

# Use Modern Tech to Control Crimes:PM



LAHORE, (APP): Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday directed the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Inam Ghani to utilize all resources to protect the lives and property of citizens. Chairing a meeting on reforms and performance of the Punjab Police here, the prime minister stressed the use of modern technology to control crimes.

Imran Khan emphasized on resolving the problems of citizens on merit and taking strict action against officials creating hurdles in the way to justice. He regretted that political appointments were made in the police during the previous regimes, which adversely impacted the performance of the department. He said no one was above the law and asked the police personnel to not to succumb to any political influence or pressure. He said the treatment of police on the basis of equality and law would lead to satisfaction of citizens and asked the IGP Punjab to focus on improving the image of his department.

The prime minister said appointing honest officials at important positions had its impact from top to the grassroots level, and called for postings and transfers on the basis of merit only to ensure dispensation of justice. He said nabbing big criminals gave a warning to little offenders to refrain from indulging in crimes.

IGP Inam Ghani briefed the prime minister about the progress on reforms related to the Punjab Police and informed him that proposals on financial autonomy of police stations and mechanism on reconciliatory council had been presented to the chief minister. The prime minister expressed satisfaction over the performance of Punjab chief secretary and IGP. Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar and PM's Special Assistant Shahzad Akbar were present in the meeting.

## India's Ruthless Persecution of Minorities Echoed in UK Parliament



ISLAMABAD, (APP): India, under the rule of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is undergoing immense rise of religious nationalist vigilante groups and worsening social discrimination, posing grave threat to the religious freedom of minorities, particularly Muslims and Christians.

This concern was expressed by the British parliamentarians in a debate secured by MP Jim Shannon at the Westminster Hall on Thursday, terming as "most worrying and disturbing" the situation in India with regard to minorities, particularly Muslims, Christians and other ethnic groups.

MP Jim Shannon said despite Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

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## Pumps Sealed in Crackdown Against Fuel Smugglers



ISLAMABAD, (APP): On the directive of Prime Minister Imran Khan, 609 fuel stations across the country have been sealed with about 4.5 million litres of petrol and diesel seized under a strict drive against smugglers.

An across-the-board and non-discriminatory action under the Ministry of Interior is on full swing, which has started yielding positive results, the PM Office said.

In case, owners of the sealed fuel station remain unable to produce authentic documents within seven days of the action, the State will be authorized to confiscate their pump along with other properties under the Custom Act.

Non-production of documents will deem the fact that the properties were acquired through illegal means of smuggling.

## Ariculture Sector Govt's Foremost Priority: PM



LAHORE, (APP): Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday said as the country's 60 percent population was involved in the agriculture sector, its promotion and development on modern lines was the government's foremost priority.

He directed the Government of Punjab to formulate a separate comprehensive action plan for value chain of every agricultural product to improve agricultural productivity and capacity.

The prime minister was presiding over a meeting about increasing agricultural productivity and value chains in Punjab. Federal ministers Muhammad Hamad Azhar and Makhdoom Khusr-o Bakhtiar, Punjab Chief....

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## Mother of Pervez Musharraf Passes away; COAS

ISLAMABAD (LPP) Ms Zareen Musharraf, the mother of former President General (Retd) Pervez Musharraf passed away in Dubai Friday, after a protracted illness. She was over 100 years old and was critically ill since 2013.

All Pakistan Muslim League (APML) Secretary General Mehreen Malik in a statement said that Zareen Begum would be buried in Dubai. She described Ms Zareen as "an elegant lady blessed with great personality."

Late Ms Zareen had three sons; Dr. Javed Musharraf (an Economist), Dr. Naved Musharraf (an Anaesthetologist) and Pervez Musharraf (former President of Pakistan). Born in Lucknow in 1920s, she was a Masters in English Literature and was residing with Pervez Musharraf in the United Arab Emirates.

Condolences poured in from all quarters soon after the news broke out. Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa expressed his "heartfelt condolences" in a message.

Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry in a condolence message described her as "a loving mother". He said despite many odds, "she raised her children to achieve high goals in their careers. May her soul rest in peace."

## Nepalese climber aces K2 in winters

KHATMANDO (LPP) A team of Nepalese climbers on Saturday made history after becoming the first to ace Pakistan's K2 in winter, according to a trekking company leading one of the expeditions.

Dozens of mountaineers have been competing over the past few weeks to summit the world's second highest mountain, the last peak above 8,000 metres to be topped in wintertime.

The Karakorum's 'Savage Mountain' been summited in most dangerous season: winter. Nepalese climbers finally reached the summit of Mt K2 this afternoon at 17:00 local time."

Since the maiden attempt in 1987-1988, just a handful of winter expeditions have been attempted on the storied 8,611-metre (28,250-foot) mountain in the Karakoram range along the Chinese border. Moreover, none had got higher than 7,650 metres until Saturday when the good conditions allowed the climbers to

push ahead. This winter an unprecedented four teams totalling around 60 climbers converged on the mountain, more than all the previous expeditions put together. The 10 Nepalese climbers had earlier been spread across the different teams, but formed a new group in order to claim the feat in Nepal's name.

Known as the "savage mountain", winds on the peak can blow at more than 200 kilometres per hour (125 miles per hour) and temperatures drop to minus 60 degrees Celsius.

## UN Chief Calls for Solidarity' to End Coronavirus Pandemic

UNITED NATIONS, (APP): With more than two million lives now lost worldwide to COVID-19, the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed Friday for countries to work together and help each other to end the pandemic and save lives.

In a video statement, the UN chief noted that the absence of a global coordinated effort has worsened the pandemic's deadly impact. "Behind this staggering number are names and faces: the smile now only a memory, the seat forever empty at the dinner table, the room that echoes with the silence of a loved one", Guterres said.

"In the memory of those two million souls, the world must act with far greater solidarity," he added. Since its discovery at the end of December 2019, COVID-19 has now spread to all corners of the world, with cases in 191 countries and regions. Deaths due to the disease reached the grim milestone of one million only in September. In addition, the socio-economic impact of the pandemic has been massive, with countless jobs and livelihoods lost globally, and millions pushed into poverty and hunger. Guterres went on to note that though safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines are being rolled out, disparity continue between nations.

"Vaccines are reaching high income countries quickly, while the world's poorest have none at all," he said, adding that "some countries are pursuing side deals, even procuring beyond need." The UN chief went on to note that while governments have a responsibility to protect their populations, "vaccinationalism" is self-defeating and will delay a global recovery." "COVID-19 cannot be beaten one country at a time," he stressed. Guterres called on countries to commit now to sharing any excess doses of vaccines, to help urgently vaccinate health workers around the world and prevent health systems collapsing.

He also reiterated the need to ensure full funding for the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT Accelerator) and its COVAX facility, to make vaccines available and affordable to all. At the same time, people must remember and practice "simple and proven" steps to keep each other safe: wearing masks, physically distancing, avoiding crowds, and hand hygiene. "Our world can only get ahead of this virus one way – together. Global solidarity will save lives, protect people and help defeat this vicious virus", Guterres added.





## Prime Minister Justin Trudeau Releases Supplementary Mandate Letters for Ministers



WASHINGTON (LPP): Today, President Donald J. Trump declared that a major disaster exists in the State of Colorado and ordered Federal assistance to supplement State, tribal, and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by wildfires from September 6 to November 5, 2020.

Federal funding is available to State, tribal, and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the wildfires in the counties of Grand and Larimer.

Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

Robert J. Fenton, Acting Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security, named Jon K. Huss as the Federal Coordinating Officer for Federal recovery operations in the affected areas.

Additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the State and warranted by the results of further damage assessments.

### PM Modi Gets Emotional

NEW DELHI (LPP): Prime minister Narendra Modi launched the massive nationwide Covid-19 vaccination drive via video conferencing on Saturday. In a rare sight, PM Modi got emotional while recalling the past year of the crisis the nation had faced and the sacrifices made by all the dedicated frontline workers during the pandemic.

He showered praises on the healthcare workers, sanitation staff, police force and ashwa workers. The first phase of the drive is going to cover 3 crore frontline workers across the nation starting from Jan 16, 2020.

### We Will Continue to Support Families and Protect Canadians' Health and Jobs: Justin Trudeau



Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau in his Ottawa Office wearing mask during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

OTTAWA (LPP): The global COVID-19 pandemic is the most serious public health crisis Canada has ever faced. It has had devastating impacts on the lives and livelihoods of Canadians, and has exposed fundamental gaps in our society. The Government of Canada will keep doing whatever it takes, for as long as it takes, to have people's backs during this difficult time. We will continue to support families and protect Canadians' health and jobs as we work to build a stronger, more resilient country.

Since 2015, the Prime Minister has publicly released ministerial mandate letters to remain open, transparent, and accountable to Canadians. As we continue to battle this crisis, the government will deliver real results for all Canadians and take action to ensure everyone has the support they need. To continue to support Canadians through the pandemic and build a healthier, cleaner, and fairer Canada, the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today released supplementary mandate letters for Cabinet ministers.

The supplementary mandate letters outline the government's continued plan to address the challenges of today and prepare for the opportunities of the future. They reaffirm our top priorities, to keep Canadians safe and healthy and help people and businesses pay their bills through this continued crisis. They also outline our bold approach to build back better, which includes creating over one million new jobs, taking action to fight climate change, and ensuring everyone has an equal and fair chance at success.

## Philippines Asks China to donate About Half a Million COVID-19 Vaccines

MANILA: Beijing's top diplomat pledged Saturday to donate half a million coronavirus vaccine shots to the Philippines, Manila officials said despite growing resistance there to Chinese-made jabs over concerns about their efficacy. President Rodrigo Duterte's administration is scrambling to lock in supplies of Covid-19 vaccines for the country's 110 million people, after being criticised for being too slow off the mark in the global race to procure the drugs. Among other deals, the Philippines has already agreed to buy 25 million doses of Chinese company Sinovac's Coronavac, despite the jab not having been approved by regulators in China.

It is not clear which vaccine China will donate, and whether the donation is part of that earlier deal; the Chinese embassy in Manila did not respond to AFP's request for comment. China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi told his counterpart of the intended donation when he was in Manila on Saturday, the Philippines foreign ministry said. The news follows similar announcements from other countries in the region earlier this week – Cambodia said it would receive one million free doses from Beijing on Friday, after Myanmar was set to get 300,000.

Duterte has actively sought closer ties with Beijing since taking power in 2016, and has defended Chinese vaccines in the face of widespread misgivings over their effectiveness. Although trials in Turkey found Coronavac to be 91.25 percent effective, other, more robust trials in Brazil only demonstrated an efficacy rate of around 50 percent. Duterte came under fire last month after he revealed that members of his security team had been given a jab made by another Chinese company, Sinopharm, even though it had not been approved for use. Nearly half a million people have been infected with the virus in the Philippines, with almost 10,000 fatalities. Health officials have warned of a possible spike in cases following the Christmas holidays, religious parades and a confirmed case of the more infectious strain first identified in Britain.





# British Prime Minister Appoints New Envoy on Girls' Education



LONDON ((LPP): The Prime Minister Boris Johnson has appointed Helen Grant MP as his new Special Envoy on Girls' Education, leading the UK's efforts internationally to ensure all girls get 12 years of quality education. Mrs Grant is the Member of Parliament for Maidstone and the Weald and is a passionate advocate for the rights of women and girls. Before entering Parliament, Helen was a solicitor for 23 years, specialising in protecting women and children from domestic abuse. Since becoming an MP in 2010 she has been a champion of gender equality in Parliament, and has previously served as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice and Women and Equality.

As Special Envoy, she will champion the UK's global expertise on education and secure backing for ambitious initiatives to get 40 million more girls in primary and secondary school in developing countries by 2025 and improve learning levels, so girls can achieve their full potential. Empowering women and girls through education is a long-standing priority for the Prime Minister, and will be a key focus for the UK's G7 presidency in 2021.

We will also co-host the Global Partnership for Education summit with Kenya in the UK later this year, bringing governments, business and civil society together to channel investment and action into getting children around the world into school and learning.

It is my fervent belief that educating girls is the simplest and most transformative thing we can do to lift communities out of poverty, end the scourge of gender-based violence and build back better from the pandemic. It can change the fortunes of not just individual women and girls, but communities and nations. That's why I am delighted to appoint Helen Grant as my Special Envoy on Girls' Education today to drive forward the UK's vital work in this area.

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Coronavirus has made the work of the Special Envoy more important than ever, with 1.6 billion children and young people out of education around the world at the peak of school closures. Unless vulnerable children are supported to continue learning during the pandemic and to return to school once restrictions are lifted, we will set back decades of progress. The benefits of educating girls are enormous - a child whose mother can read is 50 per cent more likely to live past the age of five

and twice as likely to attend school themselves. With just one additional school year, a woman's earnings can increase by up to a fifth.

Special Envoy for Girls' Education, Helen Grant said: It is an honour to be appointed as the Prime Minister's Envoy on Girls' Education and to have the opportunity to lead the UK's important international outreach on this issue. Ensuring all girls get 12 years of quality education is rightly a priority for the Government.

High quality female education empowers women, reduces poverty and unleashes economic growth. I will be making it my mission to encourage a more ambitious approach to girls' education from the international community as we seek to build back better from the Covid crisis.

The UK has been playing a leading role in championing every girls' right to 12 years of quality education. Since 2015, we have supported 15.6 million children, including over 8 million girls, to get a decent education.

In Zambia, Zimbabwe and Tanzania, for example, the UK's Girls Education Challenge has helped over 260,000 girls from poor communities to stay in secondary school with learning, mentoring and skills training and financial support to buy uniforms and stationary.

Helen Grant will start in her new role as Girls' Education Envoy with immediate effect. She will continue in her existing role as the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Nigeria.

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## Working From Home Likely to Persist in Coming Years

UNITED NATIONS (APP): The trend adopted by various organizations to have their employees work from home may persist in the coming years despite the rollout of the coronavirus vaccines, the International Labour Organization (ILO), a UN agency, said Wednesday.

The Geneva-based agency said the number of persons who worked from home prior to the health pandemic accounted for almost eight percent of the global work force, but has now "increased sharply."

According to a new ILO report, many of these "invisible" workers experience poor working conditions, face greater health and safety risks, and lack access to training, which can affect their career prospects. They are also likely to earn less than their counterparts who work outside the home, even in higher-skilled professions.

"Homeworkers earn on average 13 per cent less in the United Kingdom; 22 per cent less in the United States; 25 per cent less in South Africa; and about 50 per cent in Argentina, India and Mexico", ILO said.

The report, "Working from home. From invisibility to decent work", also showed that homeworkers do not have the same level of social protection as other workers, and are less likely to be part of a trades union or to be covered by a collective bargaining agreement.

Homeworkers include teleworkers who work remotely on a continual basis, and a vast number of workers who are involved in the production of goods that cannot be automated, such as embroidery, handicrafts, and electronic assembly.

## Earthquake in Indonesia Kills at Least 42, Injures

JAKARTA (LPP): A 6.2-magnitude earthquake struck Indonesia's Sulawesi island on Friday, killing at least 42 and injuring hundreds, with several others trapped under the rubble. Dozens of aftershocks also followed, with authorities warning of more quakes that could trigger a tsunami. Thousands of frightened residents fled their homes for higher ground when the quake struck 6km (4 miles) northeast of the town of Majene, at a depth of just 10km, shortly before 1:30am.

The quake and aftershocks damaged more than 300 homes and two hotels, as well as flattening a hospital and the office of a regional governor, where authorities told Reuters several people have been trapped under the rubble. "Praise be to God, for now OK, but we just felt another aftershock," said Sukri Efendy, a 26-year-old resident of the area.

As many as 42 people have been killed, mostly in Mamuju and the rest in the neighbouring district of Majene, the country's national disaster mitigation agency said in a situation report on Friday evening. More than 820 people were injured, it said. The heightened seismic activity set off three landslides, severed electricity supplies, and damaged bridges linking to regional hubs, such as the city of Makassar. Heavy rain was also worsening conditions for those seeking shelter.

No tsunami warning was issued but the head of Indonesia's Meteorology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG), Dwikorita Karnawati, told a news conference that aftershocks could follow, with a possibility that another powerful quake could trigger a tsunami. There had been at least 26 aftershocks, she said, with Friday's quake preceded by a quake of 5.9 magnitude the previous day. Mamuju resident Muhammad Ansari Iriyanto, 31, told Reuters that everyone panicked and sought refuge in the nearby hills and mountains.

"Mamuju is now empty, everyone went to the mountains," he said. "Lots of buildings collapsed and people are afraid of a tsunami." Another resident Syahir Muhammad said: "It's raining and we need help." Videos shared on social media showed residents fleeing to higher ground on motorcycles, and a young girl trapped under rubble as people tried to shift debris with their hands. Rescue workers used cutting and lifting equipment to free survivors and find the dead.

President Joko Widodo offered condolences to the victims, urging people to stay calm and authorities to step up search efforts. Emerging workers are now trying to restoring telecoms and bridge links and ensure the delivery of tents, food and medical supplies, said West Sulawesi provincial government.



LONDON: British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson leaving his office at 10 Downing Street.



JAKARTA: People look at the damaged province's office of governor of West Sulawesi following an earthquake in Mamuju, West Sulawesi province, Indonesia, January 15, 2021



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pledge to commit to "complete freedom of faith" since his election in 2014, there had been a significant increase in anti-minority rhetoric. He quoted IndiaSpend's analysis of Indian Home Ministry data, showing a 28 percent rise in communal violence between 2014 and 2017, with 822 "incidents" being reported in 2017, which resulted in the deaths of 111 people and wounding of 2,384 people. A recent Pew Research Center report, he said, revealed that India had the highest level of "social hostility and violence based on religion or belief of any country in the world".

He mentioned that COVID-19 pandemic had further exacerbated problems as Muslims were accused of "deliberately spreading the virus" and labelled as "bio-terrorists" and "coronajihadists". Similarly, on 25 November 2020, he said, an estimated 100 Christians from Singavaram village in India's Chhattisgarh state were attacked as the mob burnt their Bibles and accused their victims of destroying the local culture by following a foreign religion.

He hoped to meet the Indian High Commissioner next week on the issue of persecution of minority group in India. He mentioned that 80-year-old Father Stan Swamy, an advocate for the rights of the poor and marginalised in India for 50 years, has been unjustly held captive by the National Investigation Agency of India for alleged Maoist links.

Jim Shannon expressed anger at the spread of anti-conversion laws in India, restricting the freedom of individuals to freely convert and deny their right to freedom of religion or belief. According to the US Commission on International Freedom of Religion or Belief, the Indian authorities predominantly arrest Muslims and Christians for conversion activities, whereas mass conversions to Hinduism often take place without any interference from the authorities.

"They have double standards, powered by the anti-conversion laws and often with the police's complicity, right-wing groups conduct campaigns of harassment, social exclusion and violence against Christians, Muslims and other religious minorities across the whole country," he said. India is one of our closest friends, the world's largest democracy, and the biggest member of the Commonwealth but Muslims, fellow Christians, and other minorities are victims of persecution there.

MP Sir Edward Leigh (Gainsborough) said the Indian government had undoubtedly set an anti-Christian and anti-Muslim tone with a fact that violent intimidation at street level did the most harm. Bishop Gerald Almeida of Jabalpur said, "It is a cause of concern with the Church because Christians are being killed and beaten...There are much more attacks than ten years ago. Fundamentalism is a real problem."

Bishop Gerald Almeida: He said the Indian government's own figures, released in 2018, showed an upward trend in inter-religious violence and posed a question if the tone was being set by the government themselves?

In 2016, 86 people were killed in sectarian violence and 2,321 were injured in 703 incidents. The following year, that rose to 111 people killed and 2,384 injured; there were 822 incidents in 2017. Between 2017 and the end of March 2019, there were more than 1,000

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individual attacks on Christians.

Almeida mentioned that riots in north-east Delhi last year resulted in Muslim homes and businesses being destroyed; of the 53 dead from six days of violence, two thirds were Muslims who had been shot, slashed or set on fire.

Naz Shah (Bradford West) quoted the words of India author and politician Shahi Tharoor who had said that, "It's time the Modi government learned they cannot promote 'Make in India' abroad while condoning the propagation of 'Hate in India' at home."

MP Naz Shah: She said Narendra Modi was once barred from the US because of his alleged role in the 2002 Gujarat massacre, which saw more than 2,000 Muslims murdered and some newspapers giving him the title, "the butcher of Gujarat". Today, he is invited on to red carpets across the globe, including in Britain, she regretted.

She said Modi was a life member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, which is inspired by the likes of Adolf Hitler and Mussolini and the ideas of an Aryan race.

Naz Shah said the world needed to make a choice between turning a blind eye to the Nazi-inspired ideology taking charge in the ruling party of India in favour of economic trade, or standing by persecuted minorities and the very values of Gandhism.

MP Stephen Timms (East Ham) said for last two years, India had been in 10th place on that list of the worst countries for the persecution of Christians, and the position was not going to improve.

MP Stephen Timms: He said government inaction meant that mob lynching against Muslims and Dalits and violence against Christians and humanists was increasing.

MP David Linden (Glasgow East) said analysis of instances since 2014 demonstrate that Hindu extremists had created an environment of hate and intolerance towards India's religious minorities, primarily its Christian and Muslim communities.

MP David Linden: "This in turn has led to an escalation of violence, social ostracism, property destruction, hate speech, disruption of peaceful non-Hindu religious activities, and false accusations of conversion activities," he said.

MP Stephen Kinnock

MP Stephen Kinnock (Aberavon) said in late February 2020, New Delhi experienced terrible communal violence as initial attacks were predominantly by members of the majority Hindu population against Muslim minority groups that left 53 dead.

Nigel Adams: Concluding the debate, UK's Minister for Asia Nigel Adams said the UK was committed to defending freedom of religion or belief for all. He mentioned that during the Foreign Secretary's visit to India in December, he raised a number of human rights issues with his Indian counterpart, including the situation in Kashmir.

"This in turn has led to an escalation of violence, social ostracism, property destruction, hate speech, disruption of peaceful non-Hindu religious activities, and false accusations of conversion activities," he said.

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communal violence as initial attacks were predominantly by members of the majority Hindu population against Muslim minority groups that left 53 dead. Concluding the debate, UK's Minister for Asia Nigel Adams said the UK was committed to defending

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provincial ministers Syed Hussain Gardezi and Muhammad Sabtain Khan, Special Assistant to the CM on Information Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan and other senior officials were in attendance.

The prime minister directed that besides addressing the basic food security issues, the value chains of agricultural produce should be fully focused.

He further stressed for the formulation of a comprehensive strategy with timelines under which the agricultural productivity could be tripled from the current level.

For complete reforms in the agriculture sector, the prime minister directed to run all agriculture-related sectors, including livestock, fisheries etc. on modern and corporate lines.

Imran Khan assured full support of the Federal Government to the Government of Punjab for immediate redressal of all the issues coming in the way of agricultural reforms in the province.

Dr Salman Shah, Advisor to the Punjab CM, briefed the meeting about suggestions for enhancing agricultural productivity.



# Editorial

## Violent Nationalist Groups Should Also be Declared Nullified:

Pakistan, RSS plan to be presented in Security Council, Pakistani delegate to UN Security Council calls for immediate action

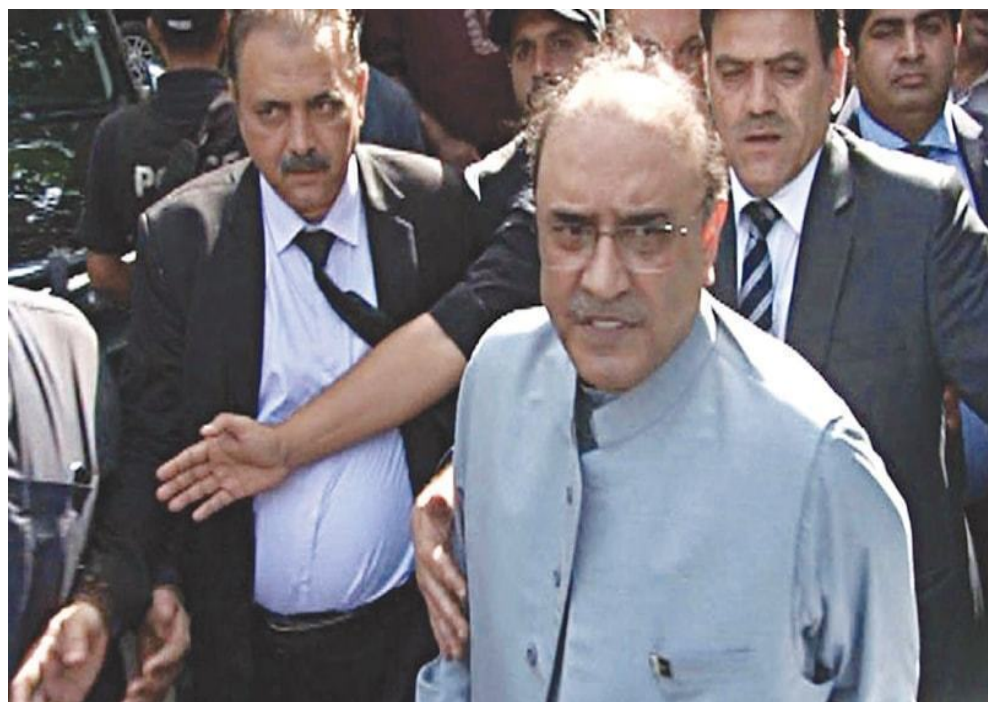
Pakistan's proposal to undo India's violent nationalist parties by acting strongly against them is timely and right-by.

The international community is deeply critical of Pakistan and is keen to keep Pakistan under the stake, but the international community's dual policies on notorious bullying organizations like the RSS and The Shiv Sena, the extremist nationalist party operating in India, are evident.

Like ISIS and al-Qaeda, these nationalist parties are involved in humankind incidents. They are also sponsored by the government, while every party with such nationalist or extremist views in Pakistan has been declared null and wrong.

Their leaders have been punished because their assets are confiscated so now the UNITED Nations should stop killing innocent human beings in the name of religion in india and especially in India by immediate steps to ban parties with such violent views in India so that religious minorities in India are turned to brutal atrocities and give them the opportunity to live safely. Munir Dar

## Broadsheet CEO Accuses Asif Zardari of Trying to Bribe Him



LARKANA (LPP): Broadsheet CEO Kaveh Mousavi accused on Saturday former Pakistan president Asif Ali Zardari of trying to bribe him. Zardari offered to "settle" an investigation against late Pakistan premier Benazir Bhutto, according to Mousavi. "Asif Zardari had a fellow here in London and I met him at his house and Asif Zardari's white Rolls Royce was parked outside his house," he told British journalist Mustaqeem Ahmed.

"Mr Raja, and they approached us in order to come and settle the Bhutto-Zardari investigation." In an earlier interview, the Broadsheet CEO said he was offered money by a relative of the Sharif family in 2012. In response to Mousavi's allegations, PPP leader Qamar Zaman Kaira called him an "extremely weird character" who was blaming everyone.

"The government of Pakistan terminated the contract with him in 2003," he said. "If he had any proofs at that time, then why didn't he hand them over to the Government of Pakistan or NAB?" Kaira also advised the media to first look into the claims made by the "king of fake news" and then run news stories.

## Sindh Assembly Passes Law Allowing NADRA to Issue Succession Certificate



KARACHI (LPP): The Sindh Assembly has passed a new succession law that will allow NADRA to issue succession certificates directly to legal heirs. The current system entails legal heirs going to the court for succession certificate, a process that can take years. Sindh Law Adviser Murtaza Wahab announced the news on Twitter on Saturday and also said the assembly has passed a narcotics law as well.

The police will be able investigate cases of modern synthetic and non-synthetic drugs, he said. The succession certificates will have the same validity as other certificates issued under the Succession Act 1925 by the courts, according to Wahab, and will apply to the entire country.

That means if a resident of Karachi passes away and has property in Islamabad, his legal heirs will be able to claim it with the succession certificate granted by NADRA in Sindh. The issuance of succession certificates by NADRA was something promised by former chief justice Asif Saeed Khosa in 2019. He told participants of the National Judicial Conference that people would be able to obtain succession certificates from NADRA instead of the court. "The court will only be involved in case of disputes," he had said.



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# Top Chinese Political Advisor Encourages Reading Among CPPCC Members



Wang Yang, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee, delivers a speech while attending an online seminar to share reading experience in Beijing, capital of China, Jan. 14, 2021. (Xinhua/Ding Lin)

BEIJING (Xinhua): More political advisors nationwide should engage in reading to lay a solid foundation for improving political consultation, China's top political advisor Wang Yang said Thursday.

Wang, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee, made the remarks while attending an online seminar to share reading experience in Beijing.

The reading activity is an innovative measure for CPPCC members to improve their capability to fulfill duties, Wang noted, calling for continuous efforts to promote reading among the political advisors and encouraging them to share reading experiences. The CPPCC National Committee initiated the reading activity last April and more than 1,800 national political advisors have participated in the activity.

## Ugandan President Museveni Wins Sixth Term as Vote Rigging Alleged

KAMPALA (LPP): Uganda's electoral commission said Saturday that President Yoweri Museveni won a sixth five-year term, extending his rule to four decades, while top opposition challenger Bobi Wine dismissed "cooked-up, fraudulent results" and officials struggled to explain how polling results were compiled amid an internet blackout.

In a generational clash watched across the African continent with a booming young population and a host of aging leaders, the 38-year-old singer-turned-lawmaker Wine posed arguably Museveni's greatest challenge yet. The self-described "ghetto president" had strong support in urban centres where frustration with unemployment and corruption is high. He has claimed victory in a phone interview from his home, which he said was surrounded by soldiers who wouldn't let him leave.

## France Goes Under Nationwide 6pm Curfew as COVID-19 Death Toll Surpasses 70,000

PARIS: Saturday's vote was a recognition by the CDU that if the party wants to maintain its dominance, it needs to evolve with German society by embracing a more flexible, liberal approach to many issues, a strategy many would call Merkelism. At first blush, Laschet's victory over Friedrich Merz, the traditional conservative who was the favorite of the CDU's right wing, was hardly commanding. Laschet won 53 percent to Merz's 47 percent. But in this age of fractured politics, where some national elections are decided by a handful of votes, a five-percentage-point lead is practically a landslide.

What's more, Merz, a Merkel rival going back decades, was not just bested by Laschet. He also lost out two years ago to Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, the chancellor's original pick to succeed her. In other words, the debate over the direction of the CDU has been decided for the foreseeable future. Merkel left little doubt on that point Saturday. Merz, just a few hours after his loss, offered to join her Cabinet as economy minister, a post currently held by Merkel confidant Peter Altmaier. Merkel, through her spokesman, quickly shot the idea down, saying she had no plans for a reshuffle.

Merkel is now poised to pull off the rarest of political feats for leaders in a parliamentary democracy, by determining not just the time of her exit from power, but the identity of her successor and her party's long-term agenda. Whether the issue is foreign policy or the economy, Laschet made no secret of his intention to pursue similar policies to Merkel's. Even Laschet's pitch to delegates was perfectly Merkelian: "I may not be a great showman, but I'm Armin Laschet and you can trust that," he told the convention.

## Merkel Era May Only Just be Beginning



Angela Merkel's name was not on the ballot at the convention of her Christian Democrats (CDU) on Saturday.

BERLIN (LPP): Angela Merkel's name was not on the ballot at the convention of her Christian Democrats (CDU) on Saturday. She didn't even make a cameo appearance on stage. And yet, her presence hung over the event like a velvet curtain.

The party's decision Saturday to endorse her preferred candidate Armin Laschet, the affable premier of North Rhine-Westphalia — was more than a signal that the CDU will stay Merkel's course in the short term. It amounted to formal recognition that Merkel has left an indelible stamp on Germany's largest political party, one that will likely define it for years to come.

Many German conservatives object to Merkel's policies on refugees, the economy and even the pandemic. Over the past two years, they have been handed not just one, but two opportunities to put an end to the Merkel era, failing on both tries.

Given the opportunity to turn back the clock and renew the CDU's traditional conservative approach to matters both social and economic, party delegates opted instead to stick with Merkel's inclusive centrism.

Even if Laschet, who faces the challenging task of uniting the party behind him ahead of a slew of upcoming regional elections, has to stand aside and make way for popular Bavarian premier Markus Söder in the race for chancellor, Germany's conservative bloc is unlikely to abandon Merkel's playbook.

One look at the chancellor's record explains why. For 16 years, she has succeeded in dominating German politics by straddling the ideological divide. While her approach cost the party the support of some conservatives, many of whom drifted to the far-right Alternative for Germany, it also broadened the Christian Democrats' appeal, especially among women, the key to electoral success.

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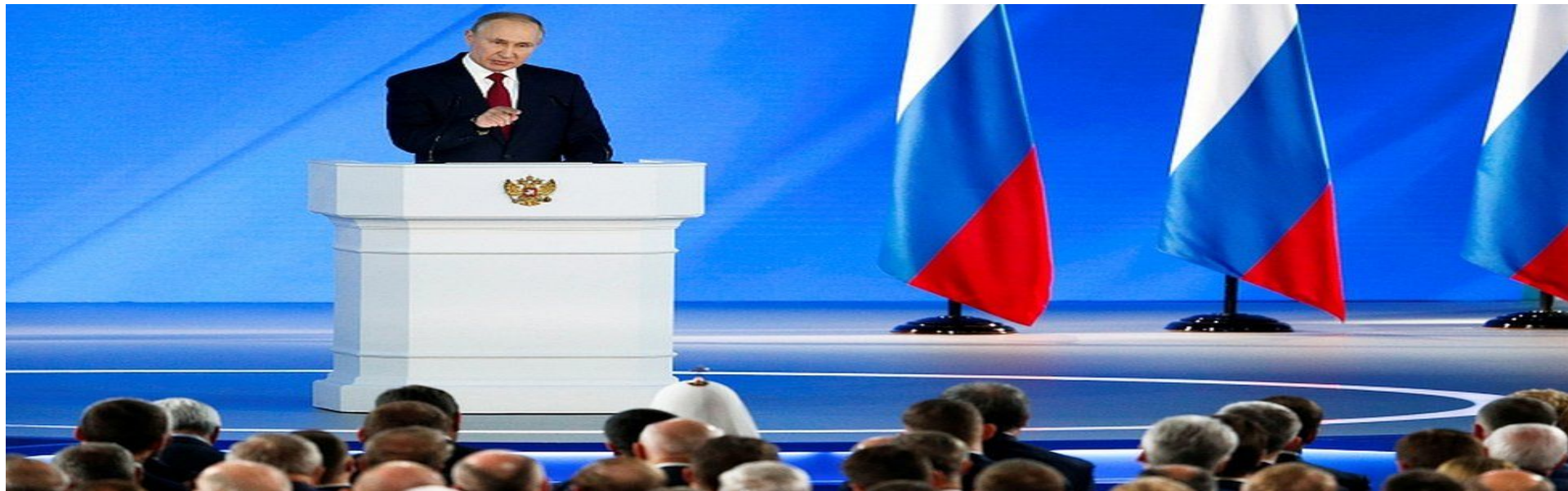
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## UK Refused Deal on Post-Brexit Travel for Musicians, says Barnier





## Russian Government Resigns as Vladimir Putin Plans Future



President Vladimir Putin announced the proposals in his annual state of the nation address

MOSCOW (LPP): Russia's government has resigned, hours after President Vladimir Putin proposed sweeping constitutional changes that could prolong his stay in power.

If approved by the public, the proposals would transfer power from the presidency to parliament. Mr Putin is due to step down in 2024 when his fourth term of office comes to an end.

But there is speculation he could seek a new role or hold on to power behind the scenes. Mr Putin put forward his plans in his annual state of the nation address to lawmakers. Later, in an unexpected move, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev announced that the government was resigning to help facilitate the changes.

Russian government sources told the BBC that ministers did not know about the government's resignation ahead of the announcement. "It was a complete surprise," one source said. "It was a surprise," one source said.

The Russian leader said during a speech to both chambers of parliament that there would be a nationwide vote on changes that would shift power from the presidency to parliament.

Constitutional reforms included giving the lower house of parliament, the State Duma, "greater responsibility" for the appointment of the prime minister and the cabinet.

Currently, the president appoints the prime minister, and the Duma approves the decision. Mr Putin also suggested an increased role for an advisory body called the State Council.

The council, which is currently chaired by Mr Putin, comprises the heads of Russia's federal regions. Mr Putin said it had proved to be "highly effective". Other measures include:

Limiting the supremacy of international law  
Amending the rules that limit presidents to two consecutive terms  
Strengthening laws that prohibit presidential candidates who have

held foreign citizenship or foreign residency permits Mr Medvedev made his announcement on state television with President Putin sitting next to him.

"These changes, when they are adopted... will introduce substantial changes not only to an entire range of articles of the constitution, but also to the entire balance of power, the power of the executive, the power of the legislature, the power of judiciary," Mr Medvedev said of Mr Putin's proposals.

"In this context... the government in its current form has resigned."

Mr Putin thanked Mr Medvedev for his work but said "not everything" had been accomplished.

He asked Mr Medvedev to become deputy head of the National Security Council, which is chaired by Mr Putin. The president later nominated tax service chief Mikhail Mishustin to replace Mr Medvedev as prime

minister. Mr Medvedev has been prime minister for several years. He previously served as president from 2008-2012, switching roles with Mr Putin - a close ally - after the latter served his first two terms as president. Russia's constitution only allows presidents to serve two consecutive terms.

Even when he was prime minister, Mr Putin was widely seen as the power behind then President Medvedev.

Opposition leader and leading Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny said he believed that any referendum on the constitutional changes would be "fraudulent crap". He said Mr Putin's goal was to be "sole leader for life".

The last time Russia held a referendum was in 1993 when it adopted the constitution under President Boris Yeltsin, Mr Putin's predecessor.

Mr Putin became acting president following Mr Yeltsin's resignation in 1999 and was formally inaugurated a year later. He has held the reins of power - as president or prime minister - ever since.



Moscow: Mr Putin met Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev on Wednesday ahead of the decision that the government would resign

## Form Doctors' Panel to Advise Putrajaya on Covid-19 as Dr Noor Hisham Can't Handle it Alone: Mahatir Muhammed



KUALA LUMPUR (LPP): The government should establish a panel of medical doctors and leading medical practitioners in the country to review its efforts in curbing the spread of Covid-19, said former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad. The former general practitioner also said he hopes the Perikatan Nasional administration under Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin would give more weight to the doctors' opinions, as they are experts in their fields. "The panel can review what is being done and what is to be done by the government in its fight to prevent Covid-19 from worsening," Dr Mahathir said during a virtual interview with Astro Awani.

The Langkawi MP congratulated Health Director-General Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah on his successes in handling the pandemic, but added that one person alone "is not enough". "The ideas of others should also be considered, hence why a panel of doctors would be a sound idea," Dr Mahathir said. He also criticised Putrajaya for its lackadaisical approach in handling issues aside from Covid-19, such as social problems and the economy. "Many are unemployed, without enough financial resources or even the ability to afford food. All of this must rightfully be handled by the government.

"But I feel there is no focus on these social and economic problems. The recent shutdown of the Toyota manufacturing factory saddened me, since they had to do so as workers are affected to the extent they cannot come into work," Dr Mahathir said. The 95-year old ex-prime minister was referring to the decision on Friday by the Japanese automobile conglomerate and its rival Honda Motor to temporarily halt operations in two of its plants in the country, following the start of the movement control order in several states last week. "This will have a bad effect on the economy. Foreign investors will not want to come here but instead now go to Indonesia. There they can work while we forbid them from doing so here.

"I am not saying it is wrong to stop others from going to work due to Covid-19 safety precautions. But there must be a way to ensure one can work while determining infections will not occur so easily," he said. Yesterday, Malaysia's new daily Covid-19 cases broke the 4,000-case mark as the pandemic continues to worsen in the current wave.





## Need for Adaptive Learning in Pakistani Educational Institutes: Muhammad Ali Falak



Traditional pedagogies, abhorrence to innovation and obsolete curriculum obstructs schools and varsities from meeting the demands of the industry. Employers lament the lack of critical thinking and leadership in the interviewees. Students complain what they learn in schools is boring, theoretical and unrewarding. Stronger than any Bollywood love triangle is the hate triad of students, educational institutes and industry in Pakistan. First and the Second industrial revolution in Britain, continental Europe, North America, and Japan triggered mass production in the industry - requiring the standardized model of direct learning widely used in mainstream education today. Educational institutes then aimed at generating the uniform talent to fill process-based early manufacturing jobs where innovations, critical thinking and creativity were not a priority.

This prevalent mode of learning in schools inspired by the initial industrial revolutions produce unproductive minds for the jobs of today and tomorrow. The process-based-learning and misalignment of the students, schools and industry gravely hamper the country's anticipation to tap its youth potential. Not trained to find creative solutions to real-world problems there remains little hope that the current education system will enable students to capture a market share of e-commerce and the IT industry in the future world – something Pakistan is aiming for with its 5G technology. "I have spent more than three million on my bachelor's degree but still looking for a decent job, government jobs are shrinking and the competition is increasing day by day," said Saad who graduated three years ago in Computer Science from a private university in Lahore. His father used his retirement fund to finance his son's education. Since then, Saad has been working in a call-center as a telemarketing agent, unable to land a job matching his qualification.

There are a large number of students like him who despite having a degree fail to impress employers. Either their degrees are not relevant to the job market or they do not have acquired the right skill-set during their school years. Whenever an opportunity strikes, these fresh graduates underperform. 'Government jobs' remain the only option where performance is not the discriminating criteria for progress. For jobs requiring out-of-box thinking like teaching and policy-making, these graduates of process-based-learning prove to be the worst. In the class teachers deliver knowledge to the students by demonstrations – arriving at a particular answer by using formulas, equations and fundamentals. Students' role is limited to memorize and imitate for solving other similar problems. Whatever learning happens is accidental. Generally, grades are what matters the most – not the skills. Now, for many parents in Pakistan; sending kids to school has become a futile exercise; it is a ritual for the rest with no return for their hard-earned investment. Suffering is inevitable.

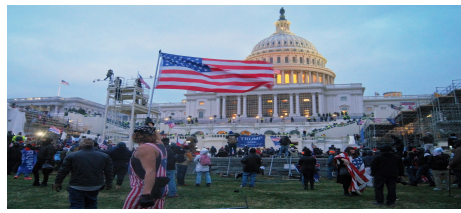
In the past, many international technological and automobile giants have turned down their plans of opening manufacturing plants in Pakistan because of the unavailability of the required talent. Instead, they opted for India and Bangladesh where the educational institutes produce graduates meeting the demands of the industry. To foster creative thinking the way forward needs a two-fold strategy: the shift from the 'process-based learning' to 'problem-based learning' and concurrent objectives of the stakeholders: schools, students and the industry. Comparing both the models. In a process-based learning; teaching to calculate the volume of a cylinder to the class will involve memorizing the formula and using it for different sizes of the cylinders.

Contrarily, a problem-based approach will require students to design a cylinder; having a volume sufficient enough to store the drinking water for a small town in summer while preventing excessive evaporation. An open-ended problem like this enables students to be innovative without the pressure of reaching a single answer. On the other hand, educational institutes must focus on the individual learning traits of the students. Adaptive learning technology must be incorporated to analyze each student's skill level and develop personalized learning pathways for them. Schools must focus on the skill development and learning outcomes rather than the grades which only measure the ability to parrot details and reproduce them.

Schools need to be proactive as they prepare students for jobs that even do not exist at the moment. Educational institutes must ensure that they produce graduates that can fulfill the demands of the industry currently and in the future. Education policymaking must be more than political point-scoring and needs to be visionary unlike the past.

**The writer is a fulbright PhD candidate at Texas A&M University and graduated from The University of Tokyo. He is also serving as a Senator in the Graduate Professional Student Government at Texas A&M University.**

## Answers Sought: Was the US Capitol Attack Planned?



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Attackers in organized columns, a woman shouting instructions on a megaphone, and suspicious tours the day before: investigators are probing the possibility that the January 6 attack on the US Capitol was planned, with help from insiders. Disturbing videos, photos and online communications point to potential conspiracy. In one video, more than a dozen men wearing assault force-type garb push up the Capitol steps in a line, cutting through the dense crowd toward the building's doors.

In another, a woman in a pink hat gives directions via megaphone to others inside the building, telling them where to go. And several men, including two who made it inside the Senate chamber, carried zip ties that could be used to restrain hostages. Some officials said many of the pro-Trump protestors who broke into the offices of top legislators like House Speaker Nancy Pelosi appeared to know how to navigate the maze-like Capitol. "They knew where to go," senior Democrat James Clyburn told CBS News. "Yes, somebody on the inside of those buildings were complicit in this."

### Breadcrumbs' of organization

Prosecutors have arrested dozens so far and say more than 200 could be charged. But they have not used the words "conspiracy" or "plot" to describe the unprecedented assault on the US legislature. Michael Sherwin, the Washington federal prosecutor overseeing the investigation, said Friday they see "breadcrumbs of organization" including communications between those inside the building and outside. He said it was a "Tier 1 top priority" for law enforcement to determine if there was an "overarching command and control" and "organized teams" in the breach of the Capitol. "This is going to take weeks if not months to find out the actual motivations of some of these groups," he said. But, he added, "There is no direct evidence at this point of kill-capture teams and assassinations," he said.

### Reconnaissance' the day before

Analysts say much of the activity on January 6 was chaotic, disorganized and more typical of a spontaneous riot. But Representative Mikie Sherrill said Wednesday that groups of Trump supporters had toured the Capitol for "reconnaissance" a day before the attack, calling the visits "suspicious. The visitors "could only have gained access to the Capitol Complex from a Member of Congress or a member of their staff," the former Navy helicopter pilot and other lawmakers said in a letter to Capitol security. "The ties between these groups inside the Capitol Complex and the attacks on the Capitol need to be investigated."

### Taking the building

Much focus is on one video. In it, several protestors inside a Capitol room are regrouping to figure out where to go after their initial success entering the building. The woman with the bullhorn shouts from just outside through a broken window. "Hey guys, I've been in the other room," she says. "In the other room on the other side of this door right here where you are standing, there is a glass that somebody, if it's broken, you can drop down into a room underneath it." "There's also two doors in the other room. One in the rear, and one to the right as you go in." "So people should probably coordinate together if you're going to take this building."

Yet, that doesn't add up to a sweeping conspiracy or cogent plan. Matthew Feldman of the Center for Analysis of the Radical Right in Britain said that's typical of political violence. **At the moment**, with limited evidence on communications and other links, he said, "It is impossible to establish causality." "Those people who made up the herd did not appear organized, but within them clearly there were people who were organized." At the same time, he noted that the crowd included members of the violent Three Percenters, Oath Keepers and Proud Boys, some who traveled to Washington from as far as Hawaii.

Their presence, the discovery of pipe bombs planted nearby, and the apparent threats to capture members of Congress or the vice president, were signs of "terror" plotting, he said. "You had a riotous mob... and within that you had domestic terrorists" who were "clearly planning something." Pelosi on Friday added fuel to the idea that there was planning and coordination, without saying how far it could go. "If, in fact, it is found that members of Congress were accomplices to this insurrection, if they aided and abetted the crime, there may have to be actions taken beyond the Congress in terms of prosecution for that," she said.



## Broadsheet Found Nothing Against Nawaz Sharif: Khaqan Abbasi



ISLAMABAD, (LPP): Former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said on Thursday that UK-based firm Broadsheet LLC found evidence of wrongdoing by many but it was unable to incriminate PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif. The former prime minister was speaking to the media outside an accountability court in Karachi. He complained of a lack of accountability for those mandated to hold politicians accountable. They were not authorized to pay Rs7 billion to a company from public money, he added. Broadsheet CEO Kaveh Mousavi was asked two days ago about the response to an interview he gave to journalist Irfan Hashmi.

"It is a complete spin to say that the discharge of the Avenfield apartments exonerates the Sharif family," he said. "That order was discharged after we withdrew it, because we were able to find other money belonging to the Government of Pakistan that satisfied the amount due to us." Mousavi said the London arbitration court judgment proved that his company found money stolen by the Sharifs and others. "We could have brought it back to the people of Pakistan," he added. Abbasi said he was being questioned over the previous government's privatization efforts, particularly about the Pakistan Steel Mills. He defended the decisions, saying the PSM had been on the privatization list since the 1990s. Nobody had been able to wind up the matter in a way that upholds the interest of PSM employees.

### PML-N Supporters Shove Policemen Outside Lahore Accountability Court



LAHORE (LPP): PML-N supporters shoved policemen after the police stopped them from entering the Lahore accountability court Saturday afternoon.

The supporters had gathered outside the court for the hearing of the corruption cases against PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif and his son Hamza Shahbaz.



Security was tightened because Maryam Nawaz, the party's vice-president, appeared in court to meet her uncle and cousin. The police stopped the PML-N supporters and workers on Ferozepur Road, after which they started pushing them to enter the court premises.

LAHORE (LPP): Chief Minister of Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar on Sunday said that government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) faces no threat from opposition parties and unnatural opposition alliance is coming to its end.

### India Preparing for Next Phase of Aggression in Kashmir: President AJK



ISLAMABAD (LPP) Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Sardar Masood Khan has said that Kashmiris who are being slaughtered like animals by the Indian army are part of the body and soul of the Pakistani nation and it is our national responsibility to save them from the worst tyranny. Addressing seminars on "Kashmir liberation movement and our national responsibilities" organized by various Pakistani national institutions, he said that India is certainly responsible for the agonies of the Kashmiri people but we must not forget the characters like Sheikh Abdullah who had played the role of facilitators for India to grab a major part of the disputed state.

The state president said that the reoccupation of occupied Jammu and Kashmir, declaring it part of the Indian Union and to change the demography of the occupied territory was just one phase of the Indian plan, and in the next phase, India



wants to invade Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, which India had revealed by issuing new maps and through public statements made by their leaders time and again. Referring to the situation in occupied Kashmir, President Sardar Masood Khan said that more than eight million people of the occupied state have been kept under siege by the Indian Army for the last 16 months where youths are being killed in fake encounters be falsely declaring them as terrorists.

The Kashmiri children as young as nine, ten and eleven years old have been arrested and imprisoned where they are subjected to the worst torture to force them to abandon their struggle for freedom and right to self-determination. On the other hand, two million Hindu citizens from different parts of India have been brought and settled in Kashmir to change the demographic structure of the disputed territory and this process was still going on the fast track. Answering various questions of the participants, President Sardar Masood Khan said that the impression that Kashmir resistance movement



### Verdict of PTI's Foreign Funding Case Should be Announced Before Other Parties: Bilawal Bhutto



KARACHI (LPP) - Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) should first announce the decision of PTI's foreign funding case and then other parties.

Talking to media on Saturday, the PPP chairman said that the poor economic situation of Pakistan and ever increasing prices of daily needs was a damning charge sheet against the government and its anti-poor policies.

He said that the people of Pakistan are facing historic inflation and bearing the failures of PTI government. The Prime Minister says that the economy is moving in the right direction, but in reality, he is not aware of the problems of the common man.

was confined to only border areas was not correct. He said that details available of martyrs in Kashmir by the Indian Army shows that they belong to all parts of occupied Kashmir.

The Azad Kashmir president said that none of the leaders of the resistance movement including Syed Ali Gilani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Yasin Malik, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Asiya Andrabi, Musarat Alam Butt and others belonged to the border areas which is proof that the freedom movement was a Kashmir-wide and people from all walks of life and schools of thought were part of it.

About international support to the resistance movement, Sardar Masood Khan said that although support by the international civil society, different parliaments of the world, human rights groups and media to the just cause of Kashmiri people have been rampant since 2019, silence on the part of the governments has been noted.

We should frequently review our priorities on Kashmir, and decide to expand the Kashmir resistance movement across the world in order to compel powerful countries and decision-making institutions of the world to speak in favour of the Kashmiri people, he added.

### CPIC's Projects Get Power From National Grid (LPP)

Bilawal Bhutto said that this is the reason why PDM has demanded the resignation of the Prime Minister. Because of him, the country fell into a complete blackout. This raises questions regarding the country's security and the government has been unable to provide an explanation about it.

Regarding the foreign funding case, he said that the matter has long remained unresolved. On January 19, PDM will demand from the Election Commission to announce the decision of the funding case and inform the public about who provided funding to PTI. The Election Commission should first announce the decision of PTI and then others, he added.

He denied making any backdoor negotiations, saying that such rumors are spread deliberately to mislead the public. PDM will remove the Prime Minister in a constitutional and democratic way.

### Pakistan Reports 2,521 New Coronavirus Cases, 43 deaths

LAHORE (LPP): Pakistan has reported 43 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 519,291. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 10,951 on Sunday.

According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 2,521 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours.

#### Province-wise Details

Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic in terms of cases followed by Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad.

Till now 234,654 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Sindh, 149,222 in Punjab 63,339 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 40,019 in Islamabad, 18,569 in Balochistan, 8,606 in Azad Kashmir and 4,882 in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Furthermore 4,409 individuals have lost their lives to the epidemic in Punjab 3,775 in Sindh, 1,779 in KP, 456 in Islamabad, 241 in Azad Kashmir, 190 in Balochistan, and 101 in GB.

#### Tests and Recoveries

Pakistan has so far conducted 7,367,622 coronavirus tests and 41,191 in the last 24 hours. 473,639 coronavirus patients have recovered in the country whereas 2,373 patients are in critical condition.