

# QUETTA VOICE

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**'Who brought terrorists back?' asks PM Shehbaz**



**Subsidised seats in QIMS increased from 23 % to 35 %**

## Maryam holds 'cabal of 5' responsible for country's woes as PML-N kicks off reorganisation tour

PML-N Senior Vice-President Maryam Nawaz on Wednesday held a "cabal of five" responsible for the country's current predicament as she kickstarted a reorganisation tour to shape her party's narrative, days after her return to the country following a nearly four-month sojourn in London.

Among the "cabal", she said, were PTI Chairman Imran Khan, former chief justices of Pakistan Saqib Nisar and Asif Saeed Khosa. She did not name the other two, simply referring to them as the two "crutches" of Imran.

A cabinet member told last month that PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif had tasked some senior party leaders to start working on framing a "complete chargesheet" on Imran and those of his facilitators in the establishment (a former army chief and two ex-spy chiefs) and the judiciary (a former chief justice) so that the entire party could target them in unison during the Punjab election campaign.



or his two crutches". She alleged that the quintet looted the country together day and night. "Someone was taking diamond rings, someone was taking plots, someone was making money through the land, someone was sending money to Dubai and someone made a house on several hundred kanals in Chakwal," Maryam added.

**This is the party's responsibility to save the country from the lot**

The PML-N leader said that it was her party's responsibility to save the country from the lot.

On the issue of rising terrorism in the country and Monday's Peshawar blast, Maryam said the PML-N had eliminated militancy in the country and questioned why it was cropping up again.

In an apparent reference to former Inter Services Intelligence chief Faiz Hameed, she questioned why the one whom Imran called his "eyes and ears" and who was posted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had "opened doors for terrorists". She said if the person who was Imran's "eyes and ears" had focused on his actual job, Pakistan would not have to see the conditions today. Web Desk

## Gwadar to be developed as a smart port city with international standards

News Desk

Gwadar would be developed as a smart port city with international standards, Chief Secretary

provincial officials including Chairman GPA Pansand Khan Buledi, DG GDA Mujib ur Rehman Qamrani joined the meeting through a video link. On this occasion, the



Balochistan Abdul Aziz Uqailli stated during a meeting on Wednesday. "The Gwadar will emerge as the most important port in the region", Chief Secretary added.

These views were expressed by Abdul Aziz Uqailli while presiding over the progress review meeting of Gwadar Development Projects. Additional Chief Secretary (home) Planning and Development Hafiz Abdul Basit, Secretary Local Government Dosthain Khan Jamaludin, Secretary Energy Bashir Ahmad Bazar, Secretary PHE Saleh Muhammad Baloch, Secretary Information Hamza Shafaqat, Secretary Implementation Abdullah Khan participated in the meeting.

Additional Secretary Power Division Arshad Majeed, Federal and participants of the meeting were given a detailed briefing on the progress of the development projects, electricity supply from Iran, drainage to connect Gwadar to the National Grid and other projects.

The chief secretary said that the work on Shiznake should be accelerated to ensure supply of clean water to Gwadar. The improvement of educational institutions and provision of necessary facilities for the people of Gwadar is being ensured and the benefits of these mega projects are being passed on to the people, CS Balochistan added.

The meeting was stated that the supply of electricity from Iran will be provided on February 10, while the project to connect Gwadar to the National Grid will be completed by the end of March.

### Why The Country come to a point where it take difficult decisions

Addressing a workers' convention in Bahawalpur today, Maryam said it was necessary to understand why the country had come to a point where it had to take difficult decisions.

She said people should be grateful that the country had returned from the precipice of a disaster after four years under the PTI, adding that, otherwise, the "cabal of five had made

plans [to rule] for the next 12 years".

"Imagine what would have happened to Pakistan in the next 12 years if the cabal of

five had remained [in power]." She said the "cabal of players and amateurs" had wrecked the economy and launched "suicide attacks" on it.

Maryam said she would name and share pictures of the cabal and they would be made public "whether that is Khosa or the dam guy (Nisar) or Imran

## Masses brace for more misery as inflation races to 27.6% in January

Pakistan's headline inflation accelerated to a record-high level in January amid food supply constraints and a significant surge in the prices of petroleum products and stagnant as well as shrinking incomes.

Consumer prices rose 27.6% compared to 13% in the same month of last year, according to data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) on Wednesday. This is the highest year-on-year inflation after May 1975 when the median rate clocked in at 27.77%.

On a month-on-month basis, inflation remained elevated, jumping 2.9% as nearly 6,000 containers are



stranded at ports, including thousands of tonnes of poultry feed ingredients that pushed chicken prices to a record earlier this year.

The inflation rate — which has lingered above 20% since June after the

coalition government curtailed imports — has been aggravating due to the logjam of containers.

the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), which monitors prices in the wholesale market, also rose sharply

by 28.53% in January compared to 24% in the same month a year ago.

The PBS reported that the overall inflation rate recorded an increase in both the urban and rural areas. The inflation rate in urban areas surged 24.4% in January and rural areas soared 32.3% over the same month of the last year. In January last year, the inflation rate in urban areas was 13% meanwhile, in rural areas it stood at 12.9%.

Analysts expect the inflation rate to increase further amid the impact of the recent rupee depreciation and increase in the price of petroleum products.

The food inflation rate in villages and cities skyrocketed 45.2% and 39%, respectively, on a yearly basis. In January 2021, food inflation for villages and cities clocked in at 11.8% and 13.3%, respectively.

The non-food inflation rate was recorded at 15.6% in urban areas and 20.9% in rural areas compared to 12.8% and 13.9% in the same month last year.

Core inflation — calculated by excluding food and energy items — rose 15.4% in urban areas and 19.4% in rural areas during the month under review, reported the national data collecting agency. Web Desk

## Subsidised seats in QIMS increased from 23 % to 35 %

News Desk

Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Quddoos Bizenjo approved the subsidized seats of Quetta Institute of Medical Sciences (QIMS) on a summary sent by the health department to increase from 23 to 35 percent in the eleventh batch. The Chief Minister also approved the provision of up to 80 percent of tuition fees for medical students.

The provincial government will release additional funds of Rs 61.675 million as a subsidy to



QIMS. The Chief Minister also sanctioned funds for the printing and free supply of textbooks from Class Montessori to Class XII.

These measures are a reflection of the academic preference of the Chief Minister.

## 'Who brought terrorists back?' asks PM Shehbaz

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday came down hard on the "institutions and politicians" responsible for peace talks with terrorists, cautioning that the menace could spread to other parts of the country if immediate steps were not taken.

The remarks come days after a ghastly suicide blast rocked the city of Peshawar, claiming the lives of at least 101 citizens — mostly police officers. Over the past few months, terrorism has been rearing its head again in the country, especially in KP and Balochistan.

Addressing a meeting of the federal cabinet on Wednesday, the premier said that citizens from Peshawar to Karachi had questions about the resurgence of terrorism in the country.

"Terrorism is rearing its head again," he said. "The question is who brought them back. Everyone is asking who brought them back. What happened? [...] How can peace be destroyed? How can Khyber Pakhtunkhwa go back into the hands of ter-



rorists?"

Criticising the decision to enter into dialogue with militants and resettle them during the previous regime, he asked, "Who said they have laid down their arms and will contribute to the country's growth and development?"

He urged his cabinet to discuss the "burn-

ing issue" thoroughly, calling for introspection. "I don't think there is anything more important to discuss in this meeting," Shehbaz said, adding that whatever he had stated was public knowledge and nothing hidden.

It is pertinent to mention that on Tuesday lawmakers in the National Assembly regretted the decision to enter into dialogue with militants and resettle them in the country during the previous PTI regime, calling it a "faulty" move which was "never endorsed" by parliament.

NFC Award for KP

During the meeting, the premier also responded to allegations levelled by the former KP government regarding the unfair distribution of funds under the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award.

Last year in December, former KP chief minister Mahmood Khan along with others had rebuked the coalition government for depriving their people of their rightful share by withholding funds. Web Desk

## Murad Baloch appointed honorary Consul General Germany for Balochistan

News Desk

The German government appointed Mir Murad Baloch as the honorary consul general Germany for Balochistan.

The German Ambassador in Pakistan, Alfred Grannas took to the social media network Twitter and announced the appointment of Mir Murad Baloch as the honorary consul general for Balochistan.

"Mir Murad Baloch will be now our man in Balochistan", the Ambassador said.

Murad Baloch is a well-known social



activist and one of the active civil society members in Balochistan. Mr. Baloch is a well-known businessman and also served as the Vice-President of the Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industries. He is the son of former Chief Secretary Balochistan, Abdul Hakeem Baloch. He belongs to the Panjgur district of Balochistan.

## 'Not in power anymore': Imran Khan castigates govt for shifting blame over rising terrorism

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan Wednesday slammed the government for shifting blame over rising terrorism and berating his party for its policy towards the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP).

The government has claimed it was the PTI government's policy to negotiate with the TTP that eventually led to the outlawed group's strengthening in the country.

In November last year, the TTP ended its ceasefire and increased attacks — majorly in security forces — especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with the government and armed forces vowing to fight back.



While there were sporadic attacks over the recent months across the country, Monday's sui-

cide blast in Peshawar's Police Lines area mosque — that killed at least 100 people and injured over 200 — shook the nation, leading to severe flak on the incumbent government and its respository criticism on the PTI.

"I am not in power anymore. Had I been in the government, then I would have been answerable," the PTI chief hit out at the centre during his address to the nation, while also claiming that terrorism was under control during his tenure.

The PTI chief, while also mentioning that he wasn't responsible for terrorism and rising inflation, said that he was devastated over the attack in Peshawar. Web Desk

## PSL match in Quetta: Police detain and interrogate 397 suspects

Staff Reporter

Police and the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) conducted joint search operations in various parts of Quetta and detained 397 suspects prior to the fast-approaching Pakistan Super League (PSL) match. "All suspects were detained and interrogated prior to the PSL match", a senior police officer told Daily Quetta Voice via telephone. He requested anonymity since he was not authorized to speak to the media.

The CTD and police conducted search operations on the instructions of Balochistan Police Chief, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh. Search operations were conducted in Sariab road, Saddar, Quidabad and other parts of the city. The Balochistan govern-



ment has evolved a comprehensive security plan to make sure of fool-proof security measures for the upcoming PSL match in the provincial capital.

PSL match is scheduled to be held in the Ayub Stadium Quetta. This is for the first time in the history of Balochistan that such a mega sports event is being conducted here. Thousands of policemen have been deployed in the city to avoid the occurrence of any untoward incident on the eve of the PSL match.





