

# QUETTA VOICE

Editor :Asim khan

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dquettavoice@gmail.com

## 14 Soldiers Martyred In A Terrorist Attack In Pasni Gwadar: ISPR

**ISLAMABAD:** At least 14 soldiers were martyred in a terrorist attack in Balochistan's Gwadar district on Friday, the military's media wing said.

Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said 2 vehicles of security forces moving from Pasni to Ormara in Gwadar District, were ambushed by the terrorists.

14 soldiers embraced Shahadat in the unfortunate incident.

Sanitization operation is being carried out in the area and perpetrators of this heinous act will be hunted down & brought to justice, the ISPR said.

### Force Determined to Eliminate The Menace of Terrorism

The security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve, the statement issued by the military's media wing said.

Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Ali Mardan Domki strongly condemned the terrorist attack and vowed that the terrorists behind the attack would be brought

**Dawood Ahmed:**  
He paid rich tribute to the brave soldiers who laid down their lives to

justice. Mr. Jamali said security forces have rendered great sacrifices dur-



defend the motherland.

**Jamali, Bugti Condemn The Attack**  
Balochistan Caretaker Home Minister, Mir Zubair Jamali also condemned the terrorist incident and said that the terrorists behind the attack

would not be spared. Mr. Jamali said security forces have rendered great sacrifices during the fight against the menace of terrorism in the country. Caretaker Interior Minister, Sarfaraz Bugti also condemned the terrorist attack. In a statement issued after the attack, he said the government would not spare the terrorists behind this heinous crime and terrorism.

## Balochistan Unveils Health Card Initiative to Fulfill Longstanding Public Demand

Syed Ali Shah:

**QUETTA:** In a momentous ceremony held at the Chief Minister's Secretariat, Balochistan's Caretaker Chief Minister,



Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki, announced the initiation of a groundbreaking healthcare initiative.

The program, formally introduced as the "Balochistan Health Card," aims to provide free medical treatment facilities to all residents of the province.

### Health Card Handed Over To An Individual

During the launch, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki personally handed over the inaugural.

Health Card to a local citizen, symbolizing a significant step towards equitable healthcare access for all. Under this

initiative, every resident of Balochistan will receive free healthcare services without discrimination based on color or race.

The government has devised a comprehensive strategy to expand and improve the program, with the commitment to increase resources and rectify any deficiencies that may arise. The goal is to make the Health Card Program an exemplary model for healthcare accessibility.

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### Quality Health Services For Common Man

The ceremony witnessed the presence of key officials, including Provincial Minister of Health Dr. Amir Muhammad Jozizi, Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan, Secretary Health Abdullah Khan,

Chief Executive Officer of Health Card Program Assadullah Kakar, Head of Revenue Authority Noorul Haq Baloch, Chief Executive of State Life Insurance Shoaib Javed Hussain, and Director General for NADRA Azrak Khan.

Notable attendees at the ceremony included the caretaker provincial interior minister.

Mir Zubair Khan Jamali, provincial education minister Dr. For Minerals, Mir Umair Muhammad Hasan, IG Police Abdul Khalq Sheikh, and other senior officials.

The Balochistan Health Card Program is poised to be a transformative endeavor that upholds the values of equality, dignity, and access to quality healthcare services for all citizens of Balochistan.

## 'God willing, elections will be held on Feb 8,' CJP Isa says after ECP submits poll date notification to SC

**ISLAMABAD:** A day after it agreed to hold general elections in the country on February 8, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday submitted a notification in the Supreme Court pertaining to the poll date — which has been "set in stone".

... the Election Commission of Pakistan in exercise of its powers under Article 57(1) of the Elections Act and all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby announces February 8, 2024, as poll date for the general elections," the notification, a copy of which is available to Dawn.com, reads.

After months of anticipation and uncertainty, the electoral body and President Dr Arif Alvi agreed on the date for elections yesterday. The development came after Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja visited the Presidency on orders of the apex court, which had taken up pleas regarding elections.

During the hearing, the ECP had proposed Feb 11 as the date for polls but it was asked by the SC to approach the president for consultations. It had also instructed the commission to settle the matter of appointing the election date and inform the court.

Today, Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan submitted the electoral body's election notification — dated Nov 3 court — to the



three-member bench comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan.

Subsequently, Justice Isa dictated the order of the proceedings. He pointed out that in the letter written to the ECP

on September 13, President Alvi had advised the commission to take guidance from the judiciary regarding polls.

"According to the law and Constitution, the Supreme Court has no role in setting a date for election," the CJP said, adding that it was surprising that the president had suggested taking guidance from the matter from the court.

"The president could have taken guidance from Article 186 of the Constitution," he continued. **NEWS DESK**

## Over 50,000 Afghan refugees Volunta?rily Repatriated Via Chaman Border

Sardar Muhammad Khondai:

**CHAMAN:** So far over 50,000 Afghan refugees have entered their country via the Pak-Afghan border Chaman.

tion Minister also informed that so far the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) has blocked



After living for decades in Pakistan, finally, the Afghan refugees from Punjab and Sindh provinces continue to arrive at the border to leave for their country.

The Balochistan government has established six holding centers for illegal immigrants to facilitate their repatriation to Afghanistan.

### Every Day, Over 5,000 Leaving For Afghanistan

Addressing a press conference on Friday, the Balochistan Caretaker Information Minister.

Jan Achakzai endorsed the figures and informed that the number of Afghan refugees voluntarily leaving Pakistan gradually grows. Commissioner Quetta Division, Hamza Shafqaat was also present on the occasion. On a daily basis, more than 5,000 Afghan nationals are leaving for their country via the Pak-Afghan border Chaman.

The administration has taken strict security measures to ensure peace on the eve of the return of the refugees.

### NADRA Blocks 1,00,000 NICs in Balochistan

The Balochistan Caretaker Informa-

1,00,000 national identity cards in the province.

He said most of the NICs were blocked in the Killa Abdullah, Chaman and Pishin districts of the province.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Quetta Division, Hamza Shafqaat informed that the administration was also facilitating the Afghan refugees coming from Karachi and other parts of the country. He said the police have also allowed over 500 illegal immigrants within the last two days.

### Govt Launches Country-wide Crackdown Against Illegal Immigrants

The Pakistan government has launched a country-wide crackdown against all illegal immigrants from November 1st after the expiry of one month's deadline.

"The crackdown is not against a specific community".

Mr. Achakzai reiterated, He said no specific area or community was being spared by the police and other law enforcers.

This is a principled decision of the government to send all illegal immigrants to their home countries, he mentioned.

## Dar says demand for elections within 90-day limit 'unconstitutional' after census approval

**ISLAMABAD:** PML-N Senator Ishaq Dar on Friday asserted that the demand for holding general elections

previous government for impending polls. However, Dar — who served as the finance minister during the tenure of the



within 90 days of the National Assembly's dissolution was "unconstitutional" after the approval of the census.

His remarks come a day after President Dr Arif Alvi and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) reached an agreement on holding polls across the country on February 8, 2024 — a date that exceeds the constitutional timeframe of 90 days by two months — after the top court issued directives.

Since the National Assembly was dissolved three days before the end of its constitutional term, Article 224 of the Constitution mandates that elections be held within 90 days of the dissolution of the assembly (by November 7).

But at the same time, Section 17(2) of the Elections Act states that "the commission shall delimit constituencies after every census is officially published". The Council of Common Interests (CCI) had approved the results of the 2023 digital census on August 5.

The ECP had earlier ruled out polls this year citing the need for fresh delimitation of constituencies. In September, it had announced that elections would be held in January 2024 but had stopped short of giving a date.

A discussion was held on the date for the general elections during today's Senate session which saw PTI Senator Shahzad Waseem insisting that elections should have been held within 90 days as per the Constitution and criticising the

previous Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government — acknowledged the Constitution stated that polls should be held within the 90-day timeframe but also said that "other articles also need to be considered".

"The PML-N leaders said that the CCI had approved the census results with consensus in August and said that this fact also needed to be kept in mind.

"It is unconstitutional to demand elections within 90 days when we consider that this constitutional body [CCI] representing the federation and provinces had approved the census.

"Once the CCI finalised the census and approved it, then the Constitution is clear that the ECP has no choice but to conduct delimitation." The PML-N leader said. Dar went on to say he would not go into the details of "how, where and when" delimitation was conducted, noting that each party had its own issues with the process. The former finance minister then went on to highlight that conducting elections was also linked with funding and budgetary issues. He said he had negotiated with the ECP to bring down the amount of funds needed for polls while the country was facing a liquidity crunch during ongoing talks with the International Monetary Fund. Dar went on to say that a "special issue" arose regarding elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa after the provincial assemblies were dissolved. **NEWS DESK**