

# CLAWS Newsletter



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by Akashika Mate



## **INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

### **1. Balochistan CM Claims 145 Militants Killed in 40 Hours After Coordinated Attacks ([Dawn, February 01](#); [@PakSarfrazbugti/X, February 01](#))**

Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti said security forces killed 145 militants within 40 hours following a wave of coordinated attacks across the province, describing it as one of the largest counterterror operations in recent years. Seventeen law enforcement personnel and 31 civilians were killed in the violence, according to provincial authorities, while tracing and combing operations remain ongoing. Bugti accused India of backing militant groups operating in Balochistan and rejected calls to frame the insurgency as a political issue, vowing that the state would not “surrender even for a second.” He said intelligence-based operations had pre-empted larger planned attacks, including attempts to target sensitive installations in Quetta, and insisted that no city had been taken over. The chief minister attributed the recent surge in violence partly to past “appeasement” policies and said the government would continue a firm security response. The clashes mark a significant escalation in Balochistan’s long-running insurgency, underscoring persistent instability in Pakistan’s southwestern province.

### **2. Punjab Launches Agriculture, Food and Drug Authority in Lahore ([Dawn, February 01](#))**

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz have inaugurated the Punjab Agriculture, Food and Drug Authority (PAFDA) in Lahore, described as South Asia’s first integrated science enclave bringing advanced agriculture, food and drug-testing laboratories under one roof. The ceremony also marked the start of laboratory operations and the foundation stone laying for a hostel for women scientists. Officials said PAFDA is staffed by 232 scientists—70 per cent of them women—and is equipped with high-tech facilities for nutrient profiling, microbiological safety testing and pharmaceutical analysis. With 42 advanced machines already installed and more on the way, the authority aims to strengthen domestic quality control, reduce reliance on foreign testing laboratories and enhance global confidence in Pakistani agricultural and pharmaceutical exports.

### **3. National AI Policy Faces Delays as Key Structures Remain Unformed** **([Dawn, February 07](#))**

More than six months after cabinet approval, Pakistan's National Artificial Intelligence Policy remains largely stuck at the consultation stage. Progress has slowed due to delays in forming the proposed AI Council, the apex body meant to guide implementation, and the absence of formal input from provincial governments. Officials say the council's structure is being reconsidered to reduce bureaucratic weight and increase expert representation, but the revisions have further postponed operational rollout.

Beyond limited awareness initiatives and planned international engagement events, most core pillars of the policy—including the creation of an AI innovation ecosystem, secure regulatory frameworks and sectoral transformation—remain unaddressed. Meanwhile, data centres and cloud infrastructure are expanding without a clearly designated oversight authority, highlighting a growing gap between policy ambition and regulatory preparedness in Pakistan's emerging AI landscape.

### **4. FIA Busts Cross-Border Gold and Mobile Phone Smuggling Network in Punjab** **([Dawn, February 08](#))**

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has uncovered an international smuggling network operating between Pakistan and Dubai, involving the illegal transfer of gold jewellery, foreign currency and mobile phones. The racket allegedly used frequent travellers—particularly women from families commuting between the two countries—to move high-value gold items to Dubai and bring back mobile phones into Pakistan. The network came to light following the arrest of a suspect in Gujranwala, from whom jewellery and foreign currency worth approximately Rs60 million were recovered. Investigators say at least six individuals from Gujranwala, Sialkot and Kasur have been identified, while inquiries have also pointed to the alleged involvement of customs officials. Authorities believe the group has been operating through multiple airports for over a year, with further arrests expected as the probe continues.

### **5. KP's Kidney Institute Moves to Introduce Robotic Surgery** **([Daily Times Pakistan, February 09](#))**

The Institute of Kidney Diseases (IKD) at Hayatabad Medical Complex in Peshawar is preparing to introduce robotic-assisted surgeries—a first for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The initiative follows a live workshop in which UK-based surgeons demonstrated two robotic procedures, highlighting the technology’s precision and minimally invasive advantages. Hospital leadership has since submitted a proposal seeking government approval and funding to procure a surgical robot, estimated to cost around \$1 million.

Officials say the move aims to expand access to advanced procedures, particularly for complex urological cases such as kidney tumours, with plans to eventually extend the technology to transplants and other specialised surgeries. Robotic-assisted surgery is already in use in parts of Punjab and Sindh, and IKD authorities argue that with proper training and institutional support, KP can integrate the technology into its public healthcare system, potentially reducing hospital stays and improving surgical outcomes.

## **6. PAF Showcases AI-Driven Warfare Capabilities in ‘Exercise Golden Eagle’ ([Aaj TV English, February 10](#); [Arab News, February 10](#); [Dawn, February 10](#))**

The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) has conducted “Exercise Golden Eagle,” a large-scale drill designed to assess combat readiness and operational agility amid evolving regional security dynamics. According to military officials, the exercise employed a two-force construct and emphasised AI-enabled, network-centric warfare, integrating cyber, space and electromagnetic spectrum operations alongside conventional airpower. The kinetic phase featured swing-role fighter aircraft armed with long-range beyond-visual-range missiles and precision stand-off weapons, supported by airborne early warning systems and aerial refuelling platforms. A key focus was manned–unmanned teaming, with drones and loitering munitions operating in contested environments to simulate high-tempo, multi-domain conflict scenarios. The drill follows last year’s brief but intense Pakistan–India military confrontation and signals Islamabad’s intent to highlight technological modernisation and indigenous capability within its airpower doctrine.

## **7. Polio Teams Face Resistance in Lahore as Parents Accused of Assault** **([Dawn, February 10](#))**

Two separate incidents of resistance against polio vaccination teams were reported in Lahore, where police registered cases against parents accused of refusing immunisation and harassing health workers. In Harbanspura, suspects allegedly attacked polio staff and later clashed with responding police personnel before being overpowered. A similar case was reported in Shahdara, where female vaccination workers were reportedly mistreated during routine door-to-door visits. Punjab's Emergency Operations Centre condemned the incidents, reaffirming its commitment to ensuring the safety and dignity of frontline health workers. Officials highlighted that the province recently achieved 99 per cent vaccination coverage during National Immunisation Days, even amid increased population movement linked to the Basant festival. Authorities say measures are being strengthened to protect vaccination teams as Pakistan continues efforts to eliminate polio, particularly in densely populated urban areas.

## **8. Khyber Police Intensify Modern Weapons Training Amid Evolving Security Challenges** **([Dawn, February 11](#))**

Police personnel in Khyber district are undergoing specialised training in the use of modern weaponry to enhance operational readiness and counter evolving security threats. The programme, being conducted at the Shahkas training centre in Jamrud, includes instruction in handling Kalashnikov rifles, sniper systems, thermal weapons and night-vision equipment. Officials say the initiative aims not only to sharpen tactical response capabilities but also to prepare selected officers for the upcoming provincial-level shooting competition. Alongside training efforts, authorities highlighted the expanding role of the district's police facilitation centre, which has processed over 13,000 public service requests in the past 10 months. Services range from issuing arms and driving licences to character and overseas clearance certificates. Officials report growing public trust in the centre's streamlined processes, reflecting parallel efforts to strengthen both operational capacity and community engagement in the district.

## **9. Karachi's K-IV Water Project Given December 2026 Deadline** **([Pro Pakistani, February 13](#))**



Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has set December 2026 as the new completion deadline for Karachi's long-delayed K-IV water supply project, describing it as critical to resolving the city's chronic water shortages. During a site visit near Thatta, he directed authorities to expedite construction, reaffirming federal commitment to delivering the scheme within the revised timeframe. The project, designed to supply 260 million gallons per day (MGD) to Karachi, has seen its estimated cost rise from Rs120 billion to Rs170 billion due to design changes and inflation. The federal government has agreed to absorb the revised cost. Under the implementation framework, Wapda will handle bulk water transmission and canal lining to minimise losses, while the Sindh government will oversee Karachi's internal distribution network.

#### **10. Sindh Flags Water Shortage at Kotri, Seeks Fairer Allocations ([Dawn, February 14](#))**

The Sindh Assembly was informed that chronic under-allocation of water to the province has led to persistent shortages at Kotri Barrage, leaving downstream areas severely affected. Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro said flows below Kotri should reach at least one million cusecs, but reduced allocations have made it difficult to sustain supply or plan new reservoirs. He added that Karachi's K-IV water project would need alternative sources to meet demand amid ongoing scarcity. During the session, lawmakers passed amendments to the Sindh Development and Maintenance of Infrastructure Cess Act and other bills aimed at easing business concerns and reducing litigation over pending dues. Ministers acknowledged over 600 cases related to infrastructure cess remain unresolved, impacting revenue collection. The house also discussed salary adjustments for local government employees and urban traffic management before adjourning proceedings.

#### **11. Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi Seek Suspension of Toshakhana-2 Sentences ([ANI News, February 14](#); [Dawn, February 14](#); [Business Recorder, February 15](#))**

Former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi have moved the Islamabad High Court seeking suspension of their sentences in the Toshakhana-2 (Bulgari jewellery) case. Their

legal team has requested release pending appeal, arguing on both medical and legal grounds. A key submission cites serious damage to Imran Khan's right eye, reportedly leaving him with limited vision and requiring treatment not available in prison. The petition also challenges the trial court's December 2025 verdict, which sentenced the couple to 10 years under Section 409 PPC and an additional seven years under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Counsel contend that convicting them under two separate laws for the same alleged act violates the principle of double jeopardy. The appeal further disputes the classification of the former prime minister as a "public servant" under Section 409 PPC and questions procedural aspects of witness handling. Separate petitions have also been filed for an early hearing of the \$190m corruption case.

## **12. \$2.5bn ML-II Project to Be Launched with NLC, DP World ([Dawn, February 15](#))**

Railways Minister Hanif Abbasi has announced that the Main Line-II (ML-II) project will be launched at an estimated cost of \$2.5 billion in partnership with the National Logistics Corporation (NLC) and DP World. Speaking at the inauguration of upgraded platforms at Rawalpindi Railway Station, he said modernising outdated tracks was a top priority, with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directing strict oversight to ensure timely improvements. ML-II spans nearly 1,250 kilometres from Kotri to Attock, linking over 90 stations across Sindh and Punjab. The minister also confirmed that the \$2bn Karachi–Rohri segment under ML-1 has secured Asian Development Bank financing and is expected to begin by July. Additional initiatives include digitalisation of railway stations in collaboration with Frontier Works Organisation, expansion of freight services, a proposed Chaman–Central Asia rail corridor, and new passenger and safari train projects aimed at boosting connectivity and regional trade.

## **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

### **1. India-Pakistan Cricket Controversy**

Relations between the cricket teams of India and Pakistan have deteriorated markedly in recent months, with longstanding geopolitical tensions increasingly spilling over into the sport.

#### **a. Pakistan Announces Boycott of India Match (Reuters, February 02)**

Pakistan's government directed its national side to boycott the India fixture scheduled for 15 February in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup as part of a broader political stance linked to regional tensions and in solidarity with Bangladesh's objections over tournament arrangements. This unprecedented move was widely reported and underscored the spillover of political disputes into sport.

#### **b. International Reaction and Debate (The Print, February 01)**

The boycott decision drew global and domestic reactions. The International Cricket Council (ICC) warned that Pakistan's selective participation could harm the sport's interests and awaited formal notification from the Pakistan Cricket Board. Meanwhile, cricket circles in Pakistan saw support among fans and former administrators, framing the decision in geopolitical terms.

#### **c. Pakistan Reverses Boycott After Diplomacy (Dawn, February 08; Tribune India, February 09; Bloomberg, February 10)**

After intense discussions involving the ICC, Pakistan Cricket Board and several regional partners pressing for a resolution, Pakistan reversed its boycott decision and confirmed the team would play India on 15 February. In these discussions, Pakistan has originally put forth three conditions before the ICC: an increase in Pakistan's annual ICC funding, support from the ICC to help revive bilateral cricket ties between India and Pakistan, and a commitment from players to uphold on-field ethics, including customary handshakes during India-Pakistan matches. This shift suggested that diplomatic engagement and multilateral pressure influenced the final outcome.

#### **d. Heated India-Pakistan Match in Colombo (Al Jazeera, February 15)**

The high-profile Group A T20 World Cup encounter went ahead in Colombo amid palpable tension. A notable moment was the absence of the customary pre-match handshake between



captains—a carryover from strained relations since the May 2025 confrontation between the two countries. India won the match by a historic 61 runs.

## **2. UN and China Flag Rising Terror Spillover from Afghanistan into Pakistan ([Dawn, February 01](#))**

Warnings at the United Nations signalled rising international anxiety over militant groups operating from Afghanistan and their impact on regional security, particularly Pakistan. Both Chinese and UN officials, at a high-level briefing on the Counter-Terrorism Early Warning Network for Central Asia, indicated that cross-border terrorism remains a persistent and destabilising factor despite claims of broader regional stability. Beijing called for sustained engagement with Kabul to ensure Afghan territory is not used by extremist organisations, stressing that counterterrorism efforts must combine security cooperation with long-term development measures. The emphasis reflected Pakistan's repeated concerns about militant sanctuaries across the border. UN Secretary-General António Guterres similarly raised alarms about armed groups targeting neighbouring states, specifically referencing the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). While acknowledging limited progress in curbing narcotics flows, he criticised the Taliban authorities for failing to deliver on inclusivity, women's rights, and credible regional security assurances. The statements come amid a marked escalation in terrorist attacks within Pakistan's western provinces, reinforcing fears that Afghanistan's internal instability is increasingly translating into cross-border consequences.

## **3. Pakistan and Bangladesh Discuss Collaboration on Skills Training and Labour Mobility ([Arab News Pakistan, February 01](#); [Radio Pakistan, February 01](#); [Dawn, February 02](#))**

Pakistan and Bangladesh have initiated discussions on strengthening cooperation in vocational training and overseas employment management, signalling renewed engagement in labour-sector coordination. The talks took place on the sidelines of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue 2026 in Dubai, where Pakistan's Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, met Bangladesh's Adviser on Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, Dr Asif Nazrul. Both sides expressed interest in exchanging best practices on

recruitment systems, skills development frameworks and reintegration mechanisms for returning migrant workers. Officials from the two countries reviewed their respective institutional models, with Pakistan outlining the work of its National Vocational and Technical Training Commission, while Bangladesh shared insights into the functioning of its Technical Training Centres. The discussions also touched on social protection systems for overseas workers, including Pakistan's Employees' Old-Age Benefits Institution. The engagement reflects a broader effort by both countries to improve labour governance standards, enhance workforce competitiveness and strengthen bilateral coordination in overseas employment markets.

#### **4. Pakistan and Libya Signal Deeper Military Engagement Amid Expanding Defence Ties ([The Week, February 02](#); [Pakistan Today, February 02](#))**

Libya's eastern military leader, Field Marshal Khalifa Abu-al-Qasim Haftar, visited Rawalpindi for high-level talks with Pakistan's Chief of Defence Staff and Army Chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, signalling a further consolidation of bilateral defence ties. Accompanied by senior Libyan military officials, including his deputy, Lt Gen Saddam Khalifa Haftar, the visit focused on regional security developments and avenues for expanded professional cooperation between the two armed forces. According to Pakistan's military statement, both sides emphasised sustained engagement and institutional collaboration, with Islamabad reiterating its support for stability and state-building efforts in Libya. The meeting followed Munir's own visit to Libya in December, after which reports emerged of a major defence agreement reportedly worth over \$4 billion. The deal, described as one of Pakistan's largest arms export arrangements, is said to involve the supply of conventional military equipment and fighter aircraft to the Libyan National Army. Haftar's reception at Noor Khan Airbase and ceremonial engagements at GHQ underscored the formalisation of a relationship that appears to be moving from diplomatic goodwill towards structured defence cooperation, reflecting Pakistan's growing footprint in international arms markets and Libya's search for diversified military partnerships.

## **5. US Approves \$1.3bn Financing for Reko Diq as New Minerals Forum ‘FORGE’ Launched ([US Department of State, February 04](#); [Business Recorder, February 07](#))**

The United States has approved \$1.3 billion in financing for Pakistan’s Reko Diq copper and gold project through the US Export-Import Bank (EXIM), marking a major step in Washington’s strategy to secure critical mineral supply chains. The announcement was made during the 2026 Critical Minerals Ministerial in Washington, where the US also unveiled a new platform—the Forum on Resource Geostrategic Engagement (FORGE)—to coordinate global cooperation on mineral security. FORGE will replace the Minerals Security Partnership and initially be chaired by South Korea.

The financing positions Reko Diq as a key component in efforts to diversify global supplies of minerals vital for advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, batteries and robotics. US officials emphasised that concentrated control over critical minerals poses economic and geopolitical risks, prompting expanded international partnerships. The ministerial, attended by representatives from over 50 countries, including Pakistan, focused on building resilient supply chains, enhancing financing access and strengthening collaboration between governments and private industry. The move underscores Reko Diq’s growing strategic significance beyond Pakistan’s domestic economic landscape, embedding it within broader global competition over critical resources.

## **6. Developments with Kazakhstan**

### **a. Kazakhstan and Pakistan Formalise Strategic Partnership with 37 Agreements ([Eurasianet, February 04](#); [The Astana Times, February 05](#); [The Times of Central Asia, February 06](#))**

Kazakhstan and Pakistan significantly upgraded their economic relationship, signing 37 agreements, including 32 commercial deals, during President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev’s landmark state visit to Islamabad. The accords span finance, transport, energy, industry, digital services, agriculture and infrastructure, signalling a structured push towards long-term strategic economic cooperation. Among the largest agreements was a \$108 million contract for Kazakhstan’s Falcon EuroBus to supply electric buses to Pakistan, highlighting Astana’s efforts to expand its industrial exports and promote high-value manufacturing abroad. Several



financial arrangements were also concluded, including the creation of a joint investment platform between Kazakhstan's Samruk Kazyna sovereign wealth fund and Pakistan's Fauji Group, alongside new correspondent banking and trade finance linkages between major financial institutions on both sides.

Transport and logistics emerged as a key pillar of cooperation, with agreements covering rail connectivity, multimodal transit, postal modernisation and port collaboration between Aktau and Karachi. Industrial partnerships included joint ventures in sugar production and construction materials, while additional deals focused on chemicals, agro-processing and manufacturing. The two sides also expanded collaboration in digital innovation, artificial intelligence, telecommunications, education and healthcare. Notably, space agencies from both countries agreed to enhance cooperation in satellite data exchange and scientific research.

The visit culminated in the signing of a Joint Declaration establishing a Strategic Partnership, underscoring a broad-based expansion of ties that reflects both countries' interest in diversifying trade routes, strengthening connectivity and deepening institutional cooperation across sectors.

**b. Kazakh Firm Eyes \$20 Million Gold Mining Investment in Gilgit-Baltistan (Dawn, February 06)**

Kazakhstan's Elaman Group has signalled plans to invest an initial \$20 million in placer gold exploration and development in Gilgit-Baltistan, following preliminary assessments that identified strong mineral potential in the region. The proposal was discussed during a meeting in Islamabad between the company's leadership and Federal Minister for the Board of Investment, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh. The Kazakh delegation outlined its technical capabilities and indicated that further phases of investment could follow, subject to project viability. Discussions also covered the formation of a joint venture with local partners and the introduction of modern mining technologies, potentially in collaboration with Chinese firms, to ensure efficient and environmentally responsible operations. Islamabad welcomed the interest, reiterating its commitment to facilitating foreign investment through regulatory support and single-window mechanisms. The project, if finalised, would add momentum to expanding economic ties between Pakistan and Kazakhstan, while positioning Gilgit-Baltistan as an emerging site for mineral development and regional economic activity.

## **7. Azerbaijan and Pakistan Navies Move to Expand Maritime Defence Cooperation ([Azertag, February 06](#))**

Azerbaijan's Naval Forces Commander, Rear Admiral Shahin Mammadov, visited Pakistan for high-level engagements aimed at deepening bilateral naval cooperation. During meetings at Pakistan Navy Headquarters in Islamabad, he held talks with Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf, where both sides reaffirmed their commitment to expanding defence collaboration and strengthening maritime security ties. Discussions focused on the regional maritime environment, training cooperation and prospects for joint exercises to enhance operational capacity and professional exchange between the two navies. The visit included ceremonial engagements, briefings on Pakistan Navy projects and interactions with senior naval leadership, underscoring the institutional depth of the relationship. Rear Admiral Mammadov also met Pakistan's defence minister and the commander of the Pakistan Fleet, and visited Azerbaijani personnel undergoing training in Pakistan, highlighting the growing emphasis on military education and technical cooperation. He additionally toured ship repair facilities, signalling interest in defence-industrial collaboration.

## **8. Mirziyoyev's Islamabad Visit Signals Strategic Deepening of Uzbekistan-Pakistan Ties ([The Times of Central Asia, February 06](#))**

Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev arrived in Islamabad on February 05 for a state visit that marked a significant upgrade in bilateral engagement. Received with full ceremonial honours—including a Pakistan Air Force escort—the visit underscored the growing strategic alignment between Tashkent and Islamabad. Early engagements focused on defence cooperation, with Mirziyoyev meeting Pakistan's Army Chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, at Global Industrial & Defence Solutions headquarters. Discussions centred on expanding military-technical collaboration, joint exercises, training exchanges and defence-industrial linkages. Both sides agreed to prepare a structured roadmap to guide future cooperation in the security domain.

Talks with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the inaugural session of the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council broadened the agenda to economic and regional connectivity priorities. Bilateral trade has approached \$500 million, with around 230 Pakistani-linked firms operating in Uzbekistan, but the two leaders set an ambitious target of raising trade to \$2 billion. A joint investment portfolio worth approximately \$3.5 billion is already under development, covering

textiles, pharmaceuticals, chemicals and agriculture. Measures to expand preferential trade, ease export procedures and enhance banking and air connectivity were also discussed.

Connectivity projects featured prominently, particularly the Trans-Afghan railway and the Pakistan-China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan transport corridor, both viewed as critical to linking Central and South Asia. The two sides also agreed to institutionalise subnational engagement through a new Forum of Regions. Cultural diplomacy formed another pillar of the visit, with plans for Uzbek cultural events in Pakistan and discussions on establishing a joint heritage centre in Lahore, highlighting shared historical ties. The visit concluded with the signing of a Joint Declaration and multiple agreements across defence, trade, transport, digital technology, agriculture and culture—signalling that Uzbekistan-Pakistan relations are moving towards a more structured and multidimensional strategic partnership.

## 9. Space Cooperation with China

### a. Pakistan Advances Toward First Human Space Mission with China (Pakistan Today, February 07; Express Tribune, February 07)

Two Pakistani candidates have cleared the secondary selection phase of China's Human Spaceflight Programme, positioning Pakistan closer to sending its first astronaut into space. The shortlist follows a 2025 cooperation agreement between Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) and the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA), under which both candidates will now undergo six months of advanced astronaut training in China. Upon completion, one candidate is expected to join a mission to China's Tiangong space station in late 2026, serving as a payload specialist responsible for conducting scientific experiments while also performing routine crew duties. Officials noted that the selection process mirrored the rigorous multi-stage system used for Chinese astronauts, including medical, psychological and technical assessments. The initiative represents Pakistan's formal entry into human spaceflight and highlights the deepening technological partnership between Islamabad and Beijing. With China expanding international cooperation around its independently operated space station, Pakistan has emerged as its first foreign partner in astronaut training—a move that carries both symbolic and strategic significance for bilateral ties.



**b. Pakistan Launches Second Indigenous Earth Observation Satellite from China**  
**(Defence Security Asia, February 12; The Express Tribune, February 12; Daily Pioneer, February 13)**

Pakistan has successfully launched its second indigenous Earth Observation Satellite (EO-2) from China's Yangjiang Seashore Launch Centre, marking a significant step forward in its national space programme. Developed by the Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (Suparco), the satellite is designed to enhance high-resolution imaging and earth observation capabilities. Officials say EO-2 will support national planning by providing data for environmental monitoring, disaster response, urban development and natural resource management. The addition of the satellite expands Pakistan's orbital assets and strengthens continuity and precision in geospatial data collection, reflecting growing technical capacity and deeper cooperation in space technology.

**10. Pakistan and Canada Seek to Expand Trade and Investment Cooperation**  
**(@ForeignOfficePak/X, February 07; The Daily CPEC, February 07)**

Pakistan and Canada have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening economic engagement during the sixth round of Bilateral Political Consultations held in Islamabad. Officials from both sides emphasised the need to translate steady diplomatic engagement into deeper trade and investment cooperation, identifying significant untapped potential in the relationship. The discussions highlighted the importance of improving the implementation of existing agreements while exploring new avenues in sectors such as agriculture and agri-tech, mining and minerals, energy, climate action, artificial intelligence, ICT, education and skilled workforce development. Both sides stressed that stronger institutional linkages and greater facilitation for business communities would be essential to unlocking sustainable growth. The consultations also reviewed broader regional and multilateral issues, with an agreement to maintain regular dialogue. The renewed focus on economic collaboration comes amid efforts to diversify trade partnerships and expand market access, signalling a pragmatic push to elevate Pakistan-Canada ties beyond political engagement into more structured commercial cooperation.

## **11. Pakistan and Malaysia Navies Strengthen Maritime Security Coordination ([Defence Turkey Magazine, February 08](#))**

Pakistan's Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, held high-level talks with the leadership of the Royal Malaysian Navy during an official visit to Malaysia, focusing on enhancing coordination in response to evolving maritime security challenges. Discussions with his Malaysian counterpart, Admiral Tan Sri Zulhelmy bin Ithnain, centred on aligning strategic outlooks, strengthening operational collaboration and expanding capacity-building initiatives amid a complex regional maritime environment. Admiral Ashraf highlighted Pakistan Navy's role in promoting regional stability through its Regional Maritime Security Patrols and participation in the Combined Maritime Forces. The visit also included engagements at Malaysia's National Hydrographic Centre, where both sides explored closer cooperation in hydrography, including training and data exchange with Pakistan's National Hydrographic Office. The engagements underscored a shared commitment to deepening naval diplomacy and advancing a more integrated maritime partnership between Islamabad and Kuala Lumpur.

## **12. Dar Chairs High-Level Review on Strengthening EU Trade Ties ([@ForeignOfficePak/X, February 09](#))**

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar convened a high-level inter-ministerial meeting to assess steps aimed at reinforcing Pakistan's economic and trade engagement with the European Union. Emphasising the EU's position as one of Pakistan's most significant economic partners, he highlighted the strategic importance of deepening cooperation under the GSP Plus framework, which provides preferential market access to Pakistani exports. Dar noted that Pakistan has successfully completed four biennial reviews under the GSP Plus scheme and reiterated Islamabad's commitment to fulfilling its treaty obligations to sustain and expand trade benefits. The meeting brought together senior cabinet members, federal secretaries and Pakistan's ambassador to the EU, signalling a coordinated push to safeguard market access and strengthen institutional alignment ahead of future trade assessments.

## **13. Developments with Saudi Arabia**

**a. Pakistan Showcases JF-17 at Riyadh Defence Expo to Boost Jet Exports (The Diplomatic Insight, February 10; Arab News, February 11)**

Pakistan is actively promoting its JF-17 Thunder Block-III fighter jet and Super Mushshak trainer aircraft at the World Defence Show 2026 in Riyadh, as part of a broader push to expand defence exports. The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) is positioning the JF-17 as a cost-effective, combat-proven multi-role platform, highlighting its operational performance during last year's brief but intense conflict with India. Officials describe the exhibition as a strategic opportunity to engage potential buyers from the Middle East, Central Asia and Africa, amid Islamabad's growing emphasis on defence diplomacy. Jointly developed with China, the JF-17 has become central to Pakistan's aerospace export strategy, while the Super Mushshak continues to attract interest as a basic trainer aircraft. The outreach comes against the backdrop of strengthening Saudi-Pakistan security ties, including a recently signed defence pact aimed at enhancing joint deterrence.

**b. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia Deepen Security and Counterterrorism Cooperation (Arab News, February 11; TRT World, February 12)**

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have agreed to enhance cooperation on security and counterterrorism following talks in Riyadh between Pakistan's Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry and Saudi Deputy Interior Minister Abdulaziz bin Mohammed bin Ayyaf. Both sides emphasised the importance of sustained engagement to promote regional stability, with a shared understanding to strengthen coordination against evolving security threats. During his visit, Chaudhry also participated in the World Defence Show 2026 and conveyed greetings from Pakistan's leadership ahead of Ramadan, reflecting the broader diplomatic and strategic momentum underpinning Islamabad-Riyadh relations.

**14. Rawalpindi Police Intensify Crackdown on Undocumented Afghan Nationals (IANS Live, February 12)**

Authorities in Rawalpindi have stepped up enforcement against undocumented Afghan nationals, with over 5,439 individuals currently held in a designated centre following the expiry of the government's voluntary departure deadline. Police have also intensified operations in surrounding areas and the federal capital, focusing on arrests and stricter monitoring of tenancy regulations. Officials reported dozens of detentions linked to violations of the Tenancy Act



across multiple localities. The crackdown includes directives for daily search operations, mandatory tenant registration and closer scrutiny of hotels and rental arrangements. Senior police leadership has simultaneously issued instructions emphasising professional conduct, protection of citizens' rights and improved service delivery during enforcement activities. Residents have been urged to register tenants through police stations or digital platforms, as authorities continue broader efforts to regulate undocumented migration and strengthen local security oversight.

### **15. PNS Khaibar Joins Turkish Navy for Drills During Maiden Voyage** **([Dawn, February 13](#); [Pakistan Today, February 13](#); [Pakistan Connect, February 14](#))**

The newly commissioned PNS Khaibar visited Aksaz Naval Base during its maiden voyage to Pakistan, participating in Exercise Turgutreis-XIII and coordinating patrols with the Turkish Navy, according to the ISPR. The ship conducted joint drills alongside the Turkish corvette TCG Heybeliada, supported by an SH-70 helicopter, focusing on operational manoeuvres and interoperability. During the visit, the commanding officer of PNS Khaibar met Turkish naval leadership to discuss enhanced maritime cooperation and regional stability. The two navies later carried out a coordinated patrol in the Eastern Mediterranean, underscoring deepening Pakistan-Türkiye defence ties through joint exercises, port calls, and professional exchanges.

### **16. Pakistan Escalates Indus Treaty Dispute at UN, Calls India's Move a Dangerous Precedent ([Arab News, February 15](#))**

Pakistan has formally raised India's decision to suspend participation in the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) with the President of the UN General Assembly, urging international attention to what it describes as a breach of international law. The move comes amid sustained bilateral tensions following last year's escalation between the two nuclear-armed neighbours. During meetings on the sidelines of the Inter-Parliamentary Union's annual session at UN headquarters, Senate Chairman Yusuf Raza Gilani argued that India's decision to place the World Bank-brokered treaty "in abeyance" undermines a longstanding framework governing the division of the Indus river system. Islamabad maintains that the suspension jeopardises

water security for over 240 million Pakistanis, particularly at a time of intensifying climate stress and water scarcity. India had announced the step in April last year in response to a deadly attack in Pahalgam, Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir, which New Delhi blamed on Pakistan. By elevating the matter to the UNGA leadership, Pakistan appears to be internationalising the dispute, framing it not only as a bilateral issue but as a test case for the sanctity of international agreements and multilateral cooperation in an era of climate vulnerability and geopolitical friction.



## **TERROR TALLY**

### **1. Counterterrorism Operations and Confrontations**

#### **a. Militant Hideouts Destroyed in Bannu Operation; Jirga Held for Civilian Safety (Dawn, February 01)**

Security forces and police continued their operation for a third consecutive day in the Sperka area and adjoining localities of Domel tehsil in Bannu, destroying several militant hideouts, including that of wanted commander Maulvi Naseer alias Gidarr. Authorities also recovered the body of another militant, identified as Asim. According to District Police Officer Yasir Afridi, one unidentified man was killed when he attempted to flee the area disguised in a burqa after refusing to stop at a police checkpoint near Shagi Machankhel.

Amid the ongoing operation, security officials and district authorities held a jirga with elders of the Ahmadzai tribe to discuss the safe evacuation of civilians stranded in Kotka Akbar Ali Khan. Officials assured tribal representatives that no formal displacement would take place, though residents would be allowed to move out if necessary. Compensation was promised to the families of three deceased civilians and four injured individuals. Security forces also urged the removal of wild vegetation, which they said provided cover to militants. Tribal elders maintained that such clearing is usually carried out annually, but was not possible this year due to militant presence.

#### **b. Pakistan Concludes ‘Radd-ul-Fitna-1’ Operation in Balochistan, Claims 216 Militants Killed (Dawn, February 05)**

Pakistan’s military has announced the conclusion of “Operation Radd-ul-Fitna-1” in Balochistan, stating that 216 militants were killed during a series of coordinated intelligence-based operations launched after the January 31 attacks across the province. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the crackdown targeted what it described as “Indian-sponsored” militant networks accused of attempting to destabilise the region. The operation, which began with targeted actions in Panjgur and Harnai following specific intelligence inputs, expanded into wider clearance and combing efforts aimed at dismantling sleeper cells and disrupting command structures. The military said the campaign significantly weakened the operational capacity and leadership of the groups involved, while also leading to the recovery of foreign-origin weapons and explosives. Authorities said the assaults targeted government and security infrastructure across more than 10 locations and involved suicide bombers,



including at least one female attacker. In the ensuing clashes, 15 security personnel and 18 civilians were killed.

**c. 24 Militants Killed in Intelligence-Based Operations Across KP (Dawn, February 06)**

Pakistan's security forces killed 24 suspected militants in two separate intelligence-based operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa earlier this week, according to a statement issued by the military. The engagements took place in Orakzai and Khyber districts, areas that have witnessed sustained militant activity in recent months. In Orakzai, troops reportedly engaged a militant hideout, resulting in the deaths of 14 fighters after what officials described as an intense exchange of fire. A second operation in the Khyber district led to the killing of 10 more suspects. Security forces subsequently launched clearance operations in both areas to prevent regrouping. The military characterised those killed as members of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which it refers to as "Fitna-al-Khawarij," and linked the operations to the broader counterterrorism framework under the government's Azm-e-Istehkam strategy.

**d. CTD Arrests Wanted Militant Commander in Bannu Intelligence Operation (Dunya News, February 12; The Express Tribune, February 13)**

The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) has arrested a wanted militant commander during an intelligence-based operation in Bannu's Pipal Bazaar area. Officials identified the suspect as Osama alias Baghi, describing him as a key figure linked to Ittehadul Mujahideen Pakistan (IMP), a group reportedly formed through collaboration between the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the Gul Bahadur faction. According to police, the suspect is accused of involvement in multiple high-profile attacks, including the killing of a senior administrative officer in Miranshah, the abduction and murder of a former Bannu SHO, and attacks targeting security personnel and peace committee members. Authorities said investigations are ongoing to trace facilitators and dismantle associated networks, calling the arrest a significant development in efforts to curb militant activity in the region.

## **2. Targeted Militant Attacks**

**a. Deadly Suicide Bombing at Islamabad Imambargah Leaves Over 30 Dead (Dawn, February 06; Al Jazeera, February 07; BBC, February 07)**

At least 31 worshippers were killed, and more than 160 were injured in a suicide bombing during Friday prayers at Imambargah Khadijah-tul-Kubra in Islamabad's Tarlai area, marking one of the deadliest attacks in the capital in over a decade. The explosion tore through the congregation, leaving scenes of devastation inside and outside the prayer hall as emergency services rushed the wounded to nearby hospitals. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack. Authorities later confirmed the arrest of four suspected facilitators, including an Afghan national alleged to have played a key coordinating role. One counter-terrorism officer was killed, and three others were injured during subsequent raids. Officials stated that the bomber was a Pakistani national who had reportedly travelled to Afghanistan in the past. The attack has triggered sharp political reactions. Pakistan's leadership condemned the bombing as an assault on innocent civilians, while senior ministers alleged external involvement—claims rejected by both India and the Afghan Taliban authorities. Funeral prayers for the victims were held under heightened security, with additional police deployments and new security measures announced for the capital.

**b. Policeman Killed in Attack on Polio Team in Chaman (Dawn, February 07)**

A police constable was killed in Chaman, Balochistan, after gunmen opened fire on a polio vaccination team during a routine immunisation drive. The attackers, reportedly riding motorcycles, targeted the team in Union Council Roghani 3 while health workers were administering vaccines inside a residence. Constable Nizamuddin was fatally shot while providing security to the vaccinators, who remained unharmed. Authorities immediately sealed off the area and launched a search operation to apprehend the assailants, while security around vaccination teams was further tightened. Funeral prayers for the slain officer were held at Chaman City Police Station, attended by senior police officials and local residents. Despite the attack, officials confirmed that the polio campaign continued under heightened protection.

**c. Two Policemen Injured in Separate Attacks in Bannu (Dawn, February 08)**

Two police personnel were injured in separate attacks in the Bannu district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In the first incident, gunmen targeted the Khonia Khel police check post in the Wazir subdivision, triggering an exchange of fire that left one constable wounded. Authorities launched a search operation in the area and reinforced security following the assault.

In a separate episode on DI Khan Road, armed men opened fire on officers who were transporting a murder victim's body to the hospital. One policeman sustained injuries in the

attack, which police say involved six assailants riding motorcycles. The attackers fled after the shooting, and investigations are underway as security forces intensify patrols in the district.

**d. Policeman Killed in South Waziristan Attack; Family Members Critically Injured (Dawn, February 08)**

A police constable was killed and two of his family members critically injured after unidentified gunmen opened fire in the Boya area of Upper South Waziristan. The officer, Constable Zahidullah Wazir, died at the scene, while his father and brother were rushed to District Headquarters Hospital in Wana for emergency treatment. Authorities said the victims belonged to Shakai tehsil, and the injured remain in serious condition. The attackers fled following the shooting, prompting a security cordon and evidence collection at the site. Police officials stated that there was no known personal dispute involving the family and indicated that preliminary findings point towards an act of terrorism. An investigation has been launched as security concerns continue to mount in parts of the former tribal districts.

**e. Police Foil Militant Assault on Checkpoint in Peshawar Outskirts (Dawn, February 08)**

Police successfully repelled an attack on a checkpoint in Passani village on the outskirts of Peshawar after unidentified militants opened fire on the facility. According to city police officials, personnel stationed at the post responded promptly, leading to an exchange of gunfire that forced the attackers to flee. Authorities confirmed that no casualties were reported, though an assessment of potential material damage is still underway.

**f. JUI-F Local Leader Among Three Killed in Khuzdar Shooting (Dawn, February 09)**

Three people, including a local leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F), were shot dead in the Naal area of Khuzdar district after unidentified gunmen opened fire near Harnai Dam. The victims, residents of Wadh, were reportedly on a leisure trip when they were attacked. Two others sustained injuries in the shooting and were shifted to the hospital for treatment. Police have registered a case against unknown assailants and launched an investigation, while security in the area has been tightened. The attackers fled the scene immediately after the incident, and no group has claimed responsibility so far.

**g. Four Policemen Killed in Ambush on Returning Patrol in Dera Ismail Khan (Dawn, February 11)**



At least four policemen, including a station house officer, were killed in an ambush in the Wanda Budh area of Paniala, Dera Ismail Khan, after militants opened fire on a returning police party. The officers had just concluded a search operation launched on intelligence reports of militant presence in the jurisdiction of Shaheed Nawab police station when they were targeted from nearby forested terrain. Two additional officers sustained injuries and were shifted to the District Headquarters Teaching Hospital. Authorities said security forces returned fire, with reports indicating militant casualties, though confirmation was pending. A large-scale clearance operation has since been launched, and the area remains sealed as reinforcements continue combing activities. Political and provincial leadership, including the president and chief minister, condemned the attack, reaffirming commitments to intensify counterterrorism efforts amid rising security challenges in parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

**h. Major Assault on Bannu Police Post Thwarted; Three Militants Killed (Dawn, February 11)**

Security forces repelled a late-night militant assault on the Khonia Khel Police Post in Bannu's Wazir subdivision, killing three attackers and injuring nine others. According to police, heavily armed militants attempted to overrun the installation, but officers on duty responded swiftly, preventing the takeover. Reinforcements, including Quick Response and Rapid Response units, were deployed to the scene, forcing the remaining attackers to retreat. Among those killed was a local militant commander identified as Umar Azam alias Khizmeti, while another attacker was named as Shahidullah. One police officer sustained minor injuries during the exchange of fire. Authorities said additional attempts to target nearby police facilities were also foiled the same night. Senior police officials commended the personnel involved.

**i. CPEC Policeman Kidnapped, House Torched in Bannu (Daily Times Pakistan, February 13)**

Unidentified militants allegedly abducted a CPEC police constable and set his house on fire in the Dogar Umarzai area of Bannu district, intensifying security concerns in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to local sources, around 40-50 armed men stormed the residence, kidnapped the officer, identified as Constable Qadeer, and torched the property, destroying three rooms and household belongings. The incident reportedly caused widespread fear among residents. Police said investigations are underway, with authorities examining multiple angles as efforts continue to trace the abducted officer and assess the broader security implications.

**j. Gun Attack on ARY News Correspondent in Bannu (Dawn, February 13; News Pakistan TV, February 13)**

Unidentified motorcyclists opened fire at the residence of ARY News correspondent and former Bannu Press Club president Ihsan Khattak late on February 12 in Bannu. No casualties were reported. Khattak had earlier filed a complaint at Saddar Police Station regarding suspicious surveillance by unknown riders around his home. The journalist stated he has no personal enmity but had previously received threatening calls from Afghan numbers linked to his reporting. Media bodies and journalist groups strongly condemned the attack, calling for a transparent investigation and enhanced protection for journalists operating in conflict-prone areas.

**k. FWO Worker Killed in Diamer IED Blast; Two Militants Shot Dead in Follow-Up Operation (Counter-IED Report, February 13)**

A Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) employee was killed and three others—including an army major—were injured when an improvised explosive device detonated near an FWO vehicle in the Tangir valley of Diamer, Gilgit-Baltistan. The convoy was reportedly on a routine visit along the Tangir–Bushidas Road when the blast occurred, killing the civilian driver on the spot and wounding accompanying personnel. Security forces quickly sealed off the area and launched a combing operation, during which an exchange of fire resulted in the killing of two suspected militants and injuries to three others. Authorities said the attack appeared aimed at disturbing the relative calm in the region, though no group has claimed responsibility so far. The injured were shifted to hospitals in Chilas, while funeral prayers for the deceased worker were held before his body was transported to his native town for burial.

**l. Police Officer Killed in Bajaur as Militants Target KP Station (Arab News, February 15)**

A senior police officer was killed in the early hours of Sunday after militants launched an assault on a police station in Wara Mamund, Bajaur district, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to district officials, security personnel engaged the attackers for over 40 minutes before successfully repelling the assault. Additional SHO Gul Mahmood Din lost his life in the exchange, while other officers remained unharmed. No group has claimed responsibility so far, though the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has a history of targeting police and security installations in the border region adjoining Afghanistan. Authorities have since initiated a search operation to track down those involved.

### **3. Militant Violence Rebounds in January, With Balochistan at the Epicentre: PICSS ([Daily Excelsior, February 02](#); [PICSS, February 02](#))**

After a brief dip in December, militant violence in Pakistan rose sharply in January 2026, according to new data released by the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS). The month recorded 361 conflict-related deaths—a 43 per cent increase over December—including 242 militants, 73 civilians and 46 security personnel. Injuries also climbed, with at least 135 people wounded. Civilian fatalities saw the steepest rise, more than doubling compared to the previous month. A total of 87 militant attacks were reported nationwide, reflecting a 28 per cent increase. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa remained heavily affected, with incidents spread across both settled districts and former tribal areas, while Balochistan accounted for 27 attacks and witnessed the most dramatic escalation in violence. Although much of Balochistan remained relatively quiet for weeks, the final days of January saw coordinated assaults by the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) at multiple locations, triggering intensified security operations. The province recorded at least 172 militant deaths—the highest monthly militant toll there in over two decades—most of them occurring in the closing days of the month. Two of the three suicide attacks reported nationwide also took place in Balochistan. Punjab saw limited militant activity, but security forces carried out sweeping counterterror operations across central districts, arresting more than 50 suspects, the majority in Lahore, in what analysts suggest may have pre-empted planned large-scale attacks. No militant incidents were reported from Sindh, Islamabad, Gilgit-Baltistan, or Azad Jammu and Kashmir during the month. Overall, the data indicates that the December lull was short-lived, with January marking a renewed intensification of militant activity, particularly in Balochistan.

### **4. UN Warns TTP Could Evolve into Extra-Regional Threat ([UN Sanctions Committee Report, February 04](#); [Dawn, February 11](#))**

A new UN Security Council monitoring report has cautioned that the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is operating with significant freedom inside Afghanistan and could potentially evolve into an “extra-regional threat.” Covering developments between July and December 2025, the report states that the group benefits from a permissive environment under the Taliban administration, with access to safe havens, logistical support and operational space that exceeds that of other militant outfits. It notes a sharp rise in TTP-linked attacks against Pakistan last



year and estimates the group's strength at around 6,000 fighters, many based in eastern and southeastern Afghan provinces.

The report also raises concerns about deeper collaboration between the TTP and Al Qaeda affiliates, which are described as acting as a "service provider" by offering training and advisory support. Member states fear such cooperation could expand the scope of operations beyond South Asia. Meanwhile, the Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K) branch remains resilient despite counterterrorism pressure, maintaining recruitment pipelines and expanding its cyber capabilities to enhance outreach and planning.

## **5. Pakistan Pushes for UN Terror Listing of BLA Amid Escalating Balochistan Violence ([Dawn, February 04](#))**

Pakistan has formally urged the UN Security Council to designate the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) under the 1267 sanctions regime, stating that its listing request is already under consideration. Speaking at a UNSC briefing on global terrorist threats, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, called for swift action, arguing that recent attacks in Balochistan underscore the urgency of international recognition of the group as a terrorist entity. Islamabad framed the appeal within the broader context of its counterterrorism campaign, highlighting what it described as decades of heavy human and economic losses. The envoy linked the resurgence of groups such as the BLA and the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) to the post-2021 security vacuum in Afghanistan, alleging that these outfits operate from Afghan soil and receive external backing—claims Kabul and New Delhi have consistently denied. Referring to coordinated assaults in Balochistan over the weekend, Pakistan said dozens of civilians were killed, and a large number of militants were neutralised in subsequent operations. The call for UN designation follows Washington's earlier move to add the BLA and its Majeed Brigade faction to its Foreign Terrorist Organisation list. Beyond the immediate listing request, Pakistan also warned of the wider regional risks emanating from Afghanistan, including the proliferation of advanced weaponry left behind after the withdrawal of foreign forces. Islamabad urged a coordinated and non-selective global counterterrorism response, positioning the upcoming review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as an opportunity to strengthen multilateral action.

## **6. Major Attack Foiled as 20kg Explosive Device Defused in Lakki Marwat ([Aaj TV English, February 07](#); [Dawn, February 08](#))**

Police in Lakki Marwat thwarted a potential large-scale attack after defusing an improvised explosive device weighing over 20 kilograms in the Wanda Amir area. Acting on intelligence reports about a bomb planted at a public location, officers from Saddar police station secured the site before bomb disposal experts neutralised the device. Officials said the explosive could have caused significant casualties and damage had it detonated. Authorities credited strengthened human intelligence networks and pre-emptive surveillance measures for enabling the timely response, as security forces continue efforts to disrupt militant activity in parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## **7. Balochistan Crackdown Yields Over 1,600 Arrests in Province-Wide Security Drive ([Balochistan Pulse, February 09](#); [Hum English, February 09](#))**

Security forces and police in Balochistan have arrested more than 1,600 individuals in an expansive intelligence-led crackdown carried out over recent months, provincial authorities announced. According to officials, 1,627 suspects were detained, including hundreds allegedly linked to terrorism, targeted killings, extortion and kidnapping networks. The operations intensified following a spike in militant violence and criminal activity across key districts. Authorities reported the seizure of over 1,200 weapons—including assault rifles, grenades and improvised explosive devices—along with hundreds of vehicles and other assets believed to have been used in unlawful activities. Senior police officials described the campaign as a sustained effort to dismantle militant and organised crime networks operating in areas such as Quetta, Gwadar, Turbat and Khuzdar. The provincial government indicated that operations will continue as part of a broader push to stabilise the security environment amid ongoing threats to infrastructure, development projects and civilian targets.



## About the Author

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