

QUETTA VOICE

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Firing outside Session Court Quetta leaves 2 injured



President has nothing to do with poll dates: Sanaullah

No medicines in CENAR Cancer hospital Quetta despite official promises

Syed Ali Shah

No medicines were provided to the CENAR hospital established for cancer patients despite repeated assurances by the Balochistan government. "My patient is without medicines for the last week", Muhammad Anwar, a young attendant with an aged patient woman said. Anwar belongs to the Zhob district of Balochistan and his patient was gradually recovering.

I assure you the provision of medicines within the next 24 hours, Babar Yousafzai

Babar Yousafzai, the Coordinator to the Chief Minister present inside the hospital assured that the matter was already brought to the notice of the CM. "I assure you the provision of medicines within the next 24 hours", Mr. Yousafzai announced.

Medicines to CENAR hospital under the Balochistan government endowment fund remains stopped for the last two months. This has compounded the problems of the patients battling the dangerous disease. "We have no medicines in our stock", Dr. Feroz Khan Achakzai, one of the senior doctors said.

Over 100 patients approach the CENAR hospital for medical treatment on daily basis. "We treat the patients but they can't purchase the expensive



medicines", Dr. Achakzai lamented.

No awareness among the people about this fatal disease, Dr. Feroz

A crowd of patients encircled this scribe inside the hospital to narrate their ordeal. "My family sold out all assets and jewelry to save the life of our father", Abdul Hanan, another attendant with his father said. Most of the cancer patients approach this government-run hospital in the fourth stage i.e. dangerous stage. Dr. Feroz Achakzai informed. He said

there was no awareness among the people about this fatal disease. We can treat them well if they come in the initial stage, he mentioned.

A summary of the purchase of the medicine was lying in the finance department. Babar Yousafzai stated that he would make tooth-and-nail efforts to get the summary signed for the purchase of medicines.

There are also reports of non-availability of medicines in other government-run hospitals in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan. People have demanded of the government to direct the concerned quarters to ensure the availability of medicines in hospitals.

President Alvi unilaterally announces April 9 as Punjab, KP election date

President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday unilaterally announced April 9 as the date for holding general elections for the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assemblies, according to a press release issued by the President's Secretariat's Press Wing.

The elections are to take place in both provinces after previous PTI governments had dissolved their assemblies before the expiry of their five-year mandate term on the orders of party chairman Imran Khan.

Ministers criticise 'unconstitutional' move

The president's unilateral announcement of the election date came after his invitation for consultations on dates for elections was turned down by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

Quoting a letter sent by President Alvi to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikander Sultan Raja, the statement said the president had made the decision under Section 57(1) (notification of election programme) of the Elections Act, 2017 and was asking the CEC to issue the election programme under Section 57(2) of the same Act.

Saying he was "under oath to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution" under its Article 42 (oath of president), he defended his announcement by adding that there was "no impediment in invoking the power and authority vested in him" as there was "no restraining order from any of the judicial fora".

He said he had "felt it necessary to perform his constitutional and statutory duty to announce the date of elections to avoid the infringement and breach of the Constitution and law i.e. holding of elections not later than ninety days".

He also alleged that President Alvi was 'toeing his party's line'

President Alvi criticised Punjab Governor Balighur Rehman and KP Governor Haji Ghulam Ali for "not performing their constitutional duties for appointing a



date not later than ninety days from the date of dissolution" of the provincial assemblies.

He also lambasted the ECP for "not fulfilling its constitutional obligation for holding polls" of the assemblies concerned.

Referring to an Urdu proverb, "Pehlay aap. Nahi, pehlay aap" [You first. No, you first], he said that "both the constitutional offices are placing the ball in each other's court [...] thus, resulting in delay and creating a serious danger that constitutional provisions may be violated". President Alvi pointed out that the ECP had already indicated the possible dates for the elections in its various communications to the constitutional functionaries showing its own responsibility of holding the elections within ninety days.

Referring to the recent back-and-forth communications between the ECP and himself, he said he had initiated a "serious consultation process" with the ECP for the date announcement but the electoral body had replied that the commission "could not participate in a meeting on the subject matter" with the president.

Addressing the development during today's National Assembly session, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif indicated that Alvi violated the Constitution by announcing elections.

He said the president crossed his constitutional limits. "What the president has done is against the law and Constitution," Asif added. Web Desksssss

National Assembly passes finance bill to meet IMF conditions

The National Assembly (NA) on Monday passed the Finance (Supplementary) Bill, 2023, aimed to amend certain laws relating to taxes and duties to raise an additional Rs170 billion in the next four and half months to meet the last prior actions agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The government is in a race against time to implement the tax measures and reach an agreement with the IMF as the country's reserves have depleted to a critically low level of \$2.9bn, which experts believe is



enough for only 16 or 17 days of imports. The agreement with the IMF on the completion of the ninth review of a \$7bn loan programme would

not only lead to a disbursement of \$1.2bn but also unlock inflows from friendly countries. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar introduced the bill in

the NA on February 15, and the formal debate started on it after moving a motion by Commerce Minister Syed Naveed Qamar on Feb 17.

In his concluding speech in today's NA session, Dar said that the bill proposed to impose new taxes of Rs 170bn to minimise the fiscal deficit.

He said that his economic team had a "hectic routine" during the last 10 days and it held talks with the IMF to revive the programme, during which it agreed to take some "tough decisions" for streamlining the deteriorating condition of the economy.

Dar said the new revenue measures would not affect the poor segments of society as most of the new taxes were being imposed on luxury items not used by them. In order to help the poor cope with the rising inflation, he said the government had also proposed a Rs40bn increase in the budget of the Benazir Income Programme (BISP). He said the Senate Standing Committee on Finance had proposed some amendments related to federal excise duty on air tickets to different countries, which were adopted. Web Desk

Security high alert in Balochistan after Karachi attack: IG Police

From Our Correspondent

HUB: Inspector General of Police Balochistan, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh on Monday said security was beefed up in Balochistan after the Karachi terror attack. He expressed these views while speaking on the occasion of the inaugural ceremony of Saddar Thana. Additional Chief Secretary (Home), Zahid Saleem, and other senior officers were also present on the occasion.

Mr. Sheikh stated that the security of the police offices and other important offices has been increased following the terrorist attack at the Karachi police chief's office the other day. He said that 1000 policemen and officers sacrificed their lives for peace in Balochistan. A Karachi-style CPLC will be established in Balochistan, which will be centered in the Hub, and with the help of modern technology, law and order will be maintained throughout Balochistan. Regarding the smuggling of diesel and



Iranian petrol in the passenger buses, he said that the coach owners are strictly obliged not to keep Iranian oil in the passenger buses, otherwise any passenger bus found to be smuggling Iranian oil will be punished. Strict legal action will be taken against them. "I have told the police to take immediate action against those who smuggle in passenger buses", he said. In Balochistan, there have been accidents due to bringing oil in passenger buses and human lives have been lost. No one will be allowed to play with human lives, he warned.

President has nothing to do with poll dates: Sanaullah

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah has assailed President Dr Arif Alvi, saying the President should stay within the limits of the constitution, advising him to refrain from using the office as a base for blackmail.

In a tweet uploaded on Monday, the PML-N stalwart said that President has nothing to do with the election dates.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is not your slave to obey what you say, he said adding President cannot force the ECP to comply with illegal and unconstitutional orders.

According to the interior minister, Imran Khan has harmed the economy, international relations and national interests, and now he is using the position of the head of state for conspiracy.

Meanwhile, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting



Marriyum Aurangzeb said the ECP was being pressurized unconstitutionally to get a date of the elections.

In a statement on Monday, the minister said the Election Commission of Pakistan was a constitutional institu-

tion and no one would be allowed to transform it into Imran Khan's Tiger Force.

She urged that the office of the President should be loyal to the Constitution and any violation could invoke Article 6.

The minister said the office of the President did not allow favouring of any particular political party.

The minister alleged that President Arif Alvi had already violated the constitution by dissolving the National Assembly illegally last year.

According to the interpretation of the Supreme Court, the office of the President was symbolic, Marriyum Aurangzeb said and pointed that as per Supreme Court verdicts, any collusion with a political party was a violation of the office and oath of the President. INP

Firing outside Session Court Quetta leaves 2 injured

Staff Reporter:

Unknown accused opened fire outside the Session Court Quetta and injured two people on Monday morning.

Police sources said a policeman and a civilian sustained injuries in the attack. The injured were rushed to hospital for medical treatment. Police cemen deployed outside the court quickly retaliated and arrested the armed accused. Police reached the spot and started an investigation



into the incident. The incident happened despite tight security. Motive behind the attack could not be ascertained.

LHC grants Imran protective bail till March 3 in 'rioting, terror' case

The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday granted PTI chief Imran Khan protective bail until March 3 in a case related to PTI protesters' alleged rioting and clashes with Islamabad police in October in the aftermath of his disqualification by the Election Commission of Pakistan in the Toshakhana reference.

His plea for bail in another case — which was also registered in Islamabad and pertained to protests outside the office of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) — was disposed of after the ex-premier withdrew his petition.

The proceedings in both the petitions culminated only after the high court had to wait for



hours and set multiple deadlines for Imran to arrive. Once the PTI chief reached the court premises, a number of his supporters had gathered around him.

Earlier today, Imran had filed a plea seeking protective bail in the case registered at Islamabad's Sangiani police station, which also carries offence under Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act, through Advocate Azhar Siddique. On Thursday, the LHC had dismissed a similar petition due to non-prosecution.

In the petition, Imran urged the court to grant him 15-day protective bail so that he could approach the relevant court for pre-arrest bail. The petition was fixed for hearing. Web Desk

Three dead bodies recovered in Barkan Balochistan

Yousaf Marri Asif Khetran

BARKHAN: Levies force on Monday recovered three dead bodies from Balochistan's Barkhan district. Levies sources said the dead bodies were recovered from Haji Kot area of Barkhan. The dead bodies of two men and a woman were shifted to the district headquarters hospital in Barkhan. Levies reached the spot and started an investigation into the incident. The ages of the victims



are between 25 years to 30 years, Levies said. The motive behind the killings could not be ascertained immediately, Levies said.

