

DAILY PAKISTAN WATCH

14 July 2026

Security

- ◆ **Munir's Strategic Visit to Türkiye** — Chief of Defence Forces and Army Chief Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir has arrived in Türkiye on a two-day official visit. He is scheduled to hold key meetings with Turkish military and political leadership to discuss matters of mutual interest. **He was accorded a warm welcome upon arrival**, reflecting the closeness of ties. The visit follows General Metin Tokel's trip to Pakistan last month, where both sides discussed defence cooperation and regional security. Earlier, PM Shehbaz Sharif and President Erdogan pledged to raise bilateral trade to \$5 billion. (*The News*, [14 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Operation Shaban Neutralises Terrorists in Balochistan** — Security forces continued Operation Shaban into its eighth day, killing five more terrorists in Balochistan. **Since July 5, a total of 114 terrorists have been eliminated in Shaban and other intelligence-based operations.** Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi praised the professionalism of the forces, stressing that the campaign against Fitna al-Hindustan — a term used for the outlawed BLA and affiliates — would persist until complete eradication. He affirmed, "Those responsible for shedding innocent blood in Balochistan deserve no leniency". (*The Express Tribune*, [14 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **FC Commanders Honour Ziarat Martyrs** — Frontier Corps Balochistan (North) commandant and wing commanders visited the families of police personnel martyred in the recent Ziarat terrorist attack. **They laid floral wreaths, offered prayers and reaffirmed solidarity with bereaved families**, recognising the sacrifice of 27 policemen who fought Fitna al-Hindustan, identified as the Indian proxy BLA. The statement noted 18 hostages embraced martyrdom rather than surrender ["demonstrating exceptional courage, professional commitment and loyalty". Officials stressed unity between law enforcement and paramilitary forces: "The blood of our police brothers is a debt upon us all". (*The Express Tribune*, [14 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Force Alone Cannot Secure Balochistan** — The Editorial stresses that Operation Shaban, while eliminating over 70 militants since July 5, highlights the limits of military action without political engagement. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and COAS Field Marshal Asim Munir have vowed to crush what they describe as India-backed terrorism, yet **"counterterrorism operations can dismantle networks... but they cannot eradicate alienation, mistrust or narratives of victimhood."** The editorial warns that the BLA's propaganda among youth and unresolved grievances like missing persons demand transparent redress and credible politics. **"Terrorists must continue to be confronted with decisive force, but the people of Balochistan must simultaneously be offered meaningful political inclusion."** (*The Express Tribune*, [14 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Balochistan's Bleeding Crisis** — Journalist Arifa Noor writes that **"those in power are unable to approach the crisis in Balochistan with the political will to heal."** Despite decades of insurgency, alienation and unrepresentative governments, the state continues to rely on force alone. Recent attacks in Quetta, Ziarat and Lasbela exposed police vulnerabilities and deepened public anger,

with protesters alleging neglect and indifference. Noor cites research showing attacks in Balochistan rose by 84% in early 2026, even as they fell in KP. She warns that without empathy, dialogue and credible politics, the wound will fester. (*Dawn*, [14 July 2026](#))

- ◆ **Resurgence Fears in Swat** — Growing anxiety in Swat valley after locals, elders and political leaders claimed sightings of armed militants in mountainous areas bordering Upper Dir. Concerns intensified following an attack on Asharey police station and social media videos alleging militants shot down a CTD drone, though police denied this. **“We cannot afford to return to the dark days of militancy,” elders warned**, while protesters vowed to defend peace if authorities failed. Officials insisted that durable peace prevails, urging people not to be swayed by unverified claims. (*Dawn*, [14 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan’s Nuclear Command and Control** — Dr Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, Vice Chancellor of Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad, explains that Pakistan’s nuclear weapons are managed under the **National Command Authority (NCA)**, a civilian-led system chaired by the Prime Minister. Established in 1999 and given statutory backing in 2010, the NCA comprises the Employment Control Committee, Development Control Committee, Strategic Plans Division (SPD) and tri-services strategic forces. **“No individual, including the Prime Minister, is authorised to use nuclear weapons”**, ensuring collective decision-making. Over 27 years, Pakistan has nurtured a robust safety culture, enforced UNSC Resolution 1540, and demonstrated restraint during crises, including the May 2025 war with India. Jaspal concludes that continuous internal reviews and fail-safe practices remain essential to sustain credible deterrence. (*Pakistan Observer*, [14 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Healing Balochistan Beyond Force** — Asif Mahmood, lawyer and author, argues that terrorism in Balochistan must be understood in three phases: **pre-terrorism, terrorism, and post-terrorism**. While decisive military action is unavoidable against armed groups, he stresses that **“force is necessary, but so is healing.”** Militancy thrives on hostile narratives portraying the state as the oppressor, and post-terrorism confusion undermines unity. Mahmood urges political leadership to dismantle propaganda, engage youth, and ensure genuine participation in national life. Poverty, deprivation and alienation must be addressed alongside security operations to achieve durable peace. (*Daily Times*, [14 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **TTP Operation 13 July 2026:** There were four attacks claimed by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) on July 13, 2026, across three distinct administrative zones. In South Waziristan, actions included the brief detention of an alleged informant in Shakai and a guerrilla assault on a military brigade in Ladha that caused casualties. A landmine explosion targeted an armoured police vehicle on the Tank–South Waziristan highway, resulting in two fatalities and four injuries. Additionally, the group claimed a prolonged, high-casualty mountain clash with security forces in Zarghoon, resulting in captured vehicles and two TTP fatalities. (*The Telegram*, 14 July 2026)
- ◆ **TTP Operational Breakdown (13 July 2026)**

Administrative Zone	Target Location	Incident Type	Reported Outcome / Claims
South Waziristan	Shakai District (Mantoi)	Arrest / Detention	Alleged military informant detained; released to tribal elders on condition of exile.

Administrative Zone	Target Location	Incident Type	Reported Outcome / Claims
South Waziristan	Ladha District (Asman Manza)	Guerrilla Assault	Military brigade attacked; 1 soldier killed, several wounded.
Tank	Tank District (Tank–South Waziristan Highway)	Improvised Explosive Device (IED) / Landmine	Armored police vehicle destroyed; 2 personnel killed (ASI and Constable), 4 injured.
Quetta & Harnai	Zarghoon District	Prolonged Mountain Clash	Week-long battle with security forces; dozens of personnel claimed killed/wounded, 5 vehicles captured, 3 burned, 2 TTP fighters killed.

Economy

- ◆ **Pakistan Seeks Saudi Investment in Power Sector** — Pakistan has offered Saudi Arabia billions of dollars in investment opportunities in transmission, smart grid technology and energy infrastructure. Energy Minister Sardar Awaiz Ahmad Khan Leghari, meeting Saudi Assistant Minister of Energy for Electricity Affairs Nasser Al-Qahtani, emphasised Islamabad's plans to modernise its ageing system. **He highlighted efficiency, governance reforms and financial stability as priorities**, while briefing on a nationwide smart metering initiative to curb theft and losses: “reduce electricity theft, lower system losses, improve billing accuracy”. Talks also covered energy transition and sector reforms. (*The News*, [14 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Govt Considers Daily Oil Price Review** — Following the renewed closure of the Strait of Hormuz, Pakistan is weighing a shift to weekly or even daily oil price revisions. **Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik stressed that the stabilisation fund must operate under a rule-based framework, free from political influence**, ensuring relief for consumers. KPMG's study warned of shocks if the closure persists “petrol prices in Pakistan remain lower than in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Türkiye”. The committee also urged OGRA to publish daily Platts data and emphasised the digitisation of the supply chain. (*The Express Tribune*, [14 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Remittances Spark Debt Reduction Debate** — A record \$41.6 billion in overseas remittances during FY2025-26 has prompted Lahore's business leaders to urge a structured mechanism for debt repayment. **Mudassar Masood Chaudhry, former LCCI executive member, proposed that a predetermined share of remittances be channelled into retiring foreign debt** [“remittances have played a vital role in stabilising the economy”. He suggested a voluntary debt reduction fund with transparency and parliamentary oversight. US-based businessman Sheikh Tahir Imran supported the idea but cautioned that execution must be insulated from politics, possibly paired with diaspora bonds or incentives. (*The Express Tribune*, [14 July 2026](#))

- ◆ **GB Interim Budget Highlights Challenges** — Gilgit-Baltistan has unveiled a Rs20.478bn interim budget for the first quarter of 2026-27, presented by PPP lawmaker Mohammad Ali Akhtar. He urged the federal government to allocate **Rs258.95bn for the full fiscal year** to meet pressing development needs, noting that the earmarked Rs158.54bn is insufficient. The budget sets aside Rs88bn for non-development expenditures, Rs15bn for the wheat subsidy, and special allocations for disaster recovery, health, urban development and waste management. Akhtar stressed GB's unique geography makes projects costlier and federal support essential. (*Dawn*, [14 July 2026](#))

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Pakistan Leaders Pay Tribute in Doha** — Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, joined by Nawaz Sharif, Ishaq Dar and senior officials, visited Qatar to convey condolences on the passing of Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani. **He paid rich tribute to the late father emir's visionary leadership and enduring contributions to Qatar's transformation and regional peace**, "warmth, kindness, and abiding affection for Pakistan". Later, Shehbaz met Muslim World League Secretary General Sheikh Dr Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa, agreeing to deepen cooperation in education, interfaith dialogue, humanitarian work and countering extremism. (*The News*, [14 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Denmark to Back Punjab Wastewater Projects** — The Impact Fund Denmark (IFDK) has shown interest in investing in wastewater treatment and solar energy initiatives for Punjab's water and sanitation agencies. During talks with Housing Minister Bilal Yasin, officials reviewed progress on the Eastern Wastewater Treatment Plant (EWTP). **PWASA Director General Tayyab Farid confirmed the project's NOC, land transfer and loan agreement with DANIDA and Danske Bank**, noting its 33-million-gallon-per-day capacity "reduces pollution and improves the quality of irrigation water". Construction of Punjab's second-largest treatment facility has resumed with foreign engineers returning. (*The Express Tribune*, [14 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Punjab Invites Portuguese Investment** — Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has invited Portuguese companies to invest and expand business in the province. Meeting Ambassador Paulo Domingues, she assured cooperation in tourism and other shared interests. **Both sides reviewed a proposal to establish a Pakistan-Portugal Business Forum and discussed declaring Lahore and Lisbon twin cities to promote cultural and educational exchanges**. Domingues praised Punjab's health sector achievements, including the country's first public-sector cancer hospital, and lauded Lahore's hospitality and "appreciated Pakistan's constructive role in the Iran-US negotiations". (*The Express Tribune*, [14 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Zardari's Visit Signals Strategic Pivot to Central Asia** — Dr Faisal Javaid, Head of International Relations at Federal Urdu University Islamabad, writes that President Asif Ali Zardari's July 6–9 state visit to Kyrgyzstan, the first by a Pakistani president in 21 years, marks a historic step in revitalising Islamabad's **"Connect Central Asia" policy**. The two sides agreed to raise trade to US\$200m by 2027–28, expand cooperation in agriculture, healthcare and security, and accelerate projects like **CASA-1000 and QTTA**. "It represents a strategic investment in Pakistan's long-term Central Asia policy", he concludes, urging sustained political commitment. (*Pakistan Observer*, [14 July 2026](#))

Politics, Culture, Etc.

- ◆ **FCC Upholds Original Nai Gaj Dam Contract** — The Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) has set aside Sindh High Court rulings on the Nai Gaj Dam project, declaring the SHC exceeded jurisdiction by directing Wapda to alter a concluded contract. **Chief Justice Aminuddin Khan held that contractual terms can only be modified under the contract itself and applicable law**, noting SHC's silence on forged bank guarantee allegations. The FCC directed Wapda to proceed strictly under the original agreement. Separately, Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi vacated the Supreme Court's 2024 Monal case judgement, stressing "The court does not deliver emotional judgements". (*The News*, [14 July 2026](#))

- ◆ **KP Assembly Passes Hindu Marriage Amendment** — The Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Assembly has approved the Hindu Marriage (Amendment) Bill 2026, delegating registrar appointments to district governments. **Licences will now be issued by local councils in areas with Hindu populations**, ensuring decentralised oversight. Separately, the provincial government prepared the Excise Duty on Minerals (Amendment) Bill 2026 to reconstitute the Mines Labour Welfare Board, aiming to strengthen worker welfare. In a rare show of unity, treasury and opposition members demanded continued tax exemptions for Malakand and merged tribal districts, opposing federal withdrawal of concessions. (*The Express Tribune*, [14 July 2026](#))

- ◆ **Karachi Port Handles Mega Vessel** — Karachi Port Trust has reaffirmed its capability to manage ultra-large ships by handling MSC Erica, a 398.5-metre-long container vessel with a carrying capacity of 20,000 TEUs. **The vessel, with a gross tonnage of 194,308 tonnes and a draught of 12.0 metres, arrived at South Asia Pakistan Terminals Limited on 12 July 2026**, where more than 3,000 containers are expected to be processed during its call. The arrival underscores Pakistan's readiness to accommodate global shipping giants after the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. (*The Express Tribune*, [14 July 2026](#))

- ◆ **AJK Suspends Education Staff over JAAC Protest** — The 'Azad' Jammu and Kashmir Education Department has suspended 20 serving and retired employees from Rawalakot and Sudhnoti for allegedly participating in the Joint Awami Action Committee's sit-in. **The suspended include 15 teachers, three peons, one laboratory assistant and one clerk**, with disciplinary proceedings initiated and an inquiry officer appointed. Sources said the move follows a list of around 100 employees compiled earlier for alleged involvement in JAAC protests. The government continues to take action against public servants linked to the movement. (*The Express Tribune*, [14 July 2026](#))

- ◆ **APHC Renews UN Call on Kashmir** — The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) commemorated the martyrs of 13 July 1931 with a rally in Muzaffarabad, urging the United Nations to implement its resolutions on Kashmir. **Led by Convener Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Secretary Kashmir Cause Syed Shahid Mohiuddin and AJK spokesperson Shaukat Javed Mir, participants marched to the UNMOGIP office and submitted a memorandum** "to ensure an end to the alleged rights violations in IIOJK". APHC leaders, including Pervez Ahmad Shah and others, paid tribute to the martyrs, stressing that their sacrifices laid the foundation of the freedom movement. (*The Express Tribune*, [14 July 2026](#))

- ◆ **GB CM Orders Fast-Track Power Projects** — Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Advocate Amjad Hussain has directed authorities to expedite major PSDP power projects to end chronic load

shedding. He reviewed progress on the 26MW Shagarthang, 20MW Hanzal, 100MW Solar, 16MW Naltar Hydropower and the Regional Grid Project, stressing strict adherence to timelines. He ordered the immediate return of seized project vehicles, permanent deployment of trained staff, and full-load testing before commissioning. “No further delay will be tolerated”] in the Hanzal project, he warned, while urging reforms in tariffs and PPP investment for future projects. (*The News*, [14 July 2026](#))

- ◆ **Managing Water, Not Just Building Dams** — Dr Kashif Salik, Research Fellow at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, argues that Pakistan’s water crisis stems less from scarcity than from **massive inefficiencies in irrigation**. Per-capita water availability has dropped from 5,000 cubic metres in 1947 to under 900 today, yet of 104 maf available annually, **50 maf is wasted through seepage, evaporation and runoff**. “Pakistan may be losing more water annually through inefficiency than it stands to gain from any single infrastructure project”. He urges scaling precision irrigation tools, subsidies and farmer training, stressing efficiency must be treated as urgently as storage. (*The Express Tribune*, [14 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Kashmiris’ Right to Freedom Must Be Honoured** — The Editorial underscores that “**Kashmir is the jugular vein of Pakistan**” and reiterates the state’s commitment to stand with the people of Jammu and Kashmir. On the 95th anniversary of the July 13 martyrs, the President and Prime Minister pledged continued political, social and lawfare support until UN resolutions on self-determination are implemented. The editorial condemns India’s abrogation of Articles 35A and 370 and calls it “a staggering violation of international law”, urging global institutions to act against repression and prevent the volatile region from tipping over the brink. (*The Express Tribune*, [14 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Protest over Ziarat Attack Deepens** — The negotiations between a government committee and families of police personnel martyred in the Ziarat terrorist attack continued as the **sit-in at Koila Phatak entered its fifth day**. Families, refusing to bury seven bodies until demands are met, called for an **independent judicial commission** and the elimination of terrorist groups in affected areas. Senior politician Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani addressed protesters, urging a grand jirga and criticising the **Mines and Minerals Act and DHA Act** as threats to local tribes. He stressed unity between Baloch and Pashtun communities. (*Dawn*, [14 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **PTI Backs Aleema Khan’s March Call Amid Concerns** — The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) has endorsed Aleema Khan’s call for a “long march” but fears it could trigger another “**false-flag operation**” or “**massacre**” reminiscent of May 9, 2023, or D Chowk in November 2024. Senior leaders expressed unease at Aleema’s rhetoric, warning it might incite violence, though they acknowledged her popularity [“there is no doubt that leaders, workers and people love and respect Imran’s family”]. PTI Information Secretary Sheikh Waqas Akram confirmed the party’s support, stressing unity with Imran Khan’s family. (*Dawn*, [14 July 2026](#))



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