

QUETTA VOICE

Email address:
quettavoic@gmail.com

Friday 04
November, 2022

[https:// www.quettavoic.com/](https://www.quettavoic.com/)

ABC Certified

Quettavoic



Suspected attacker says he 'only wanted to kill Imran Khan'



Nawaz, Maryam Nawaz, others condemn attack on Imran Khan

Imran Khan injured as armed man opened fire during long march

Imran shot in the leg, attack condemned by all quarters

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister Imran Khan was injured in a firing incident during the long march near Gujranwala on Thursday evening. Senator Faisal Javed and four other PTI leaders were also injured in the attack.

PTI chairman Imran Khan, Senator Faisal Javed and several other leaders were among those wounded in gunfire on the long march container at Wazirabad's Allah Wala Chowk on Thursday.

The attack, characterized by the PTI as "targeted", has triggered widespread condemnation from across the political divide.

There were also reports of the death of a party worker who was in the city to welcome the caravan, which was there for the party's second iteration of its "Azadi" march. The assailant was reportedly subdued.

Senator Javed, who was also wounded and had blood stains on his clothes, told a media outlet from the hospital: "Several of our colleagues are wounded. We heard that one of them is dead."

According to PTI's Imran Ismail, the party chief reportedly "received three to four bullets in his leg" while Javed was grazed by a bullet, according to Hammad Azhar.

It was a clear assassination attempt. Khan was hit but he's stable. There was a lot of bleeding," Fawad Chaudhry told Reuters. "If the shooter had not been stopped by people there, the entire PTI leadership would have been wiped out."

Following the incident, Imran Khan was immediately shifted to a vehicle and evacuated to a hospital — in Lahore, according to Reuters — while other injured people were taken by ambulances to the nearby Wazirabad Institute of Cardiology.

According to rescue officials and PTI, ten people were injured due to the firing, including the PTI officials. Reports also said that one child was included in the injured people.

PDM reacts PML-N's Marriyum Aurangzeb announced that Sharif has postponed his scheduled press conference that was to be done about his recent China visit.

Foreign Minister, Bilawal Bhutto also condemned the attack on PTI Chief and has requested for an investigation into the incident.

Faisal, speaking from the hospital, said that a PTI worker was killed during the attack, while another was severely injured. He prayed for the well-being and protection of Imran and everyone else.

Injured in the assassination attempt on Imran Khan, Senator @FaisalJavedKhan speaks exclusively.

Fawad, calling the attack a 'well-planned assassination attempt', claimed that the plan was to kill Imran and the leadership of the party. Rubbishing conflicting reports, he said that the weapon used was not of the 9mm caliber, but "was a burst from an automatic weapon"



and that it "was a narrow escape".

It was a well planned assassination attempt on Imran Khan, the assassin planned to kill Imran Khan and leadership of PTI, it was not 9 MM it was burst from automatic weapon, no two opinions about that it was narrow escape

"This regime change that they did, its handlers and facilitators, this is an area which should be secured as the GT Road is our secure line and an attack at such a place is a cause for concern for all government authorities."

The PTI leader also urged party supporters to continue the long march.

Imran, through his party leadership, has alleged that PM Shehbaz, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, and a military official are involved in the attack. He has demanded their removal or else the party would give a call for protest.

PTI leaders have also revealed that PTI wants an FIR against these three people.

PTI leader Asad Umar, reacting to the assassination attack, said those who want to stop Imran were unable to do so, hence, the "cowards tried to martyr him".

"Khan is under the shadow of Allah and He is yet to task the people's Kaptan."

Party leader Hammad Azhar said PTI's Ahmed Chattha was shot twice and is not "out of danger".

Hammad said the PTI leader suffered two gunshot wounds, one in each thigh, and is being operated upon. He added that wounds "are not deep".

The PTI chief, seemingly in good spirits after the attack on his life, was seen waving to party supporters soon after the attack.

Interior minister demands "high-level" JIT

Minister interior Rana Sanaullah has demanded Punjab government constitute a high-level joint-investigation team (JIT) to probe the attack on the PTI chairperson.

Today's unfortunate firing incident requires a high-level investigation as it is a matter of grave concern. Therefore, the Punjab government should constitute a JIT at the earliest to investigate the matter thoroughly.

Punjab CM takes notice of attack. Punjab Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi has taken notice of the attack on PTI Chairperson Imran Khan's container and instructed the province's top cop to submit a report after investigation.

Elahi said that those "behind the incident will be brought to justice". He also

instructed local authorities to provide the best possible medical care to the injured.

PM Shehbaz condemns attack on Imran Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took notice of the attack on Imran and condemned the incident. He instructed Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah to get an immediate report from the chief secretary of Punjab and the IGP.

The premier further said that the federal government will extend "all support necessary" to the provincial government for security and investigation of the incident.

Federal government will extend all support necessary to Punjab govt for security & investigation. Violence should have no place in our country's politics.



KARACHI: Activities of PTI burn tyres during protest at Shar e Faisal after PTI chief Imran Khan wounded in gunfire on the long march.

Suspected attacker says he 'only wanted to kill Imran Khan'

"No one is behind me and I did this [the attack] on my own," Says

The suspect, who was arrested by the Punjab Police soon after he shot former prime Minister Imran Khan in Gujranwala, has confessed that he shot the PTI chief as he was "misleading" the nation.

"I could see him misleading the nation. I only wanted to target Imran Khan and no one else," he said in a video statement in police custody.

The suspect also revealed that he had intended to do so ever since the deposed premier left Lahore and started his long march. "No one is behind me and I did this [the attack] on my own," he added.

The PTI chief was injured after being shot in the leg by the assailant. Former ruling party leaders have revealed that his condition is stable and he has been escorted to Shaukat Khanum Hospital in Lahore.

Senator Faisal Javed also sustained injuries from the attack.

The incident occurred on Day 7 of the party's long march to the federal capital. According to media reports, the gunman has been arrested and Imran was out of danger.

The PTI chief has been hospitalized after he reportedly received multiple gunshot wounds in the leg. Chaotic scenes were seen as security personnel rushed to secure the premises after the incident occurred.

Many including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the incident. He said that the federal government will extend all support necessary to the Punjab government for security and investigation.

"Violence should have no place in our country's politics," Shehbaz further said. Web Desk

PTI Balochistan protests against attack on Imran Khan

Manan Mandokhail, Syed Muhammad Qaseem

Pakistan Tehrik e Insaaf (PTI) Balochistan staged protest demonstrations in Quetta against the attack on former prime minister Imran Khan on Thursday evening. PTI workers blocked the main airport road and koaila phatak to vent their anger against the attack on the former premier.

The protesters burnt tires and chanted full-throated slogans against the federal government for its failure to provide security to the former prime minister of the country. "We want the arrest of the attackers", Muhammad Usman, a young highly charted PTI supporter demanded. He said the present government had deliberately created law and order problems for the Haqeeqi Azadi March.

Long queues of vehicles were witnessed on both sides of the road because of the blockade of the road by PTI supporters. Thick black smoke was also rising from the spot of the protest.

"Imran Khan is our leader and we will sacrifice for him", Asmat Khan, another highly charged PTI supporter said. He said the government has to arrest the attacker since Imran Khan is the most popular leader of the country.



People used alternative routes to reach their destinations after the blockade of the road.

Balochistan government had tightened security across the provincial capital and other cities in the aftermath of the attack on the former prime minister. Police, levies and personnel of the frontier corps were also deployed on all roads of Quetta to maintain order. The protesters were peacefully dispersed after recording the protest and traffic was resumed on the main Quetta airport road.

Nawaz, Maryam Nawaz, others condemn attack on Imran Khan

LAHORE: Several political leaders, including Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif and vice-president Maryam Nawaz, have condemned the attack on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan during party's long march. ARY News reported on Thursday.

Taking to his official Twitter account, PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif condemned the firing incident on Imran Khan and his companions. He also prayed for the recovery of those injured.

PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz also condemned the attack and prayed for the speedy recovery of the former premier and others injured.

Wishing for the fast recovery of the injured, Bizenjo said the perpetrators would be brought to justice without delay. INP

PMC registers all 600 medical students of Balochistan

News Desk

Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) Islamabad issued a notification for the registration of 600 students from three medical colleges of Balochistan that include Makran Medical College Turbat, Jhalwan Medical College Khuzdar, and Lorafai Medical College Loralai.



medical colleges, the PMC had announced a special examination for the registration of the students studying in these colleges.

It is worth to be noted that these students were in protest for the last few years. A high-level delegation of the

Government of Balochistan, headed by the Chief Secretary, Secretary of Health, and Principal Medical Colleges, asked to review this decision in a meeting with the members of the Council on 15 February 2022, the Secretary of Health Balochistan stated.

Hafiz Muhammad Tahir further said that in the second meeting on March 10, 2022, it was decided that the complete registration will be decided after reviewing the papers and exams of the students under study.

Mr. Tahir added that the PMC requested the representative from Balochistan, Professor Dr. Naqeebullah Achakzai, to present a report at the council meeting on October 24. In the meeting, the review report was approved for the registration of all students.

The council announced the registration of all 600 students by issuing a formal notification on November 1. "The government of Balochistan is grateful to PMC for solving the problem", Mr. Tahir said.

PTI looking towards institutes after reaching dead end, says Sherry

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Sherry Rehman on Thursday said that after reaching to a dead end, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan is now looking towards institutions and courts. Taking to Twitter, while

terming it a "shortcut march", she said people are not coming out in the march nor is there any result coming out of it. "Now the PTI leader is pleading the army and the court to end the current political crisis," she maintained. She went on to say that when Imran Khan was not offered any deal and his "non-constitutional demands" were not fulfilled, he now says that he does not want to negotiate with anyone. The PPP chairman said that to which the PTI Chairman is terming as a political crisis is actually his style of politics. INP

Attempt on life of PTI chief preplanned: Fawad Ch

WAZIRABAD: Senior leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and former information minister, Fawad Chaudhary has said that attempt on life of party chief was preplanned and designers of the attack would not be spared.



However, Fawad Chaudhary said that one should keep in mind that Imran Khan was there to save the country of corrupt elements and save future of the nation and he can't be frightened through such tactics. He said that elements involved in murder and injuring of party workers would be unveiled and taken to task. INP

Talking to media after firing on container of PTI Chairman Imran Khan resulting in

death of a PTI activist and leaving others including party chief injured, he said that those ter-

rified of popularity of their leader were engaged in nefarious designs of keeping him away of politics.

'Imran says he is ready to sacrifice his life for real freedom'

LAHORE: Central leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Asad Umar has said the doctors have said that Imran Khan got injured but his condition is out of danger.



three persons. The PTI leader said two days ago Imran Khan was told that there was danger to his life but he said that they were out for Jihad. They should be removed from office immediately, otherwise there will be a nationwide protest. Aslam Iqbal said the Punjab Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi has given orders to form a JIT on the matter and waiting for the next call of Iman Khan. INP

Asad Umar in a video message after meeting with Imran Khan along with Aslam Iqbal at Shaukat Khanum Hospital in Lahore said that Imran Khan called him and Aslam Iqbal for a meeting in hospital. Asad Umar said Imran Khan repeatedly said

that he was ready to give his life for the real freedom of the country. No one should doubt Imran Khan's sacrifice for the country after this accident, Asad Umar added. According to Asad Umar, Imran Khan has given a message to the nation that three people, including Shahbaz Sharif, Rana Sanaullah and Major General Faisal did all this and an FIR is going to be filed against these

QUETTA VOICE

Editor Asim Khan

Cries of coal miners in Balochistan

Perhaps, the cries of coal miners fall on deaf ears in Balochistan like in other parts of the country. Horrific news of coal miners buried alive, burnt to death, severely injured by methane gas blasts continue to surface from different areas of the province.

Such tragedies are yet to attract the attention of rulers and above all make no headlines in the so-called mainstream national media. Incidents in coal mines are always ignored. No, follow up investigation and inquiries, when it comes to the death of hapless miners in Balochistan.

Hazardous working conditions have claimed thousands of precious human lives inside coal mines of Balochistan, which houses rich-coal reservoirs. Almost with no safety, the miners enter into mines in the morning and extract coal for a whole day. Fortunate are those who come out alive in the evening. As per the 1923 mines act, the inspector of mines is bound to inspect mine in the morning prior to the entry of miners. Similarly, children, minor boys, and women are not allowed to step inside the mine according to the act.

Coal mines incidents rampant in Balochistan
Incidents in Dukki, Mach, Chamalang, Sorange, Khost, Harnai, and other parts of Balochistan are rampant in coal mines.

Six coal miners trapped when a fire erupted inside the coal mines the other day in the Chamalang area of Balochistan. Fortunately, rescue workers backed by the Frontier Corps (FC) rescued all six miners after nine hours-long operations. The technical team dispatched from Quetta in a helicopter to ensure the unhurt recovery of coal miners.

The mines and mineral department government of Balochistan is reluctant to share data of incidents with the media. Although, thousands have died in the coal mines of Balochistan during last more than a decade. Mines owners are hardly punished for poor working conditions that cause such tragedies.

Broken families need to be provided a reasonable compensation

Broken and poverty-hit families need to be provided reasonable compensation by the government and mines owners. Currently, the families are paid a nominal amount by mine owners. It is time for the government to make sure the implementation of the 1923 mines acts to save precious human lives.

Such incidents cause a national outrage in other parts of the globe. Nonetheless, they go unnoticed in this part of the world. It is a matter of our collective conscience and responsibilities to raise voice for saving precious human lives and raising voice for a down-trodden class of society.

To be precise, the implementation of the 1923 mines act can help reduce the number of such incidents in the coal mines of Balochistan.

The king's burden

By Mir Adnan Aziz

The 70-year reign of Queen Elizabeth II culminated with her transition at her beloved abode, the Balmoral Castle in the Scottish Highlands. Queen Elizabeth's death was mourned by many but also brought forth historical biases, bitterness and injustices associated with the British monarchy. It is an invariable fact that British monarchs and royals actively participated, facilitated and profited from the slave trade and colonization for centuries.

In 'Late Victorian Holocausts', historian Mike Davis narrates how famines during the British rule find no place in the laudatory screeds of the British Empire. Davis asserts that taxes and changes in the Subcontinent's revenue system impacted farmers adversely and was a major factor leading to famines. There were 31 famines in 120 years of British rule compared with 17 in the 2,000 years preceding it. According to Davis, over 29 million people perished due to Britain's policies.

These policies were devised by the likes of British economist John Maynard Keynes, an avowed imperialist. In 1919, he authored 'The Economic Consequences of Peace', a scathing critique of the Versailles Peace Treaty. Keynes, along with Harry Dexter White, is also known as the intellectual father of the IMF and World Bank, the excruciating neo-colonial tools of today.

In 1943, the Keynesian policy had Churchill divert India's food stocks to Europe. In what gained notoriety as the Bengal Famine, British estimates put the resulting deaths at three million. Indian estimates say seven million perished. The surviving millions faced severe malnutrition and impoverishment. It remains one of the most horrific atrocities of British rule.

Bards of the Empire eulogize the imparting of civility and bettering lives in the Subcontinent; a land that boasted sophisticated civilizations thousands of years ago. Renowned economist Utsa Patnaik's research published by Columbia University Press draws on two centuries of detailed data. It reveals that from 1765 to 1938 the "bestowing and benevolent" colonists extracted a mind-boggling 45 trillion dollars from the Subcontinent. This was when the average annual salary in England was around 36 pounds.

In the 18th century, when Britain began its putsch in the Subcontinent, the latter contributed a quarter of the world's GDP. When the British finally departed in 1947, this lay deci-

mated to less than 1 per cent. Belgian economist Paul Bairoch's detailed study of world economy in his book 'Economics and World History: Myths and Paradoxes' claims that the Subcontinent was the largest global economy for 1700 of the past 2000 years. The missing 300 years being those under British rule. This has also been substantiated by a study initiated by the Paris based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

In 'Crimes against India', Stephen Knapp writes that in 1832 the then governor general William Bentinck initiated a plan to totally dismantle the Taj Mahal and ship it to Britain. Word from London said that there had been scant response to the envisaged auction of the marble pieces. This is how the fabled monument survived its fragmented journey to the capital city of the rapacious empire, London's Victoria and Albert Museum alone holds over 40,000 art items from the Subcontinent. This led to TV show host John Oliver saying that "all our greatest possessions are stolen" adding that "the entire British Museum is basically an active crime scene".

As the British initiated their scramble back

home, Queen Victoria's great grandson Lord Mountbatten tasked Cyril Radcliffe to draw the partition line. The dice were totally loaded against Pakistan due to the known Mountbatten, Edwina, Nehru friendship. The mindset of the empire can be well gauged from the fact that Radcliffe, a lawyer who had never been to India and was absolutely clueless about its geography, was given five weeks to complete the onerous task.

In a famous 1976 interview with veteran Indian journalist Kuldip Nayyar in London, Radcliffe called his effort a "shoddy affair" that could have been handled better had he been given "two to three years". He told Nayyar "I nearly gave you (India) Lahore but then I realized that Pakistan would not have any large city as I had already earmarked Calcutta for India". Among others, he gave Muslim majority Gurdaspur, a direct conduit to Jammu and Kashmir, to India. In 1948, this enabled India to occupy Kashmir which it brutalizes to this day.

The partition of Punjab and Bengal too was criminally biased. In a Daily Telegraph article of February 24, 1992, Christopher Beaumont, secretary of the Radcliffe Commission, confirmed that the frontiers had been

secretly redrawn to favor India. The "shoddy affair" proved to be a harrowing tragedy. Over 90,000 women were abducted, almost two million people perished and over 15 million were displaced. The scars are carried by generations; the resulting acrimony between Pakistan and India threatens the globe.

The year 1992 saw the end of the marriages of three of the late Queen's four children, including that of the present king and Lady Diana. A fire at Windsor Castle also caused damage to the tune of 60 million pounds. Queen Elizabeth famously dubbed the year as her "annus horribilis", Latin for "a horrible year". If these setbacks made the late Queen's year horrible, one can well imagine the sentiments of the generations left behind of the millions who suffered and perished at the hands of the British Empire.

Rudyard Kipling extolled the empire to civilize the half devil half child savages terming it the white man's burden. As the crown is placed on King Charles's head, the burden of history shall be far heavier and telling than the Kohinoor that adorns the royal crown; this shall be the King's burden. Known to have strong views on interfaith dialogue and other important issues.

Climate challenge

By Dr Ameena Tanvir

Long denied and then ignored, climate change is now taking a toll in Pakistan as the country sits at high risk of being run out of water and braces for intense and unprecedented weather patterns.

Pakistan is breaking its own records of being one of the worst-hit countries by climate change, almost every year. According to the Global Climate Risk Index, Pakistan ranked eighth most vulnerable country in the world. In May, the UN enlisted Pakistan among the top 23 countries facing drought emergencies over the past two years. Between 1998 and 2018, the country is estimated to have lost nearly 10,000 lives to climate-related disasters and suffered losses amounting to about \$4 billion from 152 extreme weather events.

Analysts have estimated Pakistan's climate migrants over the past decade at around 30 million people. Severe weather patterns coupled with lack of readiness are not only endangering lives of millions of residents but also leading to food insecurity and dwindling economic outlook.

Although heatwaves had started impacting the country for the last many years, this year's premature heatwave has made ripples, forcing millions to readjust or reduce their daily workload or life pattern. The unprecedented and

intense heatwave that began in as early as April also sent shockwaves to the country's economic outlook, especially to Punjab. The province produces more than 50 per cent of the total wheat of the country, but the premature heat resulted in early harvesting that led to missing production targets.

Punjab witnessed an unprecedented and premature rise in temperature varying from 41 degrees C to 47 degrees C in different parts, shaving off the spring season completely this year. It is not that 47 degrees C in the country is an abnormal temperature; the problem is that wheat and other crops need certain temperatures at a certain time for their growth. The extreme heat episode in March and April led to a significant reduction in the per acre yield from over 40 mounds to 28 mounds. In May, the federal government decided to import three million tons of wheat from the international market to meet domestic needs.

This year's intense and blistering heatwave didn't spare mango production either, as the country faced nearly a 50 per cent drop in mango production. Punjab alone, which produces 70 per cent of the total mangoes, faced a 60 per cent drop in mango production during the 2022 season. The ideal temperature for good flowering of

mango must be 13 degrees C to 30 degrees C, but this year the temperatures in those days hovered around 40 degrees C.

Year-on-year temperature increases have brought plague after plague in rural and urban areas. In 2020, Punjab faced the most devastating locust infestation in nearly 30 years, which affected 15 per cent of the area of the province. Experts believe that the rising temperature of the Indian Ocean is one of the main reasons for the invasion of locusts in the South Asian region.

Also, increasing temperature is one of several reasons for deadly air pollution in the country. According to experts, rising temperature is intricately linked with the climate crisis because warmer temperatures create an environment for smog formation and can lead the air to stagnate - preventing dirty air from leaving an area. Air pollution thus exacerbates existing inequalities and paves the way for human rights violations.

Deteriorating air pollution is also leading to indirect costs such as lower labour supply and productivity, migration of skilled labour, and volatility in the financial sector.

Rising temperatures are not an exclusive or sole reason for low yield of several crops in Pakistan, but prolonged droughts and below-normal rains have their part

to play as well. Despite having one of the world's largest irrigation systems, water channels across Pakistan confronted acute water shortages due to less or below-normal rainfall from February through June of this year. Water reservoirs remained unfilled or partially filled leading to hampering economic activities.

Before the recent rains brought relief for the residents of Cholistan, Thal and other desert areas of the country, life was upturned, forcing hundreds and thousands of people to migrate with their cattle to greener pastures and urban centres in desperate search for water. Although all provinces confronted acute water shortages as of late June, Sindh faced the worst of it with a record 40 per cent shortage.

The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) expected a 22 per cent water shortage for the Kharif season, but it turned out even worse with a water shortage of 38 per cent. Prolonged drought eventually ended with the beginning of the monsoon season in July, but heavy rains made things look even worse. Flash floods caused by abnormally heavy monsoon rains have killed over 550 people so far, with Balochistan among the hardest hit.

According to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), July turned

out to be the wettest month since 1961, with 181 per cent more rain than average. Balochistan received 450 per cent and Sindh 308 per cent more rain than the annual average, the disaster agency said.

Unusual and torrential rainfall in Karachi caused havoc, forcing residents to stay at home during weekdays. The provincial government also announced a day off to cope with the heavy rainfall challenge. During the second spell of monsoon rains, the city received more than an entire summer's worth of rain in one day. Over 50 casualties have been reported in Sindh.

Successive governments, on their part, avowed to mitigate climate challenges and keep the issue as one of the top priorities. But little has been done in this regard due to lack of funding, attention and will power.

This year's devastating floods have inflicted immense damage to the infrastructure of Balochistan and Sindh. It will take the government years to rebuild resilient infrastructure since it is barely surviving a default-like situation currently. Lack of awareness among people and the absence of sustainable policies are some other factors that will keep Pakistan's fight against the looming climate change challenge unaddressed at least in the foreseeable future.

Climate affairs

By Chloe Atkinson

Scientists have long clamored that human activity on Earth has led to the calamitous weather changes we are witnessing today. The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has confirmed that climate change makes heatwaves hotter and more frequent. According to the research, greenhouse gas emissions have heated the planet by an estimated 1.2 degrees Celsius (2.16 degrees Fahrenheit) over the last two centuries.

The Nature journal published an article this month detailing what its authors say is proof that heatwaves in Europe have increased three-to-four times faster than in other northern mid-latitude areas such as the United States. The reason for this, according to the article, is due to the fast west-to-east air stream, or atmospheric circulation, which is carrying hot air across the northern atmosphere.

Most scientists appear to agree that temperatures will continue to rise unless humans cease adding greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. Without a drastic change in the way mankind conducts its business, heatwaves are predicted to worsen. Tackling climate change should be a top priority for every country today. Heatwaves that occurred once every decade are now happen-

ing at three times that rate. The 2015 Paris Agreement and last year's Glasgow climate conference were intended to bring the issue to global attention and generate movement on the ground. But current climate policies are not sufficient to avoid the dangerous effects of global warming. More must be done.

Today, wildfires are raging in Spain, France, Greece, Portugal, Morocco and Italy. Over one thousand people have died so far and many thousands more have been evacuated from their homes out of concern for their safety. Climate change plays a significant role in the cause of wildfires since it increases the hot and dry tinderbox conditions that help fires start and then spread quickly. Less precipitation means dry land and vegetation. This means that when a fire starts, it burns faster and more intensely. Hot and dry conditions are a perfect recipe for a massive inferno.

However, it is important to note that not every fire is caused by climate change. Forest management programs, which deal with how forests are maintained specifically to prevent massive infernos, are often insufficient. In addition, it is often careless people who ignite fires through arson or simply by barbecuing. Human fire starters aside, they don't cause the actual heatwave. Individuals are not responsible necessarily but since mankind is col-

lectively composed of individuals, it does fall on each and every one of us to take steps to minimize our carbon footprint. There is a reason why famed reality star Kylie Jenner was slammed on social media for posting a photo of her private jet parked next to boyfriend Travis Scott's plane, asking "You wanna take mine or yours?" And she was slammed again for taking her jet in the end for what turned out to be a paltry 12-minute flight.

Heatwaves that occurred once every decade are now happening at three times that rate. The 2015 Paris Agreement and last year's Glasgow climate conference were intended to bring the issue to global attention and generate movement on the ground. But current climate policies are not sufficient to avoid the dangerous effects of global warming. More must be done.

Today, wildfires are raging in Spain, France, Greece, Portugal, Morocco and Italy. Over one thousand people have died so far and many thousands more have been evacuated from their homes out of concern for their safety. Climate change plays a significant role in the cause of wildfires since it increases the hot and dry tinderbox conditions that help fires start and then spread quickly. Less precipitation means dry land and vegetation. This means that when a fire starts, it burns faster and more intensely.

Global energy security

By Maximilian Hess

Not since World War II has the threat to global energy security been as severe as it is today.

Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine and the consequent geo-economic war between the Kremlin and the West disrupted global gas markets at a scale unprecedented in recent history. The Kremlin's use of its power over energy markets as leverage - and Europe's efforts to wean itself off of Russian natural gas and avoid a massive shortage this winter - are triggering price hikes and rerouting flows around the world.

No one is left unaffected, even those who thought they had prepared for every eventuality. For example, Pakistan, which had secured several long-term natural gas import contracts to increase its energy security in recent years, has seen partners break those deals to send their gas to new clients offering to pay more. The coffers of both the developed and developing world are being drained. Meanwhile, the Kremlin is using the global energy crisis it created to sustain its economy in the face of severe international sanctions. Moreover, it is weaponising Europe's dependency on Russian natural gas to try and break Western resistance to its ambitions in Ukraine. Earlier this week, Moscow tried to tighten its squeeze on

Europe further, saying it plans to reduce gas supplies through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline to Germany to just 20 per cent capacity. In response, European Union energy ministers swiftly announced an agreement for the bloc's members to gut gas usage by 15 percent this winter. This was an attempt by Europe to show it would not give in to Russian pressure and abandon Ukraine in order to fill up its gas reserves. Such conflict-driven demand reduction, however, means that an already likely recession is now all but guaranteed. Following Gazprom's latest cuts, analysts already predict the EU will not be able to reach its own target of refilling gas storage to 80 percent capacity by winter. Now that Europe made it clear that it is finally - and perhaps much belatedly - ready to take the steps to cut its need for Russian gas at any cost, the Kremlin will do everything it can to inflict maximum pain on Europe in the short term, while the dependency remains.

A recent German poll found that at the moment, 58 percent of the population is supporting sanctions against Russia despite potential negative impacts for Germany. Russian President Vladimir Putin is working to bring that number down - down to the point that it becomes untenable for Germany's leaders to push for policies to support Ukraine and help the West win its confrontation with Russia. The waning of public support for the sanctions regime in the face of economic difficulties is an equally significant risk for other European governments.

Europe's leaders are now facing the herculean task of simultaneously helping their industries survive on a reduced energy supply, supporting Ukraine's war effort and maintaining public support for the sanctions regime amid a cost-of-living crisis largely manufactured by Russia that seems to have no real end in sight.

Energy is perhaps the most consequential front in the ongoing geo-economic battle between Russia and the West, and thus Europe needs to strengthen its hand there first.

After moving to address the demand side of the equation, now it needs to address the supply side of the problem to be able to shore up its economy to the furthest extent possible, and insulate public support for Kyiv and the sanctions regime against Russia.

There are some obvious steps that European governments can take - but have been reluctant to in fear of domestic backlash - to resolve the supply issue swiftly. The Netherlands, for

example, can pump billions of cubic metres of extra natural gas across Europe by increasing production at the Groningen gas field. Bewilderingly, however, it is still planning to take the entire operation offline next year over the risk of minor earthquakes in the surrounding area and some push-back from environmentalists. Germany can also increase its future capacity to supply energy simply by extending the lifespan of its nuclear power plants that are meant to come offline at the end of the year. The governing coalition said it is now considering this option, but the Greens - including Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock - continue to resist the move. The party's stance on this issue is somewhat understandable - after all, Germany's Green Party was in large part borne out of Germany's Cold War-era anti-nuclear movement. Nevertheless, by blocking a relatively straightforward and low-risk solution to a major problem facing the nation, it risks failing the test of being a responsible government partner at a time of war, less than a year after its best-ever election result. Beyond increasing their own production capacity by any means possible, European nations should of course also work on forming new

partnerships with suppliers outside their region. The global gas crisis and its impacts are by no means limited to Europe. It is therefore imperative that Europe seeks to bring together the international community to coordinate global supply.

When the world last faced such a major energy crisis, the Allies had significant control over the world's oil supplies. British Petroleum and its predecessors, and the forefathers of the modern United States energy majors, controlled most of the Middle East's petroleum at the dawn of World War II. Britain established the Petroleum Warfare Department and the Petroleum Board - which brought together all allied energy firms, including US ones even before Pearl Harbor brought the US into the conflict directly - to coordinate supplies for the war. Today, ownership of global energy supplies is far more diversified. And while the US has pledged to use its role as a liquefied natural gas (LNG) exporter to support Europe, a fire this June at its flagship liquefaction plant in Freeport, Texas has seen export capacity fall by some 17 percent. Thus addressing global gas shortages will require a coming together of key public and private players from across the world to develop a strategy for this winter.

Inequality and hunger

By Chuck Collins

Beginning on May 24, the World Economic Forum is gathering in Davos, Switzerland for an in-person meeting, discussing the global tax system and financial inclusion.

Thanks to protests and new research, however, participants will not be able to avoid the elephant in the room: the surging inequality of wealth during the pandemic.

As the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) and Inequality.org have documented over the last two years of a global pandemic, billionaire assets have surged while millions lost their lives and livelihoods.

A new report from Oxfam dramatizes how hundreds of millions of people around the world have slid further into poverty during this time period. In a detailed examination of the food and agriculture industry, Oxfam found that billionaires in that industry saw their wealth increase by \$382 billion during the pandemic. An emergency windfall tax on their wealth increase alone (to say nothing of their pre-pandemic billions) could end world hunger and double the incomes of 545 million small-scale farmers.

In January, an analysis by the Fight Inequality Alliance, Institute for Policy Studies, Oxfam, and the Patriotic Millionaires found that an annual wealth tax starting at just 2 percent for those

with more than \$5 million, 3 percent for those with over \$50 million, and up to 5 percent for billionaires could generate upwards of \$2.52 trillion a year. That's enough to lift 2.3 billion people out of poverty, fund vaccines for everyone in the world, and deliver universal healthcare and social protections for all the citizens of low- and lower-middle-income countries.

A group of over 150 millionaires released a strong statement calling on Davos attendees to face the dangers of runaway wealth inequality and speak out in favor of national efforts to levy progressive income and wealth taxes on the ultra-wealthy. "The truth is that 'Davos' doesn't deserve the world's trust right now," the statement reads. "For all the countless hours spent talking about making the world a better place, the conference has produced little tangible value amidst a torrent of self-congratulations."

"Until participants acknowledge the simple, effective solution staring them in the face - taxing the rich - the people of the world will continue to see their so-called dedication to fixing the world's problems as little more than a performance."

The letter is signed by actor and activist Mark Ruffalo, as well as supporters of the In Tax We Trust movement including Abigail Disney, Morris Pearl, and Nick Hanauer. These millionaires delivered the In Tax We Trust

letter directly to the World Economic Forum offices in New York and Geneva, and attended pro-taxation demonstrations at the outskirts of the elite compound in Davos itself.

As the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) and Inequality.org have documented over the last two years of a global pandemic, billionaire assets have surged while millions lost their lives and livelihoods. A new report from Oxfam dramatizes how hundreds of millions of people around the world have slid further into poverty during this time period. In a detailed examination of the food and agriculture industry, Oxfam found that billionaires in that industry saw their wealth increase by \$382 billion during the pandemic. An emergency windfall tax on their wealth increase alone (to say nothing of their pre-pandemic billions) could end world hunger and double the incomes of 545 million small-scale farmers.

In January, an analysis by the Fight Inequality Alliance, Institute for Policy Studies, Oxfam, and the Patriotic Millionaires found that an annual wealth tax starting at just 2 percent for those with more than \$5 million, 3 percent for those with over \$50 million, and up to 5 percent for billionaires could generate upwards of \$2.52 trillion a year. That's enough to lift 2.3 billion people out of poverty, fund vaccines for everyone in the world.

IHC reserves verdict on PTI's plea against not getting permission for rally

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday reserved the ruling on the petition of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) against not getting permission for a rally and sit-in in Islamabad.

Justice Aamer Farooq heard the petition. Advocate General Islamabad Barrister Jahangir Jadoon and the Islamabad deputy commissioner appeared before the court.

Dr Babar Awan appeared before the court on behalf of the PTI. The advocate general

read the ruling of the Supreme Court of May 25 in the court.

He also read the reply submitted by Imran Khan to the Supreme Court.

"Last time, the orders of the Supreme Court were violated despite a space for the rally and sit-in was given," he said.

"The court should ask from them when these people will come to Islamabad," he demanded.

"We can ask from Dr Babar Awan when he is coming to Islamabad," Justice Aamer Farooq remarked.

"Generally, what is the procedure of giving permission for public meetings?" he inquired.

"Usually, the permission is given after assurance by the party. The rally they had staged caused damage.

Policemen were also injured," Barrister Jahangir Jadoon told the court.

"Whatever the lawyer says, he does it on behalf of the client," Justice Aamer Farooq remarked.

"Is it the same place where they had sought permission earlier," he inquired. INP



RAWALPINDI: Security personals stands alert during Supporters of former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan's party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, chant slogans as they block a road during a protest to condemn a shooting incident on their leader's convoy, at Murree Road in the city.

Iconic Qissa Khwani Bazaar awaits revival: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Myths, stories, and legends always mesmerize people and also serve as a part of economic activities. Narration in many forms has remained a profession and a part of heritage of human history from times immemorial. The centuries-old Peshawar city's Qissa Khwani Bazaar is also a leaf from the fabulous book of history, reports WealthPK.

'Qissa' is derived from Arabic meaning fable, while 'Khwani' is a Persian word which means telling. Professional fable tellers were a part of almost all of the ancient traditions in different forms i.e., epics, tales, folklore, myths, ballads.

Talking to WealthPK about the revival of the tradition of chronicle description as a segment of tourism, Dr.

Mahmood ul Hasan, Deputy Director of the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Islamabad, said, "Peshawar is one of the fortified/walled cities, estimated to exist since 600 B.C. under different names. The fortified cities i.e., Lahore, Multan, had all cultural and economic activities within their walls. Qissa Khwani Bazaar was one of the ancient trade centers and the pivot of business activities for traders and merchants coming from the subcontinent, Central Asia, Afghanistan, and other faraway places."

Qehwa Khanas or local green tea houses were the traditional gathering places of locals, wanderers, travelers, tourists, traders, merchants, etc. Business deals and chitchat were a part of such places along with the serving

of a few other food items.

Professional ballad singers or fable tellers were also a regular part of such places to amuse the crowd. It was also a source of their livelihood, which faded away with time but the folklores are still alive.

"I happened to visit Hazoori Bagh, Lahore where I listened to an instrumental charming folklore. People enjoyed it. So, I think revival of this tradition as a part of our tourism segment will be a good addition to this chapter, especially with the addition of economic benefit. But it would add more wonder if this bazaar was conserved and at least a specific part of it was arranged like in ancient times. The departments are there but they do not keep too many facilities. Tourism and archaeology departments. INP

Deployment of quick reaction force, anti-terror squad in Islamabad sought

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police chief on Thursday wrote a letter to Ministry of Interior Affairs seeking deployment of Quick Response Force (QRF) in the federal capital to cope with the armed mob hidden among participants of long march.

In a letter written to the Ministry of Interior Affairs, Islamabad Inspector General of Police sought approval for deployment of Quick Response Force and Anti-Terrorism Squad to ensure law and order in the city.

The police chief of the federal capital also sought permission to deploy armed personnel in the city. It is pertinent to mention here that the decision has been taken in the wake of leaked audio calls of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders Ali

Ameen Gandapur and Kamran Bangash.

On the other hand, officers and personnel of Islamabad Police are in swear stress due to extended job hours, ban over applying for leave and request for transfer to other cities.

On the condition of anonymity, a police officer told that orders have been passed that no leave should be granted to anyone in any case, adding that even the medical report will not be accepted for availing leave.

Meanwhile, Jhelum police arrested seven suspects during a search operation that was conducted in different areas and hotels in view of the long march of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). According to the police, sophisticated weapons and drugs had been recovered from

accused. Police, Elite Force, Special Branch and other law enforcement agencies participated in the search operation.

The operation was conducted in hotels and residential places adjacent to the GT Road and in different areas of the city.

The Islamabad administration requested Capital Development Authority (CDA) to grant ten ambulances for any mishap or emergency situation ahead of PTI's long march.

The district administration has sped up the preparations to deal with any emergency situation in the PTI long march.

As per details, the district magistrate requested five fire brigade vehicles in addition to ten ambulances in a letter to CDA. Disaster Management. INP



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Engr Zamurk Khan Aackakzai inaugurating scientific laboratory at Food Authority Department.

IHC seeks assurance from PTI on maintaining peace during jalsa

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday directed PTI to ensure maintaining peace regardless of whatever the place they get permission to hold the sit-ins and jalsa.

The observation came during the hearing of PTI's plea against the government for not issuing PTI a no-objection certificate for its sit-in in Islamabad.

As the PTI's long march continues its journey toward the federal capital, the party on October 31 filed a petition, seeking permission to conduct its jalsa and sit-in in addition to providing security to marchers.

On Wednesday, the IHC issued notices to the federal capital's administration for not issuing PTI a no-objection certificate for its sit-in, directing them to appear before it today.

During the hearing, the court expressed annoyance as the relevant official of the Islamabad administration had not appeared despite summoning.

"Is this a civil court? It is a high court," Justice Aamer Farooq showed ire, while summoning the officials of district administration in the court immediately.

Later, Islamabad Advocate General Barrister Jahangir Jadoon and Islamabad deputy commissioner appeared in the court.

Meanwhile, Jahangir read Imran Khan's response submitted in the Supreme Court regarding the PTI's long march of May 25, 2022.

Jadoon maintained that losses occurred in PTI's previous long march and police personnel were injured. At the court's inquiry, the advocate general told that the PTI is seeking permission to hold the rally at the same spot they had asked to hold the rally in the previous march.

"They [PTI] have always violated the terms and conditions that's why we don't trust them. The PTI leadership refused to

admit the assurance by two senior lawyers," Jadoon said, informing the court that PTI can hold the rally at T-chowk if they want.

Meanwhile, PTI lawyer Babar Awan maintained that Ali Awan has filed this plea so he is responsible for it.

"The matter is already in the SC, we shouldn't argue on it," he said. Justice Farooq asked Awan's opinion on what he thinks that the same as before wouldn't happen at the place government allots to PTI for rally.

He directed the PTI to assure that peace and security will be maintained regardless of the place allotted for the rally and make sure that the roads are not blocked to cause inconvenience to the people. "Holding protest is your right but the citizen's rights should also be taken care of," Justice Farooq remarked.

The court later reserved the verdict after hearing the arguments from the parties in the case. INP

Next Mayor of Karachi will be from PPP: Saeed Ghani

KARACHI: Provincial Minister Saeed Ghani on Wednesday announced that the next Mayor of Karachi will be of Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

He was talking to newsmen after inaugurating a library in Goth Saleh Muhammad in Karachi.

Responding to a query about the postponement of the local body elections, said they want the local body elections to be held as soon as possible.

The provincial minister also added that whenever local body elections will be held, the mayor will be of the ruling People's Party.

The Minister termed Imran Khan as the biggest threat to the country's security and said the country will suffer if Imran Khan is not stopped.

Saeed Ghani said that Imran Khan should have been arrested a long ago. Provincial Minister Saeed Ghani said that they are restoring libraries in Karachi. INP

Islamabad admn sets 39 conditions for PTI to stage rally

ISLAMABAD: The local administration in Islamabad has put up 39 conditions for issuing a NOC to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for holding a rally in the federal capital Islamabad administration has put forward 39 conditions before Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership and sought signatures of PTI chief Imran Khan on them before issuance of no-objection certificate for public gathering.

The administration has termed an affidavit signed by PTI chief Imran Khan as pre-requisite for issuance of no-objection certificate for public gathering in federal capital.

The conditions stated that PTI leaders should refrain from giving any statement regarding religion. It further stated that only those leaders could come up on the stage who got approved by the administration. Use of loudspeaker will not be allowed. Moreover, the public gathering could last for just one day.

The conditions stated that no weapons should be displayed during public gathering. No damage should be caused to the public and private property. Flag of any political or religious party should not be burnt. INP



ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Umar Ata Bandial at the launching ceremony of Documentary at law & Justice Commission of Pakistan.

Capital sectors to be connected with central metro network through new routes

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Capital sectors including F, G and I as well as D-12 will be connected with central metro network through the new routes.

A new project to connect different sectors of Islamabad through the metro bus system was launched on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, said the PM Office on Thursday.

The project will use 'feeder routes' to connect commuters from various sectors of Islamabad to the central metro bus stations, from where they can transfer to other routes.

In the first phase, the feeder network comprising 13 routes with 128 buses will be completed by the first quarter of 2023.

Islamabad's sectors F, G and I as well as D-12 will be connected to the central metro network through the new routes.

"These feeder routes will provide

comfortable and international standard travel facilities to around 100,000 commuters," said the PMO.

The PMO also mentioned that Shehbaz directed the authorities concerned to complete the project on a priority basis.

Earlier in July, the premier inaugurated the Green and Blue lines of the mass transit metro bus service in the twin cities, the first interconnected four-line metro service in the country.

The new bus service connected Bhara Kahu, GT Road, Koral and Rawalpindi through the Green, Orange, Blue and Red Lines, respectively. The bus service runs from Bhara Kahu to PIMS (Green Line) and from Koral to PIMS (Blue Line).

The two lines will merge with the Red Line and from the Faiz Ahmad Faiz bus stop, passengers can take the Orange line to Islamabad International Airport. INP



ISLAMABAD: Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood, Ambassador of Algeria to Pakistan Brahim Romani and others cutting the cake during 68th Anniversary of the National Day of the Peoples Democratic Republic of the Algeria at local hotel.

Pakistan's exports to Europe up 12.72% in Q1FY22: WealthPk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's exports to Europe grew by 12.72 percent to \$2.888 billion during the first quarter (July-September) of the current fiscal year against \$2.562 billion in the corresponding period of the last year, reports WealthPK.

Despite a decline of 5.44% in exports, the United Kingdom (UK) remained the largest market in Europe with exports value of \$519.87 million during the period under review. Exports to the UK were

recorded \$549.82 million during the first quarter of the last fiscal year as per the ministry of commerce data.

Exports to Germany rose to \$455.77 million in July-September 2022-23 from \$406.29 million during the corresponding months of the last year, with an increase of 12.17%, making it the second-largest exports' destination for Pakistan in the European Continent.

With a surge of 14.8%, export to the Netherlands registered \$377.28 million during

the quarter under review against \$328.654 million in the corresponding period of the last year.

Goods worth \$324.58 million were shipped to Spain during Q1 this year as compared to \$225.08 million in the same period of 2021, posting a significant growth of 44.20%.

Exports to Italy rose to \$308.17 million during the period under review from \$252.77 million in the corresponding quarter of the preceding year, showing an increase of

12.91%. Italy registered as the fifth-largest market for Pakistan's goods in July-September.

Exports to Belgium, France, Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland were recorded \$197.68 million, \$153.5 million, \$75.31 million, \$46.24 million, and \$51.04 million respectively during July-September.

Exports to Europe in Q1 also grew by 8.15% in September 2022 against the same month of the last year. Exports in September registered \$981.53 million against

\$907.52 million during the corresponding month of the last year.

The overall exports to Europe were registered \$11.03 billion during the last fiscal year (2021-22) compared to \$9.111 billion in 2020-21, with an increase of 21.86%.

The UK remained the largest market for Pakistani good during the last fiscal year. The exports' value to the UK was registered \$2.2 billion in 2021-22 against 2.048 billion in 2020-21, with a surge of 7.42%. INP

It is good news Imran Khan himself has announced election will take place after 10 months: Marriyum Aurangzeb

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb has said it is good news for the people Imran Khan ears have opened and he himself has announced general election will take place after 10 months.

"Foreign funded fitna Imran Khan is responsible for inflation. Imran Khan has signed on what conditions of IMF it was imperative for us to implement them. We made difficult decisions. We saved the country from becoming default. Imran Khan does

not want stability comes in the country. Dollar is depreciated and jobs are given to youths. Foreign investment should come. Diplomatic relations are improved. Imran Niazi ruined the country during his four years term. His agenda is incomplete. How he can tolerate that country makes progress, she said this while addressing a press conference here Thursday.

Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has announced to launch sector wise metro bus service to

improve travelling facilities for the citizens of Islamabad. 128 buses will be run on 13 routes. Routes have been determined. The stops of existing metro buses will be linked to routes of these buses.

It is vision of PM that better travelling facilities are provided to people, students, youths, business men and laborers of Islamabad, she added.

The Minister said the government strengthened Pakistan's diplomatic relations with the international community. She said it is Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif-led coalition government which has revived China-Pakistan Economic Corridor that had become slow during the four years of the previous regime.

When no trust motion was going to succeed, then Imran Khan started conspiracies, she underlined.

Foreign exchange reserves are stabilizing, she observed. Country is heading towards better situation, she said adding if situation is deteriorating any where and crisis like situation is prevailing then it is on the

container of foreign funded fitna.

Now Imran Khan has said election will be held after ten months, she remarked. It seems as if Imran Khan ears have opened. Imran Niazi has said his movement will run for 10 months. The determination of date for election is enshrined in the constitution. We had already said the election will be held as per schedule. Imran Khan has heard it with open ears and he has announced after hearing it that election will be held after 10 months. Online



BEIJING: Chairman, China International Development Cooperation Agency calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Algeria has untapped market worth \$1.2bn for Pakistani investors: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Though Pakistan enjoys a trade surplus with Algeria, more steps need to be taken to improve on it further by turning the cordial relations between the two countries into close trade ties.

Talking to WealthPK, Qazafi Rind, Trade and Investment Counsellor of Pakistan to Algeria, said that trade potential and opportunities between Pakistan and Algeria were highlighted during a webinar organised by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP). He said the brotherly relationship between Pakistan and Algeria needs to be transformed into economic ties for benefit of the people of both countries.

"Algeria is an untapped market worth \$1.2 billion for Pakistani exporters, which needs to be explored to boost bilateral trade," he stressed.

He added that textile products, ready-made garments, surgical instruments, football, rice, pink salt, rose water, and hair oil are in high demand in Algeria. According to him, Pakistani exporters should explore Algerian markets.

Last year, \$5 million worth of rice was exported to Algeria, he said, adding that Algeria is famous for producing dates, so Pakistan could import dates from the country as well as other products, such as double-door refrigerators, and LCD televisions, which are in high demand in Pakistan.

Qazafi Rind said Algeria imported low-tariff food and agricultural products because its govern-

ment provided subsidies on these items.

He said the tariff for surgical goods ranged from 5% to 6%, for dental products 30%, and for footballs 15% to 16%. According to him, the Algerian government accepted only those products that possessed certification of International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), and the Algerian people wanted each ingredient listed in Arabic and French.

"Our labour force should be trained in accordance with ISO standards. This will enable us to meet international standards and explore new markets." He said currently Pakistan was experiencing trade surplus with Algeria. Data from the State Bank of Pakistan shows that total bilateral trade volume in FY22 was recorded at \$17.605 million. Exports from Pakistan to Algeria stood at \$15.049 million while imports from Algeria stood at \$2.556 million. Pakistan exported goods worth \$2.963 million to Algeria in the first three months of the ongoing fiscal year compared to imports of just \$0.172 million. Data from the United Nations Comtrade Database shows that major export items from Pakistan included cereals, articles of apparel, knit or crocheted, optical, photo, technical, medical apparatus, cotton, other made textile articles, sets, worn clothing and aluminum. Pakistan's major imports from Algeria included miscellaneous manufactured articles, iron and steel, pulp of wood, fibrous cellulosic material, waste, sugar and sugar confectionery. INP

Margalla police raid house on tip-off about presence of arms for PTI's sit-in

ISLAMABAD: Margalla police Thursday raided the house of Chaudhary Majeed, the owner of a private housing society, on a tip-off about the collection of arms and other suspicious items in there for the sit-in of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

According to the police sources, Chaudhary Majeed has arranged the accommodation and meal in his housing society for the caravans of the PTI workers coming from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB).

"It was reported that PTI leader Ali Amin Gandapur sent weapons to the house of Chaudhary Majeed," police said. INP

Moonis Elahi challenges NAB inquiry in LHC

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Q (PML-Q) leader Moonis Elahi on Thursday challenged a NAB inquiry and the investigation into a family-owned company's assets in Lahore High Court.

A two-member bench comprising Justice Ali Baqar Najafi and Justice Asjad Javed Gharal will hear Moonis Elahi's plea today (Thursday). Advocate Amjad Pervez will appear before the court on behalf of the petitioner.

As per details, the petitioner has requested the court to declare NAB's October 20th notice null and void. The court has also been requested to order NAB to halt any kind of illegal action. As per the petition, Chairman NAB, DG NAB and others have been made respondents.

The petitioner said, "NAB initiated an inquiry against Elahi's family in 2000 due to political grudges." "Even after 20 years of investigation, NAB could not find any evidence against any member of his family," he added.

The petitioner adopted that NAB closed the investigation following a challenge before the Lahore High Court. FIA has registered a case against him and others by alleging assets of Hayat Khan Private Limited, as stated by the petitioner.

The petitioner also stated that NAB has already investigated these assets and there is no point to summon Elahi for this case. INP

NAB decides to nab former chief minister Punjab Usman Buzdar

LAHORE: NAB Lahore has decided to nab former Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Usman Buzdar in illegal license and accumulation of assets beyond known sources of income cases.

According to NAB sources NAB headquarters has given 15 days to NAB Lahore to arrest former CM Punjab.

NAB headquarters has directed to complete the material related to arrest of Usman Buzdar.

NAB investigation team gave briefing that no such evidences have been found so far that Usman Buzdar could be arrested. NAB headquarters directed that the evidences be collected within 15 days and arrest of Usman

Buzdar be ensured.

NAB Lahore has written letters to Lahore Development Authority (LDA) and other societies seeking details of property in the name of Usman Buzdar.

According to NAB Lahore investigations are underway against Usman Buzdar in assets case. It has written a letter to LDA on October 17 and sought details of the assets.

Usman Buzdar is also charged with issuing illegal license to a private hotel by through his influence. Usman Buzdar was earlier summoned by NAB Lahore for investigation.

According to NAB sources former chief minister Punjab will again be summoned within a few days. INP



QUETTA: Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Quetta, Azfar Maisar addressing a press conference.

ECP to fix Karachi LG polls case for November 9

KARACHI: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) observed on Thursday that the case concerning local bodies elections in Karachi will be fixed for hearing on November 9.

The statement was released after a meeting took place at the commission under the chairmanship of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja. The meeting was also joined by members of the commission as well as ECP secretary and special secretary.

The attendees were briefed about the Sindh government's report on holding local body elections in Karachi.

The provincial government has written in its report that the police force was currently insufficient for holding local elections safely, and that it was impossible to bring in police personnel from other districts of Sindh as they have been sent to Islamabad at the request of the Ministry of Interior.

In a written response submitted to the ECP, the provincial government

had stated that the police responsibilities have increased due to the ongoing rehabilitation of flood victims, anti-Covid vaccination campaign and an international defence exhibition in Karachi. In this situation, police personnel cannot be summoned from other districts for the LG elections in Karachi, it stated.

Additionally, the report stated that the Director General Export Promotion Organisation has written a letter to the Ministry of Defense that the International Defense Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS-2022), is to be held between November 15 and 18 at the Karachi Expo Centre, a copy of which has been submitted to the ECP as well.

The director general has informed the Ministry of Defense that it will be difficult for law enforcement agencies to provide security for both the IDEAS event and local elections in Karachi. In the purview of said reasons, the provincial government argued that ensuring the peaceful administering of local body elections in Karachi was "impossible". INP

Govt commitment to instantly release exporters' tax refund just eyewitness: PRGMEA

KARACHI: The Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PRGMEA) has said the commitment of the government to instantly release exporters' tax refund claims seems to be just an eyewitness, instead of releasing timely refunds, are sending audit notices frequently to the exporters to refrain them from demanding their own payment.

"On average up to 15 audit notices are being served to almost every exporter, who presently needs payment but fed up over the long delays of their refunds," observed PRGMEA Central Chairman Mubashar Naseer Butt. "This is very clear that bureaucracy is trying to force the industry to evade taxes and engage in illegal practices, he said and added that the industry, which is already running partially, would completely be shut owing to this attitude of the government." He said that there were the rumors of refunds' complete suspension before the arrival of Ishaq Dar as a

finance minister, spread by the bureaucracy, and it is might possible that a conspiracy is being hatched against this government through creation of hurdles in the way of exporting industry, he observed. Mubashar Naseer Butt observed that the value-added textile exporters are facing severe liquidity crunch and they need the refunds payment in time. It's a question of survival amidst acute liquidity crunch and we need the help of the new finance minister. Like government is pursuing the multilateral donors in search of dollars in the same way we also need the government's help to save the industry from bankruptcy by releasing its refunds," he appealed. He said that the PRGMEA has been approached by various members informing that they have been facing inconvenience owing to delay in refunds payment despite the fact that their refund payment orders (RPOs) were generated as well as approved. PRGMEA vice chairman Wasim Akhtar asked the government. INP

President gives approval to regularise 11 addl. judges of LHC

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Thursday gave approval to make 11 additional judges of the Lahore High Court (LHC) permanent.

After the president's approval, the Ministry of Law and Justice issued a notification in this regard.

Justice Shakeel Ahmed, Justice Saffar Saleem Shahid and Justice Ahmed Nadeem Arshad are among the additional judges who have been made permanent.

Justice Tariq Nadeem, Justice Amjad Rafiq, Justice Abid Hussain, Justice Anwar Hussain and Justice Ali Zia Bajwa have also been made permanent.

Justice Sultan Tanveer Ahmed, Justice Muhammad Raza Qureshi and Justice Raheel Kamran are also among the judges who have been made permanent. The LHC chief justice will administer the oath to them. The oath-taking ceremony will be held tomorrow, Friday, at 10:45am. INP

Train car derails near Shahdadpur

SANGHAR: A bogie of Khyber Mail train derailed near Shahdadpur in Sanghar on Thursday as it was travelling from Karachi to Peshawar, suspending the up-track traffic.

According to Pakistan Railways officials, the derailment occurred when one of the train cars malfunctioned near Shahdadpur. However, the driver immediately stopped the train and saved the it from any major accident.

Later, the damaged bogie was separated from the train and it resumed its journey towards the destination after a few hours. Uptill now, the train operation is halted on the up track while the railway traffic is resumed on the down track. In the meantime, Sukkur Express has been stopped at Tando Adam. INP

Alleged terrorist who planning to target foreign national arrested

KARACHI: The Sindh Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Karachi on Thursday arrested an alleged terrorist who was planning to target a foreign national doctor in Hyderabad.

According to a spokesman for CTD, the accused identified as Muhammad Afzal alias Aafi was arrested from Kamran Chowranghi, Gulistan-e-Jauhar, with the assistance of a Federal Intelligence Agency.

The accused was a member of the proscribed nationalist outfit Sindh Revolutionary Army (SRA) and he was assigned to target the foreign national doctor by the chief of SRA, who was in Germany.

The arrested accused had also done the recon to target the foreign national doctor in Hyderabad. He was the accomplice of already arrested accused in case of attack on a foreign national doctor's clinic in Saddar, Karachi. The CTD also recovered a 30 bore pistol, 5 rounds and a magazine from the possession of arrested. A case had been registered and further investigations were underway. INP

Irrigation dept recovers over Rs 44 m through E-Abiyana billing

MULTAN: The Irrigation Multan zone has recovered over Rs 44 million in water charges through the E-Abiyana billing system so far during the Kharif season 2021. According to Irrigation department official sources, 416 out of 1646 villages of Multan zone were included in the E-Abiyana billing system and bills of over Rs 86.6 million Abiyana have been disbursed to 79196 growers of 415 villages so far. Over Rs 2.3 million Abiyana was recovered so far as over Rs 3.8 million Abiyana was issued to 3315 growers of 20 villages in the Multan division. Likewise, over Rs 3.7 million was recovered against over Rs 14.3 million Abiyana issued to 12724 growers of 80 villages of the Shujabad canal division. Over Rs, 17.8 million water rates were recovered in Trimmu headworks, Over Rs, 19 million water charges were recovered from Lodhran canal division. INP

Signing ceremony of Pak-China agricultural machinery training program held

BEIJING: An online signing ceremony of agricultural machinery training program was held simultaneously at Tianjin Modern Vocational Technology College (TMVTC) and MNS University of Agriculture Multan through Internet cloud technology.

Initiated by the Pakistani Luban Workshop, the program aims to promote China-Pakistan vocational education cooperation and serve international agricultural capacity cooperation under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The training course pinpoints the huge demand for corn cultivation and harvesting in Punjab province. With the theme of "Application and Maintenance Technology of Self-propelled Corn Harvester", 8 lectures and 2 seminars will be held within around one month. Those online courses focus on topics such as Tianjin's advantageous agriculture going global, development trend of agricultural machin-

ery, application of UAV technology in agriculture and introduction of Luban Workshop project.

The organizers invited experts and senior engineers from several teaching and research institutes and enterprises in Tianjin to give lectures. Through the "cloud classroom", Chinese personnel provided targeted training to teachers and students of MNS University of Agriculture Multan, senior engineers of the Punjab Agricultural Mechanization Institute and advanced agricultural machinery users in Pakistan.

Prof. Sun Deling, former Vice President of Tianjin Academy of Agricultural Sciences, and Prof. Zhang Baoqian, agricultural machinery expert at Tianjin Agricultural Development Service Center, delivered keynote speeches on "Tianjin's Agricultural Advantages and Scientific Research Achievements" and "Technology. INP

Sindh Govt to give cash assistant to build 700,000 houses in flood hit areas

KARACHI: The Sindh government has announced to give cash assistance to build 700,000 houses in flood-affected areas of the province.

As per details, the provincial government with the assistance of the World Bank will give Rs300,000 each to the owners of fully destroyed houses and Rs50,000 for the partially destroyed in recent catastrophic floods.

During the cabinet meeting, several ministers questioned how will the government ensure that the money is given to deserving people. They suggested that instead of providing cash the government should build these houses for the flood-affected families.

In response to this suggestion, the ministers were told that currently, the Sindh government doesn't have the capacity to build houses from its capacity. To ensure transparency, the cash will

be disbursed in installments after carrying out proper verification and meeting the legal requirements.

Chief Minister (CM) Murad Ali Shah said it will be a huge challenge for the government to disburse the amount and make sure that the amount is spent in the right place but the administration is ready for the uphill task. Furthermore, a committee was also constituted for people housing society.

The World Health Organisation's Country Representative in Pakistan Dr Palitha Gunarathna Mahipala said the WHO is working on a plan to assist in future preparedness for having effective healthcare systems. He said the recent devastating floods have caused serious damage to health service delivery in the affected areas which has resulted in various health risks. INP

Future of Pakistan-US relations bright: Masood Khan

WASHINGTON: "The prospects of Pakistan-US relations are bright and our ties are poised to grow in the future," Masood Khan, Pakistan Ambassador to the US, said here while speaking as a keynote speaker at a two-day conference organized by the US top think tank Atlantic Council, John Hopkin's University, University of Lahore and Engro Corporation on Future of Pakistan-US relations.

"Pakistan-US relations now have been de-hyphenated from India and Afghanistan. Pakistan and the US now have stand-alone, broad-based relationship", said Pakistan's top envoy to the United States.

Mr. Fred Kempe, Atlantic Council's President, and Mr. Dilawar Syed, US Special Representative for Commerce and Business Affairs, addressed the inaugural session of conference. Masood Khan paid tribute to Mr. Kempe and other spon-

sors for ensuring participation of private sector corporation and two Universities in this conference.

The Ambassador said that Pakistan and the United States were developing a singular trajectory with responsibilities towards the broader region. "We are engaged right now to recalibrate, reenergize and rejuvenate a broad-based relationship in the new technological age", he said.

"The US policy in the past was based on regional equilibrium. There is no reason it should not be now", he said. The US relationships with Pakistan and India, he said, stood on their own.

Ambassador Masood Khan said that Pakistan and the US understood each other's strategic calculus and imperative. While Pakistan had strong ties with China, it wanted to have very robust ties with the United States in all fields. INP



ISLAMABAD: UNHC/RC Julien Harnais pays call on Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lt Gen Inam Haider Malik in his office at PM Secretariat.