

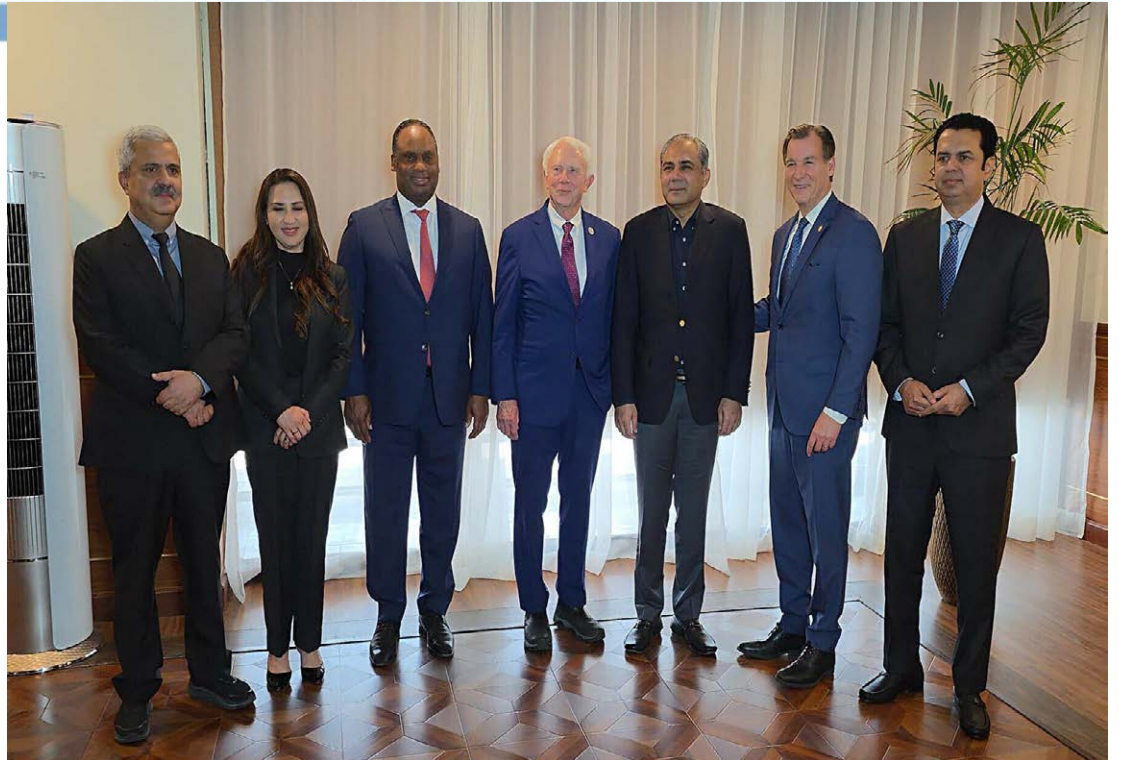
Pakistan stands as wall between terrorism and rest of world, interior minister tells US team

Islamabad(News Desk) Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi asserted on Sunday that Pakistan stood as a “wall between terrorism and the rest of the world” as he met a delegation of congressmen from the United States in Islamabad. Pakistan and the US have delicate and complex ties, shaped by shared security concerns and divergent strategic priorities. Today’s meeting comes as the government is set to send a high-level delegation to the US to promote trade relations and discuss a 29 per cent tariff that was

recently imposed on goods exported to the US. “Terrorism is a global challenge. The international community urgently needs to fully cooperate with Pakistan,” Naqvi was quoted as saying in a statement by the interior ministry. Naqvi met Congressmen Jack Bergman, Tom Suozzi and Jonathan Jackson in Islamabad today, according to a press release by the government-run PID. Bergman and Suozzi co-chair the Congressional Pakistan Caucus. Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, Acting US Ambassador

Natalie Baker and Interior Secretary Khurram Agha were also present during the meeting. The US delegation — the first high-level group from Capitol Hill to visit Pakistan in almost two years — met Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal yesterday. During today’s meeting, a detailed discussion was held on bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest, as well as counterterrorism and border security. Both sides also exchanged views on enhancing co-operation in the fields of economy, trade and investment. Naqvi emphasised

that intelligence and technology-sharing in the domain of counterterrorism was of utmost importance. The minister further said Pakistan’s immense sacrifices against terrorism were unmatched in the global context. Naqvi termed the visit of US Congressmen as crucial in highlighting Pakistan’s unprecedented role in the fight against terrorism. Last month, US President Donald Trump had hailed Pakistan’s help in arresting a terrorist responsible for a 2021 bombing in Afghanistan that killed 13 US service members.



Interior Secretary Khurram Agha, Acting US Ambassador Natalie Baker, US Congressmen Jonathan Jackson and Jack Bergman, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Tom Suozzi, and Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry (R) pose for a group photo after a meeting in Islamabad on April 13, 2025

Trailer kills two men in yet another accident involving heavy vehicle in Karachi

Karachi(News Desk) In yet another accident involving a heavy vehicle in Karachi, a trailer truck claimed the lives of two young men in the New Chali area on late Saturday night, according to police and rescue services officials.

The city has lately witnessed a rise in traffic accidents — especially involving heavy vehicles, including dumpers and water tankers — which killed nearly 500 people and injured 4,879 were in 2024, according to hospital data. A total of nine dumpers and water tankers were set on fire by angry mobs in Karachi on Wednesday night near the main road leading to 4-K Chowrangi after a heavy vehicle hit a bike rider, injuring him in the North Karachi area. Mithadar police Station House Officer Naseer Ahmed Tanoli told Dawn that a trailer killed two men riding a motorcycle on Sharea Liaquat.

Funeral prayers offered for 2 cops martyred in Nowshera firing



Noshewa (News Desk) Funeral prayers were offered in Peshawar on Sunday for two police constables who were martyred during firing on their vehicle, officials said. The incident took place when armed drug smugglers opened fire on the Excise Intelligence Bureau (EIB) mobile squadron GT Road in the Taro Pabbi area of Nowshera in the early hours of the day, Rescue 1122 Spokesperson Nabeel Khan confirmed to Dawn.com. As a result, constables Iftikhar and Mujahid were martyred. The vehicle’s driver, Shabbir, also lost his life in the attack. Sub-Inspector Farooq Bacha was injured and has been hospitalised. Funeral prayers for the martyred personnel were offered with full honours at Police Lines Peshawar on Sunday morning. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said the deceased excise personnel have attained a “high rank of martyrdom”. According to a statement issued by the interior ministry, Naqvi said: “We stand with the grieving families of the martyred personnel”. Last month, three police officials were martyred in gun attacks in Lower South Waziristan, Hangu and Lakki Marwat districts. Earlier in March, two policemen were martyred while one security guard lost his life in separate overnight attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s Karak and Peshawar districts.

Iranian embassy condemns ‘inhumane and cowardly’ killing of Pakistanis in its country

Islamabad(News Desk) The Iranian embassy in Pakistan on Sunday strongly condemned the “inhumane and cowardly” killing of eight Pakistani workers yesterday in its country’s Sistan-Baluchestan province. “All the eight Pakistani who were killed belong to Bahawalpur city of southern Punjab,” Iranian officials said, adding that they were staying at a car repair shop in Sistan-Baluchestan’s Mehriz County. A spokesman for the banned outfit, the Balochistan National Army (BNA), claimed responsibility for the incident through a statement

issued to the media. In a statement today, Iran’s Ambassador to Pakistan Reza Amiri Moghadam strongly condemned “inhumane and cowardly armed incident against eight Pakistani nationals.” “Terrorism is a chronic plight and a common threat throughout the region by which the traitorous elements, in collaboration with international terrorism, target security and stability throughout the region,” the statement read. “Combating this ominous phenomenon requires collective and joint efforts by all countries to eradicate all forms of terrorism

and extremism that have claimed the lives of thousands of innocent people in recent decades,” Moghadam stressed. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed deep grief and sorrow over the “brutal killing” of the Pakistani workers, state-run Radio Pakistan reported. “The menace of terrorism is devastating for all regional countries,” the premier was quoted as saying. He urged the Iranian government to arrest the perpetrators immediately, mete out “just punishment to them”, and bring forward the “reasons for this cruel act”. PM Shehbaz also di-

rected the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to contact the families of the deceased Pakistanis and Pakistan’s embassy in Iran for the safe return of their bodies. According to reports, unknown armed men barged into the workshop sometime in the night and, after tying their hands and feet, opened indiscriminate firing at the workers and killed them. Later, the attackers fled from the site. The Iranian police rushed to the area after receiving information about the tragic incident, and after recovering the bodies, they were shifted to the hospital.



Federal Minister for poverty alleviation and social safety syed imrana ahmad shah addressing the gathering as chief guest on teachers honour day at govt graduate college sahiwal.

85pc of polio vaccination refusals are in Karachi: Health Minister Mustafa Kamal

Karachi(News Desk) Federal Minister for Health Mustafa Kamal on Sunday said that of the families refusing to immunise their children against poliovirus, 85 per cent of them reside in Karachi alone. Pakistan is one of the last two countries in the world, alongside Afghanistan, where polio remains endemic. Despite global efforts to eradicate

the virus, challenges such as security issues, vaccine hesitancy, and misinformation have slowed progress. Earlier on Sunday, Dawn.com 60 environmental samples collected from 51 districts were tested for poliovirus by the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health. Samples from 20 districts

were found positive for poliovirus. Addressing a press conference in Karachi, the health minister said that currently, 44,000 families in the country have refused to vaccinate their children against polio. “At this moment, in Pakistan, there are 44,000 refusals, with 34,000 in Karachi alone,” he lamented. “That is a figure of 85-90pc.” “Of those

34,000 families refusing to vaccinate their children, 27,000 hail from District East,” he added. Kamal said that he met with five MPAs and two MNAs from District East, with the aim of understanding the vaccination system in Karachi and across the country and how to make future campaigns “100pc successful”.

Peshawar High Court orders compensation for deaths in Tirah shelling

PESHAWAR: (News Desk) The Peshawar High Court has ordered payment of compensation to the tune of Rs1.09 million per deceased to an inhabitant of Tirah valley, Khyber tribal district, whose five family members were killed in shelling by fighter jets in 2013. A bench consisting of Justice Wiqar Ahmad and Justice Fazal Subhan accepted a petition filed by the aggrieved person, Ghazi Jan, directing that the respondents should pay him compensation for each of the deceased person at the rate of Rs1.09 million minus the amount of compensation, if any, already paid to him. According to the petitioner, the shelling by fighter jets of Pakistan Air Force on Jan 31, 2013, resulted in death of his mother, wife and three children, injuries to him and another relative and also complete destruction of his four-room house. The petitioner requested the court to declare the act of the respondents including federal ministry of defence as an intentional murder or accidental murder and also to order payment of compensation/diyat money according to law to him being the legal heir of the deceased persons.

Balochistan CM Bugti urges AI use for better governance, youth development

QUETTA: (News Desk) Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti on Saturday stressed the importance of leveraging modern technology, particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI), to enhance transparency, efficiency and performance in governance, financial management and youth development initiatives. Chairing a high-level consultative meeting of the Information Technology Department in Quetta, CM Bugti endorsed a series of proposals aimed at integrating advanced digital tools into provincial systems. Key among them was the use of AI to assess students’ cognitive abilities under the Balochistan Education Endowment Fund (BEEF) scholarship programme. Experts briefed the participants on the potential of AI to generate personalised profiles for students based on their unique skills and aptitudes, which could enable more targeted resource allocation and development planning.

Punjab launches drive to enforce Rs37,000 wage for workers

LAHORE: (News Desk) The Punjab labour and human resource department has launched a campaign to implement payment of minimum wages of Rs37,000 to (unskilled) workers serving at all kinds of establishments in the province. The labour department says the department will also approach media organisations and private schools for the payment of minimum wages to all their employees. “The labour department has registration of some 1.2 million workers but the department’s mandate is to ensure that every employee working in a factory, shop, restaurant, workshops or any other establishment must be given minimum Rs37,000 per month wages,” says labour department secretary Naeeem Ghaus. He said the labour inspectors had been instructed to visit factories, shops, restaurants, workshops and other workplaces and challan the employers, who were found not paying minimum notified wages to their workers, besides ensuring occupational safety, health, hygiene and a conducive environment. “Those found violating the minimum wages orders will be challaned and submitted to courts, which can hand over six months imprisonment or Rs50,000 fine or both,” the secretary said. Labour dept to approach media houses, private schools for payment of minimum wages Mr Ghaus said it was mandatory for all employers at all workplaces to pay a minimum Rs37,000 per month wages to their employees, even unskilled. He said the department was also working to get employees registered who were not registered with the labour department by their employers. He said the labour department wanted to ensure the payment of minimum wages at media houses.

Polio detected in samples collected from 20 districts in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) Environmental samples collected from 20 districts have been found positive for poliovirus. According to an official of the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health, 60 environmental (sewage) samples were collected from 51 districts and tested. “Out of the total samples, 35 samples from 31 districts tested negative with no poliovirus found, while 25 tested positive. The trend shows a decline

in positive samples and a reduction in virus circulation in many areas,” he said. The next nationwide campaign is scheduled from April 21 to 27, aiming to vaccinate 45.4 million children under the age of five across the country. “The lab confirmed detection of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) in sewage samples of Dukkai, Kech, Khuzdar, Lasbela, Loralai, Nasirabad, Pishin, Quetta, Usta Muhammad, Bannu, Kohat, Lakki Marwat, Peshawar, South Waziristan Lower, Bahawalpur, Baha-

walnagar, DG Khan, Lahore, Multan and Rahim Yar Khan,” he said. “Samples collected from Muzaffarabad, Diamir, Gilgit, Barkhan, Kila Saifullah, Mastung, Quetta, Sibi, Hub, Nushki, Islamabad, Abbottabad, Bajour, Battagram, DI Khan, Lower Dir, Charsadda, Mardan, Nowshera, Peshawar, Swat, North Waziristan, Attock, Bahawalpur, Gujrat, Jhang, Khanawal, Mianwali, Rawalpindi, Sahiwal and Sargodha tested negative for poliovirus,” he said. “The programme is imple-

menting a rigorous vaccination schedule to protect children from paralytic polio and interrupt virus transmission. Thanks to high-quality campaigns since September 2024, polio cases nationwide have declined from 74 cases in 2024 to just six cases in 2025,” the official said. The next nationwide campaign is scheduled from April 21 to 27, aiming to vaccinate 45.4 million children under the age of five across the country. Parents have been advised to vaccinate their children against polio every time



the vaccine is offered. “Repeated vaccination strengthens children’s immunity and protects them from the crippling poliovirus. It is the prime responsibility of parents and community members

to ensure that no child in their homes or neighbourhoods is left unvaccinated. Every missed child is at risk and can contribute to the continued spread of the poliovirus.