

# QUETTA VOICE

Email address:  
quettavoice@gmail.com

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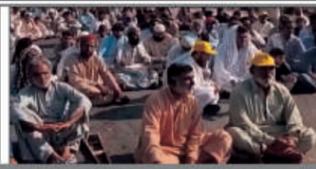
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**Pakistan among 8 countries adding to world population**



**Government fails to solve Gwadar issues: Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman**

## At COP27 summit, PM Shehbaz seeks climate compensation, debt relief for Pakistan

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that Pakistan would need debt relief and would seek compensation for climate damage as it recovers from catastrophic floods that cost the country some \$30 billion.

Speaking at the COP27 climate conference alongside United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres, the premier said that Pakistan's escalating public debt was hampering its recovery.

"Millions of people are going into winter without shelter or livelihood," PM Shehbaz said. "Women and children are still looking to us to protect their basic needs."

At the climate talks this year in Egypt, Pakistan and other climate-vulnerable countries are demanding that the UN take steps to mobilize "loss and damage" funds for disaster-hit nations, and some say rich nations have a duty to pay these costs because their historical emissions are mostly responsible for global warming today.

"We have mobilized every available resource toward the national relief effort," but it is not enough, PM Shehbaz said — describing hundreds of broken bridges across the country, as well as stagnant lake water now fouling



Pakistan's southern agricultural landscape.

Meanwhile, Guterres urged international financial institutions like the World Bank and leaders at the upcoming G20 summit in Indonesia to reform policies that govern debt relief and concessional loan decisions so as to help middle-income countries like Pakistan focus on rebuilding rather than repayment.

"There should be a way to have a (debt) swap exchanging the payments

of the debt to investments in the rehabilitation and recovery and reconstruction from natural disasters," the secretary general added.

PM Shehbaz arrived in Egypt on Sunday where he was received by Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and Guterres at the Sharm El Sheikh International Convention Centre.

In his meetings, the premier drew the attention of the international communi-

ty to help Pakistan overcome the risks of climate change.

The heads of several governments — in their interaction with Shehbaz on the sidelines of the mega climate summit — termed his continued presence in the flood-affected areas as an "extraordinary gesture", according to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

The premier highlighted the damage suffered by Pakistan in wake of the

recent flash floods and emphasised transforming key climate-related decisions into concrete actions and credible plans.

While thanking the international community for helping the flood-struck people in Pakistan, the prime minister stressed that as a developing country most affected by the phenomenon, Pakistan needed urgency of climate solidarity and climate justice.

Earlier, PM Shehbaz also had a meeting with UNSG Guterres at the summit's sidelines.

He informed Guterres that according to the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), the total estimated damage caused by the floods in Pakistan was over \$32 billion.

"The enormous task of rehabilitation and reconstruction would require substantial international support for Pakistan to build back greener, based on the model of sustainable development," Shehbaz added. Appreciating the UNSG for his solidarity with and call for massive support to Pakistan in the wake of devastating floods in the country, PM Shehbaz reiterated that the unprecedented flood disaster in the country was a "clear manifestation of the challenge posed by climate change". Web Desk

## 280 women to be recruited in Balochistan Police

**Manan Mandokhail**

The acting inspector general of Balochistan Police, Chaudhary Salman on Monday said 280 women would be recruited in the provincial police. Addressing a press conference, Mr. Chaudhary informed that women would be recruited as sub-inspectors, assistant sub-inspectors and constables to improve women's participation in the force.

"Women ratio in Balochistan police is less", he noted, saying that the present provincial govern-



ment has approved the posts to ensure women's participation. Other senior police officers were also present on the occasion.

The acting police chief said a women's police station would also be established in Turbat since Quetta already had a women's police station. Mr. Chaudhary said women's police station would address the grievances of women.

He said officers were given special training to address the grievances of women in Balochistan. "This step would solve women's issues", Mr. Chaudhary said. He admitted that currently women's participation in Balochistan was very less and this is the reason that new recruitments were being made.



**KARACHI:** Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication, Syed Amin ul Haque inaugurating the first IT Park .

## Quetta: One person injured in hand grenade attack on government office

**News Desk**

QUETTA: One person was injured in a hand grenade attack on a government's office near the Chaman Patak area, of Quetta on Monday morning. According to the initial reports of the incident several people were injured. However, police later confirmed that one person was wounded in the attack.

The police sources told that unknown miscreants threw a hand grenade inside the government's office and succeeded in escaping from the spot. There is no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack.

The injured person by the blast was rushed to the hospital for their medical treatment.



Police quickly reached the spot of the incident and cordoned off the area to start an investigation into the incident.

The CCTV footage of the incident is received and further investigation is going on.

## Government fails to solve Gwadar issues: Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman

**Behram Baloch**

Chief of Gwadar Rights Movement (GRM), Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman has lashed out at the Balochistan government for what he called its failure to solve issues relating to Gwadar. The protest demonstration by the GRM entered into the 12th day at the main chowk in Gwadar to press the government for acceptance of its demands.

"Ministers and bureaucrats continue to deceive the people of Gwadar", the Maulana said. He said the government has declared Gwadar a calamity-hit district thrice but practically, it (the government) has failed to address the problems of the masses. Although, the member provincial assembly from Gwadar, Mir Hamal Kalmati in a statement said the issues of the protesters would be addressed. "Government has launched a massive development projects in the district", Mr. Kalmati said.



**Sit-in enters 12th day in Gwadar.**

A large number of people are participating in the sit-in being staged at the main Gwadar Chowk. The Maulana also declared Hussain Wadila as the chief of the GRM. The protesters blocked the main chowk and chanted full-throated slogans against the Gwadar administration and the provincial government.

Maulana lashed out at the federal and provincial governments for what he claimed their failure to stop illegal trawling in the Gwadar sea.

"Our lives and finances are linked with this sea", he said, adding that the trawlers mafia at the behest of some elements was trying to snatch this.

**GRM activists vow to mount pressure on the government**

GRM Chief said the government has to waive off electricity bills of the people of Gwadar. "Government should reduce its expenditures and give relief to the masses", the Maulana claimed.

GRM had staged massive protest rallies last year in the country's port city. The Maulana had also led a rally of a large number of women in Gwadar to mount pressure on the government for acceptance of their demands. Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Qaddus Bizenjo had assured solution of all demands of the GRM.

## Pakistan among 8 countries adding to world population

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations estimates that the global human population will reach eight billion by mid-November, and will continue to grow, albeit at a slower pace and with regional disparities, in the decades to come.

However, Pakistan is among eight countries contributing to global population growth. The UN Population Division estimates that the number of humans on Earth will grow to eight billion on November 15, more than three times higher than the 2.5 billion global headcount in 1950.

However, after a peak in the early 1960s, the world's population growth rate has decelerated dramatically, Rachel Snow of the UN Population Fund told.

Annual growth has fallen from a high of 2.1 percent between 1962 and 1965 to below 1 percent in 2020. That figure could potentially fall to around 0.5 percent by 2050 due to a continued decline in fertility rates, the United Nations projects.

Given the increase in life expectancy as well as the number of people of childbearing age, the UN projects the population to continue growing to about 8.5 billion in 2030, 9.7 billion in 2050, and a peak of about 10.4

billion in the 2080s.

The US-based Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) estimated in a 2020 study that the global population would max out by 2064, without ever reaching 10 billion, and decline to 8.8 billion by 2100.

In 2021, the average fertility rate was 2.3 children per woman over her lifetime, down from about five in 1950, according to the UN, which projects that number to fall to 2.1 by 2050.

"We've reached a stage in the world where the majority of countries and the majority of people in this world are living in a country that is below replacement fertility," or roughly 2.1 children per woman, says Snow.

A key factor driving global population growth is that average life expectancy continues to increase: 72.8 years in 2019, nine years more than in 1990. And the UN predicts an average life expectancy of 77.2 years by 2050.

The result, combined with the decline in fertility, is that the proportion of people over 65 is expected to rise from 10 percent in 2022 to 16 percent in 2050. INP

## PM thanks UAE leadership for generous assistance to flood victims

SHARM EL-SHEIKH: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan met on the sidelines of the COP 27 summit in Egypt. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif thanked the UAE leadership and people for their generous assistance to the flood victims.

The Prime Minister termed the commitment of COP 27 as a good omen to combat the effects of climate change. Dealing with the effects of climate change is not for developing countries alone, he said. The international community must come together to create a common charter for the survival of the planet, the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister welcomed the commitment of the international community, especially the Islamic world, to the goals and objectives of the COP 27 conference. INP

## Mullah Omar's final resting place revealed by Afghan Taliban

**Monitoring Desk**

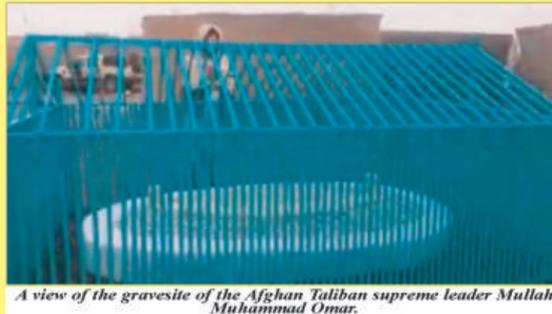
The final resting place of the Taliban's supreme leader Mullah Muhammad Omar was revealed by the Afghan Taliban. Taliban revealed the final resting place of their leader after around a decade with the media.

The Afghan Taliban on Sunday revealed the final resting place of the movement's founder, Mullah Omar. The Taliban supreme leader's death and place of burial were kept secret for years.

Rumors surrounding Omar's health and whereabouts abounded after the Taliban were kicked out of power in 2001 by a US-led invasion, and they only admitted in April 2015 that he had died two years earlier.

Taliban leaders attend a ceremony at his gravesite: Zabiullah Mujahid

Taliban spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid told reporters that senior leaders of the movement attended a ceremony at his gravesite earlier in the day near Omarzo, in the Suri district of Zabul



A view of the gravesite of the Afghan Taliban supreme leader Mullah Muhammad Omar.

province.

The Taliban returned to power in August last year, routing government forces as the US-led military that propped up the regime ended a 20-year occupation.

Mullah Muhammad Omar was the founder of the Taliban movement in Afghanistan in 1994. He launched the movement against the then warlords and mujahideen from volatile Southern Afghanistan. Spin Boldak was the place where the movement was launched and it captured Afghanistan at a heartbreaking rate.

Mullah Omar fought against Russians.

Mullah Omar also fought against Soviet aggression in the early 1980s and lost one leg in the fighting. Taliban sources said Mullah Omar was treated at that time in Quetta.

However, the Taliban was overthrown by the US-led coalition in the aftermath of the catastrophic incident of September 11, 2001. Hamid Karzai was installed as an interim head of the Afghan government in the light of the Bonn conference held from December 5 to 7 in Bonn Germany. Karzai ruled Afghanistan for more than eight years backed by the US and its allies.

## QUETTA VOICE

Editor Asim Khan

**Education of 386000 students at risk in Balochistan**

The education of 3,86,000 students is at risk in flood-affected areas of Balochistan. Floods and heavy rainfall damaged around 3,000 government-run primary, middle and high schools across the province.

The damage to schools across Balochistan has affected the schooling of 3,86,000 students. This figure is as per the data shared by the Balochistan Secondary Education Department. Although, the independent sources put the number of students and damaged schools higher than what is being quoted by the officials.

Floods damaged this school in interior Balochistan: Photo provided by UNICEF. The out-of-school children ratio in Balochistan is already higher than in the rest of the country. The education department admits that still, over 1 million children are out of school in the province, lagging behind other provinces of Pakistan in all key social indicators.

Reconstruction of schools a major challenge for the government. The recent monsoon has further compounded the problems of students. The number of government-run primary, middle and high schools in Balochistan is over 15,000. The reconstruction of 3,000 damaged schools is a major challenge for the provincial government, which appears to be least bothered about the state of education in the province.

So far, the data is only shared at the departmental level. The government has not spoken about the reconstruction of damaged schools and resuming educational activities there. UNICEF has only established 22 temporary learning centers (TLCs) with over 2,000 enrollments. This is simply nothing as compared to the number of students deprived of education.

Govt, opposition solely focusing on PSDP. The provincial coalition government and the 'friendly' opposition have solely focused on their schemes in the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) 2022-23. They want to get the schemes completed and implemented by hook and crook and uttered not a single word about the reconstruction of damaged schools.

The reconstruction of schools and ensuring the availability of basic facilities would require billions of rupees. The lives of students should not be put at peril to study in damaged classrooms as anytime the damaged rooms and walls can collapse. So no risk should be taken in this regard.

The Balochistan government, UNICEF and other non-governmental organizations on national and international levels working for the promotion of education should take notice of the situation and ensure the reconstruction of damaged schools. Then, the students should be allowed to keep continue their stalled studies.

**Before Gorbachev : Part - II**

By Dr Naazir Mahmood

In the USSR, the 1980s began with big news. The Soviet armies had entered Afghanistan in the last week of 1979 on the pretext of a request by the new government in Kabul led by Babrak Karmal. Other accounts maintain that it was actually the Soviet army that killed Hafizullah Amin and installed the new leader who was more loyal to the Russians than Amin.

Leonid Brezhnev had been in power since 1964, and under his leadership the Soviet national production increased manifold, especially in the industrial sector. Agriculture witnessed a modest growth as harvests were poor, and the real figures were suppressed. The consumption of fish, fruit, and meat per head also increased in comparison with bread and potatoes. In 1980, the USSR had diplomatic relations with nearly 140 countries compared with just 75 in 1960; it traded with 145 foreign states compared with just 45 three decades earlier. Meanwhile, the 'collective leadership' of Brezhnev, Kosygin and Podgorny had become a leadership by Comrade Brezhnev.

After 1964, the Politburo was listed in alphabetical order to emphasize its collective character; in just 10 years - after KGB head Yuri Andropov joined the Politburo - Brezhnev's name started appearing first in violation of the order. In strict order, Andropov's name should have come first, rumour

had it that he voluntarily refused to be listed first to please the party chief. In 1976, at the 25th Party Congress Brezhnev also became the party's 'universally acclaimed leader' and 'vohzd (chief), which was previously used for Stalin alone. Brezhnev also became a marshal of the Soviet Union and had a bronze bust installed in his birthplace.

By the late 1970s, he became the head of state too and added the gold medal of Karl Marx, the highest award of the Academy of Science, for his 'outstanding' contribution to the development of Marxist-Leninist theory. He also received the Order of Victory for his wartime services and the Lenin Prize for Literature for his memoirs. If Winston Churchill could get the Nobel Prize in literature, why couldn't Brezhnev get a prize in literature? In the 1980s, the personality cult of the party chief, which the Soviet Communist Party had vowed to avoid after Stalin and Khrushchev, had once again taken root.

At the 26th Party Congress in 1981, Brezhnev was hailed as a true continuer of Lenin's great cause and also an ardent fighter for communism. According to Politburo member V V Grishin - who was also the Moscow Party chief from 1967 to 1985 - Comrade Brezhnev's speech at the Congress was punctuated 78 times by applause and 40 times by prolonged

applause. Brezhnev's son and son-in-law became deputy ministers of foreign trade and internal affairs respectively. The boss was also pleased; the entire Politburo and Secretariat including Brezhnev were reelected without any change.

Half of the Politburo members were over 70 and died in quick succession in the 1980s. The 21-member Politburo was as usual overwhelmingly European with 12 Russians and four Ukrainians. It had one member each from Azerbaijan, Belorussia, Georgia, Latvia, and Kazakhstan. Eight of the 15 republics of the USSR had no representation in the highest decision-making body of the Soviet Communist Party. Of the 14 candidate members of the 26th Politburo, nine were from Russia and one each from Azerbaijan, Belorussia, Georgia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. This means that of the 35 candidates and full members of the Politburo, 21 were from Russia and five from Ukraine. In December 1981, it was Brezhnev's 75th birthday that brought new tributes for him. Seven of Pravda's eight pages on December 19 were wholly or partly devoted to the event. Brezhnev received a series of distinctions by the leaders of east European communist states, who had come to Moscow for the occasion. The Soviet awards included the seventh Order of Lenin and the fourth Hero of the Soviet Union.

A month after being shifted to a newly-constructed home, 50 years old Saaveda Bibi, along with her two sons and daughters in law had to make a midnight escape from the flood that submerged the entire locality in the Nawa Kili area of Quetta city on the last day of monsoon's eighth spell.

"I was scared all the time and never thought that I, with open eyes will witness the perishing of my home that my husband built with hard-earned money," she recalled the night when her neighbor knocked at their door asking to immediately vacate the house as gushing water of deluge had started washing away homes in the suburbs of the main city.

This house was completely washed away by floods in Malik Town Nawan Kili Quetta. Saaveda's husband constructed house after his retirement.

Bibi Saaveda is the wife of Muhammad Ashfaq, a retired Deputy Director of Education Department who after receiving gratuity and benevolent fund on his retirement, had constructed his own house on a small piece of land after spending years in rented houses.

"Carrying the Holy Quran, I stayed for a while in the backyard of my home, with my eyes towards sky, praying to Almighty Allah, to save our house and family," she narrated the saga of a nightmare with tears in her eyes.

"We have been listening that floods had wreaked havoc in green belt of the province, but in the history of Quetta, we had not seen such a disaster as inflicted by recent spells of monsoon," she added.

This heart-touching story of Saaveda Bibi perhaps helps understand the miseries of those bearing the brunt of devastating flood with their houses and valuables inundated under knee-deep water.

Pakistan has yet again fallen prey to climate-induced calamities. This time the scale of the disaster is much worse as all four provinces are experiencing the worst kind of floods, with Balochistan and Sindh hit hardest.

With one-third of the country under water, many believe that Pakistan is currently experiencing the worst devastation in its history. More than 1000 lives have been lost and around 1600 have been injured; the devastating floods have claimed the lives of about 735,000 livestock, and almost two million acres of crop have reportedly been affected. As governments and NGOs carry out their rescue and relief operations, there are millions who have been displaced following the destruction of their houses and properties. While the first priority is to be able to rescue the stranded, we need to prepare ourselves for the much bigger crises that lie ahead of us. With the country already caught in a severe economic crisis - be it in terms of record high inflation caused by an unjustifiable increase in petroleum prices, soaring electricity charges, or the balance of payments crisis - the future seems to be even more bleak.

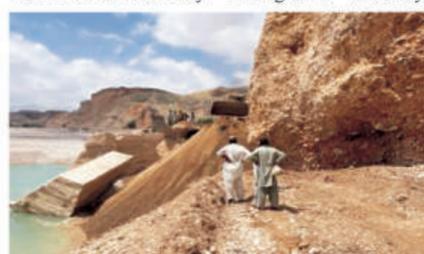
**Balochistan floods: The tale of pain and destruction**

QUETTA: (APP): By Abdul Shakoor Khan



Technical staff engaged in clearing of the highway in Bolan Balochistan: Photo taken from social media

**Balochistan faced the brunt of floods**  
Balochistan province, having the title of almost half of Pakistan had badly suffered from the eight monsoon spells, overwhelming in magnitude and severity. It swept away the kith and kin of the survivors, their cattle, houses and crops.



"It was unprecedented. We had never even suffered from the eight monsoon spells, overwhelming in magnitude and severity. It swept away the kith and kin of the survivors, their cattle, houses and crops. Naser Ahmed Nasar stated that non-stop heavy downpours, uncontrolled waves of water and gushing hill torrents had so far claimed around 250 lives with thousands injured and displaced."

**Agriculture sector**  
The catastrophe left some 6178 houses damaged, 145936 livestock dead and about 190 thousand acres of agriculture land badly affected.



"The loss only incurred to the agriculture sector thought of such a disaster," said 70 years old Abdul Ali, a resident of the Pashtoonabad area in Quetta. "I spent my life here. We came across many calamities. But, it was disastrous."

**Food insecurity**

By Memoona Qazi

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While the first priority is to be able to rescue the stranded, we need to prepare ourselves for the much bigger crises that lie ahead of us. With the country already caught in a severe economic crisis - be it in terms of record high inflation caused by an unjustifiable increase in petroleum prices, soaring electricity charges, or the balance of payments crisis - the future seems to be even more bleak.

Having destroyed millions of acres of crops, the floods have posed immense challenges of dealing with the severe food insecurity that hangs upon us like a weapon. It looks like the coming winters are going to be the toughest we will ever experience. Winter is already a challenging time every year in terms of shortage of gas and provision of basic food supplies. What with the current rates of inflation and the devastating impacts of the ongoing floods on our food baskets, these prices will only get compounded in the days ahead. Pakistan is currently facing record-high inflation, with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) soaring to 27.3 per cent - the highest ever in 49 years; and those falling in the lowest two quintiles of wealth are hit the hardest. It is in times like this that the government announces relief packages to support the most vulnerable and marginalized sections of the society, but is it even possible? With more than two million acres of crops wiped out by the ongoing floods, Pakistan's bread basket is all but destroyed. Experts have weighed in on the extent of the upcoming food insecurity. Unfortunately, the challenge lying ahead of us is massive and is only further compounded by the ever-increasing inflation rate.

**Things of their own**

The Memory Police, a novel by Yoko Ogawa, has an intriguing plot and narrative; it is set in a nameless island where things disappear, and people forget about them. A few people are, however, capable of recalling the lost items, but the state police is tasked to ensure that people completely forget about the disappeared objects.

It seems that the Sindh government has taken inspiration from the novel's storyline. In August, its mismanagement caused the destruction of millions of homes and other assets. And now party leaders and government officials seem to be discouraging affectedes from talking about their losses.

The literature on disaster reveals that women, children, the elderly, minorities and the inhabitants of disadvantaged pockets are more vulnerable, and it is understood that each stratum recalls disasters in different ways. Women always remember disasters through the things lost or destroyed.

I recently met women displaced by the recent floods and learnt that saving their belongings was not anyone's top priority - the same thing happened during the previous disasters in the country. At the time of eviction, women's things were either left behind or carelessly dumped or, in some cases, cheaply sold.

The short eviction notice given by Sindh government officials also increased the suffering of

women; these warnings created panic, fear and urgency. Consequently, the residents of Warah (Qambar-Shahdadkot), Khairpur Nathan Shah and Faridabad (Dadu), Bhan Syedabad (Jamshoro), Juuddo (Mirpurkhas) and other towns hastily packed and moved to safe places.

According to the Sindh Disaster Management Authority, the total number of affected people is 10,574,488. Presently, close to half a million people are living in refugee camps or other temporary places.

Displaced people can be divided into two groups: the first group comprises women who left their villages/towns when the Sindh government issued the warning, and the second group includes those who deserted their homes when flood water entered their villages. Women from both groups have stories of suffering, distress and agony to narrate - stories that mostly talk about destroyed houses and lost items.

I met a woman who was from a medium-sized town which is located at the shoulder of the Indus Highway. One day, officials announced an emergency and ordered eviction. Then questions about what should be taken and what should be left arose. She shared that her husband didn't pack the things she had selected. She protested but her husband called her chosen things useless, and her stuff was left in the house. Her selection contained: sewing machine, dinner set and pillow covers with tradi-

tional needlework. She pleaded that at least the sewing machine should be taken. But it was declared a burden.

In the refugee camp she is currently living in, she longs for a sewing machine. It is so because she has memories associated with the machine - she stitched the first dress of her elder son and also sewed her daughters' wedding dresses with it. Recalling those stories, she seemed broken and betrayed.

Another woman shared that before the eviction, she had made two sets of bundles. The first one contained things of daily use, and the other bag was filled with costly items and stored in the house. This was done on the assurance of government officials who had said that rainwater would not drown their town. Her family left the town and went to their ancestral village. But the flood followed them there as well. She packed her things again, but nearly half of it was lost during travelling on a small vehicle she boarded to travel towards the uncertain camp life.

Last week, she got the bad news that her town was under water. She now blames government officials for her loss because they had assured her that her city wouldn't be drowned in water. At this time, her only possessions are some steel plates and a few clothes. She fondly recalls the 'pengho/jholra' (a traditional wooden swing) of her house. She has too many stories to tell about it - how she reared a

buffalo calf, sold it and paid to the carpenter to make the swing. It was the only place where she used to console herself during the extremely difficult days of northern Sindh's summer.

There were many women in the camp who were deeply grieved because they saw their houses getting collapsed, their belongings getting damaged, their animals dying and even their family members drowning in front of them.

I met a woman who came to the camp three weeks ago, and has been longing for her village since then. She mentioned a neem tree which was planted by her father. She left the village when flood water entered her home. The tree got uprooted and flood water carried away its trunk. She recalled with sadness in her eyes that her father used to joke that after his death his soul would come to see her and sit on the tree's branch. Now, she has neither her father nor the neem tree.

Another woman in the camp lost her newly constructed one-room house with a verandah in the floods. Earlier this year, she mortgaged her gold - her rings, her daughter-in-law's bangles, and her daughter's necklace and earrings - at the National Bank of Pakistan to obtain a loan for house construction. She was worried that for a couple of years, they wouldn't be in a position to repay loans and get back their gold. She was afraid that their gold would be sold off.

Almost every woman

By Zaffar Junejo

had a story to share. But because of time constraints, we shifted our conversation towards the next step: what should be done to cover their losses? They strongly suggested that no one should expect them to forget their 'houses' or 'things'. They also wanted their loans to be written-off and the mortgaged gold returned. They further added that well-known construction companies should be engaged to construct their houses, and these women should have ownership of those houses. They also said that the government should provide houses to all married couples and their villages should be reconstructed and linked to services. Their last demand was that settlements in the katcha and other areas should be regularized.

I believe that our development experts will come up with lots of theoretical solutions, and most of them would seem excellent on paper, but would be ineffective on the ground. I think that for a woman, a house is neither a geometrical structure nor a market commodity. A woman thinks of a house as the safest place where life is nurtured and human relations are matured. Gradually, she turns that house into a home, and it becomes part of her personality.

The writer has a PhD in history from the University of Malaya. He is associated with Sohail University and the Institute of Historical and Social Research, Karachi.

**Public display of chutzpah**

Imran Jan

Growing up in Charsadda, as a young student we liked to repeat a joke everytime we came across any man with a beard who would either drive his car carelessly or indulge in some ridiculous act. The joke was just four Pashto words but the story and history behind those words was common knowledge and so people understood the context everytime we uttered those words, which are Sheikh pa ghalata de. It translates literally as "the bearded one is in the wrong".

Attullah Tarar sports a beard and shaves his mustache. Muslim men do this keeping in line with the seriousness and depth of their faith. However, he has indulged in uncouth and irreligious behaviour. Fathers who may have asked their sons and daughters to keep watching and reading news so as to prepare for the CSS exam must have felt very uncomfortable watching this public display of an act, which is usually the stuff of adult entertainment.

There is another Charsadda joke. Whenever any bearded man indulges in some irreligious or immoral behaviour, the oft-repeated joke is that he is exempt from any repercussions because he holds the licence for being ridiculous and immoral, which is an indirect refer-

ence to his beard. It was a double-edged sword. One, anything the labeled pious did was right by default. Two, don't dare criticise the bearded ones as their self-righteous mindset is not stoppable and dangerous. Perhaps this second joke is more relevant here. Because we have kind of forgotten that the same Atta Tarar some weeks ago openly threatened anyone who may dare call him a lota.

Public display of disrespect or profanity toward any faith or God is regarded as blasphemous. The people who adhere to the faith that is targeted by the blasphemy feel humiliated and resentful. One could argue that faith is a sacred as well as a private matter because it is one human's connection and contract with his Creator. We can disagree with an act of blasphemy but we are not to judge someone's actions or validity of their faith because that work is reserved for our Creator.

An elected or a government official takes oath of office to protect a document where the rights of the people are enshrined. That is a contract between the official and the state as well as the people. Disgracing the Holy Book is wrong and immoral but that is for the Creator to punish not us because that is a violation of the relationship between man and his Creator. Disgracing the sacred document called the Constitution is

a violation of the contract made with the people. Even the Holy Book emphasises on the rights of the people more than on the rights our Creator has over us. It is called Huqooq-ul-ibaaad i.e. the rights of the people.

The bearded spokesperson of the Punjab government has openly displayed filthy profanity for the very document, which enshrines the rights the people have over him as a government official. It is not the violation of a specific right but rather the wholesale mockery of whatever rights the people may think they have.

Perhaps, this public display of chutzpah is coming from a greater belief of impunity. This middle finger is not only a mockery of the supposedly sacred document but also an indication of massive support from those who are usually in the business of raising the finger as a third umpire. Speaking of which, there was a lot of noise when Imran Khan some years ago had said that the third umpire had raised his finger. Somehow, there is not much noise at this finger raising as if it is some sort of a halal finger.

The violation of the Constitution used to be benignly labeled as 'Doctrine of Necessity'. That is obsolete now because now our politicians just middle finger the Constitution. Ah, those good ol' days!

## Arshad Sharif's autopsy report: IHC seeks reply from respondents by Nov 15

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday served notices to the respondents in a plea submitted by senior journalist Arshad Sharif's mother against the delay in providing the post-mortem report of her deceased son.

IHC Justice Aamir Farooqi heard the plea of Arshad Sharif's mother. The court after initial arguments in the case, served notices to the respondents of the case and sought a response latest by November 15.

In her petition, Riffat Ara Alvi stated that the

focal person of their family had sought a post-mortem report from the local administration on November 3.

It maintained that the administration had, however, told them that they do not have the report and that it was with the police. She added that when the family's focal person went to the police, they also turned them away and told the deceased's family to contact the administration.

"The PIMS and local administration have kept Arshad Sharif's family in the dark about the post-

mortem report and humiliated them during this difficult time," said the application. The petitioner said that she fears that the autopsy will be altered to distort the facts and thus, they should be kept informed at all times to ensure transparency. "The post-mortem report should be provided to Arshad Sharif's family and should not be made public without the family's permission," requested the petitioner. It was pertinent to mention here that the slain journalist's mother has written a letter to Chief Justice INP.



LAHORE: Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Heritage and Culture Division Engineer Amir Muqam Khan addressing a press conference at Aiwan-e-Iqbal Complex in Provincial Capital.

## Pakistan exhibits its products at CIIE in a big way

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan exhibited its products at China International Import Expo (CIIE) 2022 for fifth consecutive year in a big way, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

This year the CIIE in Shanghai is scheduled to take place till November 10. This is one of the largest exhibitions in China that provides a platform for local and international enterprises to display their products and enhance trade with China and globally.

The report says, Jewelry, salt lamps, blankets, marble ..... Five years ago, when these distinctive Pakistani-style products debuted at the first China International Import Expo (CIIE), they struck Chinese buyers as unfamiliarly new, rare and exotic but evoked some concerns

about the quality during purchase.

However, five years later at the fifth CIIE, Pakistani products have already garnered a large following of repeat customers and hardcore buyers.

"Of the consumers who buy our products, the percentage of re-purchase within a year is as high as 60%, and another 30% of customers make a third or more purchase within a year," said Li Long proudly, a four-time Pakistani jewellery exhibitor at CIIE.

On the booth stands out a girly pink gemstone with the largest size. "This pink morganite originates from Pakistan. This is the first of its kind exhibited at CIIE and is part of the Mughal series. 150-carat pink morganite is very rare even in Pakistan."

In this year's CIIE, Li Long

brings emeralds, morganites, tourmalines and chrysoprase, which originate from the northern mountains of Pakistan.

He said expectantly, "This year, our booth is specially decorated for brand image display, and we hope to meet more quality buyers."

Large exhibitions such as CIIE are the major means of product promotion as Pakistani exhibitors make their foray into the Chinese market.

However, such exhibitions only last a few days each year, and there are no suitable sales channels for most of the year. Their greatest wish is to open a store of their own in China where they could sell all year round and establish a firm foothold in the country. Online

## Reduction in interest rate to be vital relief to business community: SVP PBF Says Dar need to full commitment of reining in inflation, strengthening undervalued rupee against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Senior Vice President of Pakistan Businesses Forum (PBF), Muhammad Riaz Khattak has suggested the State Bank of Pakistan to adopt an accommodative monetary policy stance, asking the Finance Minister Ishaq Dar to fulfil his commitment of reining in inflation besides cutting interest rate and strengthening the undervalued local currency against dollar.

While talking to members of the business community on Monday, he said the already unprecedented inflation and high mark-up rate have drastically reduced private sector borrowings during the first quarter of the current fiscal year.

The government estimated the economic growth rate would be in the range of 3 to 3.5pc while international agencies predict it would be as low as 2.3% for FY23 amidst highest key policy rate in the region.

Muhammad Riaz Khattak demanding competitive interest rates at regional countries' level,

he said, the SBP's stance of keeping the monetary policy rate high compared with the mark-up rate of China, India and Bangladesh is not good for industrial growth.

The current SBP policy rate is 15% while the inflation in Sept was over 23% compared to 27% in August, which shows the real interest rate is negative with a wide margin.

The PBF SVP asked the finance minister to fulfil his commitment of maintaining an accommodative monetary stance in the near- and long-term to support the rare recovery, amid uncertain heavy floods worries and challenges in the country.

He stressed the need for reduction in the discount rate, arguing that low key policy rate is essential to make the Pakistani exports sector, as well as the local industry competitive.

He also said that the achievements of high exports and stabilization of the economy require friendly monetary policy measures so that the debt liability of the business

sector is compensated through lower mark-up rate.

The economic activity data and indicators of consumer and business sentiments are not satisfactory, so the trade and industry need continued support from the government in the form of lower interest rates, amid such external shocks.

However, Khattak appreciated energy tariff relief for the export sector, also demanding the same relaxation, especially for the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) as a first step towards a cut in the production cost, while the second and vital step towards this direction would be bringing discount rate to the regional level with a view to provide level-playing field to the industry.

The decision would have the same importance for the domestic industry too, as it has also been facing tough competition of cheaper imported merchandise in the country, following FTAs with several countries, he added. INP

## Imran Khan Attack; SC orders to register FIR within 24 hours

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Monday ordered to register an FIR of a gun attack on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Imran Khan within 24 hours. The apex court ordered the Punjab inspector-general to file an FIR of the attack on PTI Chairman Imran Khan within 24 hours.

The orders were passed by the five-member SC bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial while hearing the contempt case against the former prime minister. During the hearing, CJP Bandial asked the IGP Punjab how much time he need to file

the FIR of the incident. "Tell me in how much time will the FIR of the attack be filed."

The CJP observed that the delay in FIRs means evidence is being lost, and the SC will ensure the smooth running of the criminal justice system, the CJP remarked. CJP Bandial further said that it is a judicial responsibility, even if the provincial government has a different position, the police should act according to the law.

It is pertinent to mention here that Imran Khan and several other PTI leaders were injured after a man opened fire near the PTI reception camp at Allahwala

Chowk during party's long march. During a hearing on the contempt of court case against Khan on Monday, the PTI chair's lawyer told the court that a case of the attack on Khan has yet to be registered.

The apex court's orders came following the November 3 assassination attempt in Wazirabad on Imran Khan which left him injured during his party's much-touted anti-government long march towards Islamabad. Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, addressing the Punjab advocate-general, said that under the criminal justice system INP

## 15 proclaimed offenders held

MUZAFFARGARH: Police claimed to have held 15 proclaimed offenders (POs) during fifth-day of the search operation launched here Monday.

Drugs, liquor and illegal weapons including a 7MM rifle, pistols, bullets, 139 liter liquor and chairs were recovered from their possession on the spot.

A grand operation was launched under the supervision of SDPOs with the support of Elite Force and Special Branch in all circles of police on the direction of DPO Ahmad Nawaz Shah.

As many as 350 houses were searched while 500 people checked through bio-metric verification. All accused were sent to the lock-up before starting further investigation.

DPO said local police was trying hard to protect lives and goods of people. He said the aim of the search operation was to ensure peace for the masses. INP

## Low intensity quake jolts Islamabad other cities

ISLAMABAD: An earthquake of moderate intensity jolted a number of Pakistani cities including Islamabad and Rawalpindi on Monday morning.

According to the National Seismic Monitoring Centre, the earthquake's intensity was measured at 4.9 on the Richter scale and its epicentre was at the border between Afghanistan and Tajikistan, there were no reports of any damage or casualties so far, a private tv channel reported.

According to the Monitoring Centre, the earthquake's depth was 227kms under the ground. INP

## 7 stolen motorcycles recovered

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested a bike-lifter and recovered seven stolen motorcycles, cash, and other items from his possession. According to a police spokesman, a team under the supervision of SHO, Airport Police Station managed to net an accused namely Akash and recovered seven stolen motorcycles, cash, and other items from his possession. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is underway, he added. Superintendent of Police, Potohar Tariq Mehboob appreciated the police team and directed them to net the accomplices. INP



RAWALPINDI: Workers of PTI shouting slogans during protest in favor of their at Murree Road in the city.

## PIAF warns of high inflation on proposed mini-budget

LAHORE: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has opposed the imposition of more taxes, as the government is finalizing the mini-budget of Rs100 billion, planning to impose more taxes on imports, besides slapping 17% sales tax on high-grade petrol to cover the expected shortfall of tax collection.

The PIAF chairman Faheem ur Rehman Sigol said that the regular attempt of economic managers to impose new taxes and increasing oil prices along with the hike in power and gas tariffs will ultimately harm the government's overall move of reducing the production cost for the businesses.

Recently, the IMF also asked Pakistan to

impose new taxes of Rs600 billion to achieve the tax-to-GDP ratio target of 9.5%. Possible shortfall in the coming months may expose the government to more pressure from the IMF.

Faheem ur Rehman Sigol said that slapping additional taxes on industrial raw material and essential items would lead to further hike in inflation which is already in double-digit.

Tax authorities have recently shared options with the government to bridge the shortfall by imposing taxes on duty-free imports and raising the additional customs duty to collect roughly Rs60 billion in taxes. They also include a reduction in the regulatory duty to allow imports aimed at compensating for the

revenue loss. He added the additional customs duty is other than the standard customs duty that is imposed to raise more taxes.

He said that the proposal of imposing 17% sales tax on high octane blending component (HOBC) was at an advanced stage, aimed at collecting Rs6 billion in the remaining period of current fiscal year.

The government is already charging a tax of Rs50 per litre on HOBC and motor spirit (petrol). The cost of HOBC (97 octane) is higher by Rs45 per litre than the 92-octane petrol.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has asked Pakistan to impose 17% sales tax on petroleum products in addition to the Rs50-per-litre levy. INP

## Karachi receives first drizzle of winter

KARACHI: Karachi received its first winter drizzle on Monday as morning as light westerly winds swept the metropolis.

A light drizzle was reported in various neighborhoods of the city, including II Chundriger Road, MA Jinnah Road, and adjoining areas.

The Pakistan Meteorological Department said the country would see first spell of winter rains and snowfall from the past weekend.

The official reported that a westerly wave would enter the country on November 4 (evening/night) and persist till November 7.

The official predicted that daytime temperatures would likely drop by two to four degrees Celsius in the country's southern regions and between five and seven degrees Celsius in the northern regions, including north Balochistan.

On Sunday, rains were reported in many places of Balochistan including Harnai. After the westerly wave passed, a wave of cold is forecasted to sweep higher altitude regions.

In Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, heavy rains may cause landslides. Over the weekend, Chitral received its first snowfall of winter. Wheat planting will benefit from the rainy season, while rice crop harvesting may be impacted. INP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov and others cutting the cake during Victory Day of the Republic of Azerbaijan ceremony at a local hotel in Federal Capital.

## PDWP approves six development schemes of various sectors

LAHORE: The Punjab Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) approved six development schemes of various sectors with an estimated cost of Rs. 17,180.908 million.

These schemes were approved in the 25th meeting of Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) of current fiscal year 2022-23.

The approved development schemes included Rehabilitation of Bund Road from Babu Sabu Interchange to Ring Road along with Provision of Underpass at Gulshan-E-Ravi T Junction at the cost of Rs. 4,959.317 million, Institute of Urology & Transplantation Rawalpindi (Revised) at the cost of Rs. 6,369.170 million, Program for Provision of CT Scan Service in Selected THQs on Outsourced Model at the cost of Rs. 997.200 million, Establishment of Chemical Block at

Khawaja Fareed University of Engineering & Information Technology, R.Y Khan at the cost of Rs. 770.416 million.

Rehabilitation of Jhang Gojra Road, Jhang at the cost of Rs. 1,521.367 million and Construction / Rehabilitation / Widening of Road from Dhal Bangish to Head Khokhra via Bhau Ghaset Pur I/C Links UJC to Luqman and Qjhrjan, Haji Chakk, Dhakkar via Kirariwala, Jhanddu, Chachian, Subhan, Randheer, Rajoo, Bhuddowal and Poranwala, Length=57.30 Km, District Gujrat at the cost of Rs. 2,563.438 million.

Provincial Secretary P&D Board Dr. Muhammad Sohail Anwar Chaudhary, all Members of the Planning & Development Board, Provincial Secretaries of concerned departments, and other senior representatives of the relevant Provincial Departments also attended the meeting. INP

## Afghan, Pakistan pine nuts and dried apricot attract visitors at CIIE

BEIJING: Afghan, Pakistan pine nuts and dried apricot got wholesale orders at the China International Import Expo (CIIE), it was reported by Gwadar Pro on Monday.

On the 5th of November, CIIE kicked off in Shanghai. In the food and agricultural products, a special booth in the corner attracted a lot of visitors.

"This is the first time that we've participated in the CIIE, and we have already got

some wholesale orders on the first day," said Yousof Sadat, an Afghan exhibitor on CIIE who can speak fluent Chinese. "This year, we brought dried apricot, saffron, saffron, pine nut, etc. The most popular products are dried apricot and pine nut. I believe there will be more customers and orders in the next few days."

"I think that Afghan products are still not well-known in China, while the CIIE provides us a platform to show our products,

Chinese market is gradually knowing and recognizing us. At present, we still have three or four containerized products on the way here," he added.

"China and Afghanistan have a very good partnership, we will do more business between the two countries," Nida Mohammad Popal, boss of Yousof and the owner of the dry fruit business, also expressed his appreciation to China's openness. "China is a very good market for

Afghan products and transportation takes no time.

In addition, because our government changed, a lot of countries don't give visas to us. China is still open to us. I also do a lot of import from China to Afghanistan, like fertilizer."

In July, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with Amir Khan Muttaqi, acting foreign minister of the Afghan interim government.

Wang stressed that

China is ready to push for dovetailing the Belt and Road Initiative with Afghanistan's national development strategies, support the extension of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to Afghanistan and share China's development opportunities.

Pakistan also has a large production of high-quality apricot and pine nut. It is potential that in the future, we will also see Pakistani dry fruit on CIIE. INP



ISLAMABAD: PTI senator Azam Khan Swati talking with media persons outside Supreme Court in Federal Capital.

# Pakistan is 'Gold' but unfortunately victim of propaganda: Member European Parliament

**President FPCCI says renewal of GSP Plus with diversification on the positive way**

ISLAMABAD: Member European Parliament Hervé Juvin has said that Pakistan is 'Gold' but unfortunately victim of propaganda. He said there is huge opportunity of pharmaceutical products in European markets.

He was leading a Parliamentary delegation of the European Union which visited FPCCI Capital Office in Islamabad on Monday. The delegation comprises Identity & Democracy Group (France), Member of the Committee of International Trade (INTA) and Subcommittee on Security and Defence, MEP Ms. Virginie Joron, Member of the Committee on the Internal Market, Consumer Protection and Committee on Legal Affairs MEP Mr. Mick Wallace, Left Group (Ireland), Member of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and Subcommittee on Security and Defence, MEP Ms. Clare Daly, Left Group (Ireland), Member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and Vice Chair-Delegation for relations with Afghanistan and Ms. Roxana Cristea.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Hervé Juvin, leader of the EU Parliamentary delegation said the GSP Plus scheme of the European Union for Pakistan will be ended this year while they have started favorable working on the further renewal of the scheme from January 2023 with diversification of potential sectors of Pakistan's economy.

President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh said that EU – Pakistan relations have a strategic aspect that covers all the relevant areas including counterterrorism, trade, climate change and GSP Plus Scheme. He further said that GSP Plus status holds significant importance for Pakistan's economy as it has played a vital role in the expansion of multilateral trade.

He quoted the statistics and informed that in 2021 Pakistan's total volume of trade with the EU was US\$ 13.289 billion out of which our exports were US\$ 7.63 billion which is 29.4% of our total exports and our trade balance with the EU is positive. However, the existing GSP Plus scheme is confined to the textile sector but it should be enhanced to other sectors also, he added. Irfan Sheikh highlighted various potential sectors including pharmaceutical, surgical, sports goods, agricultural sector, minerals and mines, and gems stone and said that Pakistan needs foreign investments under joint ventures in these sectors. He also highlighted the potential in the tourism sector of Pakistan and invited investors for investment. He further said that Pakistan is a gateway to the central and south Asian market. CPEC is very important for Pakistan and Gwadar is a gold mine of our country. He told that CPEC has special economic zones and we invite European investors to take benefit from this profitable investment in Pakistan INP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov shake hand with the Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif during Victory Day of the Republic of Azerbaijan ceremony at a local hotel in Federal Capital.

## Pakistan hails adoption by COP27 of its proposed 'loss and damage' agenda item

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan hails the adoption by UN Climate Summit of its proposed agenda item 'Matters relating to funding arrangements for loss and damage'.

This was stated by Pakistan's ambassador to the United Nations and Chairman Group of 77 and China, Mumir Akram in his remarks at the opening session of UN Climate Summit at Sharm el-Sheikh.

The agenda item was proposed by Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, during inter-sessional work at Bonn, Germany, in June this year. It envisages compensating developing nations for mounting damage linked to climate change.

The agenda item on 'loss and damage' was the only one out of eight additional items proposed by various groups, which was adopted by consensus. All the rest were dropped due to lack of consensus.

The adoption of agenda is recognition of the fact that countries, like Pakistan, which confront climate-induced disasters, should not be left to fend for themselves. INP

## Imran misleading people by making baseless allegations, says Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: Minister for education and Vocational Training Rana Tanveer Hussain said on Monday that Imran Niazi was misleading people by making baseless allegations but the government will not allow anyone to create chaos in the country.

"Those who tried to violate the constitution would be punished accordingly", he said while talking to a private news channel.

He said that former prime minister Imran Khan was "playing with Pakistan's interests", adding, Khan detracts people for his personal interest.

Replying to a question, he said Imran Khan's long march was an attempt to create political chaos and destabilize democracy. He said that Imran could not come to power through politics of agitation.

On the other hand the Islamabad Police stated that action will be taken against those who protest in the capital without the permission of the administration. In a statement issued by the spokesperson, the political leaders with cases registered against them will be arrested.

The spokesperson also requested the political leaders to protest at the designated spots with the permission from the administration, asking the public to report any suspicious activity to 15. The police also told the people to call 15 to check the conditions of the routes as the political leaders have announced the closure of routes. INP

## Essential to get rid outdated political culture to end poverty: Tahir Khokhar

MUZAFFARABAD: Former parliamentary leader of MQM Azad Kashmir and ex-minister of tourism and transport Muhammad Tahir Khokhar has said that in order to end the poverty, ignorance and unemployment of Azad Kashmir, we should get rid of the outdated and rotten political culture.

Talking to various public delegations here on Monday Tahir Khokhar said that the MQM has started a struggle to free the people of Azad Kashmir from the corrupt political culture. He stated that few families have usurped the rights of 90 percent of the people for their power. The privileged classes are united for their family political interests and business interests, while the people are being fought in the name of politics.

He said that MQM is the only political movement in the country which has fought for the rights of the people not just with slogans but in practice. They practically revolted against the landlords, vaders and capitalists and threw them out of the halls of power.

He said that the people should question the ruling families and the so-called public representatives of Azad Kashmir. INP

## PML-N submits resolution against Qureshi's remarks about police uniform

LAHORE: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Monday submitted a resolution in the Punjab Assembly against the insulting remarks of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi about the uniform of the Punjab police.

The resolution was submitted by PML-N MPA Sadia Taimur.

The text of the resolution said that the insulting remarks of PTI leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi about the uniform of Punjab police was intolerable.

"Insulting the Punjab police's uniform is tantamount to mocking the police martyrs," it added.

"The Punjab police discharge their professional responsibilities very well," it stated.

"After the leadership of Pakistan Army, the PTI has now slung mud at the senior leadership of police," it loathed.

"There is great resentment among the ranks of Punjab police over the non-serious statement of Shah Mehmood Qureshi," it maintained.

The resolution also demanded from the Punjab government a stern action against Shah Mehmood Qureshi. INP

## Lahore CCPO refuses to obey orders of Establishment Division

LAHORE: Lahore Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Ghulam Mehmood Dogar Monday refused to obey the orders of the Establishment Division. The CCPO also decided to challenge his suspension orders issued by the Establishment Division on Saturday last. It is to be noted here that the CCPO has not left his post despite his suspension orders by the Establishment Division. He has also decided to go to the court against the federal government's decision of suspending him. The rifts between the federal and Punjab governments have begun to plague the police department. The legal experts say that it is illegal for the CCPO to remain in the office despite being suspended. It also merits a mention here that the CCPO had

## Govt warned over petrol, diesel shortage in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Due to limited imports and finite local availability, Oil Companies Advisory Council (OCAC) on Monday warned the federal government about the possible shortage of petrol and High Speed Diesel (HSD) in the coming days.

The OCAC wrote to the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) that the shortfall is due to the limited supply and high premiums on fuel stocks in the international market.

Therefore, it may be difficult to import diesel in November. So far, only state-run Pakistan State Oil (PSO), has reserved shipments of 220,000 metric tons and 10,000 metric tons from Flow Petroleum.

According to the letter, import of petrol required to meet needs and match expected sales volume has not been scheduled.

The importers were supposed to finalize the import plan, but as of now, there is a gap in the import plan, the letter read.

In addition to that, few OMCs recorded sales for October higher than their expected demand since they had limited stocks of fuel products.

They received fuel shipments in the last week of October which they were due to use for the entirety of October.

The letter said that the OMCs who were permitted to import goods the month before for use in the following month had already used the shipments in advance.

Late last week, the ECC approved to increase the margin of oil companies by 63% which shall be subject to the financial capacity and prior approval of the Ministry of Finance.

The OMC margin on petrol has been increased from Rs3.68 to Rs6 per litre. Whereas, margin on diesel has also been approved to increase from Rs3.68 to Rs6 per litre. INP

## LHC judge recuses himself from hearing Imran Khan's petition against FIA

LAHORE: Lahore High Court Justice Ali Zia Bajwa on Monday recused himself from hearing a petition filed by PTI Chairman Imran Khan against the FIA call-up notices in prohibited funding case.

During hearing of the PTI chairman's petition, Justice Bajwa recused himself and sent the petition to the LHC chief justice with his suggestion to fix the hearing of the petition today before another bench.

The judge said that he had worked with Intizar Hussain Panjutha as a lawyer. "That's why, I don't want to hear a petition submitted by Panjutha due to personal reasons," Justice Bajwa said suggesting the chief justice that he fix the hearing of the case today.

The petition has made interior ministry, FIA DG, deputy director and investigation officer respondents in the case.

The petitioner said that the FIA in order to politically victimize him sent a call-up notice for Oct 31. He said that the FIA inquiry into the MCB account of the Punjab PTI was based on mala fide intentions.

The petition stated that the FIA initiated inquiry to harass PTI Chairman Imran Khan and placate his political adversaries. No institution raised objection to the opening of accounts by the PTI, the petition

## High altitude areas of KP, AJK receive intermittent snowfall

SWAT: High altitude areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad Jammu Kashmir continued to receive intermittent snowfall for the third consecutive day on Monday.

Winter has taken hold in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) high altitude areas, particularly in the Hazara Division and the Swat valley with many tourist destinations blanketed by white powder.

In the tourist attraction, Mahudand Lake of Swat, the entire landscape has turned white after receiving heavy snowfall. Similarly in the Hazara Division, at least three inches of snow was recorded in the hill station of Naran. Meanwhile in Mansehra and Ayubia, rain and snow have fallen for the third consecutive day.

Tourists visiting the northern parts of Pakistan rejoiced. In the Kaghan Valley, employees of the Galiyat Development Authority (GDA) have been engaged in relief efforts, clearing roads and any landslides.

In the autonomous region of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) snow has turned mountain tops white apart from rains washing the countryside. After snowfall, Lipa Valley and Haveli District have seen the temperature drop. INP

## Interior ministry asks Punjab gov't to register FIR of Wazirabad incident

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Interior has asked the Punjab government to immediately register a first information report of the Wazirabad firing incident and stated that report must be "based on merits and not on conjectures or speculative allegations".

In a letter addressed to the provincial chief secretary and Punjab inspector general the ministry termed the delay in the registration of the FIR a "lacklustre response of the Punjab government to the unfortunate incident".

"The delay is grossly illegal and has caused irreparable damage to prosecute the real accused," the letter stated. It added that the case was mishandled by the Punjab government, creating a law and order situation in the province. INP

## IHC orders PTI, Islamabad admn to sort long march NOC issue

ISLAMABAD: During the hearing of a petition Monday filed by the PTI against Islamabad administration's refusal to grant it permission to hold a rally/sit-in in the federal capital, the Islamabad High Court directed both the parties to sort their issue, otherwise the court would look into it.

Justice Aamer Farooq heard the main petition filed by the PTI seeking permission to hold its rally in Islamabad.

A miscellaneous petition was also filed by the Islamabad administration apprising the court that it could not allow the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf to stage its rally/sit-in keeping in view the security situation and threat to Imran's life that might endanger lives of other people participating in his long march.

The court on the ICT administration petition issued notice to the PTI. At the outset of the hearing, the court inquired of the state counsel whether he had submitted some petition. On which, the prosecutor told the court that the suggested dates given by the PTI for holding its long march in its petition had already been lapsed so the party's petition had been rendered ineffective. He requested the court to reject the PTI plea for staging a rally and sit-in. Justice Farooq remarked that a tragic incident happened during the PTI long march, so it would be appropriate that they should be given some time. The judge advised both the parties to sit together and sort their issue, otherwise court would look into it. After this, the court adjourned the hearing till Friday. INP



RAWALPINDI: An ambulance stuck in rush due to PTI protest in favor of their demands at Murree Road in the city.

## PTI protests choke Rawalpindi city, close motorway

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers Monday continued their protest demonstrations in different areas of Rawalpindi city against the assassination attempt on their party Chairman Imran Khan.

Following the instructions issued by the PTI leaders Punjab Assembly Deputy Speaker Wasiq Qayyum and MNA Ghulam Sarwar Khan, the demonstrators have blocked the roads leading to Islamabad from Lahore and Peshawar Motorway. They blocked the motorway leading to Lahore and Peshawar by setting ablaze tyres and bushes. In order to deal with the situation, troops of Islamabad Capital Police and Pakistan Rangers have been dispatched.

Earlier, the workers under the leadership of Fiaz ul Hassan Chohan reached Murree Road and tried to enter the federal capital through Faizabad but the police and other officials restricted them to IJP Road and Murree Road.

Over this, the protesters also completely blocked the traffic coming from Lahore to Rawalpindi by burning tyres. Due to protests, diversions were placed at Koral Stop for traffic going to the old Air Port Road from Islamabad Expressway. The traffic has alternatively been diverted to Islamabad Expressway.

The protesters simultaneously blocked the traffic going to Faizabad from Murree Road and from the IJP Road to Islamabad due to which the citizens faced severe problems. Tehreek-e-Insaf activists too blocked the road leading to Islamabad Airport by burning tires.

The long queues of traffic have been seen on Murree Road and its adjacent roads in Rawalpindi.

The eye witness said that ambulances also got stuck in traffic and the patients have to face the agonizing situation. INP

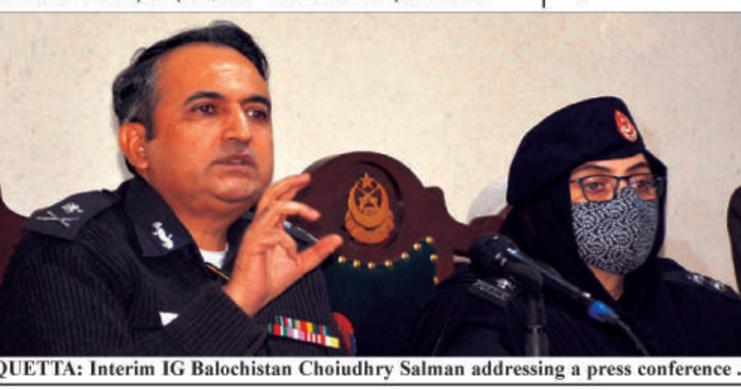
## PTI leaders warned of action if they block roads in protest

ISLAMABAD: Law enforcement agencies across the country have decided to launch a crackdown against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders and workers as they prepare to resume their long march from Wazirabad and head towards the federal capital to record their protest while allegedly spreading anarchy.

Sources said that law enforcement agencies, in meeting late on Sunday night, decided to arrest PTI leaders including Parvez Khattak, Sheikh Rashid Shafiq, Amir Kayani, Ali Amin Gandapur, and Aamir Dogar and others.

Apart from arrests, the law enforcing agencies are mulling plans to block roads leading to and from the Islamabad International Airport. Rangers, FC, and Police will patrol to Islamabad Airport.

Meanwhile, the Islamabad Police have warned PTI protesters that action will be taken against those who fail to protest peacefully in the feder-



QUETTA: Interim IG Balochistan Choudhry Salman addressing a press conference.