

QUETTA VOICE

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Balochistan: 271 Dengue cases reported from Turbat in December



Flour crisis hits Balochistan per kg flour now at Rs.125

Normalcy returns to Gwadar after days of protests and clashes

Behram Baloch

Normalcy returned to Gwadar, Pakistan's port city after days of protests and clashes between police and protesters. Shopkeepers opened their shops in the main Gwadar Bazar on Monday. The Gwadar Rights Movement (GRM) activists have been protesting against the provincial government for the last more than two months against illegal fishing/trawling and unnecessary check posts.

Baton-wielding policemen were deployed in various parts of the port city to maintain order. A high-level meeting chaired by the Chief Secretary Balochistan, Abdul Aziz Uqaili expressed satisfaction over the return of normalcy in the port city. Deputy Commissioner Gwadar and other high-ups briefed the meeting about the law and order situation through a video link.

14 activists including a local journalist sent to jail

14 activists of the GRM including a local journalist Obaidullah were sent to jail. The DC Gwadar had arrested all 14 activists including the local journalist Obaidullah under the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO)-3. The Balochistan Union of Journalists (BUJ) has strongly condemned the arrest of



the local journalist and demanded his immediate release. "We are in contact with the government about the release of the journalist", the BUJ said in a statement.

Residents of Gwadar heaved a sigh of relief after the opening of shops, petrol pumps, and the restoration of mobile service. Gwadar port has also become operational and workers are engaged in loading and unloading of wheat trucks, an official handout issued on Tuesday

evening said. The internet service was yet to be restored.

The fisheries department launched action against the trawler mafia

Tourist activities in the Gwadar district were also restored and tourists started visiting the sea view, the handouts mentioned.

The Secretary Fisheries department briefed the meeting about the action against the elements involved in illegal fishing and trawling in the Arabian sea. He informed that all departments were making combined efforts

to arrest elements involved in illegal fishing and trawling in Gwadar.

The Chief Secretary directed the concerned officials to make sure the provision of clean drinking water to Gwadar and reduce the load shedding in the city. He said the government was committed to addressing the issues faced by the residents of Gwadar.

NSC meeting reiterates 'zero tolerance' against terrorism

The second round of the National Security Committee (NSC) meeting convened on Monday reiterated its resolve to have "zero tolerance" for

terrorist incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif emphasised that the war against



terrorism in the country, according to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). The moot — the principal decision-making forum on foreign policy and national security — was attended by senior civilian and military leaders with key matters of security and the economy on the agenda.

A press release issued by the PMO after the meeting's conclusion said the NSC reaffirmed its determination to take on "any and all entities that resort to violence", adding that any violence would be dealt with the "full force of the state". "Pakistan's security is uncompromisable and the full writ of the state will be maintained on every inch of Pakistan's territory," the press release reads.

It added that the committee was apprised of the country's security situation of the country with a particular focus on recent

terrorist will be led by federal and provincial governments as per the National Action Plan in accordance with the National Internal Security Policy with "people-centric socio-economic development" as the priority.

Meanwhile, the armed forces will provide "resolute deterrence and secure a conducive and enabling environment".

Provincial Apex Committees are being revived in full earnest and LEAs (law enforcement agencies), especially CTDs (counter terrorism departments), will be brought up to the required fighting standards with requisite capabilities.

"The forum concluded that no country will be allowed to provide sanctuaries and facilitation to terrorists and Pakistan reserves all rights in that respect to safeguard her people," the press release reads. Web Desk

Flour crisis hits Balochistan per kg flour now at Rs.125

Staff Reporter

QUETTA: Flour crisis hits Quetta and other parts of Balochistan as per kilogram of flour reaches Rs.125. Skyrocketing flour prices have compounded the problems of the down-trodden class and middle classes in the province. "What this government is doing, per kg directly jumped from Rs.115 to 125", Noor Muhammad, an aged citizen told Daily Quetta Voice.

Some shopkeepers are selling 20 kgs at Rs.2600 in Quetta city. "There is



no check and balance on increasing prices".

Badruddin Kakar, the central leader of the flour mills association Balochistan lamented. He said the food department stock of wheat was finished and that rulers were least bothered about the plight of customers.

The provincial government's plan to provide cheap flour is also failing to meet the requirement, the provincial government has announced to provide a bag of 20 kg at Rs 1470 but the government does not have enough flour. Citizens say that when some bags are sent to an area, they

have to go back disappointed after standing in long queues.

Eighteen flour mills in Quetta need 25 thousand bags of wheat per day, the mills are running out of stock of wheat and flour. The mill owners have blamed the government for the crisis and said that the government bought only two and a half lakh bags of wheat from Pasco, which fell short. Flour mill owners say that the government should immediately arrange 9 to 10 lakh sacks of wheat or the flour will disappear from the market.

Balochistan: 271 Dengue cases reported from Turbat in December

News Desk

Dengue virus is going out of control in Turbat as there were 271 cases reported in the month of December 2022. Scores of people were reported to be Dengue positive from the Teaching Hospital Turbat, while there are no facilities in the hospitals.

The local people claimed that it is a normal routine for the doctors to be absent even at 12 o'clock. Teaching Hospital is the largest hospital in Turbat but still, it is deprived of the basic facilities. "The sanitation system is poor in the hospital", an heir of a patient



stated. During and after the passage of floods, Balochistan reported 3389 dengue cases in four months. Most of the cases were reported from Balochistan's Mekran division, health sources told Daily Quetta Voice.

Measles outbreak in Dukki claims lives of 4 children hundreds infected

Hussain Zarkoon

DUKKI: Measles outbreak in Balochistan's Dukki has claimed the lives of four children and infected hundreds. The Medical Superintendent (MS) of Dukki hospital confirmed the death of four children as a result of the outbreak of measles. "The parents of children had refused vaccination for their children", Dr. Johar Shadozai, the MS of the hospital claimed. Some family members blamed the health department for its failure to provide timely vaccination to the children. "Teams came when our children died", Abdullah, one of the relatives of the four children who died because of the epidemic



claimed. Medical teams were sent to the Habib Qila and other affected areas of the district. So far, 242 children have been vacci-

nated and provided with medicines, Mr. Shadozai informed. He mentioned that an anti-measles campaign was also launched throughout the district to make sure vaccination of every child. However, Abdullah disagrees and said that officials came into action after the death of the children.

The lives of thousands of children across Balochistan are in danger because of the declining ratio of routine immunization. Children aged between 6 months to 15 years are the most affected, especially in those communities that do not believe in vaccination. Chronic refusals coupled with poor medical facilities in rural Balochistan are one of the underlying reasons behind the increasing deaths of children.

IHC reserves verdict on Swati's post-arrest bail in controversial tweet case

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday reserved the judgement on the post-arrest bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Azam Swati in the controversial tweet case.

IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq reserved the judgement after listening to the arguments. The special prosecutor did not appear in the court, Azam Swati's lawyer Babar Awan appeared in the court. Babar Awan told the court that Azam Swati's



son wanted to present his stance before the court. "My father had written a letter. I would like to read the letter with the

permission of the court," Azam Swati's son said. "The court will constitute a larger bench on this issue. We want to settle

this matter once and for all. The court normally does not see these types of letters," the IHC chief justice remarked.

"The court should look into this matter today," Babar Awan pleaded with the court. "It is not possible to constitute a larger bench today," the court replied. "I have requested Azam Swati's son to withdraw the letter," Babar Awan told the court. On the occasion, Deputy Attorney General Arshad Mehmoond Kayani informed the court. INP

Sacrifices of martyrs for eliminating terrorism to be remembered forever: President

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has said that sacrifices of martyrs to eliminate terrorism from the motherland would be remembered forever.

He stated this on Monday during telephonic conversation with the bereaved families of shaheed personnel of Pakistan army who embraced shahadat in different incidents.

President Arif Alvi paid tribute to shuhada

President Arif Alvi paid tribute to shuhada, expressed sympathies with the bereaved families and prayed for them to bear the losses with fortitude.

According to Press Secretariat of President Wind, he contacted father of Shaheed Sepoy Muhammad Wasim who embraced martyrdom in Janikhel area of Bannu on December 31.

His father expressed the resolve that he had three sons who were



ready to sacrifice themselves for the motherland.

The President lauded the sacrifice of Shaheed sepoy and the patriotism of his father.

President Alvi also contacted Muhammad Ashraf, brother of Shaheed Sobedar Shujja Hussain, who laid down his life in Kurram district on December 29.

Muhammad Ashraf apprised the president that his mother was proud of his son's sacrifice

Separately, the president also phoned Gohar Yaseen, brother of Shaheed Abdur Rehman who told him that they were ready to sacrifice their lives for Pakistan.

The president also expressed his condolence with the uncle of Shaheed Naik Muhammad Ramzan. INP

