

Pakistan 'all set' for 9th Aman multinational exercise: Navy

Islamabad (News Desk) The Pakistan Navy on Sunday announced it was "all set" to host the ninth Aman 2025 multinational naval exercise, which will take place from February 7-11, according to a statement. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), which also issued a statement, said that 120 delegations from around the world would attend the first-ever Aman dialogue: a forum running concurrently with the exercise where military leaders will discuss maritime security threats. "A key feature of this year's exercise will be the Aman Dialogue, where Chiefs

of Naval Forces, heads of Coast Guards, and senior leaders from around the world will convene to discuss regional maritime security and devise joint strategies to counter evolving maritime threats," the Navy's statement read. According to the Navy, 60 countries will participate in the exercise, bringing ships, aircraft and personnel including special forces, marines and explosive ordnance disposal specialists. The Navy added that the exercise will be divided into harbour and sea phases. "During the harbour phase, activities such as seminars, operational discussions, counter-terror

ism demonstrations, and pre-sail planning of evolutions at sea will be held," the Navy statement read. "The sea phase would include tactical manoeuvres, exercises related to maritime security such as anti-piracy and counter-terrorism, search and rescue, gunnery firings and air defence exercises." According to the Navy, the sea phase will also include the international fleet review, attended by national and foreign dignitaries. The ISPR mentioned in its statement that the exercise would be "the most prominent and historic military activity in the region" as over 4,000 personnel are due

to participate. The ISPR added, "The opening ceremony of the Aman 2025 exercise will be held at the Pakistan Navy Dockyard. During the Aman exercise, the Pak Marines and the Special Service Group (Navy) will also demonstrate their counter-terrorism skills." Their statement added that joint operations against maritime crimes would also be practiced at sea. "The motto of the Aman series, 'Together for Peace', reflects its core mission, while this year's theme, 'Secure Seas; Prosperous Future', emphasizes the importance of maritime security for global prosperity," the Navy said.



Lahore : Member of the National Assembly Abdul Ghaffar Watto and Member of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab Fida Hussain call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on 26 January 2025.

1 dead, 7 injured after explosion near bus travelling from Khuzdar to Rawalpindi: official

Rawalpindi (News Des) At least one person was killed and seven others injured on Sunday when an explosion occurred near a passenger bus travelling from Khuzdar to Rawalpindi, officials said. "The passenger bus, travelling on the M-8 Highway from Khuzdar to Rawalpindi, was targeted near Khori, some 25 kilometres from Khuzdar City," Khuzdar District Commissioner Yasir Iqbal Dashti told Dawn.com. Among the injured was the bus conductor, said to be in critical condition. The injured were immediately shifted to the Khuzdar Trauma Centre following the blast, DC Dashti said. An investigation suggests that an improvised explosive device (IED) was planted in an Alto vehicle parked near the road. A heavy police contingent, Frontier Corps and Levies forces reached the site of the incident and cordoned off the area. An investigation into the incident has begun. While no group immediately claimed responsibility for the blast, the country, particularly Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, have seen a sharp uptick in terrorism-related incidents over the last few months. Earlier this month, four people were killed and 32 injured in a blast targeting a bus in the suburban area of Balochistan's Turbat.

PTI files plea against 26th Amendment



ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) As an eight-judge constitutional bench, headed by Justice Aminuddin Khan, is set to commence hearing of challenges to the 26th Amendment from Monday, the PTI also instituted a petition seeking court declaration that the amendment violates salient features of the Constitution and affects the judiciary's independence. Several petitioners, including high court bar associations, requested the Supreme Court to constitute a full court to hear the matter instead of the constitutional bench established under the 26th Amendment. In its petition filed through Advocate Sameer Khosa, the PTI has pleaded that the process by which the amendment was enacted contravenes Articles 63A, 238 and 239 particularly due to the absence of a fully constituted parliament, illegal inclusion of votes of defecting members of parliament and procedural irregularities that undermined the legitimacy of its passage.

Kidnapped Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission contract worker found dead

LAKKI MARWAT: (News Desk) The body of a kidnapped contract worker of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) was recovered from the rugged terrain of the remote Zareefwala area in Lakki Marwat district on Saturday. An elder, requesting not to be named, said local elders, relatives of the hostages and armed members of civic organisations had ventured into the area in search of the abducted employees. "They went there after hearing reports about shelling on the militants'

hideouts by security forces on Friday," the elder said. However, there has been no official confirmation of the operation. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the Pakistan Army's media wing, has not issued any statement regarding the targeting of those hideouts. A video circulating on social media showed armed elders and residents in the mountainous area. The elder revealed that the kidnapers had handed over the body of Rehanullah to the elders. The body was later shifted

to the Government City Hospital. He also confirmed that the elders secured the release of Nawaz Khan, a coach driver who had been abducted alongside the PAEC's contract workers on Jan 9. "The elders are holding talks with the militant leaders to negotiate a safe release of the hostages," he added. After medico-legal formalities at the hospital, Rehanullah's body was handed over to his relatives. He was laid to rest in a local graveyard following funeral prayers

attended by a large number of people from across the district. Meanwhile, office-bearers of the All Shopkeepers Union announced a complete shutter-down strike in Lakki Marwat city on Monday, following a call from the grand jirga. Addressing a press conference, they said the business community would extend full support to the elders to ensure a safe release of the hostages. The traders also announced their participation in upcoming protest demonstrations.



An image of a naval vessel participating at the Aman naval exercise

Mohsin Naqvi clarifies he did not attend 'anti-China' event during US visit

Islamabad (News Desk) Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday refuted reports of him attending an event considered "anti-China" during his visit to the United States. His clarification comes after various posts on social media as well as a local and an Indian media report claimed that Naqvi attended an event hosted by a lobbying group

that campaigns against the neighbour's ruling Chinese Communist Party. Pakistan has held strong bilateral relations with China which has supported it through many investments and development projects such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which was termed as a "lifeline" for the country's economy. Responding to reporters'

queries in Houston, Naqvi termed the reports "propaganda". He asserted, "Neither have I attended nor have I gone to any kind of anti-Chinese state event." The minister acknowledged that he attended an event organised by Gunster Strategies Worldwide, a public relations firm in the US, which "they connected as being anti-China." "They

can do as much propaganda as they want. It does not matter," Naqvi quipped, reiterating his clarification that he did not attend "any anti-China function." The interior minister has been on a visit to the US this week, where he has participated in various events and held important meetings, according to the Associated Press of Pakistan.

30 terrorists killed, 8 hurt in KP operations: ISPR

PESHAWAR / KHYBER: (News Desk) A total of 30 terrorists, including two ringleaders, were killed and eight others injured in separate security operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Saturday, according to the military's media wing. In a separate development, four police personnel, who had been abducted from South Waziristan Upper three days ago, have been safely recovered. Security forces acting on intelligence effectively engaged the terrorist hideouts in Lakki Marwat, Karak and Khyber districts. A statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) read that security forces carried out an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Lakki Marwat district on the reported presence of terrorists. The forces effectively engaged their location and killed 18 of them while six others were injured during the exchange of fire, it added. Eight other terrorists were gunned down during a security operation in Karak district.

Imran alleges flaws, bias in £190m graft case verdict

ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) Former prime minister Imran Khan has raised multiple objections to the verdict that convicted him in the £190 million corruption case, citing significant procedural flaws, mishandling of evidence and allegations of political victimisation by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). The appeal calls for his conviction and 14-year sentence to be overturned, emphasising the lack of credible evidence and procedural lapses. Mr Khan's legal team, headed by Barrister Salman Safdar, highlighted critical points in the appeal, including the findings of the UK Court of Appeal's judgement dated Nov 26, 2021. The judgement, delivered by Lady Justice Nicola Davies, Lord Justice Nugee and Lord Justice Snowden, clarified that the funds at the centre of the controversy were neither proceeds of crime nor linked to any illegal activity. The National Crime Agency (NCA) in the UK had agreed to a £190m settlement with property tycoon Malik Riaz Hussain, specifying that the funds would be transferred to Pakistan's Supreme Court account as part of a legal framework, the appeal stated. Mr Khan's appeal accuses NAB of withholding critical evidence and failing to present witnesses from the NCA or relevant documents to substantiate its claims.

Mediation dubbed solution to prolonged litigation, Justice Shah tells LHC Bar

LAHORE: (News Desk) Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, the senior puisne judge of the Supreme Court, on Saturday says the people who are fed up with prolonged litigation can find solution to their problems at the Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) system. "Arbitration and mediation should be encouraged as adopting such systems has become essential," he asserted speaking at a conference on ADR organised at the Lahore High Court Bar Association. Justice Shah said with the new ADR law, the traditional courts would step aside and alternative methods would have to be adopted to resolve the people's issues. He highlighted that there were currently only 13 judges for a million people, which showed the judges shortage and the challenges inherent in the judicial system. Justice Shah stressed the need to abandon old practices, saying important cases were delayed due to the sheer volume of cases, pointing out that in 2023, 1.7 million cases were decided by the courts across Pakistan yet many remained pending. He said the alternative pathways must be created for litigants and expressed regret that the delays in case resolutions were often caused by lawyers and systemic issues like strikes. Justice Shah suggested giving litigants the right to initially opt for mediation. He highlighted the significant differences between the judicial and mediation systems, stating that mediation would reduce costs and resolve more issues. He assured the lawyers that the ADR system would not create financial problems for them.

Biggest loss will be PML-N's if PPP leaves coalition: Senator Saleem Mandviwalla

Islamabad (News Desk) Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, highlighting numerous reservations of the PPP, has warned that the ruling PML-N would face the "biggest loss" if his party breaks off its alliance with the government. The differences between the PML-N-led coalition government and its key ally PPP have been simmering for a while. A meeting last month between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari to revive trust seemingly

failed to put an end to these disagreements. During an interview with DawnNewsTV programme 'Doosra Rukh', aired on Saturday, Senator Mandviwalla claimed that Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar has realised if the coalition breaks, PML-N will suffer the greatest loss. Highlighting Deputy PM Dar's efforts to find solutions to the issues between the two coalition allies, the senator said Dar was the "only one making efforts to bring the parties to a table. No one else

does this." Mandviwalla highlighted that the Prime Minister's Office was not implementing directives issued by the President House. When asked if President Zardari was unhappy with the situation, he responded: "Of course, of course. 'If a directive is sent by the president of Pakistan [...] and it's not implemented, then what will happen at lower levels?' he asked. The PPP lawmaker's statements come days after a meeting of PPP's Central Executive Committee (CEC) was held, amid the

party's reservations that the government did not take it on board in decision-making and backed out of its promises made to the party. At the meeting, the PPP had demanded that the federal government hold local government polls in Punjab and Islamabad as per the agreement between the PPP and the government. A resolution passed by the CEC voiced concern over the construction of controversial canals, demanded the immediate convening of the Coun



cil of Common Interests (CCI) meeting, which has been pending for 11 months, and called for the controversial canal issue to be urgently raised in the CCI. "If you are not implementing the things you a

greed to, the coalition will break one day," Mandviwalla warned, adding that he could "sense" during the CEC meeting that the alliance would not work.