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MORNING NEWS BRIEF

Your Essential Guide to the Day's Happenings

POLITICS & GOVERNANCE

- Several people lost their lives in [a clash between Army troops and activists of Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement \(PTM\)](#) in North Waziristan. Army's media directorate, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), and PTM accused each other of violence. In separate incident in Waristan, [a soldier lost his life](#), while some dead bodies were also recovered.
- In a [telephonic conversation](#) Prime Minister Imran Khan congratulated Indian Premier Narendra Modi on BJP's land slide victory in Lok Sabha elections on May 23. Mr. Khan expressed his deep desire to work together with Mr Modi for peace and prosperity in the region.
- Pakistan and China inaugurated a number of projects and signed multiple agreements during the [visit of Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan](#). The Chinese leader, while opening his Pakistan trip, said that Pak-China friendship would remain unaffected by international developments.
- Prime Minister Imran Khan, during a visit to Karachi, signaled at his party's lack of interest in the [division of Sindh](#), if a local government system similar to the one in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was to be implemented there.
- Prime Minister Imran Khan told Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif that Pakistan would like to see an end to [Iran's confrontation with US and its Arab allies](#) through the implementation of international law and dialogue.
- Science and Technology Ministry has launched a [lunar calendar](#) to end the controversy over moon sighting. The new calendar would be presented before the Cabinet for its approval on Wednesday and has been referred to Council of Islamic Ideology as well.
- Pakistan Muslim League (N) is [seeking investigations into a scandal](#) involving Chairman National Accountability Bureau Justice Javed Iqbal.

ECONOMY

- Next fiscal year's budget would focus on fiscal consolidation, austerity, and additional revenue generation. The government is planning [to increase revenue target for next fiscal year to Rs5.55 trillion from the current year's revised estimate of Rs4.1 trillion](#).
- In a meeting to review budget proposals, [Federal Board of Revenue \(FBR\) has been directed to make tax collection process easier and initiate measures for broadening the tax base](#).

SOUTH ASIA

- In what appears to be a first incident of terrorism in a relatively peaceful Himalayan state, [four people were killed and around seven others injured in Kathmandu \(Nepal\)](#), in three separate explosions allegedly carried out by a splinter group of former Maoist rebels.
- After securing an indomitable majority in the parliament, experts believe that Modi-led BJP can play a pivotal role in [achieving its nationalist goals of "New India" vision](#). Newly-elected Prime Minister of India has pledged to strengthen economy and play a more influential role in international affairs.
- The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan has expressed its deep concerns over the findings pertaining to the [Taliban inhumanly treating its detainees](#) and going as far as killing their inmates.

CHINA

- A study published in the journal Nature has accused China of violating a global production ban by increasing [the ratio of ozone-depleting substances \(ODS\) from its northeast factories](#). It is pertinent to notice that Trichlorofluoromethane, also known as CFC-11, is now banned under the Montreal Protocol in order to protect the Earth's ozone layer by completing finishing it all over the world.
- Thousands of protestors in Hong Kong, as part of their annual demonstrations aimed at demanding China to be held accountable for its democracy [crackdown at Tiananmen Square some three decades ago](#), organized a long march in Hong Kong. It was reported that hundreds of protestors were killed when Chinese tanks and armed forces entered Tiananmen Square firing indiscriminately to suppress the student-led democracy protests on the night of June 3, 1989.

- Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, on a visit to Iraq, has categorically [maintained Iran's right to defending itself in the face of any possible military or economic aggression from the US](#). He urged the European states to maintain the dwindling nuclear deal and offered a non-aggression pact to its Gulf neighbours. His Iraqi counterpart Mohammed al-Hakim also opposed the American unilateral economic sanctions on Iran and expressed Iraq's desire to act as a mediatory state for easing out mounting tensions in the Gulf region.
- Islamic Hamas Movement, in its unequivocal rejection of the U.S.-sponsored economic conference going to be held in Bahrain next month, has urged Palestinians to boycott it. [It also rejected the American initiative of Deal of the Century](#), aimed at solving the Palestinian problem, with equal force calling it an unjustified and biased adventure in favour of Israel.



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