

# CLAWS Newsletter



## Pakistan Unveiled | Volume I

by Akashika Mate



## **INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

### **1. Pakistan Parliament's Resolution for Kashmir Plebiscite ([Daily Excelsior, February 18](#); [PTI News, February 18](#))**

Pakistan's parliament has unanimously passed a resolution urging India to implement UN Security Council resolutions and allow Kashmiris to determine their future through a UN-supervised plebiscite. Moved by Minister for Kashmir Affairs Amir Muqam, the resolution reaffirmed Pakistan's political, diplomatic, and moral support for Kashmir's right to self-determination. It condemned alleged human rights violations, called for the release of detained Kashmiri leaders, and rejected India's actions of August 5, 2019. The resolution also criticised statements from Indian leadership, stressing that resolving the Kashmir issue in line with UN resolutions is essential for regional stability.

### **2. Warning Bells in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ([News9 Live, February 20, 2025](#))**

Maulana Fazlur Rehman, leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam and a veteran of Pakistan's political landscape, recently sounded the alarm over the state's diminishing control in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Speaking in Parliament on February 18, 2025, he warned that 5-7 districts in Balochistan are on the verge of declaring independence—a move he fears could swiftly gain international recognition. Meanwhile, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the government's authority is eroding at an alarming pace. Security forces are withdrawing, leaving a dangerous power vacuum that armed groups are quickly exploiting. The resurgence of suicide bombings, increasing civilian casualties, and reports of arbitrary arrests paint a dire picture of governance failure.

### **3. Vows to 'Defeat India' ([Times of India, February 25](#))**

In a video posted on Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz's (PML-N) official X account ([@pmln\\_org/X, February 22](#)), Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif pledged to surpass

India in development, asserting dramatically, “If we don’t leave India behind, then my name is not Shehbaz Sharif.” He emphasised the necessity of peace and combating terrorism for national progress, highlighting the government’s commitment to balanced development across all regions, including south Punjab. These remarks follow his earlier call for resolving all issues with India, including Kashmir, through dialogue.

#### **4. Internet Crackdown in Balochistan ([Hindustan Times, February 25](#))**

A fresh wave of protests in Balochistan has been met with a heavy-handed response from Pakistani security forces, as reports emerge of internet shutdowns and road blockades in Zehri, Khuzdar. The Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC), a prominent human rights organisation, had called for demonstrations against the rising number of targeted killings of Baloch youth. However, on the day of the rally, paramilitary forces and affiliated armed groups obstructed the march, preventing it from moving beyond Allah Wala Chowk. The BYC also reported that internet access was cut off in the area, further restricting communication. With growing concerns over enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings, Baloch activists continue to demand justice despite increasing restrictions on dissent.

## **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

### **1. Students from Sri Lanka ([The Nation, February 15](#))**

Another 30 Sri Lankan students arrived in Pakistan on February 15 to pursue MBBS degrees under the Allama Iqbal Scholarships. They will study at DOW University of Health Sciences and Liaquat University of Medical Sciences, both accredited by the Sri Lankan Medical Council (SLMC). This initiative is part of the Pakistan-Sri Lanka Higher Education Cooperation Programme, which currently supports 456 Sri Lankan students across various disciplines in Pakistani universities.

### **2. Parliamentary Cooperation with Bahrain ([Bahrain News Agency, February 17](#); [Dawn, February 18](#))**

A high-level Bahraini parliamentary delegation, led by Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam, Speaker of the Council of Representatives, visited Islamabad to enhance cooperation between the two nations. During a meeting with Pakistan's National Assembly Speaker, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, discussions focused on strengthening parliamentary collaboration and expanding economic ties. Speaker Sadiq highlighted the deep-rooted relationship between Pakistan and Bahrain, built on shared religious, cultural, and historical values. Al Musallam expressed full support for digitising Pakistan's parliamentary system and suggested that bilateral trade, currently at \$800 million, should be doubled. The meeting reinforced the significance of parliamentary diplomacy in aligning positions on international platforms and promoting regional stability. Both sides acknowledged the role of the GCC-Pakistan free trade agreement and the Bahraini-Pakistani Business Council in driving economic collaboration.

### **3. Developments with Bangladesh**

#### **a. Direct Trade ([Azernews, February 24](#); [The Hindu, February 24](#))**

In a historic move, Pakistan and Bangladesh have resumed direct trade for the first time since their separation in 1971. The first government-approved cargo, carrying 25,000 tonnes of Pakistani rice, has departed from Port Qasim, with a second shipment scheduled for early March. The trade agreement, finalised in early February, sees Bangladesh purchasing 50,000



tonnes of rice through the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP). A Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) vessel is facilitating the transport, marking a significant milestone in maritime trade between the two nations.

**b. Bangladeshi Journalists' Visit (Dawn, February 17; Country Today, February 18; The Nation, February 21; @kamransaeedusmaniaofficials/Instagram, February 21)**

A delegation of Bangladeshi journalists, led by Ayub Bhuiyan, General Secretary of the National Press Club, visited Pakistan earlier this month at the invitation of the Pakistan government. During their stay, the journalists engaged with Pakistani media professionals, visiting leading newspapers like Dawn, the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) and the Pakistan National Press Club, where they exchanged insights on journalistic practices and media freedom. They also held discussions with government officials, ministers, and civil servants, exploring opportunities for collaboration in the media landscape. Pakistan's Information Minister hosted a formal dinner, emphasising the shared historical and cultural ties between Bangladesh and Pakistan and the role of journalism in strengthening bilateral relations. The delegation returned to Bangladesh on February 21, symbolically coinciding with International Mother Language Day.

**4. MOUs with Azerbaijan (VOA News, February 24; CMShehbaz/X, February 25)**

Pakistan and Azerbaijan have signed multiple agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) focused on trade, energy, and investment during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Baku on February 23. During his meeting with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Sharif highlighted Azerbaijan's planned \$2 billion investment in Pakistan—a commitment first announced during Aliyev's visit to Islamabad last July. The two leaders set ambitious targets to finalise investment projects by April, with Aliyev expected to visit Pakistan to sign the final agreements.

Azerbaijan's state oil company, SOCAR, has signed several MOUs with Pakistan's oil trading and refining companies. One key agreement involves the completion of the Machike-Thallian-Tarujabba White Oil Pipeline Project, which will enhance domestic oil transportation. The two sides also extended their LNG Framework Agreement, allowing Pakistan to procure liquefied

natural gas (LNG) on a flexible, as-needed basis, reducing financial strain on foreign exchange reserves.

## **5. Trade Relations with Uzbekistan ([The Economic Times, February 26;](#) [Business Recorder, February 26](#))**

Pakistan and Uzbekistan have taken a significant step toward deepening their economic and strategic partnership, agreeing to increase bilateral trade to USD 2 billion. The agreement was signed during PM Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Tashkent on February 25, where he met Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The two leaders emphasised the need for greater industrial cooperation, transparent logistics, and favourable conditions for entrepreneurs, with trade turnover already exceeding USD 400 million. To strengthen connectivity, direct flights between Tashkent and Lahore have been launched, and plans are underway to introduce new routes linking Samarkand, Bukhara, Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta, and Lahore. The visit also saw the signing of agreements in key sectors such as defence, technology, mining, energy, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and agriculture, reflecting a broader vision for regional collaboration. Additionally, both countries reaffirmed their commitment to the Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (UAP) Railway, a transformative project that is expected to enhance trade and connectivity across South and Central Asia.

## **6. Counterterrorism Cooperation and Dialogue**

### **a. United Kingdom ([Azertag, February 19;](#) [The Nation, February 20](#))**

Pakistan and the United Kingdom held the second round of their Counter-Terrorism Dialogue in London from February 17-18. The discussions were led by Abdul Hameed, Director General for Counter Terrorism at Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Kitty Jenkins, Joint Director for National Security at the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office. The dialogue focused on regional and global security challenges, with particular attention to the evolving terrorist landscape and the security risks emanating from Afghanistan. Both sides exchanged insights on counterterrorism strategies, including law enforcement, criminal justice, countering the financing of terrorism, and capacity-building efforts to address emerging threats. The two countries also explored new avenues for collaboration, emphasising the need for sustained bilateral efforts in tackling terrorism. The



dialogue concluded with an agreement to continue discussions, with the next round scheduled to take place in Islamabad in 2026.

**b. Türkiye ([Anadolu Ajansı, February 20](#); [Arab News, February 20](#))**

Pakistan and Türkiye have further strengthened their long-standing defence ties with the successful completion of Ataturk-XIII, a two-week counterterrorism exercise held at the Special Operations School in Cherat. The exercise, which ran from February 10 to 20, brought together combat teams from Pakistan's Special Services Group (SSG) and 36 personnel from Türkiye's Special Forces, focusing on enhancing professional skills and joint operational readiness. The closing ceremony, attended by Commander 11 Corps and Brig. Gen. Ahmet Asik from Türkiye underscored the significance of this collaboration, which comes just days after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's visit to Pakistan on February 13. During his visit, both nations signed 24 agreements aimed at bolstering economic and defence cooperation, with a particular focus on elevating bilateral trade to \$5 billion annually.

**c. European Union (EU) ([Business Recorder, February 20](#))**

Pakistan and the European Union convened their 9<sup>th</sup> Counter-Terrorism Dialogue in Brussels on February 20. The discussions, held under the 2019 Strategic Engagement Plan, addressed regional and global security challenges, particularly in relation to Afghanistan and the Middle East. Led by Maciej Stadejek, Director for Security and Defence Policy at the European External Action Service, and Abdul Hameed, Director General for Counter Terrorism at Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the dialogue emphasised the significance of multilateral cooperation. Key areas of discussion included preventing violent extremism, countering foreign fighter recruitment and movement, addressing online and offline radicalisation, and combating terrorism financing. The dialogue focused on practical, actionable strategies to enhance security cooperation, exchange best practices, and strengthen counterterrorism measures.

**d. Japan ([Arab News Pakistan, February 27](#))**

Pakistan and Japan reaffirmed their commitment to counterterrorism cooperation during the 4th Round of Pakistan-Japan Counter-Terrorism Consultations, held in Tokyo on February 27, 2025. The discussions focused on emerging threats, intelligence-sharing, and capacity-building, particularly through technological solutions. While Japan has not faced major militant threats domestically, its citizens have been targeted abroad—including in Pakistan. In 2024, five

Japanese autoworkers narrowly survived a suicide bombing in Karachi. This underscores Japan's vested interest in strengthening counterterrorism cooperation with partner nations like Pakistan.

## **7. Space Cooperation with China ([Space News, February 28](#); [Reuters, February 28](#))**

Pakistan has signed an astronaut training agreement with China, paving the way for a Pakistani astronaut to join a future mission to the Tiangong space station. The China Manned Space Engineering Office (CMSEO) and the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) formalised the partnership on February 28. This marks China's first collaboration in selecting and training foreign astronauts, reflecting its growing space diplomacy. Under the agreement, Pakistan's astronaut selection process will be completed within a year, followed by intensive training in China. The astronaut will then embark on a short-term mission alongside Chinese counterparts in the coming years. This agreement highlights Pakistan's increasing engagement in space exploration, building on past collaborations such as its payload contribution to China's Chang'e-6 lunar mission in 2023. Tiangong, China's three-module space station, was completed in 2022 and operates at an altitude of up to 450 km. With a 15-year operational lifespan, it stands as a key platform for China's expanding human spaceflight program.

## **8. Developments with Afghanistan**

### **a. Talks with the Taliban ([Arab News, February 16](#))**

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has decided to send two delegations of tribal elders, religious scholars, and political leaders to engage in direct talks with the Afghan Taliban for regional peace. This move follows a surge in militant attacks in the province. KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur emphasised that the province's security is directly linked to developments in Afghanistan. The decision was made after a National Unity Against Terrorism meeting, bringing together political and religious representatives to address the escalating security concerns. While no specific timeline has been provided, the government plans to send an initial delegation to establish the groundwork for productive discussions, setting the stage for a second delegation to work toward a concrete resolution.



**b. Tensions on Durand Line (AP News, February 27)**

The Torkham border crossing between Pakistan and Afghanistan has been closed since February 21, disrupting trade and stranding over 5,000 trucks carrying goods. Pakistan shut the crossing over a dispute regarding Afghanistan's construction of a border post. The closure has caused financial losses and left many stranded in harsh winter conditions. Traders and officials urge a swift resolution, as Torkham is a vital trade route for Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Central Asia. Afghanistan's Ministry of Trade has criticised the move as unilateral, while diplomatic efforts continue to reopen the crossing.

**9. Conferences on Climate Sustainability**

**a. OIC-COMSTECH Meeting for Water Sustainability (The News International, February 25; Business Recorder, February 25)**

The OIC General Secretariat in Jeddah, in collaboration with the OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH), organised a two-day event in Islamabad on 24-25 February titled "Networking of Water Centres of Excellence in OIC Member States". The meeting brought together leading experts, policymakers, and research institutions to address critical water challenges. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General of COMSTECH announced plans for major training workshops in Bangladesh and Uganda, focusing on the One Water Concept and modern technologies in water management, as well as a programme to facilitate the mobility of experts, researchers, and students among water research institutions in member states. As the largest multilateral body after the UN, many OIC member states participated, reflecting a broad international engagement.

**b. Solar Pakistan 2025 (Solar Quarter, February 22; MSN, February 25)**

Solar Pakistan 2025, the region's largest dedicated alternative energy event, concluded successfully at Expo Centre, Lahore. Organised by Fakt Exhibitions (Pvt.) Ltd., the three-day event from February 21-23 brought together key stakeholders, including policymakers, investors, manufacturers, and suppliers, with strong government participation. Several MoUs were signed between companies and government entities, fostering joint ventures and public-private partnerships to advance alternative energy solutions. Featuring over 350 exhibitors

from 10 countries, the exhibition showcased cutting-edge technologies and facilitated discussions on innovation and collaboration in Pakistan's renewable energy sector.

## **10. MOUs Signed with United Arab Emirates (UAE) ([Dawn, February 27](#); [Gulf News, February 27](#); [Tribune, February 28](#))**

Pakistan and the UAE signed five agreements on February 27 to enhance cooperation in mining, railways, banking and infrastructure (**Table 1**) during Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan's first visit to Pakistan. PM Shehbaz Sharif and the crown prince discussed advancing their strategic partnership across key economic sectors. The members of the federal cabinet, Chief of the Army Staff Asim Munir and members of the UAE delegation were also present. In recognition of "his services and unwavering support for Pakistan", President Asif Ali Zardari awarded the crown prince the Nishan-i-Pakistan, the country's highest civilian honour. The UAE remains one of Pakistan's largest trading partners in the Middle East and a key source of remittances.

**TABLE 1- Pakistan-UAE Strategic Agreements: Key MoUs Signed on February 27**

Sector	Entities Involved	Objectives
Railway	Etihad Rail & Pakistan's Ministry of Railways	Enhance the operational efficiency of Pakistan's railway network and establish a new railway system to improve connectivity and economic growth.
Mining	International Resources Holding (IRH) & Mari Energies	Joint exploration of copper and gold in Chagai, Balochistan to boost Pakistan's mining sector.
Banking	Eve Holding RCS & First Women Bank Limited (FWBL)	Acquisition of 82.64% shares of FWBL by Eve Holding RCS to strengthen Pakistan's banking sector.
Economic	AD Ports Group & Pakistan Board of Investment	Develop a Special Economic Zone near Karachi Port and Port Qasim to enhance trade and economic activity.

## **11. Defence Cooperation in West Asia**

- a. **UAE's IDEX 2025 and NAVDEX 2025 ([Emirates News Agency, February 18](#); [Arab News, February 28](#); [Tribune, March 01](#))**



Abu Dhabi hosted the International Defence Exhibition and Conference (IDEX) 2025 from February 17-21, marking the largest edition to date, with cutting-edge products showcased across air, land, and naval defence sectors. Pakistan participated with 13 specialised defence companies, representing both public and private sectors. Speaking at the event, Wing Commander Sheikh Sohail bin Farid, General Staff Officer at the Defence Export Promotion Organisation (DEPO), highlighted that Pakistan's presence at IDEX aligns with its strategy to boost defence exports and explore new cooperation opportunities. He emphasised that Pakistan and the UAE share a strong defence partnership, with many Pakistani firms seeking to expand into Middle Eastern markets.

In addition to showcasing defence products, Pakistan used the platform to strengthen diplomatic and military ties. PNS Yarmouk, a Pakistan Navy Ship, arrived in the UAE to participate in the Naval Defence Exhibition (NAVDEX 25) conducted from February 21-25, engaging in joint naval drills with the UAE Navy's Al Emarat.

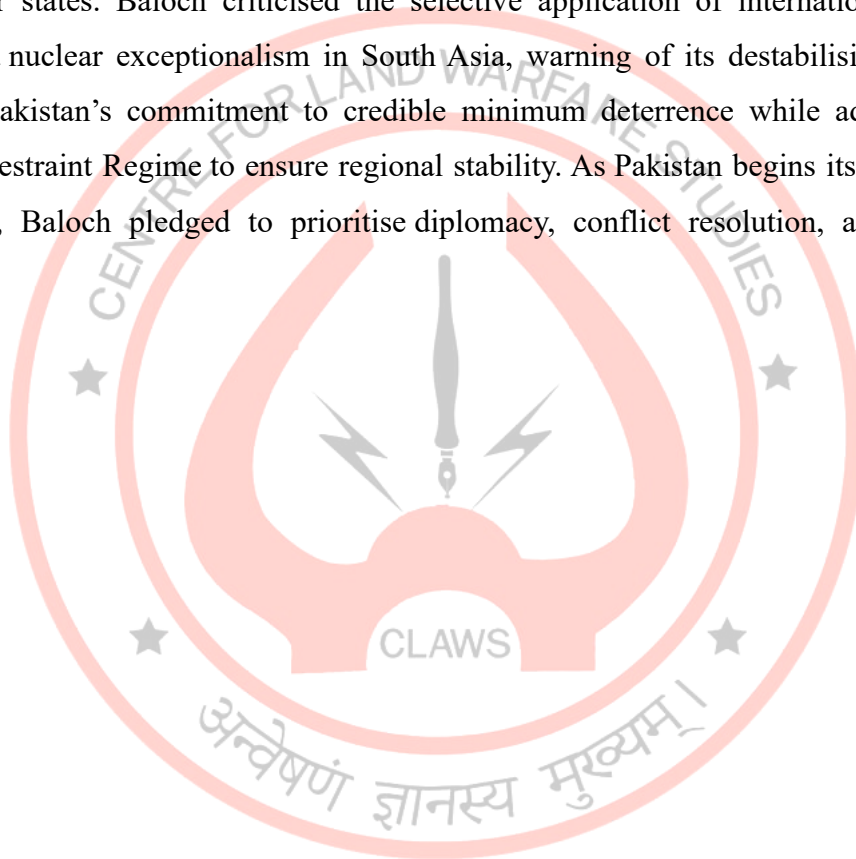
**b. Naval Cooperation with Saudi Arabia (Nation, February 16; Arab News, February 19)**

Following the AMAN-25 multinational maritime exercise last month, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have also conducted two major naval exercises, further strengthening their strategic and defence collaboration. The first exercise, Naseem Al Bahr XV, concluded on February 16 in the North Arabian Sea with a live weapon firing demonstration. PNS Zulfiquar, PNS Yarmook, and Saudi RSNF Ships HMS Jazan and HMS Hail successfully engaged their targets using Surface-to-Surface and Surface-to-Air missiles, showcasing combat readiness and warfighting capabilities. The exercise focused on anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare and integrated maritime security operations, reinforcing interoperability between the two navies.

The second exercise, Affaa Al Sahil VII, concluded in Karachi on February 19, where the Pakistan Navy's Special Service Group (SSG-N) and the Royal Saudi Naval Forces' Special Operations Forces (SOFs) engaged in high-intensity training. The drills included live-fire exercises, hostage rescue operations, precision raids, and explosive ordnance disposal, testing the forces in high-threat simulated environments. This growing engagement reflects Pakistan's increasing focus on naval diplomacy and maritime security cooperation with Gulf nations.

## **12.Global Action on Disarmament at Geneva Conference (The Nation, February 27)**

At the Conference on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva, Switzerland, from February 24-26, Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to global disarmament and urged immediate measures to address emerging security threats. Foreign Secretary Ambassador Amna Baloch highlighted rising global military expenditures, the unchecked expansion of nuclear arsenals, and the risks posed by AI, cyber warfare, and space-based weapons. She stressed the need for risk reduction, arms control agreements, and a treaty on Negative Security Assurances (NSAs) to safeguard non-nuclear states. Baloch criticised the selective application of international norms and condemned nuclear exceptionalism in South Asia, warning of its destabilising effects. She reiterated Pakistan's commitment to credible minimum deterrence while advocating for a Strategic Restraint Regime to ensure regional stability. As Pakistan begins its eighth term on the UNSC, Baloch pledged to prioritise diplomacy, conflict resolution, and confidence-building.





## **PAKISTAN-OCCUPIED-KASHMIR (POK)**

### **1. India Protests Statements on Kashmir**

#### **a. Turkish Remarks (India Today, February 21; Hindustan Times, February 21; Mint, February 22)**

India has strongly objected to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's comments on Kashmir during his visit to Pakistan earlier this month, calling them "unwarranted and unacceptable." New Delhi lodged a formal protest with the Turkish ambassador, asserting that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and no other country has the right to comment on its internal matters. Erdogan had stated that the Kashmir issue should be resolved through UN resolutions and dialogue, reaffirming Turkey's solidarity with Kashmiris. India, however, countered that the real issue is Pakistan's use of cross-border terrorism, which remains the biggest threat to the region.

#### **b. Pakistan's Remarks at UNHRC (Hindustan Times, February 27; NDTV, February 27; India Today, February 27)**

At the 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva, India strongly criticised Pakistan and dismissed its allegations. Kshitij Tyagi, representing India's Permanent Mission to the UN, condemned Pakistan's leadership for spreading falsehoods, accusing them of using the OIC as a mouthpiece while neglecting internal crises. "It is unfortunate that this Council's time continues to be wasted by a failed state that thrives on instability and survives on international handouts," he stated. Reaffirming India's position on Jammu and Kashmir, Tyagi emphasised that the region has seen unprecedented political, social, and economic progress in recent years, proving the people's trust in the Indian government despite decades of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. He further urged Pakistan to move past its obsession with India and focus on addressing its own human rights abuses and internal challenges. India's strong response at the UNHRC followed a similar statement at the UNSC on February 19, where Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish reaffirmed that Jammu and Kashmir will always remain an integral part of India.

## **TERROR TALLY**

### **1. Counterterrorism Operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan**

- a. **Dawn, February 28** | **North Waziristan:** In an intelligence-based operation (IBO), Pakistani security forces killed 6 terrorists in the Ghulam Khan Kalay area.
- b. **Dawn, February 24** | **Khyber District:** Security forces conducted an IBO in the Bagh area, eliminating 10 terrorists. A sanitisation operation is underway.
- c. **Dawn, February 23** | **Dera Ismail Khan:** In two separate operations, 7 terrorists linked to the banned Tehrik-i-Taliban (TTP) were killed. Weapons and ammunition were recovered.
- d. **Dawn, February 21** | **Karak District:** According to the ISPR, 6 TTP terrorists were neutralised by Pakistani security forces in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Karak district.
- e. **Dawn, February 18** | **South Waziristan:** 30 terrorists were neutralised in an IBO in Sararogha. President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif lauded the security forces for their successful operation.

### **2. Baloch Youth Killed Amid Ongoing State-Backed Militia Attacks (ANI, February 20)**

A Baloch youth, Karim Dad, was reportedly killed by state-backed militias, commonly referred to as 'death squads,' in Tump, Kech district. Karim was fatally shot while inside a vehicle in the Kohad area. Local sources claim the attackers were affiliated with a government-supported militia. The killing comes just days after his relative, Miraj Baloch, was also murdered in the same region, raising fresh concerns about targeted violence. Human rights groups and political organisations, including the Baloch National Movement (BNM) and its human rights wing, PAANK, have strongly condemned the attack.

### **3. Series of Attacks Against SF in Balochistan (The Balochistan Post, February 24)**

A series of coordinated attacks targeted Pakistani security forces across Balochistan's Kech, Panjgoor, and Bolan districts, escalating tensions in the region. Two Baloch armed groups,

the Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF) and the United Baloch Army (UBA), claimed responsibility for the attacks in Kech and Bolan, respectively, while the perpetrators of the Panjgoor raid remain unidentified.

The BLF stated that its fighters ambushed a Pakistani military convoy carrying rations in Kolwah, Kech, on February 21, seizing supplies and destroying a surveillance drone. The group accused the Pakistani forces of coercing local transporters to move military equipment and issued a warning against such cooperation. A day later, on February 22, the BLF claimed another attack in Hironk, Kech, targeting a security checkpoint and allegedly causing heavy casualties. The group reiterated its goal of pushing Pakistani forces out of Balochistan.

In Bolan's Mach area, the UBA claimed responsibility for an attack on February 22, in which its fighters detonated explosives on a 6-inch natural gas pipeline, disrupting supply. The group accused Pakistan of exploiting Balochistan's resources and warned against collaboration with the state.

Meanwhile, in Panjgoor, unidentified assailants raided a security forces' camp, triggering explosions and gunfire. While local sources reported significant losses, official confirmation remains absent.

#### **4. BLA Attack in Balochistan ([The Balochistan Post, February 25](#))**

A convoy escorting a Chinese company involved in the Saindak project came under attack near Mangochar Bazaar in Kalat district, resulting in the deaths of seven Pakistani soldiers. The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) has claimed responsibility, stating that its fighters ambushed the 30-vehicle convoy using explosives and heavy weapons. At least eleven soldiers were also wounded in the attack. The BLA has warned foreign companies and investors against operating in Balochistan, labelling projects like Saindak and Reko Diq as exploitative ventures imposed without local consent.

#### **5. Foiled Terror Attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ([Dawn, February 26](#))**

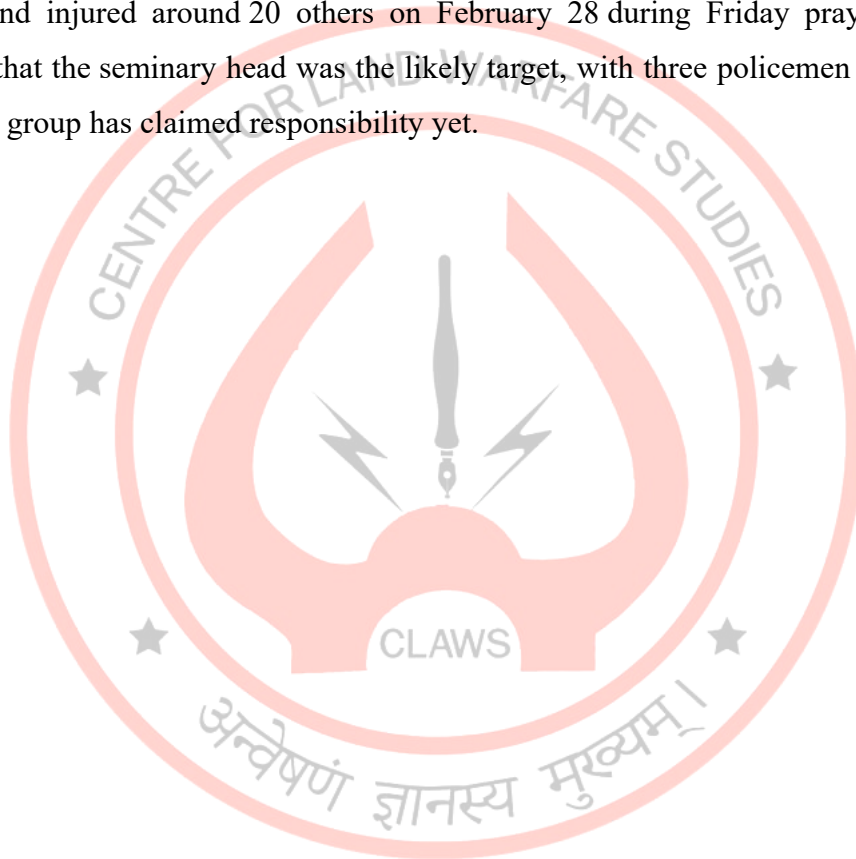
Security forces successfully averted two terrorist threats in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, defusing a homemade bomb in Bannu and repelling an armed attack on a police station in Karak district. In Bannu, police discovered an explosive device planted at Shandi Adda, containing ball



bearings, detonating cord, and other materials. A bomb disposal unit was called in to neutralise the 5kg device, preventing potential destruction. Meanwhile, in Karak's Banda Daud Shah area, militants launched a midnight assault on a police station using light and heavy weapons. The alert officers retaliated effectively, forcing the attackers to retreat. No casualties were reported.

#### **6. Madrassa Suicide Blast in Nowshera (Dawn, February 28)**

A suicide blast at Darul Uloom Haqqania seminary in Nowshera, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, killed at least six people, including Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Sami (JUI-S) leader Maulana Hamidul Haq Haqqani, and injured around 20 others on February 28 during Friday prayers. KP Police confirmed that the seminary head was the likely target, with three policemen also among the injured. No group has claimed responsibility yet.



## About the Author

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