

DAILY PAKISTAN WATCH

10 June 2026

Security

- ◆ **Pakistan Strengthens Defence Engagements with Bahrain and Lebanon** — Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir held separate meetings in Rawalpindi with Bahrain National Guard Commander General Shaikh Mohammad Bin Isa and Lebanese Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Rodolphe Haykal. **The discussions focused on matters of mutual interest, the evolving regional security environment, and opportunities to expand bilateral defence cooperation.** Both sides highlighted the importance of stronger military-to-military ties, professional exchanges, training cooperation, and institutional linkages. **The visiting commanders praised the professionalism, operational readiness, and role of Pakistan's armed forces in promoting regional peace and stability.** General Haykal was also accorded a tri-services guard of honour at General Headquarters. (*The Express Tribune*, [10 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Six FC Personnel died after Hassan Khel Terror Assault** — Six Federal Constabulary personnel were killed while confronting terrorists in the Hassan Khel area near Peshawar. Funeral prayers were held at the FC Headquarters, attended by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, and senior civil and security officials. **The ministers paid tribute to the fallen personnel and expressed solidarity with their families.** Mohsin Naqvi stated, “**The sacrifices of our martyrs will not go in vain**”, while Talal Chaudhry pledged intensified counterterrorism operations. (*The Nation*, [10 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan accuses India of destabilising role at UN**— At the **UN Security Council**, **Pakistan's Permanent Representative Asim Iftikhar Ahmad** accused India of backing terrorist groups and using Afghanistan to wage “proxy war” against Pakistan. He urged the Taliban to take “verifiable and non-reversible action” against militants operating from Afghan soil, warning that terrorism remains deeply entrenched. Ahmad condemned the Taliban for “providing safe havens” and alleged India's support for the **TTP and BLA**, calling the latter “Fitna al Hindustan.” He vowed Pakistan would defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity. (*The Express Tribune*, [10 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Security Forces Foil Planned Attacks in Khuzdar Operation** — Acting on intelligence regarding the presence of militants in the Naal area of Khuzdar, Balochistan, security forces launched an intelligence-based operation to prevent alleged attacks on a police station and local banks. **Following an intense exchange of fire, 14 militants were killed and several others were injured, according to the military.** Authorities also reported the destruction of four vehicles and improvised explosive devices used by the group. **During the operation, Lance Havildar Muhammad Abbass was martyred while fighting bravely.** The operation was described as a successful effort to thwart planned militant activities in the area. (*The Nation*, [10 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **India's Chenab diversion project raises alarm**— In his column, **Aamir Zulfiqar Khan** warns that India's proposed **Chenab-Beas Link Tunnel**, diverting **2 MAF of water** from the Chenab into the Beas basin, constitutes a **serious violation of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)**. He notes that even

a 5% reduction in Chenab's flow could impact **up to one million acres of Pakistani cropland**, threatening food security. Khan urges Pakistan to pursue **international legal remedies, diplomatic offensives, and technical monitoring**, while modernising irrigation systems to mitigate risks. He cautions that weaponising water could trigger major conflict. (*The Nation*, [10 June 2026](#))

- ◆ **Regional security concerns and Pakistan's stance**— In its latest statement at the **UN Security Council**, Pakistan highlighted security threats emanating from **India and Afghanistan**, with Ambassador **Asim Iftikhar** accusing both of bias and vendetta. He cited India's proxies in **Balochistan** and Afghanistan's harbouring of terrorist outfits, stressing that Pakistan's cross-border actions were **“solely meant to exterminate terrorist hideouts in self-defence.”** The editorial argues that the **Kabul–Delhi duo cannot absolve themselves by finger-pointing at Pakistan**, urging both to scale down hostility and instead pursue **geo-economic cooperation and counter-terrorism collaboration**. (*The Express Tribune*, [10 June 2026](#))

Economy

- ◆ **China reaffirms commitment to CPEC expansion** —Chinese Ambassador **Jiang Zaidong** announced Beijing's plan to upgrade the **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)** to **“2.0”**, focusing on agriculture, industry and mining. Speaking at a seminar on the Global Governance Initiative, he highlighted that CPEC has already brought **\$25.9 billion in investment, created 260,000 jobs, and added 8,000MW of power capacity**. He said projects like the **Karakoram Highway Phase-II realignment** will continue, alongside “small yet beautiful” welfare schemes in Balochistan. Marking 75 years of diplomatic ties, Jiang pledged a deeper strategic partnership and support for global governance reforms. (*The Express Tribune*, [10 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan's IT exports rise, but innovation lags**— **Dr Salma Zaman**, Assistant Professor at **LUMS**, notes that Pakistan's freelancers are set to earn their first **billion dollars** this year, with IT exports reaching **\$3.39 billion**. Yet, despite Lahore joining the **World Intellectual Property Organisation's innovation clusters**, Pakistan has slipped to **99th in the Global Innovation Index**. She stresses that **“a remittance is not a patent, and a wage is not a place on the map”**, urging policy to shift from commoditised IT work toward **joint patents, co-research and knowledge transfer**, especially with China. (*Business Recorder*, [10 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **\$4.5bn refinery planned in Hub, Balochistan**— **SPEC Refinery Pvt Ltd** is advancing Pakistan's first **deep-conversion greenfield refinery** at Hub, Balochistan, with an investment of **\$4.5 billion**. Chairman **Zafar Sheikh** briefed Federal Commerce Minister **Jam Kamal Khan** on the project's progress, stressing its role in **strengthening energy security, reducing reliance on imports, and spurring industrial growth**. The refinery will employ advanced technology to maximise high-value petroleum output and create around **2,000 jobs**. Jam Kamal welcomed the investment, noting Pakistan's **strategic location and untapped potential in refining and petrochemicals**. (*Business Recorder*, [10 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **UK–Pakistan Green Compact worth £35m**—The UK and Pakistan have signed a **£35 million Green Compact** to boost climate resilience and green innovation. British High Commissioner **Jane Marriott** presented the Action Plan to Federal Climate Change Minister **Dr Musadik Malik**, who emphasised the need for **“initiatives that deliver tangible and high-impact outcomes for the**

people of Pakistan.” Plans include a **Green University in Islamabad** and a **Green Tech Hub at NUST**, aimed at supporting young entrepreneurs. Both sides reaffirmed collaboration on disaster preparedness and climate resilience. (*The Express Tribune*, [10 June 2026](#))

- ◆ **German envoy highlights trade challenges**— German Ambassador Ina Lepel told the **Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI)** that Pakistan–Germany trade ties remain friendly but face hurdles from **regulatory unpredictability, taxation complexity and red tape**. She noted bilateral trade exceeds **\$2.5 billion**, with Pakistan enjoying a surplus, yet diversification is limited. LCCI President **Faheemur Rehman Saigol** pointed to opportunities in **automobiles, renewable energy, engineering and SMEs**. Lepel confirmed Germany’s commitment of **€114 million** for climate, energy and social protection, stressing that **sustained IMF-backed reforms are essential for investor confidence**. (*The Express Tribune*, [10 June 2026](#))

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Pakistan-Russia ties highlighted in strategic webinar**— A joint webinar hosted by the **Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI)** and Moscow’s **University of World Civilisations** stressed the growing importance of **Pakistan-Russia relations amid a shifting multipolar global order**. Senior policymakers, diplomats, academics and media professionals examined geopolitical changes, particularly after the US-Israel attack on Iran. **Dr Neelum Nigar, Director of ISSI’s Centre for Strategic Perspectives**, underscored the need to deepen strategic understanding and expand cooperation through **public diplomacy, academic exchanges, media collaboration and people-to-people contacts**. (*The Express Tribune*, [10 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **FIA chief reveals misuse of UK study visas**— **Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Director General Dr Usman Anwar** told the National Assembly Standing Committee that **10,000 Pakistanis misused UK study visas by claiming asylum**, making Pakistan the third largest recipient of UK student visas. He explained that concerns over irregular migration led to **22,136 passengers being offloaded in 2026**. Dr Anwar admitted that over 100 FIA officials were punished for collusion with smugglers since the 2023 Greece boat tragedy. He stressed that offloading was a preventive measure, with a new appeal mechanism introduced to curb misuse. (*The Nation*, [10 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **India’s emissions and Pakistan’s transboundary burden**— In her opinion piece, **Fatima Mazhar** highlights that **India, the world’s third-largest CO₂ emitter (8% of global emissions)**, imposes disproportionate environmental costs on neighbouring states, especially Pakistan. Despite contributing **less than 1% of global emissions**, Pakistan ranks **5th most climate-vulnerable**. Studies show **30% of Lahore’s smog originates from Indian crop burning**, while black carbon accelerates Himalayan glacier melt, threatening the Indus Basin. Mazhar argues India’s liability under the **polluter-pays principle** and urges Pakistan to pursue remedies via **UN human rights forums, SCO initiatives, and ICIMOD advocacy**. (*The Nation*, [10 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan intensifies mediation amid Iran-US talks** — **Pakistan has stepped up diplomatic efforts** to help broker a peace deal between the **United States and Iran**, with sources suggesting a breakthrough may be close. Islamabad has maintained contacts with Washington, Tehran and regional actors, facilitating indirect and direct negotiations. **US President Donald Trump** expressed

optimism about a “very, very good deal” within days, fuelling hopes of de-escalation. Draft proposals exchanged through Pakistan reportedly narrowed differences, focusing on sanctions relief and maritime security. Analysts caution that any accord may begin as an interim arrangement. (*The Nation*, [10 June 2026](#))

- ◆ **Treaty under siege: India’s unilateral abeyance of IWT** — For 65 years, the **Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)** endured wars and hostility, protecting Pakistan’s rights to the western rivers. In April 2025, India suspended the treaty, a move described by **Dr Sarwat Rauf, Associate Professor of International Relations at NUML**, as “the most dangerous water dispute in South Asia’s history, a textbook case of water weaponisation.” She stresses that “**water is not merely a resource for Pakistan; it is the condition of national survival**”, and India’s actions pose an existential threat. (*The News*, [10 June 2026](#))

Politics, Culture, Etc.

- ◆ **‘AJK’ cracks down on banned JAAC leaders**—The ‘Azad’ Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) government has launched sedition investigations against **Shaukat Nawaz Mir** and **Khawaja Mehran Arshad**, leaders of the proscribed Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC). Authorities cited **criminal speeches, writings, and electronic communications** under Section 124-A of the Penal Code. ‘AJK’ declared JAAC banned on 5 June, calling it “engaged in terrorism, acting in a manner prejudicial to peace and security.” **Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry** warned that an alleged audio leak could carry “severe national security implications.” (*The News*, [10 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **‘AJK’ Offers Reward for Wanted JAAC Leaders Amid Ongoing Unrest** — The ‘Azad’ Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) government announced a **Rs10 million reward for information leading to the arrest of four leaders of the banned Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC)**, following deadly clashes that reportedly left at least seven people dead. Authorities also arrested five suspects in Muzaffarabad and claimed to have recovered weapons, communication devices and sensitive materials. Former JAAC member **Syed Faisal Gilani** condemned the group, stating, “**JAAC was playing a festival of blood with the lives of innocent citizens**”. Meanwhile, JAAC’s lockdown call drew little public support, with normal life continuing across ‘AJK’. (*The Express Tribune*, [10 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Punjab secures wheat to stabilise flour prices**— The **Punjab government** will purchase **one million metric tonnes of wheat from Passco** to stabilise flour rates and ensure affordable bread across the province. At a meeting chaired by **Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz**, it was decided flour mills would receive wheat at Rs3,300 per maund. Officials clarified that claims of restrictions on wheat supply to other provinces were unfounded, with Punjab set to meet its own needs before supplying to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The CM directed strict monitoring to safeguard consumer interests. (*Dawn*, [10 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **ANP holds former leaders responsible for militancy**— **Awami National Party (ANP) provincial president Mian Iftikhar Hussain** alleged that the resurgence of militancy in **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa** was the result of policies pursued by **former army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa, ex-ISI chief Lt-Gen Faiz Hameed, and former prime minister Imran Khan**. Speaking at a protest in Badhber, he demanded accountability for decisions that worsened security, citing recent attacks in Swat and

Peshawar. Hussain vowed the ANP would continue its democratic struggle for peace and Pakhtun rights despite threats. (*Dawn*, [10 June 2026](#))

- ◆ **Restricted Access to Imran Khan**— Imran Khan’s sisters and PTI leaders were once again **denied permission to meet him** at Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi. According to his sister Aleema Khan, only **five meetings have been allowed in five months**, a situation she described as “mistreatment and injustice”, “public anger is increasing”. She stressed that Imran remains the **leader of Pakistan’s largest political party** and argued that the nation requires his leadership amid growing **political, economic, and security challenges**. (*The Express Tribune*, [10 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Refugee seats see no nominations amid unrest**—No candidate submitted nomination papers for the **three refugee seats of the AJK Legislative Assembly** on the first day of filing, as political uncertainty, strikes and protests kept returning officers’ offices deserted. Final voter lists for **LA-43 Valley-IV, LA-44 Valley-V and Jammu-VI** were issued, covering Rawalpindi, Islamabad and Rawalpindi Division. Officials noted the absence of candidates or party workers, raising the likelihood of a revised election schedule. The constituencies together represent over **27,900 voters** across Rawalpindi, Islamabad and Gilgit-Baltistan. (*The Express Tribune*, [10 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Taliban’s oppression of Afghan women**— The **Taliban’s brutal treatment of women** has exposed their inability to build a viable state, relying instead on “guns, edicts and fear.” Recent protests in **Herat**, sparked by detentions over dress rules, highlight growing fissures in Afghan society. Denying women **education, employment, mobility and dignity** is described as “barbaric even by medieval standards.” The editorial stresses that a nation cannot progress while crushing half its population. For Pakistan, the lesson is clear: protecting women’s freedom and dignity is central to safeguarding society. (*The Nation*, [10 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan to regulate herbal medicines** — **Federal Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal** announced that Pakistan will introduce a **legal framework for herbal and traditional medicines within weeks**, with the **Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Drap)** finalising regulations. Speaking at an international exhibition in Islamabad, he stressed that herbal remedies are “the need of the time” amid rising disease burdens and hospital pressures. Kamal emphasised prevention and alternative healthcare, noting Pakistan’s demographic challenges. **Prof Dr Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary (Comstech)** and **Dr Obaidullah (Drap CEO)** highlighted the importance of scientific validation and regulation. (*The News*, [10 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Sindh farmers decry IRSA’s water cut**—The **Sindh Abadgar Board (SAB)** has condemned the **Indus River System Authority (IRSA)** for slashing Sindh’s water share by **25%**, while Punjab faces only a 4% shortfall. **Mahmood Nawaz Shah, SAB senior vice president**, warned that the cut of **33,000 cusecs** at Chashma Barrage will severely impact paddy sowing on **1.8 million acres**, forcing re-transplantation. He stressed that “**the agricultural economy of lower riparian areas is likely to suffer massive financial losses**”, as Sindh’s aquifers cannot compensate for canal shortages. (*The Express Tribune*, [10 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Beyond provincial monopolies: governance and federalism**— In his opinion piece, **Dr Syed Akhtar Ali Shah, former Secretary to the Government and retired IG**, responds to Professor Ahsan Iqbal’s critique of provincial centralisation after the **18th Constitutional Amendment**. He argues that while weak local governments remain a concern, provinces have long administered

education, health, agriculture and infrastructure, and face fiscal constraints due to federal control of major revenue sources. Shah stresses that **“innovation is not the monopoly of any particular tier of government”**, noting several provincial reforms. He concludes that governance quality, not constitutional location of authority, is decisive. (*The Express Tribune*, [10 June 2026](#))

- ◆ **Fragile ground in ‘Azad’ Kashmir**— **Zahid Hussain, author and journalist**, warns that violent protests in ‘Azad’ Kashmir reflect deep disillusionment among youth and frustration with governance. He argues that the authorities’ aggressive response has **“aggravated matters in ‘AJK’”**, with clashes leaving casualties and fuelling resentment. At the heart of the unrest is the demand to abolish reserved **‘refugee seats’**, long criticised as tools for Islamabad’s manipulation of ‘AJK’ politics. Hussain notes that without reform, political instability will persist, as **“no force can stop the power of the people.”** (*Dawn*, [10 June 2026](#))



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