

## Pakistan Launches 'Operation Ghazab-lil-Haq' by Killing 36 Afghan Operatives

ISLAMABAD : ( Daily Dusk) Feb 26: Pakistan has launched Operation Ghazab-lil-Haq following unprovoked firing by Afghan Taliban forces along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by killing 36 Afghan operatives , officials said.

Security sources reported retaliatory action in the Nawagai sector of Bajaur, Tirah in Khyber, and Chitral, including the destruction of Taliban check posts. Operations were also underway in Mohmand's Gursal sector, targeting multiple militant positions. Pakistani forces employed light and heavy weapons as well as drones, intercepting attempted attacks using quadcopters.

The Ministry of Information stated that the Afghan Taliban "miscalculated" and emphasized Pakistan's readiness to defend its citizens and territory across Chitral, Khyber, Mohmand, Kurram, and Bajaur sectors.

Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry stressed that dialogue is preferred but Pakistan will take all measures to safeguard national security. Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah condemned the cross-border firing and expressed solidarity with the armed forces.

## Security Forces Neutralise 10 Militants in Zhob Sanitisation Drive

ISLAMABAD :( Daily Dusk) Feb 26: Security forces have killed 10 militants during a sanitisation operation in Zhob district of Balochistan, the military's media wing said on Thursday, underscoring Islamabad's stepped-up counterterrorism push under the Azm-i-Istehkam framework.

In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said the action followed an intelligence-based operation (IBO) conducted on February 24 in which eight "Indian-sponsored terrorists" were killed. The subsequent clearance operation aimed to track down remaining militants described as belonging to Fitna al Khwarij — the state-designated term for the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

According to the ISPR, troops tracked militants across multiple routes and engaged them in a firefight, resulting in the deaths of 10 insurgents. Weapons, ammunition and explosives were recovered from the site. The military said the militants had been involved in various terrorist activities in the area.

## IMF Mission Lands in Pakistan for Pivotal Loan Reviews

KARACHI: ( Daily Dusk) Feb 26: A staff delegation from the International Monetary Fund arrived in Pakistan this week to undertake key reviews of the country's \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and \$1.4 billion Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF), in a move seen as critical for sustaining macroeconomic stability and unlocking future disbursements.

The mission formally commenced discussions in Karachi, meeting officials at the State Bank of Pakistan as part of the third review under the EFF and the second under the RSF. The outcome of these assessments will determine the release of subsequent tranches under both programmes.

"The team is on the ground now," an IMF official familiar with the talks said, requesting anonymity due to the sensitivity of the negotiations.

## Pakistan Slams Netanyahu's 'Hexagon' Proposal, Cites India-Israel Defence Nexus

ISLAMABAD: ( Daily Dusk) Feb 26: Pakistan on Thursday strongly criticised Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over his proposal for a so-called "hexagon of alliances," warning that deepening defence cooperation between India and Israel carries potential implications for regional security.

Speaking earlier this week, Netanyahu outlined a prospective bloc that could include Israel, India, Greece and Cyprus, alongside unnamed Arab, African and Asian partners. The grouping, he suggested, would serve as a strategic counterweight to what he described as radical forces in the region. The proposal coincided with a two-day visit to Israel by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, where discussions are expected to span technology, agriculture, water management and defence cooperation. India and Israel have steadily expanded strategic ties over the past decade, with Israel emerging as one of New Delhi's principal arms suppliers.

### Islamabad Flags Security Concerns

Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said Pakistan remained "seized of the defence ties between Israel and India," cautioning that certain military systems supplied to India in the past had raised concerns in Islamabad.

## India Crush Zimbabwe by 72 Runs; South Africa Seal Semi-Final Berth

CHENNAI: ( Daily Dusk) Feb 26 : Defending champions India stormed to a commanding 72-run victory over Zimbabwe in their Super Eights clash at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Thursday, a result that simultaneously secured South Africa's place in the semi-finals of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

India piled up a formidable 256-4 — the second-highest total in tournament history — before restricting Zimbabwe to 184-6, setting up a winner-takes-all encounter against West Indies in Kolkata on Sunday for the final semi-final berth.

Earlier in the day, South Africa national cricket team hammered West Indies by nine wickets in Ahmedabad to confirm their last-four qualification.

Batting Blitz in Chennai

After being invited to bat, India unleashed a relentless assault. Opener Abhishek Sharma struck 55 off 29 balls, while Hardik Pandya finished unbeaten on 50, anchoring a late surge alongside Tilak Varma, whose 16-ball 44 accelerated the scoring in the death overs. The pair added an unbroken 84-run stand.

## Pakistan Flags Rising Islamophobia, Urges Action on Palestine at U.N. Rights Council

ISLAMABAD/GENEVA: ( Daily Dusk) Feb 26: Pakistan on Thursday warned of a growing wave of Islamophobia and highlighted the humanitarian crisis in Palestine during its address at the 61st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, calling for stronger multilateral measures to protect fundamental human rights.

Abdul Khaliq Shaikh, secretary of Pakistan's Ministry of Human Rights, told the council in Geneva that prejudice against Muslims and increasing violence in conflict zones were undermining global human rights standards amid rising instability.

"The growing trend of Islamophobia is being used as a tool of prejudice against Muslims," Shaikh said, urging the international community to confront discrimination, hatred and systemic inequalities.

Spotlight on Palestine

Shaikh described the situation in Palestine as a "grave humanitarian crisis," warning that continued violence and impunity were destabilizing the region and diminishing prospects for sustainable peace. Islamabad has consistently raised Palestinian issues in U.N. forums, linking them to international law and the right to self-determination.

## Pakistan Alerts Northern Regions to Elevated GLOF Threat

PESHAWAR: ( Daily Dusk) Feb 26: Pakistan's disaster management authorities on Thursday warned of a heightened risk of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) in the country's northern areas, citing forecasts of above-average temperatures and early heatwave conditions that could accelerate glacier and snow melt.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) said seasonal projections for March through June 2026 indicate rising temperatures, particularly across Gilgit-Baltistan and upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, increasing the likelihood of sudden breaches in glacial lakes.

Pakistan remains among the countries most exposed to climate shocks despite contributing less than 1% to global greenhouse gas emissions. In recent years, extreme weather — from catastrophic floods to record-breaking heatwaves — has inflicted heavy economic and human losses.

Experts warn that warming trends are destabilising glaciers in the Karakoram and Himalayan ranges, feeding rivers that sustain millions downstream.

## Pakistani Artist Transforms Junkyard Scrap into Towering Metal Sculptures

ISLAMABAD: ( Daily Dusk) Feb 26: Amid heaps of discarded car parts and rusted machinery on the outskirts of Islamabad, 35-year-old sculptor Ehtisham Jadoon is reshaping Pakistan's streetscape — one scrap metal piece at a time.

In his sprawling workshop, Jadoon has crafted a 14-foot "Transformers" character, a roaring Tyrannosaurus rex, and a lion with a twisted-steel mane. Nearly every fragment — from motorbike springs and hubcaps to chains and suspension parts — has been salvaged from junkyards and painstakingly welded into towering, life-like forms.

"When I see scrap metal, I see possibilities," Jadoon said, sparks flying as he worked on an Optimus Prime sculpture. "I imagine what it could become. The challenge is to make it move, breathe, exist — even though it's still metal."

From Fighter to Sculptor

A former martial artist and steel fabrication worker, Jadoon has no formal art training. Each sculpture emerges from intuition and imagination, every weld a puzzle piece in his three-dimensional vision. "

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Sindh, Pakistan

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## Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Visits Larkana, Offers Condolences on Passing of Ali Asghar Bhutto

LARKANA: ( Daily Dusk) Feb 26: Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party, visited Larkana to pay his respects following the death of Ali Asghar Bhutto.

During his visit, he offered condolences to Waqar Bhutto, Chairman of Empire Town, and Secretary of Information, Larkana City, expressing solidarity with the family during their time of grief.

The visit underscores the party leadership's commitment to supporting constituents and maintaining close ties with local communities in moments of personal loss.



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## Police Accused of Using Excessive Force on Solangi Community in Umerkot

UMERKOT: ( Daily Dusk)Feb 26: Authorities in Umerkot have come under sharp criticism after police reportedly used brutal force against members of the Solangi community while enforcing a court-ordered eviction.

According to local reports, women were dragged by their hair and placed into police vans during the operation, sparking widespread condemnation for the alleged harassment and excessive use of force.

Police stated that the Solangi residents had been issued a three-day notice to vacate the property in compliance with court directives. Human rights advocates and community leaders, however, have denounced the tactics, calling for accountability and urging authorities to ensure the protection of vulnerable citizens during such enforcement actions.

The incident has raised broader concerns over the treatment of marginalized communities during eviction drives and the need for adherence to humane and lawful procedures.

The Minister Sindh Education Syed Sardar Ali Shah condemned the brutal use of force and talked to SSP Umerkot for action against those police officers who were involved in that brutality.



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## Sindh CM Inspects Key Markets to Monitor Ramadan Prices

KARACHI: ( Daily Dusk) Feb 26: Chief Minister of Sindh, accompanied by provincial ministers and administration officials, visited major markets including Burns Road, Shahrah-e-Liaqat, and Empress Market to monitor pricing and engage with citizens ahead of Ramadan.

During the visits, the CM heard complaints from some shoppers regarding elevated prices, while others praised the authorities for maintaining price regulations, particularly at Empress Market.

The initiative underscores the Sindh government's efforts to ensure affordability, transparency, and fair trade practices in markets throughout the holy month of Ramadan.



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## Mirpurkhas High Court Bar Condemns Police Action Against Solangi Community

MIRPURKHAS: ( Daily Dusk) Feb 26: The High Court Bar Association Mirpurkhas has strongly condemned the reported excessive use of force by Umerkot police during the enforcement of a court-ordered eviction affecting the Solangi community.

In an official statement (Ref: 13/HCBA/MPK), the Bar criticized humiliation of women and children, lodging of false FIRs, and violations of privacy and constitutional protections. It stressed that while compliance with judicial orders is essential, enforcement must be lawful, disciplined, proportional, and respectful of human dignity.

The association called for a transparent, independent, and time-bound judicial inquiry into the incident, urging authorities to ensure accountability and provide relief, resettlement, and protection for the affected families.

"The execution of court orders must always reflect constitutional values and justice, particularly for vulnerable segments of society. Any action that undermines these principles is unacceptable and warrants strong condemnation," the statement said.

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## Renowned Educationist Mazhar ul Haq Siddiqui Passes Away at 91

KARACHI: ( Daily Dusk) Feb 26: The nation mourns the passing of Mazhar ul Haq Siddiqui, a distinguished educationist and civil servant, who died today at the age of 91.

Siddiqui served as Vice Chancellor of the University of Sindh twice — from May 1984 to May 1988 and again from July 2001 to 2009. During his tenure, he was widely credited with revitalizing the university, strengthening its academic foundations, and guiding it toward growth and modernization. He was known for his commitment to uplifting the institution from the grassroots level and worked tirelessly for its development.

Beyond academia, Siddiqui held several key positions in the civil service, including Secretary of Education, Secretary of Youth Affairs Division, Secretary of the Establishment Division, Secretary of the Management Service Division, Secretary of Economic Affairs and Statistics, and Secretary of Services and General Administration. His administrative career was noted for integrity, competence, and visionary leadership



## Laptops Distributed to Outstanding Students at IBA Dadu Campus Under PM's Youth Scheme

DADU: ( Daily Dusk) Feb 26 (Report: Arbab Ali): A laptop distribution ceremony under the Prime Minister's Youth Laptop Scheme was held at the IBA University Sukkur Dadu Campus, celebrating academic excellence and the empowerment of students through modern technology.

The event was presided over by Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Niaz Ahmed Bhutto, with Deputy Commissioner Syed Murtaza Ali Shah and Dr. Amjad Mastooi attending as special guests. Faculty members, students, and parents participated enthusiastically.

During the ceremony, laptops were awarded to 13 outstanding male and female students, selected purely on merit, to support their academic growth and access to technology.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Niaz Ahmed Bhutto emphasized the importance of technology in modern education. "With facilities like laptops, students will be able to perform better in research, online classes, and assignments," he said, appreciating the federal government's initiative as a step toward a brighter future for youth.

Deputy Commissioner Syed Murtaza Ali Shah and Dr. Amjad Mastooi highlighted that the scheme not only enhances educational standards but also fosters healthy competition among students, empowering the younger generation.

The recipients expressed their gratitude, noting that laptops were essential tools for academic success and access to online research resources, which would significantly improve their performance.

The ceremony concluded with a group photograph of the guests and students, accompanied by best wishes for the students' continued success and bright futures.



## ECP Reaffirms Ali Hassan Zehri as Winner of PB-21 Hub Amid Recount Controversy



ISLAMABAD: ( Daily Dusk) Feb 26: The Election Commission of Pakistan on Thursday again declared Ali Hassan Zehri of the Pakistan Peoples Party as the winner of Balochistan's PB-21 (Hub) constituency, following a recount at 39 polling stations.

Originally, Balochistan Awami Party's Muhammad Saleh Bhootani had secured more votes, but the recount elevated Zehri to first place amid allegations of ballot tampering.

The Islamabad High Court has suspended the Feb 25 ECP order pending Bhootani's legal challenge, issuing notices to the respondents. Earlier this month, Zehri was removed from the provincial cabinet by Balochistan's governor.

## Jamaat-e-Islami Karachi Chief Criticizes Murtaza Wahab's Performance

KARACHI: ( Daily Dusk) Feb 26: Monem Zafar, Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Karachi, criticized Murtaza Wahab, saying he lacks the drive to deliver results.

Zafar added that issues left unresolved over the past 18 years cannot be addressed in just three months, highlighting what he described as shortcomings in the current administration's approach to governance.

## TTAP to Respond Positively to Government Talks, Demands Medical Access for Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD:( Daily Dusk) Feb 26, 2026: Opposition alliance Tehreek Tahafuz Ayeen-i-Pakistan (TTAP) decided to give a positive response to any government offer for dialogue, following a meeting at Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar's residence. Leaders present included Mehmood Khan Achakzai, Allama Raja Nasir Abbas, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, and Asad Qaiser. TTAP emphasized that its key demand is allowing imprisoned PTI founder Imran Khan to meet family and personal physicians for proper medical examination. The alliance warned that neglecting his health could escalate the political crisis.

The statement also criticized rising terrorism, deteriorating Pak-Afghan relations, worsening economy, and called on the government to engage regional partners like Saudi Arabia and Türkiye to prevent further instability. TTAP condemned foreign interventions, including potential US attacks on Iran and Pakistan's participation in the "Board of Peace," calling it a non-representative body that excludes Palestinians.



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## Editorial

### India-Israel Defense Pact – A Threat to Regional Peace

The latest defense pact between India and Israel, widely publicized last week, is a stark reminder of the growing militarization in South Asia. Marketed under the guise of “strategic cooperation” and “joint defense initiatives,” the reality is far more alarming: this pact directly targets Pakistan and heightens tensions along already sensitive borders.

By strengthening India’s access to advanced Israeli military technology, including drones, surveillance systems, and missile support, the agreement emboldens aggressive policies in disputed regions, most notably Kashmir. Such actions not only jeopardize the fragile balance of power but also undermine decades-long efforts to maintain regional peace.

The alliance signals a troubling trend: militarization masquerading as “cooperation,” while civilian populations and regional stability bear the consequences. For Pakistan and its neighbors, this is not a distant threat; it is an immediate strategic challenge that demands vigilant diplomacy, strengthened defense readiness, and proactive engagement with global partners committed to stability and the rule of international law.

Regional peace cannot be achieved through unilateral military buildup and foreign-backed alliances. The India-Israel pact should serve as a wake-up call for all stakeholders in South Asia to prioritize dialogue, transparency, and confidence-building measures over provocative military collaboration. Failing to respond decisively risks not only escalation but also long-term instability that could engulf the entire region.

