

# QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

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## Holy Quran Education Made Compulsory in Balochistan Schools: Raheela Durrani

Education Desk:

QUETTA: The Balochistan government has initiated practical measures to implement compulsory Holy Quran education up to the 12th grade across the province. This decision, approved by the provincial cabinet, mandates the inclusion of Quranic studies in the curriculum of all public and private schools.

Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, while speaking to media, stated that a dedicated class will be introduced in both government and private schools and colleges for religious education. The objective of this initiative is to promote Islamic values and familiarize students with the teachings of Islam.

"In the first phase, students from grades 1 to 5 will be taught Nazira e Quran (recitation), while those in grades 6 to 12 will study the Quran with translation and interpretation (Tafseer)," she explained.

The minister emphasized that



schools have been instructed to implement this decision immediately to ensure compliance with

the government's directives. This initiative is part of Balochistan's broader educational

reforms, aimed at integrating religious education into mainstream academics.

## UoB Launches Shajar Kari Season 2025: VC Dr. Zahoor Bazai Leads Tree Plantation Drive

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: The University of Balochistan (UoB) officially kicked off its Shajar Kari Season 2025, with Vice Chancellor Dr. Zahoor Ahmed Bazai planting the first tree at the Botanical Garden in Quetta. The initiative aims to promote environmental sustainability and create a greener campus.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Zahoor Bazai highlighted the critical role of trees in combating climate change, improving air quality, and enhancing soil fertility. "Trees are essential for life. They not only purify the air but also maintain ecological balance. It is our collective responsibility to protect

and expand green spaces," he stated.

The plantation drive will continue throughout the year, involving various university departments, ensuring a sustained effort toward environmental improvement. The university administration has urged students and faculty to actively participate in the campaign.

With climate change posing a growing threat, initiatives like Shajar Kari Season are crucial in fostering environmental awareness and responsibility among youth. UoB's commitment to a greener future sets a strong example for other institutions in Balochistan.



## Bajaur Students Held Press Conference Against Bogus Domicile Holders Taking Medical Seats

Syed Muhammad Yaseen:

BAJAUR: Students from Bajaur, an ex-FATA district, have raised serious concerns over medical seats being unfairly allocated to candidates with fraudulent domiciles. In a press conference, student representatives alleged that individuals from other parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and beyond are obtaining fake domiciles to claim seats meant for local students.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Rahat Veer, a student representative, emphasized the need for transparency in seat allocation. "We demand that admissions be strictly based on merit and granted only to candidates possessing a valid Family Registration Certificate (FRC) from our district," he stated.

Another student, Farhan, expressed frustration over the growing trend of outsiders taking advantage of the system.

"It has become a routine practice for students from other regions to forge domiciles and deprive Bajaur's deserving students of their rightful opportunities," he said.

The students urged the government and relevant authorities



to take immediate action against this malpractice, ensuring that only eligible candidates from Bajaur secure medical seats.

They also called for strict verification processes to prevent further exploitation of the system.

The issue of fake domiciles affecting educational opportunities in ex-FATA districts, includ-

ing Bajaur, has been a longstanding concern. Students and local activists argue that unless stringent policies are implemented, talented minds from these regions will continue to suffer.

This controversy highlights the urgent need for a fair and transparent admission process, pro-

tecting the rights of local students and upholding merit-based selection.

The students vowed to continue their protests until their demands are met.

The author is MBBS student and founder of Students Nexus by SMY, an online educational and career counseling platform.

## Quetta: National Party Criticizes Government Policies in Central Committee Meeting

QUETTA: The National Party's Central Committee convened at Muhammad Shahi House, Quetta, under the leadership of Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch. During his address, Dr. Baloch expressed deep concerns over the worsening situation in Balochistan, attributing it to government negligence, road blockades, and enforced disappearances. He emphasized that flawed policies continue to fuel instability in the province.

industry, accusing authorities of allowing extortion mafias to exploit coastal resources. He also lamented that while the world progresses, Balochistan remains deprived of fundamental services.

Dr. Baloch pointed out the growing political and institutional conflicts, warning that interference from powerful circles is deepening instability. He stressed that all institutions must function within their constitutional limits rather than engaging in power



Dr. Baloch highlighted that the National Party is actively fulfilling its oppositional role in the Senate and National Assembly, raising concerns over federal policies that, instead of resolving issues, have intensified the crisis. He warned that relying on force rather than governance will further deteriorate the situation.

Speaking on economic hardships, he criticized the closure of border trade, which has affected livelihoods, and condemned the destruction of the local fishing

struggles. He further alleged that major political parties have compromised on their principles, allowing electoral manipulation for financial gains. He claimed that even government transfers and postings are being auctioned off. Concluding his address, Dr. Baloch praised the National Party's National Congress, which, according to him, has received widespread recognition from democratic circles across the country.

## Bolan Medical Complex Faces Rs. 4.45 Billion Financial Irregularities Over Five Years

Health Desk:

QUETTA: A special audit by the Auditor General of Pakistan has uncovered financial irregularities exceeding Rs. 4.45 billion at Bolan Medical Complex Hospital (BMC), Quetta, over five fiscal years from 2017-18 to 2021-22. The audit report highlights mismanagement in procurement, contracts, taxation, and financial records. The hospital spent Rs. 35.1 million on overpriced anti-rabies vaccines.

Key Findings of the Audit Report

- Unaccounted Expenses: The hospital failed to provide records for expenditures worth Rs. 382.2 million.

- User Charges Discrepancy: Over Rs. 50 million in user charges were not deposited into the government treasury.

- Rental Revenue Loss: More than Rs. 16.2 million in rental income from hospital premises was not collected.

- X-ray Revenue Mismanagement: An amount of Rs. 8.89 million from X-ray fees was underreported.

- Tax Irregularities: The hospital failed to deduct Rs. 5.5 million in Balochistan Sales Tax on Services.

- Scholarship and Honorarium Violations: Financial mismanagement exceeding Rs. 1.16 billion was reported in payments to post-graduates.

- Medical Gases Procurement: Unnecessary spending of Rs. 23.8 million on medical gases was identified.

- Funds Released Without Approval: Financial irregularities worth Rs. 388.4 million occurred due to fund releases without authorization.

- Overpriced Rabies Vaccine Purchase: The hospital spent Rs. 35.1 million on overpriced anti-rabies vaccines.

- Local Medicine Purchases: Over Rs. 9.53 million in irregularities were found in local medicine procurement.

- Undelivered Medicines: Pharmaceutical companies failed to supply Rs. 53.8 million worth of medicines.

- Unauthorized Medicine Procurement: Medicines worth Rs. 79.5 million were purchased without official approval and tendering processes.

- Additional Drug Procurement Irregularities: The report also noted Rs. 281.3 million in further discrepancies in medicine supply.

The audit findings raise serious concerns about financial management at Bolan Medical Complex Hospital. Authorities are expected to take corrective measures to ensure transparency and accountability in the hospital's financial operations.



## A Century of Neglect: The Grim Reality of Coal Mining in Balochistan

Continued to page 2

## Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) predicts countrywide rain spell from tomorrow

Continued to page 3

## DHA Quetta Eat Festival Gas Cylinder Blast Injures Several Attendees

Continued to page 4

## OUR VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

### A Century of Neglect: The Grim Reality of Coal Mining in Balochistan

#### Editorial:

The collapse of the coal mine in Sandi, near Quetta, once again exposes the glaring lack of safety measures in Balochistan's mining sector.

Despite the tragic loss of four miners and the ongoing desperate rescue operation for eight others trapped underground, this incident is not an isolated event. It reflects the systematic failure to enforce basic safety standards and the callous disregard for the lives of the workers.

#### Accountability Must Extend Beyond Mine Owners

While the coal mine owner must be held accountable for failing to provide safe working conditions, the responsibility does not end there.

Officials in the Mines and Minerals Department, tasked with ensuring miners' safety, must also face scrutiny. If found negligent, they too should be punished. Accountability should be broad and systemic, targeting all those complicit in ignoring safety protocols and risking human lives for profit.

#### The Mines Act of 1923: A Century of Neglect

The Mines Act of 1923 was enacted during British rule to safeguard miners' lives. A century later, its provisions remain largely ignored. The Act mandates strict safety standards, periodic inspections, and the establishment of safeguards against hazardous buildup. Yet, successive governments have failed to implement it in letter and spirit, leaving miners vulnerable to immediate accidents.

#### A Call for Immediate Reforms

The Sandi tragedy must serve as a wake-up call for comprehensive reforms in Balochistan's mining sector. Authorities should:

• Enforce the Mines Act of 1923: Conduct regular inspections and impose strict penalties for non-compliance.

• Hold Officials Accountable: Investigate Mines Department officials for negligence and prosecute if found guilty.

• Introduce Modern Safety Standards: Equip mines with advanced safety systems, including gas detectors and reinforced structures.

• Empower Workers: Establish grievance mechanisms for miners to report unsafe conditions without fear of retaliation.

#### Lip Service Must End

The repeated assurances from provincial ministers and officials mean little when no tangible action follows.

The fact that no senior official visited the Sandi mine even 48 hours after the collapse underscores the ruling class's indifference toward the working class. Coal miners, driven by poverty and unemployment, risk their lives daily in unsafe conditions, only to be forgotten in times of tragedy.

#### A Moral and Legal Imperative

Protecting coal miners is not just a legal obligation but a moral imperative. The government must prioritize the safety and dignity of those who fuel the economy at the cost of their own lives.

The Sandi disaster should not become just another statistic but a turning point in ensuring justice and reform.

The time for action is now. Anything less than full accountability and the strict implementation of safety laws would be a betrayal of the miners and their families who continue to suffer in silence.

## Worrying findings

By Irfan Ahmed Rind:

**T**HE recent upsurge over the abysmally low pass rates in the Higher Secondary Examination conducted by the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Karachi has exposed deep flaws in our educational system. Students and parents argue these results unfairly disadvantage Karachi's youth, especially compared to higher pass rates in other provincial BISEs.

This disparity has reignited the divisive Karachi versus interior Sindh debate, which obscures the systemic issues plaguing examination boards.

Instead of addressing the operational inefficiencies of BISEs, discussions often devolve into accusations of resource encroachment and ethnic bias. Critical questions about why examination boards are failing and what reforms are needed are sidelined.

In 2016, my research group analysed a decade of exam papers from English, mathematics, and science across five provincial BISEs.

The findings were

troubling: most questions tested rote memorisation instead of higher-order thinking skills. Many were repeated from previous years, and some textbook chapters were entirely ignored. The practices contradicted the national curriculum's objectives.

These findings were presented to Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, who, in 2017, commissioned a performance audit of one BISE. The audit, conducted by education experts from Sukkur IBA University, uncovered significant systemic issues. One of the key problems was the presence of underqualified staff, with many employees lacking the necessary qualifications and continuing to rely on outdated methods.

The process of paper setting was equally flawed, as senior teachers, without formal training or access to essential tools like a table of specifications, often resorted to recycling questions from previous years.

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## Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) predicts countrywide rain spell from tomorrow

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast a new spell of rain in the country from Monday (tomorrow).

The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast widespread rain-wind/thunderstorms with snowfall over the hills across various regions of the country during the upcoming week.

A strong westerly weather system is expected to enter the western parts of Pa-

kistan on the evening of night of February 24 and will extend to the upper parts by February 25, persisting in northern areas until March 02.

Moderate to heavy snowfall is expected in Murree, Galliat, and surrounding areas from February 25 to March 01. Rain-wind/thunderstorms are also forecasted for Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Attock, Chakwal, and Jhelum during the same period.

Rain-wind/thunderstorms are also ex-

pected in Hafizabad, Gujranwala, Mandi Bahauddin, Sargodha, Mianwali, Khushab, Gujrat, Sialkot, Narowal, Lahore, Sheikhupura, Faisalabad, and Toba Tek Singh from February 25 (evening) to February 28.

Additional districts such as Jhang, Bhakkar, Multan, Dera Ghazi Khan, Layyah, Muzaffargarh, Tanzeem Sharif, Khanewal, Sahiwal, Pakpattan, Okara, Bahawalnagar, and Bahawalpur will experience rainfall from February 25 to February 27.

Heavy rain could trigger flash floods in vulnerable areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Kashmir between February 25 and March 01.

Mountainous regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, Kashmir, Murree, and Galliat may experience landslides.

Some plain areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, and Islamabad may witness hailstorms.



QUETTA: Peoples buying children school bags for new classes after annual examination.

## Trump to name FBI chief Patel as acting ATF director, source says

WASHINGTON (INP): President Donald Trump will name newly confirmed FBI Director Kash Patel as the acting head of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,

Firearms and Explosives, a person familiar with the matter told Reuters on Saturday.

Patel, a Trump loyalist, will run the FBI, the nation's most prominent law enforcement agency, at a time of growing upheaval while also leading the ATF, which enforces US gun laws.

Democrats and moderate Republicans had forcefully opposed Patel's nomination, saying his past calls for retribution against Trump's

critics made him unfit to lead the FBI, but this was not enough to overcome broad Republican support.

Patel, who has received support from the Gun Owners of America lobby group for championing gun rights, would be expected to lead an overhaul of the agency, shifting its focus away from regulating firearms.

During his presidential campaign, Trump accused the ATF of being heavy-handed with gun owners and revoking licenses on frivolous grounds.

On Thursday, Attorney General Pam Bondi abruptly fired the ATF's longtime chief counsel,

Pamela Hicks, and had security escort her out of the building without an explanation or a warning, according to a source familiar with the matter.

Bondi later said in an interview with Fox News that she fired Hicks because "these people were targeting gun owners."

Bondi had ordered the ATF to shift its focus to helping the Department of Justice target illegal immigration and shift away from its role of regulating arms, tobacco and alcohol.

Patel would be one of several Trump administration officials to take on two roles.

Attitudes towards migration have also hardened, a profound shift in German public sentiment since its "Refugees Welcome" culture during Europe's migrant crisis in 2015.

Sunday's election follows the collapse last November of Scholz's coalition of his left Social Democrats (SPD), the Greens and

pro-market Free Democrats (FDP) in a row over budget spending.

The SPD is headed for its worst result since World War Two.

The election campaign has been dominated by fierce exchanges over the perception that irregular immigration is out of control, fueled by a series of attacks in which the suspected perpetrators were of migrant origin.

It has also been overshadowed by the unusually forceful show of solidarity by members of the Trump administration - including Vice President JD Vance and tech billionaire Elon Musk - for the anti-migrant AfD, and broad-sides against European leaders.

Karra also cautioned the people against the divisive politics of the BJP, stating that the saffron party was deliberately fueling communal and regional discord to divert attention from pressing public issues.

"Instead of addressing issues like unemployment, inflation, and lack of development, the BJP is shamelessly trying to pit people against each other," Karra stated.

Karra urged the people of Jharkhand to remain united and actively participate in the ongoing struggle for their rights.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari addressing the participants of the 5th International Workshop for Leadership & Stability organized by the National Defence University (NDU), at Aitane-e-Sade.

## Gandapur announces Rs2bn interest-free loan for students

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has announced an interest-free loan of Rs2 billion for professional students, enabling them to secure loans of up to Rs1 million each.

He made this announcement while addressing the sixth convocation ceremony of the Institute of Management Sciences (IMSciences), Peshawar.

Congratulating the graduating students, the chief minister expressed his hope that they would stand on their own feet and contribute to the development of the country.

He emphasized the importance of self-reliance, stating that his government is working to ensure that educational institutions become self-sufficient and serve as national assets.

At the convocation, 130 female stu-

dents received their degrees, including 62 graduates who were personally awarded degrees by CM Ali Amin Gandapur. The top-performing students were also honoured for their achievements.

Six students received gold medals for securing outstanding positions.

Six students were awarded silver medals for their exceptional academic performance.

The convocation

ceremony was attended by Provincial Minister for Higher Education Meena Khan Afridi, university administration, faculty members, graduates, and their proud parents.

During his speech, CM Ali Amin Gandapur advised students to learn from the past, excel in the present, and work towards a remarkable future so that their contributions are remembered in history.

## Indian anthem before Aus vs Eng in Lahore - PCB asks ICC for clarification

LAHORE, Feb 23 (INP): The PCB has reached out to the ICC for clarification after the Indian national anthem was erroneously played for a moment at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore.

Ahead of the game between Australia and England, the national anthem of the UK was played with the Indian anthem in the background. However, instead of following it up with the opening tunes of the Australian national anthem, a recording of the Indian national anthem began to ring out before it was swiftly stopped and changed.

ESPNewsInfo

understands that the PCB is unhappy with the error, which it has blamed the ICC for. A PCB official told ESPNewsInfo that this is an ICC tournament in Dubai, when India played Bangladesh.

Pakistan's name was omitted from the logo on the official broadcast. This was a departure from the broadcast graphics for the other matches of the tournament so far, including the tournament opener between Pakistan and New Zealand in Karachi where the event name as well as 'Pakistan' was visible on the broadcast.

The ICC put that down to a technical glitch, though it was

an explanation that didn't satisfy the PCB. The ICC gave assurances that such a thing would not be repeated, regardless of where the games were being held. That means the feed for Sunday's game between India and Pakistan in Dubai - the most high-profile contest of the tournament - will include Pakistan's name on the official on-screen logo.

The game between Australia and England drew the biggest crowd of the tournament so far, and was the most dramatic, as Australia chased down a record 351 to beat England by five wickets with 15 balls to spare.

## APHC-AJK expresses concern over denial of justice to Kunanposhpora victims

MUZAFFARABAD (INP): Speakers at two seminars expressed serious concern over the denial of justice to the victims of the Kunanposhpora mass rape in Kupwara district of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The seminars were organized by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, the Islamic Movement of India, and the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter at Fatima Jinnah Postgraduate College and Saheli Sarkar Girls College in Muzaffarabad, marking the 34th anniversary of the Kunanposhpora mass rape incident.

The seminars were addressed by APHC-AJK General Secretary Parvaiz Ahmed Shah,

and leaders Shameem Shami, Zahid Ashraf, Uzair Ahmed Ghazali, and Mushtaq ul Islam.

The speakers expressed grave concern over the human rights violations being perpetrated by Indian forces in Jharkhand.

The speakers said the Indian government along with the judiciary and the army failed to punish the troops involved in the tragedy despite having ample evidence. Citing the BBC documentary and the book 'Do You Remember Kunanposhpora' on the tragic event, the speakers said there was ample evidence to prove that Indian troops were involved in the horrific incident. However, the perpetrators remain free to this day. They criticized

the Indian Army's impunity, bolstered by black laws, which made a mockery of justice in the name of national interest.

The speakers said thousands of Kashmiri women of their rights to justice. The speakers

called on the international human rights organizations to take cognizance of the increasing atrocities, injustice, and human rights violations in Jharkhand. They urged the international community to pressure India to repeal the black laws, and search operation.

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## Karra says BJP betraying people on IIOJK statehood, vows to intensify struggle

JAMMU (INP): The President of the Congress chapter in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), Tariq Hameed Karra, has slammed the BJP for adopting deceitful tactics regarding the restoration of statehood, emphasizing that it is a genuine demand and a legitimate right of the people of the territory.

According to Kashmir Media Service, Karra was addressing a massive rally in Reasi as part of the ongoing "Hamari Risswat Hamara Rast" campaign. Karra warned that the BJP-led Indian government is deliberately stalling the process to deny the people of IIOJK their rightful

status. He declared that if the BJP continues its obstructive policies, the Congress will not hesitate to take to the streets in protest.

Karra emphasized that statehood is not a privilege but a fundamental democratic right of every citizen of IIOJK, stating that its continued denial is a direct violation of democratic principles. He vowed to intensify the ongoing movement until people's demands are met.

He assured the gathering that the Congress would continue to bring this movement to its logical conclusion. He further pointed out that the party has not only mobilized public support but has also exposed the

BJP's unwillingness to address the concerns of the people of the territory.

Karra also cautioned the people against the divisive politics of the BJP, stating that the saffron party was deliberately fueling communal and regional discord to divert attention from pressing public issues.

"Instead of addressing issues like unemployment, inflation, and lack of development, the BJP is shamelessly trying to pit people against each other," Karra stated.

Karra urged the people of IIOJK to remain united and actively participate in the ongoing struggle for their rights.

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

**TSE-24292648844** Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Request for Proposal for selection of Consultancy service invited on Electronic Public Procurement System (EPPS) from interested contractors/consultants/firms who wish to participate in the tendering process, or having registration with FBR for Income Tax and BRIA and who are on Active Taxpayers List (ATL) having registration with PEC as a Consulting Engineering Firm, and are not black listed in any procuring agency.

**PLANNING, ARCHITECTURAL, MEP DRAWINGS & STRUCTURAL DESIGNING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF BACHELOR HOSTEL FOR FEMALE EDUCATION OFFICERS/TEACHERS IN DISTRICTS** Bid Security 2% of total as under:

S.No.	Description	Estimate
1	MASTER PLANNING, ARCHITECTURAL, MEP DRAWINGS & STRUCTURAL DESIGNING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF BACHELOR HOSTEL FOR FEMALE EDUCATION OFFICERS/TEACHERS IN DISTRICTS	10,50,000

**Pre-qualification:** Bidders shall be made under the Bids/Invitation to Tender (BID/ITR) Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 3,500,000 PKR in 3 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payers List BRIA Registration Certificate The bidders must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. The Financial PROPOSALS shall be opened of those consultants whose technical proposal is considered and approved. The Selection of Consultants shall be made as per Evaluation Criteria method as mentioned in the Data Sheet of this "Request for Proposal" document. The incomplete proposal for proposal or received after due date mentioned above will not be considered. The BFP Documents can be downloaded from BPPHA Website (www.bppha.gov.pk). Last Date of bid submission: The tenders must be submitted by 05 March, 2025 at 12:00 PM Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under signed at 1:00 PM Address: PPO No.317221-21-02-2025 Email: architecture@bppha.gov.pk

**CONSULTING ARCHITECT**  
**CWPPHA DEPARTMENT QUETTA**

**TENDER NOTICE**

The Directorate of Education (Schools) invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items: TSE-2429265081 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, it is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPHA.GOB. Tender Fee Rs.1000/-

S.No.	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Furniture & Fixtures (Schools) (Court 01)	3%

**Pre-qualification:** Bidders shall be made under the Bids/Invitation to Tender (BID/ITR) Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 3,500,000 PKR in 3 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payers List BRIA Registration Certificate The bidders must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. The Financial PROPOSALS shall be opened of those consultants whose technical proposal is considered and approved. The Selection of Consultants shall be made as per Evaluation Criteria method as mentioned in the Data Sheet of this "Request for Proposal" document. The incomplete proposal for proposal or received after due date mentioned above will not be considered. The BFP Documents can be downloaded from BPPHA Website (www.bppha.gov.pk). Last Date of bid submission: The tenders must be submitted by 05 March, 2025 at 12:00 PM Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under signed at 1:00 PM Address: PPO No.317221-21-02-2025 Email: architecture@bppha.gov.pk

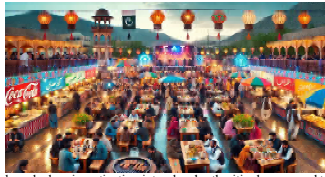
**Director**  
**Directorate of Education (Schools)**

## DHA Quetta Eat Festival Gas Cylinder Blast Injures Several Attendees

News Desk:

QUETTA: A gas cylinder explosion rocked the DHA Quetta Eat Festival at approximately 8:15 PM, injuring multiple attendees. The blast, triggered by a gas leak, caused panic among festivalgoers as a fire erupted at the popular event.

The Provincial Emergency Operation, Center of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) responded promptly, dispatching two ambulances and a rescue team from PDMA headquarters. Emergency responders provided immediate medical assistance while authorities



launched an investigation into the cause of the leak.

Officials are now reviewing safety protocols for public events to prevent future incidents. Festival organizers and

local authorities have vowed to implement stricter safety measures to ensure visitor security at upcoming gatherings. Stay tuned for more updates on this developing story.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, addresses the audience at the 1st Faysal Bank SOP Unified Marathon Lahore, 2025, highlighting the importance of inclusivity and support for athletes with special needs.

## Over 1,700 students awarded degrees at Hamdard University (HU) convocation

KARACHI (INP): The Hamdard University (HU) awarded degrees and certificates to 1,718 students and scholars at its 27th Convocation that was held at its main Madinat al-Hikmah campus here. Of the over 1,700 awardees, seven scholars were given PhDs and 130 MS, MEd, and MPhil degrees.

The ceremony was presided over by HU's Chancellor Madam Sadia Rashid and former Federal minister and senator Javed Jabbar was the chief guest.

In recognition of their excellent performance in various courses of studies, gold medals were conferred on about 40 students. The best teacher award was conferred on Prof Dr Syed Muhammad Muhsin and that of best researcher on Hafiz Imran Nawaz.

In his welcome address, Vice Chancellor Syed Shahib-ul-Haq pointed out that during this convocation more graduates are being awarded degrees than ever before.

The reason obviously lies in the growth in number of students who are being admitted to HU

each year. In 2024 alone, the university admitted over 3,200 students, which shows the university's growing popularity among students as well as their parents. The student population has now risen to 10,000.

Prof Dr Shahib-ul-Haq said his university is offering more than 100 programmes that are being run by seven faculties as per the guidelines provided by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and other professional and regulatory bodies.

He said that in 2024 the faculty members of the university produced 294 research papers that were published in peer-reviewed journals recognised by the HEC. In the last five years the total number of such papers has topped 1,000.

The Faculty of Engineering, Sciences and Technology has set up a dedicated Artificial Intelligence Laboratory which is equipped with the latest technology, he said.

In the last financial year, the university provided concessions/

scholarships worth Rs159 million among hundreds of meritorious students.

The 1,700 students that are passing out now will join the 36,000 alumni of the university, who are already working in various capacities both nationally and internationally. Chancellor Sadia Rashid said that after graduating from the university the new alumni would not just face challenges but opportunities as well.

"Please keep in mind that you should never fail to grasp the opportunities and at the same time meet the challenges with confidence," she remarked.

She urged the graduating students to renew their commitment towards serving the nation as per the vision of Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said, the founder of HU.

Former federal minister, Javed Jabbar recalled with fondness his association with Hakim Said.

He said on various occasions the founder chancellor of HU visited parts of interior Sindh on his invitation.

## Opposition leaders hold key meetings as efforts to restore democracy continue

HYDERABAD (INP): In a significant development, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Convener of the Pakistan Awam Party, emphasized that the restoration of democracy in Pakistan can only be achieved through the supremacy of the constitution.

Speaking to the media, Abbasi underscored that when all other options fail, the path to restoring democracy lies in upholding the constitution.

He further shared that he has reached out to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership, engaging in discussions to align on this critical issue.

However, Abbasi made it clear that there is no electoral alliance or grand opposition agreement at this stage. The only common ground with PTI lies in the belief that the country cannot function without respecting the supremacy of the

constitution. He also mentioned that discussions about seat adjustments are a distant matter and that while there may be political reservations, the shared commitment to constitutional supremacy remains intact.

Meanwhile, significant political movements are underway within the opposition's Grand Alliance.

The leadership of opposition parties has decided to embark on a three-day visit to Sindh to further solidify their stance and engage in crucial meetings.

The visit will be spearheaded by the leadership of the Movement for the Protection of the Constitution of Pakistan. During their time in Sindh, opposition leaders are scheduled to meet with the leadership of the Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) and prominent political figures, including Ayaz Palijo in

Hyderabad. In addition to political engagements, the opposition alliance delegation will meet with key stakeholders, including the business community, bar associations, and journalists. The delegation will also engage with PTI officials in Karachi. The visit will feature prominent leaders such as Mahmood Achakzai, Asad

Qaiser, Sahibzada Hamid Raza, Akhunzada Hussain, BNP Mengal, and Majlis-e-Wahdat Muslimcen. Secretary-General of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Salman Akram Raja, is also expected to join the opposition leaders during their visit to Sindh.

These developments signal ongoing efforts to address the political challenges facing Pakistan and promote constitutional governance as a cornerstone of democratic restoration.



ISLAMABAD: High-level meeting was held under the chairmanship of Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives (PD&SI), to discuss initiatives aimed at fostering data-driven learning and informed decision-making among the youth and establishment of 'First-ever Data Park' in Pakistan.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif departs for his 2-day official trip to Azerbaijan, from Lahore.

## President urges need for global cooperation to address challenges like climate change, poverty and disinformation

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari has urged the need for global cooperation and partnerships to address challenges like climate change, poverty, and disinformation. He called for promoting collaboration among countries to ensure inclusive and sustainable development.

The President gave these remarks while speaking to the participants of the 5th International Workshop for Leadership & Stability organized by the National Defence University (NDU), who called on him, at Awan-e-Sadr today.

Currently, 64 foreign participants from friendly countries and 32 Pakistani participants from diverse sectors including business leaders, diplomats, government officials, representatives of think tanks, media, and young professionals are attending the Workshop. NDU has been organizing the Workshop for collaboration and work for the betterment of people and shared peace and prosperity.

## Budget 2025-26 preparation afoot in consultation with traders: Aurangzeb

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb on Sunday said that economic stability has been achieved and the country's economy is now on a trajectory of growth. Speaking to the media in Lahore, the finance minister stated that preparations for the upcoming budget had commenced, with consultations underway with the business community to ensure a balanced and inclusive approach. Mr Aurangzeb expressed confidence in the economic outlook, highlighting improvements in key financial indicators. "The stock market is in a good position, currency stability has been achieved, and foreign exchange reserves

have increased," he remarked. He further stated that reforms in the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) were in progress, aimed at making the tax system more efficient and acceptable to the public. "The manufacturing sector and salaried class have borne the brunt of taxation, and now all sectors must contribute their fair share to the economy," he added.

The finance minister reiterated that sustained economic growth was a priority, and the government was committed to ensuring policy continuity to support the private sector. "The real progress will come from the private sector, and we must provide them

with a conducive policy framework," he noted.

Mr Aurangzeb also dismissed concerns over overseas Pakistanis' sentiments, saying that during his recent visits to Saudi Arabia, Dubai, and Washington, he observed no discontent among expatriates. "We are grateful for their contributions, and we expect remittances to reach \$35 billion this year," he said. He also pointed out the steady increase in the Roshan Digital Account, a key initiative to attract foreign investments from Pakistanis abroad. Commenting on sports, the finance minister expressed his full support for the national cricket team, commending their performance.

He said that leadership had the responsibility to unite people around a shared vision and motivate stakeholders to achieve sustainable development goals.

He asked the participants to choose dialogue over division, cooperation over conflict, and hope over fear to create lasting change.

He also encouraged participants to translate their insights from the Workshop into real-world solutions.

The President congratulated the participants on completing the course and lauded NDU for organizing the workshop, stating that such initiatives played a crucial role in shaping perspectives on leadership, governance, and stability.

Earlier, the President was briefed about the aims and objectives of the Workshop. It was informed that the Workshop provided a platform to share Pakistan's perspective on diverse global issues and promote dialogue with the world.



FAISALABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmad Shaikh, awarding the Laptop to the brilliant students during the 25 years celebration of chinist islamia school college Faisalabad.

## KP govt to terminate employees hired during caretaker tenure

PESHAWAR (INP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government has decided to terminate employees hired during the caretaker government's tenure.

As per details, a letter has been issued to Chief Secretary and other department heads, urging the termination of government employees hired between January

22, 2023, and February 29, 2024. The notification stated that the termination process should be completed within thirty days.

Earlier, a bill, titled the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Employees Bill 2025, was drafted to facilitate the dismissals, which will affect employees hired between January 22, 2023, and February 29, 2024.

The proposed bill exempted employees hired through the commission, including those recruited under the children and minority quotas. A seven-member committee, headed by the Secretary Establishment, will be formed to oversee the process and address any obstacles that may arise during the terminations.

The committee's decisions will be final, and all departments will be required to submit reports on the recruitments within 30 days. The bill aims to declare the caretaker government's recruitments illegal and pave the way for the termination of affected employees.

This development comes after an inquiry exposed 566

illegal posts created during the caretaker government's tenure, resulting in an annual loss of PKR 480 million to the public exchequer.

Earlier, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Finance Department issued a stern warning to government employees for skipping official office hours, urging them to comply with salary deductions, transfers, or disciplinary actions.

In response to public complaints, a notification was sent to all provincial offices and departments, instructing employees to strictly follow office timings from 9 AM to 5 PM.

The directive emphasizes that negligence in fulfilling official responsibilities will not be tolerated, and strict actions will be taken against violators.