

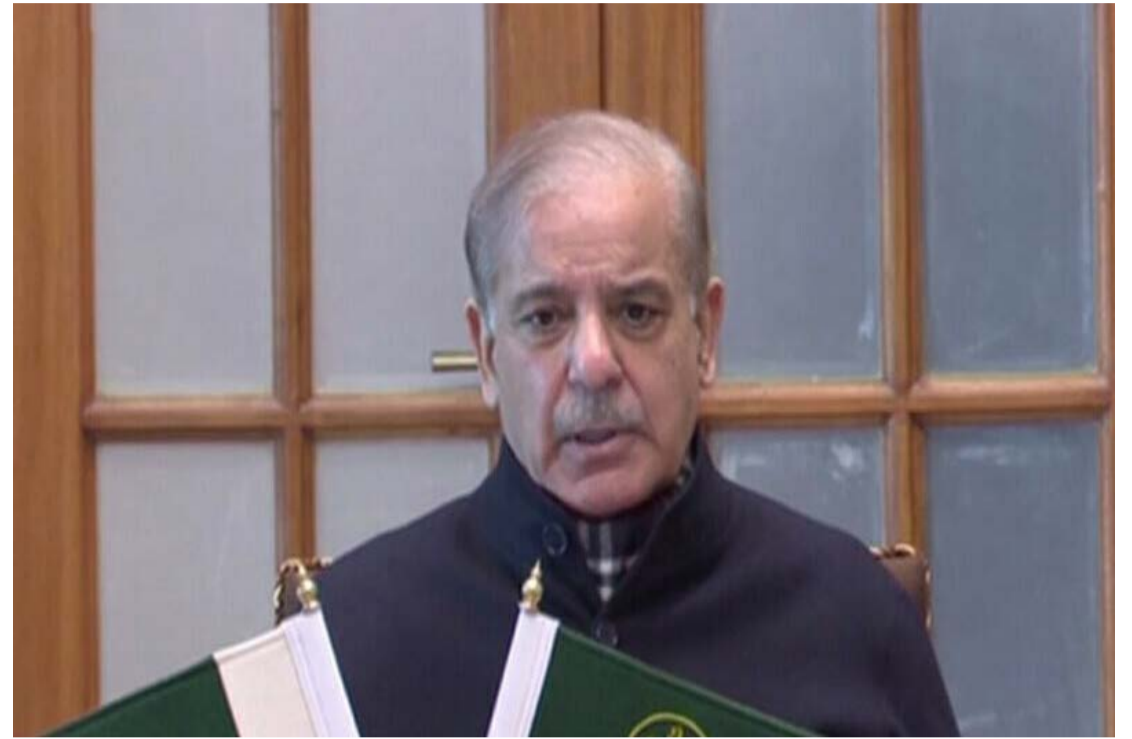
## Imran has written letter to army chief on 'need to reevaluate policy': Barrister Gohar

Islamabad (News Desk) PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said on Monday that party founder and former prime minister Imran Khan has written a letter to Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir regarding the "need to reevaluate policy", adding that the text of the letter will be made public today. Last month, the issue of a meeting between Gen Munir and PTI leaders Ali Amin Gandapur and Barrister Gohar came under intense scrutiny but the agenda of the rendezvous remained shrouded in mystery, amid conflicting claims from both sides. Initially, the interim PTI

chairman had denied any contact, but he later confirmed a meeting with the army chief, where he claimed to have "received a positive response". A statement attributed to security sources, however, had denied any political aspect of the gathering, saying the contents of the meeting were being reported out of context. Talking to the media today, Barrister Gohar said that Imran, in his letter, has reminded the army chief that as the former prime minister and the founder of the country's biggest political party PTI, he wanted to point out "certain things because of which the distance between the people and the

establishment was widening". Continuing quoting Imran, Gohar said: "This [mistrust] should not take place at all, but there are certain reasons because of which this gulf is widening." Owing to those reasons, the army is being blamed, so the policy reasons must be reevaluated." According to Gohar, the letter also touched upon some of the reasons which have created the perceived gap between the establishment and the public, including the 2024 elections, the passage of the 26th amendment and the recent Peca Act, and how social media was being targeted to suppress dissent. Barrister Gohar reiterated

that Imran had written the letter in the above context "in great detail", adding that the letter would be made public today. Elaborating on the letter's contents, PTI lawyer Faisal Chaudhry said Imran had urged the security institutions to take notice that there was "a need of the hour to change the policies that are currently in effect in the country." Chaudhry said the primary reason for the mistrust between the establishment and the people, according to Imran, was the alleged rigging in the February 8 elections that led to a "minority government being imposed over the majority's wishes".



PM Shehbaz speaking at the meeting in Quetta

## Terror attacks, security operations surged in January

ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) The country witnessed a sharp increase in terror attacks in January 2025, surging by 42 per cent compared to the previous month. According to a data released by the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS), a think tank, at least 74 militant attacks were recorded nationwide, resulting in 91 fatalities, including 35 security personnel, 20 civilians and 36 militants. Another 117 individuals suffered injuries, including 53 security forces personnel, 54 civilians and 10 militants. The report highlighted an intensified counterterrorism campaign by security forces, which led to elimination of at least 185 militants in January, making it the second deadliest month for militant casualties since 2016. PICSS report says KP remained worst-affected province, followed by Balochistan. The highest number of militants killed in a single month since 2016 was recorded in December 2024, when security forces neutralised 190 militants. The combined toll of militant attacks and security operations in January stood at 245 fatalities, comprising 185 militants, 40 security forces personnel and 20 civilians. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) remained the worst-affected province, followed by Balochistan.

## Cop gunned down in KP's Khyber as year's first polio drive begins



Peshawar (News Desk) A police constable on polio drive was killed on Monday in the Jamrud town of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Khyber district on the initial day of the year's first nationwide anti-polio drive, authorities said.

The vaccinators, who go door-to-door to inoculate children, are frequently targeted by militants, especially in KP and Balochistan. In 2024 alone, 20 people were killed and 53 injured during anti-polio campaigns in the province.

Police spokesperson Zaheer Ahmed told Dawn.com, "Unknown suspects who were riding a motorcycle targeted the official in the Ghundi area near Sakhi Pul and fired upon him."

"The constable, identified as Abdul Khalid, was going on duty to guard the polio team when he was martyred," he said adding that an investigation was underway. Zarmat Khan, another police official, told AFP that "despite the incident, the polio vaccination drive in the area remains ongoing".

## CJP Afridi welcomes transfer of judges to IHC, hails 'fair chance' for provinces

Islamabad (News Desk) Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi on Monday welcomed the transfer of judges to the Islamabad High Court (IHC) amid opposition from the capital's legal fraternity, terming the move a "fair chance" for judges from other provinces. President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday approved the transfer of one judge each from the high courts of Lahore, Balochistan and Sindh to the IHC, despite opposition from five IHC judges. They had warned in a letter to top judges that any such move would "violate constitutional

procedures and judicial norms". The CJP's remarks come as the Islamabad Bar Council, Islamabad High Court Bar Association, and Islamabad District Bar Association observed a strike in the district courts and the IHC today to protest what they called "unconstitutional measures" undermining the judiciary and legal profession. During the oath-taking ceremony of the Press Association of the Supreme Court (PAS), CJP Afridi — while welcoming the transfer of judges — said that the IHC was not part of any area rather it be-

longed to the entire country. "Judges from other provinces should also get a fair chance," CJP Afridi said. The CJP said that the issue regarding the transfer of judges should not be confused with the appointment of judges. "Appointment and transfer of judges are two separate issues," CJP Afridi said, adding that judges who were transferred to the IHC were already high court judges. He appreciated the initiative and said that the process should continue in the future. "Islamabad is the sym-

bol of federation. A Baloch-speaking judge has joined, a Sindh-speaking judge has joined, so you should rejoice [this moment]," the CJP said, stating that the federation belonged to everyone. "The transfer happened according to the Constitution. It is a good step taken under Article 200," he said. "More judges should come from other provinces," the CJP added. He said that as the chief justice, his vision should be broader and that there was a need for more judges in the SC, highlighting that he heard 40 cases today.



CJP Yahya Afridi in the oath-taking ceremony of the Press Association of the Supreme Court (PAS) today.

## Pakistan needs unity more than ever, says PM Shehbaz after Kalat attack

Islamabad (News Desk) Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday saluted the sacrifices of the armed forces and said that Pakistan needed unity now more than ever before in its 78-year history. His remarks came after 18 soldiers were martyred and 23 terrorists were killed in various sanitisation operations across Balochistan on

Friday. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the military's media wing, said that the operations took place in the districts of Harnai and Kalat. Speaking at a meeting in Quetta today, PM Shehbaz said: "I think today, in our 78 years, we are in need of unity the most. This is not the time for politics but we have to tackle this national

challenge first, and we can engage in politics [later]. "In the attack ... in which 23 khwarij were sent to hell and 18 soldiers embraced martyrdom, I feel this was the ultimate sacrifice during this new wave of terrorism," the prime minister said, using the state's official term for terrorists. He said that the nation saluted "the martyrs

and the ghazis (warriors)" and stood with them completely, adding that he visited the injured today at the hospital. "They were in high spirits and they said, 'We are getting the best hospital facilities here and if we have had to sacrifice a limb, it's not an issue as we would have sacrificed our lives for the nation as well,'" he continued.

## President Zardari to embark on four-day state visit to China on Feb 4: FO

Islamabad (News desk) The Foreign Office (FO) on Monday confirmed that President Asif Ali Zardari will embark on a four-day state visit to China, starting on February 4 at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping. In November, the president had been unable to proceed to China on a scheduled official visit due to a foot fracture as the doctors had advised him to rest for four weeks. According to a statement released by the FO, the state visit will be from Feb 4 to Feb 8 during which the president will hold meetings with the Chinese leadership, including Chinese President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and other senior leaders in Beijing. "The discussions will encompass the full spectrum of Pakistan-China relations, with a particular focus on economic and trade cooperation; counter-terrorism and security collaboration; China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and future connectivity initiatives," the statement read.

## Kurram residents bemoan road closures

KURRAM: (News Desk) Four more bunkers were demolished as part of ongoing efforts to enforce a peace agreement in parts of Lower Kurram, on Sunday. So far, 22 bunkers have been demolished as per the peace accord signed between the warring sides last month.

However, locals have complained that helicopter flights from Parachinar to Peshawar are too few and far between, while continuous road closures have taken a toll on students, among other segments of society, who have been unable to begin their academic year. Trade Union President Haji Imdad said that bringing goods in through convoys once or twice a week for millions of besieged people was not enough. Convoys should be sent daily and supply routes should be opened for general transport as well, he said. Meanwhile, the representatives of the warring groups sat down for talks at former senator Sajjad Syed Mian's residence in Islamabad. Although emissaries of both sides and members of the Grand Jirga, which solemnised the peace accord, attended, no government representative was present. However, the talks were held in a cordial atmosphere. The leaders of both parties — Jalal Hussain and Munir Bangash — said that it was necessary to immediately stop the misuse of social media.

## PM advised to dissolve PTI dialogue committee

ISLAMABAD / LAHORE: (News Desk) Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq on Sunday after Mr Sadiq's meeting with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and discussed the scenario following the collapse of government negotiations with the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI).

A source in the government told Dawn that the prime minister was advised to dissolve the dialogue committee formed to negotiate with PTI. The opposition party had boycotted the talks after the government failed to meet its demands, which included the formation of two separate judicial commissions to probe the May 9, 2023, and Nov 26, 2024, incidents, as well as the release of jailed PTI leaders and workers. However, PM Shehbaz has not yet issued formal orders to dissolve the committee, which has remained inactive since PTI withdrew from the talks. "We have requested the PM to dissolve the committee, as it was formed by him. We believe the PTI will not sit for talks in the near future as it has again adopted its previous strategy to hold street protests for the fulfilment of its demands," Senator Irfan Siddiqui, the committee's spokesperson, told Dawn. "The PM has so far not dissolved the committee even though it is not functional anymore," he added. The premier visited Mr Sadiq's residence in Lahore on Sunday. The meeting was also attended by NA Deputy Speaker Ghulam Mustafa Shah and MNAs Khurshid Shah and Shazia Marri, among others. While the meeting was officially to congratulate the deputy speaker on his son's wedding, sources suggest that discussions also centred on the stalled dialogue process with the PTI.

## Son of Afghan deputy governor among terrorists killed in KP security operation: state media

Peshawar (News Desk) The son of the deputy governor of Afghanistan's Badghis province was among four terrorists killed during a counterterrorism operation last week in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, state-run Radio Pakistan reported on Monday. Islamabad has consistently voiced concerns that the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) uses Afghan soil to launch attacks in Pakistan, asking the Afghanistan government to

rein in the group. Kabul denies the allegations. Radio Pakistan, citing sources, apparently referred to an intelligence-based operation (IBO) conducted in the Kulachi area of KP's Dera Ismail Khan district on January 31, during which four terrorists were killed. "According to sources, four terrorists of Fitnah Al Khawarij were killed by the security forces during a successful operation in the Kulachi area of Dera Ismail Khan a few days

back," the report stated. "Among those killed was the son of the deputy governor of Badghis province of Afghanistan. He was identified as Badaruddin alias Yousaf," it claimed. Fitnah Al Khawarij is a term the state used to refer to the TTP. It further said that according to sources, the Afghan authorities had refused to receive the eliminated terrorist's body "despite multiple requests from Pakistan".

Detailing the counterterrorism operation, Radio Pakistan stated that "modern American-made night vision equipment, along with M16A4 and M24 sniper rifles, were recovered from the killed terrorists". "Badaruddin had previously received training at an Afghan Taliban training centre," the report claimed, adding that he later joined the TTP. "Badaruddin was directly involved in the new wave of terrorist attacks from A



Afghanistan into Pakistan. According to sources, the Afghan Taliban leadership still maintains close ties with terrorist organisations, including Fitna Al Khawarij, the report said. The report quoted unnamed defence analysts as saying that the killed terrorists allegedly being the Afghan Deputy Governor.

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