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Today's Editorial With Vocabulary Meanings. Importing From India

of vital food crops due to floods, تباہی of vital food crops due to floods, fresh proposals have been raised to resume trade with our eastern and agricultural قریبی neighbour which, due to its geographical proximity similarities, can provide the quickest means of bridging a looming کمزور demand-supply shortfall in various kitchen commodities. The question of one because talk of any عجيب whether or not this can happen is a tricky ties with India — be they purely economic in nature — invites a knee-jerk from any faction اچانک reaction and a fair bit of politicking looking to make some quick political capital. In purely logistical terms, it makes sense for Pakistan to first tap its neighbours for its immediate needs before turning to global markets. Both the cost of shipment and the time taken for the goods to reach local markets will be much lower in case foodstuff is imported from India rather than anywhere else. Faced with a spent on imports must be spent وییسہ spent on imports must be conservatively,اعتدال سے our policymakers will find few choices that are more cost-effective in this regard. The end-consumers, too, will benefit from the lower cost and quicker availability of items of everyday use. for the broader عملي نقشہ for the broader resumption of routine commerce between Pakistan and India in the future.

It is necessary, however, that Pakistan's political leadership as well as the state arrive at the same conclusion regarding trade with India. Any decision taken must not fall victim to infighting رسہ کشی and politicking at the expense of whoever formally gives the call to proceed. Since most of the political parties are already part of the coalition government, they may find it easier to arrive at a consensus on the matter. However, the PTI, too, must see reason and consider the greater national interest during a time of unprecedented غير معمولی instead of seeing this as an opportunity to settle old scores. The party had been seriously considering the possibility of trade resumption shortly before its ouster and had even formally announced a restoration of trade ties in April last year before rolling it back. Though both the PML-N and PPP had loudly resisted restoration of trade back then, the PTI would serve the nation well by

avoiding retaliation now. If it has reviewed and understood the plus points of trade with India — and its earlier moves suggest that it has — it must not prevent the people from benefiting from it.

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Today's Editorial With Vocabulary Meanings. Restricting INGOs

متاثر Pakistan, relief and rehabilitation efforts need to be carried out on a massive scale مورت to bring back a semblance صورت of normalcy to the lives of millions of flood-hit people. To put it bluntly, this country needs all the help it can get at this difficult time. Yet obstacles مائل رکاوٹیں being placed in the way of international NGOs by the state.

This will only hamper رکاوٹ ڈالنا relief work, and prevent much-needed help from getting to the vulnerable.زد یزیر

In this regard the Pakistan Humanitarian Forum, an umbrella group of 38 registered INGOs working in Pakistan, has said that the government is not giving permission to many foreign outfits already active in the country. Considering that the state itself has appealed to the international community to do its bit in the flood-relief effort, creating roadblocks for INGOs is both self-contradictory متضاد and counterproductive. کام میں

In past disasters, such as the 2005 earthquake and the 2010 super floods, foreign relief organisations did a commendable job in helping Pakistan cope with the natural calamities.

Perhaps the hesitancy شک یاتردد in granting INGOs the freedom to work stems from the mindset of the security state, which has an obsession with control and centralisation. Possibly some within the establishment are uncomfortable with INGOs working in troubled parts of Balochistan and KP.

While certain areas of the country may indeed present valid security concerns, it is the state's responsibility to provide protection to foreign outfits working in the humanitarian sector.

The INGOs want temporary exemption from obtaining no-objection certificates as well as a smoother registration process. These legitimate

demands should be met.

If the administration thinks some outfits — foreign or local — are involved in illegal work, by all means it should deal with them as per the law, but it should not create bureaucratic impediments ركاوڻيں in the way of groups doing good work.

Massive amounts of funds and expertise are required to deal with the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase in the flood-hit areas. Pakistan, which is going through financial turbulence, lacks the resources to deal with the disaster on its own.

Credible INGOs, on the other hand, have global networks and access to funds that will be crucial in the rebuilding phase. Moreover, many foreign governments and multilateral bodies prefer channelling funds through trusted INGOs for purposes of transparency.

Therefore, for the government to place hurdles مشكلات in their way is unwise . نادانی

Rebuilding after the disaster requires the input of all stakeholders: the aforementioned مندرجہ بالا funds and expertise of INGOs are invaluable; local community-based organisations are also key to the process because they are best informed about the situation on the ground and have strong local networks, whereas the state should play the role of coordinator and facilitator.

Blanket bans on foreign humanitarian outfits must be done away with, and all those willing to help Pakistan should be welcomed.

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Today's Editorial With Vocabulary Meanings. Scrutiny of New Army Chief

WITH characteristic lack of tact حكمت , former prime minister Imran Khan has pushed the looming appointment of the next army chief to front and centre of the national political discourse مباحثه .

In a Sunday <u>speech</u> to a large crowd in Faisalabad, the former prime minister alleged that PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif and PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari were holding off on announcing elections just so they could appoint an army chief "of their own choice" — a chief, Mr Khan claimed, who is likely to go easy on them over their alleged corruption.

Since Mr Khan holds considerable political sway at the moment, his remarks are expected to invite feverish ناپائیدار scrutiny آزمائش of the new army chief's appointment as the incumbent's retirement draws nearer.

The accusation الزام is a potent one, as it is, like most effective propaganda, based on a half-truth: past prime ministers have indeed sought something more than just seniority or merit among the candidates vying برابرى for this incredibly powerful post. However, those 'considerations' have rarely yielded the desired results.

The full truth is that an army chief, once appointed, becomes his own man as the immense power vested in their office begins to grow on them. The institution of the military is also such that it binds the army chief in many ways. Therefore, it is little surprise that no army chief has ever delivered on the many hopes and expectations pinned on them by their civilian appointers.

Mr Khan once <u>gave Gen Bajwa an extension</u>, likely hoping they would continue on the same page. It was not to be. Mr Sharif, on the other hand, has proved a veteran پختہ ،آزمودہ in making appointments that come back to haunt him.

Mr Khan's remarks are provocative اكسانے والا because they go to the heart of the military's entanglement جهگڑا with politics. The outrage of his opponents makes this even clearer.

Instead of addressing the core issue and promising transparency, both the PPP and the PML-N have seized on the opportunity to <u>paint Mr Khan as a 'traitor'</u> and reassert پھر سے یقین دلانا themselves as lord protectors of the army's good name.

Separately, the ISPR has roundly <u>denounced</u> مذمت كرنا the statement as "defamatory" and "scandalising".

The public pressure will nonetheless تاہم continue to build as the army chief's retirement draws near. Control over the next appointment is widely considered one of the reasons why Mr Khan was prematurely ousted from the Prime Minister's Office.

The PDM had alleged in the past that Mr Khan had planned to perpetuate his rule with the help of a "friendly" chief, and that they could not allow it to happen. Many are now waiting to see who gets handed the baton of command and will demand to know why.

Having forcibly been denied the privilege, Mr Khan can be expected to rage شدت from the sidelines till the end. One cannot envy باعث رشک the man who takes power in such circumstances.

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September 6th, 2022

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Today's Editorial With Vocabulary Meanings. Agriculture Recovery

THE national response to the flood disaster is slowly starting to coalesce, | and it is hoped that the momentum will build up over the coming days and weeks. The initial response may have struggled to get off the ground, and many challenges still stand in the way of reaching those still marooned in the worst-affected areas — yet, there has also been gradual improvement.

It is to the credit of the many civilian volunteers on the ground, the NGOs working round the clock, the armed forces' rescue and relief teams, and the people of this country — especially those who have donated in this time of great economic difficulty — that those who have suffered متاثر ہوئے calamity now have helping hands to give them much-needed support.

The relief and rehabilitation بحالى operation is just getting started, however, and there is a monumental effort required still. It is imperative لازمى that the federal and provincial governments take charge, align the various organisations and individuals working on the ground, and set a direction for how the rebuilding and rehabilitation part of the relief efforts will proceed.

There needs to be a greater degree of order and organisation in the on-ground relief activities to avoid overlap and wastage of precious resources, especially as it seems right now that every organisation involved is working independently of the other. The respective governments also need to chart a strategy for the quickest and surest way to get farmers back on their feet.

It appears from present assessments that the most pressing need farmers will feel is compensation for the loss of seeds for future crops, fertiliser and replacements for lost livestock. Another equally important area of concern is the loss of tools and machinery that aid agricultural activities like tilling, sowing and irrigation. Once the immediate needs of those displaced are taken care of — food, shelter, clean water and adequate health facilities — the governments must start pooling the remaining funds for the purpose of equipping farmers to bounce back from their losses.

Seed, fertiliser and livestock might need to be imported, so foreign monetary aid should ideally be set aside for this purpose to avoid putting pressure on the government's already weak current account position.

As far as the repair and replacement of agricultural implements are concerned, local governments can be activated to provide targeted support to farmers in this area.

It is critical that the respective governments take this particular aspect of the relief effort very seriously: arranging for temporary housing and food for a few days or months may provide a safety net to the affected people, but it won't help them recover what they have lost. It is critical تقيدى both for them and for the broader economy that the agricultural districts are nursed back to productivity in the shortest possible time. The nation cannot afford to leave its most vulnerable نقصان پہنچانے کے قابل behind.

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Today's Editorial With Vocabulary Meanings. Deep Divisions

gradually becoming بہت زیادہ گروہ بندی اختلافات ,gradually becoming apparent not just in developing democracies but also in the more evolved ones, has emerged as a matter of grave concern گھمبیر مسئلہ for policymakers worldwide. The Human Development Report 2021-22, issued by the United Nations Development Programme, explores it in detail, finding that the deep divisions we see in our communities today are یهیل جانا of human insecurities that have metastasised برداشت کرده due to the rapid economic, social and political shifts brought about by advancements in information technologies. The report's findings will seem quite familiar to anyone in Pakistan who has noticed with concern the alarming rise in political polarisation گرو بندی , deepening social divisions, religious and general intolerance and deepening mistrust between the citizenry and the state. Indeed, our country, with its many systemic problems, seems to have provided particularly fertile ground for social polarisation triggered by the arrival of digital media. The chasm دراڙ between the haves and the have-nots had always been wide, but digital media shone a light on it like never before, in the process triggering the and حکومت سے ناراض malcontent محکومت سے ناراض disillusionment we see in today's youth.

The report finds that those who suffer from higher insecurity are attracted to more extreme views about the government's role in the economy. This, it warns, "hampers public deliberation in uncertain times when insecurity is higher". In a country where every economic decision is now looked at as a conspiracy by a government in cahoots ملى بعكت with the IMF or some shadowy world power, this rings particularly true. The report also notes that "people with greater intolerance of uncertainty are likely to bond with politically like-minded peers and less with opponents, fuelling the formation of polarised beliefs". It warns that this can be exploited by politicians who can come up with attractive, extreme political ideologies that also impart a sense of moral superiority to those who ascribe منسوب to them. One does not need to name names to see where this is happening in our society and who is responsible for it. Clearly, we are living through a period of great social flux. Instead of leading their

followers down a destructive path, there is a dire need for leaders of all shades to come together and formulate a shared vision of the future that is built on mutual respect and tolerance. In exploiting استحصال the worst of human nature, they are playing with a fire that will one day burn them too.

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Today's Editorial With Vocabulary Meanings. Debt Swap Proposal

UN Secretary General António Guterres has made an impassioned appeal for substantial debt relief for developing nations.

At the end of his 'solidarity visit' to Pakistan, he pledged to strongly advocate 'debt swaps ادلا بدلا ' with the IMF and World Bank, as well as at the G-20 meeting, to enable poor and middle-income countries, including Pakistan, to use that money to invest in climate resilience باز گشت یا دوباره, sustainable infrastructure and green transition of their economies instead of paying back loans to the creditors.

غير معمولى monsoon rains and melting glaciers as "climate carnage "خونريزى , Mr Guterres repeated that the relief he was talking about was "a matter of justice and not of generosity". Before his departure for New York, he asserted: "Pakistan has no resources to compensate کسر نکالیا for the loss of lives, crops and livestock. Those who have created this situation must massively support the country."

Pakistan's total external debt and liabilities have already surged بڑھ جانا 139.7pc of the GDP or \$130.2bn, and its debt servicing jumped to over \$15bn during the last fiscal year, hampering رکاوٹ ہونا growth and development as the country is left with little to spend on the social sector and on disaster management. That's not all.

The country is virtually in a debt trap جال as it has to borrow more money every passing year to pay back its debt and support its budget. The IMF has forecast Pakistan's external financing needs to be just below \$31bn for the present financial year, and projected them to increase to \$39.1bn by FY27.

The enormous بہت بڑا <u>economic losses</u> and food shortages caused by massive flooding mean that the external financing needs to spike significantly in the near to mid-term, forcing the government to borrow

more to pay the swelling پھیلتے ہوئے import bill and stay liquid in the face of declining foreign currency reserves.

Should the multilateral lenders and the wealthy nations agree to the UN secretary general's proposal, it would provide a chance to many countries like Pakistan to wriggle out of the debt trap, stand on their feet and pull their citizens out of abject poverty.

The Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative launched in 1996 by the IMF and World Bank with the aim of ensuring that no poor country faces a debt burden it cannot manage, did not, for several reasons, create the impact it was initially expected to. However, it did help beneficiary nations boost their spending on infrastructure, education, health and other social services.

Indeed, debt relief or forgiveness is not a sustainable solution to our liquidity problem. Yet there is a fair chance a positive response to the call for debt swaps by the UN secretary general would provide countries like Pakistan, facing recurring climate-induced disasters موسم کیوجہ سے پیدا on top of extreme financial difficulties, some room to increase their spending to fight the effects of natural disasters on their citizens and economies.

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Today's Editorial With Vocabulary Meanings. Dengue Emergency

and judging from the منڈلانا یا دکھائی دینا ,and judging from the inertia سستى كاہلى on the authorities' part, it is likely to get much worse. According to Federal Climate Change Minister Sherry Rehman, there has been at least a 50pc increase in the incidence of dengue all across the country. With hundreds of cases being reported each day, especially from Karachi – where hospitals have reportedly run out of space to accommodate ٹہرانا dengue patients — the situation is dire. Nevertheless, there is still little sign the authorities are addressing the issue with the تاہم attention it deserves. According to Sindh government data, there have been around 3,300 cases of dengue in Karachi this year; of these 1,066 have been reported in September alone. Meanwhile, scores of cases are also surfacing daily in Rawalpindi and Lahore, while more than 200 patients on average are testing positive for dengue each day in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Alarming as these numbers are, they nevertheless grossly underrepresent the true scale of the growing epidemic. وبا Since dengue fever is a viral infection, health experts estimate that at least 70pc of the patients do not need to be admitted to hospital and are treated through out-patient visits to doctors without undergoing lab test confirmation. In fact, some experts estimate that the number of patients being treated for dengue symptoms on any given day in Karachi nowadays is in the thousands.

Given the gravity of the situation, one wonders what is preventing the authorities from doing the bare minimum, which involves draining rainwater and carrying out repeated fumigation دهوئے سے ہوا صاف کرن campaigns. In this regard, Karachi Administrator Murtaza Wahab's tweet on Monday about a fumigation drive in 28 union councils in Karachi seems quite ironic. If this had been done earlier, perhaps the spread of the disease could have been curtailed کم کرنا to some extent. It is not as if the government is unaware of what is to be done since dengue outbreaks have for the past decade become a perennial problem that emerges after every monsoon season. However, the intensity of the rains this year and the disruption of health infrastructure caused by the floods portends پيا a dengue outbreak many times worse than usual. The authorities need

to stop dawdling and reapply the lessons learnt in 2011 from beating a tenacious مضبوط جڑ والا dengue outbreak in Lahore. They must carry out repeated fumigation drives in all affected areas until all mosquitoes are eradicated,ختم ہوناwhile ensuring that rainwater does not accumulate on the streets.

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Today's Editorial With Vocabulary Meanings. KP Bombings

CLEARLY, the fiction that 'all is well' in KP — particularly in the province's merged tribal districts, and those areas which were worst affected by terrorism — is unravelling سلجهانا fast. Two separate blasts were reported in the province on Tuesday and these violent incidents, seen together with other recent episodes linked to militancy, point to the troubling reality that the terrorists are back. A number of people, including policemen as well as the former head of a local peace committee, lost their lives when their vehicle was targeted by a remote-controlled bomb in Swat's Kabal area. The banned TTP, which claimed responsibility for the atrocity ظلم , said they had been waiting to strike ex-peace committee head Idrees Khan for the past 13 years. The tribal elder had played a major role in mobilising locals against the militants. In another attack, a police station was targeted in Kohat while seven workers of a mobile phone company were kidnapped in Swat. Moreover, three soldiers were martyred in the Kurram tribal district after they reportedly came under fire from Afghanistan, while late on Tuesday security forces were attacked in Khyber's Jamrud area.

The bombings, attacks on security forces and kidnappings in the affected area should put the state on alert, as remaining in denial انكار mode will . امن و امان کی صورتحال only add to the worsening law and order situation Last month, after protests against the militant threat were held in parts of حد"KP, the military's media wing had dismissed this threat as "exaggerated"حد and based on "misperception" غلط فہمی . However, as the recent violence تشدد indicates, the militant threat has moved from "misperception" to painful reality. In a recent KP Assembly session, an opposition MMA lawmaker said over 400 armed attacks had been reported this year, resulting in the loss of over 300 lives, while extortion activities were also in full swing. Moreover, security men have been لوٹ مار kidnapped, while a sitting MPA belonging to the PTI survived a deadly militant attack in which several people were killed. It is apparent ظاہر that the ceasefire the government had reached with the TTP is in tatters, and the militants are not in a peacemaking mood. The state must clarify what is, while the civilian and military مذاكرات

authorities must tell the nation what they intend to do to ward off the militant threat. KP's people have been through hell and back thanks to unchecked militancy, and they cannot be left to the mercy of such murderous ہے رحم elements.

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Today's Editorial With Vocabulary Meanings. Putin's Offer

REALPOLITIK suggests that Pakistan should be considering all offers that can help shore up its fragile economy. In this regard, Russian President Vladimir Putin's offer to reactivate the Pakistan Stream gas pipeline project, made to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Samarkand, should be taken up if it is beneficial to the country. The project, finalised in 2015 but largely dormant, is designed to carry LNG from Karachi to power plants in Punjab. While critics ناقدین would say it is a political statement by the Russian leader designed to loosen ڈھیلا کرنا his country's West-imposed isolation following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, Pakistan must consider Mr Putin's offer on its merit.

nstead of geopolitical considerations , سوچ بچار , the two main questions Pakistani policymakers should be asking about the Russian gas project are: is it good for the country's energy security, and is it achievable? The fact is that Pakistan has been involved in various regional pipeline projects, and nearly all of them have remained pipe dreams. For example, the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India pipeline scheme, announced in 2014, remains on the drawing board. Meanwhile, the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline also hangs in the balance; while Tehran completed its side of the pipeline in 2011, we have yet to build our portion. There are various reasons for lack of progress on both these projects, which include geopolitical, financial and technical issues. Therefore, while Mr Putin's offer sounds good, Pakistan needs to do its homework before continuing, اقابل پیش گوئی lest this scheme is also put on hold for the foreseeable future. The fact that Pakistan needs affordable and reliable energy supplies to power its industrial and economic activities, as well as for domestic use, is obvious. The question is: how and where to secure those supplies, along with improving the output of renewable sources? If Russia can supply affordable gas and oil, there is no reason why Pakistan should back off fearing a backlash رد عمل from the US-led Western bloc. While with any bloc, energy security is a جهگڑا Pakistan should not seek conflict matter of national sovereignty سالميت , and diktat from foreign quarters is unwelcome. Interestingly, India is straddling ٹانگیں پھیلا کر بیٹھنا both the

Western and 'other' blocs; New Delhi is a member of the anti-China Quad, yet it also partners with the SCO, of which Beijing is a founding member, and has been snapping up deeply discounted Russian oil despite كے باوجود Western discomfort. In such a scenario صورتحال , Pakistan's Western friends have no right to hector this country about deepening energy ties with Russia.

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Today's Editorial With Vocabulary Meanings. Missing Direction

IT is unfortunate بد بختى that Finance Minister Miftah Ismail seems to have largely withdrawn from the public eye at a time when someone with grit عزم and determination معال طور پر is needed to proactively عزم the economy.

One hopes that he hasn't been forced into the shadows by detractors بد نام from within the PML-N. There were some who had loudly protested the difficult yet necessary decisions Mr Ismail had to make to plug fiscal leakages Pakistan cannot afford at this juncture وقت . It is clear he has not yet been forgiven for those decisions.

Last Tuesday, PML-N's vice president Maryam Nawaz, responding to questions about the state of the economy, had <u>made it clear</u> she remained "categorically" opposed to the fuel and electricity price increases Mr Ismail was forced to implement. "I don't support this decision, and it should be corrected," she had said, adding that her "first responsibility was to the people".

For Pakistani politicians across the ideological spectrum, 'responsibility to the people' is often just a euphemism to splurge scarce state resources on vote-winning subsidies. Mr Ismail, on the other hand, has inherited وراثت بنانا an economy that gives him no room to sign off on such plans.

His compulsions must not be made the reason to sideline him. Instead, what he may be able to offer, as he proved in his approach to reviving the IMF programme, is hard-nosed management of the economy.

Pakistan has been dealt a body blow by <u>nationwide floods</u> and the devastation they have caused. The impact on the economy will be felt for months. Meanwhile, the current account position continues to deteriorate due to the need to import fuel and cover food shortages, while exporters find it difficult to fill orders due to a global slowdown, sharply higher production costs and shortages of inputs. The resumption of the <u>dollar's relentless climb</u>, expected to continue in the near future, also makes matters worse. A finance minister freed from the trappings of election-year considerations — especially someone who can put

practicality above self-interest — may be just what the country needs to chart its way out of the troubled waters it is in.

The going won't be easy. Weekly inflation has persisted above 40pc for the past several weeks, burning a massive hole in the citizenry's household budgets. However, with tighter management of markets and robust price control mechanisms to set fair prices, part of the inflationary pressure can be lifted. To ensure the success of such efforts, it will be important for the finance minister to forcefully resist internal demands for 'relief' for special interest groups.

A grave mistake was made in <u>withdrawing</u> the electricity bill taxes from traders under political pressure. Such mistakes will have to be reversed. The economy cannot be resuscitated دوباره زنده کرنا. بif rival factions within the PML-N continue to make it impossible to take important decisions and stick to them.

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Today's Editorial With Vocabulary Meanings. Sectarian Concerns

A RECENTLY released study by the Brussels-based International Crisis نامی الله Group has raised some pertinent مناسب but disturbing questions about the state of sectarian فرقه وارانه militancy in Pakistan. In particular, غاص طور پر A New Era of Sectarian Violence تشدد in Pakistan underscores the troubling prospect of Lashkar-i-Jhangvi cadres, largely dormant at the moment, playing an active role in the malignant شدید activities of the Islamic State-Khorasan chapter, as the local Daesh affiliate is called. Separately, it also examines the role of the Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan in local communal politics and militancy. Though some conclusions of the think tank's report are a tad alarmist, certain aspects send up instant red flags — which the state would be foolish to ignore.

The foremost پہلا point that the state, particularly the security establishment, should consider is the budding alliance between LJ fighters and IS-K. Quoting officials, the ICG document says that LJ terrorists have mostly been absorbed مشغول by the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan and IS-K. What is especially alarming is the report's contention that IS-K has struck roots in KP, Balochistan as well as parts of Punjab. For example, it says that LJ foot soldiers working as "hired guns" for IS-K in KP "number in the hundreds". To put things in perspective, LJ is one of Pakistan's deadliest sectarian terrorist groups. It is responsible for a long list of bloody anti-Shia purges. . And if the LJ fighters combine their considerable local knowledge with the Islamic State group's 'expertise' in waging transnational sectarian war, the results for Pakistan's internal security could be tragic غم آلود . As for the observations regarding the TLP, it is evident that the latter has managed to weaponise blasphemy گستاخی and sectarianise the political discourse, which bodes ill for communal peace in the country.

And yet, despite کے باوجود the presence of these malign actors, Pakistan is not in the throes of a communal conflict pitting Shia citizens against their Sunni counterparts. Moreover, claims in the ICG report that mothers tell their children to hide their Shia identity, or people refrain from giving their

full names for fear of revealing their confessional status, may be true in rare instances, but are not the norm. And, notwithstanding the existence of sectarian death squads that go back at least four decades, Pakistan has thankfully been spared من the ugly communal violence witnessed in Iraq, Lebanon and Syria. But, if new threats are allowed to thrive, such as an active LJ-IS-K partnership, a return to violence is very possible. In this respect, there can be little argument with the ICG report's concluding observation that the federal and provincial governments, political parties, the judiciary as well as the military will all "have to play a part in addressing the conditions in which sectarian militants thrive يعولنا ترقى كرنا

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Today's Editorial With Vocabulary Meanings. Selection of New Army Chief

TRUTH be told, the selection of the army chief has always been a political issue. How could it be otherwise in a country where the military has ruled directly for many years of its existence, and — with the establishment's machinations سازشیں — spent much of the remainder manipulating جوڑ توڑ the political landscape, including through the once-powerful presidency, to ensure its preeminence ? For civilian governments, therefore, a principal consideration in selecting the head of this powerful institution is to maximise the chances of its own survival — making this as political a decision as one could be.

Never before, however, has the impending نزدیک appointment whipped up so much sound and fury جوش. Courtesy Imran Khan's fulminations,الزام, to an unprecedented متنازعہ to an unprecedented غیر معمولی degree.

Having said only a few weeks ago that the opposition had nothing to do with the selection, the PTI chairman now appears to have made it into the holy grail of his campaign to regain power. At a <u>rally in Chakwal</u> on Monday, he again thundered that the army chief be selected on "merit" and that "thieves" should never be allowed to undertake the task.

Why Mr Khan is currently priming رٹاہی یا بار بار دہرانا this issue as the main weapon in his arsenal بارود خانہ is difficult to say. Perhaps it is a realisation that the pressure he is building on the establishment may be reaching critical mass and elections could be sooner rather than later; perhaps it is payback for the PDM having deprived محروم کرناhim of the opportunity.

of several governments, including that of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Benazir Bhutto (twice) and Nawaz Sharif (twice) illustrate, institutional allegiance overrides all else.

So deeply embedded is this skewed ترچها ٹیڑھا power dynamic that the converse — the absence of meddling — also has political repercussions. رد عمل Former prime minister Imran Khan himself has alleged that his government fell because the establishment chose a strategic 'hands off' approach. In other words, his undoing was the 'neutral' stance — which, it bears reminding, is a constitutional requirement for the military.

The civilian leadership must shoulder part of the blame for the extreme distortion الث پلث of the political landscape. Extensions in the tenure of army chiefs, whose first beneficiary (under a civilian dispensation) was Gen Ashfaq Kayani during the PPP government, have further politicised what should be a routine appointment.

But that is part of a much bigger problem, one that stems from the fact that the military has repeatedly overstepped constitutional boundaries. Having queered liebal this pitch throughout Pakistan's history, it must suggest a way out and then leave governance to those elected by the people.

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Today's Editorial With Vocabulary Meanings. The Controversial Project

THE controversial Ravi Riverfront Urban Development Project launched by former prime minister Imran Khan is again making headlines owing to a series of protests held by the affected farmers whose land is 'forcibly' زبردستی being acquired for the scheme at 'throwaway prices'. The images of heavy machinery being used by Ruda to destroy crops to take possession of the land it says it has already acquired and paid for have a fresh wave of criticism تنقيد of the project and the treatment being meted out to the farmers. The illustrations تشريح of the future development along the Ravi river tweeted by Mr Khan recently have led many to believe that he is pushing the Punjab government to move faster on the scheme. The affected landowners insist that Ruda has violated the Supreme Court order in its fresh push for land acquisition . While suspending a Lahore High Court order scrapping the project of the law, the SC had خلاف ورزی it illegal for violation قرار دینا given Ruda "conditional permission to work on the land whose compensation تلافي had been paid to the owners". The farmers contend that few were paid compensation. But Ruda claims that جمگزنا development work was started after making payments to all landowners under the law and that the entire amount had been deposited in the treasury.

Even if the objections of environmentalists and urban development experts on the project spread over more than 100,000 acres of land are put aside for a moment, the design of the planned city completely ignores the owners of the land who should have been the primary beneficiaries the owners of the land who should have been the primary beneficiaries the primary beneficiaries and this development. Evicting يولي them from the land they have owned for generations and depriving them of their livelihoods by paying them a small compensation is not the correct approach for any government. If the government and the former premier want this project to move ahead, they should ensure that the landowners and other residents of the area are the first beneficiaries of this real estate development unless it is envisaged exclusively for the elite and the rich land developers.

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Today's Editorial With Vocabulary Meanings. Timely Remorse

and humility عاجزى <u>on display at the Islamabad High</u> <u>Court yesterday</u> would have been unremarkable had it been any other person on the stand. The august courts of this land have usually given short shrift to hubris.

Yet, Mr Imran Khan had survived hearing after hearing, refusing to tender a straight apology معافی to Additional District and Sessions Judge Zeba Chaudhry, against whom he had, during a public rally on Aug 20 in Islamabad, used language considered contemptuous عقارت by many. One had wondered why the IHC was seemingly lenient نرم towards Mr Khan when he was not interested in making any amends. It was only when the IHC finally ran out of patience تحمل and made it clear that it would prosecute تفتيش him if need be that Mr Khan saw the error of his ways.

Even a symbolic punishment for contempt — as once <u>prescribed</u> for former prime minister Yousuf Raza Gilani — is enough to knock a politician out of the race for a five-year period. Perhaps بلا شبه that is why the apology yesterday was humble and unequivocal بالكل واضح . Mr Khan even expressed a willingness to seek Judge Chaudhry's forgiveness in person if the court so desired. Quite the change of heart in a man whose pride keeps getting in his way.

Mr Khan should never have used the sort of language he did against the judge, and it is hoped that he has learnt his lesson. Hopefully, he will take the opportunity to reflect on his needless disparagement حقارت ،بدنامی of other state institutions as well as his political opponents.

If Pakistan had more rigid libel laws, the PTI chairman would have been sued mercilessly بے رحمی سے for the litany of unfounded allegations الزامات he keeps making against anyone who dares cross him. Bullying دهمکی opponents from the pulpit خطبہ گاہ یا ممبر is easy when your star is rising,

and the might of the people is behind you. However, this is a demagogue's path to power, and the country needs more leaders, not rabble-rousers.

As Mr Khan embarks on <u>phase two of his mission to topple the government</u> — which kicks off this Saturday — now would be a good time to reassess strategies. Spreading chaos افرا تفرى shouldn't be an option in achieving political objectives. There is much for the country to lose if political instability crosses the threshold and results in a confrontation between the citizens and the state.

Whatever Mr Khan wants, he must demand civilly and while remaining within the bounds of the law. He will be well within his rights to do so. The government, too, would be well-advised not to resort to high-handed tactics in its zeal to block Mr Khan's pursuit of his ambitions. The interior minister has recently taken to threatening 'fumigation' of D-chowk, as if protesters are nothing more than cockroaches. Let us hope that this is not how he sees citizens in opposing political camps.

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Todays Editorial With Vocabulary Meanings. Penadol Shortage

TROM headaches سردرد to fever to bodily pain — paracetamol is used ubiquitously in Pakistan as the go-to remedy for most common ailments. ابيماريان In recent months, the drug's most familiar brand, 'Panadol', has been in short supply in the country. The company that manufactures Panadol had recently halted بند كرنا production, saying that it is no longer viable to keep producing the drug due to higher input prices. Though the drug itself, paracetamol, is still available and is being sold under other names, such is the power of the brand that the disappearance of Panadol from pharmacy shelves has been taken by many to mean that there is a shortage of medicine to treat fever and common pains. Other companies manufacturing paracetamol had also raised issues relating to pricing.

The authorities know they have a problem on their hands, but they seem to be struggling with how to fix it. Drug pricing, which is controlled through the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan, has become a political issue over the years as various parties have lobbied to block any price increases in a bid بولى to win favour with the public. What makes matters more complicated is that Pakistan does not produce many active ingredients required to manufacture drugs, even some of the most commonly used ones, which means the industry remains highly dependent on the import of raw materials to continue production. These imports have in recent سonths been vulnerable to global supply shortages and disruptions,رکاوٹیں as well as currency rate depreciation گڻھاؤ . The combined effect of these factors has put drug manufacturers under pressure, as they are having difficulty meeting costs while the government does not allow them to raise prices. The prime minister has now announced that the government will subsidise رعایت دینا paracetamol production to keep it 'affordable' for the masses. This is unlikely to work as a long-term fix for a cash-starved economy. At some point, the government will have to realise that the availability of drugs is sometimes more important than affordability. With dengue ripping through the country and the cold and flu season right around the corner, demand for paracetamol is expected to remain strong or even pick up in the weeks to come. The government may, by all means, take action to prevent hoarding of medicines and illicit ناجائز profiteering by black marketeers. However, it needs to get the economics of the drugs market right if it wants to prevent similar ایک جیسے crises in the future.

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Today's Editorial With Vocabulary Meanings. Protest In Iran

after a young woman died earlier this month in the custody of the country's morality police. Mahsa Amini was visiting Tehran with her family when she was reportedly apprehended پکڙن by members of the force for not complying with the country's strict dress code. Activists blame the young woman's death on police brutality, يوحمى while the authorities claim she died as a result of a "heart attack". Numerous بهت زياده demonstrators احتجاجي have been killed as the state has sought to crush the protests, while security men have also been targeted in deadly attacks. Yet, hijacking the tragedy, Iran's foreign foes have sought to use the protests as a geopolitical tool to embarrass the clerical پادرياني regime. This not only takes the focus away from the protesters' genuine demands for greater rights, it also exposes the West's hypocrisy, فريب مكر as the US and Europe prefer to keep quiet when their allies indulge in similar authoritarian behaviour.

ایے چینی.Iran's rulers should examine the issues fuelling public discontent If it is confirmed that Mahsa Amini died due to police brutality, those responsible must be punished, and such a tragedy should not be repeated. As for the Western bloc, their sudden benevolence خير خواہي for the Iranian رحم دردمندی .people smacks more of politics than of genuine compassion For example, the US has now felt the need to ease internet curbs for Iranians so that the country's people are "not kept isolated". America would be better off lifting its sanctions that prevent critical medicines from reaching Iranian patients. Though humanitarian exports to the country are allowed, America's secondary sanctions "have drastically , "constrained Iran's ability to finance such humanitarian imports سختی سے according to Human Rights Watch. Moreover, while the West has roasted Iran over its handling of the Mahsa Amini case, there was little in the way of condemnation مذمت when Salma al-Shehab, a female Saudi PhD scholar, was handed a 34-year jail sentence for following the 'wrong' Twitter accounts last month. This selective outrage needs to end.

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Today's Editorial With Vocabulary Meanings. Relic of Colonialism

THE law on sedition, بغاوت one of several holdovers پرانے of colonial times, is among the most handy instruments for controlling the citizenry . On Saturday, a petition filed by PTI leader Shireen Mazari seeking the annulment کالعدم of the PPC's Section 124-A, which pertains to sedition, was dismissed by the Islamabad High Court for being non-maintainable. Like most laws designed not for the ends of justice but as a tool to suppress dissent, خیال و عمل کی آزادی this one is also phrased in extremely broad language, allowing the authorities considerable leeway حراست میں رکھنا when they do decide to detain حراست میں رکھنا is the maximum punishment stipulated for sedition, that makes it a formidable weapon with which to beat down today's recalcitrant منحرف، ضدی view and anyone being prosecuted under the section has been acquitted at some point.

PTI leader Shahbaz Gill is among the latest who have found themselves charged with sedition, after a television interview in which he uttered language that, in the words of Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, was intended "to create rifts" within the military's ranks. Mr Gill was granted bail after more than a month in custody. Earlier, during the PTI government, an FIR was registered against several PML-N leaders, including Nawaz Sharif, for sedition. And now sedition allegations are flying thick and fast. The PTI's provincial government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa last month announced it was filing FIRs against several PDM leaders — apparently in retaliation against Mr Gill's travails. A sedition law has no place in a democracy, and violates several fundamental rights including freedom of expression. Moreover, international law holds that even trenchant criticism of the government and its institutions is protected. Indeed, در حقیقت Gandhi wore the charge of sedition brought against him in 1922 like a badge of honour, describing the prince among the political sections of the بلاشبہ Indian Penal Code designed to suppress the liberty of a citizen". The sooner it is removed from the statute books, the better.

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Today's Editorial With Vocabulary Meanings. Noon Leakes

A SET of <u>audio clippings</u> of discreetly ہوشیاری سے recorded, closed-door conversations between the prime minister and other key decision-makers have surfaced on social media — capturing the nation's attention at a time when political tensions are on the boil جوش . The content of these recordings will be dissected تشریح in great detail by opinion makers in the coming days.

The PTI has already started spinning them in its favour: pointing fingers at Maryam Nawaz and <u>demanding</u> that the chief election commissioner resign.

There is an element of hesitation بچکچاہٹ even in the PTI's posturing, however, as the national security implications of this leak become clearer. The biggest question at the moment is how a lapse of such grave proportions happened on the watch of multiple security institutions tasked with protecting the prime minister against exactly such threats.

When former finance minister Shaukat Tarin's telephone call with Taimur Jhagra over the IMF deal was 'leaked' recently, there had been little question about who may have been snooping in on their conversation. Phone tapping is par for the course in a country where civilian leaders are fair game for illegal surveillance نگرانی and few care about individuals' right to privacy.

However, things seem quite different this time, as everything about these latest leaks raises questions.

Firstly, the clippings that have been released so far do not seem to be from recordings of intercepted telephone calls. Instead, a recording or bugging device seems to have been placed inside PM Office, the security of which is the responsibility of the Intelligence Bureau and the Special Branch. As of now, it is unclear how many places were bugged be how long the bug or bugs remained active, and why they were not detected.

Then there is the question of how these audios have been released. Some reports suggest that a large cache of audio recordings was uploaded to a

hackers' forum sometime last month and offered for sale. A clipping from the cache was also seemingly uploaded to Twitter much earlier this month, but appeared to have evaded attention till this weekend.

Were these carefully placed red herrings, or is an external player actually involved? Relatedly, will more such clips be released in the coming days, or have the ones already released done the job?

The serving prime minister and his cabinet are not ordinary people, or even out-of-favour politicians whose privacy may be casually compromised without many consequences. Their conversations are not something that ought to be on the internet for anyone with money to purchase and listen to.

This is a national security emergency that ought to be investigated at the highest level. Heads must roll.

For a security apparatus آلات، اوزار obsessed with '5G warfare' and what dissenters are saying online, the fact that conversations hosted by the country's chief executive are available on the internet is a major embarrassment. يريشاني

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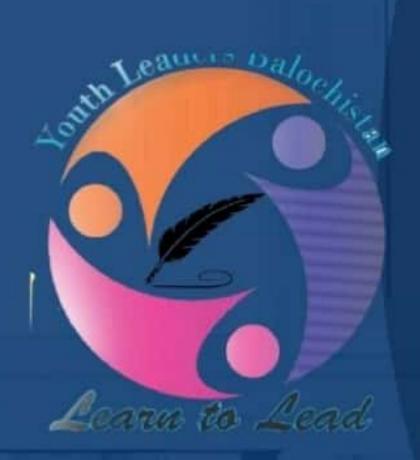
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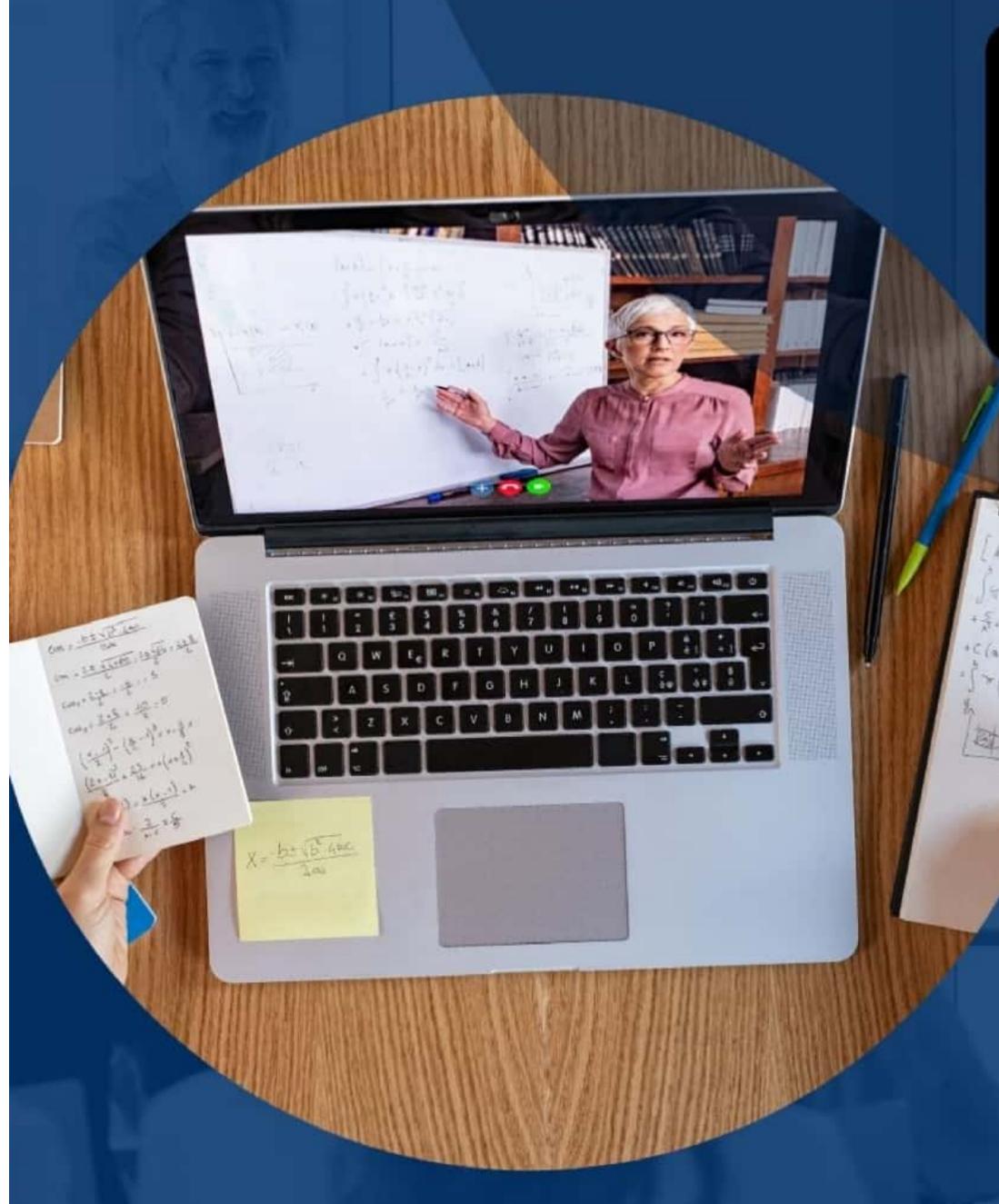
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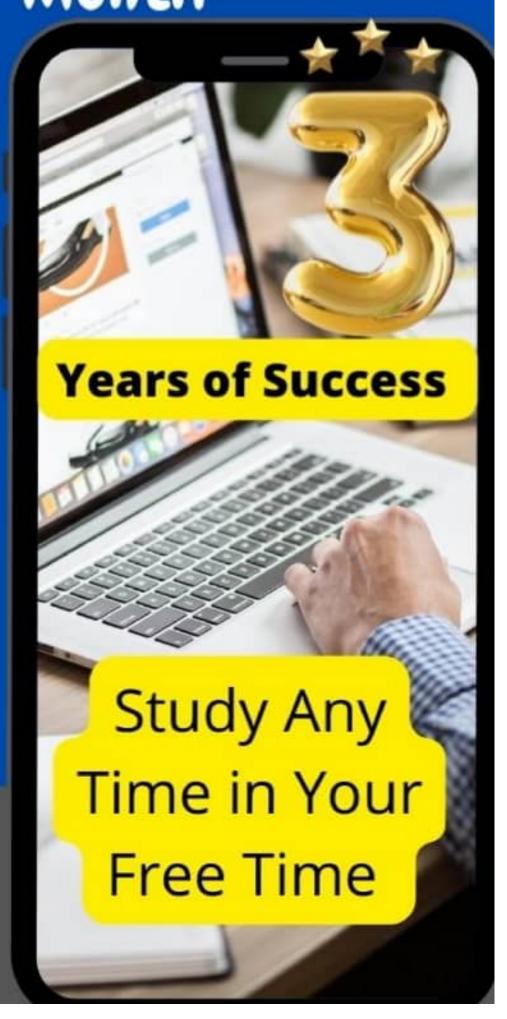
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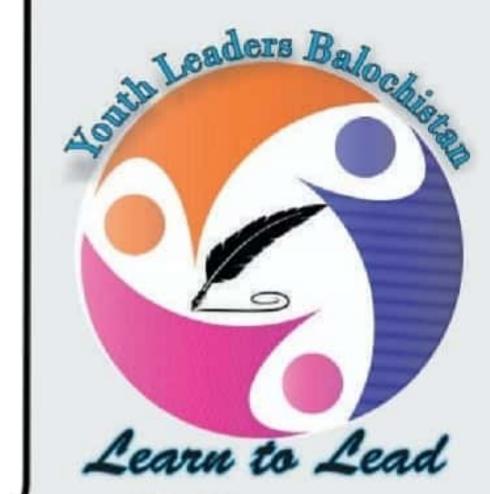
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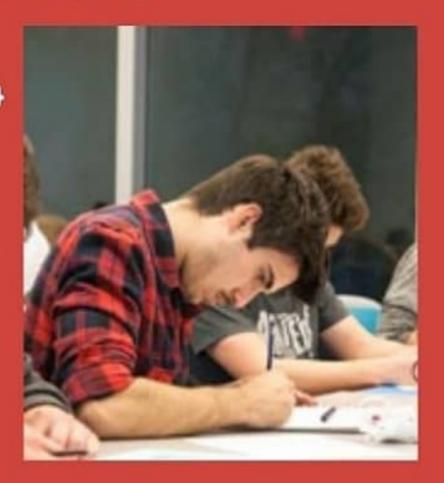


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