

QUETTA VOICE

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Thursday, October 03, 2024.

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Misplaced Priorities In Balochistan

As these dedicated educators protest, the Balochistan government has inexplicably allocated Rs. 5 billion for the construction of a new provincial assembly

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: The ongoing hunger strike by professors and lecturers from the University of Balochistan and BULETMs outside the Quetta Press Club is a sobering reflection of the government's misplaced priorities. As these dedicated educators protest unpaid salaries and rampant corruption within their institutions, the Balochistan government has inexplicably allocated Rs. 5 billion for the construction of a new provincial assembly. This stark contrast raises fundamental questions about the government's commitment to education and the welfare of its citizens. Education is the backbone of any society, and the deteriorating conditions in Balochistan's universities signal a growing crisis. Faculty members, led by esteemed professors such as Kaleemullah Bareeh, Fareed Achakzai, and Hasrat Hussain Shah, are fighting not just for their livelihoods but for the future of education in the province. Months without salaries have left these educators struggling to support their families, while institutional corruption further cripples the academic environment. Yet, the government's response has been indifferent at best, neglecting the very people responsible for shaping the next generation of leaders.



Professor Bareeh's poignant statement, "We have not received our salaries for months. How are we supposed to sustain our families and continue our work under such conditions?" echoes the frustrations of many across the province. Meanwhile, Professor Achakzai's allegations of corruption

within the universities, where funds intended for academic development are being siphoned off, only add to the sense of injustice. These are not minor grievances; they are symptomatic of a failing system that urgently needs reform. Yet, instead of addressing these pressing concerns, the govern-

ment has chosen to funnel an astonishing Rs. 5 billion into constructing a new assembly building. While the need for infrastructure in governance is understandable, it pales in comparison to the immediate and critical needs of the education sector. What message does it send to the people of

Balochistan when their educators must resort to hunger strikes to receive what is rightfully theirs, while such vast sums are spent on a building that, in all likelihood, will benefit only a few? Professor Hasrat's concerns about the impact on students should be a wake-up call for the

authorities. The students of Balochistan are the ones who will ultimately pay the price for the government's neglect. With teachers protesting on the streets and administrative failures plaguing the universities, how can we expect students to receive a quality education? The long-term damage to Balochistan's higher education system will be profound if these issues are not addressed swiftly. The government must rethink its priorities. Rather than pouring billions into grand construction projects, it should focus on resolving the immediate crises facing the education sector. This means paying the salaries owed to the professors and lecturers, launching investigations into the corruption allegations, and ensuring that funds meant for academic development are used for their intended purposes. If the government continues down this path, it risks not only alienating the academic community but also undermining the future of the province itself. The education of Balochistan's youth should never be compromised for the sake of political monuments. It is time for the government to act decisively, meet the demands of the protesting faculty members, and invest in the future of education in Balochistan. Anything less is a betrayal of the province's students and educators.

Police Van Attack Leaves 2 Dead 3 Policemen Injured In Dera Murad Jamali

Ayub Bhutto:

Dera Murad Jamali: At least two people were killed and three others injured when armed assailants opened fire at a police prisoners' vehicle in the Dera Murad Jamali area of Balochistan on Wednesday. The primary target of the attack was prisoner Nazir Muhammad Hijwani. During the assault, a police head constable, Habib ur Rehman, was among the injured. He later succumbed to his injuries at a local hospital, raising the death toll to two. Three policemen were also wounded in the ambush. Following the incident, relatives and co-tribesmen of Hijwani blocked the main Sindh-Balochistan highway, demanding the immediate arrest of the attackers. The protest led to long queues of vehicles on both sides of the highway, causing significant traffic disruptions.



Police acted swiftly and arrested one of the attackers. Raids are ongoing to apprehend the remaining assailants involved in the attack. Authorities have increased security across the city to prevent further incidents. Head Constable Habib ur

Rehman's funeral prayer was held at the Dera Murad Jamali police line, attended by fellow officers and family members. The protesters chanted slogans during the demonstration, calling for justice and swift action against the perpetrators.

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Nasar Leads Life-Saving Surgery for Musakhail Girl

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: Following the directives of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti and Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar, a young girl from Musakhail was successfully operated on at the Children's Hospital, Quetta. The case garnered attention after a social media post about her condition went viral, prompting immediate government intervention. The girl, suffering from a rare condition known as Sacroco-cygeal Teratoma (SCT), was admitted to the hospital where her treatment began. Today, after a two-and-a-half-hour surgery led by Professor Ghulam Nabi Nasir, Head of Pediatric Surgery at Children's Hospital Quetta, the tumor weighing 5 kg was successfully removed. SCT is a rare congenital tumor that develops near the tailbone and affects approx-



mately one in 35,000 newborns. Prior to receiving help, the girl's parents had sought treatment in Punjab but were unable to afford the surgery. The Balochistan government, responding quickly to the viral appeal, contacted the family and ensured her admission and treatment at the Quetta hospital. The girl's parents expressed

their deep gratitude to Chief Minister Bugti, Health Minister Kakar, and Prof. Ghulam Nabi Nasir for their swift action and life-saving intervention. Prof. Nasir highlighted the vital role the Pediatric Surgery Department plays in delivering quality healthcare and saving lives, particularly in complex cases like this.

Bilawal affirms commitment to constitutional amendments ahead of Oct 25 deadline

NEWS DESK: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has reiterated his commitment to completing the constitutional amendments, stating that if they are finalised before October 25, the matter can be resolved peacefully. In a session with reporters in Islamabad on Wednesday, Bilawal was asked about his stance on former prime minister Imran Khan's military trial. He replied, "We need to assess the evidence first; after all, we have the authority to grant a presidential pardon." He maintained that the PPP stands against the death penalty. When questioned about the proposed constitutional amendments and their deadline, he stated, "If the amendments are made before October 25, the matter can be settled peacefully. While they can be done later, it may lead to confrontational situations." He further asserted that the PPP would not abandon the matter concerning the constitutional court, vowing to see it through to completion. "We have already



faced significant delays; our demands date back to 2006 and are part of our manifesto," he added. Bilawal also criticised the judiciary's timing regarding certain actions, questioning why the timing of the injunction on reserved seats was not being scrutinised. He pointed out that the judiciary's four-page clarification issued on September 14, the day of a parliamentary session, raised questions about the judicial timing. He mentioned that the head

of the constitutional court would serve a three-year term and expressed his opposition to the establishment of military courts, emphasising that the justification for the federal constitutional court lies in the Supreme Court's historical precedents. On the Karachi unrest case, which has been ongoing since 2011, Bilawal noted that the judiciary had affected the local government system under the pretext of this case.

IHC to Hear Petition Against SZABMU MDCAT Results

Syed Muhammad Yaseen:



ISLAMABAD: Medical Aspirants Challenge MDCAT Results. Hundreds of medical aspirants in Islamabad have filed a petition in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) against the results of the Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University (SZABMU) MDCAT 2024. The petitioners allege irregularities and in-

justices in the MDCAT keys, claiming that some questions were out of syllabus and misleading. Despite SZABMU's promise to award grace marks for any errors in the keys, the official results released did not include any such marks, sparking outrage and frustration among the aspirants. IHC to hear MDCAT case

on October 3rd. The IHC has scheduled a hearing for the petition on Thursday, October 3rd. Medical aspirants hope that the court will deliver a fair and just decision regarding their future, ensuring that their hard work and efforts are not undermined by unfair practices.

New generation

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At war with itself

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PTI rally not allowed owing to terrorism concern, SHC informed

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45 dead after two migrant boats sink off Djibouti

DJIBOUTI (INP): At least 45 people died and "many" others were missing after two migrant boats sank off the coast of Djibouti, the UN's migration agency said Tuesday.

Djibouti's coastguard said the tragedy struck some 150 metres off a beach near the northwest Khor Angar region.

It said a joint rescue effort was under way, which began in the "early hours" of Monday, supported by the French navy. It put the number of survivors rescued at 115.

It was the second fatal maritime accident in two weeks off Djibouti, highlighting a sharp increase in the number of people returning from Yemen to the Horn of Africa nation.



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of Malaysia, Mohamad Hasan, has arrived in Islamabad. He was received by Additional Foreign Secretary (Asia Pacific) Imran Ahmed Siddiqui at the Islamabad Airport.

Iran says attack on Israel is over as fears grow of wider conflict

TEHRAN (INP): Iran said early on Wednesday that its missile attack on Israel was over, barring further provocation, while Israel and the US promised to retaliate against Tehran as fears of a wider war intensified.

Iran described the campaign as defensive and solely aimed at Israeli military facilities. Iran's state news agency said three Israeli military bases had been targeted.

for the first time, and 90% of its missiles successfully hit their targets in Israel, the Revolutionary Guards said.

Tuesday's airstrikes by Iran were about twice the size of April's assault. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned what he called "escalation after escalation", saying: "This must stop. We absolutely need a ceasefire."

Washington said it would work with long-time ally Israel to make sure Iran faced "severe consequences" for Tuesday's attack, which Israel said involved more than 180 ballistic missiles.

The United Nations Security Council scheduled a meeting about the Middle East for Wednesday, and the European Union called for an immediate cessation of escalation. "Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to hit back."

U.S. President Joe Biden expressed full U.S. support for Israel and described Iran's attack as "ineffective." Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic candidate for U.S. president, said Iran would not hesitate to defend its interests against Iran.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell also called for an immediate regional ceasefire. "The dangerous cycle of attacks and retaliation risks... spiralling out of control", he posted on X. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer spoke with the leaders of Germany and France, and agreed on a need for restraint from all sides.

Large plumes of smoke were seen rising from parts of the suburbs. Israel issued new evacuation orders for the area, which have largely emptied after days of heavy strikes.

Iran's attack marked it biggest ever military blow against Israel. Sirens sounded across the country and explosions rattled Jerusalem and the Jordan River valley as the entire population was told to move into bomb shelters.

Iran's forces on Tuesday used hypersonic Fattah missiles against Israel. The Pentagon said

Nearly 1,900 people have been killed and more than 9,000 wounded in Lebanon in almost a year of cross-border fighting, most in the past two weeks, according to Lebanese government statistics on Tuesday.



ISLAMABAD: Ahead of the Mid-October Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit, a high-level review meeting on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects was convened under the chairmanship of Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal.

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Pentagon chief tells Israel: US 'well-postured' against Iran

WASHINGTON (INP): US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin spoke to his Israeli counterpart late on Tuesday, hours after Iran's missile attack on Israel, following Israel's military campaign in Lebanon, and said Washington was "well-postured" to defend its interests in the Middle East.

Earlier in the day, Iran fired ballistic missiles at Israel in retaliation for Israel's military campaign in Lebanon that has killed hundreds and displaced over a million people.

Iran said its missile attack on Israel was over, barring further provocation. No injuries were reported in Israel and Washington called Iran's attack ineffective. Israel and the US have promised to retaliate against Tehran as fears of a wider war intensified.

The Secretary (Austin) reaffirmed that the United States remains well postured to defend US personnel, allies, and partners in the face of threats from Iran and Iran-backed terrorist organizations, "the Pentagon said in a statement after Austin's call with Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant."



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khursid Alam chairs a high-level meeting on the Country Programme Framework 2024-28 with the Global Green Growth Initiative held in the Mo Climate Change & Environmental Coordination.

Two-member gang of street criminals busted, arms, looted cash recovered

RAWALPINDI (INP): The police busted a two-member gang of street criminals and recovered weapons and looted cash of Rs130,000 from their possession.

According to details, the Suddar Wah Police launched a crackdown against the anti-state elements.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER. The Executive Engineer Provincial GIS District Jhal Magsi, under the District Engineer on the Corporate Structure of Forest, from interested Firm / Contractors of the following works:

EXTENSION/CORRIDORUM. Advertisement to Extension Published in Daily National News. Link: AB No. 336 dated 25-9-2024 with reference: TSE No. 2429862703 updated on IPPRA Website for the Development work 'Construction of Ahmed Wali Qureshi to Albal Road (Phase-1) (Package-6) from RD 16-000 to 32-00000 on the last case of Extension Data is extended to 10-10-2024 (11:00AM) and opening 19-10-2024 (12:00PM) from 10-10-2024. The sealed CDD copy to be submitted only CDD AND CDM (if) remains ineligibility. Other terms and conditions will remain the same.

ID CARD LOST. My Afghan Citizen Identity card was lost in the Jhal-e-Noor area of Quetta on date 30th of August 2024. If found, please contact me at (03198311884). Following are the details of ID card: Named Rahmat Ullah, Father Nadir Khan. Identity No: 3134510416. Province: Kandahar. District: Maywand.

Perimetric Security System comes in action at Gwadar Port, 675 cameras installed

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a major development, the Perimetric Security System (PSS), with the installation of 675 high-tech security cameras, has been put into full operation in the jurisdiction of the Gwadar Port area.

With this significant move, the Perimetric Security System, costing Rs 22.350 million, has instilled a sense of heightened security coverage for Gwadar Port, allied infrastructures, buildings of Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), Gwadar Free Zone South, and Gwadar Free Zone North.

According to a Gwadar Pro's report, the PSS is a built-in multipurpose system that detects threats, performs surveillance, and analyzes attack patterns, installed with the objective of ensuring a safe and

secure environment in Gwadar Port and the adjoining Free Zone.

Chairman GPA Passand Khan said that after the installation of the modern security system, the entry and exit of goods and services have been facilitated.

MPA Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman Baloch appreciated this noble initiative and further invited domestic and foreign investors to invest in Gwadar, applauding the efforts of the port operator in ensuring the security of Gwadar Port.

Jahangir Sabir, a local travel agent in Gwadar, said that the security system is the need of the hour, keeping in view Gwadar's economic output. "The PSS is an insurance policy for upcoming development, the tourism industry, ho-

tel industry, recreational sites, and large shopping plazas," he added.

Meanwhile, the Government of Balochistan is also working on the Gwadar Safe City Project.

Phase I of the project has seen substantial progress with the establishment of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and the submission of technical and financial feasibility reports, in compliance with the Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan 2025.

With an estimated cost of Rs 3,325.6 million, the Gwadar Safe City Project is being executed by the Ministry of Homes and Tribal Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Science and Technology under the Government of Balochistan.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan, and Minister for Industries Rana Faheem standing for group photo after MOI.

Students, young professionals need to capitalize digital age opportunities: Asif Aziz

ISLAMABAD (INP): President of Enterprise Solutions at Jazz, Asif Aziz has said that the students and young professionals need to capitalize on the vast opportunities presented by the digital age.

Addressing the 'Career Launchpad' event at NUST, themed,

"From Classroom to Career," he encouraged the country's next generation to embrace change, continuously evolve, and carve their paths to success.

Asif Aziz emphasized that transitioning from academia to the professional world is more than merely applying classroom knowledge.

"This transition is your opportunity to shape not only your careers but the future itself," Asif said, reminding

graduates that they stand at the forefront of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, where technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), automation, and machine learning are revolutionizing industries and opening new avenues.

Highlighting the importance of agility, continuous learning, and maintaining a purpose-driven mindset, he said, "AI Jazz, we view AI not as Artificial Intelligence, but as Augmented Intelligence—a tool to amplify human potential."

Asif Aziz encouraged the audience to boldly embrace these technologies, cautioning that in a world driven by innovation, standing still means falling behind.

Showcasing Jazz's evolution from a telecom giant to a

cutting-edge digital ServiceCo, he demonstrated how organizations, like individuals, must evolve to remain relevant.

He praised the Career Launchpad initiative as a crucial platform that bridges the gap between education and real-world careers, equipping Pakistan's youth with essential skills for today's job market.

He concluded his address with a call to align careers with purpose. "At Jazz, our mission is to improve lives, particularly for Pakistan's youth and women.

I urge you to pursue a career that not only challenges you but also contributes to the greater good of society," he said, inspiring students to build networks, embrace challenges, and lead with vision and compassion.

Pakistan 'decides' against taking loan from commercial bank at 11% interest rate

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has 'decided' against taking loans from commercial bank at higher interest rate, sources said Wednesday.

As per sources, the finance ministry has decided not to proceed with borrowing from a commercial bank at an 11% interest rate. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reportedly directed the finance minister to avoid taking expensive loans.

Although an agreement had been made with commercial banks for a loan at 11% interest, the government has now decided not to take the funds. In case of a financing

gap, loans will be sought from other sources at lower interest rates, the sources aware about the development said.

They further say Pakistan may secure up to \$700 million in loans

from the International Trade Finance Corporation and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB).

Additionally, \$1 billion more is expected from the IMF during the current fiscal year, with a further \$2 billion to follow next year.

The IMF is expected to disburse another \$2 billion to Pakistan by fiscal year 2027, with the final \$1 billion install-

ment arriving in the 37th month of the program.

The first economic review under the Extended Fund Facility will take place in March.

This move by the government may violate the commercial bank loan agreement, potentially complicating future loan requests.

Pakistan has availed 25 IMF programmes since becoming a member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 1950.

The most recent programme is a 37-month Extended Fund Facility (EFF) approved in September 2024.



QUETTA: Islamabad: Federal Minister for Interior Molsin Naqvi chairing a meeting regarding preparation of SCO Summit.



ISLAMABAD: Renowned Islamic School Dr. Zakir Naik calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

President directs PCCA to appoint son of deceased employee

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari has directed the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) to ensure appointment of son of a deceased employee in accordance with the law within a month.

Complainant Faheem Ahmed had lodged a complaint against the PCAA for his non-appointment against the "deceased employees" quota, said a President House press release.

The complainant stated that his father was an employee of PCAA, who had died in the year 1999 during service due to cancer.

As he was a minor at the time, he could not apply for appointment against the "deceased employees" quota. He said that when he applied for a job, his request was turned down without any justification.

He approached PCAA for the redressal of his grievance but to no avail.

Feeling aggrieved, he approached the Wafaqi Mohtasib

for the resolution of his complaint.

The Mohtasib decided that the complainant had failed to make out any case of maladministration against PCAA as the Family Assistance Package was not applicable at the time of his application.

The complainant then filed a representation with the president against the orders of the Mohtasib.

President Asif Zardari in his decision observed that the complainant's father expired in 1999 during service and at that time the petitioner was only six years of age.

He noted that the petitioner applied for appointment, after coming of age, under the policy of 2005, according to which the son of a deceased employee was to be considered for appointment against the "deceased employees" quota. He said that when he applied for a job, his request was turned down without any justification.

He rejected the claim of PCAA that it adopted the Family Assistance Package Policy in

2005 and that the provisions of the said package did not merit consideration due to the factual and legal position in the instant case.

The president pointed out that the contention of the Civil Aviation Authority was not legally correct in the circumstances of the present case as the petitioner attained the age of maturity after the introduction of the policy as he was not eligible to be appointed prior to the introduction of the policy.

He held that this was the case of prospective application of the policy and not retrospective application of the policy. The president also placed reliance on the judgment of the Supreme Court of Pakistan in Civil Appeal number 410/2020 dated 02-06-2021.

Therefore, President Zardari accepted the representation of the complainant and asked the Civil Aviation Authority to process his application for appointment in accordance with the law within one month.

PIMS, other hospitals to be 'handed over' to Islamabad administration

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government has decided to hand over administrative control of several hospitals in Islamabad to the district administration, sources said on Wednesday.

The sources further said the hospitals include Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Federal General Hospital,

National Rehabilitation Center, and Poly Clinic.

Sources revealed that the District Health Office, basic, and rural health centers will also be handed over to the district administration.

The transfer of administra-

tive control is expected to take place within a year.

A plan for the transfer of administrative control is being prepared by the Ministry of Health and the Islamabad administration.

This move is aimed at improving the healthcare services in the capital city, sources added.

Earlier, sources revealed that the Ministry of Health is preparing to outsource the diagnostic lab of the country's largest government hospital, Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS).

Sources close to the develop-

ment disclosed that preparations underway to initiate the process of running PIMS under a Public-Private Partnership model, with planned that the hospital be outsourced in a "phase-wise" manner.

In the initial phase, it is reported that the Department of Radiology and Laboratory Services at PIMS will be outsourced, meanwhile, in the second phase, additional sectors of PIMS are slated for privatization, sources said.

Meanwhile, in the third phase, sources suggested that a decision regarding the utilization of PIMS' substantial land assets, valued at trillions, is anticipated.



Islamabad: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan in a meeting with the Ambassador of Ethiopia, Jamal Bakar Abdullah.

PTI rally not allowed owing to terrorism concern, SHC informed

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Wednesday directed Karachi-East DC to decide on the PTI's request for public meeting in Bagh-e-Jinnah by October 7.

The PTI has filed a petition in the high court after the party's request for public meeting was denied by the district administration.

"Why the PTI is not being given permission for public meeting and matter being kept in pending," Justice Yousaf Ali Sayeed questioned.

"Public meeting not being allowed after security clearance not issued," DC East district said. "Who is not issuing security clearance," Justice Sayeed asked.

"The intelligence reports

fear terrorism threat during the public meeting," deputy commissioner said.

"The bench had asked in previous hearing for intelligence reports' and minutes of meeting," Justice Sayeed said.

SSP East said that the intelligence agencies and district administration in a meeting considered various issues. Because of security concerns public meeting could not be allowed to go ahead," SSP further said.

Court said that the applicant can be issued permission for the event at an alternate venue. "PTI intends to spread anarchy thus it could not be given security clearance," Justice Sayeed asked. "The intelligence reports

"Don't talk in this manner, otherwise a Pandora's Box will be opened," Justice Yousaf Sayeed told the lawyer. "Issue permission for the rally, institutions can take action if someone takes law in hand," the bench said.

"The PTI could not be allowed to hold rally at any place in Karachi," deputy commissioner said.

"Where are the minutes of meeting which points out the security threat," Justice Sayeed asked.

Barrister Ali Tahir informed the court that the PTI intends to organize its public meeting in Karachi on October 1. The court summoned the SSP East and DC East on Oct. 7.