop? On Thursday, an expectedly large rally in Lahore concluded the first phase of the PTI protest. Here, Imran Khan announced the launching of a movement for 'haqiqi azadi'.

In his Lahore speech, Imran Khan claimed that he did not want a violent confrontation and he obliquely asked those who exercised power in this country, in a deviation from his insistence that he was ousted through a 'foreign conspiracy' to make amends for the mistake that was made.

What a civil war would actually mean is too scary to imagine. Yet a very toxic and socially disruptive polarization is visibly taking shape.

Climate reparations

By Daniel Willis

A rapidly closing window to secure a livable future

That's the sobering assessment made by scientists on the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which earlier this week published its latest report, on the impacts of the climate crisis.

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 are in 'west-, central- and east Africa, south Asia, Central and South America, small island developing states and the Arctic'.

Not only are these countries and communities faced with displacement, food shortages,

water insecurity and 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 negotiations.

Last 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 money to compensate for the loss and damage already being suffered by frontline communities.

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 compensation has also been heavily resisted at every previous COP.

Meanwhile, frontline communities, such as in Sub-Saharan African, South East Asia and small island states in the Pacific and Caribbean, continue to lose homes, livelihoods and families to the climate crisis.

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 gathering storm

Zamir Akram

War clouds have once again gathered over Afghanistan. Even as American's longest war in its history has ended, the Afghan people are unlikely to enjoy the dividends of peace.

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.

Rejecting Taliban claims, the Afghan government has asserted that its forces are regrouping to halt the Taliban advance and will retake lost territory.

and Uzbek militia to boost the capabilities of its troops while relying heavily on military support by Washington and New Delhi.

Prime Minister Imran Khan is correct in stating that the Americans made a mess in Afghanistan. Now they are leaving a mess behind. Instead of ensuring a peaceful transition, the Biden administration has rushed for the exits.

In these circumstances, Afghanistan will not only face further devastation but will also be denied the benefits of its potential role as a hub for regional connectivity.

A more sinister aspect of such Indo-

US cooperation, underscored by the meeting between Secretary Blinken and Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, is that Indian and Afghan intelligence agencies would feel encouraged to intensify support for terrorist groups like the TTP and Baloch separatists against Pakistan.

The Chechens, Uzbeks, Uighurs of the ETIM and ISIS will also gain greater freedom of action to increasingly target China, Russia and Iran.

In these circumstances, Afghanistan will not only face further devastation but will also be denied the benefits of its potential role as a hub for regional connectivity.

Pakistan, China, Russia and Iran converge on the need for a peaceful transition in Afghanistan and avoidance of a renewed civil war.

China, Russia and Iran 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.

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.

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.

Migration & health

Arif AzadPublished

TODAY, more than 3.6 per cent of the world's population comprises migrants.

About 39pc of the total refugee population is hosted by only five countries, Turkey, Colombia, Uganda, Pakistan and Germany.

Due to their being disenfranchised by the government of their home, destination or transition country, refugees often face discrimination, poor living conditions and inadequate access to basic rights and facilities, including healthcare.

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

phase of the migratory process throws up its own unique and specific health-related challenges.

For example, the pre-departure phase, covering the period before migrants or refugees leave their country of origin, assumes importance with reference to local chronic disease patterns, pathogens and infectious diseases.

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

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 countries exacts a heavy toll on their long-term physical well-being.

