

CLAWS Newsletter



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by Akashika Mate

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

1. COAS Delivers Controversial Speech at the Overseas Pakistanis Convention ([Arab News, April 14](#); [DawnNews/YouTube, April 16](#); [Business Standard, April 17](#))

At the first Overseas Pakistanis Convention held in Islamabad from April 14-16, Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, General Asim Munir, delivered a speech that underscored themes of national unity, ideological identity, and resilience. Addressing a packed audience that included Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, senior senators, and Pakistani expatriates, Munir reaffirmed Pakistan's foundational ideology—the two-nation theory—asserting that Pakistanis and Hindus are “fundamentally different” in their religion, traditions, and ambitions. “You have to narrate Pakistan's story to your children,” Munir told attendees, urging the diaspora to pass down the nation's history to preserve its identity. He also reiterated Pakistan's long-standing position on Kashmir, calling it the country's “jugular vein,” and expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Turning his focus to internal security, Munir made strong remarks about the situation in Balochistan, vowing to eliminate all militant threats. “Even ten generations of terrorists cannot harm Balochistan and Pakistan,” he said, referencing recent separatist violence in the province. The convention also spotlighted the vital role of remittances from overseas Pakistanis—expected to cross \$35 billion this year—in supporting Pakistan's struggling economy. State officials promised to strengthen channels for diaspora engagement and address key concerns faced by expatriates.

2. Pakistan's Defence Budget Rises Despite Economic Strain ([Profit by Pakistan Today, April 14](#); [Resonant News, April 16](#))

Pakistan has proposed a defence budget of Rs2,281 billion (approximately USD 8.19 billion), marking a 7.49% increase from the previous year. While this rise is more measured than the 14.16% jump in 2024-25, it comes amid severe economic pressure, including double-digit inflation and Rs9 trillion set aside solely for interest payments. Despite these constraints, Pakistan continues to prioritise its security needs. The budget emphasises counterterrorism operations—mainly targeting groups such as the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and Baloch

insurgents—along with border security and military readiness. An additional USD 1.44 billion is allocated to the Armed Forces Development Programme (AFDP), with a focus on modernisation through acquisitions like J-35 stealth jets and JF-17 Thunder aircraft in partnership with China. Défense remains a high priority, consuming about 2.8% of the country’s GDP. Notably, space for public criticism or protest of the defence budget is virtually non-existent.

3. PAF Ranks 7th Globally in Fleet Size: Report ([@kozamli/X, April 16](#))

According to the [2025 World Air Forces Directory](#) published recently by Flight Global, the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) operates an active fleet of 1,399 aircraft, ranking it as the 7th largest air force in the world with a 3% share of the global fleet (**Image 1**). The JF-17 Thunder continues to form the backbone of the PAF’s combat capability, with 123 standard units and 25 JF-17 “Bravos” currently in service. Notably, Pakistan also holds the third position globally in terms of trainer aircraft, with a total of 565, the majority of which are the indigenously manufactured MFI-395 Super Mushshak (119 units). Meanwhile, the number of F-7 aircraft in the fleet has decreased from 135 to 72, reflecting ongoing efforts to modernise and streamline operational assets.

Image 1: Global Military Fleet

Country	Active fleet	Share
1. USA	13,043	25%
2. Russia	4,292	8%
3. China	3,309	6%
4. India	2,229	4%
5. South Korea	1,592	3%
6. Japan	1,443	3%
7. Pakistan	1,399	3%
8. Egypt	1,093	2%
9. Turkey	1,083	2%
10. France	976	2%
Other	22,183	42%
Total	52,642	100%

Source: [2025 World Air Forces Directory, Flight Global](#)

4. COAS Honours Soldiers at GHQ Investiture Ceremony ([Islamabad Post, April 17](#))

An Investiture Ceremony was held at the General Headquarters (GHQ), Rawalpindi, where Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir conferred military honours on officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Army in recognition of their exceptional bravery and distinguished service to the nation. The ceremony was attended by senior military leadership and the families of the award recipients. Among the honours conferred were the Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military) and Tamgha-i-Basalat, with several medals awarded posthumously to the families of the martyrs (*Shuhada*). Paying rich tribute to the sacrifices of *Shuhada* and veterans, General Munir declared, “Shuhada and Ghazis are our enduring pride. Their honour and reverence are a sacred trust upon every Pakistani. The peace and liberty we cherish today are the result of the ultimate sacrifices rendered by these valiant sons of the soil.” He also commended the remarkable strength and resilience of the families of the *Shuhada*, recognising their silent yet profound contribution to national defence. The COAS further praised the unyielding commitment of the Pakistan Army and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), acknowledging their relentless counterterrorism efforts.

5. Nationwide Shutter-Down Strike Observed in Solidarity with Palestinians ([Arab News, April 20](#); [Dawn, April 26](#))

On April 20, Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) central chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman announced a nationwide strike for April 26 in solidarity with Palestine, calling on citizens to boycott brands allegedly supporting Israel amid its ongoing military offensive in Gaza. The announcement came during a large Gaza Solidarity March held on the Expressway connecting Islamabad and Rawalpindi, after authorities blocked access to Islamabad’s Red Zone, the originally planned site of the rally near the US embassy. The party, which has been organising similar protests in Karachi, Lahore, and other major cities, has been vocal in its criticism of Washington’s support for Israel’s actions in Gaza.

On April 26, cities across Pakistan came to a standstill as the shutter-down strike took effect. From Karachi to Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta, and Rawalpindi, and further into towns such as Larkana, Sukkur, Mirpurkhas, and Kohat, shops and businesses closed their doors, while roads emptied in a show of unity. In Karachi, the business community played an active role in the protest. Leaders from key trade bodies, including All Karachi Tajir Ittehad and the Cooperative Market, joined hands with religious organisations in leading peaceful rallies throughout the city. Across Punjab, major cities like Lahore, Faisalabad, and Gujranwala

observed a complete shutdown. Hafiz Naeemur Rehman, addressing a rally in Lahore, commended the traders for their voluntary participation. “There could not be a greater portrayal of unity than this,” he said, lauding the people for transcending divides of race, language, and sect to stand with the oppressed. Similar scenes were reported from Quetta, Hyderabad, Thatta, Jacobabad, and other urban centres in Balochistan and Sindh. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, rallies and demonstrations were led by JI leaders in Peshawar’s Qissa Khwani Bazaar, Hazara, Malakand, and DI Khan divisions. Speakers at the various demonstrations called for global attention to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and stressed the importance of collective resistance to injustice. Balochistan JI chief Maulana Hidayatur Rehman Baloch thanked citizens for keeping the strike peaceful, adding: “If we unite against oppression, we become a great force.”

6. Sindh Erupts in Protest Over Indus River Canal Projects ([IANS, April 28](#); [The Diplomat, April 30](#); [Tribune India, April 30](#))

Mass protests have gripped Pakistan’s Sindh province for more than two weeks, with demonstrators voicing fierce opposition to controversial canal construction projects under the Green Pakistan Initiative. Residents fear the new canals, designed to support corporate agriculture, especially in Punjab, will worsen Sindh’s already dire water scarcity and threaten both livelihoods and the province’s agrarian economy. The World Bank has previously highlighted that 77% of Sindh’s agricultural land is irrigated and heavily dependent on the Indus, which is now under increasing pressure.

The social media campaign under the hashtag #NoMoreCanalsOnIndus has garnered over 2.5 million posts on Facebook, amplifying concerns over water injustice and the corporatisation of farmland. On the ground, protests have intensified, with widespread road blockades, including a major sit-in by Sindh’s lawyers at Khairpur’s Baberloo bypass, effectively cutting the province off from Punjab. Over 12,000 cargo trucks have been stranded on the national highway, prompting the All Pakistan Goods Transport Owners Association to issue an urgent call for government intervention.

Although PM Sharif assured that “no new canals will be constructed without mutual understanding,” a Council of Common Interests (CCI) meeting concluded without a definitive resolution. Protestors have vowed to escalate their campaign unless the projects are scrapped and lands allegedly occupied by military-linked companies are returned. The Jiye Sindh Qaumi

Mahaz (JSQM) Bashir Khan Group has declared plans to shut down all rail connections between Sindh and Punjab by May 11. Reports of violence and arrests have added urgency to calls for a peaceful and equitable resolution under the 1991 Water Apportionment Accord. With the stand-off deepening, Pakistan faces a critical test in balancing development ambitions with provincial rights, environmental sustainability, and federal unity.

7. World Bank Approves \$108M to Empower Women in KP ([PTI News, April 29](#))

The World Bank has approved an additional USD 108 million in funding to support women and girls in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province by improving access to essential services and economic opportunities. The investment supports two key initiatives: the Pakhtunkhwa Integrated Tourism Development (KITE) project, valued at USD 30 million, and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Accessibility Project (KPRAP), worth USD 78 million. Both projects aim to enhance connectivity to markets, jobs, healthcare, and education, while strengthening the province's resilience to natural disasters, marking a significant step toward inclusive and sustainable development in the region.

8. Senate Passes Key Legislation on Biological Weapons and Minority Rights ([Business Recorder, April 30](#); [Daily Times Pakistan, April 30](#); [GNN HD TV, April 30](#))

In a significant move, the Senate of Pakistan has unanimously passed two crucial bills: the Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention (Implementation) Bill, 2025 and the National Commission for Minorities Bill, 2025. The Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention Bill prohibits the development, production, acquisition, transport, import, or export of biological and toxin weapons across Pakistan. The bill carries stringent penalties—up to 25 years of imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 10 million—for violations, and extends jurisdiction to all Pakistani citizens, residents, and foreigners operating within the country. Use of such materials or technologies will only be permitted for peaceful, scientific purposes with approval from the designated central authority. This bill is a major step in aligning Pakistan's national legislation

with the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), a vital international treaty under the United Nations aimed at preventing the misuse of biological agents.

Also passed was the National Commission for Minorities Bill, 2025, which seeks to formalise a statutory commission dedicated to safeguarding the rights of minority communities in Pakistan. Tabled by Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazir Tarar, the bill reaffirms the government's commitment to religious inclusion and the constitutional protection of all citizens, regardless of faith or background. "These legislative measures demonstrate Pakistan's resolve to honour its global obligations and ensure equitable protection for all segments of society," said Tarar.



EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

1. Kuwait Extends Oil Credit Facility to Pakistan for Two Years ([Arab News, April 16](#); [Business Recorder, April 16](#); [Dawn, April 17](#))

In a first, Kuwait has extended its oil credit facility to Islamabad for two years, doubling its usual one-year support. The decision was announced after a meeting between Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik and Kuwaiti Ambassador Nassar Abdulrahman J. Almutairi in Islamabad. With energy imports making up a major portion of Pakistan's import bill, the extension is a timely boost, helping Pakistan manage its energy needs while preserving critical foreign exchange reserves. The support comes amid the country's ongoing economic recovery under a \$7 billion IMF bailout, which helped avoid default earlier this year. The discussions also explored deeper cooperation in the energy sector and potential investments in Pakistan's petroleum infrastructure. Minister Malik reiterated Pakistan's intent to strengthen ties with Gulf nations, while the ambassador reaffirmed Kuwait's confidence in Pakistan's economic trajectory and investment climate. This development follows Saudi Arabia's similar gesture in February when it deferred a \$1.2 billion oil import payment by one year.

2. Developments with China

a. Maritime Cooperation in Fifth Dialogue Round ([Daily Times Pakistan, April 16](#); [The Nation, April 16](#))

Pakistan and China have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening maritime coordination and cooperation during the Fifth Round of the Pakistan-China Dialogue on Maritime Cooperation held in Beijing. The dialogue was co-chaired by Imran Ahmed Siddiqui, Additional Secretary (Asia-Pacific) from Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Hong Liang, Director General of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs at China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Officials from both sides engaged in comprehensive discussions on key maritime issues, including security, marine economy, science and technology, and environmental protection. Both countries reviewed the progress made since the last round and reached a broad consensus on advancing collaboration across multiple maritime domains. They reaffirmed that robust maritime cooperation remains a vital pillar of their All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership. The two sides also agreed to maintain continuous communication and to work towards building a Pakistan-China maritime community with a shared future. The next

round of the dialogue will be held in Pakistan in 2026, further reinforcing the long-term strategic cooperation between the two nations.

b. Pakistan Participates in 20th SCO Chief Justices Meeting in China (Radio Pakistan, April 20; Global Times China, April 23)

The 20th Meeting of Chief Justices of Supreme Courts of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States was held on April 23 in Zhejiang Province, China, aimed at deepening judicial cooperation across the region. Pakistan was represented by Chief Justice Yahya Afridi, who led the delegation at the event. According to a statement from the Supreme Court, a landmark Memorandum of Understanding was expected to be signed between the Supreme Court of Pakistan and China's Supreme People's Court. The MoU sought to enhance bilateral judicial cooperation through institutional linkages, capacity-building, and knowledge sharing. On the sidelines of the conference, Chief Justice Afridi was also scheduled to hold bilateral talks with his Iranian counterpart to explore further avenues for judicial collaboration. Chief justices and judiciary leaders from SCO member states, including India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, addressed the opening ceremony, with Belarus and Russia participating online. Observers from Azerbaijan, Türkiye, and SCO's executive bodies also attended.

3. Pakistan Hosts High-Level UN Peacekeeping Meeting, Calls for Urgent Reform (Arab News, April 17; Dawn, April 17)

Pakistan and the Republic of Korea jointly hosted a high-level preparatory meeting for the upcoming United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial Conference, convening international stakeholders in Islamabad to discuss the evolving future of global peacekeeping. The two-day conference featured in-depth panel discussions on the role of advanced technologies, regional partnerships, and the need for comprehensive structural reforms to strengthen UN peacekeeping operations.

In his keynote remarks, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar warned that UN peacekeeping efforts are “at a crossroads,” facing unprecedented pressure due to rising geopolitical divisions, financial constraints, and increasing threats to peacekeepers in volatile regions. “The future of peacekeeping demands adaptation,” he stated. Pakistan, one of the UN's

top troop contributors with over 2,35,000 personnel deployed in 48 missions to date, proposed a comprehensive eight-point reform agenda to revitalise global peacekeeping. These include:

1. Clear, focused mandates rooted in field realities
2. Stronger and consistent backing from the UN Security Council
3. Active inclusion of troop-contributing countries in mission planning
4. Better alignment of resources with assigned mandates
5. Professional, merit-based deployment decisions
6. Strengthened regional and cross-regional partnerships, including with the African Union and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
7. Enhanced accountability for attacks on peacekeepers
8. Robust safety protocols in the face of disinformation and hostile actors

Dar also emphasised the need for peacekeeping to be integrated into broader political solutions that address the root causes of conflict. The conference also explored the use of advanced technologies, such as drones, counter-IED systems, and simulation-based training, to bolster operational safety and effectiveness in complex environments. In a solemn moment, he paid tribute to the 4,423 UN peacekeepers who have lost their lives in service, including 181 from Pakistan. “Credible deterrence and accountability are essential to protect peacekeepers who serve on the frontlines of global stability,” he said.

The outcomes of the Islamabad meeting will inform the agenda of the UN Peacekeeping Ministerial in Berlin on May 13-14, where foreign and defence ministers are expected to finalise global strategies under the theme, “Towards a Safer and More Effective Peacekeeping: Use of Technology and Integrated Approach.”

4. Developments with Russia

a. 15th Consultative Group Meeting (Dunya News, April 17; Xalq Qazeti, April 17)

Pakistan and Russia held the 15th round of the Consultative Group on Strategic Stability in Islamabad this week, reaffirming their shared commitment to international security, arms control, and non-proliferation. The dialogue was led by Additional Foreign Secretary Tahir Andrabi and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister SA Ryabkov, with both delegations engaging in comprehensive discussions on global and regional stability. Topics included the militarization

of space, artificial intelligence in defence, and international information security, alongside key issues in global disarmament and arms control forums like the UN First Committee, IAEA, OPCW, and BWC. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the convergence of views on emerging security challenges and agreed to enhance bilateral coordination and multilateral cooperation on strategic matters. The 16th round of the Consultative Group is scheduled to be held in Moscow in 2026.

b. Counterterrorism Cooperation (Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations Geneva, April 22)

Pakistan and Russia held the 11th meeting of their Joint Working Group to Counter International Terrorism in Moscow on 22 April 2025. Pakistan's delegation was led by Special Secretary (United Nations) Nabeel Munir, while the Russian side was headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Vershinin. Both sides held in-depth discussions on the evolving threat of terrorism, particularly in Afghanistan and the surrounding region. Emphasising the increasingly transnational nature of terrorism, the two delegations agreed on the urgent need for adaptive and collaborative responses. The meeting concluded with a strong reaffirmation of their commitment to work together against common threats, acknowledging that sustained cooperation is key to regional and global security. The next round of talks is scheduled to take place in 2026.

5. CJCSC Strengthens Defence Ties During Official Visit to UAE
(Radio Pakistan, April 17; The Nation, April 17)

General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, NI (M), Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), made an official visit to the United Arab Emirates, where he met with key members of the country's civil and military leadership. In Abu Dhabi, General Mirza held separate meetings with H.E. Mohammed Fadal Al Mazrouei, Minister of State for Defence; H.E. Lieutenant General Issa Saif Mohammed Al Mazrouei, Chief of Staff of the UAE Armed Forces; and H.E. Dr Nasser Humaid Al Nuaimi, Secretary General of the Tawazun Council. Discussions during the meetings centred on the regional security environment and explored avenues for enhancing bilateral defence cooperation. The UAE leadership acknowledged the professionalism of the Pakistan Armed Forces and commended their role and sacrifices in the global fight against terrorism. As part of his visit, General Mirza also toured the Tawazun Industrial Park, where

he observed a range of advanced defence manufacturing facilities, reflecting the growing emphasis on defence industrial collaboration between the two countries.

6. Developments with Afghanistan

a. Renewed Talks Signal Possible Shift in TTP Policy (The Tribune Pakistan, April 17)

Pakistan has expressed cautious optimism following renewed engagement with the Afghan Taliban over the escalating threat posed by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). For the first time in 15 months, the Pakistan-Afghanistan Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) convened in Kabul amidst mounting cross-border tensions and increasingly strained bilateral relations. The Pakistani delegation, headed by Special Envoy Muhammad Sadiq Khan, held discussions with Afghan Taliban officials who reportedly presented “practical steps” being taken to curb militant activity from Afghan soil. While specific measures remain undisclosed, Pakistani officials observed a noticeably more serious and constructive tone from the Afghan side. This shift in attitude is believed to be influenced by growing internal economic challenges within Afghanistan, the impact of suspended international aid, and persistent diplomatic pressure from Islamabad. Ambassador Sadiq described the meeting as “vital,” underscoring the importance of sustained dialogue to ease hostilities and address mutual concerns. The meeting also coincided with the visit of a 16-member Afghan trade delegation to Islamabad, led by Afghanistan’s Commerce Minister Nooruddin Azizi. Discussions focused on resolving trade bottlenecks, with both sides aiming to revive the Pak-Afghan Transit Trade Agreement. Talks on the status and future of Afghan refugees in Pakistan were also anticipated.

b. High-Level Diplomatic Meeting in Kabul (Tolo News, April 19)

On April 19, a senior Pakistani delegation led by Ishaq Dar, Pakistan’s Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, arrived in Kabul to hold wide-ranging talks with the Afghan leadership. The visit included separate meetings with Afghanistan’s Prime Minister and Acting Foreign Minister, aimed at deepening cooperation in the realms of security, politics, and economics. Both governments acknowledged the need for continued high-level exchanges to stabilise their relationship and address pressing bilateral concerns. However, tensions emerged over the treatment of Afghan migrants in Pakistan. While the Islamic Emirate’s leadership expressed

gratitude for Pakistan's longstanding role in hosting Afghan nationals, they also raised alarm over recent detentions, deportations, and alleged property confiscations targeting Afghan migrants.

In response, Foreign Minister Dar assured Afghan officials that Pakistan would not tolerate mistreatment of Afghan nationals and pledged to prevent arbitrary seizures of their property. As a gesture of goodwill, he announced reductions in customs duties on key Afghan export items, aimed at boosting trade ties. Furthermore, Dar extended an official invitation to Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi to visit Islamabad, an invitation welcomed by the Afghan side. Afghan leaders stressed the need for concrete progress on earlier agreements and highlighted the importance of rebuilding trust through consistent implementation.

c. 54 Militants Killed in Cross-Border Infiltration Attempt (France24, April 27)

In a significant escalation along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, Pakistan's military announced that it had killed 54 militants overnight on April 27 while intercepting a large cross-border infiltration attempt. The incident took place in North Waziristan, a region in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that has historically served as a stronghold for the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). According to a military press release, intelligence agencies had prior knowledge of the militant movement, which allowed security forces to mount a pre-emptive response. The insurgents were allegedly preparing to carry out high-profile terrorist attacks within Pakistan and were "dispatched by foreign masters," though the military did not specify the external actors involved. The attempted infiltration coincided with heightened regional tensions, particularly following recent violence in Indian-administered Kashmir. Pakistani officials claimed that India has attempted to deflect blame by making "baseless accusations" against Islamabad in the wake of a deadly attack on tourists in Pahalgam. Security analysts describe the incident as one of the most lethal border encounters in recent years and warn that such infiltrations reflect the persistent threat posed by cross-border militant networks. The Pakistani military reaffirmed its resolve to maintain border integrity and called on the Afghan authorities to uphold commitments to prevent terrorist use of Afghan territory.

7. Anti-Narcotics Conference with GCC Nations (The Khyber Mail, April 17; The News International, April 17)

In a landmark initiative to confront the growing global challenge of drug trafficking, Pakistan hosted the inaugural Pakistan-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) International Anti-Narcotics Conference in Islamabad. The event brought together delegations from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, and Italy to highlight the international urgency of the issue. Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control, Mohsin Naqvi, welcomed the participants and underscored Pakistan's unwavering commitment to a united front against narcotics. He described the conference as a vital step toward creating a joint cross-border strategy and fostering deeper cooperation among nations facing a common threat. Key discussions focused on intelligence sharing, real-time coordination, joint training programmes, and strengthening forensic and technical capabilities. Delegates unanimously agreed to enhance regional and international collaboration, praising Pakistan's pivotal role in leading anti-narcotics efforts. Director General of the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), Major General Abdul Mueed, acknowledged the contributions of participating countries and reiterated the ANF's dedication to international partnerships in tackling the narcotics trade. The conference not only reaffirmed Pakistan's leadership in global anti-drug initiatives but also opened new pathways for cooperation with the Gulf region and beyond.

8. Sixth Round of FSLC with Bangladesh ([ANI, April 18](#); [The International News, April 18, April 19](#))

The Sixth Round of Foreign Secretary-Level Bilateral Consultations (FSLC) between Bangladesh and Pakistan took place in Dhaka on April 17, marking a significant step toward revitalising bilateral relations. The discussions were led by Foreign Secretary Md. Jashim Uddin from Bangladesh and Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch from Pakistan, after a 15-year hiatus. Both sides expressed satisfaction with recent high-level engagements, including meetings between Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Mohammad Yunus and Pakistan's PM Sharif, which have contributed to re-energising the relationship. Key outcomes of the talks included:

- Connectivity and Cooperation: Both sides welcomed the launch of direct shipping between Karachi and Chattogram and highlighted the need to restore direct air links. They also emphasised the importance of easing travel and visa processes to further strengthen people-to-people contacts.
- Trade and Agriculture: Both countries reaffirmed their commitment to achieving the goal of USD 1 billion in annual bilateral trade. Pakistan's Foreign Secretary extended

an invitation to Bangladesh to explore opportunities for investment in sectors like jute and textile mills, while Bangladesh highlighted its incentives for foreign investors.

- Cultural and Educational Engagement: Pakistan offered academic opportunities in agricultural universities, while Bangladesh proposed technical training in fisheries and maritime studies. Both sides also discussed the prospects for reciprocal cultural exchanges and broadened cooperation in sports, media, and other cultural institutions.
- Multilateral Issues and Regional Cooperation: The discussions reaffirmed the importance of revitalising the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and enhancing cooperation in regional organisations. Pakistan also briefed Bangladesh on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, reiterating the need for an early resolution following UN Security Council resolutions.

Looking ahead, both sides agreed to hold the next round of consultations in Islamabad in 2026.

9. Bilateral Cooperation with Hungary ([Pakistan Today, April 17](#); [The Tribune Pakistan, April 18](#))

Pakistan and Hungary marked 60 years of diplomatic relations with a high-level visit from Hungarian Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó, resulting in renewed commitments across diplomacy, trade, and cultural cooperation. During talks in Islamabad with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, both sides reaffirmed mutual support for peace, multilateralism, and global cooperation. The discussions led to the signing of several key agreements, including:

- Abolition of visa requirements for diplomatic passport holders
- MoUs on cooperation in culture and archaeology

Foreign Minister Dar highlighted opportunities for expanding ties in agriculture, healthcare, IT, and industrial manufacturing, aligning with Hungary's Eastern Opening Policy and Pakistan's development vision. PM Sharif also met with Minister Szijjártó, welcoming Hungarian interest in trade, energy, and investment, and extended an invitation to PM Viktor Orbán for an official visit. Accompanied by a 17-member business delegation, Szijjártó expressed satisfaction over the agreements and commended Pakistan's role in counterterrorism efforts, noting its contribution to European security. He also flagged concerns over Afghanistan-related terrorism and its potential impact on migration pressures in Europe. The

visit underlines Islamabad's strategic push to attract European investment in sectors like tourism, mining, agriculture, and energy, building on recent momentum with Gulf partners.

10. Pakistan Hosts 8th PATS Military Competition ([Arab News, April 19](#); [The Tribune Pakistan, April 19](#))

The Pakistan Army recently hosted the 8th edition of the International Pakistan Army Team Spirit (PATS) Competition at Kharian Garrison, drawing participation from both national and international military teams. This 60-hour-long, high-intensity military exercise was set in the semi-mountainous terrain of Punjab, pushing teams to demonstrate peak endurance, strategy, and coordination. Designed to simulate real combat scenarios, the exercise aimed to enhance operational preparedness, adaptability, and teamwork. A total of 23 teams took part—including seven from the Pakistan Army, one from the Pakistan Navy, and 15 from friendly countries including Bahrain, Belarus, China, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Maldives, Morocco, Nepal, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Türkiye, the United States and Uzbekistan—underscoring the competition's growing role as a platform for military-to-military engagement and the exchange of innovative tactics. COAS General Munir attended the closing ceremony as the chief guest. In his address, he lauded the participants for their professionalism, resilience, and unwavering commitment. "The Pakistan Army is proud of its values of character, courage, and competence," he remarked.

11. Pakistan to Launch Maritime Trade Corridors with East Africa ([The Express Tribune Pakistan, April 20](#))

Pakistan's Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Junaid Anwar Chaudhry has announced plans to establish new maritime trade corridors aimed at boosting trade with the East African Community (EAC). The minister emphasised that the initiative will open up new opportunities for Pakistani exporters, industrialists, and investors in key sectors such as agriculture, textiles, manufacturing, and technology. The first phase of the plan includes launching a direct shipping line from Karachi Port to Djibouti, a key logistics hub for East Africa. To ensure coordinated implementation, an inter-ministerial consortium will be formed to provide integrated support in trade, finance, diplomacy, and technology. This strategic move signals Pakistan's growing

interest in expanding economic ties beyond traditional markets, tapping into emerging regions with vast trade potential.

12. New Bilateral Agreements with the Czech Republic (Radio Pakistan, April 28)

Pakistan and the Czech Republic have signed several key protocols to bolster cooperation across various sectors. The agreements were formalised during the inaugural session of the Pakistan-Czech Republic Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation, held in Islamabad. Co-chaired by Muhammad Humair Karim, Special Secretary of Pakistan's Ministry of Economic Affairs, and David Muller, Director General for the EU and Foreign Trade Section of the Czech Republic's Ministry of Industry and Trade, the meeting focused on strengthening economic and trade ties between the two nations. Karim highlighted the complementarity between the Czech Republic's industrial prowess and Pakistan's strategic location and emerging market. Discussions centred on expanding bilateral trade, reducing trade barriers, and fostering direct logistics channels. He also encouraged Czech businesses to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan's Special Economic Zones (SEZs), particularly in sectors such as automotive, renewable energy, agriculture technology, IT, and manufacturing. The successful launch of the Joint Commission lays a strong foundation for future collaboration, with both sides agreeing to convene the second meeting in Prague next year, further cementing their commitment to growing economic ties.

13. Defence and Economic Ties with Sri Lanka (Sri Lanka Guardian, April 30)

In a significant boost to South Asian cooperation, Sri Lanka's Defence Secretary, Air Vice Marshal Sampath Thuyacontha (Retd), led a high-level delegation to Islamabad on April 29 for key bilateral meetings. Accompanied by senior military officials, including the Navy Commander and Army Chief of Staff, Thuyacontha met with Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, General Asim Munir, to deepen ongoing defence collaboration. He also held talks with Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Khan Cheema, focusing on strengthening economic development and regional trade. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to regional peace,

security, and shared prosperity. The visit concluded with an exchange of mementoes symbolising goodwill and mutual respect. These engagements mark a strategic step forward in enhancing defence cooperation and economic ties between Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

14. First DFDI Forum Concluded in Islamabad ([Arab News, April 30](#))

Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar emphasised the country's potential as a competitive provider of high-quality information technology services during his address at the first Digital Foreign Direct Investment (DFDI) forum in Islamabad. The forum, co-hosted by Pakistan and the Riyadh-based Digital Cooperation Organisation (DCO), gathered over 400 delegates and 200+ IT and telecom companies from more than 30 countries. Highlighting Pakistan's growing pool of skilled tech professionals, Dar stated that digital services exports have become a cornerstone of the nation's economic strategy. "He also noted Pakistan's advantage in terms of demographics, with over 140 million internet users and 73 million smartphone users, placing it among the top 10 countries globally in terms of online population. The DCO, a multilateral organisation established in November 2020, seeks to accelerate digital economic growth in the region. With Pakistan set to assume the DCO presidency, the forum underscored the country's commitment to digital transformation and its potential as a digital investment destination. Dar invited global investors to explore Pakistan's investor-friendly policies, regulatory reforms, and cost advantages, which offer up to 70% savings compared to North America. PM Sharif also hailed the forum as a transformative moment for Pakistan's digital economy, announcing approximately \$700 million in foreign investment commitments from major IT firms.

TERROR TALLY

1. Confrontations and Counter Terrorism Operations

- a. **Ary News, April 16** | **Karachi:** Karachi's Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) arrested Sajjad Shar alias Bablu, a suspected member of the proscribed Sindh Revolutionary Army (SRA), near Ghaghar Phatak. Shar was allegedly planning to plant a bomb on a railway track in Hyderabad. Investigations revealed he was a courier for SRA commanders and had been providing support to their families in jail. The CTD is continuing its probe into his activities.
- b. **Tribune Pakistan, April 18** | **Muddi:** A soldier, Sepoy Basit Siddique, was martyred and four terrorists were eliminated during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in the Maddi area of Dera Ismail Khan district, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. The operation targeted members of the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) who were involved in numerous terrorist activities in the region. The operation resulted in the death of four terrorists and the recovery of weapons and ammunition.
- c. **Dawn, April 18** | **Swat:** SFs killed four terrorists in a joint IBO in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Swat district, according to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). Weapons and ammunition were recovered from the site, and the militants were said to have been involved in numerous terrorist activities in the region. A sanitisation operation is underway to clear the area of any remaining threats.
- d. **Dawn, April 19** | **Dhabar Pahari:** CTD confirmed that five terrorists were neutralised during a joint operation with other law enforcement agencies in the Dhabar Pahari area of Duki District, Balochistan. The individuals were affiliated with a banned organisation and had been involved in multiple attacks targeting coal mines, security forces, and civilians.
- e. **The Nation, April 19** | **Saeedabad:** The CTD of Sindh arrested Dahan alias Asif, along with his associate, Shafi, a key operative of the banned Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) during an IBO in the Saeedabad area of Karachi. Illegal weapons were recovered during the raid. Reportedly, the duo frequently sought refuge in Hub, Balochistan, to evade arrest. Authorities further revealed that Shafi is reportedly the son of Bahadur PMT, a known BLA militant believed to be running a sleeper cell from a neighbouring country.

- f. [Ary News, April 21](#) | **Makarwal:** The CTD and local police neutralised ten militants affiliated with the banned TTP during an IBO in the Makarwal area of Mianwali. The operation also left several terrorists injured. A local sustained a bullet wound during the exchange of fire and is currently receiving treatment at a nearby hospital. Authorities said the militants had been planning a major attack in the region. A search operation is underway to apprehend fleeing suspects, and efforts to identify the deceased are ongoing.
- g. [KhorasanDiary/X, April 27](#) | **Dasht:** In an IBO in the Dasht area of Balochistan, two armed combatants were killed, including a suspected affiliate of the Islamic State. During the operation, one of the injured combatants, who was wearing a suicide vest, detonated the explosive after being shot. Security forces (SFs) also recovered arms and bomb-making equipment from the site.
- h. [KhorasanDiary/X, April 27](#) | **Bibak Ghar:** According to an official, at least 41 militants affiliated with the TTP were killed in North Waziristan while attempting to infiltrate from Afghanistan. The armed combatants were intercepted near the Bibak Ghar area and engaged in a prolonged gun battle with Pakistani forces. “The majority of those killed were Afghan nationals,” the source claimed. Channels associated with the TTP also reported multiple casualties, while video evidence gathered by TKD’s monitoring team from various encrypted platforms confirmed the scale of the incident.

2. Targeted Militant Attacks

a. [SRA Claims Jamshoro Grenade Attack \(The Balochistan Post, April 16\)](#)

The Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army (SRA) has claimed responsibility for a grenade attack on a police post in Jamshoro, Sindh, carried out late at night. In a statement to the media, SRA spokesperson Sudho Sindhi described the assault as retaliation against what the group called the “repressive” actions of the Sindh police. The spokesperson accused police forces of working on behalf of the “Punjabi military and intelligence agencies,” alleging involvement in crackdowns on political protests, raids on educational institutions, and harassment of Sindhi nationalists and their families. The group also criticised police actions during public gatherings commemorating Sindhi nationalist leader Sain GM Syed. Citing public anger over issues such as water extraction from the Indus River and large-scale land sales under development projects,

the SRA warned that attacks would escalate if authorities continued to suppress nationalist dissent. The group reaffirmed its commitment to armed resistance until the “complete national independence” of Sindh is achieved.

b. Ahmadi Man Lynched in Karachi Amid Rising Religious Intolerance (The Friday Times, April 18; Dawn, April 19)

Laeq Ahmad Cheema, a 46-year-old member of the Ahmadiyya community, was brutally lynched by an enraged mob outside the Ahmadiyya Hall in Karachi’s Preedy Police jurisdiction. The attack occurred during Friday prayers when a crowd affiliated with Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) gathered near the worship site and began chanting slogans. Cheema was identified and attacked with stones and sticks by the mob. He died on the spot from his injuries. According to Additional Inspector General Syed Asad Raza, about 400 individuals had assembled near the mobile market.

Aamir Mehmood, spokesperson for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, strongly condemned the murder, highlighting the escalating anti-Ahmadi sentiment and failure of authorities to curb incitement and mob violence. He noted that instead of restraining extremist elements, police have often targeted Ahmadis with baseless arrests and cases. This is not the first attack on the Ahmadiyya Hall; its minarets were previously destroyed by mobs in February and September 2023. Citing Article 20 of Pakistan’s Constitution, which guarantees religious freedom, the community has demanded immediate justice for Laeq Ahmad Cheema and an end to targeted violence against Ahmadis.

c. BLA Claims Series of Coordinated Attacks (ANI News, April 19)

The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) has claimed responsibility for a string of coordinated attacks across multiple districts in Balochistan, targeting Pakistani security forces in what the group describes as retaliation against military operations in the region. According to a statement released by the BLA, four separate incidents occurred in Dasht, Naseerabad, Turbat, and Noshki. In Dasht’s Darchako area, an IED attack on a Pakistani Army bomb disposal squad reportedly killed one soldier and injured two others. Later, in Naseerabad’s Notal area, BLA fighters set up a temporary checkpoint on a highway. Local police intervention was met with armed resistance, forcing security personnel to retreat. A third attack took place in Turbat, where a grenade was hurled at army personnel near the Star Plus Market. Details on casualties remain unverified.

In the most targeted operation, the BLA claimed to have executed Naqeebullah, son of Meera Jaan Mengal, in Noshki. The group alleged he was acting as an undercover agent for Military Intelligence despite no longer officially serving, accusing him of aiding enforced disappearances and recruiting local youth for intelligence work. The BLA warned that collaborators with Pakistani forces remain under surveillance by their intelligence wing, ZIRAB, and would face similar consequences.

d. Attacks on BNP-M Leaders (The Balochistan Post, April 21)

An armed attack has left Mir Ahmed Chiltanwal, chairman of the Sumalani Qaumi Tehreek, and his brother Zahoor Ahmed seriously injured in Quetta. The attack occurred in the Nohsar area of Aghbarg, within the jurisdiction of Nohsar Police Station. Both men were rushed to a hospital for treatment. Chiltanwal, also affiliated with the Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M), was reportedly targeted after his recent involvement in a sit-in protest by BNP-M in Mastung. The protest was staged against the illegal arrests of Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) activists, including prominent youth leader Dr Mahrang Baloch. The same protest site had previously witnessed an attempted suicide bombing targeting BNP-M leader Sardar Akhtar Mengal, which failed to harm him.

In a related incident, the mutilated body of Farooq Ahmed, the young son of BNP-M's Khuzdar district vice president Noor Ahmed Mengal, was found in Khuzdar on April 16, two days after his abduction. His death has sparked further condemnation, with the BNP-M accusing the Pakistani state and intelligence agencies of orchestrating attacks on political dissenters. These events continue to fuel growing concerns among Baloch nationalist groups, who accuse the Pakistani authorities of targeting political activists and suppressing efforts to raise awareness about human rights violations in Balochistan.

e. SRA Claims Passenger Train Attack in Sindh (The Balochistan Post, April 23)

The Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army (SRA) has claimed responsibility for a shooting on a passenger train near Guddu Chowk in Hussainabad, Sindh, targeting Punjabi settlers. According to a statement released by the group's spokesperson, Sudho Sindhi, the attack was carried out as a protest against what the group described as the "continued colonial exploitation" of Sindh by the Pakistani state and military. Several individuals were reportedly injured in the incident. The SRA accused the state of seeking full control over the Indus River, which it referred to as the "lifeline and national identity" of the Sindhi people. The spokesperson asserted that the operation was a warning to what they called "Punjabi

imperialism,” emphasising that Sindhis would go to any lengths to protect their land and water resources.

f. Assault on Military Outpost in Kalat (The Balochistan Post, April 23)

Armed men reportedly overran a Pakistani military outpost in Balochistan’s Kalat district during a late-night assault on April 22. Local sources confirmed that the attack targeted an outpost in the Sheikhrī area of Kalat. According to witness accounts, the assailants launched a coordinated offensive that resulted in casualties among Pakistani security personnel. After hours of fighting, the attackers reportedly gained control of the fortified site. As of now, Pakistani authorities have not released an official statement, and no group has claimed responsibility for the incident.

g. JUI-F Leader Killed in Kalat Blast (KhorasanDiary/X, April 24; Tribune Pakistan, April 25)

In Balochistan’s Kalat district, Jamiat Ulema Islam (JUI-F) local leader Maulana Abdullah Nechari was killed when an improvised explosive device (IED) targeted his vehicle near Kabuto. Party affiliates confirmed his death on Thursday, stating that his vehicle was the intended target. The powerful roadside blast also claimed the lives of two women and two children and left five others injured. According to Levies sources, the explosion completely destroyed the vehicle as it passed by. The deceased were taken to the District Headquarters Hospital, while the injured were referred to Quetta for further medical care.

h. Blast Targets Peace Committee in South Waziristan (ANI News, April 29)

At least seven people were killed and 16 injured in a deadly blast at a peace committee office in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s South Waziristan district on April 29. According to police and health officials, the explosion occurred during an ongoing meeting in the office, located in Wana city. Five of the injured remain in critical condition. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but security tensions in the region have escalated since the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) ended its ceasefire with the government in late 2022. Peace committees, active since 2007, have long been a target for militant groups due to their cooperation with state authorities. Photos from the scene showed thick smoke rising from the site, and emergency protocols were activated at local hospitals. Officials including KP Health Adviser Ehtesham Ali and Senator Sherry Rehman strongly condemned the attack, reaffirming public resilience in the face of mounting violence.

3. Half a Million U.S.-Funded Weapons Unaccounted for in Taliban-Controlled Afghanistan: BBC Report ([BBC, April 18](#))

Approximately half a million weapons captured by the Taliban in 2021 have reportedly been lost, sold, or smuggled to militant groups, according to a recent report by the BBC. The cache, originally comprising around one million firearms and military equipment—mostly funded by the US—fell into Taliban hands following the withdrawal of international forces and the collapse of the Afghan National Army. A former Afghan official confirmed the estimate, stating that M4 and M16 rifles, among other arms, were either abandoned or left behind as Afghan troops surrendered or fled. During a closed-door UN Security Council Sanctions Committee meeting in Doha last year, the Taliban reportedly acknowledged that nearly half of this equipment is now “unaccounted for.” The UN believes some of these weapons have ended up with al-Qaeda affiliates, including Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, the East Turkestan Islamic Movement, and Yemen’s Ansarullah movement—either through direct transfers or black-market sales. Taliban deputy spokesperson Hamdullah Fitrat denied the claims, stating: “All light and heavy weapons are securely stored. We strongly reject claims of smuggling or loss.”

4. Former Baloch CM Criticises Federal Interference and Resource Mismanagement in Balochistan ([The Balochistan Post, April 20](#))

Dr Abdul Malik Baloch, president of the National Party and former Chief Minister of Balochistan, has expressed grave concerns over the growing interference of federal and establishment forces in Balochistan’s affairs, particularly regarding the new Mines and Minerals Act. Addressing a gathering, Dr Malik warned that policies undermining Balochistan’s constitutional rights were exacerbating the region’s issues, including rising poverty, illiteracy, and unemployment. He emphasised that Balochistan’s vast resources, including Saindak, Reko Diq, and Gwadar, should benefit the local population, but instead, the wealth generated from these resources continues to be siphoned off by external actors.

Dr Malik raised concerns about new regulations restricting border trade, a vital source of livelihood for millions in Balochistan. He criticised the introduction of taxes, bureaucratic hurdles, and regulations that have made border trade nearly impossible for locals, worsening the already precarious humanitarian situation. The former Chief Minister also condemned the

recent crackdown on political activists, including women, calling it undemocratic and a form of civil martial law. Dr Malik pointed to the unjust extensions of contracts with companies like Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) and Saindak, which have been signed without the involvement of genuine public representatives. This, he said, only deepens the sense of alienation felt by the people of Balochistan. He concluded by calling for the immediate release of all political prisoners, including women, the withdrawal of the Fourth Schedule, the simplification of border trade procedures, and the dismantling of the Talaar checkpost.

5. Balochistan Sees Sharp Surge in Human Rights Violations: HRCB Report (The Balochistan Post, April 23)

In March 2025, Balochistan witnessed a sharp escalation in human rights violations, as detailed in a new report by the Human Rights Council of Balochistan (HRCB). The report documented 151 enforced disappearances, 80 killings—including alleged extrajudicial executions—and a violent crackdown on peaceful protests. Activists, protesters, and members of the Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) were particularly targeted, with hundreds arrested. The HRCB, a non-partisan human rights organisation operating in both Balochistan and Sweden, attributes the intensifying repression to the systemic policies of the Pakistani state, worsened further since the military coup of 1999.

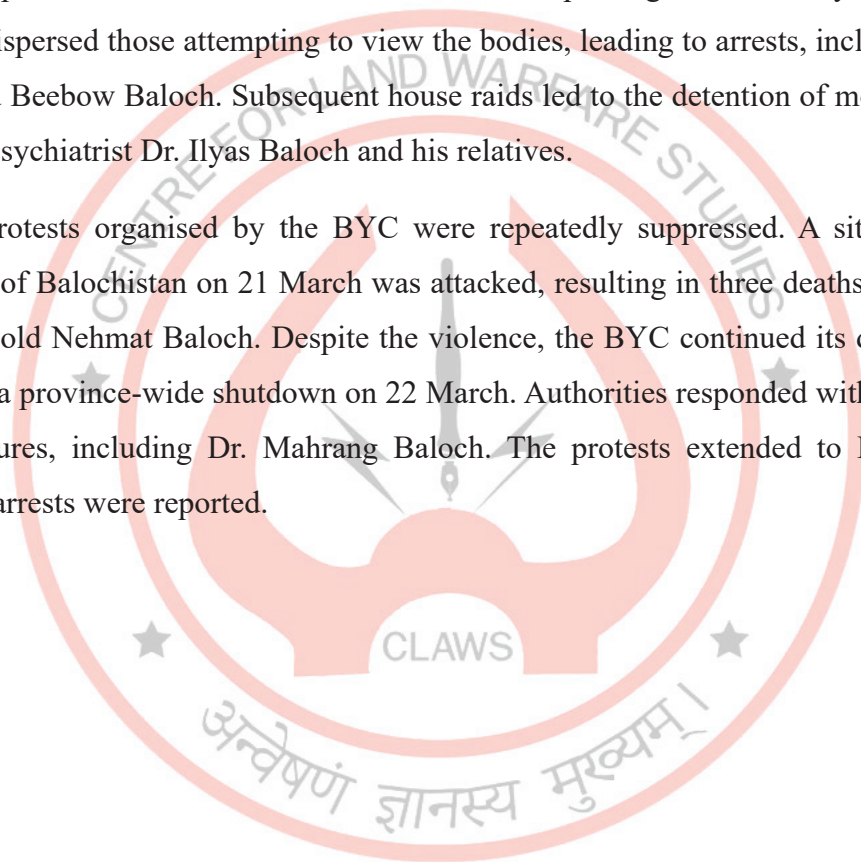
Of the 151 individuals forcibly disappeared in March, only 56 were released and one transferred to jail, leaving 94 people still missing. The Frontier Corps (FC) was allegedly responsible for the majority of these cases (97), followed by intelligence agencies (27), the CTD (25), and state-backed death squads (2). Most disappearances occurred during house raids, with Kalat, Quetta, and Gwadar reporting the highest numbers. Students formed the largest known group among the disappeared, followed by drivers, labourers, farmers, Levies personnel, doctors, lecturers, and activists. In 148 cases, victims were abducted for the first time, while three had previously been subjected to enforced disappearance.

In the same month, the HRCB recorded 80 killings—74 men and six women. Thirty-nine victims remained unidentified. The highest number of killings occurred in Kachhi, followed by Kech and Awaran. Separatist groups also claimed responsibility for some killings: the BLA admitted to three killings in Buleda, and the BLF reportedly killed one individual, accusing them of collaborating with state forces. State forces allegedly killed 12 individuals. Some bodies were

brought to Quetta Civil Hospital and buried without identification, raising concerns over transparency—especially after the Edhi Foundation denied involvement, contradicting official accounts.

The human rights situation worsened following the 11 March hijacking of the Jaffer Express by the BLA. The Pakistani government responded with a large-scale counterterrorism operation, claiming to have killed 33 “terrorists,” while the BLA acknowledged only 13 casualties and released supporting documentation. On 18 March, 23 unidentified bodies were taken to Quetta Civil Hospital, with 13 reportedly buried secretly at Kasi Graveyard. Families of missing persons were denied access to the bodies, sparking further outcry. Security forces violently dispersed those attempting to view the bodies, leading to arrests, including of sisters Saeeda and Beebow Baloch. Subsequent house raids led to the detention of more individuals, including psychiatrist Dr. Ilyas Baloch and his relatives.

Peaceful protests organised by the BYC were repeatedly suppressed. A sit-in outside the University of Balochistan on 21 March was attacked, resulting in three deaths, including that of 13-year-old Nehmat Baloch. Despite the violence, the BYC continued its demonstrations, calling for a province-wide shutdown on 22 March. Authorities responded with further arrests of key figures, including Dr. Mahrang Baloch. The protests extended to Karachi, where additional arrests were reported.



UPDATES ON PAHALGAM

1. NSC Meeting Convened ([Dawn, April 24](#))

In response to India's Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) meeting, which imposed stringent measures on Pakistan following the April 22 Pahalgam attack in India, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired a meeting of Pakistan's National Security Committee (NSC) on April 24, 2025. The NSC expressed concern over the loss of tourist lives in the attack but rejected the Indian government's unilateral measures, calling them unjust, politically motivated, irresponsible, and legally unfounded. Reaffirming that Kashmir remains an unresolved international dispute, the Committee reiterated Pakistan's continued support for the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people. The Committee condemned all forms of terrorism but strongly objected to India's attempts to associate the Pahalgam attack with Pakistan without any credible investigation or verifiable evidence. In response, Pakistan announced a series of retaliatory measures:

- Rejected India's decision to hold the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance, terming it a binding international agreement that cannot be suspended unilaterally. Pakistan warned that any attempt to stop or divert its share of water would be viewed as an act of war and met with full force across the spectrum of national power.
- Announced the decision to hold all bilateral agreements with India—including but not limited to the Simla Agreement—in abeyance until India ceases what Pakistan termed its destabilising activities and violations of international norms.
- Ordered the immediate closure of the Wagah Border Post, suspending all cross-border transit from India through that route. Those already in transit may return through Wagah no later than 30 April 2025.
- Suspended all SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES) visas issued to Indian nationals, deeming them cancelled with immediate effect, except for Sikh religious pilgrims.
- Declared the Indian Defence, Naval and Air Advisors in Islamabad *persona non grata*.

2. Senate Unanimously Rejects India's Allegations ([Aaj TV English, April 25](#); [Dawn, April 25](#); [Tribune Pakistan, April 25](#))

The Senate of Pakistan unanimously adopted a resolution firmly rejecting India's accusations linking Pakistan to the recent Pahalgam attack. The attack, which killed 26 people including tourists, was blamed on Pakistan by Indian authorities—a move the Senate termed as a “baseless and politically motivated” attempt to deflect attention from internal issues. The resolution, moved by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, emphasised Pakistan's consistent stance against terrorism in all its forms and reiterated its long-standing position as a victim of terrorism rather than a perpetrator. Key points of the resolution included:

- Outright rejection of India's attempt to link Pakistan to the Pahalgam attack of 22 April 2025.
- Condemnation of India's ongoing “orchestrated and mala fide campaign” to malign Pakistan internationally.
- Reaffirmation that Pakistan is a nuclear and missile power with a resolute capacity to defend its sovereignty.
- Warning that any misadventure or aggression, whether military or through tactics like water terrorism, would receive a decisive response.
- Criticism of India's unilateral move to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty, calling it a clear treaty violation and a provocative act that could destabilise regional peace.
- Call for accountability for India's alleged cross-border terrorist activities and assassinations, including inside Pakistan.
- The resolution also recalled Pakistan's strong military and diplomatic response to India's actions in February 2019, asserting that the Armed Forces remain fully prepared to act if needed.

During the session, multiple senators expressed strong views: Shibli Faraz, Leader of the Opposition, reminded the House of “India's history of destabilising Pakistan”, citing the arrest of Indian spy Kulbhushan Jadhav as undeniable proof. Aimal Wali Khan condemned India's reactionary measures following the attack. Sherry Rehman underscored Pakistan's unified stance against terrorism and highlighted India's human rights abuses in Kashmir and persecution of minorities. Dar also informed the Senate that the Foreign Office has briefed diplomats from 26 countries, including the P5, on the situation, and more briefings are scheduled. He added that Pakistan's position is being communicated at all levels to counter India's narrative.

3. PM Offers Neutral Probe into Pahalgam Attack ([Dawn, April 26](#); [StratNews Global, April 26](#))

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on April 26 said that Pakistan is open to any “neutral, transparent and credible investigation” into the deadly April 22 attack in Pahalgam. The assault has been labelled the worst in the disputed region since 2000. Addressing cadets at the Pakistan Military Academy in Kakul, the premier criticised India’s immediate blame game, calling it part of a repeated pattern of levelling “baseless allegations and false accusations without credible investigation or verifiable evidence.” Responsibility for the attack was allegedly claimed by a previously unknown group called The Resistance Front (TRF). However, India implied cross-border links, while Pakistan strongly denied any involvement. PM Shehbaz urged both sides to move away from the rhetoric of confrontation. “The recent tragedy in Pahalgam is yet another example of this perpetual blame game, which must come to a grinding halt,” he stated, adding that Pakistan remains committed to playing a constructive and responsible role in the region.

4. Pakistan Invites Russia, China to Lead Kashmir Attack Inquiry ([Deccan Herald, April 27](#); [India Today, April 27](#))

Pakistan has called for an international investigation into the Pahalgam attack, suggesting that Russia, China, or even Western nations could lead a neutral inquiry. The proposal was reiterated by Defence Minister Khawaja Asif in an interview with Russia’s state-run RIA Novosti news agency this week. “I think Russia or China or even Western countries can play a very, very positive role in this crisis,” Asif stated, emphasising that these countries could help determine whether India’s claims about Pakistani involvement are true or politically motivated. He added that Pakistan is open to a multinational investigation team to examine the facts objectively. The minister echoed PM Shehbaz Sharif’s earlier remarks advocating for a “neutral, transparent and credible investigation.” “Let’s find out who is the culprit and the perpetrator... Talk or empty statements have no effect,” said Asif, asserting that India has so far presented no concrete evidence linking Pakistan to the incident.

5. Joint Press Conference by DG ISPR and FM Dar ([Tribune Pakistan, April 30](#))

In a joint press conference, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Director General of ISPR Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry dismissed Indian allegations linking Pakistan to the Pahalgam attack, calling them politically motivated and factually implausible. DG ISPR attempted to dismantle the Indian narrative using maps, terrain analysis, and logistical timelines. “The attack site is located deep inside Indian-controlled territory, across hilly terrain unsuited for cross-border infiltration,” he said. He questioned how an FIR could be registered within 10 minutes of the incident when the nearest police station was 30 minutes away. He also pointed to contradictions in Indian media reports, with some calling it indiscriminate firing and others describing it as a religiously motivated attack—inconsistencies that, he said, indicate a pre-scripted narrative.

Chaudhry accused India of using the attack to derail Pakistan’s diplomatic and economic progress and reignite regional tensions. “We are witnessing the same media choreography seen before Pulwama,” he said. “The sequence is identical—warnings, incident, media blitz, and political fallout.” He warned of a disturbing trend: Pakistani prisoners in Indian jails being used in staged encounters. “There is credible information that detainees are being presented as infiltrators or terrorists to manufacture justification for aggression.”

Dar reaffirmed Pakistan’s rejection of India’s allegations regarding the Pahalgam attack and emphasised the need for de-escalation and factual accountability. He criticised India’s narrative as premature and irresponsible, warning that such baseless accusations undermine regional stability. Dar reiterated Pakistan’s commitment to peace and urged New Delhi to engage through dialogue rather than media trials. He backed the call for an independent and transparent investigation, stressing that only facts—not conjecture—should guide international response to the incident.

The DG ISPR also raised concern over growing anti-Muslim rhetoric in India, stating that Muslims were the victims, helpers, and first responders in the Pahalgam incident—not perpetrators. He highlighted also a broader pattern of state-sponsored terrorism, referencing the Balochistan Liberation Army’s (BLA) glorification of attacks on Indian media. “The footage aired after the Jaffar Express bombing was filmed by the BLA, yet Indian channels were the first to broadcast it. This shows coordination.”

6. Pakistan Alleges Imminent Indian Strike in Midnight Press Conference ([Patrika, April 30](#))

In an unexpected late-night development, Pakistan convened a press conference around midnight on April 29, warning of a potential Indian military strike within the next 24 to 36 hours. Information Minister Ataullah Tarar, posting on X, said: “Pakistan has credible intelligence that India is preparing to launch a military attack, using the Pahalgam attack as a false pretext.” He further warned that “any aggression will be decisively responded to,” holding India responsible for any escalation in the region. The warning adds to the already fraught atmosphere as both sides continue to exchange strong rhetoric amid a backdrop of military exercises and diplomatic stand-offs.



About the Author

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