

Please feel free to forward to friends



# MORNING NEWS BRIEF

Your Essential Guide to the Day's Happenings

## POLITICS & GOVERNANCE

- In its first explanation on the North Waziristan incident involving Army and Pashteen Tahafuz Movement (PTM), in which several people lost their lives on Sunday, the defense ministry said [military troops acted out of self-defense](#) after being attacked by a mob. Meanwhile, speaking in the parliament, Communications Minister Murad Saeed blamed one of the members of National Assembly [Mohsin Dawar for provoking the situation](#). Meanwhile, [the National Assembly \(NA\) witnessed a ruckus](#) when treasury and opposition members accused each other of poorly managing the tribal areas. The opposition members suggested formation of a parliamentary committee for probing the grievances of the tribal areas and resolving them.
- [A Special anti-terrorism court \(ATC\) has remanded MNA Ali Wazir](#) in the custody of the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) for eight days. The first information report (FIR), which is lodged against Mr Wazir, also contains names of MNA Mohsin Dawar along with seven other members of PTM. [In a separate report, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan \(HRCP\)](#) while protesting the arrest of MNA Wazir, has also called for setting up a parliamentary commission for inquiring into the matter.
- In the first-ever case heard in the history of Pakistan by the Supreme Court (SC) via e-Court, a system based on video-link connectivity, [an inquiry against three Sindh High Court judges](#) was initiated for not entertaining an application for pre-arrest bail by a murder suspect, Mohammad at Shahdadpur, submitted some three years ago.

## ECONOMY

- Rupee has gained further against US dollar in the currency market after a sharp devaluation last week. It was valued at Rs149.50 on Monday. The increase in rupee value was [apparently due to falling demand for dollar and a surge in dollar's supply](#) as remittances from overseas Pakistanis increased. Another reason for the encouraging development was State Bank of Pakistan (SBP)'s groundbreaking steps aimed at tightening the rules and regulations for opening letters of credits (LC) for imports.
- A senior official at the Ministry of Commerce, while expressing his opposition to the idea of ending zero tax on the export industry maintained that economic [situation was not so dismal as depicted by the media](#). He was of the view that despite a marked decline in international trade by 3%, Pakistan had managed to maintain its exports without any slowdown. Talks on IMF's conditions for reforms, imports, Pak-Iran border markets, and trade with Japan had also taken place.
- [An agreement, aimed at boosting the bilateral trade volume to \\$300m](#) was signed between Pakistan and Uzbekistan during the two-day official visit of Uzbekistan's Deputy Prime Minister Elyor Ganiev to Pakistan. Discussion on the transport railway corridor from Uzbekistan to Peshawar via Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif were also held.

## SOUTH ASIA

- [India did not invite Prime Minister Imran Khan to Modi's swearing-in ceremony](#). The External Affairs Ministry of India confirmed that leaders of Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Bhutan — all members of the little-known Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) alongside India — were invited to Modi's swearing-in. Both leaders, however, still have an opportunity to engage themselves in a talk at a Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit going to be held in Kyrgyzstan next month.
- Due to an [unprecedented surge, almost threefold in just last year, in attacks on schools in Afghanistan](#), ensuring education for children has become an increasingly arduous task, claimed the United Nation's children fund UNICEF. It was reported that owing to sudden rise in attacks, around 68 in 2017 to 192 last year, more than 1000 schools around the country remained closed due to pervasive security threats haunting the children.

- With the arrests of eight more Palestinians in an overnight raid by the Israeli forces, the total number of Palestinians languishing in Israeli jails, including hundreds of women and minors, [has soared up to 5,700](#), reported Palestinian officials.
- Saudi King Salman, in what is said to be an unexpected move, has extended an invitation to Qatar's emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, [to attend the emergency Gulf Cooperation Council \(GCC\) summit going to be held on May 30](#). In addition to cutting off their ties; a land, sea, and air blockade was imposed on Qatar by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its allies in June 2017 accusing the Gulf state of supporting terrorism and proscribed opposition movements, like Muslim Brotherhood.
- In a dramatic change of events, [American President Donald Trump has hinted on possibility of signing a deal with Iran](#). He is on his four-day visit to Japan where Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has also assured him of Japan's positive role in dousing the simmering hostilities in the Persian Gulf.



LATEST ARTICLES ON [ISLAMABAD POLICY INSTITUTE](#).

[BRI & CPEC:  
Venturing into the  
Future](#)

[BY Faisal Ahmed](#)

[PRELIMINARY  
Assessment: Indian  
Lok Sabha Elections  
2019](#)

[By IPI](#)

[India's Anti-Satellite  
Test](#)

[By Asma Khalid](#)

This email was sent by [ISLAMABAD POLICY INSTITUTE](#).



## ABOUT US

© 2019 Islamabad Policy Institute. | All Rights Reserved.

Contact us: [contact@ipipk.org](mailto:contact@ipipk.org)