

# QUETTA VOICE

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**PM Shehbaz stresses need for Pak-China agreement on disaster management**



**Corps Commander visits Quetta airport and railway station**

## ‘It is terrorism’: NA echoes with concern on situation in Swat

Lawmakers raised concerns over the worsening situation in Swat — where citizens have poured onto streets against growing violence in recent days — during a National Assembly session on Wednesday.

“What is happening in Pakistan is not an insurgency. It is terrorism,” said Climate Change Minister Sherry Rehman as she compared the situation in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa district with that in neighbouring Afghanistan prior to the end of a 20-year-long war.

The PPP senator lashed out at violent elements for “hiding their nefarious designs behind religion.”

“Sorry, it is only a fight for power. It is not a fight for religion, and have the guts to say it.”

Recalling that the PPP became a “soft target” for denouncing terrorism earlier, she added, “We have not come here to mince words on this [issue]. Neither are we here for terrorism to rear its head again—and rear its head again in Swat.”

“This is our country and we have to save it.”

She demanded that “everyone should be taken into confidence on the progress of operations” launched again terrorism and the direction in which they are headed.

“Pakistan has paid a big price [for fighting terrorism] in the past and there have been several successful operations that were acknowledged by the entire world.”

“And now, the TTP (Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan) is on the rise. But in what capacity, and as what? Citizens of Pakistan? Have they demilitarised?” she questioned, adding that if such was the case, “show us the evidence.”

Earlier in her address, she said there could be no “protracted, result-oriented engagement with terrorism.”

“A terrorist is a terrorist and he remains one because he took up weapons. And when he agrees to talk to you, he has pre-conditions.”

She said wherever such elements were engaged in talks, it was after they laid down arms.

The PPP senator recalled multiple



incidents of terrorism and said it was beyond her understanding how a compromise could be reached with terrorists.

“We have been in favour of dialogue with anyone who lays down arms and says that he will operate within the ambit of the Constitution of Pakistan,” she said, adding that a joint session of the house was called during the PPP’s tenure to chalk up a strategy against those who continued terrorism.

“Call a joint house again,” she demanded.

Earlier, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif called for sitting together on the situation in Swat, among other issues of grave importance.

He recalled that a similar situation in Swat was seen 11 to 12 years ago when concerns were raised that

“those in Swat may not be too far away from Islamabad”.

Today, after a gap of 12 to 13 years, a similar scenario is being witnessed in Swat, he regretted, although adding that presently, it was not of the same “velocity and gravity” as more than a decade ago.

However, he continued, a positive was that the people of Swat had come out and were united against without any discrimination or political differences.

At the same time, he warned that “whatever is happening in Swat and elsewhere, those flames can reach us as well”.

“Fake encounters in Balochistan”

Earlier in the session, Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M) chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal recounted various



incidents in which, he alleged, innocent people were killed and presented as terrorists.

He particularly referred to the killing of three missing persons allegedly in fake encounter by the Balochistan Counter Terrorism Department in Kharan on Monday.

The BNP-M said the issue had plagued Balochistan for long, warning that most of the youth in Balochistan had reached “a point of no return.”

“You may be able to end who you call terrorists through such tactics, but the seeds of hatred that you are sowing cannot be perished by any atomic power of the world.”

He called for constituting a high-level judicial inquiry commission, headed by a sitting Supreme Court judge, to probe

the “fake encounters” in Balochistan, particularly referring to three incidents in Ziarat, Mastung and Kharan.

Responding to Mengal, Asif described that issue as “wounds of the state that have been bleeding for years”. And ignoring them or staying in denial would be harmful for any nation, he warned.

He called for measures to address and resolve the issues and acknowledged that the problem had existed for years.

“When will we remove this baggage from our shoulders? It is becoming heavier by the day,” he regretted. “A low-intensity insurrection has been ongoing in Balochistan for many years and a solution to it can be found. We need dialogue,” he added.

The minister also criticised the provincial government on the matter, saying any government — provincial or federal — had no right to rule if it failed to address the grievances of its people.

The issue, he said, could not be “wished away” and the house, too, needed to show some seriousness on the matter.

He called for the “political community” to take the initiative to resolve the issue and prioritise it.

Asif said he believed that security issues should not be dealt with in a “transactional manner” and a permanent solution should be devised.

He said the federation needed to take steps in this regard and the concerns raised by Mengal. “If not today’s, then the future generations will have to face these issues. They are already staring at us.”

It was the institutions’ responsibility to find solutions to the state’s problem, he added.

“A solution to this problem should be devised at a high-level,” Asif concluded.

For her part, Sherry called for constituting a “truth and reconciliation commission” to address the issue in Balochistan.

“We should listen to the province’s leaders... and we may even have to hear some bitter truths,” she added, stressing the need for Parliament to address and find a solution to the issue. Web Desk

## Corps Commander visits Quetta airport and railway station

News Desk

Corps Commander Balochistan and Lieutenant General Asif Ghafoor visited Quetta international airport and the railway station on Wednesday. Airport Manager Quetta, Malik Mazhar Hussain briefed the commander



about the expansion work in the airport.

The airport security force officials briefed the commander about the ongoing development projects and security arrangements at Quetta airport. Speaking on the occasion, the commander directed the concerned quarters to make sure timely completion of the ongoing projects and bring the airport to par with other airports in the country.

Lieutenant General Asif Ghafoor also assured all possible support in this regard.

Later on, the commander also visited the Quetta Railway Station and visited various ongoing projects. Fareed Ahmed, the Divisional Superintendent of Pakistan Railways briefed the commander about the new projects at the station. Commissioner Quetta Division, Sohail ur Rehman was also present on the occasion.

Lieutenant General Asif Ghafoor visited the sites established for passengers at the station.

## Students protest in Loralai against killing of Israr Khan

Amir Khan

Students from various schools staged a protest demonstration against the killing of Israr Khan, a student in the Loralai district of Balochistan. The students marched through various roads of Loralai and demanded the arrest of the culprits behind the killing of the student.

Armed men opened fire and killed Israr Khan and injured another three students in the Kohar Dam near Loralai University. “We want the arrest of the killers”, Sami Khan, one of the protesting students demanded.

The students had carried placards and banners inscribed with slogans condemning the killing of Israr Khan in the area. They chanted



full-throated slogans against the administration

for what they claimed was its failure to arrest the culprits behind the attack.

“Government must arrest the culprits behind the attack”, Noor Uddin, another protesting student said. Students from various schools and colleges joined the protest demonstration to mount pressure on the government to arrest the killers of Israr Khan.

A shutter-down strike was observed in Loralai against the killing of the student. Political parties had given a call for a strike against the brutal murder of Israr Khan. “We are conducting raids to apprehend the culprits behind the attack”, Jameel Baloch, Assistant Commissioner Loralai said.

He said some suspects have been detained in connection with the killing of the student.

## Dr. Rubaba lauds establishment of UNICEF makeshift hospitals for flood affectees

Sheikh Razzaq

QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary of Science and IT, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi on Wednesday lauded the decision of UNICEF for establishing the makeshift hospitals in the flood-stricken areas of Balochistan. “The setting up of makeshift hospitals in the calamity-ravaged areas of the province will help minimize the issues faced by the flood-hit masses to great extent,” she said while talking to the Head of UNICEF Balochistan Child Protection Department Dr. Muhammad Humayun Amiri and Nutrition Specialist Muhammad Imran Jatoi who met her here. Matter pertaining to the ongoing flood relief and rehabilitation activities by international organizations and the measures taken regarding the restoration of underwater educational institutions and alternative sources of education were discussed during the meeting.

The representatives of UNICEF Balochistan said “temporary learning centers have been established for the continuation of education of the children of flood-ravaged areas so that the education of the children under study is not affected.”

“UNICEF has also decided to establish temporary hospitals for the flood victims including pregnant and lactating women in the calamity-hit areas,” they maintained. They also sought government cooperation in ongoing relief and rehabilitation activities in the affected areas.

While expressing her satisfaction on the relief activities of UNICEF in the affected areas and the measures taken regarding health and education, she assured them all-out support.



She said that the liaison between the government and other humanitarian organizations in public interest projects including nutrition, education and health in the flood-affected areas is indispensable.

“Close coordination between government and non-governmental organizations will facilitate relief and rehabilitation operation and maximize the available resources for the welfare of the victims.”

Terming the decision of makeshift hospitals a commendable measure she hoped that this move will resolve health related issues in the areas facing the brunt of the flood. She assured the delegation all-out support of the provincial government to all the international organizations working in the flood affected areas including UNICEF.

## Afghan horsemen compete over goat carcass in Buzkashi match in Quetta

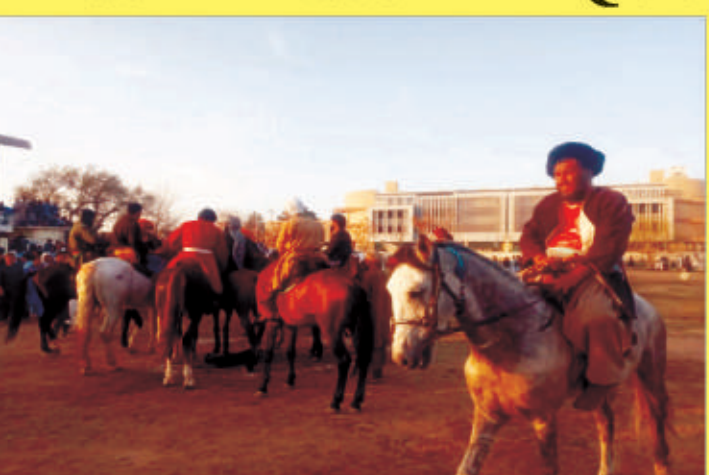
Syed Ali Shah, Manan Mandokhail

Thousands turned out to witness the historic and traditional Afghan and Central Asian game Buzkashi in Quetta, the capital of Balochistan province on Friday evening. Buzkashi match was held at Hockey ground located in the heart of the city on Friday evening.

“Interesting, interesting, this game is”, Saifullah Khan, a spectator inside the ground tells Quetta Voice. Like Khan, thousands of spectators from Quetta and other parts of Balochistan witnessed the Buzkashi match. Buzkashi is a dangerous game played with a goat carcass. The game involves dragging the dead goat to a specific place by players on horseback. “This game needs strength and bravery”, Mehboob Shah, one of the players sitting on horseback said.

No senior officer of the sports department or minister was present

Balochistan Sports Department had organized the match wit-



nessed by a large number of people. Although, no senior officer or the provincial minister for Sports failed to participate in the function to encourage the players.

“We want to spread this game to other parts of Pakistan”, Sahibzada Rafiuddin, the Joint Secretary of Buzkashi Association Balochistan said.

Despite dangers, the players succeeded in dragging the goat carcass and dropping it in a specific place. “For this, you have to be bold and energetic”, Rafiuddin said. He said sometimes players suffer injuries and fall from horses during the battle for picking up the dead goat.

Buzkashi player has to be energetic and healthy. The player has to be healthy and energetic to pick up the goat carcass. “This is not the work of a weak person”, Mr. Rafiuddin stated. In the Buzkashi match, 10 players can participate from one team.

The players are mostly from Afghanistan and the Central Asian States. In Quetta, the players belong to the Afghan Uzbek community living in Ghousabad and surrounding areas.



## Hina Khar in France to participate in FATF meeting

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar is visiting France these days to participate in the FATF meeting.

During her visit, State Minister Khar held a meeting with Diplomatic Adviser to the French President Emmanuel Bonne and discussed the current status of Pakistan-France bilateral relations.

During the meeting held at Elysée, the official residence of the French president, they also exchanged views on important regional and global matters.

Khar also met with Additional Director

General of French Development Agency (AFD) Bertrand Walckenaer at Pakistan Embassy in Paris.

She lauded AFD's contribution in energy, sustainable urban development and climate resilience projects in Pakistan. Different areas for future cooperation were also discussed.

The minister of state held a meeting with President of France-Pakistan Friendship Group in the French Senate Senator Pascal Allizard and Senator Madam Gisèle Jourda, a member of the group. The meeting was held at the historic building of the

French Senate.

She appreciated the role played by Senator Allizard in furthering bilateral relations between Pakistan and France, especially in terms of parliamentary cooperation.

Both sides also discussed political, trade, investment, economic, cultural and educational ties between the two countries as well as the situation of floods in Pakistan.

She appreciated the role played by Senator Allizard in furthering bilateral relations between Pakistan and France, especially in terms of INP.

## Use of technology attracts young entrepreneurs to agri sector: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: The use of modern technology is not only benefiting farmers but also attracting young entrepreneurs to the agriculture sector in Pakistan, WealthPK reports.

Technology has a major role in farming and agriculture practices. However, young people are mostly hesitant to choose agriculture as their profession or enter the agriculture sector owing to conventional methods of farming. In addition to stabilising the agriculture sector, the use of modern technology is also attracting young and educated people to the industry.

Imtiaz Hussain, Deputy Director General of the National Agricultural Research Centre, Islamabad, told WealthPK that new farming technologies were attracting the young generation to the agriculture sector in the country.

He said that in the past, young people turned away from agriculture to avoid the long and difficult hours of work required for getting sufficient yield. However, the tendency was reversible with the use of the latest tech-

nologies in the agriculture sector, he added.

"In addition to stabilising farms in the immediate term, modern technology is transforming the role of the farmer to incorporate skill sets more relevant to a younger generation. This change can't happen at a better time as conventional farming practices won't attract youth," said Imtiaz Hussain.

Agriculture is the major source of foreign reserves and Pakistan being an agrarian country relies heavily on this sector. The current share of agriculture accounts for 22% of the Gross Domestic Product against 19.2% in the previous year. In the country, about 83 million people are associated with the agriculture sector.

"With the development of digital technology, the use of technology in farming and agricultural operations has widened and farmers are benefiting from it. Continuous progress in agriculture is driven by the use of digital and analytical tools. This has improved crop yields and helped to boost the revenue of the farming community,"

said Imtiaz Hussain.

He said that the farmers, who were quick to absorb new technology, were diversifying their operations and integrating technologies like artificial intelligence, remote sensing and others. "They can significantly decrease their reliance on inputs like water, fertiliser and pesticides by using these technologies to improve yields," he added.

Imtiaz Hussain claimed that growing organic veggies for personal consumption would be the key advantage for young entrepreneurs in the agriculture sector. The best vegetables for consumption, in his opinion, are those grown in a personal garden or on the roof of house.

"In terms of nutrition and safety, there is no substitute for organic agricultural products that people grow themselves," said Imtiaz Hussain. Pakistan still needs more advancement in technology adoption. In countries like Pakistan, where agriculture policies are not farmer-friendly, it is understandable that many people have been switching to the corporate sector. INP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Information Technology and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque calls on Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training.

## ANTH, IMDC organize breast cancer awareness walk

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Akbar Niazi Teaching Hospital (ANTH) and Islamabad Medical & Dental College (IMDC) celebrated Pink Day on October 19, 2022, commemorating Breast Cancer Awareness Month to raise public awareness about self-examination, screening, prevention and treatment of Breast Cancer.

The event included awareness stalls, bake sales, fun games, creative artworks, poster competition, pink ribbons and educational materials distribution alongside an awareness walk.

Chairman ANTH/IMDC, Dr. Ghulam Akbar Khan Niazi, inaugurated the event with a ribbon cutting ceremony in the presence of Managing Director Yasir Khan

Niazi, Principal IMDC Prof. Dr. Syed Irfan Ahmad, and Director Hospital Col. (R) Ghulam Mujtaba Abbasi.

A large number of doctors, students, faculty members and people of other walks of life participated in the event. The Chairman appreciated the management, staff, and students for their efforts to raise awareness about this fatal disease.

Yasir Khan Niazi said on this occasion that ANTH is committed to spreading awareness and providing quality Breast Cancer services in its One-Stop Breast Clinic, and emphasized the importance of early detection to cure this fatal disease as it is easier to treat when found early.

ANTH's Head of

Communications Imran Ali Ghouri told media that the hospital and college are also organizing awareness sessions in various educational institutions and corporate sector to spread the message of self-examination and screening for early detection of Breast Cancer.

In this connection, the hospital is also offering free consultation and subsidized diagnostics to everyone at its Executive Clinics in G-8 Markaz, Islamabad, on October 21 and 22, 2022.

The MD further said that "we are determined to keep collaborating with the government and other partners to make every effort in the month of October and beyond in order to lowering the burden of Breast INP

## SCODA Institutional Innovation to facilitate Pak-China Trade

BEIJING: Shanghai Cooperation Organization Demonstration Area (SCODA) Institutional Innovation will facilitate Pak-China Trade, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Wednesday.

A forum titled Shanghai Cooperation Organization Demonstration Area (SCODA) Institutional Innovation cases was held. At the press conference, 20 business cases were centrally released.

SCODA has expressed cooperation intentions with Pakistan, Uzbekistan and other SCO countries to gradually promote mutual recognition of Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) with relevant SCO countries and deepen trade activities

with SCO countries.

Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) qualification is a "green" pass for global trade. After signing a mutual recognition agreement between countries (regions), AEO enterprises can enjoy convenient treatment in customs clearance, which can effectively reduce the cost of port services, insurance, logistics, and improve their international competitiveness.

In addition to promoting trade development with AEO mutual recognition and cooperation with SCO countries, the conference also released innovative cases involving logistics and transportation, production capacity cooperation, transformation of scientific and techno-

logical achievements, free movement of people, and convenience of financial supply, providing solutions for promoting trade facilitation and raising the level of economic and trade cooperation among SCO countries. "These cases are aimed at the problems existing in the economic and trade cooperation between the SCO and BRI countries," Meng Qingsheng, Member of the Party Working Committee and Deputy Director of the Administrative Committee of SCODA, highlighted on the occasion that, "SCODA has cumulatively launched more than 50 cases of system innovation. A number of distinctive and influential achievements INP



ISLAMABAD: Deputy President Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) Omer Bozkrt addressing a press conference at Embassy of Turkey in Federal Capital.

## China maintains growth engine of the world economy: Report

ISLAMABAD: Numerous reports of World Bank and IMF have clearly indicated that the Chinese macro-economy has been a driving force for further development and recovery from the global crisis since 2008, said Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan, Executive Director of the Center for South Asia & International Studies (CSAIS) in a report published by Gwadar Pro on Wednesday.

Moreover, its multidimensional role in the further development, recovery, stability and sustainability of the regional as well as global economies has been enhanced which is commendable.

In this connection, despite global gloomy & doomy economic conditions, financial

crunch, widening energy & food crises, imposition of socio-economic sanctions against China by the US and punitive legislations against China and developing countries, China is now playing an increasingly important role in driving and consolidating global economic recovery which vividly reflects its increasing role in the global economy and governance alike during the last decade.

The most recently published report of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) upholds that China accounted for 18.5 percent of the global economy in 2021, 7.2 percent points higher than in 2012, remaining the world's second-largest economy. Moreover, its GDP exceeded RMB 114 tril-

lion (about \$18.1 trillion) in 2021, registering an increase of 8.1 percent over the previous years.

The average growth rate of China's GDP reached 6.6 percent from 2013 to 2021, higher than the world's average growth rate of 2.6 percent and that of the developing economies at 3.7 percent. China's per-capita GDP reached 80,976 yuan (\$11,684) in 2021, up 69.7 percent from 2012 which rightly showcases its upward socio-economic prosperity and immense social development in the country catering to the basic needs and skills of its population.

NBS further reveals that China's per-capita disposable income reached 35,128 yuan (\$4,903) in 2021. INP

## SC orders nab to compile lists of mega corruption cases

ISLAMABAD: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has started compiling lists of all the mega corruption cases following Supreme Court (SC) orders.

As per details, the anti-graft watchdog has started compiling mega corruption lists on the apex court order which it passed while hearing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan's petition against NAB amendments last week.

The top court also ordered the preservation of the records of all the references returned after the amendments to the law and had asked for a detailed list of all the cases till now.

In light of the Supreme Court order, the NAB will also include fraud cases with the general public in the mega corruption list.

Furthermore, former presidents, prime ministers, and former federal and additional secretaries' cases will be part of the list.

Cases registered from the establishment of NAB till October 22 would also be added to the list, the statement said. INP

## Several cabinet members fail to declare assets

ISLAMABAD: The majority of advisors and special assistants to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in the federal cabinet have not disclosed details of their assets on online portal of the cabinet secretariat, ARY News reported.

According to details, among the 29 SAPMs, only five have declared their assets which included Tariq Fatemi, Shiza Khawaja, Owais Siddiqui and Sadiq Iftakhar.

Those who have not declared their assets included Muhammad Sadiq, Syed Fahd Husain, Hafiz Abdul Karim, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, Sheikh Fayyaz Ud Din, Romina Khurshid Alam, Muhammad Jehanzeb Khan, Zafaruddin Mahmood, Attaullah Tarar, Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, Rubina Irfan, Malik Abdul Ghaffar Dogar, Shaharyar Ali Khan, Nawabzada Iftakhar Ahmed Khan Babar, Mahar Irshad Ahmad Khan, Raza Rabani Khar, Mahesh Kumar Malani, Faisal Karim Kundi, Sardar Saleem Haider and others.

The advisors include Awn Chaudhry and Ahad Cheema. According to the rules, these advisors and special assistants are breaching a cabinet resolution made under the ex-PM's term to increase openness for the public interest. INP



HYDERABAD: Resident of Baldia Thana ariya relative of Amir chand hold a protest against police outside SSP office.

## No need to worry, country saved from default, though at very high political cost: Dar

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar here Wednesday once again gave a clear message that there was no question of Pakistan going into default as the same has been averted, though at very high political cost. "I want to give message to markets through this conference... no need to get nervous, we are back to business In Sha Allah we will arrange everything. Nothing is to worry" the minister said while addressing the All Pakistan Chartered Accountant Conference. He said Pakistan would be fine and nobody should have problem because "Pakistan will not default," adding that that there were serious challenges the country had been facing however

the incumbent government had rescued it from default although it had to give very high political cost. If there is choice between State or politics, the priority should be state and not the politics as "If the country is there, there may be politics. If there is no country where there would be politics?" he asked. The minister said that the country would require around \$32-34 billion to fulfill its liabilities and financial needs for the fiscal year 2022-23. These include around \$22 multilateral-level debt liabilities and around \$12 billion current account deficit. He however was of the view that government would work hard to fulfill these sovereign guarantees to save pride of the country. INP

## Covid kills three after a long break in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The Covid-19 is back to its killing ways in Pakistan after a long break as the it killed three people and infected another 55 during the last 24 hours, showed the figures released by the National Institute of Health (NIH) on Wednesday morning.

The death toll in the country climbed up to 30,623 while the number of total infections now rose to 1,573,452 after adding the fresh 55 cases.

During the last 24 hours (Tuesday), 8,815 tests were conducted throughout Pakistan whereas the positivity ratio stood at 0.62 per-

cent. The number of patients in critical care was recorded at 45.

A warming climate could bring viruses in the Arctic into contact with new environments and hosts, increasing the risk of "viral spillover", according to research published Wednesday.

Viruses need hosts like humans, animals, plants or fungi to replicate and spread, and occasionally they can jump to a new one that lacks immunity, as seen during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Scientists in Canada wanted to investigate how climate change might affect spillover

risk by examining samples from the Arctic landscape of Lake Hazen.

It is the largest lake in the world entirely north of the Arctic Circle, and "was truly unlike any other place I've been", researcher Graham Colby, now a medical student at University of Toronto, told AFP.

The team sampled soil that becomes a riverbed for melted glacier water in the summer, as well as the lakebed itself -- which required clearing snow and drilling through two metres of ice, even in May when the research was carried

out.

They used ropes and a snowmobile to lift the lake sediment through almost 300 metres (980 feet) of water, and samples were then sequenced for DNA and RNA, the genetic blueprints and messengers of life.

"This enabled us to know what viruses are in a given environment, and what potential hosts are also present," said Stephane Aris-Brosou, an associate professor in the University of Ottawa's biology department, who led the work.

But to find out how likely they were to jump hosts, the team

needed to examine the equivalent of each virus and host's family tree.

"Basically what we tried to do is measure how similar these trees are," said Audree Lemieux, first author of the research.

Similar genealogies suggest a virus has evolved along with its host, but differences suggest spillover.

And if a virus has jumped hosts once, it is more likely to do so again. The analysis found pronounced differences between viruses and hosts in the lakebed, "which is directly correlated to the risk of spillover," said Aris-Brosou. INP



QUETTA: Children busy in filling their water pots from water tanker supply in city locality.

