

QUETTA VOICE

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President Alvi urges lawmakers to 'end polarisation' and decide election date together



Shehbaz Sharif wants 'climate justice' from rich polluting countries

The Shela Bagh Khojak tunnel in the mirror of history

Syed Ali Shah

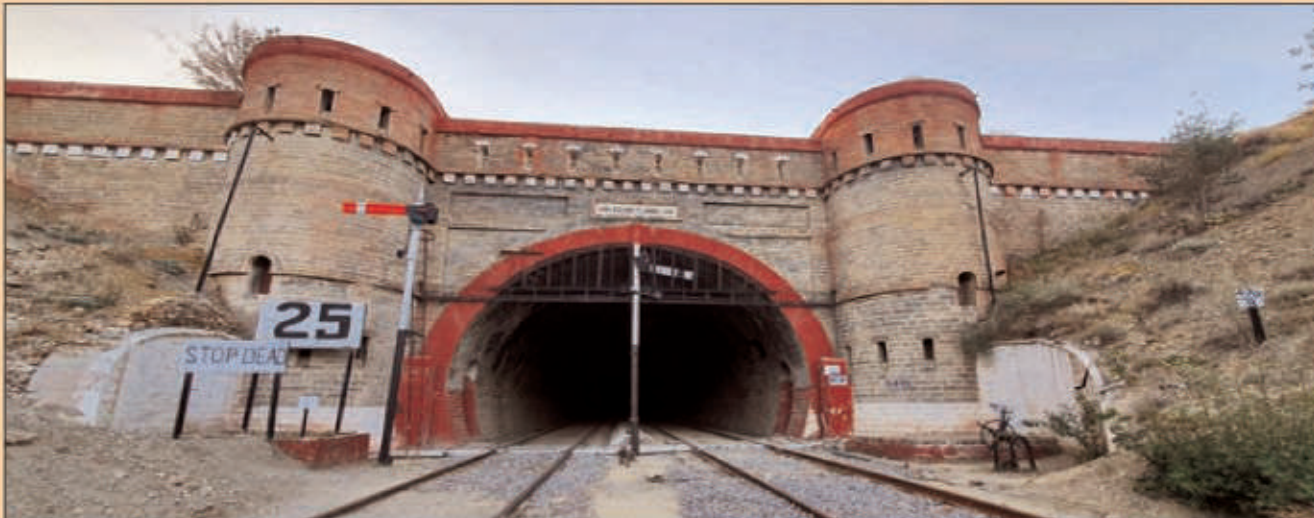
After driving for two hours from Quetta, we finally reached the Shela Bagh Khojak tunnel on an autumn evening. The weather was cold dry and calm prevailed in the valley located in the middle of rugged mountains.

I thought the security personnel would stop us from making a video report and making photos of the historic tunnel. Moreover, none stopped us from doing so. Two employees of Pakistan Railways were staring at us when we stepped down to portray a photograph outside the historic tunnel.

The railway employees preferred not to stop us. It was my quest to stand before the tunnel and educate the people about the history. In one attempt, I managed to complete the v log and report about the history of the tunnel, which snakes through the rugged mountains.

Britians constructed the tunnel from 1888 to 1891

The British rulers constructed the 4 kilometer long tunnel from 1888 to 1891 to counter the then powerful Russians from invading the sub-continent



Afghanistan. British engineers, technicians and local labourers made history by constructing the tunnel within three years. Although, there was no latest machinery at that time. Historians said the Britians used mules, donkeys and horses to shift heavy stones from one place to another place to ensure timely completion of the project. 1891, the project is still intact as a passenger train passes through the tunnel on a daily basis from Quetta to Chaman.

British rulers were concerned about Russian attack

The great game was about to expand in the region and British rulers were concerned about the invasion of Russians via Khyber Pass and Chaman through Afghanistan. They laid down railway track from Delhi to Chaman within a decade to make sure timely

presence of military and weapons in the case of Russian attack.

On the front of the tunnel, on a small plate, its name and the period of its construction are inscribed. It lies at an altitude of 1,939.8 metres above sea level in the settlement of Shela Bagh.

'Shala' is a Pashto word which means a seasonal mountainous river, and 'bagh' of course means a garden. The State Bank of Pakistan recognized this historic engineering and printed the tunnel's photo of five rupees note from 1976 to 2005.



President Alvi urges lawmakers to 'end polarisation' and decide election date together

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi, in an address to the joint session of the Parliament on Thursday, called on politicians to end growing polarisation in the country and decide on an election date by coming together.

"People can only be united if politicians are united," he said, highlighting that eliminating differences was the "need of the hour".

The joint session of the National Assembly today was called in line with articles 54(1) and 56(3) of the Constitution.

The session was sparsely attended, with the majority of MNAs missing from both benches. Those in attendance were seen freely mingling and talking amongst one another while the president was speaking.

Meanwhile, Jamaat-i-Islami Senator Mushfar Ahmed chanted slogans calling for MNA Ali Wazir's production orders to be issued, even as the president continued speaking. He later staged a protest in front of the NA speaker's rostrum with Senator Tahir Bizenjo and MNA MNA Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali.

At the outset of his address today, the president expressed that the biggest problem Pakistan was facing today were the catastrophic floods that wreaked havoc across the country and rendered millions homeless.

"I want to felicitate the Pakistan Army for helping victims while sacrificing their lives. The federal and provincial governments, PDMA (Provincial Disaster Management Authority), and NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority) all worked hard on the ground. I thank all of them."

Dr Alvi pointed out that if the relief work was not done on time, the human and economic losses from the floods would have been higher.

Pakistan's contribution to global warming was not even 1 per cent, but the country was suffering the most, he said. "I want to commend agencies and the government for the way they worked. I believe they deserve commendation."

The president said that the disastrous floods had damaged crops spread over acres and underscored the need for crop insurance. INP



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of China Road and Bridge Corporation CRBC headed by Vice President Ye Chengyin called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Quetta: Court convicts an accused to 14 years RI for raping a child

Syed Kalim Shah

District and session judge Quetta Muhammad Dawood Nasar convicted the accused in the rape case for 14 years of rigorous imprisonment on Thursday. The court also fined the accused.

The court convicted the accused to 14 years RI and a fine of Rs:1 million. In case the accused not pays the fine, his imprisonment time will increase.

According to the prosecution the accused named Naseeb Ullah had raped a 4 years boy and a 5-year-old girl. A case was filed under Section 377b against the accused named Naseebullah in the airport road police station in Quetta, it has been stated that he raped the children on August 20, 2021, in the Kili Ayub, Sheikh Manda



area of Quetta.

Police submitted he challan with regard to the case and lawyers of either side concluded their arguments regarding the case. The judge had reserved the judgment.

The case against which the challan was filed was presented in the court yesterday, while pronouncing the safe verdict of the case, the judge of the court sentenced the accused Naseebullah to 14 years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs:1,00,000.

MDCAT test to be conducted on November 13 in written format

Health Desk

ISLAMABAD: The MDCAT test across the country for admission to medical colleges would be conducted on November 13 in written format. The result of the test would be announced throughout the country on the same day. According to the sources, the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) has prepared the MDCAT exams scheduled for a meeting of the Medical and Dental Council of Pakistan. They added that exams would be held on the same day across the country. The examination centers would be set up at Bolan University of Medical and Health Sciences of Balochistan; University of Health Sciences, Lahore; Khyber Medical University, Peshawar; Dow University of Health Sciences, Karachi and Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University, Islamabad.

Two international examination centers for MDCAT would be established in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia, the sources said, adding that examination centers could be established in countries where the number of students intending to appear in the exams exceeded 100.

MDCAT examination is meant for students seeking to pursue MBBS and BDS degrees. For admission to the MBBS course, the students are required to get at least 55% marks in the MDCAT examination while the requirement for the BDS course is 45% marks.

Students who have passed FSC Pre-Medical with 60% marks are eligible to take the MDCAT exam. This year, the sources said that the MDCAT exam would be conducted in writing, on paper, instead of a computer, while the result would be uploaded on the PMC website on November 13.

Young man killed as police opened fire during aid distribution in Jaffarabad

Aziz Marri

A young man was killed when police allegedly opened fire in Balochistan's Jaffarabad district on Thursday evening. The young man identified as Naurez 25 was killed in the flood-hit district during aid distribution by an international charity organization.

"We have taken the policeman into custody after the incident", Abdul Hayee Baloch, the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Police Naseerabad told Daily Quetta Voice via telephone. He said the accused would be suspended and a case would also be registered against him.

"I want justice for my son", the father of the victim Wasand Khan Masthoi burst into tears. He said, "my son was innocent and police martyred him during relief goods distribution". The dead body of the victim was taken to the district headquarters hospital in Jaffarabad. A large number of people gathered in the hospital.

Security was also tightened in and outside the hospital as crowds started coming in the premises of the hospital.

Eyewitnesses said a crowd gathered in the cattle farm area of Jaffarabad during the relief goods distribution by an NGO. Police resorted to firing to disperse the public as the aid was limited and the number of affectees was more, they said.

Protesters block the road against the incident

The angry protesters blocked the road against the incident and demanded that the police to take action against the responsible policeman. DIG Police Abdul Hayee Baloch and other senior officials reached the spot to have negotiations with protesters.

The protesters chanted full-throated slogans against the police and government. "Your demands would be met and the accused would be punished", Abdul Hayee Baloch assured the protesters.



Women had also joined the protest demonstration. Long queues of vehicles were also witnessed on the road because of the blockade of the road.

Floods wreaked havoc in the Naseerabad division. Over half a million people have been homeless as a result of the flash floods unleashed by torrential rains.

Shehbaz Sharif wants 'climate justice' from rich polluting countries

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said Pakistan should not be forced to go out with a "begging bowl" to rich polluting nations after the floods that have devastated the country and said he would be seeking "climate justice" from the international community.

In an interview with The Guardian, Sharif warned that Pakistan is facing an unprecedented crisis of health, food security and internal displacement after the "apocalyptic" monsoons which put a third of Pakistan's regions under water. Some areas were hit by 1.7m of rainfall, the highest on record. Scientists have determined that the floods were due to climate breakdown. But with Pakistan responsible for 0.8% of global carbon emissions, Sharif said it was the "responsibility of the developed countries, who caused these emissions, to stand by us".

"I've never seen this kind of devastation, inundation and suffering of our people in my lifetime," said Sharif. "Millions have been displaced, they have become climate refugees within their own country." While the international community has given billions in funds and donations and commitments for further support, Sharif was clear it was "not enough". "The enormity of this climate-induced catastrophe is beyond our fiscal means," he said. "The gap between our needs and what is available is too wide and it is widening by the day." The official death toll from the floods is 1,600, though many estimates on the ground have been higher. More than nine million people have been displaced and over 2m homes destroyed, and millions of families have been forced to live in makeshift tents or shelters on roadsides. INP

BHC issues notice to AG Balochistan in AEOs merger in BSS BCS

Staff Reporter

QUETTA: The Balochistan High Court (BHC) issued notice to the Advocate General Balochistan in the Assistant Executive Officers (AOEs) merger in Balochistan Balochistan Secretariat Service (BSS) and Balochistan Civil Service (BCS) cadres.

A division bench of the BHC comprising Chief Justice Mr. Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Mr. Justice Muhammad Iqbal Kasi issued the notice. The bench issued the notice on an application filed by Shujaat Ali Khosa and Waqar Kakar.

The merger of AEOs was against the SC judgment: Petitioner
In the constitutional petition, they said the merger of the AEOs into the BSS and BCS cadres was against the judgment of the Supreme Court and illegal. This development has come after the Balochistan government issued a notification with regard to the merger of AEOs into BSS and BCS the other day.

In this petition, it is said that the Assistant Executive Officers were merged into Balochistan Civil Service and Balochistan Secretariat Service on April 3, 2008, under an order of the inter-



im government.

On which the Supreme Court on November 15, 2016, hearing the contempt of court case, ordered the Balochistan government to send the assistant executive officers back to their respective departments.

BHC already dismissed AEOs petition

On which the Balochistan government sent the AEOs back to their departments through a notification on 15 December 2016. This notification was challenged by the AEOs in the Balochistan High Court, which was dismissed by the Balochistan High Court.

The AEOs petition was also dismissed by the Supreme Court on 25th September 2017. Later, the Assistant Executive Officers filed another revision petition in the Supreme Court requesting that we be accommodated. And the rules should be adjusted accordingly. But the Balochistan government merged the Assistant Executive Officers (AEOs) into the Balochistan Civil Service and the Balochistan Secretariat Service through what the petitioners called an unconstitutional notification on 1st October 2022, contrary to the Supreme Court orders.

