

DAILY PAKISTAN WATCH

06-08 June 2026

Security

- ◆ **Afghanistan's choice**— The Editorial argues that Pakistan's patience with the Afghan Taliban is diminishing over Kabul's alleged failure to curb the TTP. **While Islamabad remains committed to dialogue, it insists that "no sovereign state can be expected to tolerate cross-border terrorism indefinitely" and reserves the right to self-defence.** Reports that Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhundzada ordered the TTP to halt attacks have not convinced Pakistan, as violence persists. **The Board contends that Afghanistan risks deeper isolation if it continues "to prioritise relationships with militant groups" instead of tackling terrorism and addressing severe humanitarian and economic crises.** (*The News*, [06 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Lebanon army chief to meet CDF Munir**— Lebanese army chief **Rodolphe Haykal** departed Beirut for Pakistan to meet **Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir**, with sources telling AFP the visit is linked to Pakistan's mediation efforts in the ongoing **Iran-US talks**. The Lebanese military confirmed Haykal travelled at Munir's invitation, while a source stressed that **"Lebanon is a critical part of the negotiations."** The visit comes amid heightened tensions, after three Lebanese soldiers were killed in an Israeli strike and a conditional truce was announced in Washington. (*The Express Tribune*, [07 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **India's Nicobar Islands & Chinese Options**— Retired Lt Col **Sayed Ahmad Nadeem Qadri** highlights the \$12.5 billion Nicobar Island Project as a strategic hub near the Strait of Malacca, designed to bolster India's maritime posture and reduce reliance on foreign transshipment ports. With deep-water facilities at **Galathea Bay**, expanded airport infrastructure, and a 450MW power complex, the project could enhance India's surveillance and rapid deployment capabilities. Analysts see it as part of India's Indo-Pacific strategy amid China's growing naval footprint. Yet, Qadri notes that Beijing retains alternatives, particularly through the **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**, which offers direct access to the Arabian Sea via Gwadar and could be accelerated through railway modernisation and logistics upgrades. (*The Nation*, [07 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **27 khawarij killed in North Waziristan**— Security forces, in a series of **intelligence-based operations** in Miran Shah, North Waziristan, eliminated **27 militants of Fitna-al-Khawarij** over the past 72 hours, according to an ISPR statement. The group, described as **'Indian-sponsored'**, was involved in terrorist activities including the target killing of **Shaheed Malik Saifullah Dawar**. Weapons and ammunition were recovered, and sanitisation operations continue under the counterterrorism campaign **"Azm-e-Istehkam."** President **Asif Ali Zardari** praised the forces, calling the operation a "significant step forward" in the national struggle against terrorism. (*The Nation*, [08 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan, China and the Middle East war** — Former caretaker finance minister and ex-World Bank vice president **Shahid Javed Burki** examines how the Iran-US conflict has reshaped regional diplomacy. He notes that Pakistan hosted marathon talks in Islamabad led by **US Vice-President JD Vance**, though they failed to bridge differences. On **March 31**, Pakistan and China issued a

five-point statement urging ceasefire, civilian protection and respect for the UN Charter. Burki highlights proposals for **CPEC-2**, linking Gwadar and Iran's Chabahar port, which could align Pakistan more closely with China, the Middle East and Central Asia. (*The Express Tribune*, [8 June 2026](#))

- ◆ **Pakistan at the crossroads of a new mineral war** — Senior foreign affairs correspondent **Kamran Yousaf** writes that global power struggles are shifting from oil to **rare earth minerals and critical resources**, which underpin modern technology, defence and AI infrastructure. He notes **US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's warning** that China's near-dominant control of mineral processing is a strategic vulnerability. Pakistan, with untapped reserves including **Reko Diq's copper and gold**, is attracting Western interest, but faces a dilemma: "Can Pakistan convert its mineral potential into economic opportunity without disrupting its long-standing relationship with China?" (*The Express Tribune*, [8 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan's energy insecurity** — Analyst **Anjum Ibrahim** outlines how global oil supply shocks, worsened by the Middle East conflict, have hit Pakistan hard as a major importer. The **IEA notes over 40 million Pakistanis lack electricity access**, while half the population still relies on biofuels for cooking. Electricity tariffs have doubled since 2020, driven by circular debt, flawed contracts with IPPs, and reliance on imported fuel. Ibrahim stresses that "**stability without structural reform is an illusion**," urging a rethink of tariff equalisation, privatisation, and inefficient subsidies to secure long-term energy resilience. (*Business Recorder*, [8 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Khyber Operation – 5 June 2026** — On 5 June 2026, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed **15 operations** across **eight provinces**. The attacks included **sniper fire, ambushes, guerrilla strikes, mortar shelling, mine blasts, and grenade assaults**, resulting in reported casualties, destruction of vehicles, and damage to surveillance equipment. **South Waziristan** witnessed five operations, including retaliatory strikes killing five personnel. **North Waziristan** saw harassing and sniper attacks, while **Bajaur** reported three soldiers killed in sniper fire. In **Lakki Marwat**, nearly a dozen were killed or wounded in an ambush. Other provinces, including **Khyber, Orakzai, Peshawar, and Diamer**, also faced targeted assaults and equipment seizures. (*Telegram*, 6 June 2026)

Table of Attacks

Province	District	Attack Type	Reported Impact
South Waziristan	Azam Warsak	Guerrilla	1 wounded
South Waziristan	Azam Warsak	Guerrilla	Casualties possible
South Waziristan	Azam Warsak	Laser-gun	Casualties possible
South Waziristan	Wana	Retaliatory ambush	5 killed, several wounded
South Waziristan	Ladha	Guerrilla	2 cameras destroyed
North Waziristan	Mir Ali	Harassing attack	Casualties possible
North Waziristan	Mir Ali	Harassing attack	2 positions destroyed, casualties
North Waziristan	Shewa	Sniper attack	Camera destroyed
Bajaur	Wara Mamund	Sniper attacks (2)	3 killed
Lakki Marwat	Tajori	Ambush	~12 killed/wounded
Khyber	Tirah Maidan	Sniper attack	1 killed, 1 wounded
Orakzai	Tal	Mine blast	Casualties reported

Province	District	Attack Type	Reported Impact
Peshawar	City District	Grenade attack	Casualties possible
Diamer (GB)	Tangir	Encampment raid	Equipment seized

Economy

- ◆ **Saudi Arabia plans crypto zone for Karachi**— A Saudi delegation has proposed establishing a **crypto and blockchain zone** on Karachi Port Trust’s prime 140-acre waterfront site, alongside other mega projects. An MoU was signed between **KPT, Saudi Business Council-Najd Gateway Holding Company, Arif Habib Dolmen REIT Management Ltd, and Pakistan Corporate Consortium** to develop a maritime business district. Plans include a **digital banking park, Islamic finance centre, marine logistics zone, smart port integration, hospitals, universities, and luxury commercial hubs**. Minister for Maritime Affairs **Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry** called the collaboration a “transformative opportunity” to position Karachi as a regional hub for commerce and investment. (*The Express Tribune*, [07 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Budget 26-27: stabilisation fatigue** — The *Business Recorder* editorial warns that Pakistan’s economy is struggling to balance stabilisation with growth. Despite heavy taxation, the **FBR continues to miss revenue targets**, while GDP growth remains below 4 percent. The piece stresses that “**stability without growth is an illusion**,” urging the government to broaden the tax base rather than overburden the formal sector and salaried class. Livestock, traders and retailers remain largely untaxed, while presumptive and minimum tax regimes discourage investment. Relief, lower rates, and structural reform are deemed essential. (*Business Recorder*, [8 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **CPEC-II: Pakistan must reset its mindset** — Political economist **Shakeel Ahmad Ramay** argues that while Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s recent visit to China reaffirmed the “**ironclad brotherhood**” between the two countries, Pakistan can only benefit from **CPEC-II** if it strengthens institutions and trusts indigenous expertise. He stresses that Pakistan must abandon reliance on external actors like the IMF, improve planning and execution, and empower the **Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives** to lead. “Pakistan must change its mindset... and place greater trust in indigenous knowledge and institutions.” (*The Express Tribune*, [8 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Budget 26-27: no relief in sight** — *Dawn* notes that the upcoming federal budget is unlikely to ease consumer hardship. Rising freight and insurance costs from the **US–Israel–Iran conflict** have already pushed up production expenses, while IMF-driven fiscal consolidation limits scope for subsidies or tax cuts. Business leaders warn that “**significant relief on essential commodities appears unlikely**,” with GST reduction ruled out and petroleum levies expected to persist. Wheat, flour, meat and fuel prices continue to climb, leaving salaried and low-income groups under mounting strain. (*Dawn*, [8 June 2026](#))

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Pakistan rebuffs Indian objections over G-B elections**— Pakistan’s Foreign Office **categorically rejected India’s remarks** on the upcoming Gilgit-Baltistan polls, calling them “baseless” and “politically motivated.” FO spokesperson **Tahir Andarabi** asserted that India remains in “illegal

occupation” of Jammu and Kashmir and accused New Delhi of being a “global leader in propagating fake narratives.” India’s foreign ministry had claimed G-B is an “integral part of India,” but Pakistan reiterated that Kashmir is the **longest unresolved issue on the UNSC agenda** and must be settled through a UN-supervised plebiscite. (*The Express Tribune*, [06 June 2026](#))

- ◆ **Naqvi calls for SCO security cooperation**— Interior Minister **Mohsin Naqvi** urged Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states to strengthen regional collaboration against terrorism, organised crime, narcotics trafficking, cybercrime, and terror financing. Addressing a meeting in Bishkek, he warned that criminal networks exploit **artificial intelligence, digital platforms, and cryptocurrency** to expand activities, stressing that “**shared threats demand shared solutions.**” Reaffirming Pakistan’s commitment to the “Shanghai Spirit,” Naqvi highlighted sacrifices in fighting extremism and called for enhanced intelligence-sharing, border security, and counter-narcotics cooperation. (*The Express Tribune*, [06 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Saudi, Pak Business Council show interest in motorway infrastructure investment**— Chairman **Prince Mansour Bin Muhammad Al Saud** of the Saudi-Pak Business Council expressed strong interest in exploring investment opportunities in Pakistan’s motorway projects during a meeting with Federal Minister for Communications **Abdul Aleem Khan**. Strategic partnerships were discussed for the **M-6 Sukkur-Hyderabad, M-10 Karachi Port, and M-13 Kharian-Rawalpindi Motorways**, described as commercially lucrative ventures. Abdul Aleem Khan assured Saudi investors of profitable models, emphasising that Pakistan’s expanding road network is vital for boosting regional trade. (*The News*, [06 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan, Russia agree to boost cooperation against illegal immigration, drug trafficking**— Interior Minister **Mohsin Naqvi** and Russian counterpart **Vladimir Kolokolov** signed agreements in Bishkek to curb illegal immigration and enhance collaboration against narcotics trafficking. Naqvi, attending the SCO interior ministers’ meeting, also held talks with Tajik, Uzbek, Kyrgyz, and Kazakh counterparts on **security cooperation, counterterrorism, and challenges linked to Afghanistan**, noting that around 25 terrorist organisations remain active there. The accords aim to strengthen repatriation processes, intelligence sharing, and joint strategies against transnational crime. (*The News*, [07 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Why India misread the Iran crisis ?**— Former ambassador **Asif Durrani** argues that Pakistan’s emergence as a credible mediator between Washington and Tehran, and India’s absence, reflects New Delhi’s own strategic missteps. India’s tilt towards Israel under **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** eroded its neutrality, while Pakistan’s balanced ties with Iran, Gulf states, China, and the US made it acceptable to all sides. Durrani notes that “**permanent confrontation is not a strategy,**” urging India to rethink its zero-sum approach towards Pakistan. Pakistan’s role underscores geography and diplomatic flexibility over sheer economic weight. (*The News*, [07 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Putin’s Pakistan puzzle** — **Muhammad Amir Rana** examines Vladimir Putin’s assertion that Pakistan is not controlled by China, arguing that Islamabad has long pursued a multi-vector foreign policy. **Rana contends that Pakistan’s challenge lies in maintaining trust among competing partners, particularly as ties with China deepen beyond economics into security and strategic cooperation.** He notes that Beijing seeks to keep Pakistan within its sphere of influence, while Russia views Pakistan as a channel for engagement with both Afghanistan and Washington. **The columnist concludes that “Pakistan will remain relevant to the US and Europe while**

maintaining close ties with West Asia”, even as its enduring strategic partnership with China shapes regional geopolitics. (*Dawn*, [07 June 2026](#))

- ◆ **Russia’s contradictory embrace of the Taliban** — Public policy expert **Amir Jahangir** highlights Moscow’s deepening military and security ties with Afghanistan’s Taliban regime, despite Russian intelligence repeatedly warning that Afghan territory hosts **“between 20,000 and 23,000 terrorists affiliated with more than twenty extremist organisations.”** This paradox, he argues, risks strengthening a government presiding over safe havens for ISIS-K, TTP and Al-Qaeda affiliates. “Russia’s Taliban gamble...is a test of whether geopolitical influence can be pursued without compromising counterterrorism principles.” The outcome will shape Eurasian security for years. (*The News* , [8 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Sharp rise in Pakistani asylum claims alarms UK envoy** — British High Commissioner **Jane Marriott** has expressed concern over the growing number of Pakistanis applying for asylum in the UK, warning that many are being deceived by **illegal agents offering false promises of settlement and financial gain.** She stressed that genuine applicants must use only official online systems, cautioning that fraudulent practices not only cause financial loss but also **“seriously damage applicants’ chances of future legal travel.”** Marriott urged reliance on lawful channels to ensure safety and eligibility. (*The Express Tribune*, [7 June 2026](#))

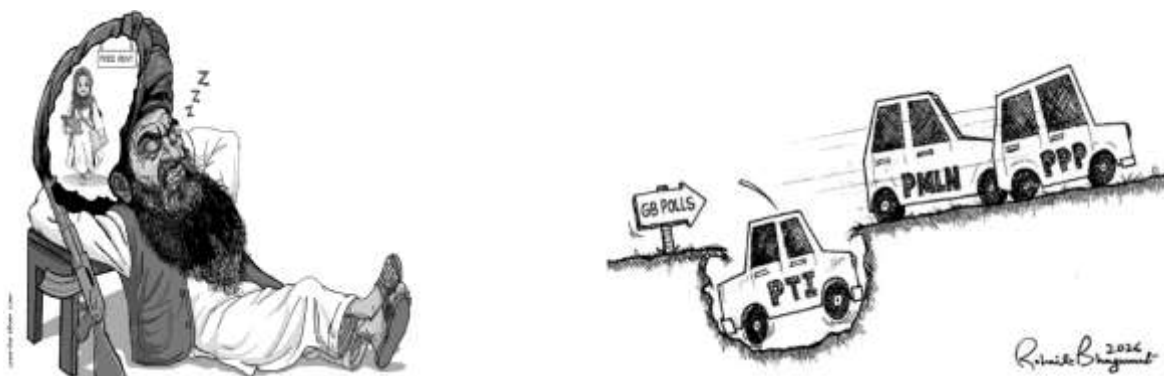
Politics, Culture, Etc.

- ◆ **Supreme Court’s cautious approach on Khan’s petitions** —The Supreme Court will hear the contempt matter over denial of meetings with PTI founder Imran Khan under its new case-fixation policy. PTI Secretary General **Salman Akram Raja** urged **Chief Justice Yahya Afridi to expedite hearings**, but the petition remains at number 60 on the cause list. Lawyers argue civil liberties cases are not being prioritised, while the government insists Khan meets his wife in jail. Analysts suggest meetings may resume only if Khan refrains from criticising the security establishment. (*The Express Tribune*, [05 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **State polls slated for July 27: ‘AJK’ govt bans JAAC under anti-terror law**— The ‘Azad’ Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Home Department has **proscribed the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC)** under Section 12 of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2014, citing activities “detrimental to peace and security.” The ban coincides with the ‘AJK’ Election Commission’s announcement of **general elections for 45 direct seats on 27 July 2026**, with Pakistan Army, Rangers, and police deployed to ensure transparency. Defence Minister **Khawaja Muhammad Asif** condemned demands to abolish reserved seats for Kashmiri migrants as “blackmail.” (*The News* , [06 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Australian assessment model flags high corruption risks in Pakistan’s infrastructure sector**— Transparency International Pakistan’s new report warns that despite a sound regulatory framework, **weak implementation, politically driven project selection, and reliance on non-competitive contracting** undermine governance in infrastructure. Pakistan scored **6.34/10 in the High ICRAT Risk category**, with a Rs10 trillion backlog of unfunded projects. TI Pakistan Executive Director **Kashif Ali** stressed the “structural gap between commitments and implementation,” while Chairman **Justice (R) Zia Perwez** urged coordinated reforms across the project lifecycle. (*The News*, [06 June 2026](#))

- ◆ **Satellite imagery reveals massive forest fire damage across central ‘AJK’**— High-resolution analysis by **Suparco** shows that devastating forest fires, fuelled by a severe heatwave, have scorched **3,176.7 hectares across 38 locations** in Sudhnoti, Kotli, and Poonch districts. Experts warn the ecological aftermath will be felt for years, with **wildlife breeding seasons disrupted, seedlings destroyed, and invasive fire-tolerant species threatening regeneration**. “These forests are the backbone of the regional watershed and climate stability. The scale of this damage demands urgent ecological restoration,” Suparco sources stressed. (*The News*, [06 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Failure of justice**— A 25-year-old mother, **Gullan Baro**, has been killed on the pretext of ‘honour’, exposing once again the **state’s failure to meet basic constitutional and moral obligations**. **Mohammed Sarwar Khan** argues that Pakistan’s justice system is “predatory,” incapable of balancing vast social disparities, and plagued by inefficiency, bias, and impunity. Citing **Aleena Khan’s** view that judges often let patriarchal biases seep into rulings, he calls for reforms including an inquisitorial system, institutional audits, and a miscarriage-of-justice law to safeguard vulnerable citizens. (*The News*, [06 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Women Still Unsafe**— The Editorial argues that the acid attack on Dr Mahnoor Nisar shattered hopes that recent convictions in high-profile crimes signalled meaningful progress for women’s safety in Pakistan. It describes acid attacks as “among the most vicious forms of violence against women”, driven by a sense of male entitlement that cannot accept rejection or independence. While praising the swift response of authorities and the bravery of Abdul Razzaq Tarakai, the editorial stresses that punishment alone is insufficient. It urges stronger law enforcement, security, prosecution, education and social reform, warning that “(a society that cannot protect its women cannot call itself civilised)”. (*The Nation*, [08 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **The Caste We Refuse To Name**— In his column, **Muhammad Usama** argues that caste has not disappeared from Pakistan but survives under softer names like *biradari*, *zaat*, *khandan*, *sharafat*, and “good family.” These everyday terms quietly enforce hierarchies, shaping marriage, work, honour, and politics, while public discourse denies their existence. He notes that Pakistan’s census still lists “Scheduled Castes,” yet policy often treats caste as marginal. Reports by **Amnesty International** and the **Human Rights Commission of Pakistan** highlight ongoing discrimination against sanitation workers and Dalit groups. Usama stresses that invisibility makes caste harder to challenge: “Pakistan does not become equal by refusing to say the word caste. It becomes unequal in quieter and more sophisticated ways.” (*The Nation*, [08 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Violence and Constitutional Clarity in AJK** — The **Azad Jammu and Kashmir Supreme Court** has ruled that the **12 refugee seats in the Legislative Assembly enjoy constitutional protection** and cannot be altered without amendment, stressing that “**the decisive force in Azad Kashmir is not street protests but the supremacy of the Constitution.**” Meanwhile, Rawalakot saw deadly clashes as armed men linked to the banned **Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC)** killed two law enforcers and injured over 20. Authorities vowed firm action, while foreign missions issued travel advisories amid rising tensions. (*The News*, [8 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **GB: politics of ambiguity** — Former IGP Sindh **Afzal Ali Shigri** argues that despite GB’s people joining Pakistan at independence, mainstream parties have failed to deliver constitutional clarity or genuine empowerment. Governance remains dominated by **PML-N, PPP and PTI**, who import confrontational mainland politics and rely on patronage rather than grassroots legitimacy. “People

in Gilgit-Baltistan take part in elections and form governments, but the real levers of power are not in their hands.” Shigri warns that rising Gen Z may challenge this cycle of ambiguity, demanding full constitutional integration. (*Dawn*, [7 June 2026](#))

- ◆ **Police officials refusing duty in ‘AJK’, GB face action** — *Dawn* reports that Islamabad’s capital police have begun disciplinary proceedings against officials who refused deployment for election duty in ‘Azad’ Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). Constable Ahmad Ali was dismissed for “**gross professional misconduct**” after repeatedly ignoring lawful orders to report for duty. The order, signed by **SP Awais Ali Khan**, stressed that refusal violated the **Government Servants (Conduct) Rules** and undermined discipline. Officials said there is “no room for refusal” in law enforcement agencies. (*Dawn*, [8 June 2026](#))



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