

Principal gunned down in Quetta

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QUETTA: Barely a day after the killing of two men, the principal of the Government Commerce College was gunned dead by two men riding a motorcycle here on Tuesday.

The provincial capital, plagued by both sectarian violence and insurgent attacks, remained paralysed as shops and markets observed a strike to protest Monday's killings. Professor Amanat Ali was ambushed while travelling to his college. He was taken to the Civil Hospital in critical condition where doctors pronounced him dead. In the meantime, a large number of students of his college reached the hospital and protested against the killing. They also chanted slogans against the government. Later, the body of the principal was dispatched to Lahore for burial.

Nobody has claimed responsibility for the attack. The Balochistan Assembly, which was in session on Tuesday, also reverberated with the disturbing events afflicting the city. Criticising the government for failing to provide security to the people, provincial Minister Jan Ali Changezi, who belongs to the Hazara community, said it seemed the government had lost its writ as target killings in the province had become routine.

He alleged the Balochistan IGP was incompetent and had failed to control the situation, regretting that the provincial cabinet's demand to the federal government for replacing him also went unheeded.

Home Minister Mir Zafarullah Zehri, on a point of order, informed the assembly that he had clues about those involved in the target killings but he was helpless. He said if the elected representatives were given responsibilities, the situation might improve. Meanwhile, Balochistan Governor Nawab Zulfiqar Ali Magsi strongly condemned the killing of Professor Amanat Ali and termed it a great loss.