

DAILY PAKISTAN WATCH

11 June 2026

Security

- ◆ **Pakistan Escalates Cross-Border Counterterrorism Campaign**— Pakistan said it conducted “precise and calibrated” strikes against TTP hideouts along the Afghanistan border, killing 26 militants and destroying training, ammunition, and command facilities after recent deadly attacks. **Officials described the operation as based on credible intelligence and aimed solely at terrorist infrastructure.** Information Minister Atta Tarar said four targets linked to TTP commanders were destroyed. **Islamabad argues that Afghanistan-based groups pose an escalating threat and insists it will act in self-defence while remaining open to dialogue.** Relations with Kabul have deteriorated amid rising violence. (*The Express Tribune*, [11 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Fatal Army Helicopter Crash Near Muzaffarabad**— A Pakistan Army Aviation Mi-17 helicopter crashed during take-off near Muzaffarabad after reportedly developing a technical fault, killing all personnel on board. **Rescue and recovery teams were dispatched immediately, while military authorities ordered a board of inquiry to determine the exact cause of the accident.** Senior civilian and military leaders, including Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, expressed grief and paid tribute to the deceased. **The nation was urged to honour the personnel’s sacrifice and support their bereaved families.** (*The Express Tribune*, [11 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Militancy in Balochistan Declining**—In this opinion piece, **Ahmad Hassan Al Arbi, international relations analyst, argues that recent violence by the BLA reflects weakness rather than growing strength.** He contends that the group's shift from attacking military targets to targeting civilians indicates an inability to challenge state forces effectively. **(“The turn toward civilian targets ... signals weakness, not strength.”)** Citing reported militant losses, the writer claims the insurgency has failed to secure territory, administrative control, or broad public support despite years of external backing. **He concludes that terrorism in Balochistan is in “structural decline”.** (*The Express Tribune*, [11 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Resumption of Border Strikes**— This editorial argues that **renewed strikes against terrorist infrastructure along the Afghanistan border were overdue,** as Pakistan faces rising cross-border terrorism, particularly in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The government insists the latest operations were **precise, intelligence-based and targeted hideouts linked to Fitna-al-Khawarij,** rejecting Afghan claims of civilian casualties. The piece stresses that **punitive action must evolve into a sustained, long-term campaign,** combining calibrated strikes with diplomacy. It concludes that Pakistan must treat the anti-terror effort with the seriousness of a major war. (*The Nation*, [11 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **India Vows to Halt Water Flow to Pakistan**— India’s Water Minister CR Patil declared that **“not a single drop of water will go [to Pakistan] in the coming years,”** citing directives from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The statement follows New Delhi’s suspension of the Indus Waters

Treaty last year. Pakistan has warned that altering cross-border waterways would be considered an “act of war.” India’s NHPC has already issued a tender for a Chenab-to-Beas tunnel project, though officials admit work cannot begin before mid-2027 and would take at least five years. (*The News*, [11 June 2026](#))

- ◆ **Afghanistan: Riddle, Mystery or Enigma**— Inam Ul Haque argues that Winston Churchill’s famous description of the Soviet Union aptly fits **modern-day Afghanistan under the Taliban**. He highlights contradictions in the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA): exclusion of women from public life, hostility towards Pakistan despite years of refuge, and reliance on the TTP as a proxy force. The piece notes that Taliban officials dismiss poverty and food crises, while the IEA-TTP combine to destabilise Pakistan using leftover US weaponry. Haque concludes that Afghanistan’s policies are irrational, paradoxical, and dangerous, urging Pakistan to respond with clarity and resilience. (*The Express Tribune*, [11 June 2026](#))

Economy

- ◆ **Remittances Outpace Exports**— As Pakistan heads into budget season, overseas Pakistanis have quietly sent home **\$38 billion in remittances over 11 months, including \$4.25 billion in May alone**, dwarfing the textile sector’s stagnant \$15–18 billion exports despite subsidies. Writer Shahram Haq notes that while industries lobby for relief, ordinary households face rising prices and shortages. He argues that **remittances, not subsidies, are holding the economy together**, funding real estate, retail and consumer sectors. Overseas Pakistanis ask little in return, yet deserve dignity, respect and facilitation. (*The Express Tribune*, [11 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **First Deep Conversion Refinery Planned in Hub**— Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan met SPEC Refinery Chairman Zafar Sheikh to discuss Pakistan’s first Deep Conversion Greenfield Refinery Project in Hub, Balochistan. The project aims to **strengthen energy security, reduce reliance on imported refined products, and create 2,000 jobs**. SPEC requested government support under the Greenfield Refinery Policy and expedited FBR approvals. Jam Kamal welcomed the investment, stressing Pakistan’s strategic location and untapped potential in refining, petrochemicals and manufacturing. The refinery will also catalyse downstream industries and technology transfer. (*The Express Tribune*, [11 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **NEC Approves Rs3.2 Trillion Package**— The National Economic Council approved **Rs3.2 trillion in development spending, with Rs920 billion contributed by provinces as grants to the cash-strapped Centre**. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired the meeting, noting Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz’s absence due to medical recovery. Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal said provincial ADPs were frozen at current levels, while the federal PSDP was trimmed to Rs1 trillion. Shehbaz briefed IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva on the arrangement, stressing defence needs and urging incentives for exports, jobs and growth. (*The Express Tribune*, [11 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan’s Trade with Central Asia Faces Snags**— Pakistan’s exports to five Central Asian countries fell **8.62pc year-on-year to \$147.9m in July–April 2025-26**, mainly due to the closure of the Afghan land route. Imports plunged **87.96pc to \$20.8m**, with sharp declines from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. While Uzbekistan showed growth in exports (up 38.27pc to \$64.1m), overall trade remains limited as goods are rerouted via Iran, raising costs. Officials note

Pakistan's annual trade with CACs typically ranges between \$400–500m, but disruptions threaten this volume. (*Dawn*, [11 June 2026](#))

- ◆ **Is Stability Enough**— Business Recorder columnist Ehsan Malik cautions that while Pakistan's macroeconomic indicators have improved, with inflation easing, reserves rising, and the rupee stabilising, **stabilisation should not be mistaken for recovery**. He highlights that State Bank tools like **Open Market Operations and foreign exchange purchases** are increasingly supporting government borrowing and reserve accumulation rather than private sector growth. Malik warns this creates a closed loop between the government, banks and the central bank, leaving industry and jobs starved of capital. He argues that true recovery requires **export-led growth, productive investment, and a broader tax base**, not just stronger balance sheets. Stability, he concludes, offers respite but not lasting prosperity. (*Business Recorder*, [11 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan's Refineries Between Revenue Needs and Energy Security**— Sajid Mehmood Qazi highlights that Pakistan's refining sector, with five operators and a capacity of 450,000 barrels per day, is underutilised due to declining furnace oil demand. The **Brownfield Refinery Upgradation Policy (2023)** aimed to modernise refineries, but changes in tax treatment under the Finance Act 2024 and new levies on furnace oil have undermined project economics. He warns that while revenue mobilisation is vital, taxation must align with energy security and industrial policy. A stable compact with refineries, predictable tax rules, escrow incentives, and clear upgrade commitments is essential for long-term resilience. (*Business Recorder*, [11 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan Rushes to Spot LNG market**— With LNG supplies from Qatar disrupted by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz amid the US-Iran war, Pakistan is urgently seeking **two emergency cargoes from the spot market** to meet power sector demand. Pakistan LNG Ltd has invited bids for deliveries at Port Qasim on June 13–14 and June 20–21, each of 140,000 cubic metres. Earlier, bids were rejected due to high costs, but shrinking local gas production and suspended long-term supplies have forced Islamabad back to the spot market to avert renewed load-shedding. (*The Express Tribune*, [11 June 2026](#))

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Indus Treaty Suspension Sparks Alarm** — Federal Minister for Climate Change Dr Musadik Malik warned that **the world is shifting from multilateralism to unilateralism**, citing the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty as a dangerous precedent. Speaking with Spanish Ambassador Carlos Aragón, he stressed that **unilateral suspension of long-standing agreements undermines rules-based cooperation**. The meeting covered climate change, energy security, and renewable energy adoption. Malik also outlined Pakistan's Green University and Green Fields initiatives, while Aragón praised Gilgit-Baltistan's beauty and hospitality. (*The Express Tribune*, [11 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan Seeks Deeper Partnership with Russia**— President Asif Ali Zardari reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening ties with Russia, calling Moscow a **trusted partner** and an important global power with which Islamabad seeks **deeper cooperation in diverse fields**. Speaking at a reception for Russia's National Day, he extended warm congratulations to President Vladimir Putin and the Russian people. The president said the day reflected Russia's independence, rich history

and enduring spirit. He highlighted cooperation in trade and culture, too. (*The Express Tribune*, [11 June 2026](#))

- ◆ **3,500 Pakistanis Deported from UAE**— The National Assembly was informed that **around 3,500 Pakistanis were deported from the UAE for violating social media laws during the Iran–US conflict**. Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said the government is assisting affected individuals and families. Responding to MNA Samina Khalid Ghurki, he clarified there are no Pakistanis on death row in Spain, Portugal, or the UK, where capital punishment is abolished. He added that nine prisoners were repatriated from the UK under a transfer agreement in 2024–25. (*The Nation*, [11 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Modi vs the ‘Cockroach’**— Vidya Krishnan writes that Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government displayed **“profound insecurity”** by deplatforming students behind the satirical *Cockroach Janta Party* account, which had gained millions of followers after India’s Chief Justice compared unemployed youth to “cockroaches.” Instead of engaging meaningfully, the administration framed satire as a national security threat, pressuring platforms to remove content. Krishnan argues that **“going after online accounts with such fierce indignation is like using a cannon to kill a mosquito”**, highlighting youth distress, exam scandals, suicides, and declining press freedoms. (*The News*, [11 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **US Judge Sentences Ex-Taliban Commander**— A New York court sentenced former Taliban commander **Haji Najibullah to 42 years in prison** for kidnapping journalist David Rohde and two Afghan civilians, and for supporting attacks that killed three US soldiers and an Afghan interpreter in 2008. Najibullah, arrested in Ukraine and extradited in 2020, pleaded guilty to hostage-taking and providing material support for terrorism. Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche said, “Those who harm Americans and engage in acts of terrorism will be hunted down and brought to justice, no matter how long it takes.” (*Dawn*, [11 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Sikh Pilgrims Arrive for Jore Mela**— Around **600 Sikhs from India crossed into Pakistan via Wagah Border** to attend the death anniversary commemorations of Guru Arjun Dev Ji, known as Jore Mela. Punjab Minister for Minorities Ramesh Singh Arora and ETPB officials welcomed the delegation, stressing Pakistan’s message of peace and harmony. Nasir Mushtaq noted this was the largest arrival in 14 years, with special arrangements for security, medical care and relief from summer heat. Delegation leaders described Pakistan as their “second home” and expressed hope for continued goodwill. The main ceremony will be held at Gurdwara Dera Sahib, Lahore, on June 16. (*Dawn*, [11 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **India’s Failed Pursuit of Pakistan’s Isolation**— Durdana Najam argues that Narendra Modi’s 2016 vow to isolate Pakistan has instead left **South Asia itself isolated**. India’s strategy, branding Pakistan as a terror exporter, paralysing SAARC, and marginalising Muslim identity domestically, ultimately collapsed under global realities. Pakistan, meanwhile, strengthened ties with Washington, Beijing, Gulf states and even Bangladesh, positioning itself as a security provider. Najam concludes that Modi’s promise produced not an isolated Pakistan, but an **isolated South Asia**, where 1.9 billion people lost opportunities for integration and prosperity. (*The Express Tribune*, [11 June 2026](#))

Politics, Culture, Etc.

- ◆ **Judiciary at Crossroads: Executive Pressure and Reform Demands** —Legal experts warn that **executive influence over Pakistan’s superior judiciary has grown since the 26th Constitutional Amendment**, with appointments and transfers increasingly shaped by government desires. Judicial orders remain unimplemented, eroding confidence. Barrister Taimur Malik stresses that prison reforms must also address bail and appeal delays, noting overcrowding and the needs of vulnerable inmates. Former advocate general Chaudhry Faisal Hussain laments that the judiciary is at “its lowest ebb.” Hafiz Ahsaan Ahmad Khokhar urges **bold, result-oriented reforms** beyond routine monitoring. “Civil liberties are not on the agenda.” (*The Express Tribune*, [11 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Civil Service Transparency Drive**— The federal government has enforced the Foreign Nationality Rules 2026, requiring all civil servants to **declare any dual nationality, foreign passports, permanent residency or overseas affiliations within 90 days**. Officials must also disclose the citizenship and immigration status of spouses and dependent children. A special declaration form has been circulated across ministries, divisions and departments. **New recruits must submit nationality details at induction**, while FBR officers in Customs and Inland Revenue face a July 8 deadline. Concealment or false information will trigger departmental action. (*The Express Tribune*, [11 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Wheat Supply to K-P Ordered by PM**— The Ministry of National Food Security has decided to supply wheat to Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The wheat will be provided through the Pakistan Agricultural Storage & Services Corporation Limited (PASSCO). Minister for Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain stated that **the prime minister’s move aims to protect the people of K-P from inflationary pressures**. He added that **instructions have been issued to ensure immediate and effective wheat supply through PASSCO**. (*The Express Tribune*, [11 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **G-B Elections Reflect 2024 Pattern**— Political observers described the Gilgit-Baltistan elections as a repeat of the 2024 general polls, noting **PTI’s exclusion, PPP’s victory, and continuation of the ruling coalition’s dominance**. Analysts argued PTI was deliberately kept out despite being the most popular party, as shown in surveys. Pildat President Ahmad Bilal Mehboob said, “excluding the most popular party and then calling the elections fair would be nonsensical.” Rasul Bakhsh Rais suggested PPP’s win may reflect a political arrangement with PML-N, while Hasan Askari Rizvi warned the results should concern the PML-N. (*The Express Tribune*, [11 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **The Myth of the Refugee Seats**— In her column, Omay Aimen argues that **the twelve reserved seats for Jammu and Kashmir refugees in Pakistan are integral to ‘AJK’s’ constitutional identity**, not an outdated anomaly. She stresses that these seats represent hundreds of thousands of refugees tied to the Kashmir dispute and impose negligible financial cost. Aimen warns that attempts to erase refugee representation through agitation undermine democracy, noting that **violence, intimidation and mob pressure cannot determine constitutional outcomes**. She concludes that only lawful institutions and the ballot box can shape Kashmir’s future. (*The Nation*, [11 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Punjab’s Excess Water Draw Raises Alarm**— Severe shortages in Sindh and Balochistan are deepening as Punjab withdraws **53,394 cusecs against its 44,000 cusecs allocation—an excess of**

21.35pc. Data from Sukkur Barrage shows Sindh receiving only 32,120 cusecs against its 53,200 cusecs share, a **39.6pc deficit**. The Dadu Canal faces the worst shortage at **85.7pc**, threatening rice production in Larkana, which contributes Rs90 billion annually in foreign exchange. Balochistan too is receiving less than its 2,200 cusecs entitlement. Officials have demanded equitable distribution to avert agro-economic collapse. (*Dawn*, [11 June 2026](#))

- ◆ **GB Polls' Aftermath**— This editorial note that the PPP appears poised to form the next Gilgit-Baltistan government after Sunday's polls, though both the PPP and PTI have alleged irregularities, prompting a re-poll on five seats. Deputy PM Ishaq Dar has already congratulated the PPP. The piece stresses that **legitimacy depends on addressing complaints about the process** and warns that GB's new administration must move beyond "political musical chairs" to tackle local grievances over wheat subsidies, power breakdowns and taxation. **Young, educated voters demand rights, resources and genuine governance, not patronage politics.** (*Dawn*, [11 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **BNP-M Strike Shuts Down Balochistan Towns**— A province-wide shutter-down strike was observed on Wednesday after the killing of BNP leader Sardar Naseer Ahmed Musiani's son in Khuzdar. The protest, called by the **Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M)**, saw major business centres and malls closed in Quetta, with similar closures across towns including Khuzdar, Kalat, Wadh, Dalbandin, Kharan, Sibi, Turbat, Panjgur, Pasni, Jaffarabad, Nall, Basima, Jiwani, Washuk, Lasbela and Hub. (*Dawn*, [11 June 2026](#))



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