

## 'Why don't our institutions learn from old mistakes?'

### Asks Khan; PTI to leave all Pak assemblies

AGENCIES

Former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan yesterday lamented his country's institutions' incapability to learn from past mistakes as he addressed thousands of supporters at a rally after being shot earlier this month in an assassination attempt he blamed on his successor.

The shooting was the latest twist in months of political turmoil that began in April when Khan was ousted by a vote of no confidence in parliament.

Addressing the rally Imran, without identifying anyone, alleged that "three criminals" — those he accuses of being behind the Wazirabad assassination attempt on him — are waiting to take a shot at him again.

Imran has lamented why the country's institutions do not learn from their past mistakes.

He alleged that the establishment and Election Commission of Pakistan had united with those in the current government against him.

"I remember what happened in East Pakistan ... we did not do justice with them or with Pakistan's biggest political party and we did not learn," he said



referring to Awami League's election win in 1970. Imran has previously blamed the then West Pakistan leaders' greed for the partition of Pakistan.

He also said that the country's current problems are not due to a lack of resources but no rule of law since the beginning. He particularly hit out at the Sharif and Zardari families and accused them of making decisions and key appointments in their favour instead of the national interest.

He also announced that his party has decided not to remain part of the current political system and will instead resign from all the assemblies.

Yesterday's rally was the climax of a so-called "long march" by Khan's party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), to press the government to call a snap election before parliament's term expires in October next year.

The government says the assassination attempt was the work of a lone wolf now in custody, with police leaking a "confession" video by the junk-shop owner saying he acted because Khan was against Islam.

But Khan said he has long warned the government would blame a religious fanatic for any attempt to kill him.



Commuters ride past a road blocked using shipping containers near the venue of opposition party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) rally in Islamabad, Pakistan, yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## China willing to work with N Korea for 'world peace'

### Xi tells Kim

AFP, Seoul

Chinese President Xi Jinping told North Korean leader Kim Jong Un that Beijing was willing to work with Pyongyang for world peace, North Korean state media said yesterday.

The message from Xi came days after North Korea fired an intercontinental ballistic missile in one of its most powerful tests yet, declaring it would meet perceived US nuclear threats with nukes of its own. North Korea has conducted a record-breaking blitz of missile launches in recent weeks and fears have grown that it is building up to a seventh nuclear test, its first since 2017.

In his message to Kim, Xi said Beijing was ready to work with the North for "peace, stability, development and prosperity of the region and the world," Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.

Xi said he was willing to collaborate with Pyongyang as "changes in the world, times, and history are taking place in unprecedented ways," KCNA said, quoting from the message it said was received in response to congratulations from Kim after the Chinese Communist Party Congress last month handed Xi a third term.

Days before North Korea's ICBM launch, Xi met on the sidelines of a Group of 20 summit in Bali with US President Joe Biden, who voiced confidence that Beijing does not want to see a further escalation by Pyongyang.

## Russia using Stalin-era 'genocidal' tactics

### Says Ukraine as the war-torn country marks Soviet-era famine

REUTERS, Kyiv

Ukraine yesterday accused the Kremlin of using the same "genocidal" tactics that it used against it in the 1930s under Josef Stalin as Kyiv commemorated a Soviet-era famine that left millions of Ukrainians dead during the winter of 1932-33.

Ukraine this year holds its memorial day for the victims of the "Holodomor" famine as it grapples to repel invading Russian forces and deals with massive power outages across the country after waves of Russian air strikes on vital infrastructure.

"Once they wanted to destroy us with hunger, now — with darkness and cold," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wrote on his Telegram channel. "We cannot be broken."

In November 1932, Soviet leader Stalin dispatched police to seize all grain and livestock from newly collectivised Ukrainian farms, including the seed needed to plant the next crop.

Millions of Ukrainian peasants starved to death in the following months from what Yale University historian Timothy Snyder calls "clearly premeditated mass murder".

"The Russians will pay for all of the victims of the Holodomor and answer for today's crimes," Andriy Yermak, the head of Ukraine's presidential administration, wrote on Telegram.

Russia has targeted critical infrastructure across Ukraine in recent weeks through waves of massive air strikes that have sparked widespread power outages and killed civilians.

Millions of Ukrainians were still without power after fresh strikes this week, Zelenskyy said late on Friday.

The Kremlin has denied that its attacks, which have only galvanized Ukrainian public anger, were aimed at civilians but

said on Thursday Kyiv could "end the suffering" by meeting Russia's demands to resolve the war.

In a statement yesterday, Ukraine's foreign ministry accused Moscow of reviving the tactics of the 1930s.

"On the 90th anniversary of the 1932-1933 Holodomor in Ukraine, Russia's genocidal war of aggression pursues



Belgium's Prime Minister Alexander De Croo (L) shakes hands Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky (R) as he visits in Ukraine for the first time since Russia invaded, in Kyiv, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

the same goal as during the 1932-1933 genocide: the elimination of the Ukrainian nation and its statehood," it said.

"The political and ideological narratives of the Stalinist era, in particular presenting the image of the so-called 'hostile West' and the denial of the existence of Ukraine as an independent state, are actively reproduced today," the statement added.

Ukraine was a part of the Soviet Union until it declared independence in 1991.

Part of Russian President Vladimir Putin's justification for the invasion he launched on Feb. 24 was what he portrayed as the West's efforts to bring Ukraine into its fold, which he presented as a threat to Russia.

The ministry also slammed what it said were Russia's current attempts to weaponize food by undermining a UN-brokered deal to unblock Ukrainian grain

exports through the Black Sea.

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki echoed a similar sentiment yesterday during a visit to Kyiv, where he met his Ukrainian counterpart, Denys Shmyhal, and visiting Lithuanian Prime Minister Ingrida Simonyte.

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Demonstrators take part in a protest to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, in Bogotá, Colombia, on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Taiwan opposition wins big in local vote

REUTERS, Taipei

Taiwan's main opposition party the Kuomintang (KMT) stomped home to victory in local elections yesterday as President Tsai Ing-wen's efforts to frame the vote as being about showing defiance to China's rising bellicosity failed to pay off. Tsai, who leads the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), had recast the election as being more than a local vote, saying the world is watching how Taiwan defends its democracy amid military tensions with China, which claims the island as its territory. The KMT was taking the lead or claimed victory in 13 of the 21 city mayor and county chief seats up for grabs, including the capital Taipei, compared to the DPP's five. The KMT has accused Tsai and the DPP of being overly confrontational with China.

## Orion spacecraft enters lunar orbit

AFP, Washington

Nasa's Orion spacecraft was placed in lunar orbit Friday, officials said, as the much-delayed Moon mission proceeded successfully. A little over a week after the spacecraft blasted off from Florida bound for the Moon, flight controllers "successfully performed a burn to insert Orion into a distant retrograde orbit," the US space agency said on its web site. The spacecraft is to take astronauts to the Moon in the coming years — the first to set foot on its surface since the last Apollo mission in 1972. This first test flight, without a crew on board, aims to ensure that the vehicle is safe.

## World agrees to protect shark

AFP, Panama City



Delegates at a global summit on trade in endangered species on Friday approved a plan to protect 54 more shark species, a move that could drastically reduce the lucrative and cruel shark fin trade. Members of the requiem shark and the hammerhead shark families will now have their trade tightly

controlled under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The binding resolutions were adopted by consensus on the final day of the two-week meeting by delegates from 183 countries and the European Union, which takes place every two or three years. CITES, which came into force in 1975, has set international trade rules for more than 36,000 wild species. Its signatories include 183 countries and the European Union.

## Landslide kills 8 on Italian island

AFP, Rome

At least eight people died yesterday after heavy rains caused a landslide on the Italian island of Ischia, media reports said. A wave of mud swept down the hill in the small town of Casamicciola Terme in the early hours of the morning, engulfing at least one house and sweeping cars down to the sea, media reports and emergency services said. Earlier, news reports said 13 people had been reported missing, although there was no official confirmation. The fire service said help was being sent from Naples, the nearest major city, but weather conditions were making it difficult to access the island.