

QUETTA VOICE

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Polio campaign to commence in 203 UCs of Balochistan



Slow pace of development projects in Quetta

Court hands over Swati to FIA on two-day physical remand

PTI leader arrested for 'controversial' tweets against senior military officials again; PEMRA imposes media ban

ISLAMABAD: A local court in Islamabad on Sunday handed over Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senator Azam Swati to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on two-day physical remand in a case relating to 'controversial' tweets targeting institutions.

Judicial Magistrate's duty judge Waqas Ahmed Raja heard the case of Swati, who was arrested earlier today, and announced the reserved decision on the FIA request for physical remand. Advocates Babar Awan and Faisal Chaudhry appeared before the court on behalf of the former ruling party.

During the hearing, the investigation officer implored the court that there are some controversial tweets that led to the arrest of the senator, adding that a narrative is being prepared against state institutions.

He informed the court that a first information report (FIR) has been registered against the PTI leader on this issue.

"He has not denied the tweet. He has committed this offense for the second time," the investigating officer said.

Awan stated that the tweets made do not meet the provisions of the FIR, adding that the statement



taken by the police has no legal status. "Swati's statement of [Section] 164 was not taken into consideration. He was brutally tortured last time. He still hasn't recovered from the torture," he added. The PTI advocate further told the court that the effects of physical and mental torture on Swati still remain, adding that this is not the rule of law, "it is a mockery and the murder of the law." The lawyer furthered that there is a threat to the senator's life.

He then told the court to take assurance from the FIA that if anything happens to Swati in their custody, they will be responsible. "Name of FIA people present here should be put in the order sheet," added Awan.

Senator Swati was taken into custody for the second time early Sunday morning after a raid at his farmhouse by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Cyber Crime Wing Islamabad team for allegedly tweeting against senior military officials. An FIR against Swati was registered by the cybercrime wing on November 26, a copy of which is available with the Express Tribune. The report maintained that the PTI leader started a "highly obnoxious campaign of intimidating tweets" against state institutions. Web Desk

Maintaining law and order responsibility of DCs: CM Balochistan

Staff Reporter

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo on Sunday said that maintaining the law and order situation was the core responsibility of the deputy commissioners in the province.

The Chief Minister stated that CM's complaint cells would be established on the district level and these cells would be linked with the main complaint cell at the CM Secretariat. "This will ensure timely redressal of peoples' issues", Mr. Bizenjo stated.

He expressed these views while talking to the deputy commissioner Awaran Captain (R) Jumadad Mandokhail at the CM's Secretariat.

DCs should visit far flung areas instead of sitting in their offices. CM Bizenjo

"DCs should ensure visiting all areas and avoid only sitting in their offices", Mr. Bizenjo stated. He directed all deputy commissioners to take all stakeholders on board while evolving a strategy to ensure durable peace in their respective districts. DC Awaran briefed the CM about the ongoing development projects in the district.

He urged the DCs to make sure timely and quality completion of all projects underway across



Balochistan. He said billions of rupees were allocated for the communication system to improve the movement of people and address their grievances.

CM Bizenjo stated that the bureaucracy and political leaders were making hectic efforts to address the issues of people on priority basis. He stated that all-out efforts would be made to support the down-trodden class of society and ensure timely support to them.

Polio campaign to commence in 203 UCs of Balochistan Today

NEWS DESK:

The Polio campaign is to commence in 203 Union Councils of Balochistan province today. A total of 6 districts will be covered in this anti-polio campaign. The one-week anti-polio campaign will be giving polio virus drops nearly to 1 Million children under five years.

Around 4,160 teams are assigned to run the campaign in the province. The teams will be provided with full proof of security by Balochistan Levies Force, Police, and Frontier Corps.

Poliovirus can target those children who are deprived of polio drops. No Polio Case Reported in



Balochistan since 2021:

No case of polio has been reported in Balochistan since January 2021. The presence of the polio virus in the districts of other provinces of the country and in Afghanistan is a big threat to the children of Balochistan province.

All parents are requested to fully cooperate with the polio workers

during the campaign to prevent polio and to give the polio vaccine to their children, Syed Zahid Shah, the Chief of the Emergency Operation Cell said.

Near to 1 Million Children to be given polio drops:

Around 978,000 children under five years of age will be given polio vaccinations. Syed Zaid Shah said that no case of polio has been reported in Balochistan since January 2021, and there is no poliovirus in the environment of Balochistan since April 2021. The presence of poliovirus in the districts of other provinces of the country and in Afghanistan is a big threat to the children of Balochistan province.

دو قطرے، ہر بچہ، ہر بار



خصوصی انسداد پولیو مہم

28 نومبر 2022 سے آغاز

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Slow pace of development projects in Quetta

Syed Ali Shah Analysis

The pace of the development projects currently underway in Quetta is slow. Various suburbs of this provincial capital paints a bleak picture when it comes to development projects and the availability of basic facilities including water, education, health, road network, and sanitation.

Billions are pumped by the federal and provincial governments to bring this city at par with other developed parts of the country, but with no tangible results. For instance, the dualization of the Sabzal Road, Sariab Road is yet to be completed in spite of passing three years.

Sabzal Road is yet to be constructed

Former Chief Minister Balochistan, Jam Kamal Khan inaugurated a portion of the Sabzal Road, which was really a good



addition to the development and beauty of Quetta. However, a major portion of Sabzal Road is yet to be completed. Dirty water on the surface of the road and piles of garbage made peoples' lives miserable. Residents of the area have made repeated appeals for immediate construction of the road. Chief Minister Mir Qudus Bizenjo has also visited the road and directed an early construction. Despite this all, the road is yet to be constructed. This actually exposes the bad gov-

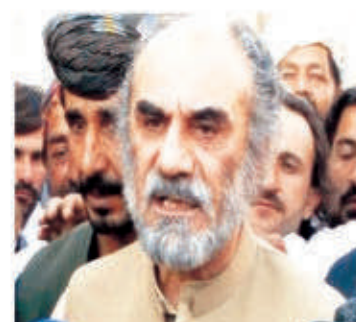
ernance in Balochistan. Action should match the directives of the high-ups

Sariab Road and other ongoing development projects are also underway at a slow pace. Chief Secretary Balochistan, Abdul Aziz Uqaili visited various development schemes the other day and directed the concerned departments to ensure timely completion. Action should match the directives of the high-ups. People are fed up with the ongoing slow-paced projects, which compound their problems. The provincial government should also share the volume of funds being spent on various development projects in Quetta with the media and people. This will improve transparency and accountability. A viable master plan needs to be evolved to address the city's problems including an influx of people, new settlements, traffic, water, education and health problems.

Nawab Aslam Raisani to join JUI F on December 7 in Quetta

Staff Reporter

QUETTA: Former Chief Minister Balochistan, Nawab Muhammad Aslam Raisani will formally join the Jamiat ul Ulema e Islam (F) on December 7th at the Sarawan House. This was revealed by the leader of JUI F and former provincial minister, Haji Ainullah Shams while talking to the Daily Quetta Voice on Saturday.



Mr. Shams informed that the JUI Chief Maulana Fazal ur Rehman would arrive in Quetta in December and the formal announcement would be made at 4 pm at the Sarawan House.

Nawab Raisani remained the CM of Balochistan during the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) led government in the province and Islamabad. Nawab Raisani also remained the finance minister of Balochistan and is considered to be a senior politician.

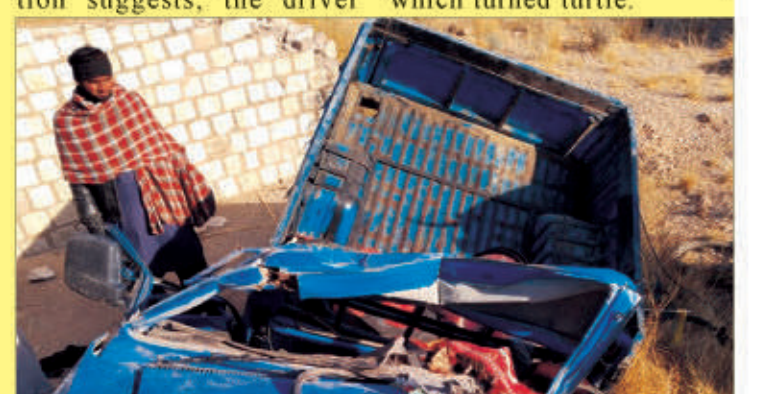
2 killed one injured in a traffic accident in Wadh Balochistan

From Our Correspondent

At least two people were killed and one injured in a traffic accident in Wadh Tehsil of Balochistan on Sunday. Levies sources said a vehicle turned turtle in Wadh tehsil of Balochistan. Two people were killed on the spot whereas one person sustained injuries.

The injured person was evacuated by the medical emergency response team. Levies personnel reached the spot as an investigation

into the incident went underway. Initial investigation suggests, the driver was overspeeding and lost control of the vehicle, which turned turtle.



QUETTA VOICE

Editor Asim Khan

Disturbing scenes of flood affectees in Naserabad Balochistan

Long queues of flood-affected people in general and women in particular around trucks carrying relief goods pain every sane person. Disturbing scenes of affectees trying to get relief goods have been witnessed in Balochistan's Naserabad and Jaffarabad districts.

Floods wreaked havoc in 26 districts of Balochistan and especially the Naserabad division was the worst hit area. Why do crowds suddenly gather around trucks and aid workers carrying relief goods? The answer is simple, the government and donors' supply of relief goods doesn't meet the growing demands in flood-hit areas.

Over half a million homeless in Naserabad Division
For instance, floods left over half a million people homeless in Naserabad, Jaffarabad, Sohat Pur, Jhal Magsi and Kachi. Nevertheless, the United Nations (UN) aid agencies, international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), and governments provide commodities for a few thousand people.

This has also compounded the problems of local implementing partners engaged in the distribution of relief foods provided by the UN agencies, governments and INGOs. Yes, there has to be a strong mechanism of transparency for the local implementing partners (IPs) when it comes to the distribution of relief items.

This daily continues to receive complaints from flood-hit people in the Naserabad division about the lack of basic facilities in the makeshift camps. Floods destroyed the homes constructed in decades, schools, health units and swept away roads and affected the communication system.

Balochistan needs a long-term response
The reconstruction process would definitely take more time. The Balochistan government should take the lead in the reconstruction process and the rehabilitation of the affectees. However, the UN agencies and INGOs should also pump more resources since the aid should not be short-term but rather long-term till complete rehabilitation of the affectees.

This process of long queues and humiliation should be ended and the locals of the areas and local organizations should be taken into confidence while framing any reconstruction policy. To be precise, the international community, UN agencies, and INGOs should not abandon the flood-hit people of Balochistan since they need long-term support.

Facing future floods safely

Dr Afreen Siddiqi

Pakistan's floods of 2022 were the latest, and most damaging yet, addition to the long history of floods in the country. As the muddy waters slowly recede, the need for speeding up action to face future floods stands clear.

Floods have been the most frequent natural disaster in Pakistan. Yet, decisions for land-use and habitation do not reflect this reality. The rising intensity of floods has been concurrent with an increasing population in the flood plains of the Indus river. It is this confluence of water and people in floodplains that creates the tragedy of lost lives and property. The flood of 2022 has led to reported losses of over 1700 lives, affected 33 million people, and incurred damages of over \$40 billion (amounting to 11.5% of the 2021 national GDP). The flood of 2010 led to a loss of over 1200 lives, loss of homes for over 14 million people, and damages of over \$43 billion. The flood of 1992 led to a loss of 2000 lives, affected more than 9.3 million people and incurred damages of over 1 billion dollars. This list continues on. Each was declared the worst flood in Pakistan's history. Each was unprecedented at its time of occurrence. There is precedent for unprecedented floods in the country.

It is time to focus on setting a different kind of precedent — one with a clear focus on elevating the safety of people in rural, flood prone areas, and elevating the well-being of farmers who bear the most losses.

The prevailing mindset of flood management has to change. In the past, money has been poured in building levees and flood protection infrastructure, and then again on re-building higher and reinforcing more the structures to "fight" the next flood after each cycle of levee breaches, infrastructure failure, and devastation of lives and properties. Gilbert White, a prominent 20th century geographer, noted this adverse cycle, and advocated for including the role of humans in damages resulting from natural disasters. He warned about the trap of building levees, followed by eventual breaching and flooding, and then rebuilding again, with increasing level of damages in each flooding episode. The so-called "levee effect", empirically observed in several river basins around the world, points to the paradox where building higher levees has led to increasing levels of flood damages. This is due to flood protection infrastructure creating a perception of flood security, leading to

relaxation of rules for land-use and construction over time, and increasing density of habitation. This results in greater exposure of lives and properties to floods. It is time to see and stop this cycle. This can be done if policymakers and people recognise the role of human decisions in contributing to the disaster. When we recognise responsibility for our actions, we gain agency for change.

What are the changes needed? First, a conception of flood security as the emergent outcome arising from interactions of people with their environment. These interactions are governed by physical laws of nature and institutions (policies, rules and norms) devised by humans. There is a need to structure these interactions in particular ways in order to be able to steer emergent level of flood security towards a desirable state.

Second, a systems approach for addressing the complex challenge is needed. Establishing a 'goal-seeking' system where targets of flood safety is important. It entails setting clear and shared goals, having sensors for measuring the state of flood security, having accurate and timely communication of that information to relevant actors,

having a process that assesses the situation (condition) based on the information, and having decision-makers with necessary authority that take corrective action. If all of these elements are linked appropriately, to produce a feedback structure at district, provincial and federal levels and function with necessary speed and resources, then level of flood security can rise.

Presently, agencies and organisations exist that monitor and forecast weather, forecast floods, conduct disaster risk management and aid in disaster response. However, shared goals of flood safety are absent. Additionally, components that produce information at local levels at required times are absent or inadequate. Additionally, components that have the authority and resources to take corrective action are lacking. These deficiencies can be addressed. Goals and targets for flood safety can be instituted and adopted from federal to district levels. Necessary links that connect existing agencies can be established. Sensing and monitoring, such as through periodically updated flood-risk maps, can be generated at teshil and building lot-level. These can be shared with the public (to inform property owners and resi-

dents of their flood risks) as well as to inform public officials in land-use planning. Local evacuation plans for people and moveable assets (such as livestock) in rural areas can be put in place, and early warning systems can be installed. Community education programmes that raise awareness about safety and evacuation procedures can be conducted. Actions for efficient drainage and storm water passage can be taken. Flood resilient designs and construction, and aid for households to live in lower risk areas can be provided. Financial solutions, such as funds in which land owners contribute towards flood loss compensation when needed, can be created. Such literal 'rainy-day funds' can be drawn up at time of need. Overall, regular processes for short-term and long-term flood risk assessment and corrective actions can affect flood security in positive ways. These actions are not as costly as some may think. High resolution, frequently updated, land imagery from earth-observing satellites has been available for free for more than a decade. National agencies and universities within Pakistan have capacity for geospatial data analysis and flood risk mapping.

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.

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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 pushback 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.

Murad Saeed raises questions regarding Arshad Sharif's murder

PESHAWAR: Former federal minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Murad Saeed has raised important questions regarding the killing of senior journalist Arshad Sharif in Kenya.

"On whose directives, cases were registered against Arshad Sharif? Who was threatening him? Who forced him to leave United Arab Emirates (UAE)? Which important personalities visited UAE between

August 10 and 20?" the PTI leader asked while addressing a press conference in Peshawar.

Murad Saeed noted that it was being reported that Arshad Sharif's laptop was in his possession and the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) had summoned him in this regard. "No progress was made in the investigation in the past one month," he alleged.

"The investigation committee - which visited Kenya to probe

Arshad Sharif's killing - should have recovered the things," he said, lambasting the committee for its 'responsibility' and 'traveling on public tax money'.

"Arshad Sharif's mother urged Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) to constitute a judicial commission. Even the journalist, during his life, urged for a commission to investigate the cases registered against him but no action was taken," he added. INP

Pakistan expresses concern over BJP leadership's involvement in 2002 Gujarat riots

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan expressed grave concern over the confirmation of the BJP leadership's direct involvement in anti-Muslim violence during the horrific Gujarat riots of 2002 that led to the killing of over two thousand Muslims.

Pakistan also urged India to immediately constitute an independent commission of inquiry to bring the culprits of the horrific Godhra incident, as well as the Gujarat riots, to justice.

"The recent statement by the former Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shankersinh Vaghela, has confirmed Pakistan's long-standing assertion that the BJP led government under the incumbent Prime Minister - who was the Chief Minister of Gujarat at the time of anti-Muslim riots in Godhra - was directly responsible for fomenting violence and massacre of Muslims," the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

This has been further corroborated indirectly by the Indian Home Minister, who recently claimed that those responsible for Gujarat riots had been "taught a lesson" and "permanent peace" had been established in Gujarat by the BJP's decisive actions.

Pakistan also stressed upon upon the international community, particularly human rights activists and defenders to take serious note of the aggravating situation of Islamophobia in India; and called on Indian government to ensure that the rights of minorities in India, especially Muslims, were safeguarded and their lives protected, it was added.

The spokesperson said, "It is most deplorable that the crimes against humanity, targeting Muslims, were perpetrated solely for BJP's political gains. Regrettably, the BJP once again seeks to cash in on its divisive policies two decades after the Gujarat tragedy."

Under BJP rule,

India's treatment of its minorities, especially Indian Muslims, had been discriminatory, degrading, and full of hate and violence.

In June this year, the Supreme Court of India handed a clean chit to the current Prime Minister, the then CM of Gujarat, for his role in the 2002 Gujarat riots.

The Supreme Court shut down as many as 11 petitions, including one filed by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India, seeking an independent probe into the 2002 Gujarat riots cases.

"It is an undeniable fact that India's incumbent Prime Minister had been banned from entering countries such as the United States till 2014, because of his abysmal human rights record as Chief Minister of the Gujarat state," the spokesperson said.

Sadly, the entire Indian legal and administrative machinery was blindly pursuing the Hindutva-driven agenda of the ruling BJP-RSS nexus. INP



MUZAFFRABAD: Chief Election Commissioner retired Justice Abdul Rashid Sulehria visiting in a polling station during local body election in the city.

PML-N, allies consult to save Punjab Assembly from dissolution

LAHORE: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and allies have consulted to save Punjab Assembly from dissolution.

Most of the PML-N MPs and allies were of the opinion to bring the no-trust motion against Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi in the assembly, sources said.

Some members have been of the opinion that the governor should ask the chief minister to get the vote of confidence from the house.

The chief minister could not ask for immediate dissolution of the assembly in case of a bid for vote of no-confidence or the confidence vote in pending,

according to sources.

"In case of a no-confidence motion, the chief minister would have to get 186 votes, while the ruling coalition have 190 members strength in the assembly with 180 members of PTI and 10 PML-Q lawmakers," sources said. "The opposition is expected to begin political maneuvering after launching a no-confidence motion," sources said.

"The PML-N and its allies will take a final decision over the no-confidence," sources added. Former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan has announced on Saturday that his party has decided to quit all the assemblies in his address to a public meeting in Rawalpindi.

Imran Khan in his address in Pindi said: "I would announce the date of resignations after consulting chief ministers and the parliamentary party."

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Economic stability vital to strengthen economy, otherwise no skills can be successful: Pervaiz Hanif

LAHORE: Chairman Carpet Training Institute (CTI) and former president of Lahore Chamber Pervaiz Hanif has said that Federal Finance Minister Ishaq Dar claims that the real value of the dollar is 190 rupees but the question arises why it is bought and sold in the market from 228 to 231 rupees.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, he asked what are the hidden forces that keep the rupee from depreciating against the dollar. He said as long as there is instability in the country,

the fluctuations of the dollar cannot be controlled, which is causing serious concern to the exporters. Pervaiz Hanif further said if a common person talks that the real value of the dollar is 190 rupees then it is understandable but Ishaq Dar is the Federal Finance Minister who is saying this and contrary to his claim, there is a huge difference between the value of the dollar and the Pakistani rupee in the market. "Exporters are reluctant to enter into contracts with foreign buyers due to volatility in

the dollar and if the orders are not fulfilled according to the agreement, it is likely to affect the reputation of Pakistan," he said adding that stability is inevitable to strengthen the economy in the country, otherwise it is not possible to get success in whatever skills are tried.

Pervaiz Haif said that the increase in exports is inevitable for the solution of economic problems that Pakistan is facing but our exports are collapsing, the imbalance between exports and imports is also. INP

Two killed in Rawalpindi incidents

RAWALPINDI: Two including a youth were killed in separate incidents of violence and road mishap in Rawat area of Rawalpindi on Sunday.

During a gathering held at Kalar Syedan Road in Rawat Rawalpindi for resolution of a bilateral dispute between step-brothers, an exchange of hot words took place after which culprit Alamdad hit Ameerdad with baton his head injuring him critically and fled the scene. The injured succumbed to his wounds while being shifted to hospital.

A motorcyclist youth Haroon s/o Amjad Sohail was critically injured after hit by an over speeding car who succumbed to his wounds while shifted to hospital. Car driver sped the scene.

Police registered separate cases in both incidents and started raids to arrest the culprits. INP

Two crushed to death in Burewala

BUREWALA: Two motorcyclists were crushed to death by an over speeding trailer here on Sunday. Driver sped the scene.

Police said that a reckless driven trailer ran over a motorcycle carrying two people near Adda Rasool in Burewala.

Both motorcycle riders Faqeer Hussain and Danish Ali, hailing from suburban village 211-EB were killed on the spot and trailer driver sped the scene.

The bodies were shifted to hospital for postmortem and police after registering a case against driver at large started raids for his arrest. INP

PML-N set to file no-trust motion in Punjab Assembly: Javed Latif

SHEIKHUPURA: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leader Mian Javed Latif has said that PTI can quit assemblies if they want to, they have already planned to file a motion of no confidence in the Punjab Assembly.

According to the law, PML-N cannot file a motion of no confidence in Punjab until an assembly session is a place.

According to details, the PML-N leader has said that they have decided to file a motion of no confidence against the CM. They could also file a motion of no confidence or impose a governor rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), he added. INP



KARACHI: A girl is busy in buying books on a stall during Adab Festival at Frere Hall in Provincial Capital.

FPCL signs MoU with SECMC for utilizing Thar coal

ISLAMABAD: The FFBL Power Co. Ltd. (FPCL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) for the use of Thar coal in the company's power plant in Karachi.

According to Gwadar Pro, it was stated by the two companies in separate statements.

In Karachi, FPCL operates a 118-megawatt coal-fired power plant next to the Fauji Fertilizer Bin Qasim Ltd. (FFBL) Fertilizer Complex.

The MoU is a significant step forward in harnessing indigenous resources to achieve better energy prices while reducing the burden on foreign exchange, according to FPCL.

This reflects the company's commitment to

economic development and strengthening the national economy through reduced reliance on imported energy.

The FPCL power plant provides up to 60 MWs of electricity to K-Electric, the company is in charge of supplying electricity to Karachi. According to the company's website, the remaining electricity is supplied to the FFBL Fertilizer complex.

SECMC operates Pakistan's first open-pit lignite coal mine in the Thar desert, with an annual capacity of 7.6 million tons. The company is a collaboration between the Sindh government, Engro Group and its partners, and China Machinery Engineering Corp (CMEC) under China-Pakistan Economic

Corridor (CPEC) initiative.

SECMC currently supplies coal to four mine-mouth power plants with a combined capacity of 1,320 MW. The MoU is a significant step forward in harnessing indigenous resources to achieve better energy prices while reducing the burden on foreign exchange, according to FPCL.

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Sheikh Rashid eyes fresh elections in April if PTI quits assemblies

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Awami Tehrik (PAT) chairman and former interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on Sunday predicted the fresh elections would be held in April next year if the PTI quits all provincial assemblies.

Taking to Twitter, he said after quitting assemblies as many 567 seats would get vacant and the elections would be held in April 2023.

"I already advised to dissolve assemblies and go for elections. We are ready for negotiating data for new elections instead of clash."

Rashid said the Punjab Police were helpless in setting stage at Faizabad, adding the sea of people at the [PTI]'s long march was referendum for the elections.

Regarding Swati's arrest, he said the arrest was a conspiracy hatched by the coalition government that was afraid of elections. Taking to Twitter, he said after quitting assemblies as many 567 seats would get vacant and the elections would be held in April 2023. "I already advised to dissolve assemblies and go for elections. We are ready for negotiating data for new elections instead of clash." Rashid said the Punjab Police were helpless in setting stage at Faizabad, adding the sea of people at the [PTI]'s long march was referendum for the elections. INP

Master artisans, craftsmen at Punjab Pavilion in Lok Mela attract people

ISLAMABAD: During Lok Mela on Sunday, Punjab pavilion remained centre of attraction due to work of master artisans and craftsmen of the province.

The land of five rivers, Punjab has centuries old attractive and beautiful culture. Punjab Pavilion contains pottery work, chalk, khas, Dari on desi khadi, Gotaknari, the art of soldering or wood, stone, artisans of ivory, metal or textile and the art of tapestry.

Punjab Pavilion and are engrossed in the creation of their works of art. Around 50 stalls of artisans have been decorated in the Punjab Pavilion, in which around 100 skilled craftsmen are engaged in the work.

Among the artisans are Hajran Bibi Chungir Sazi from Bahawalpur, Shahada Bibi Kishda Kari, Ibrahim Alam Pottery Work, Asma Zahoor Kishda Kari from Multan, Muhammad Ahmed Block Printing, Zeeshan Rashid Camel Bone Work, Shah Jahang Begum Moti Work, Surya Abdullah Cheni Making and Abdul Rehman Camel Skinwork, Muhammad. INP



ISLAMABAD: A woman preparing traditional food item Paan at her stall in Punjab Pavilion during annual Lok Mela at Lok Virsa in Federal Capital.

Opposition parties in hurry to safe KP Assembly dissolution

PESHAWAR: The opposition parties in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly has summoned an emergency session to discuss options to save the provincial legislature from dissolution.

Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has announced that his party has decided to quit all the assemblies in his address to a public meeting on Saturday.

A session of the parliamentary leaders of the opposition parties in KP assembly will discuss various options to avoid dissolution of the legislature.

"The opposition could mull over bringing a no-confidence motion against Chief Minister Mahmood Khan," Awami National Party's parliamentary leader Sardar Babak Khan has said.

A session of the opposition parties has been summoned at the residence of Opposition Leader in provincial

assembly Akram Durrani, Sardar Babak said. "We will not allow dissolution of the assembly at any cost," he vowed.

Imran Khan in his address to Azadi March participants in Pindi said: "I would announce the date of resignations after consulting chief ministers and the parliamentary party."

It is pertinent to mention here that Imran Khan's PTI is ruling the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province while they are also major partner in Punjab coalition with Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi's Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q).

A session of the parliamentary leaders of the opposition parties in KP assembly will discuss various options to avoid dissolution of the legislature. "The opposition could mull over bringing a no-confidence motion against Chief Minister Mahmood Khan," Awami National Party's parliamentary leader Sardar Babak Khan has said. INP



LAHORE: People are busy in buying warm clothes in a Landa Bazaar at Haji Camp area in Provincial Capital.

Rapid decline in share of manufacturing in GDP matter of concern: Atif Akram

LAHORE: Former Vice President of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Atif Ikrum Sheikh has said that the rapid decline in share of manufacturing in the GDP is matter of concern and is creating serious problems.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, he said that the country cannot progress unless manufacturing is given top priority.

Atif Ikrum Sheikh said that a large portion of capital is going to

non-productive sectors, which is benefiting a few while affecting the economy and masses.

He said that improved production, exports, and employment opportunities will remain a dream unless manufacturing is made more profitable than other non-productive sectors.

Atif Ikrum Sheikh who has also served as Chairman PVMA said that investment in manufacturing can be lured to reduce dependence on imports, cut the deficit and tackle unemployment.

He noted that the share of manufacturing in GDP has been declining by an average of 0.1 percent every year for decades. Manufacturing accounted for 15 percent of the GDP in the 90s, which has now fallen to 11 percent and is declining further at a worrying pace.

The business leader further said that too much dependence on imports in absence of good manufacturing leads to a trade deficit and if the trade deficit continues to rise, then the balance of payments

deteriorates, which results in debt.

The situation has reached the point that every government that comes to power has to start its tenure with the IMF program. The government borrows and announces that this is the last loan but soon it has to borrow again to save the country from bankruptcy.

The country that cannot control its spending and violates financial discipline invites IMF to rule it, he said.

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in GDP has been declining by an average of 0.1 percent every year for decades. Manufacturing accounted for 15 percent of the GDP in the 90s, which has now fallen to 11 percent and is declining further at a worrying pace.

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Achakzai expels MPA Nasrullah Zarai and others as PKMAP crisis looms

Manan Mandokhail News Desk

QUETTA: Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) Chief Mehmood Khan Achakzai expelled members provincial assembly, Nasrullah Khan Zarai, Essa Roshan, Yousaf Khan Kakar, Syed Abdul Qadar Agha, Khushal Kasi and others as the internal crisis within the party loomed on

Saturday. "All office-bearers who participated in a gathering at the residence of Yousaf Khan Kakar are sacked from the party", the PKMAP Chief announced this decision while addressing a news conference. Senior leaders Abdul Rahim Ziaratwal, Abdul Qahar Wadan, Rauf Lala, and others were also present on the occasion. Mukhtar Yousafzai asks Achakzai to participate in



the upcoming party congress

This decision on behalf of the PKMAP Chief has come two days after the party dissidents met in Kuchlak and urged him to convene the party's national congress to discuss what they call an internal and ideological crisis. Mukhtar Yousafzai spoke at length about the prevailing ideological crisis within the party and urged the chairman to listen to the workers. "The sacked leaders

failed to toe the party line despite repeated warnings", Mr. Achakzai said. He hinted at opening party doors open for the junior cadres and adopting a strict approach towards the senior leaders. Raza Muhammad and Babat Lala already sacked Achakzai has already sacked the party's secretary general Mukhtar Khan Yousafzai, former senator Raza Muhammad Raza and former provincial min-

ister Obaidullah Jan Babat. The party's dissidents have also convened the national congress at the end of December to discuss the prevailing internal conflict within the party. The PKMAP chairman however reiterated that a stable Afghanistan was in the support of Pakistan and the two Muslim neighbors can live peacefully. The seasoned politician stated that the secret services of the country should stay

away from political affairs and only this would give guarantee a strong and prosperous Pakistan. He said currently Pakistan was facing a serious financial crisis and that the political leaders should focus on finding a permanent solution to this. Achakzai urged party workers to ensure discipline and unity among their ranks and struggle for the acquisition of Pashtoon rights.



ISLAMABAD: Police personals stand alert outside local court during leader of PTI senator Azam Khan Swati hearing in Federal Capital, As Court sends Swati on physical remand in controversial tweets case.

Imran has become 'irrelevant' in political system: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Sunday that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan had become 'irrelevant'. The government was trying to fix the catastrophe wrought by Imran Khan during his four years disastrous tenure, she said in a statement. "Inflation, destruction of economy and foreign relations, besides historic debt are all Imran Khan's legacy", she maintained. The government's focus, she said, was only on the problems faced by the people as "we are committed to a clear agenda for the development and prosperity of Pakistan". Through this agenda, the ruling alliance had made national priorities and a clear approach within Pakistan and to the outside world, the minister said. The two characters of construction and destruction were before the nation, she said while referring to Imran Khan and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. "Why elections should be held ahead of time because Imran Khan had lost power?" she questioned. Taking a jibe at the PTI leadership, she said they had come to overthrow the federal govern-

ment but left after announcing the overthrow of both their governments [in Punjab and KP]. The minister said though they had announced to leave the system, they were getting salaries as legislators and enjoying other benefits despite tendering resignation from the system. "Inflation, destruction of economy and foreign relations, besides historic debt are all Imran Khan's legacy", she maintained. The government's focus, she said, was only on the problems faced by the people as "we are committed to a clear agenda for the development and prosperity of Pakistan". Through this agenda, the ruling alliance had made national priorities and a clear approach within Pakistan and to the outside world, the minister said. The two characters of construction and destruction were before the nation, she said while referring to Imran Khan and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. "Why elections should be held ahead of time because Imran Khan had lost power?" she questioned. Taking a jibe at the PTI leadership, she said they had come to overthrow the federal government but left after announcing the overthrow of both their governments [in Punjab and KP].

Abducted minor child killed, CM seeks report from IGP

LAHORE: Body of an abducted minor child was recovered here on Sunday. Chief Minister Punjab taking notice of the incident has sought a report from Inspector General Police. A two and half year old Zeeshan Ali was alleged kidnapped from village Garhwal of Chouhng Lahore on Saturday. The body of the abducted child was recovered from graveyard of Garhwal and shifted to hospital for postmortem. The police have registered a case against unidentified kidnapers/murders and started investigation. Punjab Chief Minister Pervez Elahi taking of the incident has sought a report from Inspector General Police. He directed to trace, arrest the culprits involved in kidnapping/murder, expressed his sympathies with the bereaved family and assured of providing justice to them. INP

PDM alliance to ask CM Punjab to get vote of confidence through Governor

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) and other alliance parties have started consultations over moving a motion of no confidence against Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi after the PTI Chief Imran Khan announced their plan to exit all assemblies. According to the details, the PDM parties are considering two options including filing the motion of no confidence in the assembly session or asking Governor Punjab Baleegh-ur-Rehman to ask the CM to get a vote of confidence in the assembly. In case of a motion of no confidence, the opposition alliance would have to get 186 votes against the CM to remove him. However, if the Governor asks the CM to get a vote of

confidence then he would have to secure at least 186 votes to maintain his position. As of now the government alliance, i.e the PTI, PML-Q and others, have a total of 190 seats including 180 PTI and 10 PML-Q members. The final decision on the motion of no confidence or vote of confidence would be made by the PML-N in a few days. PTI Chief Imran Khan, in his speech at the Rawalpindi gathering on Saturday, announced that his party will quit all the provincial and national assemblies. "We will not be part of this country's political system. We have decided to quit all assemblies," the former premier said while addressing the party workers and supporters at Rawalpindi Jalsa. INP

Mobs torture two robbers to death in Karachi

KARACHI: The enraged crowd tortured two robbers to death while fleeing after killing a man and injured two others upon resistance during a dacoity here on Sunday. According to details, two motorcyclists tried to snatch mobile, cash from father and a son outside their home in Sector 7-A of Sarjani Town, Karachi. Upon resistance, the robbers opened fire killing father on the spot, leaving son a passerby injured and sped away. A citizen opened fire at fleeing robbers after which they fell down bike. A large number of people gathered at the scene, brutally tortured the two robbers, killing them on the spot. The bodies and injured were moved to hospital for medico-legal formalities. The police after registering a case in the incident started an investigation. INP

Masses recognized absconder plunderers, their well wishers: Musarat Cheema

LAHORE: Spokesperson to Chief Minister and Punjab government Musarat Jamsheed Cheema has said that masses have recognized the absconder plunderers and their well wishers. Reacting to the arrest of PTI Senator Azam Swati, she said that the unlawful and immoral actions against the honourable Senator are highly condemnable. She vehemently stated that PTI will valiantly face cheap ploys of the imported government adding that the gang of crime minister is using government institutions for the fulfillment of their vested interests. If such practices persist then it will further escalate public anger and outburst. Musarat Cheema emphatically remarked that the Pakistani people want immediate ouster of the fake government under any circumstances which they fully displayed by vigorously participating in the Rawalpindi march under the leadership of Imran Khan. One of the yardsticks of leadership is that the one claiming to lead in difficulties either faces them bravely or flees away. She said, "There is a marked difference between those doing politics by sitting abroad and the others remaining among the masses even after sustaining bullet injuries. It is a food for thought for the PDM leaders as how come the masses do not give PDM parties due respect and acknowledge them even after governing the country for a long period of time. The real power is to reign over the hearts of the masses which Imran Khan is doing since long." In her rebuttal regarding the statements of PML-N leaders about Rawalpindi March the Punjab government spokesperson said that Imran Khan does not need "face facing" but Maryam Nawaz is in dire need of it. The focus of PML-N is only directed towards doing away with their cases and minting corruption money. She said, "The four years of Imran Khan are being spent on the construction and progress of Pakistan battered by their corruption and of their forefathers. INP

Pakistani, especially Punjab films to be revived on priority basis: CM

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi has said that steps will be taken preferential basis to revive Pakistan Pakistani films, especially Punjab films. He was talking to senior film producers Sheikh Amjad Rasheed and Rana Khalid Manzoor who called on him at his office on Sunday and discussed the matters relating to reviving film industry along with resolving its problems. CM Pervaiz Elahi disclosed that an endowment fund worth rupees one billion will be established for the welfare of artists adding that financial assistance for the deserving artists has been enhanced from rupees 5 thousand to rupees 25 thousand. He assured that Punjab government will review to set up

film production studio and all possible steps will be taken to provide quality recreational facilities to the people. The chief minister highlighted that employment opportunities will be generated with the enhancement of film production adding that Punjab is a fertile land with regard to art and culture. Sheikh Amjad Rasheed thanked the Chief Minister on the announcement to set up endowment fund for the artists and welcomed his decision. He lauded the CM for winning the hearts of artists by increasing their financial aid. Secretary Information Asif Bilal Lodhi and Press Secretary to CM Muhammad Iqbal Chaudhry were also present on the occasion. INP

Exhibition "Vintage Power" organized at ACP Karachi

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi on Sunday organized the exhibition "Vintage Power" of well-known artist Shaan Amrohwai at Ahmed Parvez Art Gallery. President of Arts Council Muhammad Ahmad Shah, President Bank of Punjab Zafar Masood, Various painters and art connoisseurs including artist Shaan Amrohwai participated in the event. Painter Shaan Amrohwai's masterpieces were based on the use of elephants and horses in historical wars. Commenting on the exhibition, President Arts Council Muhammad Shah said that Shaan Amrohwai does very beautiful work. He is a man of that world who shows the wars of history. Those wars are still happening today. It shows the conflict Shaan is The pride Amroha. The President of Bank of Punjab, Zafar Masood, is among us. He is the son of our Vice President Munawar Saeed. This family is the pride of Amroha. He said that the smell of creativity comes from the soil of Amroha. This is a rare family. Bank of Punjab is working for the promotion of art and culture. Zafar Masood is a Punjabi whose mother tongue is not Punjabi but he is promoting the art and culture of Punjab. President BoP Zafar Masood, while expressing his views on the exhibition, said that this event is suitable for Shaan Amroha. Shaan is carrying forward the legacy of Amroha, Ahmed Shah inspires us. Ahmed Shah's services are commendable. We have successfully done the Islamic Art Festival in Lahore along with the Arts Council Karachi. INP



RAWALPINDI: Workers busy in cleaning Murree road outside Allama Iqbal Park after the PTI long march tent city in the city.

PTI chief's directives of quitting assemblies to be followed instantly: Barrister Saif

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif has said that the provincial government will instantly follow the directives of Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) regarding quitting the assemblies. In a statement issued here on Sunday, he said that they were ready for resignations, dissolving assemblies and exiting the government as new and transparent elections were only solution to the political crisis faced by country. Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif said that if the imported government was sincere with country and its people, then it should immediately announce general election. He said that now the ball is in the court of the imported government to get rid of country of the prevailing political crisis. The SACM said that historical power show in Rawalpindi has broken all the records. The containers erected across the twin cities failed to faint the passion of masses and Rana Sanaullah seems nowhere now, he added. INP

Man kills mother, injures father and brother in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI: A merciless man gunned down his mother, injured father and brother over domestic disputes here on Sunday. The accused himself was also injured in the incident. According to details, Sarfaraz hailing from Dhoke Chiragh Din Civil Lines police station jurisdiction Rawalpindi was in dispute with parents and brothers over domestic issues. The culprit along with his in-laws came to house of parents where after an exchange of hot words he opened straight fire. Sarfaraz's mother was killed in the firing while his father and a brother sustained bullet wounds. The culprit himself was also injured in the incident. The body and injured were shifted to hospital and police after registering a case into the incident started an investigation. INP

Pemra puts ban on broadcasting Azam Swati's speeches

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority on Sunday put a ban on the broadcasting of speeches by PTI leader and Senator Azam Swati. According to the Pemra notification, no TV channel is allowed to run any ticker, news, or statement issued by Azam Swati. There will also be a ban on the re-run of Swati's speech and his invitation as a guest in any TV programme. The ban was imposed under Section 27 of the Pemra Ordinance. The media regulatory authority took notice of Swati's address to the PTI rally in Rawalpindi last night. According to the Pemra notification, the licence of news channels would be suspended without any show-cause notice if they violated its order. The notification was issued after its approval by the Pemra chairman. In the latest development, the FIA arrested Swati early Sunday morning on

the charge of using indecent language against the state institutions. A three-member FIA team raided Swati's farmhouse in Chak Shahzad for uploading controversial posts on Twitter and took him into custody. This was the second time that the PTI leader was arrested in less than two months by the FIA officers for his controversial tweets. He was previously arrested by the FIA in October. An FIR was registered against Swati under Sec 20 of the Prevention of Electronic Crime Act 2016 (Peca) which deals with offences against dignity of a person as well as Sections 131 (abetting mutiny or attempting to seduce a soldier from his duty), 500 (punishment for defamation), 501 (defamation and printing of content deemed defamatory), Section 505 (statement conducing to public mischief) and 109 (abetment) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC). INP



ISLAMABAD: Workers busy in removing heavy containers with the help of Crain as open roads at Faizabad after the PTI long march in Rawalpindi.

CM Pervaiz elahi clarifies PML-Q's stance over Punjab Assembly dissolution

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi has clarified his political party's stance on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan's call for the dissolution of the Punjab Assembly. CM Pervaiz Elahi said in a statement today that the Punjab government is the trust of Imran Khan and PML-Q leadership will not leave its allies alone after making promises. He said that Shehbaz Sharif-led government would never run even a day after the dissolution of assemblies following the MPAs' mass resignations. The chief minister clarified that they will not wait for a single minute if Imran Khan ordered to dissolve the assemblies. He added that Imran

Khan was given a new life by Allah Almighty and his political strategy entered the decisive phase. Pervaiz Elahi said that the massive public gatherings prove Imran Khan's popularity. The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) alliance will be shattered after the mass resignations of the MPAs. He censured Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) for spreading lies. He claimed that the ruling political party will face humiliation in the next elections. The chief minister said that the common people will be uplifted by the Punjab government. He vowed that the citizens will also get free medical facilities for cancer treatment soon. INP

Federal babus undergo another shake-up

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has reshuffled top bureaucracy once again and issued order for new postings and transfers on important seats on Sunday. The establishment division has issued the official notification of the transfers and postings which were made on the basis of rules and regulations. According to the notification, Director Airport Security Force Brigadier Muhammad Shoaib Mughal has been removed and Brigadier Wajid Sibghatullah (Infantry) has been appointed as Director Airport Security Force in his place. Moreover, the services of Private Secretary Muhammad Shahbaz (BPS-17) posted in the Ministry of Commerce Islamabad, have been handed over to the Senate Secretariat on deputation for one year as a Private Secretary. Whereas the deputation of (BPS-18) Muhammad Nasir Javed associated with Inland Revenue Service on deputation in the Federal Government Employees Housing Foundation was further extend-

ed for 2 years. The extension will be counted from September 23, 2022 this year. Notification has been issued in this regard. The establishment division has issued the official notification of the transfers and postings which were made on the basis of rules and regulations. According to the notification, Director Airport Security Force Brigadier Muhammad Shoaib Mughal has been removed and Brigadier Wajid Sibghatullah (Infantry) has been appointed as Director Airport Security Force in his place. Moreover, the services of Private Secretary Muhammad Shahbaz (BPS-17) posted in the Ministry of Commerce Islamabad, have been handed over to the Senate Secretariat on deputation for one year as a Private Secretary. Whereas the deputation of (BPS-18) Muhammad Nasir Javed associated with Inland Revenue Service on deputation in the Federal Government Employees Housing Foundation was further extended for 2 years. INP