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February 26, 2021: National / International [Current Affairs](#)

1. All Senate candidates from Punjab elected unopposed

- There will be no polling for the 11 Senate seats from Punjab as all the candidates for three categories seven general and two seats each reserved for women and technocrats stand elected unopposed after disqualification or withdrawal of papers by other contestants.
 - Five seats each have gone to the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) and opposition Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), while one has been grabbed by the PML Quaid, an ally of the PTI
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2. Pakistan to stay on FATF grey list till June

- Pakistan will continue to stay on the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for another four months, i.e until June for three out of 27 unmet action plan targets on anti money laundering and combating financing terror (AML/CFT).
 - `Pakistan remains in the increased monitoring list (the grey list),` announced FATF President Dr Marcus Pleyer while appreciating that the country had made significant progress on all aspects of AML/CFT action plan `but severe deficiencies still remain relating` to terror financing
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3. Pakistan, India agree on LoC ceasefire

- Pakistan and India on February 25, 2021 said that they had recommitted themselves to the 2003 ceasefire arrangement at the Line of Control and agreed to address the `core issues` that could undermine peace and stability.
 - The surprise announcement was made in a joint statement by the militaries of the two countries on a `hotline contact` between their directors general military operations (DGMOs), which had apparently taken place a day earlier.
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4. Schools back to regular classes from March 1

- With the number of Covid-19 cases declining across the country, federal Minister for Education Shafqat Mahmood on February 25, 2021 announced that the restrictions imposed on schools in some major cities to conduct three-day classes in a week had been removed.
 - During the ongoing second wave of the pandemic, the country saw over 3,000 cases daily the number has now come down to around 1,300.
 - The federal and provincial governments had in a meeting at the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) last month allowed educational institutions to reopen as per their routine, but schools in four urban centres Karachi, Hyderabad, Lahore and Peshawar were allowed to open schools only three days a week.
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5. Pakistan joins Madrid system to protect trademarks

- In a major development, Pakistan has formally joined the Madrid System to protect Pakistani trademarks in 124 member countries making it easier and effective for brand owners to get protection in export markets.
 - With the accession to the Madrid Protocol, the trademark holders of Pakistan will be able to protect their trademarks in the member countries by filing a single application at World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) whereby facilitating ease of doing business
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6. WHO donates vehicles to Ministry of Health

- World Health Organisation (WHO) country office on February 25, 2021 donated vehicles

to the Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) to strengthen country's response to novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

- Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health Dr. Faisal Sultan was the chief guest on the occasion.
 - The donation of 37 ambulances, 125 motorbikes and 12 double cabins was handed over by WHO Representative to Pakistan Dr. Palitha Mahipala to SAPM Dr. Faisal Sultan
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7. China declares victory in tackling poverty

- Chinese President Xi Jinping on February 25, 2021 declared his country had achieved the 'human miracle' of eliminating extreme poverty, though questions continue to surround the Communist Party's criteria for making the claim.
 - In a glitzy ceremony in Beijing, Xi bestowed medals on officials from rural communities, some wearing traditional ethnic-minority attire, and promised to share this 'Chinese example' with other developing nations.
 - 'No other country can lift hundreds of millions of people out of poverty in such a short time,' Xi said
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8. Bahraini crown prince calls Israel PM on nuclear talks with Iran

- Bahrain's crown prince spoke with the Israeli prime minister on February 25, 2021 about the return to nuclear talks with Iran, Bahrain's state-run news agency reported, as the US administration tries to revive the tattered 2015 nuclear accord.
 - Bahraini Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, also the country's prime minister, stressed to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu the importance of the participation of regional countries in any negotiations on the Iranian nuclear file to support security and stability in the region, according to the official Bahrain News Agency
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9. Armenia PM takes to the streets to denounce 'coup attempt'

- Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan accused the military of an attempted coup and brought supporters to the streets on February 25, 2021, as months of tensions over its defeat in last year's war with Azerbaijan came to a head.

- Addressing some 20,000 supporters in central Yerevan, Pashinyan told military officers it was their duty to “obey the people” after top generals issued a statement calling on him to resign. There were no signs of any military action against Pashinyan after the statement by the general staff, which he denounced as an attempted coup
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10. India crush England inside two days as chaos reigns in day-night Test

- India`s Axar Patel claimed an 11-wicket match haul as they beat England by 10 wickets inside two days in the day night third Test on February 25, 2021, dashing the tourists` hopes of making the final of the inaugural World Test Championship (WTC) in June.
 - On a viciously turning track, England were shot out for 81 in the second innings, their lowest ever total against India, who had suffered their own first-innings collapse on a chaotic day at the Narendra Modi Stadium
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