

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

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dquettavoice@gmail.com

Balochistan Assembly Adopts Resolution to Demolish Historic Assembly Building

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: Balochistan Assembly — In a historic move, the Balochistan Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution to demolish the current provincial assembly building due to safety concerns. The resolution was presented by Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, who emphasized the urgent need for action.

Speaking during the session, Speaker Captain (Retd.) Abdul Khalid chaired the debate, where CM Mir Sarfaraz Bugti introduced the proposal. He highlighted that the building's deteriorating condition was impacting the functionality of the assembly, leaving lawmakers facing discomfort and safety risks.

Mr. Bari, a key figure in the discussion, underscored that the current structure lacked adequate space, particularly in the opposition chamber and the speaker's office. He noted that these spaces were not only insufficient for the number of legislators but also compromised the work environment.

Former Balochistan Chief Minister Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch raised concerns over the lack of data regarding the building's safety. He insisted that a detailed briefing on who had declared the



building structurally unsafe should be provided before making any final decision. "We need to know which department has assessed the building as unsafe, and that information should be shared with the assembly members before taking a decision," he said.

The Speaker agreed to include Dr. Malik Baloch's request

in the resolution, ensuring transparency in the decision-making process. The proposal received unanimous support from ministers, including Sardar Abdulrahman Kron, Noor Mohammed Dumar, and Younus Aziz, among others.

After thorough deliberation, the assembly passed the resolution with full consensus.

The demolition of the historic assembly building marks a significant step toward improving the work environment for lawmakers and ensuring the safety of the legislature.

This decision sets the stage for potential new developments to better accommodate the needs of the assembly members and the people they represent

Over 800 Doctors Appointed on Contract in Balochistan's Public Hospitals

Health Desk:

QUETTA: In a significant development for the health sector, over 800 doctors have been appointed on a contract basis in various government hospitals across Balochistan. This decision was taken on the special directives of Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, according to Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar.

The Balochistan Health Department has officially issued a notification regarding the appointments, instructing all newly appointed doctors to assume their duties immediately. Minister Kakar emphasized that this initiative would greatly improve the provision of medical services in public hospitals, ensuring better healthcare facilities for the people of the province.

He further stated that the Government of Balochistan is taking effective steps to strengthen the healthcare infrastructure, and these appointments are a crucial part of that effort. Additionally, the government is working on health sector reforms to modernize medical facilities, utilizing all available resources to enhance the

system. The health minister urged all appointed doctors to promptly take charge of their

responsibilities, ensuring that quality medical services reach the public without delay. This initiative is expected

to address staff shortages in public hospitals and significantly improve healthcare services across the province.



FIA Briefs CM Bugti About Cyber Crimes and Law Enforcement Measures in Balochistan

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti was briefed on the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) ongoing efforts in Balochistan during a meeting with Director General (DG) FIA Ali Jan on Friday.

The session, held on the directives of Prime Minister Imran Khan, focused on the agency's actions in the province, including progress on decisions made by the Apex Committee, the activation of the Cybercrime Wing, and other key departmental matters.

During the meeting, CM Bugti directed the DG FIA to further strengthen the Cybercrime Wing in the province and take more effective measures to combat smuggling and illegal money transfers.

He also stressed the need to crack down on criminals involved in such activities. Recognizing the shortage of per-



sonnel, DG FIA was instructed to address staffing needs through deputation from the Balochistan Police until permanent recruitment is finalized. IG Police Balochistan Moazzam Jah

Ansari assured that trained personnel would be provided to enhance the functionality of the Cybercrime Wing until a permanent recruitment process is completed.

The DG FIA also updated CM Bugti on the progress regarding the implementation of the Apex Committee's decisions, giving a detailed briefing on the agency's efforts in Balochistan.

CM Bugti reiterated the importance of robust actions to prevent crimes, especially cybercrimes, ensuring that both the prevention and swift delivery of justice to victims were prioritized.

Present at the meeting were: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakil Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretary for Home Zahid Saleem,

Principal Secretary Bahar Khan, IG Police Moazzam Jah Ansari, Secretary Finance Imran Zarkoon, Government Spokesperson Shahid Rind, and Additional Secretary Chief Minister Secretariat — Mohammad Fareedoon, along with other senior officials.

Blast Near Siddiquia Markaz Quetta: 9 Injured in Explosion on Forces Vehicle

News Desk:

QUETTA: A blast near Siddiquia Markaz Quetta targeted a Forces vehicle, leaving 9 people injured on Friday. The injured were immediately shifted to Civil Hospital Quetta for medical treatment, where an emergency has been declared in all hospitals of Quetta.

According to initial reports, the blast caused significant damage to nearby vehicles and properties. Security forces have cordoned off the area, and investigations are underway to determine the nature of the explosion.

The incident raises fresh concerns over the security situation in Quetta, as authorities urge

the public to remain vigilant. This is a developing story.

Gowalmandi Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Anwar Ali told reporters at the scene that the explosion on Jan Muhammad Road occurred near an FC convoy, damaging five nearby shops and an FC vehicle.

"FC personnel and other injured were shifted to Civil Hospital Quetta and [its] Trauma Centre," he told Dawn.com.

DSP Ali added that the explosion was caused by a remote control device, in which an estimated 2-3 kilograms of explosives were used.



Pakistan confirms Afghanistan attempted to establish post on border

NEWS DESK: Pakistan's Foreign Office has confirmed reports that Afghan authorities attempted to set up a border post on the Pakistani side at Torkham.

This development follows the closure of the Torkham border crossing last Friday, which has caused significant disruptions, Express News reported.

The Foreign Office spokesperson, Shafiqat Ali Khan, confirmed these efforts during a weekly briefing, highlighting the ongoing challenges at the border.

Shafiqat Ali Khan explained that Afghan authorities had been attempting to create a post on the Pakistani side of the border, which would have been a violation of existing protocols. The Pakistani government has officially raised concerns with Afghan authorities and has urged them to resolve the issue through dialogue and negotiations. "We have told Afghan

authorities that this issue can be settled through proper discussions," Shafiqat Ali Khan said.

This attempt at establishing a border post is part of a broader issue of border management between the two nations. Pakistan has stated that multiple agencies are involved in managing border security and ensuring that no unilateral actions are taken by either country that could affect the overall security of the region.

Shafiqat Ali Khan also addressed concerns over US military equipment left behind in Afghanistan, which is reportedly being used by terrorist groups.

The advanced US weapons left in Afghanistan are now being used by terrorists, and some of them are even being smuggled into Pakistan," Shafiqat Ali Khan stated, further emphasizing the security threat posed by these weapons.



JUI-S chief among four martyred in Nowshera suicide blast

NEWS DESK: At least four people, including Maulana Hamidul Haq Haqqani - chief of the (JUI-S) - were martyred and around a dozen others injured in a suicide blast at the Darul Uloom Haqqania in Akora Khattak area of Nowshera district of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province.

A statement released by the Central Police Office confirmed that the explosion, that took place after Friday prayer at the mosque situated inside Darul Uloom Haqqania compound, was a suicide bombing. Express News cited police sources Zulfikar Hameed,

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, President Asif Ali Zardari, and Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi condemned the suicide bomb attack at the mosque and offered condolences for the loss of life. A JUI-S spokesperson Aslam Ghori also reacted to the blast, calling the explosion at Darul Uloom Haqqania Akora Khattak tragic and condemnable.

He expressed concern that now even mosques and religious schools are no longer safe. The attacker entered the mosque through the side gate while Friday prayers were being

offered. Rescue, security and forensic teams reached the blast site and shifted the victims to nearby hospitals as a probe into the attack went under way.

On the other hand, a spokesperson for Lady Reading Hospital (LRH) MTI stated that the emergency services at LRH have been put on alert in anticipation of the arrival of casualties from the Akora Khattak explosion. The entire staff is prepared to handle any situation and provide treatment to the injured.

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Empowering Women in Balochistan: A Roadmap for Sustainable Development

Continued to page 2

Global Kashmiri Diaspora pivotal at this opportune moment: Fai

Continued to page 3

PTI asked to submit more documents in May 9 judicial commission formation case

Continued to page 4

THE VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Empowering Women in Balochistan: A Roadmap for Sustainable Development

Editorial:

The distribution of 50 pink scooters to female students of Government Girls Post Graduate Degree College, Quetta, by the Balochistan government marks a commendable step toward empowering women in a province where gender inequality remains deeply entrenched.

This initiative, supported by Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti and Education Minister Rabia Hameed Khan Durani, reflects the growing recognition of women's critical role in driving social and economic development.

While such programs symbolize progress, they should serve as the foundation for more comprehensive measures to address the core challenges faced by women in Balochistan.

Among these are the acute lack of basic facilities in educational institutions. Shockingly, over 1,700 girls' schools across the province lack functional washrooms.

This fundamental oversight discourages attendance and exacerbates the dropout rate among female students. Resolving this issue must be a priority for the government.

In addition, access to quality education, safe and reliable transportation, and job opportunities for women remain limited.

The provision of scooters is a positive step, but more sustainable solutions, such as expanding public transport services for women, must be introduced to ensure long-term impact.

Similarly, creating incentives for girls to pursue higher education, coupled with scholarships and skills development programs, can open new doors for empowerment.

The Chief Minister's announcement of appointing five female deputy commissioners is a milestone for gender equality in administration.

However, broader employment opportunities in both public and private sectors are needed to enable women to participate meaningfully in the workforce.

Without these systemic changes, initiatives like scooter distributions, while inspiring, may have limited reach.

The government must also prioritize combating deep-seated societal barriers, including early marriages, cultural taboos, and gender discrimination, which continue to hinder women's progress.

To counter these challenges, community awareness campaigns should promote the importance of women's education and their role in fostering a prosperous Balochistan.

Empowering women is not a symbolic act but a multifaceted effort that requires addressing structural inequalities.

The government must deliver on its promises with concrete action plans, adequate funding, and transparent monitoring of outcomes.

Only then can initiatives like these serve as the building blocks for a future where women in Balochistan thrive as equal contributors to the province's progress. By investing in education, employment, and infrastructure, Balochistan can unlock its full potential and ensure that no girl is left behind. The vision for a prosperous province lies in its ability to empower all its citizens—men and women alike.

Economic democracy

By Asim Sajjad Akhtar:

It has been more than

16 years since Pakistan

was last formally ruled

by a military dictator,

more than long enough

for a meaningful "demo-

cratic transition".

Until 2018, many com-

mentators argued that

democratic rule and insti-

tutions were being steadily

strengthened as suc-

cessive elected regimes un-

dertook peaceful trans-

fers of power. Since then,

two "hybrid" regimes

have ripped up any pre-

vious democratic norms

but to truly make sense

of what has transpired

since 2018, it is neces-

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and 2018. Indeed, an in-

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tryst with democracy

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post-2008 period. I

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In other words, without

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By Ahmed Bilal Mehboob:

While reviewing the performance of the current National Assembly (NA)—the 16th legislature since independence during its first parliamentary year, one is struck by the fact that the House has decisively changed the question between parliament and the judiciary that had existed for a long time. The key instrument of this profound change was the controversial 26th Constitutional Amendment which, among other things, made the appointment of the chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) the sole preserve of parliament.

Instead of the senior-most judge stepping up to assume the position of CJP, it is now the special parliamentary committee consisting of representatives of various political parties in proportion to their strength in the House which selects one of the three senior-most judges for the position. This is quite an upgrade in powers since the former Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) had co-ordinated the passing of the 19th Amendment in 2010 for the abdication of the powers of the parliamentary committee.

Compromising on the government's earlier plan to establish a separate constitutional court, the 26th Amendment led to the creation of constitutional benches that, simply put, would hear all political cases of major importance. The Assembly also passed at least 13 other important bills, including amendments to the Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, and the Income Tax Act, which increased parliamentarians' salary from Rs18,000 to Rs20,000 per month, though the 176 per cent increase was significant and widely criticised by the media and opinion leaders, many critics disregarded the fact that the increase was granted after a gap of nine years and that at least two pro-

posed amendments were rejected and dubbed it as an effort by the government to reverse the previous judgements from the tribunals.

The other amendment to the Elections (Second Amendment) Act, 2024, was an effort to render ineffective the eight-judge majority judgement of the Supreme Court, led by Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, which had decided the reserved seats case in favour of the PTI on July 12.

Other high-impact laws passed by the Assembly included the controversial Peca (Amendment) Act, 2024, which prescribed three to 10 years' imprisonment for those who failed to obey the orders of the administration regarding the public health of the daily agenda and Islamabad Capital Territory.

Towards the end of the parliamentary year, the Assembly passed the Members of Parliament (Salaries and Allowances) (Amendment) Act, which increased parliamentarians' salary from Rs18,000 to Rs20,000 per month, though the 176 per cent increase was significant and widely criticised by the media and opinion leaders, many critics disregarded the fact that the increase was granted after a gap of nine years and that at least two pro-

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Cyber governance, fake news and Peca

By Dr Shahid Hussain Kamboj:

Pakistan stands at a

critical crossroads in its

digital transformation

era where falsehood

travels faster than truth,

a single viral lie can un-

dermine trust and dis-

rupt the social fabric,

costs the economy \$2.5

billion annually (Pakis-

tan Software House's

Annual Report 2023).

Such losses deter invest-

ment and stifle growth

for startups and SMEs

(Galup Pakistan, 2023).

The digital landscape

is a study in contrasts.

E-commerce plat-

forms showcase a

thriving tech ecosystem,

yet weak governance al-

lows cyber threats and

disinformation networks

to exploit gaps. Fake

news manifests in myriad

forms, from clickbait

to deepfakes, undermin-

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charged deepfakes and

blackmail schemes using

hacked data. In 2023,

cyberattacks against

banking apps drove a

fourfold surge in digital

fraud (State Bank of Pa-

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Mohammad Hafeez reveals Pakistan's two 'most valuable players'

LAHORE (INP): Former Pakistan cricket team captain Mohammad Hafeez has expressed his concerns about the Pakistan cricket team's current performance...

the Pakistan team. Mohammad Hafeez recalled his experience as the director of the Pakistan team for two months...

struggles. "Mohsin Naqvi has changed four to five management teams, appointed captains of his choice, and formed selection committees that have made decisions that have backfired."



BEIJING: Ambassador of Pakistan to China H.E. Mr. Khalid Hashmi held an interactive session with members of Pakistan Community based in China at the Embassy premises in Beijing...

Over dozen political prisoners shifted from IOJK to jails in India

SRINAGAR (NP): The police authorities under LG Minhaj Sinha, have shifted over a dozen Kashmiri political prisoners from Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir to different jails in India...

leaders, are detained in New Delhi's Tihar jail, Agra Central Jail, UP's Naini jail, Haryana's Rohtak Jail, Kamalajai, Mumbai, Bangalore and Rajasthan's Central Jail Jodhpur of India.

As of 2022, more than 75 percent of the total prisoners in India were detained without sentence from the court of law. Meanwhile, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference spokesman, Advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas, in a statement in Srinagar announced that the BJP-led regime in IOJK for shifting illegally detained Kashmiris from the occupied territory to the various Indian jails.

Pakistan concerned over weapons left by US in Afghanistan: FO

ISLAMABAD (INP): Foreign Office spokesman Shafiq Ali Khan on Friday expressed concern over the weapons left by the United States in Afghanistan as they were being used to carry out terrorist activities in Pakistan...

continue to pursue various options to resolve such issues through bilateral mechanisms such as the Joint Coordination Committee meeting instead of resorting to unilateral actions.

He said Pakistan has charged the Afghan authorities to resolve such issues through bilateral mechanisms such as the Joint Coordination Committee meeting instead of resorting to unilateral actions.

ANF recovers over 52 kg drugs in 7 operations

RAWALPINDI (INP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 7 operations across the country managed to recover over 52 kg drugs worth over Rs 19.7 million and arrested 5 suspects...

TENDER NOTICE FY-2025/26 table with columns: S.No., Name of Work, EICAT, Tender Fee, and Bid Security %.

He informed that in an operation, 200 tablets were recovered from a suspect arrested near a university in Rawalpindi.

Address for Contact: Deputy Director Supply and Transport, Headquarters Quetta Logistic Area Quetta Cantonment, Landline Number : 081-2882156



ISLAMABAD: C and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman Abu Dhabi Executive Council Sheikh Khalid bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan witnessing the exchange of MoUs and Agreements of cooperation between United Arab Emirates and Pakistan.

Global Kashmiri Diaspora pivotal at this opportune moment: Fai

WASHINGTON (INP): The Chairman of World Forum for Peace & Justice, Dr Ghulam Nabi Fai, has said that the Kashmiri question is one of the oldest unresolved international problems in the world.

Dr Ghulam Nabi Fai was addressing an international webinar "Kashmir: An International Dimension", organized by 'Voices of Justice' in Washington.

He said that when the Kashmiri dispute erupted in 1948, the United States championed the stand that the world should be divided into two disputed territories, he added.

He said according to the international agreements between India and Pakistan, negotiated by the United Nations and endorsed by the Security Council, the territory's status is to be determined by the free vote of its people under UN supervision.

LHC judge hints at Rs10,000 fine on violators of one-way traffic

LAHORE (INP): A single-judge bench of the Lahore High Court (LHC) has hinted at imposing a fine of Rs10,000 on violators of one-way traffic.

Justice Shahid Karim also sought traffic management plan during school timings. On February 21, City Traffic Officer (CTO) Dr Ather Waheed had directed to file information report (FIR) against owners of big vehicles instead of challoos which will violate traffic laws in Lahore.

He further cautioned that in future in case of violations of traffic laws, the owners of the big vehicles will be made to spruce up Mall Road as punishment instead of issuing challoos to them.

TENDER NOTICE

Tender notice table with columns: S.No., Name of Work, EICAT, Tender Fee, and Bid Security %.

TENDER NOTICE

1. REPAIRING OF GOVERNORHOUSE QUETTA. A/c Rs. 160,000. Procurement shall be made under the Bids/contract Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List.

TENDER NOTICE

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER KALAT. PRO No. 347/29-2-2025. Last date for submission of applications for obtaining tender forms is tender 09/03/2025.

TENDER NOTICE

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINERALS DIVISION QUETTA. PRO No. 344/78-29-2025. Last date for submission of applications for obtaining tender forms is tender 09/03/2025.

