

No-one ready to provide shelter

Rivals of Akbar Bugti become rolling stones

By Nadeem Saeed

DERA GHAZI KHAN, Dec 19: No-one on this land is inclined to invite Sardar Akbar Bugti's wrath by providing refuge to his rivals who have literally become rolling stones between Balochistan and this part of the Punjab.

They were forcibly banished from Dera Bugti by Jamhoori Watan Party (JWP)'s central president MNA Akbar Bugti's men a few days ago.

After getting a green signal from the government, Mir Ahamdan Bugti, first cousin of Akbar Bugti, along with more than 200 tribesmen including women and children reached here on Wednesday last via Rojhan (Rajanpur district), to take shelter in Barkhan district of Balochistan province on the assurance of Khitran chief Sardar Abdul Rehman, who is also a minister in the Akhtar Mengal cabinet.

Escorted by several paramilitary vehicles, Mir Ahamdan sought refuge for some days in Dera Ghazi Khan. The Dera deputy commissioner consulted some local tribal chiefs for the accommodation of the helpless Bugtis but they reportedly refused to take any risk.

At this, Mir Ahamdan and his tribesmen reached Barkhan to stay there as Khitran Sardar's guests. Sardar Abdul Rehman arranged

their stay at a remote hilly area called Baghao. But people of the area protested against their Sardar's decision as they apprehended that the stay of the Akbar Bugti's rivals here might bring difficulties for them.

On Thursday, the shelter-seeking people again returned to Barkhan and asked the Khitran chief to arrange their stay somewhere else. Khitran, however, thought it better to withdraw his offer.

After being denied shelter from everywhere, the extradited Bugtis again started travelling towards Dera Ghazi Khan on Thursday afternoon.

They were last seen on the DG Khan-Quetta Road near Sakhi Sarwar, some 25 km from here, parking their as many as 50 vehicles along the road in sweeping cold (Vehicles of paramilitary personnel are not included in this figure). Administrations of other nearby districts have already refused to lend any helping hand.

Talking to this correspondent, Mir Ahamdan Bugti said that Sardar Akbar Bugti was rewriting the history of the Mongols in Dera Bugti. "He always succeeds in fetching unjust support from governments due to his political influence. Whenever a government is in trouble, Akbar Bugti bargains and

re-starts revengeful activities against his rivals," he alleged.

Ahamdan Bugti said the government was equally responsible for the uncivilized treatment being meted out to them as was the JWP chief. He alleged that DG Khan DC even did not allow their women and children to step down from their vehicles for ablution.

About his rivalry with the MNA, Ahamdan said that he was paying the price of supporting the Kalpars, a sub-caste of the Bugti tribe, against whom Akbar Bugti had declared an open war.

He said that being a former member of the district council and Dera Bugti Zakat administrator, he initiated development works in the area much to the disliking of Akbar Bugti.

When contacted, a Sardar who was approached by the administration to help in settling the Bugtis, said that a stay of few days did not matter but a permanent stay of heavily armed tribesmen who also had a rivalry with Akbar Bugti might create a law and order problem in the area.

It may be noted that MNA Sardar Akbar Bugti has a long-standing rivalry in and outside of his tribe in his hometown Dera Bugti which has claimed scores of human lives.