

# QUETTA VOICE

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**Destination of electables is PPP in Balochistan nowadays**



**Imran Khan doesn't want 'anyone's support' in next general election**

## Per kg flour now at Rs. 150 as crisis worsens in Balochistan

Manan Mandokhail

QUETTA: In Balochistan, the flour crisis worsened as per kilogram of flour is being sold at Rs. 150 in the open market. "This government has snatched the bread from us", Muhammad Ali, a customer trying to get flour on subsidized rates lamented. The 20-kilogram flour bag is available at Rs.3000 in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan.

The provincial government failed to provide flour to the masses at official prices. "We have nothing in our treasury and we cannot provide any subsidy", Zamarak Khan Achakzai, the Balochistan Food Minister said. The minister blamed the federal and Punjab governments for their failure to provide wheat to Balochistan.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo has also written a letter to the federal government to support the province in the acquisition of wheat quota from Punjab and the federal government. "They are not responding to our CM", Mr. Achakzai said.

**He said, "we cannot provide even Rs.2 billion. subsidy"**

The Food Minister



appears to be helpless regarding the flour crisis and said that the federal and Punjab governments were not providing any wheat to Balochistan. Flour mill owners complained that the food department has failed to provide them with the required wheat quota. "This is an alarming situation and our mills are empty", Badruddin Kakar, the central leader of the

Balochistan flour mills association said.

**The Minister lamented that Punjab provided only 10,000 out of 400,000 bags of wheat to Balochistan**

"This government is least bothered about the plight of poor people", Nizam Khan, a citizen told Daily Quetta Voice. The masses have lashed out at the Balochistan government for its failure to address the flour crisis.

"The food department is complicit in creating a flour crisis", Nizam

Khan claimed. He said long queues of people can be witnessed outside all utility stores across Balochistan.

"Very few fortunate people get flour", he said. Last year, the Balochistan government failed to purchase wheat because of a political crisis. This created a worsening flour crisis.

## Millions of flood-devastated Pakistanis looking for compassion, solidarity: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, along with the UN Secretary-General. He said that he



Sharif on Sunday said that millions of Pakistanis, affected by unprecedented devastation due to floods, looked for compassion and solidarity to build back better.

"Humanity is at an inflection point in world history. Our actions today will shape the resilient future for our succeeding generations, the prime minister posted on his Twitter handle.

In a related tweet, the prime minister said that he was leaving for Geneva today to co-host International Conference on Resilient Pakistan, being held on January

would take the opportunity to present the case of flood victims before the world. "I will also throw light on steps my govt. has taken for relief & rehabilitation," he further posted.

The prime minister said that in the conference they would place a comprehensive post-disaster framework plan for recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction with resilience before development partners and friendly countries.

"Bridging funding gap is key to restore critical infrastructure, rebuild lives & livelihoods & revive economy," he added. INP

## Destination of electables is PPP in Balochistan nowadays

Syed Ali Shah Analysis

The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), which failed to win a single seat during the general elections of 2018 in Balochistan is finally back. Electables, commonly called the ever-green and influential politicians have been joining the party for last more than a month. The seismic political shift in Balochistan is nothing new. Switching of loyalties and changing political parties normally take a place before every general election in the province, which covers half of the country in terms of area.

"Winds of change are blowing in Balochistan", is a commonly held notion in villages and cities of the province these days. Earlier this year, it was the Jamiat ul Ulama e Islam (F) with electables joining the religious party. However, PPP filled the vacuum.



**Asif Zardari has no time to visit Balochistan because of crowds joining the party**

PPP supremo Asif Ali Zardari has no time to visit Balochistan to announce the joining of the electables because of the rush. The electables/evergreen politicians thronged the Bilawal House in Karachi and started joining the PPP and the party leaders preferred to receive them there.

Former federal minister Sardar Fateh Muhammad Muhammad Hassani, his son Umair Muhammad Hassani, Nawabzada Jamal Raisani, the son of Nawabzada Siraj Raisani, former Balochistan Minister, Tahir Mehmood Khan, Mir Mohyuddin Baloch, the former central leader of the Baloch Students Organization (BSO), Mir Fareed Raisani and others joined the party in Karachi. Three former provincial ministers including Mir Zahoor Buledi, Saleem Khan Khoso and Arif Jan Muhammad Hassani have already joined the party.

## Sardar Noor Ahmed Bangulzai also joined the PPP

Sardar Noor Ahmed Bangulzai who is likely to contest elections against former Chief Minister Nawab Muhammad Aslam Raisani in Mastung has also joined PPP.

As the ruling Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) nears its permanent collapse, its leaders and workers have started joining other political parties. The BAP, which emerged as the largest parliamentary party prior to the 2018 general elections has practically collapsed since its incumbent CM Mir Qudus Bizenjo, and president Jam Kamal Khan are in contact with other political parties for joining.

Despite ruling the province for five years, currently, none owns the party and gradually everyone parts ways with it.

## Hussain Wadela handed over to Crimes Branch Quetta for 3 days remand

Behram Baloch, Manan Mandokhail

QUETTA: A local court here on Saturday granted three days physical remand of the Gwadar Rights Movement (GRM) leader, Hussain Wadela and two other leaders to Crimes Branch police. Police had arrested Hussain Wadela and other GRM activists for causing damages to public and private properties in the port city of Gwadar.

On the instructions of the Balochistan Home and Tribal Affairs Department, Hussain Wadela and others were handed over to Crimes Branch Police in the case. The GRM leaders were produced before the court that granted three-days physical remand, Rahib Buledi, the lawyer for the accused said.

**Police investigator demands seven-days remand**

The investigatory officer of the police however demanded seven-days remand of



Hussain Wadela and others. The court rejected the request of the police investigation officer and granted only three-days remand. The court directed the police to take care of the three leaders of the GRM.

The GRM has been protesting against the provincial and federal governments for last more than two months. They have been protesting against illegal fishing/trawling, unnecessary check posts and other issues relating to the port city of the country. Police have registered FIRs against a large number of supporters of the GRM.

## Maulana Hidayat and Kalmati booked by police

Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman, the Chief of the GRM and Naveed Kalmati, the former Balochistan caretaker minister have also been booked for inciting violent protests and causing damages to public and private properties. Both are still at large and not arrested by the administration.

Commissioner Mekran Division, Syed Faisal Ahmed on Friday said that the administration arrested the GRM activists who had blocked the road leading to the port in Gwadar. He said some of the GRM leaders voluntarily surrendered before the police after registration of FIRs against them. "No political victimization of anyone", the Commissioner Mekran Division stated.

However, Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman has accused the administration of subjecting GRM activists to political victimization in Gwadar and other parts of Mekran division.

## PM Shehbaz Sharif urges Kuwait to participate in climate moot

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday held a telephonic conversation with his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The prime minister apprised the Kuwaiti prime minister about the International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan, to be held on Monday in Geneva and requested High level participation.

The Kuwaiti PM Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah expressed firm support for the initiatives to strengthen Pakistan's



climate resilience.

Pakistan and Kuwait have reiterated their mutual commitment to further expand and diversify special bilateral relations.

The premier reaffirmed the importance Pakistan attached to its relationship with Kuwait and reiterated the desire to

further expand bilateral cooperation in diverse fields.

He underscored the resolve to forge deeper economic engagement between Pakistan and Kuwait - including in trade, investment, labour and other key sectors.

PM Shehbaz Sharif also expressed satisfaction at close cooperation between the two countries at the multilateral forums.

He appreciated the measures taken by Kuwait for the recruitment of Pakistani manpower in the fields of Health, Security and Infrastructure. Web Desk

## Imran Khan doesn't want 'anyone's support' in next general election

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan Sunday reiterated his demand for fair and transparent elections in the country, clarifying he doesn't need "anyone's support" in the electoral process. "We need fair and transparent elections, not anyone's support," the deposed prime minister said while addressing a PTI women's convention in Karachi via video link from his residence in Lahore. Imran Khan, who was ousted from power in April last year, lamented about the country's economic state and called for conducting transparent elections as the foremost solution to the crises.

"Reforms are needed after transparent polls. These incompetent leaders of PDM [Pakistan Democratic Movement] cannot introduce reforms," the PTI chief



said, slamming the ineptitude of the ruling coalition in the Centre.

Seeking a "true democratic setup" to conduct elections, the former premier addressed state institutions, saying: "I tell institutions that this is the time to manage the country. We want to bring a peaceful revolution through the ballot box."

Hinting at possible political engineering ahead of the general elec-

tions this year, the former premier claimed that efforts are being made to bring Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) to power in Punjab. "It is feared that political engineering will be carried out to weaken the PTI. Don't do political engineering for God's sake. It has done so much damage to the country," Imran Khan said, warning all stakeholders that "Pakistan is slipping out of everyone's hand." He alleged that people are forced to join the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in Balochistan and another game is being played in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. However, he claimed, the PTI is the only political party at the federal level that can keep the country united. Earlier today, former senator Sardar Fateh Muhammad Muhammad Hassani, Nawabzada. Web Desk

## IMF delegation to meet Dar on sidelines of Geneva conference: spokesperson

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will meet Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on the sidelines of the upcoming Geneva conference to "discuss outstanding issues", the lender's spokesperson said on Sunday.

The International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan will be held in Geneva on January 9 (Monday). The event will be co-hosted by the Government of Pakistan and the United



Nations. It aims to bring together government representatives, leaders from the public and private sectors and civil society to sup-

port the people and the government after the devastating floods of 2022.

On Sunday, an IMF spokesperson told media that the global lender's managing director had a "constructive call" with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on January 6.

"The MD again expressed her sympathy to those directly affected by the floods and supported Pakistan's efforts to build a more resilient recovery." The spokesperson added that an IMF delegation is expected to meet with Dar on the sidelines of the Geneva conference to discuss "outstanding issues and the path forward". Web Desk

## QUETTA VOICE

Editor Asim Khan

## 31 coordinators to CM Balochistan!

In less than a year, Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Qudus Bizenjo has appointed 31 coordinators. The appointment of a further three coordinators is in the pipeline. In all notifications, the Services, and General Administration Department (S&GAD) said the coordinators were appointed on an 'honorary' basis.

Honorary or paid, coordinators are a burden on the province facing a serious financial crisis and hardly maintaining the fragile financial condition. Chief Minister Balochistan has already appointed all 14 provincial ministers, and 5 advisers as per the 18th constitutional amendment. The question arises, what is the need for new recruitment of a crowd of coordinators? The answer is simple, this is just an attempt to please well-wishers and influentials.

## Offices allotted for some coordinators

Although, the government claims to have appointed them on an honorary basis, moreover, some of the coordinators have been allotted offices. Who pays for the staff and accommodation given to the coordinators? Administration provides them with security, whenever they roam across the province. Unnecessary protocols and security have already disturbed the routine life of the people across Balochistan. When the government removed unnecessary check posts on highways throughout the province, people appreciated this step taken by Chief Minister Mir Qudus Bizenjo.

## Friendly opposition should also play a role in ensuring financial discipline

Given Balochistan's serious financial crisis, the coalition government coupled with the friendly and powerful opposition must ensure financial discipline. The government needs to reduce non-development expenditures and increase the development budget to improve the socioeconomic condition of the people.

The province is lagging behind all other provinces in terms of key social indicators including education, health, sanitation, clean drinking water, etc. The government has to focus on improving governance and reducing non-development expenditures rather than appointing coordinators on a mere political basis.

## Multivariate Aspects of Climate Change in Pakistan

Syed Mansoor Ahmed

Climate change steams unbeatable challenges in the future. According to the World Bank report, Pakistan stands 6th in affected of climate change. The awful and deadly floods of 2010, and 2011, extremely dry weather in a rainy area, and fluctuation in actual climate pattern is alarming and despairing signs among all the dwellers of the town.

Climate Change and Agriculture in Pakistan

In addition, Pakistan is a semi-arid country. The focal and dependent source of water is from the snow-covered Himalayas and the Karakoram in the Northern Areas. Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, and the Sutlej rivers flow through this area. Within the water calculus, the country's entire agriculture is dependant on water flow from the Indus river.

Glacial flood out-

burst also poses a serious threat to the country's climate in the Karakoram range. The sole aim was reaching and understanding the possible nodes of surge-type glaciers, which are characterized by unsteady movements and frequent frontal advances of glaciers. As result, it causes natural hazards by obstructing river channels, forming ice-dammed lakes, which will ultimately cause GLOFs and pose threats downstream of the water. After meaningful analysis, it revealed that a surge between 1998 and 2002 generated 6 GLOFs.

Damages by Climate Change:

Meanwhile, rigorous critical exploration of the Attabad Lake of Hunza Valley in Gilgit-Baltistan is the distinctive event to justify the future threats of climate change in the center of freshwater. The lake flooding displaced more than

6,000 people from upstream villages and inundated over 19 kilometers of the Karakoram Highway.

Recently, global warming and subsequent climate change have increased the constant state of fear and the risk of massive outburst flooding in the respective mountainous region. The comprehensive field evidence, local testimonies by the natives, modern applications of remote sensing, and cross-correlation feature-tracking techniques provides the improved understanding of glacier surges and ice-dam formation disclosed the scale future threat.

Glaciers in Pakistan:

It is also noted, historically, in the Karakoram Range 39 glaciers are responsible for ice-dam formation. On the other hand, 36 glaciers build ice barriers in the running rivers due to frontal

advance, near to the densely populated areas of the Karakoram region. By constant observation of the prevailing and growing threat of climate change, it is airing the endless future threat only due to the GLOFs. For instance, the Indus River System (IRS) is the jugular vein of irrigation in Pakistan. It is providing water for almost 90% of the food product in Pakistan. The ice-dam formation due to the GLOFs will slow down the water flowing pace downstream. And could raise a deep impasse among the units for water distribution formula. In the end, it will ultimately surface the challenge of food insecurity in Pakistan.

The Karakoram Range, more importantly, is the home of the anticipating One Belt One Road Initiative (OBOR) by giving with a potential corridor through the Karakoram

Highway from Khunjerab to the seaport at Gawadar in Balochistan (CPEC) on the Indian Ocean. Therefore, the smooth running of the traffic on the roads is the keynote for progressive economic development. While the ice barriers in rivers due to frontal advance could inundate the black-tops of the Karakoram Highway. The dislocation and dissolution of roads will give birth to never-ending challenges due to the factor of GLOFs.

In the same run, these lakes and GLOFs attracted media, political, and scientific attention because of the repeated outburst of floods. So, it needs the heart blood as well as collective effective efforts to bring down the scale of the future threat without causing infinite miseries.

The writer is a Public Policy Analyst and Lecturer at BUET, Khuzdar.

## In choppy waters

Pakistan is wobbling in choppy waters, literally as well as figuratively. A natural disaster has overlapped a political crisis. There is a growing sense of foreboding about what may happen during the next few days. Dark clouds are hovering on the horizon. Again, politically and meteorologically.

Because of how popular imagination is hooked on politics, not enough attention is paid by the media to the rain emergency that has deepened during the past few weeks. There have been reports in the main news bulletins but almost no mention is made of the misery of millions of citizens across vast terrains in talk shows and other regular features.

And just when the magnitude of the calamity was beginning to break into the consciousness of our opinion makers, the Shahbaz Gill episode has suddenly become the nation's foremost preoccupation. For once, this would be a legitimate distraction, considering its possible political fallout. The dramatic developments that were played out on Friday are likely to become a catalyst in the ongoing power struggle.

In many ways, the initiative rests with Imran Khan to take decisive political action. He has certainly been building up the tempo with large

public rallies and the show staged in Lahore on the eve of the Independence Day must have boosted the confidence of his supporters. It was a well-designed political extravaganza.

But what happened on Friday could not have been a part of any planned strategy. After Shahbaz Gill's arrest for allegedly inciting mutiny among armed forces in a statement telecast live by ARY, Imran Khan himself and other PTI leaders were cautiously distancing themselves from the remarks made by the party's most strident spokesperson. In the Senate, PTI leader Faisal Javed was categorical in repudiating the stance that had been adopted by Shahbaz Gill. All this changed on Friday after video recordings of how Imran Khan's chief of staff was brought to court became viral.

There he was visibly in pain and crying out for his respiratory mask. A clip was shared by the PTI's official Twitter account, describing the scene as "heartbreaking". Irrespective of a contradictory statement of the Islamabad police and partisan assertions that Shahbaz Gill had been certified as healthy in a medical report, the visuals and allegations made by PTI leaders seriously raised the issue of torture. It is something the federal

government would have to deal with against the backdrop of rising tensions.

Imran Khan took the charge of torture to another level and said in a tweet: "All the pictures & videos show clearly Gill was tortured both mentally & physically incl sexual abuse - most too gruesome to relate". He immediately went into action and drove to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) to see Shahbaz Gill, where the PTI leader was sent by the sessions court.

Not allowed to meet his chief of staff, he announced protest rallies in support of Shahbaz Gill across the country, with he himself leading one in Islamabad on Saturday evening. Hence the threat of public disorder has become real. That Punjab is now governed by the PTI, care of Parvez Elahi, may strengthen Imran Khan's hand to some extent. Yet, there is considerable ambiguity about how the powers that be will deal with the unfolding scenario.

Already, proceedings against Imran Khan have been initiated with reference to the Election Commission of Pakistan's verdict on foreign funding and the Toshakhana case. On Friday, the ECP issued notices of Imran Khan, Fawad Chaudhry and Asad Umar for making

"intemperate and contemptuous remarks" against the electoral watchdog.

With a renewed focus on this fateful political conflict, the rain disaster and massive disruption in the lives of a large number of people will remain somewhat in the background. But there is one incident that intertwines the rain disaster with the current political upheaval. Something seems mysterious about this connection and how it is evolving. I am referring to that tragic helicopter crash in which we lost six army personnel, including Lt-Gen Sarfraz Ali. This crash took place in Lasbela, a district of Balochistan on the first day of this month. Now, this was a flood relief operation and bad weather was said to be a reason for the accident.

Strangely, this helicopter crash prompted a negative campaign in the social media of such a nature that the military authorities had to take cognisance. In a press conference this week, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif blamed Imran Khan for "patronising" his Chief of Staff Shahbaz Gill and others for launching this campaign. In any case, an extensive investigation is in progress and some arrests have been made. Meanwhile, the full extent of the devastation caused by the rains, in

By Ghazi Salahuddin

terms of lives lost and property destroyed, has not been adequately explored by the national media. And more floods have been predicted in the coming days. Not many human stories of suffering have been reported to underline the gravity of this disaster.

It is not surprising that the foreign media has demonstrated the right editorial judgment by giving more attention to Pakistan's rain havoc than to its political crisis. On Wednesday, The Guardian had a detailed report with this headline: "Pakistan floods kill 580 and bring misery to millions". The sub-heading said: "Government accused of inaction as downpours leave schools destroyed, homes ruined, crops failing, and cholera on the rise". On July 24, The New York Times had a story: "Pakistan's deadly flood season worsened by climate change and bad infrastructure".

Yes, we do have our daily clips of the flood situation, mainly of ferocious currents cutting across roads and bridges and poor settlements. On Thursday, a car was swept away by the flood waters of Malir River in Karachi, with its seven passengers all drowned. But it was not a lead story and lacked personal details about the lives that were lost.

## Sanitation System in Quetta

By: Iqra Shaheen and Rabail Urooj

Quetta is the capital city of Balochistan, the largest province of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. It is located at an altitude of 1,680 m between the strategically important Bolan and Khojak passes on the route to Afghanistan. The town and suburbs have grown tremendously in the last 20 years, and hold now an estimated population of 1.2 million. Inadequate wastewater and solid waste disposal, storm water drainage and flood control seriously affect the existing water resources as well as the urban environment. Sanitation refers to public health conditions related to clean drinking water and excreta treatment and disposal of human excreta and sewage. Preventing human contact with feces is part of sanitation, as is hand washing with soap. Sanitation systems aim to protect human health by providing a clean

environment that will stop the transmission of disease, especially through the fecal oral route. For example, diarrhea, a main cause of malnutrition and stunted growth in children, can be reduced through adequate sanitation. The unpleasant smell of the sewage water dismayed over prevailing unhygienic sanitary conditions in Quetta. The garbage dumped into the drains daily has fully choked the

already ineffective sewerage system. Sariab Road, Sabzal Road, Brewery Road, Spiny Road, Kasi Road, Mizan Chowk, Prince Road, Musa Colony, Wahdat Colony and Nawan Killi were among the areas where sewage water had accumulated due to choking of the drainage system. Only a few areas like Satellite Town, Shahbaz Town, Jinnah Town and Model Town were established with some planning.

There are 315 slums and underserved areas located in 44% of the 50 Union Councils of Quetta city. 57% slums are not found in any of the government records. Quetta city has 2 Million population out of which 35% lives in slums and

underserved areas. 13% residents of these disadvantaged areas are temporarily displaced either in the province or are of other nationalities (mostly Afghans). The provincial capital of Balochistan generates over 700 tons of solid waste every day, but the administration is only capable of disposing of around 300 tons of it. The rest of the sewage meanders in the area, while some of it is used to grow vegetables. As the sewerage system is clogged, dirty water accumulated on the streets. People found it

difficult to walk in most areas like Mikangi Road, Imdad Chowk, Mission Chowk, Korai Road, Gawalmandi Chowk, Browni and

Qarani where the water is accumulated. On one side the tall claims of cleaning the drainage system, while on the other the dirty water on the roads had made the life of shop owners and residents miserable. People have demanded of the Metropolitan officials to get the sewerage system cleaned. The dirty water accumulated on the roads has laid bare the Metropolitan team's and

authorities' tall claims about cleanliness. The garbage lying by the roadside also caused immense difficulties for the people. So the suggested solution is to stop dumping chemicals and waste into the environment, develop sanitation and raise awareness on best hygiene practices. Reducing the number of people practicing open defecation. Increasing the number of people with access to basic sanitation facilities and the amount of fecal waste effectively captured and treated on-site, or collected, transported, and treated off-site. Improving the ability of educational and health systems to

manage sanitation and hygiene facilities in institutions and affordability and availability of sanitation products and services. Increasing the number of people with safely managed sanitation services, handwashing with soap at critical times and the rate of safe management of household drinking water.

## Demographic engineering

By Malik Muhammad Ashraf

Indian authorities have recently permitted temporary residents in Indian illegally. Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) to register as voters. This is yet another attempt by the Indian government to change the demographic features of Kashmir.

This move follows the promulgation of a new domicile law after the repeal of Article 370 of the Indian constitution, revoking the special status of the state and its bifurcation into two territories. The announced measure is likely to add 2.5 million more voters, which the local population fears would allow the BJP government to alter the demographics of the region.

It is a sinister move to convert the Muslim majority into a minority in due course of time and has rightly been rejected and condemned by Pakistan. The action constitutes the blatant violation of the Geneva Convention and the UN resolutions on the Kashmir dispute. After the end of World War II, as a consequence of the initiative taken by the International Committee of Red Cross, the Diplomatic Conference for the Establishment of International Convention for Protection of Victims of War was held in Geneva, which adopted the fourth Geneva Convention on 12 August 1949. It is one of the four treaties of the Geneva Conventions.

While the first three

conventions dealt with combatants, the fourth Geneva Convention was the first to deal with humanitarian protections for civilians in a war zone. Currently, 196 countries are party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

In 1993, the UN Security Council adopted a report from the secretary general and a commission of experts which concluded that the Geneva Conventions had passed into the body of customary international law, thus making them binding even on non-signatories to the conventions whenever they engage in armed conflicts.

Article 27 of the Geneva IV states: "Protected persons are entitled, in all circumstances, to respect for their persons, their honour, their family rights, their religious convictions and practices, and their manners and customs. They shall at all times be humanely treated, and shall be protected especially against all acts of violence or threats thereof and against insults and public curiosity."

Article 49 of the Geneva IV says: "The Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies." Article 32 of the convention adds: "The High Contracting Parties specifically agree that each of them is prohibited from taking any measure

of such a character as to cause the physical suffering or extermination of protected persons in their hands. This prohibition applies not only to murder, torture, corporal punishment, but also to any other measures of brutality by civilian or military agents."

Giving voting rights to non-residents and allowing people from the Indian mainland to buy property in IOJK is in breach of Article 49 of the fourth Geneva Convention.

Indian security forces in IOJK are the occupying power by all definitions since Kashmir's fate, as per UN resolutions, is to be decided through a plebiscite held under the auspices of the world body, a position which the UNSC has reiterated in its three informal meetings after the Modi regime revoked the state's special status.

After the scrapping of Article 370 of the Indian constitution, the entire population of Kashmir is under siege, and they have been denied contact with the outside world; there is a complete lockdown in the valley, and people are not even given access to mosques. International media, human rights organizations like Amnesty International and even UN Human Rights Commission in its reports has corroborated blatant violations of human rights in IOJK. The discovery of mass graves at 38 sites also lends currency to the inhumane treatment of

the local population by Indian security forces.

Through the foregoing actions India has not only torn asunder the fourth Geneva Convention but also pummeled the UN resolutions with regard to the plebiscite and breached international law with impunity.

It is indeed regrettable that neither the UN nor the big powers have shown real interest in stopping India in its tracks and resolving the Kashmir conflict as per the UN resolutions. Their indifference to the developments taking place in the valley and the fallout of those provocative measures is encouraging Indian hegemonic designs in the region.

India is being ruled by a diehard follower of the supremacist RSS ideology of Hindutva, which takes inspiration from Nazism. It has already started showing its ugly face in the form of enhanced Indian hostility towards Pakistan. Indian leaders have repeatedly threatened Pakistan of dire consequence, and on February 2019, India made its intentions clear when it sent planes to bomb imagined terrorist camps in Balakot, ostensibly in retaliation for the Pulwama incident. It is interesting to note that an Indian journalist close to the BJP regime later revealed that the Pulwama incident was stage-managed by the Modi government to win elections and find an excuse to take action against Pakistan.

## Animal cruelty in Pakistan

Syed Mohammad Ali

The indifference, callousness, and contempt that so many people exhibit toward animals is evil first because it results in great suffering in animals, and second because it results in an incalculably great impoverishment of the human spirit. I did not pen these words, Albert Einstein did. Islam also forbids treating animals cruelly or killing them except for food. Zabiha rules stipulate how an animal to be slaughtered must not be mistreated or caused undue pain. Yet, animal cruelty is rampant and exists in varied forms in countries like ours.

We live in a country where political leaders have been known to hold political rallies with caged and chained lions, and where animals like turtles given away as party favours at children's birthdays. Many well-to-do people pay a lot of money to purchase expensive cats, dogs, or birds but treat them callously. Cruelty towards animals is not the reserve of rich people only. Cruelty to animals especially donkeys, horses and mules is also widespread. These animals are overworked, under-fed, and harshly beaten by their owners.

Some recent attempts at humane dog population management and mass vaccinations in Karachi have dissipated. Instead,

the recent uproar following the negligence of animal owners and attacks by guard dogs on pedestrians in Karachi unleashed another unwarranted attacks on dogs all over the country. Several neighbourhoods started instigating municipal organisations to shoot stray dogs on sight. Use of strychnine poison was once again allowed to poison dogs.

There is a general absence of adequate laws related to animal welfare and animal slaughter, and the existing laws that exist are not adequately implemented. Pakistan's Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (1890) aims to protect many animals, including draught animals. This law is however outdated and does not reflect the prevalent scientific, cultural, or commercial compulsions pertaining to animal welfare.

It is time to update this law to protect both pet and wild animals, to institute mechanisms for their care, and define consequences for those who are neglectful towards animals.

It is encouraging that the Halal Authority Act (2015) has not only mandated humane treatment of animals throughout the slaughter process, but also prohibited animals from seeing one another being slaughtered. However, there has been little implementation of this law.

While animal abandon-

ment is illegal in Pakistan, there is scant regulation on how animal owners should care for their animals. Moreover, zoos across Pakistan are notorious for their poor conditions. Prompted by international criticism over the Islamabad zoo's maltreatment of the elephant, Kaavan, the Islamabad High Court issued an unprecedented ruling last year. It ordered that the entire zoo of over four hundred animals to be closed and all the animals within it to be transferred to appropriate wildlife sanctuaries in the short period of two months. The rush to empty the zoo caused the death of a pair of lions, which passed away, two days apart, during their transfer from the zoo to a farmhouse in Kasur city instead of a sanctuary as had been directly by the court.

Pakistan also urgently needs to enact legislation detailing specific welfare requirements for the rearing of farm animals during distinct phases of rearing, transport, and slaughter. Such requirements must be legally binding and species-specific and aligned with international animal welfare standards. Regular inspections of farms and slaughter establishments would have to be carried out with a special focus on animal welfare or the situation on the ground will not change for the better.

## BISP to release first quarterly tranche to Kafaalat programme beneficiaries from Today

ISLAMABAD: Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) is going to release the first quarterly installment of Rs 7,000 to the Kafaalat programme beneficiaries for the year 2023 from Monday.

About 7.7 million families would receive over Rs 55 billion in the first tranche. The beneficiaries women and transgender hailing from Islamabad, Punjab, Sindh, and Balochistan would receive this money from the payment centers or biometric automated teller machines (ATMs) designated by Habib

Bank; while in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, the funds would be disbursed through payment centers or biometric ATMs of Bank Al-Falah.

Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and BISP Chairperson Shazia Marri, in her message to beneficiaries, said transparency would be ensured at all costs during the disbursements of funds. She asked the beneficiaries to receive their full installment of Rs 7,000 and forget not to get the payment receipt

by the quarter concerned.

She further said neither there would be a deduction nor charged any payment fee on this amount. "If someone demands any kind of deduction or fee for payment, beneficiaries should immediately report to BISP's toll-free helpline 080026477 or contact the nearest BISP Tehsil Office," she maintained.

Shazia Marri warned the beneficiaries that the message sent by BISP would come from 8171, and no message from any other number or code should be trusted as it is fake and fraudulent. INP



HYDERABAD: A large numbers of citizens gather to buy subsidized sacks of flour from a sale point at Hussainabad area, in the city.

## Iranian held in Germany suspected of chemical terror plot

BURLIN: An Iranian man has been arrested in western Germany suspected of preparing an "Islamist attack" using cyanide and ricin, police and prosecutors said Sunday.

Muenster police and the Duesseldorf prosecutors' office said in a press release that officers searched a residence in the town of Castrop-Rauxel for "toxic substances" intended to carry out an attack.

The 32-year-old Iranian was "suspected of having prepared a serious act of violence threatening the security of the state by obtaining cyanide and ricin with a view to committing an Islamist attack," said investigators.

The arrest was carried out shortly before midnight on Saturday evening, a spokes-

woman for the police said. Another person, said to be the main suspect's brother, was also taken into custody during the operation, she said.

The 32-year-old suspect will be presented in the coming days to an investigating judge ahead of possible pre-trial detention, police said.

Ricin is a highly toxic substance, which is classed as a "chemical weapon" in Germany. Similar to cyanide, ricin can be lethal.

According to local media reports, the raids were carried out by agents wearing protective suits, due to the chemical hazard.

German authorities were tipped off to the risk of an attack with a "chemical bomb" several days ago by a foreign intelligence service,

the German daily Bild reported.

In 2018, a Tunisian man and his wife were arrested on suspicion of planning a biological bomb attack in Germany.

The couple, who sympathized with the Daesh group, were found in possession of 84 milligrams of ricin in their Cologne apartment. The man was sentenced to 10 years in prison in 2020, while his wife received an eight-year sentence.

Germany has been targeted in recent years by several Islamist attacks, including a 2016 truck attack on a Christmas market, that killed 12 people and left dozens injured. A 13th victim died five years later having suffered serious injuries in the assault. ONLINE

## Structural reforms to ensure sustainable development in Pakistan: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan needs to introduce drastic structural reforms to develop an economic value proposition that provides incentives to financial markets and private investors to participate in sustainable development through a strategic partnership, WealthPK reports.

It is time for a structural shift towards innovative financing approaches for sustaining and eventually expanding the much-needed targeted investments in Sustainable Development Goals, set by the United Nations, to improve the living standard of the people of the country.

Haroon Sharif, Senior Advisor on Financing for Development at UNDP, told WealthPK that Pakistan's persistent macroeconomic imbalances and somewhat inconsistent policy decisions are to blame for the country's financial crises.

However, he said that the government is striving to revive the Extended Fund Facility of the International Monetary Fund for replenishing the dwindling reserves of the country.

"Traditionally, Pakistan has been financing its Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) through its bud-

etary resources that have been financed through revenue collection, which is less than 11% of its Gross Domestic Product, and borrowing from multilateral banks. There has been a cut in the development budget during the past few years for balancing the large fiscal gap between revenues and expenditures," he said.

Haroon Sharif said that the financial sector of the country is dominated by commercial banks where development financing is subsidised by the state through priority lending schemes managed by the State Bank of Pakistan.

"It is the need of the hour to organise and manage the demand side to demonstrate the potential of impact investments for building climate resilience, technology adoption, connecting markets and expanding outreach of health and educational services," he said.

He said that UNDP Pakistan is leading that effort and in collaboration with the government. He said that UNDP has set up an SDG Project Development Facility to develop debt and equity financing instruments for selected sectors and schemes. It is meant to reach out to both local financial institutions and

international impact investors with a solid value proposition to tap the multi-billion-dollar investment pool, which can support millions of marginalised people.

"Pakistan's financial market is reasonably liquid, private sector-led and offers possibilities of professionally raising capital for SDG investments. If technical assistance is provided and meaningful partnership is facilitated between the Global Investors for Sustainable Development Alliance (GISD) and leading local financial institutions, there is potential to structure debt and equity funds up to \$1 billion to finance sustainable projects in priority areas with a direct impact on SDGs," said the development expert.

He said that the way forward for Pakistan is to develop an economic value proposition that provides incentives to financial markets and private investors to participate in sustainable development through a strategic partnership and innovative financial instruments, supported by a conducive policy framework. He said that it is time to work on a strategic partnership among policymakers, the private sector. INP



KARACHI: Workers of Pakistan People's Party hold party flags during a rally in Provincial Capital.

## 5 herbs for people with diabetes to prevent heart attack

Islamabad: Heart attack, sudden cardiac arrest cases are on rise across the country and people with diabetes are twice at risk. Ayurveda expert talks about five herbs for diabetics that they consume to prevent risk of heart attack.

Heart attack and sudden cardiac arrest cases are on rise across the country and even younger people leading apparently healthy lifestyles are found to have hidden cardiac issues that sometimes do not have any symptoms. Covid has played its own role in weakening our hearts while the cocktail of sedentary lifestyle and stress could prove to be deadly for cardiac health. People with diabetes are twice at risk of heart attack or stroke compared to people who are not suffering from the metabolic

disorder.

As the diabetes progresses, the heart health deteriorates and one becomes susceptible to sudden cardiac events. High blood sugar over the time can damage blood vessels and the nerves of the heart. Diabetics have other complications too that often accompany the disease like high blood pressure which can further affect heart function. So, if you have diabetes and your blood sugar levels remain uncontrolled most of the times, your heart is likely to be affected and it is important for you to make appropriate lifestyle changes. A healthy diet, staying active and lowering stress levels can help people with diabetes in not only maintaining healthy blood sugar levels but also optimum heart health.

"People with diabetes (especially senior citizens) are more prone to heart diseases (high cholesterol, hypertension which eventually leads to heart attacks) due to reduced metabolism and liver function over a period of time due to being on diabetes medications," writes Ayurveda expert Dr Dixa Bhavsar in her recent Instagram post.

Dr Bhavsar also suggests 5 herbs that can help manage sugar levels effectively and even prevent heart diseases:

1. Punarnava

It is the best diuretic which helps reduce sugar levels, blood pressure and even cholesterol. It is also good for liver, kidneys and eyes and is useful in preventing diabetic retinopathy, and nephropathy. It also improves metabolism.

How to take INP

## Indian troops killing innocent youth in IIOJK: Saghar

ISLAMABAD: The Convener of All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter, Mehmood Ahmed Saghar has said that the Indian troops have accelerated their atrocities in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and are martyring innocent youth under the guise of siege and search operations.

Mehmood Ahmed Saghar in a statement issued in Islamabad said India is continuously increasing its state terrorism in IIOJK and even today two youth were martyred in Poonch district while 18 Kashmiris were arrested from Rajouri district. Paying glowing tributes to the martyred youth, he said

India's cruel tactics cannot change the reality of the Kashmir dispute and urged India to give up its oppressive policy towards Kashmir and resolve the lingering dispute by giving Kashmiris their birthright to self-determination.

The APHC-AJK convener said India has declared a war against the Kashmiris and has detained thousands of Kashmiri youth in various jails and detention centers in India and the territory. He said that despite the Indian atrocities, the Hurriyat leadership and people were standing on the sacred mission of freedom. The Kashmiri people should be given the right to decide their own future, he added.

Mehmood Ahmed Saghar said implementation of the United Nations resolutions is the only solution to the lingering Kashmir dispute. He said lasting peace will be established in South Asia with the settlement of the Kashmir conflict.

He demanded of the United Nations to take notice of the Indian atrocities in IIOJK and resolve the long-pending Kashmir dispute according to its approved resolutions.

He said that due to India's illegal occupation and the non-resolution of the Kashmir conflict, not only the Kashmiri people are suffering from serious problems but also pose serious threats to world peace. INP

## Negative policies of rulers disappointed masses about country's future: Dr. Mughal

ISLAMABAD: President Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) Dr Murtaza Mughal has said that negative policies of the ruling elites have increased the worries of masses and they are disappointed about future of the country.

In a statement issued on Sunday, he was of the view that despite the challenging situation, important economic decisions are being politicized and these wrong policies are not benefiting the government, but harming the public.

Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that the economic conditions of the country have been bad for the past several years, but now the situation has become alarming adding to the worries of masses.

The country's economy is nosediving, there are no new jobs and existing jobs are also decreasing in various sectors and the country's default has become the most important issue of discussion among the public, he added.

The business leader said that the agriculture, industrial and service sectors are in decline and the country's population is getting poor day by day. INP



KARACHI: People are busy in buying warm clothes in Landa Bazaar in Provincial Capital.

## Could treating hearing loss reduce the risk of dementia?

ISLAMABAD: As we get older, most of us experience a gradual loss of hearing. One in 3 Trusted Source people ages between 65 and 74 has some hearing loss, and almost half of those over 75 have difficulty hearing.

Many people with age-related hearing loss, or presbycusis, find hearing aids — electronic implants worn behind or in the ear — effective. These devices receive and magnify sound so the person can hear more clearly.

Those with more severe hearing loss or who find hearing aids ineffective may benefit from a cochlear implant. Trusted Source. This is a small surgical implant that bypasses damaged portions of the ear and directly stimulates the auditory nerve.

Signals from the auditory nerve are then interpreted by the brain.

Hearing through a cochlear implant is different from typical hearing, so it takes time for a person to become accustomed to hearing with it.

Research Trusted Source has suggested that there may be an association between age-related hearing loss and dementia, although a causal relationship has not yet been found.

Now, a meta-analysis by researchers in Singapore, published in JAMA Neurology Trusted Source, has found that using hearing aids or having a cochlear implant to treat age-related hearing loss may reduce a person's risk of subsequent cognitive decline, such as dementia, by as much as 19%.

"We've seen in previ-

ous research that sensory impairments, like hearing loss, are associated with a higher risk for dementia. But this research tells us that addressing hearing loss—in this case, with hearing restorative devices such as hearing aids—may reduce the risk of cognitive decline."

— Dr. Heather Snyder, vice president of medical and scientific relations at Alzheimer's Association

Hearing loss and dementia

Research has shown an association Trusted Source between age-related hearing loss and dementia. Although no causal link has yet been established, it is thought that hearing loss may increase the likelihood of dementia in one of the following ways:

- Physical changes in the ear and brain cortex. INP

## Technology gaining a foothold at Pakistani startups: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Technology is gaining a foothold in Pakistan to a solid degree as startups are using augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR) and extended reality (XR) in various sectors to improve business methods.

According to a report of Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), around 40 startups used these technologies in eight different sectors in Pakistan.

The PSEB report says that the country saw its first brush with a VR startup when Aiyyin, an Islamabad-based ed-tech startup, became the run-

ner-up in the Global Maker Challenge, and won Rs1.65 million.

The report says that Pakistani startups are using AR/VR/XR technologies in the ed-tech, prop-tech, software houses, entertainment, gaming, health-tech, tourism and e-commerce.

Wonder Tree is an AR startup aimed at children that require special education. The startup allows students to access science labs using their tech.

Wonder Tree produces games that help enhance children's motor, cognitive, and educational skills. They have a user base of more than 6,500

children and their gaming solutions are being used in 19 hospitals, 57 schools, and 187 houses.

The report says that Orbit-Ed provides enterprises with a VR platform to optimise the learning and training of their employees. The startup recently announced its pre-seed round in August 2022 led by Boost VC which brings up its total funding to \$800,000.

Besides EdTech, the XR industry is also making leaps and bounds in the health-tech sector. In November 2021, Ziauddin University introduced Pakistan's first VR dental simulator

known as Virteasy Dental. The tool was installed at the digital dental lab at the School of Dentistry.

In 2022, famous food and grocery startup foodpanda used VR to introduce a new system for onboarding talent in Pakistan. The delivery giant used VR glasses to give students a feel of the foodpanda workplace during its many job fairs held in numerous universities in Sindh's capital city of Karachi. The VR market saw another uptick in Pakistan when Digisol announced its partnership with Zero Density as a channel part-

ner. Zero Density, which has a cutting-edge virtual studio and AR solutions, will give an edge to TV broadcasters, media production houses, content generators, and other institutions in Pakistan. Tourism has also been a sweet spot for the VR industry with many using virtual reality to give their customers a feel of different locations before they make the trip in person. Companies like Virtual Pakistan are selling interactive aerial tours, while HD360 creates virtual tours on demand. HD360 has also created dozens of virtual treated for factories. INP



CHINIOT: Children are gathered around wooden fire to keep themselves warm in cold weather in the city.

# Climate Change in Balochistan as a Threat and Opportunity

Dr. Faiz Muhammad Kakar

Former Balochistan Minister and Team Leader MM Pakistan



Though Balochistan remained a case study of worsened affected province of the country by Climate Change for decades for all relevant stakeholders from the Government Academia, Think Tanks and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the occurrence of current catastrophic floods in July and August 2022, just after imposed four emergencies by the Government of Balochistan for combating the emerged impacts

of Climate Changes such as the Sherani Forest Fire, prolonged drought spell, spread-out the pandemic in Dera Bugti District and Heat Waves in the second quarter of the year 2022.

Balochistan, almost half of Pakistan is ultimately exposed and getting the major stake of climate change impact in the country however, some of the adding multiple factors are igniting the situation more critical for the last three decades. These factors include but are not limited to:

The disbursed 5% of the population on 44% of the land of Pakistan is not allowing the Government to promote the society as resilient due to the non-availability of a huge size of budget for development. The maximum dependency of rural development is on natural resources particularly on green natural resources (Water, Rangeland, Forest), and it resulted in the severe depletion and degradation of the natural resources, particularly where the impact of climate change is life-threatening? The lack of industrialization did not allow urbanization and population growth further increased the depletion and degradation of green natural resources.

**Poor governance is an obstacle to using natural resources properly**

Poor Governance did not ensure the sustainable use of natural resources and allowed the manipulators to exploit the natural resource in an unsustainable manner such as through water mining and deforestation? Afghan War resulted in the influx of refugees and it further exploded the depletion of natural resources.

Due to a lack of awareness among inhabitants, natural phenomena have been intervened, and unnatural and unecological Agriculture practices have been prompted at a large scale on the land natured for rangeland and it put the province into a highly water-scarce area in the country. Lack of promotion of alternate energy sources such as Natural Gas provision to the rural population, hence the worst and most critical weather conditions compelled the population toward deforestation for the fulfillment of the energy requirement.

The situation of the province with above mentioned prevailing adding factors became deteriorated with the insertion of the climate change impact visibly observed during the last three decades and it pushed the province backward, the least developed and poor entity of the country.

The impact of climate change has been summarized as under but it could be behind:

Prolonged and frequent emergence of drought spells pushed the populations towards fragile and untouched areas of resources for their survival and it further deteriorates the condition of rangeland, forest, and groundwater. These drought spells pushed the



## Newly introduced impacts of climate change

population of the depleted region towards the fragile and untouched areas for the reduction of their poverty and it further

deteriorate the condition of rangeland, forests, and water. These drought spells increased the influx of nomads toward Balochistan, particularly in the fragile range areas and the province which has been already providing the travel path to these nomads became under a catastrophic situation.

Drought spells increased poverty and it increased the dependency of poor people on natural resources and the depletion of natural resources increased day by day. Time and again occurrence of floods due to climate change the number of challenges that emerged for the inhabitants and increased poverty at large. Floods destroyed the cops, houses and infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, and shacked the dreams of development for the whole province.

**The spread-out diseases due to drought spells and flash floods hit the farmers' backbone of the economy of the province.**

New forms of the impact of climate change such as heat waves and forest fires diverted the struggles of the Government from development towards rescue and relief and engaged the decision and policymakers in combating these

**Newly introduced impacts of climate change**

**The consequence of the impact of Climate Change in the province**

In the milieu of the above-narrated condition about the climate change impact, it is obligatory to highlight its result or outcomes to the inhabitants of the province and devise and propose a viable and practicable strategy for bringing out the province of such a catastrophic situation. Climate change impact on the one hand put the population of the province in a worse critical and dismal condition while on other hand providing opportunities to the decision makers for converting these threats and vulnerabilities into opportunities to develop the province and prosperous the inhabitants of Balochistan.

The damages and losses of these disastrous events can be visioned by the critical outcome of the recent flood of August 2022. For example, 336 human beings have been lost, three hundred thousand (321019) houses have been washed and affected, almost the crops on an area of six hundred thousand (590439 ha) hectares have been destroyed, 292526 animals have been killed, the 2221-kilometer road has been washed or partially damaged and 25 bridges have been ruined during the floods of 2022. In addition, 12 thousand people have migrated and 103 Dames have been damaged (Survey of Government of Balochistan Revenue

Department, December 2022). The report of Post Flood Assessment by the Planning and Development Department Government of Balochistan estimated the total damages and losses at 890 billion Pak Rupees.

Likewise, during the flood of 2010, in Naseer Abad Division, with 97 casualties almost 2000 households became affected, and out of 1,315,342 population 667,951 were flood affected and the crops on 42124 acres were damaged and the cost was estimated that time 5545 million Pak Rupees (Commissioner office Naseer Abad Division 2010).

Between 1992-2021, climate and weather-related disasters in Pakistan resulted in a total of 2903 billion in economic losses (World Bank). losses While penning the result of the impact of Climate Change in form of drought, the province has a long history of droughts but the severe droughts (1997-2002) were the longest dry spells in many years. droughts result in a water shortage for livelihood activity to a population. In 1997 - 2002, a famine-like situation emerged due to the lack of precipitation in the region. The drought of 1997 - 2002 has been termed one of the worst in the history of Balochistan and can be estimated that it reduced the economic growth rate to 2.6 % during that period. 80% of Livestock Completely Perished in severely affected areas of Balochistan in the drought spell of 1997-2002.

**According to the figures released by the Ministry of Finance, the drought caused a loss of PKR 25 billion to the national exchequer in the year 2000-2002.**

The episodic occurrence of catastrophic events as a climate change impact increased the poverty of the population of the province time and again and promoted the indicators of almost aspects of the society as a less developed, poor, disadvantaged and vulnerable one in the country and could be easily observed from the below map where most of the Balochistan area is highlighted with red color and red color shows the poverty. Similarly, the projected poverty in Balochistan was estimated the highest in the country in the below Table.

These consequences of the impact of climate change and other multiple factors explained above on the province are very alarming and provide a matter for concentration to policy and decision makers and compel them to find a viable way of carrying Balochistan out of this vicious cycle of crisis.

**Combating Strategy to Climate Change Impact**

After the above discussion, there is an alternate school of thought and it is based on the idea of climate change as an opportunity along with a threat. There is a number of advantages of climate change and it is beneficial to some extent, particularly in the topography like Balochistan. In this context for dealing the climate change as an opportunity, a comprehensive strategy is required to be adapted by the

decision and policymakers, particularly by the Government of Balochistan. For this, it is viable to be identified and define the mechanism and rationale of these advantages of climate change.

**The advantages of Climate Change are illustrated and described as under**

1. Availability of water for storage Climate change provides opportunities for water storage in the province because it is unanimously agreed at a global level that climate change surpasses the frequency of precipitation while the quantity of rainfall remains almost the same. Flash floods offer prospects to consume the water in bulk through indigenous methods and globally tested and practiced techniques. The recent floods determined the demonstration of crops on a large area of thousands of acres with one watering of flood especially in the green belt of the province (Sibi and Naseer Abad Division) and heavy precipitation substantiates the recharge of water-providing sources such as Karezes and springs particularly in northern areas of Balochistan. The indigenous methods of irrigation such as Khushkaba and Sailaba are now the most viable and needed practices for harvesting flood water

and hence Government of Balochistan has initiated two projects for floodwater harvesting through Khushkaba and Sailaba practices with the support of the World Bank and Asian Development Bank through an integrated approach in different river basins. Likewise, globally tested and prescribed techniques like "Floodplains" are being practiced in the world and China has reaped the fruitful results of floodwater harvesting through Floodplains. The government of Balochistan and donor agencies must concentrate on the application of flood water harvesting techniques through a strong policy formulation and implementation.

2. Provide opportunities for urbanization Climate change distracts the rural population generally and creates migration and refugees while particularly in Balochistan climate change supports the policy and decision makers for congregating the scattered population of the province which is one of the major challenges of Balochistan. Climate change in Balochistan compelled the rural population towards urban areas because of the scarcity of water during drought and displacement of settlements during floods and earth quakes push the rural population toward cities and it provides an opportunity for



Government to focus on better planning and facilitating the urban population in cities.

**Although, urbanization was being thought of as an immense social challenge for centuries**

Although, urbanization was being thought of as an immense social challenge for centuries, however, now urbanization is believed as a valuable prospect of development

across the globe (Parag Khanna 2021). In this milieu, extrordinary achievements in development by fast-developing countries such as Singapore, China, Malesia, South Korea, and Middle Eastern countries are being followed by all the developing countries in the region. Therefore, the Government of Balochistan must avail the opportunity to the project of urbanization being promoted by climate change.

**Diversion of population towards alternate livelihood Climate change also pushes the population**

3. Diversion of population towards alternate livelihood Climate change also pushes the population towards alternate livelihood. Again, in the prevailing scenario where most of the rural population is totally dependent on natural resources, climate change forced the rural population to adopt alternate livelihood opportunities because the critical calamity events reduced the carrying capacity of natural resources and could not

provide livelihood requirements to a large population. The best advantage of climate change is this diversion of the rural population from dependency on natural resources like water, forest, rangeland, agriculture, and livestock towards modern sources of livelihood including businesses, employment, industry, Technology, IT, computer sciences, and others. This diversion ensures the transfer of society from one stage of civilization to another.

Especially, in the era of technology and the advanced stage of civilization, this diversion of population towards alternate livelihood must be projected by the Government of Balochistan through a strong, friendly, and attractive policy, and eventually, it provides the gap for revival of the natural resources already degraded and depleted by climate change events.

4. Emergence of a resilient society Climate change guarantees a resilient society after time and again occurrence of climate change events. In Balochistan, the Government must deliberate on building the society as climate resilient. In this regard, the disasters resilient settlement, relocation of population and resettlement particularly in flood and drought-prone areas, community mobilization and strengthening, awareness creation, and many other interventions could be accomplished.

5. Promotes national and provincial harmony Though climate change creates devastating disasters sometimes, however, the emergence of such a situation sensitizes the nation and the whole nations moves forward to support, the affected population by disasters and it creates national and provincial harmonies and reduces ethnic differences, clans adversaries, regional diversities and other disagreements.