

Afghan Taliban warn ‘Fitna-tul-Khawarij’ against cross-border terror

Commander Saeed made it clear that no individual or faction may declare or engage in jihad without explicit permission from the Emir, the Afghan Taliban’s supreme leader

News Desk

KABUL: The Afghan Taliban have issued a stern warning to the militant group known as Fitna-tul-Khawarij, forbidding them from conducting terrorist operations outside Afghanistan, with a particular emphasis on Pakistan.

The warning was delivered by senior Taliban commander Saeedullah Saeed during a police passing-out ceremony, underscoring the Taliban leadership’s firm stance against unauthorized militant activity beyond their borders.

Commander Saeed made it clear that no individual or faction has the authority to declare or engage in jihad without explicit permission from the Emir, the supreme leader of the Afghan Taliban. He stressed that any cross-border fighting, especially in Pakistan, carried out without the Emir’s sanction, is un-



justified and runs counter to Islamic law. “Fighting in any country — especially Pakistan — without the Emir’s permission is not justified,” he stated, dismissing militants who carry out attacks abroad as illegitimate actors driven by personal egos or group loyalties rather than true religious duty.

Saeed’s message carried a strong religious and political weight. He clarified that the authority to declare or permit jihad rests solely with the state leadership, and those who defy these orders not only break from

the chain of command but also violate Sharia law. By condemning militant groups that operate independently under the banner of jihad, the Taliban leadership sought to distance itself from uncontrolled violence that threatens both Islamic principles and state sovereignty.

This public denunciation signals a significant shift in the Taliban’s posture, emphasizing their intent to regulate militant activity and curb unrestrained violence that spills across borders. Security experts view the

statement as a boost to Pakistan’s internal security narrative, reinforcing Islamabad’s position that proxy militant groups exploiting religious rhetoric are undermining regional stability. Analysts note that by explicitly disowning groups like Fitna-tul-Khawarij, the Taliban are undercutting India-backed proxies that have long used the guise of jihad to fuel unrest, thus challenging narratives that have complicated peace efforts.

The warning from the Taliban leadership arrives amid ongoing concerns about cross-border militancy and reflects an effort to assert control over armed factions within Afghanistan. It also strengthens Pakistan’s diplomatic efforts to highlight the dangers posed by foreign-backed insurgents operating under the pretext of religious warfare, calling for a collective commitment to peace and lawful governance in the region.

Average cost of 20kg flour drops significantly

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The country has witnessed a notable decline in the average price of 20 kilograms of flour, both month-on-month and year-on-year, according to the latest data from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. In April, the average price of 20 kg flour was recorded at Rs1,642.33, marking a 6.62 percent decrease compared to March, and a substantial 31.86 percent fall from April last year.

In March, the average price stood at Rs1,758.84, while in April 2023 it was much higher, at Rs2,410.01. The price reduction offers some relief amid ongoing inflationary pressures faced by consumers. Breaking down the figures by city, the average price of 20 kg flour in Islamabad was Rs1,711.08, Rawalpindi Rs1,704.91, Gujranwala Rs1,596.84, Sialkot Rs1,625.66, and Lahore Rs1,553.83. Faisalabad saw prices at Rs1,552.51, Multan Rs1,547.68, and Bahawalpur Rs1,604.70.

In Sindh, Karachi’s average price was Rs1,652.93, Hyderabad Rs1,760.79, Sukkur Rs1,501.97, and Larkana Rs1,544.22. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, Peshawar recorded Rs1,650.92, Bannu Rs1,582.56, Quetta Rs1,787.46, and Khuzdar Rs1,864.43.

China to extend \$3.7bn loan to Pakistan next month

Officials noted that Pakistan has already repaid \$1.3 billion to the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China in three instalments earlier this year

News Desk

BEIJING: China has assured Pakistan it will extend a trade loan worth \$3.7 billion by the end of June, including \$2.4 billion due for repayment next month. This move aims to help Pakistan maintain its foreign exchange reserves in double digits amid ongoing economic challenges. Government sources told the media that while China has previously extended loans in currencies other than its own, this time it has decided not to lend in US dollars.

The decision aligns with Beijing’s broader policy to reduce Pakistan’s reliance on the dollar and promote the use of the Chinese currency in bilateral trade.

The assurances followed talks held between March and June 2025 to secure re-financing of Pakistan’s maturing debts.

Officials noted that Pakistan had already repaid \$1.3 billion to the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) in three instalments earlier this year.



Sources added that ICBC has requested some clarifications from Pakistan and is expected to reissue the loan in Chinese Renminbi (RMB) within days.

The original loan was granted two years ago at a floating interest rate of around 7.5 per cent. After receiving \$1 billion from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) this month, Pakistan’s central bank reserves rose to about \$11.4 billion. With the next round of refinancing, reserves could climb to \$12.7 billion by mid-June before facing another dip.

Additionally, three Chinese commercial banks are set to mature a syndicated financing loan worth \$2.1 billion (15 billion RMB) in June. Pakistan plans to repay this loan at least three days before

maturity, ensuring it is cleared before the end of the financial year. The loans come from China Development Bank (9 billion RMB), Bank of China (3 billion RMB), and ICBC (3 billion RMB).

The government is negotiating a three-year extension on repayment terms, though the interest rate remains undecided. China has offered Pakistan two options: either a fixed-rate or floating-rate loan, but not linked to the Shanghai Interbank Offered Rate (Shibor). This timely refinancing is crucial to keeping Pakistan’s reserves above double digits through June. Under the IMF program, Pakistan has committed to raising its reserves to nearly \$14 billion by the end of the financial year.

Three RAW spies disappear in Iran

News Desk

TEHRAN: Tensions are quietly simmering between India and Iran after three alleged operatives of India’s external intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), reportedly went missing in Iran. According to Indian diplomatic sources, the Indian embassy in Tehran has formally requested assistance from Iranian authorities to locate and safely recover the missing individuals.

The Indian mission has confirmed ongoing communication with Iranian officials, stating they are making “all possible efforts” to secure the return of the three nationals. However, details about the circumstances of their disappearance remain unclear.



clear, and no formal charges or public confirmation from Iran have yet been issued.

This incident comes at a sensitive time in the region’s diplomatic landscape. Once seen as close strategic partners, India and Iran have witnessed strain in their relationship, particularly following an inflammatory comment made by retired Indian army officer Major Gaurav Arya, who insulted Iran’s foreign minister on national television, calling him a “pig’s child”. Iran raised the slur at the diplomatic level, but India’s government did not condemn or disown the remarks publicly.

Analysts believe the silence from New Delhi may have deepened Iran’s unease, especially given the broader context of Pakistan-India tensions. Iran has attempted to maintain neutrality in South Asia’s volatile environment and has offered mediation in past disputes. However, the perceived lack of respect from Indian public discourse may be eroding that position.

As of now, the fate of the three alleged RAW operatives remains unknown. The situation continues to develop, and diplomatic watchers are closely monitoring whether this incident will further disrupt India-Iran relations or push both sides back to the negotiating table in the spirit of regional cooperation.

Iran signals possible allowance for US inspectors at nuclear sites

For years, Western powers have charged Iran with chasing the bomb, but Tehran insists its nuclear ambition is rooted in peaceful civilian intent alone

News Desk

TEHRAN: Iran has indicated it may consider permitting US inspectors to visit its nuclear facilities if a deal is reached with Washington. According to an AFP report, the head of Iran’s Atomic Energy Organization, Mohammad Eslami, said on Wednesday that while inspectors from countries hostile to Iran have never been acceptable, Tehran could rethink allowing American inspectors under the supervision of the UN’s nuclear watchdog, provided Iran’s demands are met.

For years, Western powers have accused Iran of seeking nuclear weapons, a claim Tehran has consistently denied, insisting its nuclear program is solely for peaceful, civilian purposes. Recent weeks have seen five rounds of high-level talks between Tehran and Washington — the first significant contacts since the US withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal under Donald Trump in 2018.

Since taking office in January, Trump has resumed his “maximum pressure” campaign on Iran, imposing new sanctions. Meanwhile, Iranian foreign ministry



spokesperson Esmail Baghai confirmed that consultations are underway to finalize the time and place for the next round of talks, with an official announcement expected from Oman. Iranian president Masoud Pezeshkian expressed gratitude for the Gulf state’s mediation efforts, despite longstanding tensions between Tehran and Muscat.

Iranian officials have repeatedly emphasized that uranium enrichment is a “non-negotiable” issue, a stance publicly backed by US negotiators including Washington’s envoy Steve Wittkoff, who has described it as a red line. Mohammad Eslami added that enrichment levels have not been discussed in recent talks and should not be politicized, pointing out that higher enrichment does not necessarily

imply military use.

Baghai reiterated that continued uranium enrichment is a fundamental part of Iran’s nuclear industry and any proposal threatening this right is unacceptable. Currently, Iran enriches uranium up to 60 percent — far above the 3.67 percent limit set in the 2015 agreement but below the 90 percent threshold typically required for nuclear weapons.

European parties to the 2015 deal — France, Germany and the UK — are reportedly considering triggering the deal’s “snapback” mechanism, which would reinstate UN sanctions if Iran is found in violation. The evolving diplomatic dialogue highlights the delicate balancing act between upholding Iran’s stated sovereignty and addressing global concerns over nuclear proliferation.

Azerbaijan celebrates Pakistan’s victory over India: Tarar

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Attaullah Tarar has said that Pakistan’s recent diplomatic and strategic triumph over India was not only celebrated domestically but also found strong resonance in Azerbaijan, highlighting the depth of international solidarity with Islamabad’s position.

Speaking from the mountainous city of Lachin during Azerbaijan’s Independence Day celebrations, Tarar drew attention to what he described as a remarkable show of unity among Pakistan, Azerbaijan, and Turkey. His remarks came as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan joined the festivities, turning the occasion into a powerful display of trilateral harmony and regional alliance.

“These three brotherly nations will remain united in every test and trial,” said Tarar, his tone confident and resolute. His words tapped into a sentiment that has been steadily building in recent months — that Pakistan, Turkey, and Azerbaijan are forging a partnership that transcends conventional diplomacy.

It is a bond, Tarar implied, cemented by shared sacrifices, mutual respect, and a collective commitment to justice and sovereignty.

Pakistan, Iran agree to keep border open 24 hours for pilgrims

News Desk

TEHRAN: In a significant development easing travel for Pakistani pilgrims, Pakistan and Iran have agreed to keep their shared border open 24 hours during key religious events, including Arbaeen and Muharram. The announcement followed a productive meeting in Tehran between Pakistan’s federal interior minister Mohsin Naqvi and Iranian interior minister Eskandar Momtani.

Both sides discussed enhancing facilities for pilgrims, border management, and security cooperation. Under the agreement, the border will remain open round the



clock to accommodate the millions of pilgrims traveling during these sacred occasions. Iran also pledged to provide lodging and meals for 5,000 Pakistani pilgrims in Mashhad and make special arrangements for pilgrims journeying from the border to Iraq. To improve communica-

tion and swiftly resolve any issues faced by pilgrims, the two countries agreed to establish a dedicated hotline for border authorities. They also planned a trilateral conference before Arbaeen involving officials from Pakistan, Iran, and Iraq, aimed at coordinating travel, security, and serv-

ices for pilgrims. Discussions included increasing flights to facilitate pilgrim travel and exploring the possibility of sea routes to Iran and Iraq.

Beyond pilgrim affairs, the meeting addressed broader border issues such as illegal immigration, human smuggling, and drug trafficking, and improving security cooperation. The Iranian interior minister emphasized Pakistan’s security as a top priority and described serving pilgrims as a religious duty. A related matter discussed was the release of Iranian fishermen who had accidentally entered Pakistani waters, with assurances of full cooperation from both sides.

Uranium thefts in India spark serious global security fears

News Desk

NEW DELHI: A series of uranium thefts and security lapses in India have deepened worries about nuclear safety protocols in the region. Despite being a declared nuclear power, India has repeatedly shown significant weaknesses in safeguarding its nuclear materials and facilities, sparking alarm not only within the country but across the global community.

Reports from security experts and international agencies reveal glaring flaws in India’s nuclear material handling, production, and oversight. According to the South Asia Strategic Stability Institute, between 1994 and 2021, India reported 18 incidents involving stolen nuclear material, exceeding 200 kilograms in total. Many cases involved the seizure of highly dangerous sub-



stances such as uranium and californium from individuals caught smuggling.

The Nuclear Threat Initiative’s (NTI) 2024 report places India near the bottom of the list when it comes to nuclear security — ranking 20th out of 22 countries overall, and 40th out of 47 in the global nuclear security index. The NTI has repeatedly warned of potential nuclear accidents in India, but government inaction has turned these warnings into reality.

Notable incidents include

a failed attempt to smuggle 2.5 kilograms of uranium in Dumiya in November 1994, and an attempt to smuggle over 100 kilograms in 1998. Other seizures include eight kilograms from Tamil Nadu in 1998, 8.3 kilograms from Mumbai in 2000, and smaller amounts from West Bengal between 2001 and 2018. In 2021, seven kilograms of uranium were seized in Maharashtra and 6.4 kilograms in Jharkhand, alongside 250 grams of highly radioactive californium recovered at Kolkata airport.

Pakistan, Azerbaijan pledge enhanced defence partnership

News Desk

LACHIN, AZERBAIJAN: Field Marshal Asim Munir, Pakistan’s top military officer, held an important meeting with Azerbaijan’s Defence Minister, Colonel General Zakir Hasanov,

reflecting the broader geostrategic alignment between Pakistan and Azerbaijan. Both countries, which have seen a steady growth in military collaboration in recent years, appear keen to deepen their partnership at a time of shifting



during his recent visit to the strategically located city of Lachin. In what is being described as a significant diplomatic engagement, the two military leaders discussed the evolving regional security environment and explored ways to enhance bilateral defence cooperation.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) confirmed that the high-level talks revolved around shared concerns in the re-

gion, reflecting the broader

alliances and growing tensions in the region. Field Marshal Munir, who has placed strong emphasis on strategic outreach since assuming command, conveyed Pakistan’s deep appreciation for its close ties with Baku.

He acknowledged the importance of solidarity between the two Muslim-majority nations and reiterated Islamabad’s commitment to further cementing defence relations.

Riyadh condemns Israeli minister’s entry into Al-Aqsa Mosque

News Desk

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia has issued a strong condemnation of the Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir’s entry into the revered Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, describing the act as a blatant provocation and a serious violation of the site’s sanctity. The response from Riyadh reflects growing concern across the Muslim world over what is widely perceived as an escalation in Israeli actions at one of Islam’s holiest sites.

The Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in a statement backed by the kingdom’s royal leadership, called the visit a desecration of Al-Aqsa and accused Israel of continuing its policy of brutal assaults in the occupied Palestinian territories. The ministry warned that such acts, particularly when carried out by high-ranking Israeli officials, risk inflaming religious tensions and further destabilizing the region. Itamar Ben-Gvir’s visits to Al-Aqsa have often drawn widespread criticism, with Palestinians and Arab nations viewing them as deliberate provocations aimed at altering the status quo of the Jerusalem site, which holds deep religious and political significance.

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Vol. No. 2
Issue. No. 163
Email: news@metro-morning.com
Zilhaj 1, 1446 A.H.



Tax justice is due in budget

In a departure from the typical platitudes that surround pre-budget commentary, Federal Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb delivered a speech that did not try to mask hard truths behind soft language. His address in Islamabad was unusually forthright—a sign that the government may finally be willing to grapple with the root causes of Pakistan’s fiscal dysfunction, rather than continue patchwork solutions that merely delay inevitable reckonings. Pakistan, having just emerged from the edge of a financial precipice, finds itself at a critical juncture. The economy, though still fragile, has absorbed some painful shocks—subsidy cuts, rupee devaluation, IMF-led austerity—and survived. But survival is not enough.

Aurangzeb’s tone suggested that the government is preparing to move beyond crisis firefighting and into a phase of structural reform, one that prioritizes integrity over inertia. At the heart of this reform agenda lies taxation. For far too long, Pakistan’s tax system has functioned as a theatre of evasion and exemption, where privilege replaces principle and compliance is optional for the powerful. Aurangzeb’s blunt message was that this status quo can no longer continue. The notion that only a fraction of citizens—largely salaried workers and indirect consumers—bear the tax burden, while vast segments of wealth remain untouched, is unsustainable and unjust. This is not a radical idea; it is the norm in functioning economies.

Around the world, tax systems serve not only to fund governments but to build trust in public institutions. In Pakistan, however, tax collection has too often been seen as political suicide rather than public responsibility. Successive governments have tiptoed around entrenched interests—feudal landlords, powerful retailers, and politically connected industrialists—allowing them to operate outside the formal economy. The result is not only a revenue shortfall, but also a deeply broken social contract. When only the honest are punished and the connected are rewarded, governance collapses into cynicism. Aurangzeb’s remarks, delivered with an uncharacteristic frankness, suggest that the state may finally be ready to address this imbalance.

And it is doing so not just for internal reasons, but because the world is watching. Encouragingly, there appears to be a growing alignment between Pakistan’s reform signals and the expectations of international lenders and investors. The mention of a GDP now crossing the \$400 billion mark—though modest by global standards—reflects a measure of recovery. But more importantly, there is movement on longstanding priorities: privatization of loss-making state-owned enterprises, institutional reform, and a commitment to financial transparency. These are the benchmarks upon which global confidence is built. But words are not reforms. They are merely the prelude. The true test of this government’s resolve will come in the form of the federal budget, where rhetoric must translate into policy.

Expanding the tax base means taking on powerful lobbies. It means asking those who have long been shielded from responsibility to contribute their fair share. It also means protecting the vulnerable from further burdens, ensuring that reform does not become another word for regression. Security, too, remains a non-negotiable priority. Aurangzeb’s recognition of the armed forces’ role in stabilizing the country is more than a political nod—it reflects the reality that economic growth cannot take root in an environment riddled with insecurity. But supporting defence must be done within the framework of fiscal discipline, not as an excuse to avoid difficult trade-offs. For the Pakistani public, the memory of broken promises is fresh. Reforms have been announced before—many times, many governments.

What makes this moment different is not the boldness of the words, but the starkness of the context. There is simply no more room for delay. The global economy is shifting, climate vulnerabilities are rising, and geopolitical uncertainties are intensifying. Pakistan cannot afford the luxury of dysfunction any longer. Aurangzeb’s candor is welcome. But what Pakistan now needs is not just a clearer diagnosis—it needs a cure. Fixing the tax system is a necessary first step. Rebuilding trust in institutions, rebalancing spending priorities, and ensuring accountability will require sustained effort and political courage. The stakes are not just economic—they are existential. This is not a time for routine budgets or recycled rhetoric. It is a time for decisions that may be difficult today but are essential for tomorrow. If the minister’s words are to mean anything, they must be followed by action that redefines not just the balance sheet, but the very relationship between citizen and state.

Metro Morning and its policy not necessarily consensus with any writer’s thoughts

India’s proxy must no longer go unnoticed

By Uzma Ehtasham



After suffering what can only be described as a historic defeat in the battle for truth—Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad—the Modi-led Indian regime has lost its way. But what followed has been more disturbing than disoriented governance. In its desperation to reassert control and rewrite a narrative slipping from its grasp, New Delhi has begun shedding the final threads of diplomatic credibility, revealing something more dangerous than denial—a state openly dabbling in terror sponsorship. There was a time when India’s involvement in destabilizing Balochistan operated under the veil of plausible deniability. Whispers of covert operations, discreet funding channels, and unnamed sympathizers formed the basis of Pakistan’s long-standing allegations.

But that time has passed. India has moved from the shadows to the spotlight, with a brazenness that reflects not just a moral collapse but a calculated geopolitical gamble. Delhi’s entanglement with banned militant groups, especially those aimed at disrupting peace in Pakistan’s Balochistan region, is no longer a secret. It is a strategy. The nature of this alliance has grown from indirect encourage-

agement to outright sponsorship. Militant outfits, whose names appear on global terror watchlists, are not only finding sanctuary within Indian borders but are also receiving structured support. Arms, training, funds, logistics—the scaffolding of an insurgency is now being openly constructed with the blessings of the Indian state.

Even more chilling is the provision of official medical aid to wounded militants, revealing a formalized infrastructure of terror aid, masquerading as humanitarian concern. Meanwhile, Indian media—once a platform for democratic discourse—has transformed into a propaganda machine, blurring the lines between journalism and jingoism.

On prime-time television, influential anchors make brazen proposals: give terror groups office space in Delhi, legitimize their cause, and elevate their operatives to the status of freedom fighters. Such statements would be unthinkable in any nation that truly believes in peace. Yet in India today, they draw applause.

The implications of these policies are far from rhetorical. In Balochistan, the impact is brutally real. Blood has been spilled, lives shattered, communities uprooted—all under the watchful eye of an Indian strategy that sees instability as leverage. Every attack, every ambush, every act of terror carries the fingerprints of this deliberate interference. These are not one-off events. They are the

calculated consequences of an orchestrated campaign, one that is increasingly difficult for the world to ignore. Pakistan, for its part, has spent over two decades documenting this hostile campaign. Its warnings have not been idle claims. From the 2009 Sharm El Sheikh dossier to the evidence submitted at the UN in 2015, the case has been built brick by brick.

Then came the defining proof—the arrest in 2016 of Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav, an active-duty Indian naval officer operating as a RAW agent. His confessions, backed by digital and material evidence, destroyed whatever ambiguity remained.

The world could no longer pretend this was a matter of Pakistani paranoia. It was a matter of fact. And yet, despite the damning clarity of the evidence, much of the international community remains reluctant to call India out. Strategic alliances, economic interests, and regional power dynamics have created a fog of silence—a silence that emboldens rather than restrains. Global powers that pride themselves on promoting democracy and opposing terrorism elsewhere have tiptoed around India’s transgressions.

In doing so, they have helped legitimize a new kind of violence: one that wears the suit of diplomacy but carries the dagger of subversion. But state terrorism, by its nature, is never a local affair. When it spills across borders, fuels proxy wars, and sows discord across regions, it becomes a global threat. No state, no

matter how large or economically powerful, should be allowed to weaponize terror and walk away unchallenged. And no international order that claims to value peace can afford to ignore the smoke simply because the fire is politically inconvenient. This is not about diplomatic rivalries or partisan politics. It is about a principle as old as civilization itself: that no nation has the right to use terror as a tool of statecraft.

Pakistan has laid bare the truth. It has dared to speak when silence was easier. Now, it falls upon the global community to decide what it will do with that truth. Will it act, or will it remain complicit through inaction? Time has run out for ambiguity. If the world remains silent, it will not just be complicit—it will be culpable. The choice is not between Pakistan and India. The choice is between truth and duplicity, between justice and hypocrisy. In this moment, neutrality is not virtue. It is betrayal. For every child in Balochistan who wakes to the sound of gunfire, for every family that has lost a loved one to a terror attack orchestrated across the border, and for every citizen who still believes in a future free from violence, the world must find its voice.

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Insecurity, our most human companion

By Atiq Raja



Insecurities. The very word has an uncanny way of stirring unease. It often arrives unwelcome, riding on the shoulders of fear, or quietly nested between comparison and silence. Yet, insecurities are as intimate to our humanity as the air we breathe. They do not discriminate. They sit quietly in boardrooms, walk the school corridors, linger on red carpets, and curl up next to us when we close our eyes at night. They are not reserved for the hesitant or the unsure. Even those who stride with confidence, speak with conviction, or glow with accomplishment are not immune. In truth, we all carry them.

We are taught from an early age to polish our strengths and camouflage our flaws. But underneath the surface of every confident smile and well-crafted image, there often lies a quiet, sometimes deafening doubt. It might whisper that we are not good enough, not attractive enough, not successful enough, not loved enough. Insecurities dress in many clothes—some stitched from the threads of our past, others tailored by societal pressure, and a few handed down like unwanted heirlooms by those who once feared they were not enough themselves.

Some of these doubts have roots we can trace—perhaps to a schoolyard taunt, a failure we could not forget, a parent who expected too much, or a love that left a wound. Others are more subtle, shaped by a world that constantly offers curated perfection and unattainable ideals. In the mirror, on social media, in conversations where worth is measured in titles, followers, or possessions—we are reminded, again and again, of where we seem to fall short.

The tragedy is not that we feel insecure—it is that we learn to mask it. We become experts at distraction, experts at overcompensating. The high achiever who never feels worthy enough. The charming socialite who silently dreads rejection. The stoic who has grown too weary to show feeling. To hide our insecurities, we often overcorrect—some of us become perfectionists, others retreat into silence, and a few turn cold in an effort to never be hurt again. But pretending is a fragile protection. These shadows do not fade in darkness; they recede only in light.

To confront insecurity is not weakness—it is one of the bravest things we can do. The first step is not to conquer it but to name it.

Not with shame, but with honesty. Why do I feel this way? What made me believe this? Is this doubt a truth—or simply a lie I’ve learned to believe? When we ask such questions, we begin the quiet process of reclaiming ourselves. And it is quiet. Growth does not always announce itself with fireworks. Sometimes, it comes in the form of a small act—a voice that finally speaks, a heart that opens again, a step taken despite fear. In these moments, we do not become flawless. We become real.

Real confidence is not the absence of insecurity. It is the decision to act in spite of it. To walk onstage even when your hands tremble. To share your thoughts even if your voice cracks. To love when your heart remembers every break. The people we most admire often are not the most polished, but the most sincere. Their vulnerability becomes their strength. There is power in embracing imperfection. To admit uncertainty, to reveal fragility—it is not a collapse of strength, but an evolution of it. Wholeness does not demand that we never doubt ourselves. It asks that we stop abandoning ourselves the moment we do.

Our culture often glorifies the idea of being ‘unbothered’ or ‘unshaken.’ But what if strength looked different? What if it meant

being shaken—and still choosing to stand? What if the real triumph was not in being fearless, but in dancing with fear, and still moving forward? Every person you pass is carrying a weight you cannot see. That friend who laughs the loudest may be nursing silent worry.

That colleague who seems endlessly composed may fear that one misstep will unravel it all. And you—reading this now—perhaps you, too, are tired of trying to appear whole while feeling anything but.

Let us then be kinder to ourselves. Let us allow the cracks to be visible, and the questions to remain open. For life is not a performance for others, but a journey to better understand and accept the truth of who we are. Perfection is not the goal—wholeness is. And wholeness does not come from silencing insecurities but from learning to live with them, gently and courageously. So the next time fear visits you, do not scold it or shut it out. Invite it to sit beside you. Listen to what it has to say. And then, when you’re ready, take its hand and dance.

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Youm-e-Takbir, nation’s pride and gratitude

By Asghar Ali Mubarak



Pakistani people, filled with joy and pride on Youm-e-Takbir, paid tribute to the country’s civil and military leadership, armed forces, scientists and engineers for making Pakistan’s defence invincible. As the nation marked 27 years since becoming a nuclear power, Youm-e-Takbir was celebrated with patriotic fervor and national enthusiasm. The day began with Quran recitations in mosques and prayers for Pakistan’s safety and sovereignty. Religious scholars led special gatherings, offering prayers for the country’s progress and prosperity. They remarked that 28 May stands as a defining moment in Pakistan’s history—a day when the nation emerged stronger and more secure, and when the collective pride of its people soared higher than ever.

On 28 May 1998, Pakistan restored the balance of power in the region by conducting six nuclear tests in response to India’s five. The call of “Allah o Akbar” echoed from the mountains of Chagai as Pakistan emerged as the world’s seventh nuclear power and the first in the Islamic world. Youm-e-Takbir was marked across the country with special events honoring the guardians of the homeland. Rallies and ceremonies took place in cities large and small, including Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore. Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif congratulated the nation on Youm-e-Takbir, paying tribute to the architects of Pakistan’s nuclear program. He reaffirmed his government’s unwavering commitment to the country’s freedom and sovereignty, noting that the spirit of victory on this day continues to strengthen the resolve and pride of the nation.

The Prime Minister said that by the grace and mercy of Allah, Pakistan emerged victorious in the conflict from May 6 to 10, overcoming the war imposed by India. He recalled that on 28 May 1998, India challenged Pakistan’s security, defence and sovereignty by carrying out five nuclear tests. In response, Nawaz Sharif made Pakistan a nuclear power with six explosions, reflecting the aspirations and interests of the nation. Shabbaz Sharif noted that Nawaz Sharif disregarded economic sanctions, pressure and threats, securing the country’s geographical borders forever.

The Prime Minister paid tribute to the nation, former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, and the scientists and engineers who made immense sacrifices for the nuclear program. He also honored the Pakistani Armed Forces, national institutions and the architects who contributed to this achievement, adding his gratitude to the armed forces for fully protecting the country’s nuclear assets. He described Youm-e-Takbir as a day to reaffirm that there will be no compromise on the unity, freedom and sovereignty of the nation. On the occasion, the armed forces, the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and the service chiefs extended their congratulations to the people.

The Chief Minister of Punjab congratulated the Pakistani nation and the Muslim Ummah, saying that even after 27 years, the nation remains proud, and that no enemy would dare cast a covetous eye on Pakistan’s land. By the grace and mercy of Allah, Pakistan has been honored as the first Muslim nuclear power in the world. He added that the foundation for the victory of May 10 was laid on 28 May 1998. Maryam Nawaz reflected that the echo of the Takbir raised in the mountains of Chagai on that day still resonates across the homeland, and the nation remains grateful to the leader of the Pakistan Muslim League (N), Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

On Youm-e-Takbir, the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission reaffirmed its commitment to the peaceful use of nuclear technology. The commission highlighted that 28 May is a day to celebrate Pakistan’s nuclear status, alongside significant progress in the peaceful application of nuclear science in health, energy and agriculture. According to the PAEC, 20 cancer hospitals nationwide provide modern diagnostic and treatment facilities, benefiting around 80 percent of the country’s cancer patients. The announcement also noted that six nuclear power plants generate 3,530 megawatts of affordable and environmentally friendly electricity. The Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit-1 set a national record by generating electricity continuously for 400 days. Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit-5, currently under construction, is expected to generate 1,200 megawatts of electricity once completed. Four agricultural centers are sup-

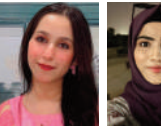
porting food security by developing 159 special crop varieties. The Nuclear Institute for Agriculture and Biology in Faisalabad is producing naturally colored cotton and has been recognized as a supporting center by the International Atomic Energy Agency. PIAS University and other educational institutions are providing education that meets international standards. The announcement emphasized that the peaceful use of nuclear technology will continue to play a vital role in promoting sustainable development.

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, while congratulating the nation on Youm-e-Takbir, said that Pakistan’s nuclear tests on 28 May 1998 sent a clear message to the world that the country is always ready to respond decisively to any enemy’s aggression. President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif issued special messages on Youm-e-Takbir, saying that the nation’s joy in victory has only grown stronger. The President reiterated his commitment to safeguarding the country’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, describing the acquisition of nuclear power as a wise decision for maintaining peace. Pakistan’s nuclear capability remains a guarantee of peace, ensuring the nation’s sovereignty and security. In his message, President Zardari extended heartfelt greetings to the people, recalling how on 28 May Pakistan demonstrated its nuclear strength and achieved strategic defence power.

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Growth hopes dim as budget tightens grip

By Zainab Shabbir and Ayesha Malik



The impacts of budgetary decisions on Pakistan’s economic growth are multifaceted and far-reaching, influencing various aspects of the economy and society as a whole. Budgetary policies play a crucial role in shaping the country’s economic trajectory, affecting factors such as inflation, employment and investment, which in turn influence the overall standard of living and poverty levels. A well-crafted budget can stimulate economic growth, improve living standards and reduce poverty by allocating resources effectively and encouraging development. Conversely, a poorly designed budget can deepen economic challenges, hamper progress and worsen poverty, undermining the importance of prudent fiscal management. As Pakistan continues to navigate its economic landscape, understanding the effects of budgetary decisions remains essential—not only for policymakers but also for businesses and individuals aiming to make informed choices and support sustainable economic growth.

Pakistan’s economy has experienced fluctuations, with fiscal policy choices often prioritizing short-term macroeconomic stabilization over meaningful structural reform. The country continues to grapple with fiscal imbalances, persistent budget deficits and mounting public

debt. The effects of fiscal deficits remain debated: while Keynesian economists support deficit-financed expansionary policy during downturns, Neo-classical thinkers warn of the crowding-out effect that can stifle private investment. The Federal Budget for 2024–25 sets a target of 3.6% real GDP growth, backed by a 30% increase in allocations for the Public Sector Development Program. Yet the budget’s emphasis on infrastructure spending has sparked concern, particularly over the 62% reduction in education funding and a 35% cut to health expenditures. Such sharp declines in social sector investment risk undermining long-term productivity and economic resilience.

Furthermore, Pakistan’s tax system remains heavily reliant on regressive indirect taxes, which distort consumption patterns and constrain the growth of the formal economy. The country’s tax-to-GDP ratio remains troublingly low, while financial intermediation continues to lag. For Pakistan to pursue sustainable and inclusive growth, meaningful tax reforms are needed—alongside a renewed focus on strategic investments in human capital, innovation and grassroots entrepreneurship. The upcoming budget for FY2025–26 must also seek to reduce the primary deficit and align with the IMF’s roadmap for macroeconomic stability. The success of these measures will rest on their effective implementation, the continuity of political stability and the government’s ability to strike a deli-

cate balance between fiscal discipline and development goals. A moderate economic recovery is anticipated, with the United Nations projecting a growth rate of 2.3% in 2025.

The Asian Development Bank forecasts a slightly higher growth rate of 2.5%, while the World Bank projects growth may strengthen to 3.1% in FY2026, provided that macroeconomic stabilization efforts continue and critical economic reforms are implemented. The government’s fiscal strategy in the forthcoming budget will be central to shaping the country’s economic path. A key challenge will lie in balancing the urgency of fiscal consolidation with the imperative for development spending. Strategic investments in education, healthcare and infrastructure must be prioritized, even as fiscal discipline is upheld. Alongside these efforts, structural reforms will be essential to foster economic resilience. This includes improving the business climate, enhancing governance and ensuring greater transparency—measures that remain vital for sustainable growth and long-term stability.

The government must also give greater priority to investment in human capital, particularly in education and skills development, as a foundation for long-term productivity and sustained growth. The private sector’s role will be central to driving economic advancement in Pakistan. To unlock its potential, the government must foster an enabling environment—improving access to finance, dismantling regulatory hurdles and encouraging

healthy competition. These steps are vital to spur entrepreneurship, nurture innovation and generate employment, all of which are cornerstones of sustainable growth. Achieving a stable and prosperous economy will depend on the implementation of a comprehensive and coherent economic strategy—one that confronts Pakistan’s structural vulnerabilities and promotes inclusive development. Such a strategy demands coordinated action, bringing together government, the private sector and civil society in a shared effort to drive progress and reduce poverty. In order to promote sustainable economic growth and development, the government should prioritise policy reforms that support private sector expansion, strengthen governance and boost investment in human capital.

This will require steps to improve the business environment, enhance transparency and accountability, and promote education and skills development. Through such reforms, Pakistan can lay the foundation for a stable and prosperous economy—one that delivers tangible benefits to its citizens and fosters inclusive, long-term development. As the Budget 2025–26 approaches, the government would do well to consider a series of strategic measures aimed at accelerating growth. Increasing funding for education and healthcare can significantly strengthen human capital, helping to build a more skilled and productive workforce.

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PM condemns India's water cut threat as unacceptable

Opening with warm greetings on Azerbaijan's Independence Day, the prime minister lauded the nation's brave fight for freedom and its esteemed standing worldwide

News Desk

LACHIN, AZERBAIJAN: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif delivered a firm rebuttal to India's recent threats to cut off Pakistan's water supply, declaring water as the lifeline of Pakistan that no external force could ever sever. Speaking at the trilateral summit of Pakistan, Turkey, and Azerbaijan held in the Azerbaijani city of Lachin, Sharif underscored the vital importance of water for Pakistan's 240 million citizens, warning that attempts to disrupt this essential resource would be met with resilience and resolve.

Opening his remarks with heartfelt greetings on Azerbaijan's Independence Day, the prime minister praised the country's courageous struggle for freedom and its respected place on the



global stage. He reflected on the historic, cultural, and strategic ties binding Pakistan, Turkey, and Azerbaijan, calling the summit a reaffirmation of their shared commitment to deepen cooperation and strengthen friendship.

Sharif expressed optimism about the future of this trilateral alliance, highlighting President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's firm stance on the PKK issue as a testament to

their collective determination to combat terrorism. Addressing rising tensions in the region, Shehbaz Sharif dismissed India's claims surrounding the recent Pahalgam incident, pointing out New Delhi's failure to present credible evidence or accept Pakistan's offer for impartial investigations.

The Prime Minister accused India of using the incident as a pretext for aggressive posturing and lauded

Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir along with the Pakistani armed forces for their professional leadership and decisive response. "The entire nation stands united behind our military," he emphasized, highlighting the solidarity and resolve within Pakistan.

Despite these challenges, the prime minister reiterated Pakistan's unwavering desire for peace in the region. However, he sharply criticized India's violations of the Indus Waters Treaty, underscoring that water security is non-negotiable for the wellbeing of millions. He called on the international community to support a just resolution of the Kashmir issue in accordance with United Nations resolutions, insisting that lasting peace hinges on addressing the core grievances of the Kashmiri people.

Netanyahu claims brother of Hamas's Yahya Sinwar killed

News Desk

GAZA: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has claimed that Muhammad Ibrahim Hassan Sinwar, the brother of senior Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, was killed in an Israeli airstrike in Gaza earlier this month, marking what he described as a major blow to Hamas's military structure.

Speaking during a special session of the Israeli parliament on Wednesday, Netanyahu told lawmakers that Muhammad Sinwar—considered a senior Hamas military commander—was eliminated during Israeli operations in the besieged Palestinian territory.

According to reports from Gaza, his body was



discovered on May 18 in a tunnel system targeted by Israeli troops.

Sinwar had long been regarded as one of Hamas's most elusive and strategically influential figures, often described by Israeli officials as someone who operated "from the shadows."

His military experience, coupled with close ties to the group's leadership, positioned him as a critical asset in Hamas's armed resistance.

Born in a Gaza refugee camp, the 50-year-old had spent decades within Hamas's ranks, eventually rising to a key command role.

His brother, Yahya Sinwar, widely known as Hamas's top leader in Gaza, is also believed to have been killed in an earlier Israeli strike, though Hamas has not confirmed his death publicly.

The reported killing of Muhammad Sinwar adds another layer to the deadly conflict that continues to devastate Gaza.

Thousands have died since the start of Israel's military campaign, with relentless airstrikes and ground operations triggering severe humanitarian concerns. International calls for restraint and a ceasefire have grown louder, but Israel insists its operations will continue until Hamas's leadership and infrastructure are dismantled.

IMF calls for tough measures to boost tax collection

Central to the IMF's proposals is a push to strengthen tax authorities, granting them greater powers to act decisively against defaulters

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has put forward a series of stringent recommendations aimed at reshaping Pakistan's budget for the fiscal year 2025-26, signaling a clear push for stronger fiscal discipline amid the country's ongoing economic difficulties. According to insiders familiar with the discussions, the IMF is urging the Pakistani government to take a tougher stance on tax collection, particularly by cracking down on evasion and boosting compliance across the board.

At the heart of the IMF's proposals is a call for expanding the powers of tax authorities, empowering them to take more robust action against defaulters. This includes a marked increase in penalties for those found evading taxes through a point-of-sale (POS) systems, with fines potentially rising from the current threshold of five hundred thousand rupees to as much as five million. Officials have also revealed plans to intro-



duce criminal prosecutions for serious offenders, underlining a move towards a zero-tolerance policy on tax evasion.

Transparency and the adoption of advanced technology form another key pillar of the recommendations, as the IMF stresses the need to modernize Pakistan's tax administration system to better track revenue flows and plug loopholes exploited by evaders. The use of digital tools is seen as essential to create a more efficient and accountable tax environment.

In addition to enforcement measures, the IMF is advocating for a broadening of the tax base by calling for the removal of all existing

tax exemptions, including those granted on solar panels, a sector previously encouraged under green energy policies. There are also suggestions to impose an 18 percent general sales tax (GST) on agricultural essentials such as fertilizers, pesticides, and machinery. This marks a significant shift given the sensitive nature of agriculture in Pakistan's economy.

Furthermore, the fund recommends increasing federal excise duties on agricultural inputs and equipment, while simultaneously proposing hikes on luxury goods, with the sales tax on such items expected to rise above the current 25 percent rate.

Missing youth found safe after Karachi police operation

By Aziz Khatri

KARACHI: Karachi's Deputy Inspector General (South), Asad Raza, has confirmed the safe recovery of Hasan Javed Solangi, the son of an intelligence agency officer, following a police operation in Pak Colony. Hasan Javed, a resident of the Darkshan area, was traced by South District police after going missing amid reports that initially sparked fears of kidnapping.

According to Asad Raza, the young man had left his home voluntarily due to personal family issues. It was also revealed that Hasan Javed had previously undergone treatment at a rehabilitation center. Despite these circumstances, a kidnapping case was registered at Darkshan police station at the request of his father, reflecting the family's concerns during his absence.

The successful location of Hasan Javed has brought relief amid the initial anxieties surrounding his disappearance. Authorities continue to stress the importance of addressing sensitive family matters with care while ensuring public confidence in the police's responsiveness to such cases.

Bangladesh sees fresh protests calling for swift polls

News Desk

DHAKA: Protests have erupted once again across Bangladesh, with demonstrators demanding immediate elections amid a tense political atmosphere. In Dhaka, crowds are pressing the current interim government to hold polls without further delay, underscoring widespread frustration with ongoing political uncertainty.

Dr Muhammad Yunus, who heads the interim government, is currently on an official visit to Japan. He assumed office in August 2024 after then-Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed fled to India following mass protests the previous year.

NEPRA mulls electricity price increase for April supply

The CPPA's April data highlights mounting cost pressures in electricity generation as 1.051 billion units were produced, with 1.019 billion units supplied nationwide

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan faces the prospect of yet another increase in electricity prices as the national regulator, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), prepares to hold a hearing tomorrow on a request to raise electricity rates for the month of April. The Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA), responsible for buying electricity on behalf of distribution companies, has formally applied for a rate increase of Rs 1.27 per unit.

The CPPA's data for April reveals the growing cost pressures on electricity generation. A total of 1.051 billion units of electricity were produced during the month, of which 1.019 billion units were supplied to power companies across the country.

The average cost per unit stood at Rs 8.95, notably higher than the reference cost of Rs 7.68 set by the regulator. This gap in cost has prompted the re-



quest for a price hike, which if approved, will inevitably be passed on to consumers.

An analysis of the electricity production mix for April shows a diversified energy portfolio, but one increasingly burdened by costly fuel sources. Hydropower accounted for 21.94 percent of generation, while local coal contributed 14.51 percent and imported coal 10.02 percent. Other sources included furnace oil at less than 1 percent, local gas at 8.01 percent, imported liquefied natural gas (LNG) at 20.52 percent, and nuclear power provided a significant 17.91 percent.

Federal Minister for En-

ergy, Owais Laghari, has voiced serious concerns regarding several recent decisions taken by the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), warning that these could lead to a heavier financial burden on electricity consumers across Pakistan.

In an official statement, Laghari highlighted the Ministry of Energy's strong reservations about NEPRA's rulings, which risk affecting federal subsidies and tariffs amid an already strained energy sector. He pointed out that key generation tariff issues, pending since December 2024, remain unresolved and under review.

Fazl hails Pakistan's nuclear milestone in Muslim world

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Maulana Fazl ur Rehman, the leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F), voiced deep pride in Pakistan's distinction as the first nuclear power in the Muslim world during his message on Youm-e-Takbeer, the day marking Pakistan's nuclear tests. He underscored the nation's commitment to fiercely protecting its defence capabilities, warning unequivocally that no threat would be tolerated against the country's security.

In his address, Maulana Fazl ur Rehman urged Pakistanis to raise a united and powerful voice in support of oppressed Muslims around



the globe, placing special emphasis on the plight of Palestinians. He highlighted the critical need for solidarity with Muslim communities facing injustice and persecution, framing this support as both a moral and religious imperative.

Beyond defence and in-

ternational concerns, the JUI-F chief reiterated his party's ongoing commitment to the vision of transforming Pakistan into an Islamic welfare state founded on justice, equity, and the principles of Islam. He reminded the nation that the creation of Pakistan was forged

through the sacrifices of millions of Muslims and insisted that defending the country remains a sacred duty, inseparable from religious faith.

Maulana Fazl ur Rehman's remarks weave together religious conviction and political determination, urging Pakistanis to unite not only to safeguard the country's sovereignty but also to champion the rights of Muslims worldwide. His message reflects a broader narrative within Pakistan's political discourse, where national security, faith, and global Muslim solidarity are deeply intertwined and seen as essential pillars of the nation's identity.

Azerbaijan pledges \$2bn investment in Pakistan

News Desk

LACHIN: Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev has unveiled a landmark \$2 billion investment plan for Pakistan, highlighting the growing strategic partnership between Azerbaijan, Pakistan, and Turkey.

Speaking at the recent trilateral summit attended by leaders from all three nations, Aliyev emphasized the enduring historical and cultural bonds that unite them. He also paid tribute to the vital support extended by Pakistan and Turkey during the 2020 conflict, describing it as a testament to their shared commitment and solidarity.

This ambitious investment initiative signals a new phase in regional cooperation, with economic collaboration expected to deepen alongside existing political and cultural ties. The announcement not only reinforces the trilateral alliance but also points to a shared vision of prosperity and stability that these countries are striving to achieve together.

British delegation praises Sindh's investor-friendly framework

By Zahid Karani

KARACHI: A high-level delegation from the British High Commission, led by Head of Development Jo Moir, met with Sindh's Minister for Energy, Development,

and Planning, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, at Ali House in Karachi to explore expanding investment opportunities across Sindh's economic sectors. The meeting, seen as a significant step toward enhancing UK-Pakistan economic collaboration, reflected growing international interest in the province's potential.



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Minister Nasir Shah described Sindh as a land of abundant opportunity, particularly in the fields of development, agriculture, and energy. He credited Chairman Bilawal Bhutto's forward-looking leadership and the Sindh government's investor-friendly poli-

cies for creating an environment of confidence among both local and foreign investors. "Investors are engaging here without fear or hesitation, owing to the security and incentives provided by the government," he remarked.

The British delegation, which included Noam Rosenbaum, Second Secretary at the British Deputy High Commission in Karachi, and the Senior Political Advisor to the Program, commended Sindh's efforts in establishing a robust framework for investor facilitation.

They acknowledged the Department of Energy, Development, and Planning's key role in fostering regional economic growth and underlined the importance of secure and stable conditions to attract long-term foreign investment.

Polio drive continues as 56pc of children vaccinated

By Asghar Ali Mubarak

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's third national polio vaccination campaign of the year has now reached its third day, with authorities reporting that just over half of the targeted children have received the vaccine so far. According to the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC), 56 percent of children under five have been vaccinated during the first two days of the drive.

The campaign's progress varies significantly across the country's provinces and



regions. Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have reported the highest coverage, each reaching 60 percent. In contrast, Sindh trails behind with only 47 percent of children

vaccinated. Balochistan stands at 53 percent, while Islamabad reports 46 percent coverage. The more remote regions of Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu

and Kashmir have shown promising results, achieving 64 percent coverage.

The NEOC highlighted that this campaign is running concurrently with a similar drive in Afghanistan, underscoring the critical need for coordinated cross-border efforts to halt the spread of the polio virus.

Given the virus's persistence in the environment, health officials emphasized the ongoing risk it poses, particularly to young children. Parents have been urged to cooperate fully with vaccination teams and to

ensure that their children receive polio drops in every campaign.

The NEOC framed immunization not just as a health measure but as a national responsibility, appealing to families across Pakistan to participate actively in the fight against this preventable disease. Despite challenges, the campaign continues to push forward, reflecting Pakistan's longstanding commitment to eradicating polio—a goal that remains urgent as the country battles persistent outbreaks.