



Balochistan Assembly Speaker Summons Khuzdar DIG...



Neither Capitalism nor Communism

Ahsan Iqbal Announces 5,000 Additional Scholarships for Balochistan and Former FATA Students

EDUCATION DESK

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has announced 5,000 additional scholarships for students from Balochistan and the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), aiming to expand access to higher education for talented students from underdeveloped regions.

Addressing the National Assembly on Tuesday, Ahsan Iqbal said the scholarship programme was initially launched during the previous government and that its second phase had now been initiated.

The initiative is designed to provide talented students from Balochistan and former FATA with opportunities to pursue higher education at leading universities across Pakistan, helping reduce educational disparities and promote inclusive development.

The federal minister emphasised that education remains one of the most effective tools for overcoming backwardness and accelerating socioeconomic development in less-developed areas.



File photo of Ahsan Iqbal

oped areas.

The announcement is expected to bring new opportunities for students seeking admission to universities and financial assistance to continue their education.

However, details regarding eligibility criteria, participating universities, scholarship coverage, application procedures and submission deadlines have not yet been officially announced.

Prospective applicants are advised to wait for the government's formal notification before applying and to follow official government channels for updates on the scholarship programme.

Balochistan's Free Health App Receives 791 Consultation Calls on First Day

NEWS DESK

Balochistan's free medical consultation app, Sehat Dehleez, received 791 consultation calls on its first day, providing people with access to experienced doctors, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz



Bugti said.

In a statement posted on social media platform X, Bugti said the provincial government had activated the service to help residents, particularly those living in remote areas who face difficulties accessing healthcare facilities.

He said the app would provide

vide free medical advice around the clock, seven days a week, throughout the year, enabling people to consult medical professionals without having to travel long distances.

The chief minister said the initiative was designed to facilitate ordinary citizens facing

harsh weather conditions and limited access to healthcare services in remote parts of Balochistan.

The service aims to improve access to medical guidance and reduce barriers to healthcare for people living in underserved areas of the province.

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Balochistan Sets October 30 Deadline for Relocation of 30,000 People in Kalat

By Our Correspondent:

Approximately 30,000 people from 5,000 families in the Shor Parod mountainous area of Kalat district have been directed to move to designated camps by October 30 under a relocation plan approved by the Balochistan government.

Additional Chief Secretary Home, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat announced the deadline at a press conference in Quetta, warning that authorities would initiate further proceedings against residents who fail to comply with the government's directive.

Provincial Home Minister Ziaullah Langove and Chief Minister's Adviser on Media and Political Affairs Shahid Rind also attended the briefing. Shafiqat said Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti had approved the plan for relocating the affected population.

He added that the government was arranging essential supplies and facilities to support families at the designated camps. The planned assistance includes food, medicines, tents



File Photo: Approximately 30,000 people from 5,000 families in the Shor Parod mountainous area of Kalat

and other necessities for residents moving from the mountainous region.

The commissioner of Kalat has been tasked with overseeing the relocation process and coordinating relief arrangements to ensure the availability of basic facilities for the affected families.

The government has instructed residents to complete the relocation by October 30. Officials did not provide further details about the reasons for the move or the anticipated duration of the families' stay at the camps.

He emphasised that protection should not be limited to formal assurances but must involve practical measures capable of restoring the confidence of victims and their families.

Police officials informed the meeting that investigations into both cases were ongoing and that different aspects of the incidents were being examined. The speaker directed the police to complete the investigations in a transparent, impartial and effective manner, take lawful action against the suspects nominated in the cases, and ensure comprehensive security for the affected families.

concerns of all affected family members.

He emphasised that protection should not be limited to formal assurances but must involve practical measures capable of restoring the confidence of victims and their families.

"You are our protectors. If you cannot provide us with security, what can we say in this regard?" the speaker remarked, underscoring the need for effective policing and accountability.

During the briefing, AIG Asif Khan informed the meeting that security had been provided to Asma Jattak and her family. The speaker, however, questioned whether the security arrangements adequately addressed the

progress of investigations into the two cases, the security contingents and the measures taken to protect the affected families. However, the speaker expressed concern over the DIG's absence and the appearance of the AIG instead, saying the matter raised concerns regarding the privileges of the provincial assembly.

Addressing the meeting, Achakzai said the repeated dis-

cession of such incidents in the assembly was a matter of serious concern. He stressed that the police were responsible for protecting the public and ensuring the safety of citizens' lives and property.

Under a ruling issued by the speaker, the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police, Khuzdar Range, had been summoned to explain the progress of the investigations and the measures taken to protect the affected families. However, the speaker expressed concern over the DIG's absence and the appearance of the AIG instead, saying the matter raised concerns regarding the privileges of the provincial assembly.

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Balochistan Assembly Speaker Summons Khuzdar DIG, Orders Transparent Probe and Security for Victims Families

NEWS DESK

QUETTA: Balochistan Assembly Speaker Captain (ret'd) Abdul Khaliq Khan Achakzai has directed police officials to ensure transparent investigations into the cases of Asma Jattak and Laiba Sattar, arrest the nominated suspects in accordance with the law, and provide effective security to the affected families.

The directions were issued during a meeting chaired by the speaker at his chamber in the Balochistan Assembly. Provincial Assembly members Ali Madad Jattak, Mir Jan Muhammad Mengal, Mir Zafarullah Khan



Zehri, Balochistan Assembly Secretary Tahir Shah Kakar and Assistant Inspector General of Police Asif Khan attended the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Neither Capitalism nor Communism

Aziz ur Rehman Agha
The Cold War may have ended, but the ideological clash between Capitalism and Communism continues to shape global politics, economics, and international relations. Even today, global alliances reflect these old ideological divisions.

However, both Capitalist and Communist systems have failed to manage political and socio-economic affairs effectively. One system suppresses personal freedom; the other deprecates inequality.

Both carry serious structural flaws that make them unsuitable for modern societies. This calls for a new, balanced approach — one found in the Islamic socio-economic and political philosophy, which follows a middle path between the two extremes.

The Flaws of Communism Communism lies at one extreme of the ideological spectrum. It suppresses individual freedoms such as speech, press, and trade. Historical examples from Maoist China during the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) show how intellectual expression was crushed — books and music not aligned with party ideology were banned, and private libraries were destroyed.

Similarly, in the USSR, any deviation from party thought was treated as a crime. Economically, Communism eliminates private property and discourages entrepreneurship. Without personal incentive,

individuals lose motivation to innovate and work for economic growth. As a result, this system hampers development and limits prosperity. The severe restrictions on basic rights and freedoms make Communism unsustainable in

modern nation-states. The Problems with Capitalism On the other end lies Capitalism, which has enabled just 1% of the world's population to control more wealth than the remaining 99% combined. This system inherently promotes economic in-

equality, empowering elite industrialists while exploiting the working class. Under Capitalism, profit takes precedence over people — workers are overburdened, and ethical values are often sacrificed for industrial gains. Furthermore, Capitalism's obsession

with rapid industrialization and profit maximization has led to environmental destruction, resource depletion, and climate crises.

It prioritizes wealth accumulation over sustainability. These internal contradictions — growing inequality,

moral decay, and ecological harm — make Capitalism an unfit model for an equitable, sustainable society. The Islamic Socio-Economic Philosophy: A Balanced Approach Both Capitalism and Communism fail because they represent extremes — one suffo-

cates freedom; the other breeds inequality. Islam, however, offers a balanced socio-economic philosophy that harmonizes justice, freedom, and social welfare.

The Islamic economic system allows private ownership and business freedom, but regulates them through moral and legal checks. The obligation of Zakat (charity) redistributes wealth, preventing concentration in the hands of a few. Meanwhile, the prohibition of Riba (usury) ensures financial fairness and discourages exploitation. Together, these principles foster economic justice, social cohesion, and sustainable development.

Conclusion Neither Capitalism nor Communism provides a complete solution to humanity's political and economic challenges. Both contain inherent flaws — one curtails human freedom, the other destroys social equality. The Islamic socio-economic model, however, offers the ideal middle path — balancing individual rights with collective welfare. With its emphasis on justice, equality, and moral responsibility, Islam presents the most sustainable and humane political and economic philosophy for the modern world.

Winds of change to where?

ZAHID HUSSAIN:
THERE is much talk of the 'winds of change', but where are they blowing from? Well-briefed sections of the media and well-connected cabinet ministers tell us that some form of administrative restructuring to create new provinces is inevitable, and that it may come sooner rather than later.

We are told it is 'the will of the people' and that anyone who opposes it will be swept aside. One cannot help but wonder whether it is really the will of the people or that of the powers that be.

Curiously, while federal ministers belonging to the ruling PML-N deny any public knowledge of such a move, the PPP has vowed to resist the creation of new provinces.

And there has been no debate on the issue in parliament or the provincial assemblies.

Perhaps, as with the previous 16th and 17th Amendments, the draft is being prepared somewhere else, and lawmakers are expected simply to rubber-stamp it.

Speculation about an impending 28th amendment on administrative restructuring has been circulating for some time, but it was the interior minister's public statement last month that confirmed that a change was in the offing.

His remarks amounted to an indictment of the entire political order and a call for structural change.

A statement by the military spokesman soon after gave further shape to the emerging plan.

Those statements triggered intense public debate over a plan whose contours remain obscure.

All manner of suggestions — from the creation of new administrative units to devolution — are being floated.

Yet even the political parties and federal ministers who ad-



mainly support restructuring admit they have no clear framework for how it should be carried out.

The collapse of the system is the result of the denial of democratic rights to the people. There is no disagreement that the existing political power structure has long since collapsed and can no longer deliver.

But any attempt to salvage the system through patchwork will fail.

The crisis runs far deeper and cannot be resolved merely by re-drawing administrative units.

Some media reports, apparently based on the official briefing, suggest the still to be finalised 28th amendment is not limited to new administrative units but also envisages 'sweeping governance restructuring'.

Structural reform is inseparable from democracy, and any change imposed by extra-constitutional forces will only

worsen the chaos and fuel instability.

Yet given the existing imbalance of power in favour of the establishment, there appears little likelihood of resistance from a civilian leadership of questionable legitimacy.

The 26th and 27th Amendments have already damaged the foundation of the Constitution by virtually destroying judicial independence;

many are of the view that the judiciary has

been reduced to an extension of the executive.

A 28th amendment as currently conceived would destroy even the semblance of democracy that remains.

The creation of new administrative units and devolution of power to local governments has long been viewed as a way to improve governance.

Yet the country's political parties have never reached a consensus on the issue, and the constitutional require-

ment of a two-thirds majority in both the national parliament and provincial assemblies has made the creation of new provinces almost impossible.

There is broad agreement on establishing a separate south Punjab province, but whether it should be divided along linguistic or administrative lines remains a sticking point.

Similarly, while there appears to be a general acceptance in KP of a Hazara

province, the exact boundary remains disputed. The suggestion to divide Sindh, however, remains the most contentious issue.

Not surprisingly, the PPP has campaigned aggressively against a plan that would create a separate Karachi province, while others have suggested placing the country's financial and industrial hub under direct federal control.

Both proposals amount to cutting off Sindh's capital city, which makes

no sense; any such move could spark an uprising in the country's second-biggest province.

Likewise, dividing Balochistan into several administrative units would only worsen an already volatile situation. Far from improving governance, such arbitrary plans, conceived arguably by extra-constitutional elements, are impractical.

Rather than pursuing a controversial re-drawing of administrative boundaries, the grand idea of creating more provinces, and governance reform imposed by the establishment, will only expedite the very collapse of the state that the interior minister mentioned.

It must be left to parliament and the political parties to build consensus on devolution to local government, which is essential for democracy and good governance.

We have the example of political parties jointly working on the 18th Amendment, which strengthened federalism through the devolution of power to the provinces.

A major problem, however, is the security set-up's growing control of the state. A civilian government of doubtful legitimacy, beholden to the establishment for its survival, is in no position to resist pressure.

The collapse of the system is the result of the denial of democratic rights to the people, and the rot cannot be stopped through imposed solutions.

A country mired in economic, political and internal security crises cannot afford another contentious issue dividing the people.

These so-called winds of change are certainly not good for the future of democracy and the country.

What we need is the restoration of democracy and the supremacy of the Constitution to stem the rot.

Pakistan, Qatar, Turkiye and Indonesia sign 'Badr' defence cooperation pact

NEWS DESK: Pakistan, Qatar, Turkiye and Indonesia on Wednesday signed a multilateral pact to promote cooperation in defence production and capabilities, the Turkish defence ministry said.

The Foreign Office has yet to comment on the signing of the defence pact.

According to the Turkish ministry, the signing took place in Qatar, with ministers of the four countries attending the ceremony. Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, who was visible in pictures shared by the ministry, signed on behalf of Pakistan.

Turkish Defence Minister Yasar Güler, Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman, and Indonesia's Deputy Minister of Defence Yusuf Ishaq were the other signatories. Haluk Görgün, who heads Turkiye's Secretariat of Defence Industries, was also present on the occasion.



Reuters quoted the Turkish ministry as saying that the pact, titled 'Badr Memorandum of Understanding', was aimed at defence cooperation and strengthening defensive capabilities.

The ministry said the accord would also support military exercises and training, cooperation on research and development, and contribute to joint efforts to

improve the countries' respective defence industries.

Meanwhile, Turkiye-based Anadolu Agency quoted the ministry as saying that the MoU would help develop solutions and industrial sectors aligned with advances in modern defence systems.

Pakistan has strong brotherly and historic ties with the three countries, with intense diplo-

matic engagement seen in recent months with Qatar and Turkiye particularly.

Pakistan, along with Saudi Arabia, are members of the Makkah Defence Alliance, under which they are to treat an attack against any of them as an attack against all. Pakistan had welcomed that pact as cooperation aimed at regional security and stability.

State of deceased's eyes not proof of 'unwitnessed' death: SC

NEWS DESK: Court dismisses petitions challenging double-murder convictions.

Verdict explains that closing eyes of a corpse is 'religious' custom, not legal duty.

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court ruled on Tuesday that the condition of a deceased person's eyes at the time of death cannot conclusively establish the fact that the incident was not witnessed.

The Qanun-i-Shahadat Order, 1984, does not impose a legal duty to close a deceased person's eyes. Rather, the practice is customary and religious, observed by Justice Salehuddin Panhwar while dismissing all petitions filed by Azmat Ullah alias Motu and Muhammad Luqman alias Gona.

The petitioners had challenged their convictions in a 2011 double-murder case, upheld by the Lahore High Court (LHC) on May 18, 2022. Justice Panhwar was part of a three-member bench, headed by Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar. The bench upheld the convictions under Section 302(b) of the Pakistan Penal Code but maintained the high court's decision to commute the death sentences to life imprisonment.



In criminal trials, defence lawyers often argue that an incident was 'unwitnessed' if the post-mortem report records the deceased's eyes as open, reasoning that close relatives would ordinarily close them after death. During the hearing, the petitioners' counsel pointed to discrepancies in eye-witness statements and argued that the post-mortem and inquest reports, which recorded the eyes of both victims as open, indicated that the murders had not been witnessed. Article 129 versus rigid presumptions in a nine-page judgement, Justice Panhwar referred to Article 129 of the Qanun-i-Shahadat Order, which allows courts to presume facts they consider

likely in the circumstances of a particular case.

However, the judgement stressed that human behaviour could not be assessed in a vacuum or through rigid assumptions. Responses to trauma, terror and violent loss vary from person to person, making it unsafe to draw categorical processes rather than the presence or absence of witnesses, the judgement explained.

Following death, muscles initially become relaxed, allowing eyelids to remain open or partially open, a condition known as lagophthalmos. Handling or moving a body may also cause previously closed eyes to reopen, particularly before rigor mortis develops.

Relatives and bystanders may also continue treating the victim as injured until a doctor or police official confirms death, which may not be immediately apparent at the scene. Other factors from a forensic perspective, the position of the eyelids is governed by physiological processes rather than the presence or absence of witnesses, the judgement explained.

It noted that relatives witnessing a gruesome incident may be overwhelmed by shock and trauma. Hoping their loved one might survive, they may focus on obtaining urgent medical assistance rather than performing customary rituals associated with death.

Judicial Commission of Pakistan's transfer only policy for IHC judges challenged

NEWS DESK: A writ petition filed in the Islamabad High Court has challenged the Judicial Commission of Pakistan's (JCP) April 28 decision that vacancies arising from the transfer of a judge "shall be filled through transfer only", arguing that the three vacant judges' seats in the IHC should be filled through fresh appointments under the Constitution rather than further transfers.

The petition, filed by Advocate Supreme Court Syed Nayyab Hassan Gardazi against the Federation of Pakistan, JCP president and prime minister, contends that the impugned decision has no constitutional foundation and conflicts with Article 175A(8), which requires the commission to nominate one person "for each vacancy" of a high court judge. It argues that the Constitution recognises no category of high court vacancy exempt from this requirement and that the commission cannot create one through a resolution.

The petition contends that the JCP decision was taken in disre-

gard of the procedure prescribed by the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (Appointment of Judges) Rules 2024. It points out that Rule 11(2) requires the secretary to notify all members at least 14 days before a scheduled meeting. provision for their amendment, while the only provision allowing the commission to remove difficulties—Rule 15—requires the votes of at least two-thirds of its total membership.

The impugned decision, however, records

consider transfers, at which the commission

sat under the first provision to Article 200(1), with the chief justices of the high courts concerned in each transfer.

By contrast, the Constitution prescribes a distinct composition



only a "majority of its total membership". The petition also questions the composition of the JCP when the decision was taken. It argues that the impugned decision governs future appointments to the IHC, yet it was taken at meetings convened to

for the appointment of IHC judges under Article 175A(6). Besides the IHC chief justice, it includes the head of IHC's constitutional benches, an advocate nominated by the Islamabad Bar Council and a federal minister nominated by the prime minister.

Secretary Interior Ahmed Sarwar and Additional Deputy Commissioner Uzair Ali Khan, representing the chief commissioner of ICT, appeared before the commission, while the ECP was represented by its secretary, special secretary (policy), special secretary (law), ADG (LGE), ADG (law) and

PM Shehbaz vows to strengthen Maldives ties for 'all time to come'; 20 MoUs signed

NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday vowed to strengthen bilateral relations with the Maldives, as the two countries signed 20 memorandums of understanding (MoUs) during the visit of President Dr Mohamed Muizzu.

Muizzu arrived in Islamabad on Tuesday on a three-day visit at the invitation of PM Shehbaz Sharif. The visit marks the first by a Maldivian president to Pakistan in 11 years, and comes as the two countries celebrate the 60th anniversary of their diplomatic relations, established in 1966. Addressing a joint press stake-out following the signing of 20 wide-ranging MoUs, PM Shehbaz said, "There is no doubt that the two countries [will] keep on strengthening these relations for all time to come."

The premier extended a "very warm welcome" to the visiting dignitary and his delegation.

PM Shehbaz expressed his "warmest greetings and heartfelt affection to the people of Dhivehi Raajje, the land of islands, a nation whose spirit is as vast as



the ocean that surrounds it," hailing 60 years of diplomatic ties between the two countries. The prime minister noted that their brothers and sisters from Maldives in Pakistan in various walks of life, police, defence, education, health and many others' fields. The prime minister went on to announce that both sides had agreed to raise their bilateral trade from \$13.9 million—"just a fraction of our potential"—to \$200m in the next two years.

While highlighting that the two South Asian countries had "very

strong" relations, coupled with a "long list of mutual achievements", PM Shehbaz said both sides noted that their ties "do not reflect the true strength of our economic cooperation". Thanking Muizzu for his "personal support in this behalf", the premier went on to announce that Islamabad would support Male in promoting the plantation of 5m trees in the Maldives by providing 100,000 olive cuttings and 100,000 seeds of various plant species within a mutually decided timeframe.

According to the FIR, the teenage boy had been working for the suspects and was being trained as an electrician. His cousin told police that the boy had reportedly faced violence and threats by the suspects, the FIR said, adding that the 14-year-old was fleeing when the suspects pursued him in a car and hit him. Police arrested one of the suspects while the other escaped, the FIR stated. It added that their vehicle had been taken into custody.

Man accused of running over Multan teenager killed in alleged CCD encounter

NEWS DESK: The suspect accused of running over and fatally injuring a 14-year-old boy in Multan was killed in an alleged encounter with the Crime Control Department (CCD) on Wednesday, police said. The suspect, identified as Taseer, had allegedly escaped from police custody while on remand, a CCD spokesman said.

A Multan court on Tuesday granted police a three-day physical remand of the suspect.

The suspect was accused of hitting the victim, who used to work for him, with his car in a private housing society.

He was arrested on Monday and presented before Judicial Magistrate Saad Aslam on Tuesday.

According to the spokesperson, the CCD personnel attempted to stop two individuals riding a motorcycle on Bahawalpur's Northern Bypass when an exchange of fire ensued, leaving the suspect dead.

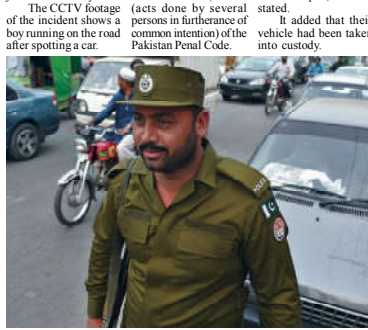
On Tuesday, police requested a 14-day physical remand of the

suspect for investigation. However, the judicial magistrate granted the police a three-day remand. At the time, Multan City Police Officer (CPO) Akhtar Farooq said while speaking to the media that raids were being conducted for the arrest of a second suspect.

"We all are in deep pain," the CPO said, adding that the orphan boy had been "subjected to barbarity".

The CCTV footage of the incident shows a boy running on the road after spotting a car.

The first information report (FIR) named two suspects and invoked Sections 302 (intentional murder) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the Pakistan Penal Code.



ECP orders fresh schedule for Islamabad local government polls

NEWS DESK: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Wednesday directed its office to prepare and issue the election programme for local government elections in the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

A five-member bench, headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, issued the order while hearing a case concerning delays in holding local government elections in ICT. Members Nasir Ahmed Durrani, Shah Muhammad Jatoi, Babar Hassan Bhawanji and Justice (ret'd) Ikramullah Khan were also part of the bench.

The proceedings were initiated following a notice issued by the commission to the secretary of the ICT Interior and the chief commissioner of ICT.

Secretary Interior Ahmed Sarwar and Additional Deputy Commissioner Uzair Ali Khan, representing the chief commissioner of ICT, appeared before the commission, while the ECP was represented by its secretary, special secretary (policy), special secretary (law), ADG (LGE), ADG (law) and



director (law). In its short order the Commission observed:

"Accordingly, in exercise of its constitutional powers and functions under Articles 140A, 218(3), 219 and 220 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973, read with Section 219 of the Elections Act, 2017, and under Sections 17 and 24 of the Islamabad Capital Territory Local Government Act, 2015, the Commission hereby directs the office to forthwith prepare and issue the Election Programme for the conduct of local government elections in the Islamabad Capital Territory, in accordance

with the Islamabad Capital Territory Local Government Act, 2015, as legally in force, the Elections Act, 2017, and the rules made thereunder."

The ECP further directed the concerned office to ensure that all consequential steps were taken expeditiously and strictly in accordance with the law to facilitate the timely completion of the electoral process.

Islamabad has been without an elected local government for more than five years. The only local government elections in the capital were held in 2015, with polls conducted for 50 union councils. The PML-N

won the elections, and Sheikh Anser Aziz was elected the first mayor. The local government's term expired in February 2021. Under Article 140-A of the Constitution and Section 219(4) of the Elections Act, 2017, the ECP is required to hold elections within 120 days of the expiry of a local government's term. However, fresh polls have been delayed and repeated changes to the legal framework. The ECP conducted delimitations multiple times and issued election schedules on several occasions, only for them to be cancelled later. In one instance, a day before polling.