
DAILY DUSK

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Sindh, Pakistan

Pakistan Warns of Retaliation on Unprovoked Firing by Afghan Forces

ISLAMABAD, Feb 24 — Pakistan on Tuesday said that Afghan Taliban initiated unprovoked firing along the border in the Torkham and Tirah sectors, days after Pakistani airstrikes targeted militant camps inside Afghanistan.

Mosharraf Zaidi, the prime minister's spokesperson for foreign media, said Pakistani forces responded "immediately and effectively," warning that any further provocation would be met with a "severe" response.



Over the weekend, Pakistan said it carried out intelligence-based strikes in Nangarhar and Paktika Provinces, killing more than 80 militants linked to the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Islamic State-Khorasan. Officials described the operation as retaliation for recent attacks inside Pakistan, including a suicide bombing in Islamabad and assaults in Bajaur and Bannu that killed security personnel and civilians.

Relations between Islamabad and Kabul have worsened since the Taliban's return to power in 2021, with Pakistan repeatedly accusing Afghan authorities of failing to curb militant groups operating from their territory. The Taliban deny the allegations.

The latest exchange underscores mounting tensions along the rugged frontier, where cross-border violence has intensified in recent months.

Arab and Muslim Nations Condemn U.S. Ambassador's Controversial Israel Remarks

Feb 24, Arab and Muslim governments have condemned comments by U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee after he suggested Israel could be justified in controlling vast parts of the Middle East on biblical grounds.

In an interview with Tucker Carlson, Huckabee said it would be "fine" if Israel took the entire region described in the Bible, later calling the remark "hyperbolic" and clarifying that Israel sought only to secure land it currently occupies.

More than a dozen governments — including Jordan, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates — issued a joint statement calling the comments "dangerous and inflammatory," warning they undermine efforts to end the war in Gaza. The statement, backed by countries such as Indonesia, Pakistan,



Turkey and Saudi Arabia, as well as the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, Arab League and Gulf Cooperation Council, rejected any annexation of the West Bank and reaffirmed support for a two-state solution with East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state.

Russia Warns of 23,000 Militants Operating in Afghanistan

KABUL, Feb 24 — Russia's Foreign Ministry says Afghanistan hosts between 20,000 and 23,000 active militants, more than half of them foreign nationals, heightening regional security concerns.

The report estimates about 3,000 fighters with Islamic State-Khorasan (ISIS-K), 5,000 to 7,000 with the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), and 400 to 1,500 linked to Al-Qaeda. Smaller groups include the Islamic Movement of East Turkestan, the Islamic Party of Turkestan and Jamaat Ansarullah.



ISIS-K has set up training camps and sleeper cells across several provinces and continues high-profile attacks, while the TTP operates mainly in eastern and southeastern areas targeting Pakistan. Al-Qaeda remains entrenched in multiple provinces.

ICC Men's T20 Cricket World Cup: Harry Brook Century Seals England's Thrilling Win Over Pakistan

KANDY — A blazing maiden T20 century from England captain Harry Brook powered England cricket team to a dramatic two-wicket victory over Pakistan national cricket team in their Super Eight clash at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium, ending Pakistan's semi-final hopes.

Pakistan posted 164-9, anchored by Sahibzada Farhan's 63, but suffered another middle-order collapse. Liam Dawson took 3-24 to check their momentum.

In reply, England were rocked early by Shaheen Shah Afridi, who removed Phil Salt and Jos Buttler and finished with 4-30. Brook steadied the chase, smashing 100 off 50 balls with 10 fours and four sixes.

Though Brook fell soon after reaching his century, England crossed the line with five balls to spare, booking their place in the semi-finals.



Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Protests 'Secrecy' Over Imran Khan's Late-Night Eye Procedure



ISLAMABAD, Feb 24 — Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Tuesday accused the government of a lack of transparency after former Prime Minister Imran Khan was taken from Adiala Jail to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences shortly before midnight for follow-up eye treatment. Hospital officials said Mr. Khan received a second anti-VEGF injection for right central retinal vein occlusion and was returned to jail after the day-care procedure. A medical board, including specialists from Pims and Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital, declared his condition stable.

PTI leaders and Mr. Khan's sister, Aleema Khanum, said the family was not informed in advance and questioned the late-night timing, demanding treatment at Shifa International Hospital under doctors of his choice.

In the Senate, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar defended the move as lawful and said the timing was due to security considerations. A third injection is scheduled for March 24.

The episode has deepened tensions between the government and PTI, with Mr. Khan's health continuing to fuel political disputes.

Seven Killed as Air Ambulance Crashes in Storm in Eastern India

NEW DELHI, Feb 24 — All seven people aboard a Beechcraft C90 air ambulance were killed when it crashed in a forested area of Jharkhand during a thunderstorm, aviation officials said Tuesday.

The aircraft, operated by Redbird Airways, lost contact with air traffic control shortly after departing Ranchi en route to New Delhi. It had requested a route change due to deteriorating weather before communications and radar signals were cut off, according to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

Rescue teams later found the wreckage in Chatra district. Those killed included two crew members, a critically injured patient being transferred for advanced treatment, and accompanying relatives



The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau has launched an inquiry. The crash follows another recent fatal accident involving a Learjet in Maharashtra, renewing concerns about small aircraft operations in severe weather.

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Military Helicopter Crash in Isfahan Province Market Kills Four

TEHRAN, Feb 24 — An Iranian Army helicopter crashed into a fruit market in the city of Dorcheh, Isfahan Province, on Tuesday, killing four people and sparking a fire that was later extinguished, state media reported.

The victims included the pilot and co-pilot, along with two market vendors. Emergency crews quickly contained the blaze. Authorities have not yet disclosed the cause of the crash.

The accident adds to a series of aviation incidents in Iran, where an aging fleet and sanctions-related maintenance constraints have long raised safety concerns. In May 2024, a helicopter carrying former President Ebrahim Raisi was involved in a fatal crash, intensifying scrutiny of aviation standards.

Tuesday's crash is expected to renew questions about military aircraft safety, particularly in populated areas



North Korea Promotes Kim Yo Jong to Senior Party Role

SEOUL, Feb 24 — North Korea has elevated Kim Yo Jong, the sister of leader Kim Jong Un, to a senior post within the Central Committee of the ruling Workers' Party, state media reported Tuesday, signaling further consolidation of power within the Kim family.

The promotion was announced during a rare party congress in Pyongyang. While her specific portfolio was not disclosed, Kim Yo Jong has long overseen propaganda efforts and played a prominent role in diplomatic outreach, including preparations for her brother's summits with Donald Trump.

Analysts say the move formalizes her status as one of the regime's most trusted figures. She first drew global attention during the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea and has since become a key voice in Pyongyang's messaging toward Washington and Seoul.



The reshuffle underscores the continued dominance of the Kim family in North Korea's tightly controlled political system.

Doctor Fatally Shot in Kohat, Sparking Protests by Medical Staff

KOHAT, Feb 24 — The fatal shooting of Dr. Mehwish Hasnain outside the KDA Divisional Headquarters Hospital late Sunday triggered citywide protests and the suspension of routine services at major public hospitals.

Police said she was shot multiple times after completing her shift and died at the scene. A case has been registered against unidentified assailants, and three investigation teams have been formed, according to District Police Officer Shahbaz Khan.

Members of the Young Doctors' Association blocked KDA Road, demanding swift arrests and stronger security at hospitals. Staff temporarily halted routine services at KDA DHQ Hospital, Liaquat Women and Children's Hospital, and the Dental Hospital, while continuing emergency care.



The incident has renewed concerns over rising violence against medical staff in public hospitals across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Senior Police Officer Among Six Killed in Militant Ambush in Kohat

PESHAWAR, Feb 24 — At least six police personnel, including a deputy superintendent of police, were killed Tuesday when armed militants ambushed a police convoy near Shakardara Road in Kohat, officials said. One of the two detainees being transported also died, and the vehicle was set ablaze.

Security forces launched a search operation while investigators cordoned off the site. National and provincial leaders, including President Asif Ali Zardari and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, condemned the attack and mourned the fallen officers.

The ambush is part of a recent surge in violence across southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where militant attacks on law enforcement have escalated over the past year, leaving hundreds dead and challenging local security forces.



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Sindh, Pakistan

Skyrocketing Prices in Karachi Leave Consumers Struggling Despite Official Controls

Karachi, Feb 24- As Ramazan begins, Karachi residents are facing steep increases in the prices of essential food items, with many paying well above the official rates, highlighting the ongoing struggle of authorities to enforce price controls effectively.

Despite the city administration issuing an official price list for fruits, vegetables, and meat, roadside vendors and retailers are selling items at their own rates, often far exceeding the prescribed limits. Bananas, for instance, are priced between Rs200–300 per dozen, while the official rate is Rs237. Guavas are being sold at Rs200–300 per kilogram instead of the controlled rate of Rs150–152. Melons, apples, oranges, and other fruits are also commanding prices 30–100% higher than official rates. Vegetables are no less affected. Onions and potatoes are being sold at Rs50–60 and Rs40–50 per kilogram, against official rates of Rs35 and Rs23. Tomatoes, cabbage, capsicum, spinach, and green onions are also far above government-set prices. Ginger and garlic have surged to Rs500–600 per kilogram, doubling their official rates.

Meat prices have similarly risen. Live broiler chicken is selling at Rs400 per kilogram against an official rate of Rs332, and chicken meat is priced between Rs550–600 per kilogram instead of Rs500.

Authorities have initiated a price-checking campaign, inspecting 4,221 locations in the first five days of Ramazan. Over 1,180 profiteers were fined more than Rs10 million, seven shops were sealed, and seven retailers arrested. Confiscated goods are auctioned under magistrates' supervision at official prices to benefit consumers.

Commissioner Karachi Syed Hassan Naqvi has set up three monitoring teams and 52 complaint centers, while 71 superstores have established special counters offering grocery items at official rates. Additional officers have been deployed, and magisterial powers granted to curb overpricing. Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners have been instructed to personally monitor local markets and superstores to ensure compliance.

Despite these measures, the enforcement gap remains wide, leaving consumers vulnerable to inflated prices amid rising living costs. Residents continue to express frustration over the lack of effective regulation, highlighting the need for stricter supervision and more transparent mechanisms to ensure affordability during the holy month.

GCU Hyderabad Extends Deadline for BS Program Fee Payment

HYDERABAD, Feb 24 — Government College University Hyderabad's Registrar Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Bhutto has extended the deadline for clearing dues for all BS programs to March 4, 2026.

The decision, announced in a notification on February 23, 2026, follows recommendations from the heads of all departments.

Students are advised to complete their fee payments by the revised date to ensure continued enrollment in their respective programs.

Sheikh Rashid Ahmed Barred from Umrah After Name Reinstated on Exit Control List

ISLAMABAD — Former Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed was prevented from traveling for Umrah Tuesday after Pakistan's Anti-Terrorism Court approved reinstating his name on the Exit Control List (ECL), linked to ongoing investigations into the May 9 and GHQ attack cases.

Rashid's lawyer said they will challenge the decision in the high court, calling it a violation of an earlier order that had allowed his client to travel. Rashid expressed surprise, noting his name had previously been removed from the ECL and voiced confidence that the high court would grant permission for his pilgrimage.

Experts Highlight Role of Mother Languages in Preserving Culture and Ecology in A Seminar at University of Sindh

JAMSHORO, Feb 24 — Scholars and linguists at a seminar on "Protection of Ecology through Mother Languages" at the University of Sindh's Pir Hisamuddin Shah Auditorium on Monday emphasized the importance of indigenous languages in safeguarding both cultural heritage and environmental sustainability.

The seminar, organized by the Institute of Sindhology in connection with International Mother Language Day, noted that while 26 major languages are spoken by nearly half the world's population, the remaining 6,000 languages face rapid decline.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Fateh Muhammad Marri chaired the event, stressing that threats to languages like Sindhi stem from broader challenges in research, institutions, and infrastructure rather than the language itself.

Writer Jami Chandio highlighted UNESCO reports showing only about 200 of the world's 7,000 languages may survive long-term.



Dr. Muhammad Ali Manjhi underlined Sindhi's 5,000-year-old written tradition, citing archaeological evidence from Mohenjo-daro, and stressed that preserving mother languages can help protect both cultural and environmental ecology.



Indian Citizen Moves Lahore High Court to Challenge Wife's Marriage to Pakistani National

LAHORE, Feb 24- In a fresh legal development, Indian national Karnal Singh on Tuesday filed a petition in the Lahore High Court seeking to annul the marriage of his wife, Sarabjeet Kaur, with Pakistani citizen Nasir Hussain. The petition, submitted through Advocate Ali Changezi Sandhu, raises serious legal, religious, and immigration questions surrounding cross-border marriages and conversions.

According to the petition, Sarabjeet converted to Islam and married Hussain without obtaining a formal divorce from her first husband, Singh, in India. The petitioner contends that the marriage contravenes established legal principles outlined by Pakistan's constitutional and Sharia courts, which mandate that a married non-Muslim woman must first secure a judicial divorce, invite her non-Muslim spouse to embrace Islam in the presence of two witnesses, and observe a waiting period of 90 days before entering into a new marriage.

"The subsistence of the first marriage invalidates the subsequent union," the petition states. It also asserts that cohabitation with Hussain during the period of Sarabjeet's previous marriage constitutes a potential criminal offence under Islamic law. Singh has requested the court to initiate criminal proceedings against Hussain and take protective measures regarding Sarabjeet's presence in Pakistan. The petition further seeks her temporary placement in a women's shelter home until the case is resolved. It calls for granting Singh and their children the right to communicate with her and requests forensic examination of certain call recordings allegedly linked to the case. Allegations of forced conversion, misuse of private images and financial documents, and other irregularities have also been cited.

Reports indicate that Sarabjeet traveled to Pakistan, converted to Islam, and married Hussain, sparking intense debate in both India and Pakistan over the legality and ethics of cross-border marriages and religious conversions. The matter has attracted attention from legal experts, human rights advocates, and diplomatic circles due to its complex intersection of domestic law, religious practices, and international implications.

Legal observers say the case could set an important precedent regarding the procedure for conversion and remarriage, particularly in cases involving foreign nationals. "The courts will need to carefully examine both the procedural requirements of Sharia law and the civil provisions concerning cross-border marital status," said a Lahore-based legal analyst who requested anonymity.

This petition is the latest in a series of legal proceedings related to Sarabjeet's marital status and her stay in Pakistan. It underscores the challenges arising from international marriages and religious conversion, highlighting gaps in coordination between domestic and foreign legal frameworks.

The Lahore High Court is expected to review the petition in the coming weeks, and any ruling could have far-reaching implications for similar cases involving cross-border marriages and the rights of foreign spouses in Pakistan.

ePaper

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Sindh, Pakistan

Editorial

Deteriorating Law and Order in Pakistan

The recent spate of violent incidents across Pakistan paints a grim picture of a country grappling with a severe law and order crisis. From targeted attacks on law enforcement to assaults on healthcare workers and educational institutions, the safety of citizens — and the very fabric of societal stability — is increasingly under threat.

In Shikarpur, a police officer, Saghir Sanjrani, was martyred when armed assailants attacked a checkpoint on Zarkhel Link Road. Not only was the officer shot dead, but his service weapon was also seized, highlighting a shocking brazenness among perpetrators and the vulnerability of even trained security personnel. Authorities responded with search operations, but the recurring nature of such attacks raises serious questions about preventive measures and intelligence efficacy.

Just a day prior, Kohat witnessed another tragic episode when six police personnel, including a deputy superintendent, were killed in an ambush while transporting detainees. The assailants executed a coordinated attack, setting the police vehicle ablaze and demonstrating the growing operational capabilities of militant networks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's southern districts. These attacks are not isolated; they reflect an alarming trend of organized militancy targeting state functionaries.

Adding to the crisis, the fatal shooting of Dr. Mehwish Hasnain outside KDA Divisional Headquarters Hospital in Kohat underscores the peril faced by civilians, particularly frontline professionals. The targeting of medical staff has led to citywide protests and suspension of services, emphasizing the chilling effect violence has on essential public services. Similarly, in South Waziristan, unidentified attackers detonated explosives at a government boys' school in Birmal tehsil, destroying large portions of the building, further demonstrating that even educational institutions are no longer safe from acts of terror.

These incidents are symptomatic of deeper systemic failures. The recurring militant attacks, whether in Kohat, Shikarpur, or the former tribal districts, point to gaps in intelligence gathering, inadequate security protocols, and insufficient protection for frontline personnel and civilians alike. The frequency and boldness of these assaults suggest that militant groups are increasingly confident in exploiting weaknesses in law enforcement infrastructure.

While authorities have deployed additional forces and launched targeted operations in response, reactive measures alone are insufficient. A comprehensive strategy is required — one that strengthens local policing, enhances intelligence capabilities, enforces strict legal accountability, and ensures the protection of vulnerable groups such as healthcare workers, teachers, and students. Coordination between federal and provincial agencies must also be intensified to prevent militants from exploiting jurisdictional gaps.

The implications of failing to act decisively are profound. Beyond the immediate loss of life, such incidents erode public trust in the state, deter professional engagement in critical sectors, and destabilize communities. For Pakistan to maintain social cohesion and foster development, the government must prioritize law and order as a national imperative, rather than a regional or reactive concern.

The martyrdom of officers like Saghir Sanjrani, the deaths of Kohat police personnel, and attacks on hospitals and schools should serve as wake-up calls. Strengthening law and order is not merely a security measure; it is the foundation upon which Pakistan's stability, progress, and collective future depend.