

## Levies personnel martyred, 2 others injured in attack on Kalat checkpost

Kalat (News Desk) A levies personnel was martyred while two others were injured on Sunday as a result of an attack on a checkpost in Balochistan's Kalat district, officials said. Pakistan has recently witnessed an uptick in terror activities, especially in KP and Balochistan. Terror attacks have increased since the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) broke a fragile ceasefire agreement with the government in 2022. In a statement, Balochistan government spokesperson Shahid Rind said, "One personnel was martyred while two were injured in an attack on a Levies checkpost in Kalat." He added that the Levies

force immediately retaliated, forcing the assailants to flee. An investigation into the attack has been ordered, Rind said. The injured personnel have been shifted to Quetta for medical treatment, according to Rind. The spokesperson further said a search operation was being carried out to arrest the miscreants and that directives on that had been issued to the law enforcement agencies. Expressing the Balochistan government's condolences on the incident, Rind paid tribute to the martyred security personnel and said he shared the grief of the bereaved family. "The sacrifices rendered by the security forces to restore peace

will not go to waste," Rind asserted. The checkpost assault comes just a day after four soldiers were martyred while 15 terrorists were killed in two separate intelligence-based operations (IBOs) carried out in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. At the outset of this month, 18 soldiers were martyred while 23 terrorists were killed within 24 hours in various sanitisation operations across Balochistan. Twelve of the slain militants had died in an overnight clash in Kalat. The same day, in a late-night incident, four personnel of the Balochistan Levies and a civilian were martyred in a bomb attack in KP's Dera

Ismail Khan, near Balochistan's border district of Dherani. The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) registered a case while the Balochistan government formed a fact-finding tribunal to probe the incident. The next day, two security personnel lost their lives and another person was injured in separate armed attacks in Balochistan. With at least 685 members of security forces losing their lives amid a total of 444 terror attacks, 2024 turned out to be the deadliest year for the civil and military security forces of Pakistan in a decade, according to a report issued by the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) think-tank.



SKARDU: People offer funeral prayers for the Naat Khawans, who lost their lives in a road accident in Sindh, on Saturday

## Drought emergency imposed in Rawalpindi to conserve water

RAWALPINDI: (News Desk) In line with the Pakistan Meteorology Department's drought alert which warns of minimum chances of rain in February and March, the Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa) on Saturday imposed the drought emergency in the city to manage the water requirements of the residents. Wasa Managing Director Muhammad Saleem Ashraf told Dawn that due to the drought, rapidly growing population, various commercial activities, and limited resources the supply of water to the residents of the garrison city was affected. "Wasa Rawalpindi is facing severe difficulties in provision of water and in view of this situation, it has been decided to impose a drought emergency in Rawalpindi so that the people use water judiciously," Mr Ashraf said. He said that a water conservation campaign had been launched in the city because of the absence of rain over the past three months. He said that due to a prolonged dry spell, there had been a sharp decline in dams and underground reservoirs which created a huge gap in the demand and supply.

## Veteran journalist Razi Ahmed Rizvi passes away



ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) Syed Razi Ahmed Rizvi, former senior news editor at Pakistan Television (PTV) and ex-editor at Voice of America (VOA)'s Urdu service, passed away in Islamabad due to cardiac arrest. He was 81 years old. Rizvi, who was visiting Pakistan, had been admitted to a hospital in Islamabad on Friday after experiencing health complications. He was diagnosed with pneumonia, but suffered a fatal heart attack on Saturday morning. After completing his education, Rizvi began his journalism career in Dhaka with the PPI news agency. In 1967, he joined the Asian Television Service, a subsidiary of PTV, as news producer. He later served as a senior news producer at the Karachi Television Centre in 1970 and was appointed news editor at the Rawalpindi-Islamabad centre in April 1972. In 1978, he was promoted to senior news editor and also held responsibilities as deputy controller in the current affairs department. In July 1985, Rizvi moved to Washington DC, where he joined Voice of America and served it for nearly 38 years. A seasoned journalist fluent in Urdu and English, Rizvi played a crucial role in training many reporters, editors and news producers throughout his career.

## Interior minister hopes ties with US to grow under Trump

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi during a meeting with acting US Ambassador Natalie Baker on Saturday expressed the hope that Pakistan-US relations would be further strengthened during the tenure of President Donald Trump. The interior minister said that US cooperation in enhancing the capacity of Pakistan's law enforcement agencies was highly significant. Detailed discussions were also held on Pakistan-US relations, matters of mutual interest, and enhancing bilateral cooperation, at the meet-

ing. Naqvi holds meeting with Baker. The interior minister's recent visit to the US was also discussed during the meeting, where he had positive interactions with members of the US Congress. He said the brave sons of FC Balochistan had made the ultimate sacrifice for the peace of Pakistan, and the entire nation takes pride in their courage. Mr Naqvi also commended the security forces for eliminating 23 terrorists in Mangochar and Harnai, stating that their swift response had thwarted the

nefarious designs of the militants. He reaffirmed that the entire nation stood in solidarity with its security forces, vowing that Pakistan would never allow terrorist elements to destabilise its hard-earned peace. During these meetings, detailed negotiations were held on formulating a joint strategy against terrorism and further strengthening bilateral relations. Mr Naqvi stated that terrorism was an international issue and stressed the need for the global community to work together to fight this menace.

He recalled that Pakistan and the US had long-standing and excellent relations spanning over several decades. On concerns regarding immigration-related corruption at airports, including allegations of bribery, Mr Naqvi said strict measures are being taken. "Just wait a little while. A major revamp of the FIA is underway, and we will ensure that passengers travelling through legal means do not face unnecessary hurdles," he added. During the meeting, the minister invited the acting US envoy to attend Islamabad's Spring Festival.



PUNJAB Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir being briefed about agricultural implements, on Saturday.

## 5 killed in Peshawar shooting over personal enmity: police

Peshawar (News Desk) Five people were killed early on Sunday morning during a shooting in Peshawar's Badaber area, officials said. The incident occurred when the accused "opened indiscriminate fire" on a vehicle in the Mashokhel area at around 2am, according to a police statement. "The reason for the firing is personal enmity," police said. "Raids are being conducted to arrest the accused."

Several incidents motivated by personal enmity took place last month. Firing between two parties left five people dead and six injured in Peshawar's Tehkal area, with police claiming the incident was a result of personal enmity. In Wana, South Waziristan, an old enmity claimed the lives of three people including a policeman in two separate incidents. Separately, a senior lawyer and his brother were shot dead by

unidentified assailants in the Gulkada area of Saidu Sharif. Most recently, a 65-year-old Afghan national was shot dead in Baldia-8 on Wednesday evening. Saeedabad SHO Idris Bangash said that Allauddin was reciting the Holy Quran after offering prayer inside a mosque in the area when someone phoned him. As he went out of the mosque to answer the phone, two suspects riding

a motorcycle shot him and fled. He suffered critical injuries and was shifted to the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi where doctors pronounced him dead. The officer suspected some personal enmity behind the incident. Saeedabad SHO Idris Bangash said that Allauddin was reciting the Holy Quran after offering prayer inside a mosque in the area when someone phoned him.

## Girl student tortured by principal over celebration in Sialkot

NAROWAL: (News Desk) A Class-X girl student was allegedly tortured by the principal for signing a uniform shirt during a school celebration in Muzaffarpur tehsil of Sialkot. According to Adeel Anwar, a resident of Defence Road, his 16-year-old daughter, Warda Adeel, who is a heart patient, was tortured by the principal. He has filed complaints with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and the police, seeking justice. Anwar stated that Warda had visited the school on the last day to meet staff and friends. As part of the tradition, students signed each other's white uniform shirts to commemorate the occasion, something that had been done in previous years as well. However, school principal Tasneem Afzal allegedly stormed into the classroom, verbally abused the students and dragged Warda by her hair.

## Three renowned Naat Khawans laid to rest in GB

GILGIT: (News Desk) Three young Naat and Manqabat Khawans, Ali Kazim Khawaja, his elder brother Nadeem Khawaja and Jan Ali Shah Kazmi were laid to rest in their native villages after thousands of people attended their funeral in Gilgit-Baltistan, on Saturday. Mr Ali, 16, and his brother Mr Nadeem, 18, from Skardu; and Mr Jan, 24, from Shigar along with social activist Zain Turabi, the son of religious scholar Hasan Turabi; and Abdul Ghani Mangrio of Rohri were returning to Karachi after attending a religious ceremony in Khairpur on Friday when an SUV hit their car head-on near Sann Town on the Indus Highway. All five men died on the spot due to the intensity of the collision. The bodies were taken to Manjhand taluka hospital and later to Karachi where two of them were buried. The bodies of the three men were brought to Skardu through a PIA flight for burial in Skardu and Shigar. Thousands of people were present at the Skardu International Airport to receive the bodies, which were later taken to Markazi Imamia Jamia Masjid for funeral where emotional scenes were witnessed. "We are heartbroken today as two of the finest Naat and Manqabat reciters of Baltistan lost their lives in a tragic accident in Sindh," said Shabi Hussain, a local.

## Kurram families struggle to trace victims of Libya boat

KURRAM: (News Desk) Grief has engulfed the families of 13 young men from Parachinar who were aboard a boat that capsized off the Libyan coast last week. The victims' relatives, including Syed Javed Hussain, Israr Bangash and Bashir Hussain, told Dawn that they had been desperately looking for updates since the Foreign Office issued a list of those, who travelled in the ill-fated vessel, lately but their efforts had so far been unsuccessful, to their frustration. According to the Foreign Office, the Kurram residents, who were on board, included Saqlain Haider, Shoaib Hussain, Nusrat Hussain, Shoaib Ali, Syed Shahzad Hussain, Asif Ali, Musawar Hussain, Aswar Hussain, Abid, Syed Zeeshan, Musayyib Hussain and Ashfaq Hussain. Syed Shahzad Hussain was the only brother of five sisters from the outskirts of Parachinar. After completing his FSc course, he had hoped to fulfil his dream of getting to Europe. His father has been working in Kuwait for many years and is still out of the country. Activists demand jobs for youth, strict action against human traffickers. Bashir Hussain from the village of Luqmankhel, Parachinar, said that two members of his family were aboard the boat, but the name of one appeared on the Foreign Office's list, while the other's was missing. He said he had established contacts with various offices for the body of his nephew.

## Yasmin expects Nawaz to admit defeat in NA-130 election

LAHORE: (News Desk) The incarcerated president of PTI's Punjab chapter, Dr Yasmin Rashid, in an open letter sent through her lawyer, has said PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif should have the courage to admit his 'defeat' in the 2024 general elections as did his party leaders Rana Sanaullah and Saad Rafique. She said the people were aware who had won the election in the Lahore NA-130 constituency. "I contested the election from jail, yet I managed to get more votes than

Nawaz Sharif according to 93 per cent results as per Form-45 that we have," she said. Hoping that the election tribunals will be honest with their verdict once they go through the fudged-up results, she said the truth would finally prevail. She said the nation came through with flying colours on Black Day on Feb 8 proving that they believe in the democracy, but "do not try out their patience". She said Section 144 and other such laws were applicable only to PTI sup-

porters. "Our workers are harassed, MPAs arrested, tear-gassed and beaten up if they peacefully protest on the pretext of Section 144, while federal information minister Attaullah Tarar can hold a rally to celebrate achievements in Lahore city - supported and assisted by the police," she observed. Maryam's uncle, former prime minister and PML-N president Shehbaz Sharif, wasn't far behind; he easily won the NA-123 seat from Lahore with 63,953 votes, while PTI-backed Afzal Azeem

Pahat was the runner-up with 48,486 votes. His elder brother Nawaz Sharif, who has been famously vying for a fourth term as prime minister, lost Mansehra's NA-15. He managed 80,382 votes while PTI-backed Shahzad Muhammad Gustasif Khan claimed victory with 105,249 votes. However, Nawaz had clinched a landslide victory in Lahore over PTI-backed Yasmin Rashid, winning 179,310 votes to her 104,485. Shehbaz also won the PP-158 seat in Lahore with



38,642 votes with PTI-backed Yousuf Ali as the runner-up with 23,847 votes. She said she did not blame Mr Tarar, the follower of Ta-hayat Quaid [lifetime leader] Nawaz Sharif, who played a

match only when he had 'his own' umpires in the field. She said 372 days had passed since the destruction of the election process on Feb 8, 2024. She said about a fraudulent Form-47.