

DAILY PAKISTAN WATCH

09-11 May 2026

Security

- ◆ **Strengthening Pakistan-Bangladesh Security Ties**— Pakistan and Bangladesh signed a memorandum of understanding to **combat drug trafficking, smuggling and abuse**, with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Bangladeshi Interior Minister Salahuddin Ahmed agreeing to enhance cooperation. The MoU commits both nations to **exchange intelligence, share training, and adopt modern technology** to disrupt narcotics networks. A secretary-level joint working group will advance collaboration, while discussions also covered **counterterrorism, cybercrime, organised crime, and human smuggling**. Naqvi pledged support for Bangladesh’s Safe City project and invited Ahmed to visit Pakistan. (*The Express Tribune*, [10 May 2026](#))
- ◆ **Australia Imposes Sanctions on BLA**— Australia has imposed **counterterrorism financing sanctions** on the banned Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and its senior leaders for their involvement in terrorist attacks in Pakistan. Foreign Affairs Minister **Penny Wong** said the BLA has carried out “violent terror attacks” targeting civilians, infrastructure, and foreign nationals, stressing that sanctions aim to **cut off financial support and dismantle extremist networks**. Breaches of sanctions laws carry heavy fines and up to 10 years’ imprisonment. The move follows the US designation of BLA and its Majeed Brigade as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation (*The News*, [9 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Security Forces Neutralise Khwarij in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**— Pakistan’s security forces eliminated **five Khwarij militants** in two separate intelligence-based operations in Tank and Dera Ismail Khan districts, according to the **Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR)**. Four militants linked to the Indian-sponsored *Fitna-al-Khwarij* group were killed in Tank after an intense exchange of fire, while one was neutralised in DI Khan. **Weapons and ammunition were recovered**, and sanitisation operations are underway. ISPR affirmed that the counterterrorism campaign under “*Azm-e-Istehkam*” will continue to eradicate foreign-sponsored terrorism from the country (*The News*, [9 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Pakistani Expert Warns of Ecological Fallout**—At the **American Fisheries Society conference in Portland**, Pakistani academic **Dr. Muhammad Naem Khan** cautioned that India’s **2025 suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)** could have severe ecological consequences for Pakistan. His presentation highlighted risks to **river systems, aquatic biodiversity, fisheries, and the Indus Delta ecosystem**. Dr. Khan noted that halting treaty cooperation and data-sharing has already altered river flows, particularly in the **Chenab River**, where upstream reservoir releases declined sharply in May–June 2025, causing abnormal downstream reductions. He warned that such disruptions threaten wetlands, endangered species, and livelihoods dependent on the Indus Basin (*The News*, [9 May 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Tragedy in Bannu: Police Post Destroyed**—At least **15 police personnel were martyred** in a devastating suicide attack on the Fateh Khel police post in Bannu, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Militants rammed a vehicle laden with explosives, followed by heavy gunfire and drone use, leaving the post completely destroyed. **Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi** mourned the “courageous sons of the soil” who sacrificed their lives, affirming that “such cowardly acts can never weaken our resolve.” Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari condemned the attack, pledging unity against terrorism. (*Dawn*, [10 May 2026](#))
- ◆ **Escalation of TTP Attacks in Khyber Region:** On **9–10 May 2026**, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed **28 attacks across multiple provinces**, targeting military convoys, forts, checkpoints, and police posts. Operations were concentrated in **North and South Waziristan**, with additional strikes in **Tank, Bajaur, Dera Ismail Khan, Mohmand, Khyber, and Peshawar**. Tactics included **ambushes, sniper fire, mortar and grenade launcher attacks, and landmines**, resulting in reported casualties, destruction of vehicles, and damage to security infrastructure. The group’s propaganda emphasised martyrdom and framed Pakistani forces as “anti-Sharia” or “foreign-sponsored.” These incidents highlight the **persistent insurgency threat in tribal districts**. ([Telegram](#))

Date	District	Area	Attack Type	Reported Impact
9 May	North Waziristan	Guryum, Shewa, Spin Wam, Boya	Ambush, landmine, mortar	Truck destroyed, 7 killed, factory hit
9 May	South Waziristan	Tiarza, Toi, Ladha	Guerrilla, sniper, missile	3 killed, fort damaged
9 May	Tank	Khas Tank	Sniper, clash	Several killed, 2 militants dead
9 May	Bajaur	Wara Mamond	Sniper	1 killed
9 May	D.I. Khan	Kulachi	Grenade launcher	Casualties likely
9 May	Mohmand	Anbar	Gunfire	Police officer killed
9 May	Peshawar	Badh Bera	Grenade	Casualties likely
10 May	South Waziristan	Tiarza, Shaktoi, Ladha, Zarmilana	Guerrilla, sniper	5 killed, posts damaged
10 May	North Waziristan	Guryum	Ambush	5 killed, 2 injured, vehicles destroyed
10 May	Bajaur	Wara Mamond	Mortar, direct assault	Posts damaged
10 May	Tank	Special Tank	Targeted killing	Police officer killed
10 May	Khyber	Tirah Maidan	Sniper	1 killed
10 May	D.I. Khan	Daraban	Grenade launcher	Casualties likely
10 May	Peshawar	FR Peshawar	Arrest/release	Officer released under conditions

Economy

- ◆ **IMF Stresses Energy Pricing Discipline for Pakistan**—The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved **\$1.3 billion in tranches** for Pakistan, emphasising that **fuel, electricity and gas prices must remain aligned with actual costs** despite volatile commodity markets. Vulnerable consumers are to be protected through targeted subsidies. The IMF projected GDP growth at 3.5pc for FY27, with inflation rebounding to 8.4pc and reserves reaching \$17.5 billion by June 2026. Deputy Managing Director **Nigel Clarke** praised Pakistan’s reform implementation but urged **continued vigilance and structural reforms** to ensure sustainable growth. (*The News*, [10 May 2026](#))
- ◆ **Karachi Property Market Surges Amid Middle East Turmoil**—Karachi’s real estate sector, particularly **DHA Phase 8**, has seen property prices rise by **30–40pc in two months**, as investors shift capital from Dubai following instability caused by the US-Israeli war on Iran. **Mohammed Sohail**, CEO of Topline Securities, noted that challenges in Dubai’s market have redirected Pakistani investment home. **Ahmed Owais Thanvi** of ABAD confirmed inflated demand, with plots doubling in value. Analysts say geopolitical uncertainty and higher interest rates have revived local property activity, though some investors are eyeing Cyprus instead (*The News*, [9 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **IMF Budget Talks to Impose New Taxes**— Pakistan and the IMF will begin talks Wednesday to finalise next year’s budget, including **Rs230 billion in net additional taxes**. The government plans a new trader scheme imposing **1% turnover tax**, with thresholds around Rs300 million in annual sales. Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif** seeks relief for the salaried class and corporate sector, including abolishing the super tax and reducing corporate tax rates, but IMF conditions require compensating measures. **Nigel Clarke**, IMF Deputy MD, urged Pakistan to maintain strong policies amid Middle East turmoil. (*The Express Tribune*, [10 May 2026](#))
- ◆ **Gwadar’s Transformation Plan** —The Gwadar Development Authority has approved **mega projects worth Rs280 billion** to be launched in phases under the Gwadar Master Plan (2025–35), aiming to transform the port city into a **modern, smart, eco-friendly and globally competitive hub**. Presided over by GDA Director General Moeenur Rehman Khan, the meeting finalised a 10-year programme integrating ongoing initiatives. Deputy Director Abdul Razzaq expressed hope the plan would be included in the 2026–27 budget, ensuring effective implementation of Gwadar’s long-term vision. (*Dawn*, [11 May 2026](#))

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Afghanistan’s Triple Failure Under Taliban Rule**—In this opinion piece, “**Afghanistan’s Stability?**” **Omay Aimen** argues that the Taliban’s claim of “stability” is contradicted by evidence of **legitimacy failure, security failure, and welfare failure**. The UN Security Council Monitoring Team reports Taliban harbouring of TTP fighters, with over 600 attacks in Pakistan in 2025, costing Afghanistan about \$1 million daily in border closures. Despite GDP growth projections, per capita income is declining due to rapid population increase. **UNDP estimates 64.9% of Afghans are multidimensionally poor**, while systematic gender exclusion cripples’ economic potential. Aimen concludes Afghanistan faces decay under ideological rule (*The Nation*, [9 May 2026](#)).

- ◆ **Govt Rejects Reports of Targeted Deportations** —The government has dismissed claims of **targeted deportations of Pakistanis from the UAE**, calling them “vicious propaganda” spread by vested interests. The Interior Ministry clarified that deportations, if any, are routine processes linked to **visa violations, overstays or illegal documentation**, not country-specific measures. It stressed that Pakistani nationals continue to access work visas in the UAE without prejudice. The ministry added that “fake news being peddled” was malicious and fabricated, and any issues concerning nationals abroad are addressed through **Foreign Office channels** (*The News*, [9 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Prospects for Peace Between India and Pakistan** — In this “**Prospects for Peace?**” column, **Muhammad Amir Rana**, a security analyst, reflects on the enduring mistrust between India and Pakistan despite last year’s ceasefire. He notes that while US mediation briefly raised hopes, promised talks never materialised, leaving both countries projecting defence superiority through rhetoric. Limited Track 1.5 and Track 2 dialogues have occurred discreetly, but civil society voices for peace remain weak. Rana stresses that **terrorism has become the central issue**, yet Pakistan’s counterterrorism gains have improved its global standing. He concludes that optimism and informal contacts are the only fragile seeds of hope. (*Dawn*, [10 May 2026](#))
- ◆ **India’s Religious Freedom Crisis**— In its editorial titled “**India’s global shame**”, *Dawn* highlights India’s escalating intolerance under the BJP-led government, describing it as “**rabid communalism**” that erases religious freedoms for minorities and lower castes. The **US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)** has urged India’s designation as a “country of particular concern,” citing strict anti-conversion laws in 13 states and transnational repression of minorities. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi’s silence** is noted as reinforcing impunity. The editorial warns that India’s majoritarian project undermines secular ethos, fosters fear, and risks mass atrocities unless pluralism and institutional safeguards are restored. (*Dawn*, [10 May 2026](#))
- ◆ **Strengthening Ties with Beijing** — Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif** will pay a three-day official visit to China from **23–25 May**, marking a significant diplomatic engagement to deepen the **China-Pakistan strategic partnership**. He is scheduled to meet President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang, with talks focusing on **CPEC acceleration, economic collaboration, regional security, and new investment avenues**. The visit coincides with the **75th anniversary of diplomatic relations**, underscoring enduring ties. Analysts view the trip as vital for reinforcing trust and expanding long-term cooperation between the two allies. (*The Nation*, [11 May 2026](#))

Politics, Culture, Etc.

- ◆ **PML-N, PPP Set Stage for G-B Electoral Contest** — With elections in Gilgit-Baltistan a month away, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has announced candidates for **19 of 24 seats**, intensifying competition with coalition ally Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), which unveiled its slate earlier. PML-N President **Nawaz Sharif** signed the notification, awarding tickets to key figures including former G-B chief minister Hafeezur Rehman. PPP, meanwhile, has fielded candidates across constituencies and issued reserved-seat priorities. Observers note the polls will signal shifts in coalition dynamics and establishment-backed currents (*The Express Tribune*, [10 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Wheat Shortages Exposed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**— Serious irregularities have been uncovered in the **Food Department’s wheat storage system**, with inspections revealing over **1,000 metric tons missing** from reserve centres in Bannu and Swat. At PRC Bannu, repeated reports now show

a total shortage of **391.176 metric tons**, while PRC Swat inspections found **633.200 metric tons untraceable** under FG-3 (Procurement). A senior official described the repeated shortages as “highly alarming.” Director Food Khyber Pakhtunkhwa **Mohsin Iqbal** said special committees are investigating, promising **strict legal action if irregularities are confirmed** (*The News*, [10 May 2026](#)).

- ◆ **‘AJK’ Election Commission Reports Major Progress on Voter Lists**— The ‘Azad’ Jammu and Kashmir Election Commission has claimed that **around 90pc of discrepancies in electoral rolls have been rectified**, with the election schedule to be announced in mid-May. At a meeting chaired by Chief Election Commissioner **retired Justice Ghulam Mustafa Mughal**, officials said most errors, stemming from technical issues during data integration with Nadra, had been corrected. Justice Mughal stressed that **transparent rolls are essential for free, fair and impartial elections**, while Deputy Commissioner Bagh Asim Khalid Awan confirmed 167,000 voters had initially been omitted. (*Dawn*, [10 May 2026](#))
- ◆ **Temple Transformed into School in Khanewal**— A nearly century-old **Sanatan Dharam Temple in Khanewal**, once a vibrant Hindu worship site before partition, now serves as **Government MC Primary School 4-G**, reflecting the city’s evolving social landscape. Established around 1925, the temple housed shrines to Shiva and Krishna and hosted festivals like Holi and Diwali. Local elder **Nasir Qureshi** recalled its role as a centre for prayers and bhajans, while researcher **Prof Ajmal Siddiqui** described it as a cultural hub. Education officials noted many abandoned religious sites were repurposed as schools after 1947. (*The Express Tribune*, [10 May 2026](#))
- ◆ **PML-N weighs candidates for ‘AJK’ polls**— In Lahore, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz convened its parliamentary board chaired by **Nawaz Sharif** with senior leaders including **Shehbaz Sharif, Ishaq Dar and Maryam Nawaz** to deliberate ticket allocation for the upcoming Azad Jammu and Kashmir elections. With **over 200 aspirants competing for 45 seats**, LA-11 Sehnsa drew the highest interest with 26 applicants after the death of Raja Naseer Ahmed Khan. **“The upcoming contest is likely between PML-N and PPP,”** observed former minister Mushtaq Minhas, noting PTI’s disarray in the region (*The Express Tribune*, [9 May 2026](#)).
- ◆ **Ban on Baloch Women’s Participation in Aurat March is State Fascism**— The Baloch Yekjehti Committee (BYC) has denounced the Sindh government’s decision to bar its participation in the Aurat March, calling it **“the height of state fascism”**. In a statement, BYC argued it has never been legally declared banned and described itself as a peaceful democratic movement against enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and alleged genocide in Balochistan. Leaders criticised the misuse of anti-terror laws against activists and urged global human rights institutions and democratic forces to support their struggle. (*Daily Sangar*, [10 May 2026](#))
- ◆ **Punjab’s Minority Funds Debate**— The allocation of **Rs2 billion in Punjab’s development budget for restoring 17 gurdwaras** has ignited debate over minority policy and resource distribution. Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan criticised the Ministry of Minority Affairs, stressing that funds should prioritise **basic needs like water, sanitation, and healthcare**. PML-N’s Baba Falbous Christopher argued Christians were overlooked, while PPP’s Basro Jee claimed Hindu allocations were withdrawn. Minister Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora defended the move, citing global religious tourism and interfaith harmony. Critics highlight constitutional questions of federal versus provincial responsibility. (*The Express Tribune*, [10 May 2026](#))

- ◆ **Development Push in 'AJK'** — 'Azad' Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister **Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore** laid the foundation stone of a Rs1 billion 132/11 KV grid station in Samahni, near the Line of Control, to benefit around **145,000 residents long deprived of standard electricity supply**. He also inaugurated a Rs680 million road project and welcomed two former PML-N leaders into the PPP. At a public reception, Mr Rathore declared the PPP "a party of martyrs" and claimed his government had restored public confidence through democratic institutions. (*Dawn*, [11 May 2026](#))



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