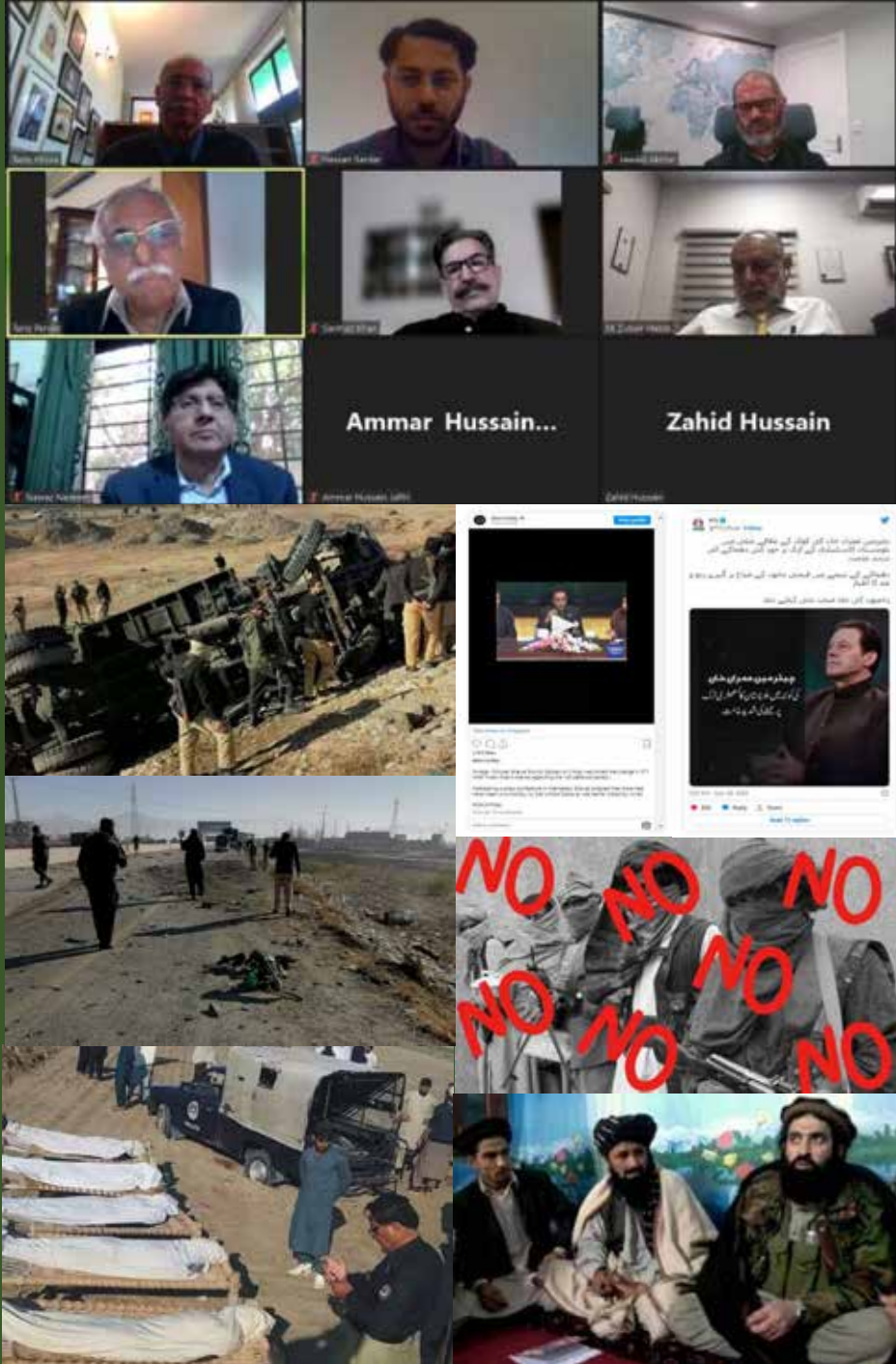


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NIOC's 37th Advisory Board Meeting



The 37th meeting of NIOC's Advisory Board was held online on Monday 21 November 2022 at 2 pm. The following AB Members attended: Tariq Parvez, Zahid Hussain, Zubair Habib and Jawaid Akhtar. Samina Ahmed could not participate due to another pressing commitment.

NIOC directorate was represented by the following: Tariq Khosa, Director; Sarmad Saeed: Deputy Director; Hassan Sardar, Manager Administration, and Consultants Ammar Jaffri and Nawaz Nadeem.

The matters came under discussion:

- 1) Director NIOC informed that Dr Manzoor Ahmed, former member of the Advisory Board, had agreed to rejoin the AB. His return was warmly welcomed by other board members and NIOC directorate staff.
- 2) Director NIOC gave the progress of the UNTOC Review Process. A report on behalf of the Civil Society Alliance about implementation of UNTOC articles under review will be released during the last week of December 2022.
- 3) Two issue Papers on Organized Crime and Human Rights will be released in December 2022.

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- 4) An Issue Paper on Organized Crime in Pakistan with Perspective of Global OC Index 2021 written by Mr Tariq Parvez, President NIOC AB was released on 26 Nov.
- 5) A Policy Brief on Internal Security and Counter Terrorism will be released in December 2022.
- 6) A work plan for 2023 for supporting Pakistan UNTOC Review Mechanism will also be finalised in December 2022.
- 7) NIOC Policy Paper on Police Reforms, released in November 2022 was received well and will be conveyed to the Law and Justice Commission under the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Hazardous calling

SHOOTING the messenger is an almost perfect crime in Pakistan, a nation consistently ranked among the most hazardous for the pursuit of journalism. Today, the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists, is an apt occasion to recognise how abysmally this country fails in its duty to protect media persons – and to push for change. According to the Freedom Network’s latest report, 53 journalists were murdered in the country during the decade between 2012 and 2022, but only in two cases have the killers been convicted. In other words, 96pc of such murders go unpunished. The lack of accountability is staggering, all the more so considering that in 2013, Pakistan endorsed the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. A free and independent media plays a vital role in holding authorities to account. But when there is no justice for murdered journalists, it casts a pall on the media landscape. To speak truth to power in such an environment means gambling on one’s life, knowing the other side has an unassailable advantage.

According to the report, only 31 murders of journalists out of the 53 made it to court. The trial was completed in a mere 12 cases and convictions were obtained in only two, or 4pc. As per the report, the cases of about two-thirds of journalists murdered in KP and Punjab are likely to never even get to trial stage. One may well wonder whether that is only due to shoddy police investigation, or a lack of will. After all, the report describes “mysterious, nameless and unidentified actors” (28pc) as the “worst enemies of journalists”. Organised crime was responsible for 24.5pc of the murders, and militant groups were behind the killing of 10 journalists. Sadly enough, at least some of these deaths could have been prevented. In more than half of the cases, the journalists did not inform their employers, unions, etc about advance warnings they may have received, but several did – to no avail. Had more robust protections been in place, had those attempting to intimidate the journalists been taken to task at that early stage, they may not have lost their lives. Media protection laws enacted at the federal and Sindh levels must not remain only empty words. If those involved in the murder of journalists are not brought to justice, the culture of using violence to silence the media is unlikely to come to an end.

SOURCE: DAWN, NOVEMBER 2, 2022

Jirga's demands

A GRAND jirga of elders and politicians organised in Lower Dir last week, which demanded that the state take action against militants, reflects the anxiety many local communities feel regarding the resurgence of terrorism in parts of KP. The event, which featured representatives from across Malakand, is only the latest in a series of rallies and protests held in various areas of KP against the rising militant threat over the last few months. Members of the jirga expressed concerns over acts of terrorism, extortion and lawlessness over the last five months in Malakand, and called upon the state to “deal with militants with an iron hand”. The jirga participants were also critical of the recent statement by the KP government spokesman, who had said that the TTP were not behind the upsurge in violence.

While the banned TTP had in September called off the ‘indefinite’ ceasefire it had announced earlier this year, observers are of the view that the truce is still holding, though in a tenuous fashion. Yet it is also true that talks between the state and the militant outfit have stalled. Therefore, the anxiety of the people of KP is tangible, and justified. The acts of violence that have occurred in parts of the province may just be a ‘trailer’, for the nation has already witnessed the TTP’s brutal bloodletting earlier. Therefore, the state needs to take action before the group, or other violent actors, re-establish a foothold in Malakand or other areas that have in the past been infested with militancy. Outsourcing security to the local people in the form of lashkars is a bad idea, as it is the state’s duty to keep the peace. Moreover, the administration should inform the nation about the status of negotiations with the TTP. While the government, opposition and establishment may all be preoccupied with the power games being played in and near Islamabad, it would be highly unwise to ignore the people’s warnings about the creeping militant threat.

SOURCE: DAWN, NOVEMBER 3, 2022

DSP, two SHOs among five cops dead in robbers' attack in Ghotki

SUKKUR / HYDERABAD: A deputy superintendent of police, two station house officers (SHOs), and two constables were killed while three others received injuries as a result of an attack by at least 150 dacoits on a police camp in the riverine area of Ghotki district.

The riverine area where the incident took place was known as Raunti, where the police had set up a camp after entering the area to recover three hostages who were kidnapped on Oct 30.

A case was lodged for their recovery at the Ubauro police station on the complaint of Mehar Khan. The hostages included Mohammad Sadiq, son of Rahim Bux Dhandu, 20; Mehrab, son of Mehar Dhandu, 12; and eight-year-old Shahbaz Ali, son of Mehar Dhandu.

Upon investigation, the police learned that Rahib Shar, a dacoit, had abducted the three. Subsequently, a team led by DSP Abdul Malik Bhutto entered the area to recover hostages within the remits of the Wasti Jeewan Shah police station and established a police camp at the residence of dacoit Lalo Shar, a close relative of Rahib Shar.

After midnight, at least 150 dacoits attacked the camp with modern weapons and fired at least 25 rockets at the policemen, said Ghotki SSP Tanvir Tunio. In the ensuing shootout, DSP Bhutto, Inspector Abdul Malik Kamangar, Sub-Insp-e-ctor Din Mohammad Leg-hari, and constables Jatoi Khan Pitafi and Mohammad Saleem Chachar were killed. Injured policemen are Inspector Ghulam Ali Brohi, constables Aftab Ahmed Bhutto, and Mumtaz Ali Soomro.

Information gathered by Dawn revealed that dacoits celebrated the killings inside the riverine area after taking away the bodies of the policemen. The bodies were returned to the police after a few hours as a result of mediation by some influential persons. The bodies were sent to their native towns after autopsy and the injured were shifted to a hospital in Sukkur.

Dawn learned that the dacoits attacked the police team to avenge the killing of Salto Shar, who was allegedly killed in an encounter with the Ghotki police in the recent past.

'Footprints being traced'

In his report to the Sindh police chief, the SSP said that the footprints of the suspects were being traced and the area had been cordoned off. The IGP was informed that all entry and exit points of the riverine area had been sealed by the police and geo-fencing was underway to apprehend the culprits responsible for the killing of the policemen.

In a conversation with Dawn over the phone, SSP Tunio said the police team had entered the riverine area for the recovery of three hostages. He added that police had information that other hostages were also in the custody of the dacoits.

Sharing the measures taken by the police before the attack occurred, he said in a bid to curb kidnapping cases, the local police had set up pickets, Bhaya-1, Bhaya-2 and Bhaya-4, while river protective dykes were also strengthened with establishments of 15 police kiosks in order to scuttle communication between the dacoits and their facilitators. "We were successful in establishing the camp but then the dacoits attacked our team in order to stop the operation. This led to the martyrdom of five policemen," he said.

Sindh IG Ghulam Nabi Memon said the gang of dacoits allegedly belonging to the Indhar and Shar communities attacked the policemen who were not able to consolidate themselves by then. He said a strategy would be devised to apprehend the suspects as the police would not let the blood of the martyred policemen go in vain. "It is a continued fight between the dacoits and the police," said the IGP.

SOURCE: DAWN, NOVEMBER 7, 2022

Battling bandits

WHILE urban Sindh, particularly Karachi, suffers from an epidemic of street crime, it is apparent that lawbreakers have also run amok in other parts of the province. Upper Sindh – specifically the katcha or riverine areas – suffers from an atmosphere of lawlessness, as gangs of dacoits take advantage of the difficult terrain along the Indus, as well as the government’s inefficiency, to carve out fiefdoms beyond the state’s reach. The deadly attack on police personnel early on Sunday in Ghotki district illustrates just how powerful the heavily armed bandits are. As per reports, a small brigade of around 150 bandits attacked a police camp which had been set up to help locate hostages who had been kidnapped by the criminals. By the time the guns had fallen silent, five policemen, including a DSP and two SHOs, had lost their lives. The bandits had targeted the law enforcers with heavy weapons, including rockets. The dacoits had also taken away the bodies of the fallen policemen, and had it not been for the intervention of ‘influentials’, the law enforcers’ mortal remains may not have been recovered.

The dacoit problem in Sindh is not new; from the 1980s to the 1990s the bandits had unleashed a reign of terror in the province, and the military had to be deployed in 1992 to restore a semblance of order. Nor is this a problem limited to Sindh, for the notorious Chotu gang has unleashed its share of havoc in southern Punjab’s riverine area. In fact, the prime minister this summer had ordered the launch of a crackdown to go after south Punjab’s criminal gangs. It must be asked how the bandits have access to heavy weaponry; at times, the brigands appear better equipped than the law enforcers. A sustained and coordinated policy involving all three provincial police forces – Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan – needs to be hammered out, as the bandits can be found in areas where the three provincial borders meet. It will make little sense for security forces of one province to clear out the dacoits from their area, only for the bandits to find refuge across provincial lines. Moreover, there is also the question of collusion, as observers have noted that black sheep within the Sindh police are in cahoots with the dacoits, allowing them to escape justice. The Ghotki raid should be a wake-up call, and citizens of the riverine areas need to be protected from these violent elements.

SOURCE: DAWN, NOVEMBER 8, 2022

Pakistan out of UK's 'high-risk countries' list

The United Kingdom has removed Pakistan from its 'high-risk third countries' list through a statutory instrument, effectively meaning the UK foreign office recognises the progress Pakistan has made to be removed from FATF's grey list.

A notification by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office on Monday marked this development, saying the UK recognizes Pakistan's efforts to improve money laundering and terror financing curbs.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari hailed the development on Twitter, saying it was "good news".



The list includes those countries that the UK deems pose risks due to unsatisfactory money laundering and terror financing controls.

SOURCE: DAWN, NOVEMBER 15, 2022

A test case

THE trial of Rao Anwar for the murder of Naqeebullah Mehsud is a test case. It will determine whether the criminal justice system has the will to hold accountable a top police official – now retired – whose terrifying reputation as an ‘encounter specialist’ long preceded this particular killing and yet who managed to thrive professionally. The former SSP was accused of the extrajudicial murder of Naqeebullah and three other detainees in Karachi in January 2018. While the police had initially put out the predictable story of a shootout with four ‘terrorists’ which had resulted in their deaths, it later emerged that one of the men was a missing person while Naqeebullah himself was no militant but an aspiring model. His murder sparked outrage on social media and led to countrywide protests by civil society. When an inquiry implicated him in the crime, Rao Anwar was suspended but kid glove treatment of the well-connected cop continued regardless. He remained on the lam for two months, and nearly managed to make a getaway from the country with the help of powerful patrons; after he was finally arrested in Islamabad, he was brought to Karachi and detained in a house in Malir cantonment which was later declared a sub-jail. It took a year before the police officer was indicted along with 17 others for Naqeebullah’s murder, and the trial only began last month. Rao Anwar has now submitted a statement in court claiming innocence and alleging that the case was rooted in departmental rivalry with other police officers.

The insouciant demeanour of the accused each time he has appeared in court is striking, as is the deference accorded to him by the law-enforcement officials accompanying him. It suggests that Rao Anwar is confident that the trial is but a trivial and temporary inconvenience in his prospects of a comfortable retirement – accounts about his alleged involvement in a number of criminal rackets in the Malir district, such as land grabbing and sand mining, are legion. However, forensics appear to have clearly established his presence on the scene of the crime, and the grotesque precedent to Naqeebullah’s slaying should be material to the prosecution. According to the police’s own records, at least 444 people were killed in ‘police encounters’ between 2011 and 2018 on Rao Anwar’s watch – without a single injury to any cop, or any inquiry into this macabre ‘feat’. It is high time to put an end to such impunity.

SOURCE: DAWN, NOVEMBER 15, 2022

The neo networks

FAISAL ALI RAJA

The information sharing has not only been personalised in last few years but it now exists in form of different private digital networks and exclusive social webs. Any narrative therefore can easily be developed through the support of these human cum digital connections. A narrative impacts human thinking, many accept it with conviction but only a few are ready to support it blindly for indefinite period with passion. Hence a network of human minds who are convinced on a certain narrative such that they form an-extended-family-tree-like-structure can virtually sustain it in the long run.

These individuals must have their own secondary and tertiary networks where a convergence of opinion may or may not be formed. However, those who think in unison with primary group of minds tend to spread it further on their electronic and physical grids. Every political party, group or an organisation tend to form a primary group of like-minded personnel who propagate its objectives or aims or goals for sustainability to caution its followers or members or employees to stick to it all the time.

Such a party, group or organisation reminds its members or followers or workers of its objectives which makes them energised and they keep on discussing and sharing the narrative for sustainable propagation. These networks may be termed as neo networks as each member is under obligation to work for the common good. Here everyone feels deeply connected with others and acts as a family in task execution and errand accomplishment.

The neo networks are present in various formats with different structures and compositions. The linear structure exists where such networks are present among members of peer, a tribe or a close society. Here the mobilisation is carried out through a common cause which is important to a group, tribe, section of society or people of a locality. The non-linear structures are present among variegated groups and political parties where there are horizontal and vertical connections among different members of social strata. The non-linear neo networks are lethal in the sense that they have edge over linear structures in three areas.

First, they penetrate deep down across the social settings and mobilise a vast number of people belonging to different social settings. Second, these structures provide a unique opportunity for rich or poor, educated or uneducated, urban or rural population to have a common sense of understanding which they cherish together despite deep differences in their social backgrounds. Third, these networks act as electric grids as they provide multiple pathways to energise each and every component of the network.

The neo networks can be easily used for intelligence collection since they contain people of different backgrounds on their grid. If an information is required to be collected, the initiator shares it on the network or the relevant person may be tasked to provide the information personally or through his secondary or tertiary sources. The person or persons tasked for a job takes(s) it as his or their responsibility for execution. Here the element of personal affinity comes into play and the network virtually acts as an external family framework.

Such a network can easily be used to initiate a movement. For example, the current movement in Iran, which has been started since the custodial death of Masha Amini, indicates that a series of neo networks were utilised in strategising and maintaining it, internally or externally, over a long period of time. The local members of neo network or networks provided the information on the grid which was then developed by others for public dissemination and demonstration.

The most important aspect of these neo networks is that they can withstand the brutal crackdowns by state apparatus and produce a tenacious response on account of close association and personal affinity among its members. Any party, group or organisation which manages to create such neo networks tend to achieve its aims and objectives easily including sustainability of narrative.

SOURCE: THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE, NOVEMBER 16, 2022

Two soldiers martyred in gunfight with terrorists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bajaur district

Two Pakistan Army soldiers were martyred in the Hilal Khel areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bajaur district during a gunfight with terrorists, according to a press release from the military's media wing.

The statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) identified the martyrs as 33-year-old Naik Taj Muhammad from Kohat and 30-year-old Lance Naik Imtiaz Khan from Malakand.

"On the night of Nov 15 and Nov 16, fire exchange took place between security forces and terrorists in the general areas of Hilal Khel, Bajaur district," the ISPR said.

"During the intense exchange of fire one terrorist got killed. Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorist," it said, adding that he had remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces.

Sanitisation of the area is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area, the ISPR added.

Earlier this month, the army's military wing said a terrorist, "propagated as a missing person", was killed while a soldier was martyred during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Shakas area of Khyber tribal district.

On October 26, two alleged bombers were killed after an intense exchange of fire as they attempted to attack a peace committee chief. The attackers, on a motorcycle-rickshaw and clad in explosive jackets, attempted to attack the office of Noor Alam Mehsud at Irfan Colony on DI Khan-Bannu road, a police official said.

SOURCE: DAWN, NOVEMBER 16, 2022

Eight law enforcers martyred in Lakki, Bajaur

Eight law enforcement officials, including six policemen and two soldiers, were martyred in two separate incidents in Lakki Marwat and Bajaur districts.

The first incident occurred in the Kurrum Par area of Lakki Marwat in the morning when militants opened fire on a police van, killing six personnel, including an assistant sub-inspector (ASI). The attack was later claimed by the outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in a statement.

An official said a team of the Abbas police checkpost was on its way to the Wanda Shahabkhel area to perform security duty at a weekly cattle market when militants opened fire on their van with sophisticated weapons from multiple sides, killing six law enforcers on the spot.

He said the area where the attack took place was surrounded by mountains and bordered Karak district.

“The martyred policemen included ASI Ilm Din, lower head constable Parvez Khan and constables Ali Usman, Dil Jan, Ahmad Nawaz and Mehmood,” the official said, adding the police van was also damaged in the attack. The assailants later fled with the weapons and bullet-proof jackets of the martyred policemen.

After hearing the gunshots, villagers rushed to the crime scene and could be seen covering the bodies with pieces of cloth in video clips shared on social media.

The official said a large contingent of police, led by district police chief Ziauddin Ahmed, reached the spot and launched a search operation for the attackers.

“Police chased the attackers in the mountainous terrain and succeeded in seizing their motorcycles and also recovered the bullet-proof jackets they had made off with,” he claimed. He further said the law enforcers found blood at the militants’ hideout, indicating some of the assailants might have been injured in retaliatory fire by the policemen.

The bodies were shifted to the police lines located in the district headquarters complex of Tajazai where their funeral prayers were offered.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General of Police (IGP) Moazzam Jah Ansari told journalists that such attacks could not shatter the strong resolve of the police force to eliminate terrorism.

“In the recent months, the Lakki Marwat police have eliminated several terrorist groups, and today’s attack on policemen proves that [terrorists] are taking their last breaths,” he maintained. He added that a comprehensive strategy was being formulated to ensure complete elimination of militants and sustainable peace and harmony.

IGP Ansari said the resources of the Lakki Marwat police would be reassessed and any shortage of personnel, weapons and vehicles fulfilled.

“Local residents are enlightened, educated and peace-loving and they will not allow miscreants to destroy peace in their district,” he stressed, asking the local elders to attend jirgas instead of coming out on roads for peace, and persuade people to cooperate with the police to completely eliminate militancy.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and KP Chief Minister Mehmood Khan condemned the attack and paid tribute to the martyred policemen.

“The nation salutes the sons who sacrificed their lives for the motherland,” the PM said, adding the entire nation stood firm with an unbreakable resolve against terrorism. He also expressed sympathies with the families of the martyrs.

CM Khan took notice of the incident and sought a report from the provincial police chief. “The incident is very tragic and the sacrifices of the martyrs will not go in vain,” he stated.

Soldiers martyred

Meanwhile, two soldiers were martyred and a militant killed in a clash near the Pak-Afghan border area in the Charmang region of Bajaur district.

In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations said the security forces and militants exchanged gunfire early on Wednesday morning in the Hilal Khel area near the Afghan border. During the intense battle, the statement said, a militant was killed, and weapons and ammunition seized from him. The killed attacker was actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces in the region, the statement said.

During the exchange of fire, it said, Naik Taj Muhammad, a 33-year-old resident of Kohat; and Lance Naik Imtiaz Khan, 30, from Malakand were martyred.

On the other hand, regarding the killing of four of their members in Dera Ismail Khan district on Tuesday, the TTP claimed they were targeted by a drone before a raid.

SOURCE: DAWN, NOVEMBER 17, 2022

Rising graph of militancy

PAKISTAN seems poised on a knife-edge, and not only on account of the issues consuming much of the oxygen on the national stage – political polarisation and the army chief's appointment. The grim reality is that we are at a point where militancy could once again start raging out of control, if not tackled immediately.

Combined with the domestic challenges confronting us – a divided polity and an economy in crisis – that would pitch us into a predicament extremely difficult to manage. In the latest episode of an intensifying series of militant attacks, eight law-enforcement officials were martyred on Wednesday in two separate incidents in KP.

In Lakki Marwat, gunmen opened fire on a police van, killing six personnel who were on their way to perform security duty at a weekly cattle market.

The attack was claimed by the banned TTP. On the same day, two soldiers lost their lives in an exchange of gunfire with militants near the Pak-Afghan border in Bajaur district.

The term 'strategic depth', one of the buzzwords of our regional foreign policy in the last few decades, has come to haunt us. As soon as the Afghan Taliban took power in Kabul, militant attacks in Pakistan registered an uptick. Certainly, law-enforcement agencies have seen some successes in anti-terrorism operations, but the last few months have made it quite apparent that the militants are in the ascendant.

The KP police are on the front lines, and while they are said to be sufficiently well equipped, they are at a disadvantage in some ways. For one, there are gaps in intelligence and these must be bridged through better coordination between the police and the security forces.

The cops also often lack immediate backup support, leaving them vulnerable to a resilient enemy that has gained time to regroup and strategise over the months that the state's ill-fated negotiations with them were underway.

A rash of attacks on policemen claimed by the TTP in September had made it clear that the talks had not borne fruit. However, resurgence of militancy is still not front and centre in the national discourse.

People in the affected areas of KP, particularly Swat and the newly merged tribal districts, who have seen first-hand the devastation wrought by violent extremism, are well ahead of the rest of the country in raising the alarm.

Several massive protests have taken place, most recently in lower Waziristan, with thousands chanting slogans against militancy.

The state, on the other hand, has taken a disconcertingly nonchalant approach. For example, commenting on Wednesday's attack on the cops, the IG KP claimed, implausibly, that it proved the terrorists "are taking their last breaths".

A head-in-the-sand attitude will take us closer to disaster. The state must acknowledge the gravity of the problem and set about addressing it. Or we could have another terrible tragedy like APS on our hands, and our conscience.

SOURCE: DAWN, NOVEMBER 18, 2022

2 terrorists killed during operation in Balochistan's Hoshab

The Pakistan Army said it killed two terrorists during an intelligence-based operation in Balochistan's Hoshab area, according to a statement from the military's media wing.

The IBO was initiated in the general area of Balor against terrorists who were linked with firing incidents on security forces and civilians and planting improvised explosive devices (IEDs) on the M-8 motorway, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) statement said.

"As a result of continuous intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance of the area, a location of the terrorists was identified and security forces were heli-inserted. While the establishment of positions by security forces was underway, two terrorists opened fire," the statement reads.

It added that the two were killed in the ensuing heavy exchange of fire and a cache of arms and ammunition, including IEDs, was recovered.

"Security forces, in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan," the ISPR said.

Two Pakistan Army soldiers were martyred last month when terrorists opened fire on security forces near Balochistan's Shahrig area.

The ISPR had said four terrorists were killed in the ensuing exchange of fire while a cache of arms and ammunition was also recovered.

SOURCE: DAWN, NOVEMBER 18, 2022

Pakistan needs to review internal security and terrorism policies: FM Bilawal



Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses a press conference in Islamabad.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that Pakistan perhaps needed to review its internal security policies and decisions in the wake of rising terrorist incidents and protests against them.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Bilawal said the residents of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and South Waziristan had always supported peace and confronted terrorism.



“Obviously if they feel, right or wrong, that terrorists are returning, they are protesting which is their right. Our responsibility as the government and the state is to ensure peace, rule of law and the state’s writ.

“I suggested to one of the questions before you that perhaps it is time for an in-camera internal review on decisions regarding terrorism and internal security,” the foreign minister said.

To a later question about war or negotiation being the only methods available to deal with the banned militant Tehreek-i-Taliban group, FM Bilawal said: “I never think it is as easy as black and white – either war or negotiations.”

He said he had a “different approach” to the issue from the previous government’s decisions in the past regarding it.

“At this moment too I think that it will be necessary for us to internally review this policy [of black and white] and I don’t think there’s anything wrong in admitting we were wrong in some things and right in other things and reexamining our approach and recalibrating the way that we deal with this issue in the context of the developments in our region.”

The foreign minister said there was a significant increase in terrorist attacks after regional changes in the past year or so, pointing to the Karachi University attack and numerous incidents in KP.

Bilawal said there was a need again for a consensus on tackling this new wave of terrorism, suggesting again that an in-camera review was needed of state policy towards terrorism.

“We can’t afford a return to the dangerous days of terrorism.”

Chaman border attack

Questioned about the Chaman border attack and the Foreign Office’s response to it, the foreign minister said that his ministry uses “diplomatic language” when addressing any issue.

Elaborating on the situation, he said that the border was closed despite not wanting to because of the “terrorist incident”. “We condemn whichever group is involved in terrorism and expect our neighbouring country will take appropriate action against them,” FM Bilawal added.

On Afghanistan, Bilawal said Pakistan did not want to take a “solo flight” on its recognition and rather, pursue the process with international consensus.

He said Pakistan wanted Afghanistan to show progress in safeguarding its neighbours from terrorism and that the interim Afghan government should complete its promises to the world, including those about female education.

The foreign minister also stressed the importance of global engagement with Afghanistan, saying the humanitarian situation in the country had reached a “dangerous level”.

Pak-US relations ‘de-hyphenated’

Reviewing the FO’s six-month performance, FM Bilawal said relations between Pakistan and the US had been “de-hyphenated”.

He said the government’s focus was to prioritise national interest and emphasise maintaining a balanced relationship and a positive outreach with all countries, including the US and China.

Bilawal said the coalition government had put in good efforts to restore foreign policy objectives by holding “meaningful” high-level diplomatic engagements.

He mentioned that the country’s foreign policy was on a positive trajectory to help achieve development goals by addressing important issues, including counter-terrorism and security and economic cooperation.

The foreign minister said persistent implementation of the Financial Action Task Force's action plans about countering money laundering and terror financing would remain high on the government's agenda.

He mentioned that due to GSP Plus, the country's export outlook witnessed an exponential growth of 80 per cent in recent times.

The foreign minister said Pakistan was actively pursuing activities at various international forums including the United Nations, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Conference of Parties, G-77 etc.

Bilawal emphasised focusing on "trade instead of aid" with other countries to put the country on the path of economic stability.

He regretted that wrongdoings of the past resulted in agricultural and educational crises in the country.

FM Bilawal said Pakistan wanted peaceful engagement with all neighbouring countries to ensure regional development and prosperity. However, he pointed out the involvement of a neighbouring country in carrying out "nefarious activities of terrorism" in Balochistan.

Regarding the climate disaster affecting Pakistan, he stressed continued support at the national and international levels to minimise the catastrophic impact on the economy.

On the Pak-Iran gas pipeline, he emphasised the resolution of issues and hurdles through the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action so as to get the maximum benefit from the development project.

He called for dialogue and diplomacy to address the common challenges of the world.

'Welcome Imran's U-turn'

Asked about the change in PTI chief Imran Khan's stance regarding the 'US cable conspiracy', he said, "We welcome the latest U-turn of Mr Khan on leaving the American conspiracy behind".

He stressed that there had never been a conspiracy by the United States as was earlier stated by Imran. Bilawal said Pakistan and the US enjoyed a "historic relationship" in the interest of their people.



He termed the current political climate in the country a “storm in the teacup”.

The foreign minister termed the killing of senior journalist Arshad Sharif a “traumatic incident”, adding that serious efforts were being made with regard to the proper conclusion of the case.

He said the PPP always stressed prioritising the issues pertaining to the citizens of Pakistan and rising above politics in their interest.

SOURCE: DAWN, NOVEMBER 18, 2022

Tracing the missing

A RENEWED push by the Islamabad High Court to trace missing persons has revived hope that these people might be located, and that eventually the deplorable practice of enforced disappearances will be discontinued by the powers that be. A commission formed by the court, and headed by BNP-M head and MNA Akhtar Mengal, was in Quetta to meet the families of missing persons. As a result of the commission's visit, the Balochistan home department has started to probe 222 complaints out of a total of 700 applications received. On the other hand, officials of Balochistan's Counter-Terrorism Department told the commission that some of the people reported missing had apparently been killed in operations. The commission has also set up phone/WhatsApp numbers, as well as fax and email contact details, to allow the relatives of missing persons to lodge their applications.

It is welcome that the issue of missing persons is being seen from a political, instead of a security, lens. Apart from Mr Mengal — a leading lawmaker from Balochistan heading the body — other members include respected human rights activists and lawyers. However, it should be remembered that a high-powered body on missing persons already exists: the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances, formed by the Supreme Court. This body has had at best a mixed record, and a long list of missing persons has been maintained by it. Some have been located, others have turned up dead, while others still remain untraced. For starters, there should be no duplication of tasks; multiple commissions will only add to the confusion, which is why either both bodies could share their data, or only one commission should be tasked with getting solid results in tracing the disappeared. But in the long run, there should be no need for such commissions as the state's judicial structure should be strong enough to prevent enforced disappearances in the first place. As this paper has long argued, the practice of picking up people suspected of involvement in terrorism or separatist activity, without recourse to due process, is a vile one, and has no place in a society that claims to respect the constitutional order. Commissions are important, as families need to know where their loved ones are. But ultimately, the buck stops with the security establishment. The latter needs to end extra-legal practices, and bring suspects to the courts if it believes there is a strong case against them.

SOURCE: DAWN, NOVEMBER 19, 2022

105 cops martyred in K-P attacks in 2022



The year 2022 has been yet another bloody year for Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) police as it remained the primary target of militants despite the on-going peace talks with Tahreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

As many as 105 police personnel were martyred in 151 militant attacks this year across the province.

K-P Inspector General of Police Moazzam Jah Ansari said that a total of 105 police personnel embraced martyrdom in 151 attacks since January 2022.

According to a report issued by the Central Police Office (CPO) here on Saturday, a total of 109 policemen sustained injuries during these attacks.

The report said the weapons left behind by NATO forces in Afghanistan were used against K-P police including thermal imaging devices which enabled them to stage surprise attacks under the cover of darkness.

“These attacks were carried out by militants released from prisons after the fall of Kabul last year,” says the report.

The report stated that 16 policemen were martyred in April and 19 injured in September this year.

Police registered 151 cases in the first eleven months of this year under 7 ATA.

The biggest target of militants was police mobile vehicles, the report added.

Militants also carried out attacks against individuals from Sikh and Christian community with utmost success.

In March a Shia mosque was targeted by a suicide bomber inside the walled city of Peshawar, killing 56 worshippers and injuring 190.

The attack was claimed by ISIS-Kurasan.

Police also claimed killing of the mastermind of the attack in a police encounter on the outskirts of Peshawar.

In September this year TTP militants suddenly appeared on the mountain tops in Matta, Swat. They also kidnapped a police DSP who had been sent to the area to verify the reports of the presence of armed militants in the area.

It was followed by a deadly suicide attack at a former peace committee member in Swat which killed eight people.

This attack sparked widespread protest across Swat and other districts.

In August PTI MPA Malik Laiqat Khan was shot dead with three other family members in Dir Lower apparently when he refused to pay extortion money to militants.

Local residents in Swat, Dir Lower, Kurram, Shangla, Buner, Khyber, Kurram, Lakki Marwat and North and South Waziristan staged protest rallies against increasing lawlessness and return of armed bands to the parts of Malakand Division.

They demanded of the government to establish its writ with iron hand and allow police to take action against militants.

SOURCE: THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE, NOVEMBER 20, 2022.

Justice denied

LESS than a year ago, it seemed justice had been served in the March 2013 murder of Orangi Pilot Project director Perween Rahman, whose death left Karachi's marginalised residents bereft of a selfless campaigner for their rights.

The country's criminal justice system, however, has emphatically dispelled that impression. On Monday, the Sindh High Court acquitted all five men who had been convicted of the crime by an anti-terrorism court in December 2021, and ordered their release.

Four of them had been awarded life imprisonment, while one was sentenced to seven years behind bars. The conviction brought a measure of comfort to a citizenry shaken by the murder of the architect and urban planner who, instead of a lucrative career path, had chosen to work on improving the lives of the underserved millions in Karachi.

The trial took eight long years, and laid bare the rot within the justice system, including a criminally defective police investigation that destroyed evidence and spoiled the case from the outset.

Consider that less than 24 hours after the murder — before any forensic tests were even carried out — the police claimed that Perween's killer, allegedly a TTP member, had been shot dead in an 'encounter'.

Dogged efforts by her family and friends in subsequent months to expose the flawed investigation prompted the Supreme Court to step in. Over the next few years, no less than one judicial commission and three JITs were formed on the apex court's direction to uncover the facts behind the assassination.

In her pursuit for social justice, particularly with regard to rights on land and water — precious resources that formed the nucleus of vast criminal rackets in the city — Perween had made some ruthless enemies.

Her resistance to land grabbing emerged as a compelling motive for her brutal murder and helped achieve the convictions of the accused. Perween had been involved in assisting indigenous communities document their land in Karachi's suburbs, a process that would have given them some protection from the mafia eyeing it for housing projects — and which came to an abrupt end with her death.

The Supreme Court has noted in some major cases that much of the violence in Karachi stems from land. According to the report of the second JIT looking into Perween's murder, all the groups involved in land grabbing — which at the time also included the TTP — often support

each other's activities despite their political differences. It also stated that many murders "declared as being politically motivated or acts of terrorism, were in actual fact land disputes...."

The acquittal on Monday sends a disheartening message to those risking their lives to stand up for those less fortunate, even as it emboldens groups who, with the help of unscrupulous political patrons, are devouring the city's resources unchecked. The Sindh government must immediately file an appeal against the acquittal.

SOURCE: DAWN, NOVEMBER 23, 2022

Politicised police

AN important case is being heard at the Supreme Court these days, whose outcome could have a far-reaching impact on a crucial aspect of governance in the country. During proceedings involving a set of petitions against alleged political interference in transfers and postings in the Punjab Police, the three-judge bench observed that the police cannot be made an instrument for the promotion of elite vested interests. The court on Wednesday ordered the federal and provincial governments to furnish the record of postings and transfers in police departments over the past eight years. According to the petitions being heard, nine Lahore CCPOs and eight IGPs were changed between June 7, 2018, and Aug 29, 2022, in Punjab. Based on this, the average tenure of the CCPOs and IGPs in the province works out to an average of 4.5 and 6.2 months, respectively. The Police Order 2002 stipulates three years as the term of office for each.

Transfers and postings are the sword of Damocles with which governments control the police. Any cop perceived as 'uncooperative', even if the authorities' demand is brazenly unlawful, can find themselves shipped out from their post or — in the case of an IGP — their services surrendered to the federal government. To cite a recent example from Punjab, 55 SPs and DSPs were transferred in one fell swoop by the PTI government for reportedly taking action against its party leaders and activists during Hamza Shehbaz's short-lived, tenure as chief minister. Other provinces are similarly averse to cops who do not do their bidding. The Sindh Police is notoriously politicised, with some senior cops even being appointed on the say-so of powerful politicians' cronies. Then there was the long-running tussle played out through the superior courts between the independent-minded A.D. Khowaja, then IG Sindh, and the PPP government. The police are custodians of the law, not a handmaiden of the elite, and one hopes the Supreme Court's verdict in this case will force a change of approach.

SOURCE: DAWN, NOVEMBER 25, 2022

TTP ends ceasefire with govt, orders its militants to 'carry out attacks in entire country'



The Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) called off the ceasefire agreed with the government in June and ordered its militants to stage attacks across the country, according to a statement from the group.

“As military operations are ongoing against mujahideen in different areas [...] so it is imperative for you to carry out attacks wherever you can in the entire country,” the statement said while addressing its militants.

The decision, it stated, was taken after “a series of non-stop attacks were launched by the military organisations in Bannu’s Lakki Marwat district”.

The banned group said it had repeatedly warned the people of Pakistan and “continued to be patient so that the negotiation process is not sabotaged at least by us.”

“But the army and intelligence agencies did not stop and continued the attacks [...] now our retaliatory attacks will also start across the country,” the statement claimed.

The government and intelligence agencies are yet to comment on the matter.

Talks between Pakistani officials and the militant outfit first started in October last year but broke down in December.

These later resumed in May this year. The process, however, broke down once again due to a deadlock on the revocation of the merger of erstwhile tribal areas with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Subsequently, attacks by the TTP have been on the rise since September after the group’s ceasefire with the army ended. Most of the attacks have happened in and around Dera Ismail Khan, Tank, South Waziristan, and North Waziristan districts in KP.

In October, the Ministry of Interior had warned that more than year-long peace negotiations between the TTP and the government of Pakistan “had come to a standstill”, which had led to unease within the TTP’s ranks.

It had noted that the TTP accuses the Pakistani government of failing to fulfill its main demand – the reversal of the merger of former Fata with KP – as well as continuing to detain TTP members while a truce was still being negotiated.

The ministry had also highlighted the risk of TTP sub-groups defecting to the militant Islamic State (ISKP) or joining hands with the Hafiz Gul Bahadur group to resume terrorist activities.

Meanwhile, in a press conference earlier this month, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had called for the government to revisit its strategy to deal with the militant outfit.

“It is time to review decisions we took or we were made to take with regards to internal security and terrorism,” he had said.

Bilawal had also maintained that there was nothing wrong in admitting that “we were wrong about a few things and right about some other things and re-examine our approach”.

SOURCE: DAWN, NOVEMBER 28, 2022

Good governance: remedy for terrorism

DR SYED AKHTAR ALI SHAH

That terrorism is rising and rising in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa goes without saying. Police installations and security forces are under constant attacks, amidst extortion calls and target killings. The other day hordes of armed groups have also been observed issuing their own edicts, under- mining the writ of the government.

According to security officials, K-P has experienced the highest number of TTP attacks, resulting in 96 soldiers laying down their lives and at least 280 others getting injured. Reports indicate 151 cases of terrorist attacks on police from January 2022 to November 2022 in which 105 police officers were martyred and 109 others injured. Officials, however, describe the violence as “isolated incidents of terrorism”.

Disturbed with these events, many argue that if urgent action is not taken to nip the evil of terrorism in the bud, the province may again slip into a situation similar to the one during 2006 to 2015. With no checks in place and no preemptive operations in sight, the areas threaten to turn into ungoverned spaces.

K-P Police IG Muazzam Jah Ansari attributes the spike in terrorist activities to the release of terrorists from Afghan prisons after the change of government in Afghanistan on August 15, 2021. He believes that the weapons left by the US forces are being used against K-P police. The most frequently asked question on TV talk shows is: why is police being targeted? For the answer, we need to understand the grand design and the strategy adopted by militant organisations after 9/11.

Treating militants as a few misguided interpreters of faith is a misconception. The militants in Pakistan, under their leadership, have their own well-conceived grand design – which is to establish an Islamic Emirate. In the year 2006, they tried to establish an Islamic Republic in areas comprising North and South Waziristan, Khost and Paktia (Afghanistan) and adjoining settled districts of Pakistan (Bannu, Lakki, Tank, Dera). Later, they also extended their influence to Swat and were able to establish their own parallel administration over there. The same exercise was done in Mohmand Agency and Shabqadar – Michini Areas falling within the jurisdiction of Peshawar district. They use propaganda as an important tool to advance their design and try to rationalise their acts, citing various verses of the Holy Quran and Hadith.

The militants used FM channels through which they keep drumming their own interpretation of Islam to influence their audiences. Following the classical advices of anarchists of 18th century, the Pakistani extremists and militants also use terrorist strikes as an instrument of propaganda after causing fear, despondency and helplessness among common people and organs of the state.

Similarly, slaughtering any person on espionage charges aims at instilling terror in society so that no one can report upon them. Apart from use of sophisticated weapons, the art of indoctrination plays a central role in the arsenal of these militants.

As part of the strategy to achieve their grand design, these militants first try to find some social space for their cells. They do this by assuming a role of moral police and invoking 'Amr Bil Maroof Wa Nahi Unil Munkar' against the vices like gambling dens, music shops, internet cafes, barber shops, etc. Similarly by awarding severe punishments to leaders of criminal gangs they not only strike terror but also try to win support from local people. They then assume the role of judiciary as well, by settling disputes among locals.

After 'social space' is achieved by these militants, they enter the second stage of their strategic movement. In this stage, they aim at gaining 'physical space' for perpetuation and propagation of their ideology. For greater socio-political power, the militants need free intermingling and unhindered movement. Police and other law enforcing agencies and schools are considered as an obstacle towards advancement of this objective. Therefore, after gaining 'social space', the militants begin the violent phase of cementing physical space by bombing schools and attacking police stations and police posts. To frustrate and demotivate law enforcement agencies, the militants make use of carefully planned attacks through suicide bombers, Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBID), rockets/missiles and other heavy weapons.

The aforementioned paragraphs speak of the intensity of the dimensions of terrorism and methodology of militants. This facet of terrorism is quite complex and forms a multi-dimensional threat. We have been fighting terrorism since 2002 and the state of Pakistan and its people have suffered a lot. However, in every crisis there is an opportunity and in every setback there is a lesson. We have learnt a lot and successful operations in Malakand division and tribal areas are a proof of that – though much remains to be done there. The terrorist network is still well intact and poses a formidable challenge.

This threat can be countered by firm enforcement of law and promulgated policies (National Action Plan), participatory role of the people, expeditious justice and fair and just administration. In a nutshell, Good governance is the remedy.

SOURCE: THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE, NOVEMBER 29, 2022

10 terrorists killed during operation in Balochistan's Hoshab

Security forces killed 10 terrorists during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in the general area of Balochistan's Hoshab, according to a statement from the military's media wing.

The IBO was conducted to clear a hideout of terrorists linked to firing incidents targeting security forces and civilians, along with planting improvised explosive devices on the Gwadar-Hoshab (M-8) road, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) statement said.

"As security forces were in the process of establishing blocking positions after identification of 12-14 terrorists' location, terrorists opened fire onto the security forces.

"During the ensuing heavy exchange of fire, 10 terrorists have been killed while one terrorist has been apprehended in injured condition. Two terrorists managed to escape," the ISPR said.

The military's media wing added that an operation to trace them continues in the area and a heavy cache of arms and ammunition, including IEDs, was also recovered.

"Security forces, in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability, and progress of Balochistan," the press release added.

Last week, two alleged armed terrorists of a ban-n--ed outfit were killed in an operation launched by security forces in Hoshab's Balor area.

On November 20, the Pakistan Army said it killed two terrorists during an IBO in Hoshab.

SOURCE: DAWN NOVEMBER 29, 2022

A call for bloodshed



FINALLY, there is clarity about the resurgence of militancy. And it has come not from the state, but from the banned TTP. In a menacing statement that signalled the end of its tenuous ceasefire with the state, the umbrella group ordered its fighters to carry out attacks across the country “wherever and whenever”.

It placed the blame for this development on “unabated” operations by the security forces against militants in parts of KP and called on TTP combatants to take revenge. For a nation that has experienced years of wanton violence by religious extremists who did not even spare women and children, and left parks, bazaars, schools, mosques, churches, etc awash with blood, there can scarcely be a more chilling message.

Given this backdrop, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar’s visit yesterday to Afghanistan – where the TTP have found safe haven – assumes even more importance.

Over the last few months, however, the state has been dishing out spin rather than facts to an increasingly uneasy public. As recently as September, the authorities were insisting that the threat of a militancy redux was an “exaggeration”.

Such claims flew in the face of evidence – including sporadic attacks, extortion demands and kidnappings – that the extremists were reasserting themselves in Swat and the tribal districts. Infuriated by the state’s prevarication, residents of these areas, who have suffered the most from the militants’ depredations, gave vent to their anger in several massive protests demanding action against them. Such action, possibly even another kinetic operation, is now imperative.

However, far more needs to be done and some bitter truths confronted. It is quite apparent the approach taken to defeat an existential threat to the country has gone seriously awry and must be recalibrated.

The truth is, the state has wasted precious time by not consolidating its success in militarily pushing TTP out of its strongholds in the north.

For one, it has been over four years since Fata was merged with KP, but the expectations of a turnaround in its woefully underserved status have not been fulfilled in the absence of funding from the federal government.

Second, the state has refused to engage with a peaceful civilian movement that has the potential of being a bulwark against militancy, instead casting it as inimical to Pakistan’s national interests. This approach must change.

Third, a clear-sighted policy to deal with violent extremists, rather than one veering between force and appeasement, is needed. For groups like the TTP, ‘negotiations’ are a means to buy space and time to regroup.

But most importantly, the state needs to realise that where we are now is the result of decades of flawed, security-centric policies, particularly the notion of ‘strategic depth’ that, with the second coming of the Afghan Taliban, has boomeranged – and raised the spectre of a nightmare revisited.

SOURCE: DAWN, NOVEMBER 30, 2022

Policeman among three dead in suicide blast in Quetta's Baleli area



Three individuals, including a police officer and two civilians, died in a suicide attack near a Balochistan Constabulary truck in Quetta's Baleli area, police said.

At least 23 other people sustained injuries in the attack, including 20 policemen and three civilians, according to Quetta Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIGP) Ghulam Azfar Mahesar.

"The explosion took place near the police truck [...] due to the impact [of the blast], the vehicle – which was on its way to provide security to police workers – toppled and fell into a ditch," the official said while speaking to media at the blast site.

He said that a total of three vehicles were hit in the blast – the police truck, a Suzuki Mehran and a Toyota Corolla. "Looking at the crime scene and given that the truck toppled, it is estimated that 25 kilograms of explosives were used [in the blast]."

Mahesar added that the wounded have been moved to the Civil Hospital Quetta.



A police truck, on the way to provide security to police workers, toppled after a suicide blast in Quetta's Baleli

The official later told AFP that the deceased civilians included a child and a woman.

The banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Today's blast comes a day after the militant group called off its ceasefire with the government and asked its combatants to carry out attacks across the country.

Earlier, Quetta Senior Superintendent of Police (Operations) Abdul Haq Umrani told Dawn.com that the blast site had been cordoned off and an investigation had begun.

Balochistan Chief Minister Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has instructed authorities to provide the injured persons best treatment facilities.

He also promised that such "cowardly acts" would not dampen Balochistan's determination to establish peace. "All the elements involved in the incident will be brought under the grip of the law," Bizenjo added.

Condemnations

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned the incident and directed authorities to initiate an investigation into the attack.



According to Radio Pakistan, the premier expressed grief and sorrow over the loss of life and prayed for the speedy recovery of the wounded.

He also said that polio workers across the country were fulfilling their responsibilities without caring about their lives. For this, he said, Pakistan pays tribute to their services.

“Eliminating polio virus from the country is amongst the top priorities of the government and we will not rest until polio is completely eradicated,” PM Shehbaz vowed, asserting that “evil elements” would always fail to harm the anti-polio campaign in the country.

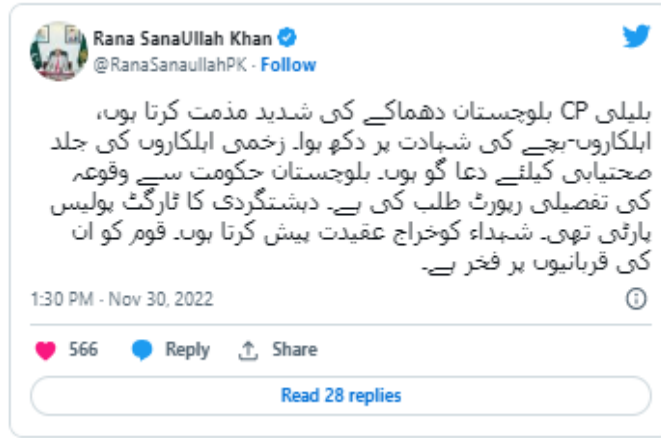
In a statement issued by the Aiwan-e-Sadr, President Arif Alvi condemned the attack and extended condolences to the bereaved families.



He said that children were Pakistan's most valuable asset and the government was determined to protect them from diseases such as polio. "The State will not allow anti-social elements to interfere in the mission of complete eradication of polio," he promised.

The president also paid tribute to the policemen and health officials working for the eradication of polio.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said that the "terrorist" attack was targeted at police officers, adding that a detailed report of the incident has been summoned by authorities in Balochistan.

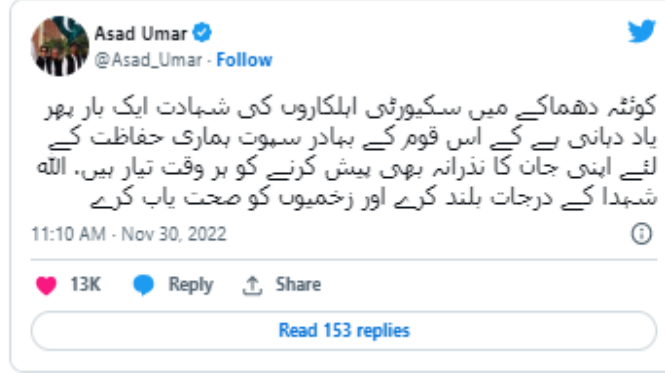


Former premier and PTI chief Imran Khan also expressed deep grief on the attack and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured people.



PTI leader and former federal minister Asad Umar said that the Quetta blast was a reminder that the “brave sons of this nation are always ready to sacrifice their lives for our safety”.

“May God raise the ranks of the martyrs and heal the injured,” he added.



SOURCE: DAWN, NOVEMBER 30, 2022