

# DAILY PAKISTAN WATCH

26-29 June 2026

## Security

- ◆ **UK Envoy Urges Taliban Action** — The UK’s Special Representative for Afghanistan, **Richard Lindsay**, has called on the Taliban regime to act decisively against **Fitna al-Khawarij**, describing it as a terrorist group with family connections and support networks in Afghanistan’s tribal border regions. He warned that Afghanistan has become a safe haven for militants fleeing operations in Pakistan, with training camps, weapons and financial assistance available. Lindsay stressed that “authorities in Kabul and Kandahar need to take decisive action”, as the group’s presence poses a serious threat to regional security. (*The News*, [26 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Karachi Attack on Rangers Compound** — A terrorist assault on the **Sindh Rangers Sachal Wing** in **Gulistan-e-Jauhar, Karachi**, left **two Rangers personnel martyred** and **five terrorists killed**. terrorists used a **vehicle-borne IED** before attempting to storm the compound, but were repelled by the Rangers’ immediate response. Heavy gunfire and explosions caused panic in the area, prompting a large-scale search operation. The group **Khulafa-e-Rashideen Ishtahid Brigade**, affiliated with **Jamaat-ul-Ahrar**, claimed responsibility. Authorities vowed that “the scourge of terrorism will be eradicated at all costs”, tightening security across Karachi. (*The News*, [28 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **India’s Proxy Game** — Pakistan’s security forces neutralised **eight militants** in **Kharan and Mastung** during intelligence-based operations, with ISPR describing them as “**India-sponsored terrorists.**” The military stressed that **Azm-e-Istehkam** operations will continue to eradicate foreign-backed militancy. Islamabad has long argued that groups like the **TTP** and **BLA** receive Indian support, while Kabul fails to curb cross-border terrorism. The editorial notes India’s increasing reliance on proxies after its **May 2025 defeat**, contrasting Pakistan’s diplomatic role in the Iran-US crisis. It concludes that “lasting peace in South Asia will require dialogue, restraint and accountability”. (*The News*, [28 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **PM Accuses India of Proxy War** — Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif**, addressing the **125th Midshipmen Course** passing-out parade at the **Pakistan Naval Academy**, accused India of using **proxies and covert tactics** to destabilise Pakistan after its **May 2025 defeat**. He praised the armed forces for confronting foreign-sponsored terrorism from the west and reaffirmed Pakistan’s commitment to peace, dialogue and diplomacy. Highlighting Pakistan’s mediation in the **US-Iran MoU**, he lauded **Field Marshal Asim Munir** for regional peace efforts. The PM stressed maritime security, naval modernisation and solidarity with **Kashmir and Palestine**. (*Express Tribune*, [28 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **29 Terrorists Killed in Border Strikes** — Information Minister **Attaullah Tarar** announced that Pakistani security forces killed **29 terrorists** in a series of operations along the **Pakistan–Afghanistan border**. On **28 June**, an intelligence-based ground raid in **Bajaur** eliminated high-value commander **Khan Farosh alias Zabal** and three members of **Jamaat-ul-Ahrar**, with

others injured. Subsequent precision strikes under **Operation Ghazb Lil Haq** destroyed camps in **Paktia, Paktika and Kunar**, killing 25 militants and destroying weapons stockpiles. Tarar said Pakistan remains committed to peace but will not compromise on **citizens' security**. (*The News*, [29 June 2026](#))

- ◆ **Captured Militant Reveals Cross-Border Plot** — An injured attacker arrested after the assault on a **Pakistan Rangers camp in Karachi** confessed he and accomplices entered from **Afghanistan** following training there. Identifying himself as **Usman Ali**, he said the banned **Jamaat-ul-Ahrar** coordinated the operation, with weapons brought from **Waziristan**. Usman named associates Abdul Hadi, Janan and Umar Farooq, and claimed Afghan-based commander “Ahrar Maulvi Sahib” oversaw logistics. Security analysts said the disclosures highlight continued militant networks across the border, reinforcing Pakistan’s calls on Kabul to act against groups using Afghan soil. (*Express Tribune*, [29 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **TTP Militant Activity Summary: June 28, 2026**: The militant group Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility for eight distinct operations targeting Pakistani security forces on 28 June 2026. Concentrated primarily across South Waziristan, Bajaur, and North Waziristan, the reported attacks utilized snipers, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and ambushes. TTP reported at least eight military fatalities, alongside multiple injuries and infrastructure damage, including disrupted water lines and damaged surveillance equipment. Additionally, the group released propaganda footage titled “Operation Khyber (10)” detailing recent ambushes. Security forces have not independently verified these casualty figures, which often serve a psychological warfare purpose for the group.

### Operations Breakdown

District	Area	Attack Type	Reported Outcome / Casualties
South Waziristan	Angoor Adda	Sniper attack	1 soldier killed
South Waziristan	Angoor Adda (Seere Khore)	Guerrilla raid	Security camera, Wi-Fi, and water tank damaged
South Waziristan	Sararogha (Sewri)	Water line sabotage & IED	3 soldiers killed during repair attempt
South Waziristan	Shawal (Lawara)	Laser-guided weapon strike	1 soldier killed at an army fort
Bajaur	Wara Mamond (Dama Dola)	Supply convoy ambush	3 soldiers killed, several wounded, vehicles damaged
Bajaur	Nawagai (Halal Khel)	Pre-planted landmine	Casualties reported (exact numbers unverified)
North Waziristan	Mir Ali	Diversionsary raid	CTD office targeted; suspected casualties

- ◆ On 27 June there were 8 attacks: 3 in South Waziristan, 2 in Dera Ismail Khan, 1 each in Khurram, Bajaur and North Waziristan. On 26 June, there were 8 attacks too: 2 in Tank, 2 in South Waziristan, 2 in Bajaur, 1 each in Lakki Marwat and Chitral. (Source: Um@rMediaEnglish on Telegram)

## Economy

- ◆ **KPT's Historic Cargo Milestone** — The **Karachi Port Trust (KPT)** has achieved the highest annual cargo handling volume in its **138-year history**, surpassing its previous record of **54.685 million tonnes** this fiscal year. Minister for Maritime Affairs **Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry** hailed the achievement as a reflection of Pakistan's growing maritime sector, improved port efficiency and successful reform agenda. He congratulated **Rear Admiral (R) Shahid Ahmed** and the KPT workforce, noting that "a new chapter in Pakistan's maritime history" has been opened. The government pledged continued modernisation of ports. (*Express Tribune*, [28 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Dam Projects' Planning Failures** — The **Auditor General of Pakistan's 2025-26 report** reveals that long-term inefficiencies in the **Dasu Hydropower, Diamer Bhasha Dam and Neelum Jhelum Hydropower projects** will cost the state an astronomical **Rs3.9 trillion**. Dasu alone faces a **257% cost overrun**, while Diamer Bhasha suffers land acquisition delays and procedural violations. Neelum Jhelum remains crippled by tunnel collapses, incurring **Rs128 billion in losses** and liquidity defaults. The audit warns that systemic mismanagement, design changes and weak cost controls have left Pakistan's flagship energy projects in fiscal crisis. (*The News*, [26 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Railways' Mounting Losses** — The **Auditor General of Pakistan's 2025 report** reveals that **Pakistan Railways** suffered a net loss of **Rs61 billion** in FY 2024-25, a sharp **19% increase** from the previous year. Operating losses stood at Rs60 billion with a ratio of 65%, as gross earnings of Rs92.7 billion were dwarfed by working expenses of Rs153 billion. Audit observations of Rs34.42 billion flagged budgetary irregularities, weak financial management and project lapses. The AGP warned that without reforms, reliance on federal subsidies will continue draining the exchequer. (*The News*, [26 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Finance Bill 2026 Approved** — President **Asif Ali Zardari** has formally signed the **Finance Bill 2026**, completing the constitutional process for the federal budget **2026-27**, which takes effect from **1 July 2026**. Acting on the advice of Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif**, the assent allows the bill to be published in the official gazette. With a total outlay exceeding **Rs18 trillion**, the budget reflects the government's fiscal priorities for the coming year. The Presidency's Press Wing confirmed the approval, marking the final step in operationalising the new budget. (*The News*, [28 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **CDWP Clears Rs34.7b Projects** — The **Central Development Working Party (CDWP)** has approved **15 projects worth Rs34.740 billion** and recommended **nine major schemes totalling Rs431.022 billion** to ECNEC. Chaired by **Ahsan Iqbal**, the meeting endorsed initiatives in fuel, health, IT, power and transport under the **URAAN Pakistan reform agenda**. Approvals include hospitals, e-sports centres, robotics and AI hubs. Recommendations to ECNEC feature an **AI data centre, Pakistan Communication Satellite-2**, and a **Rs278.6b ML-3 railway upgrade**. Iqbal said the projects reflect Pakistan's vision for **digital transformation and sustainable growth**. (*Express Tribune*, [26 June 2026](#))

## Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Pakistan–India Colombo Dialogue** — Serving officials from **Pakistan and India** joined a rare **Track 1.5 dialogue** in **Colombo**, alongside former diplomats, retired military officers and ruling-alliance politicians. The talks focused on **crisis communication**, terrorism and water issues, with participants exploring ways to feed insights into formal Track One channels. Sources cautioned against overstating the backchannel nature of such meetings, noting they form part of wider multilateral dialogues. Observers said Delhi’s isolation policy has faltered, while Pakistan’s profile has risen. Islamabad reiterated its readiness for peaceful ties based on **mutual respect and equality**. (*Express Tribune*, [26 June 2026](#))
  
- ◆ **Water-for-Airspace Proposal?** — Reports suggest India may have floated a **Track-II proposal** to restore the **Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)** in **exchange for Pakistan reopening its airspace to Indian airlines**. Diplomatic sources say the idea surfaced during informal meetings in Sri Lanka, though neither government has confirmed it. Pakistan’s **Water Ministry spokesperson Syed Mehr Ali Shah** stated he was “not aware of any such development.” Observers note that “Track-II channels are often used to quietly test ideas”, but whether this “**water-for-airspace**” formula advances remains uncertain. (*The News*, [28 June 2026](#))
  
- ◆ **Pak-Iran Energy Corridor Vision** — Dr **Farrukh Saleem** argues that Pakistan must move beyond the old idea of a single gas pipeline and instead build a **comprehensive energy corridor** with Iran. He proposes a **Pak-Iran Power Grid**, scaled up to 3,000MW, and an **Energy Belt** along the Makran coast to power industries from fisheries to minerals. Plans include **border industrial parks**, a **Gwadar-Chabahar twin-port model**, and a **Blue Ammonia Hub**. Saleem estimates the corridor could generate **\$30–45 billion annually**, noting that “one pipe is vulnerable. A corridor is bankable”. (*The News*, [28 June 2026](#))
  
- ◆ **Reimagining Pakistan’s Geography** — Shahid Ilyas argues that while **physical geography** is fixed, **political geography** can be reinterpreted. Pakistan has long been viewed as part of **South Asia**, yet its location at the crossroads of **West Asia, Central Asia, China and the Arabian Sea** offers wider possibilities. With **Saarc integration stagnant**, Pakistan’s opportunity lies in supplementing South Asian ties with **Eurasian connectivity** via Afghanistan and Central Asia, linking to the **Middle Corridor**. He concludes that “Pakistan’s future prosperity may increasingly depend on its ability to serve as a bridge”. (*The News*, [28 June 2026](#))
  
- ◆ **Pakistan’s Diplomatic Ascendance** — Asghar Soomro notes Pakistan’s unexpected return to **diplomatic relevance**, symbolised by the fragile but historic **Islamabad MoU between the US and Iran**. Once viewed narrowly through a security lens and constrained by **FATF grey-listing**, Pakistan has regained space by balancing ties with **China, the US, Saudi Arabia and Iran**. Geography and mediation capacity underpin this resurgence, with Islamabad meeting conditions of access, acceptability and incentive. The article concludes that “diplomatic relevance is only the beginning”, urging economic growth, stability and governance to sustain influence. (*Express Tribune*, [28 June 2026](#))
  
- ◆ **Pakistan–Iran Connectivity Push** — Pakistan and Iran have agreed to fully activate their **Joint Transport Committee** to address logistics bottlenecks and strengthen trade links. The

understanding was reached during talks in Islamabad between Iran's **Transport Minister Farzaneh Sadegh** and Pakistan's delegation led by **Communications Minister Aleem Khan**, joined by ministers for railways, commerce and maritime affairs. Discussions focused on enhancing **road and rail connectivity**, easing border clearance and boosting regional trade. Both sides pledged swift joint steps, with Iran praising Pakistan's constructive role in regional peace. (*Express Tribune*, [26 June 2026](#))

- ◆ **Pakistan–Türkiye Energy Cooperation** — Pakistan and Türkiye have signed **three MoUs** to strengthen institutional collaboration in the energy sector. Agreements between Pakistan's **ISMO** and Türkiye's **EPIAS** and **TEIAS**, and between Pakistan's **PPMC** and **TEDAS**, cover electricity market development, transmission planning, distribution digitalisation and governance frameworks. Federal Energy Minister **Awais Leghari** said Pakistan would benefit from Türkiye's expertise in reforms and privatisation, while Ankara pledged technical assistance and investor support. Both sides agreed to deepen cooperation, aiming to improve the **financial sustainability and performance** of Pakistan's power sector. (*Express Tribune*, [26 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Taliban Ban Smartphones for Officials** — Afghanistan's Taliban government has ordered a **nationwide ban** on smartphone use by civil servants, including judges and military officials, effective **16 June**, according to a military court directive. The order warns violators will have their phones smashed and face punishment. Rights activists say the move will further restrict access to information. Government employees report severe disruption to administrative work, previously reliant on mobile apps and email. The **Panjshir governor** confirmed immediate enforcement, with offices instructed to comply. (*Express Tribune*, [26 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **PM Shehbaz to Attend Khamenei Funeral** — Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif** will visit **Iran** from **2–3 July**, before travelling to **Türkiye** on **4 July**, as part of a regional diplomatic tour. In Tehran, he will meet President **Masoud Pezeshkian** and senior leaders to discuss trade, security and border management, while also attending the funeral of **Ayatollah Ali Khamenei** on Pezeshkian's personal invitation. The funeral is expected to draw global dignitaries. In Ankara, Shehbaz and **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan** will review ties in trade, defence and connectivity. (*The Nation*, [26 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Hasina Vows Return to Dhaka** — Bangladesh's fugitive ex-prime minister **Sheikh Hasina**, sentenced to death in absentia for **crimes against humanity**, has pledged to return home "this year". Speaking to **NDTV**, the 78-year-old dismissed the verdict as "illegal, unconstitutional and politically motivated", insisting she was unafraid of death. Hasina fled to **India** in August 2024 after a student-led uprising ended her 15-year rule. Outlawed **Awami League** activities and her rare public appearances have fuelled speculation, but she declared she would overcome conspiracies and return. (*The News*, [29 June 2026](#))

## Politics, Culture, Etc.

- ◆ **PTI Condemns Defence Minister's Remarks** — The **Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)** has strongly criticised Defence Minister **Khawaja Asif** for his statement dismissing Rawalakot as "not Kashmir," calling it irresponsible and an insult to the sacrifices of the people of **Azad Jammu and Kashmir**. PTI emphasised that "**it is unacceptable to question the patriotism of Kashmiris by**

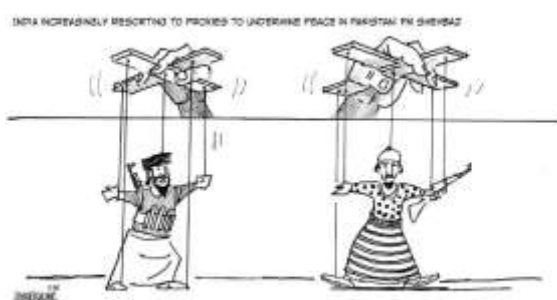
forgetting the sacrifices of thousands of martyrs, prisoners and affected families”. The party demanded an apology, urging the government to respect democratic rights and abandon coercive policies, warning that divisive rhetoric will only worsen tensions. (*The News*, [26 June 2026](#))

- ◆ **JI Offers Mediation in AJK Crisis** — Jamaat-e-Islami chief **Hafiz Naeemur Rehman** has offered to mediate between the **AJK government** and the **Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC)**, warning that failure to give peace a chance could create irreparable divisions. Speaking alongside **Mahmood Khan Achakzai**, he stressed the need for dialogue within Pakistan’s constitutional framework, noting public anger over reserved assembly seats and electoral concerns. Achakzai urged self-reflection by all stakeholders, while **Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar** said the crisis has undermined the political process. JI emphasised that “maintaining peace in AJK is essential for Pakistan’s international standing”. (*Express Tribune*, [28 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Imran Khan’s Solitary Detention Challenged** — Former premier **Imran Khan’s sister, Aleema Khanum**, has petitioned the **Islamabad High Court** against his prolonged solitary confinement at **Adiala Jail**, arguing it is unconstitutional and unlawful. Filed under **Article 199** by a legal team led by **Barrister Salman Safdar** and **Advocate Salman Akram Raja**, the writ names prison officials, NAB, FIA and PIMS as respondents. The petition contends that solitary confinement may only be imposed by a court order, and even then for no longer than **14 days at a stretch**. (*Express Tribune*, [28 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **EU Envoy Praises Taxila Heritage** — European Union Ambassador to Pakistan **Raimundas Karoblis** visited the **Taxila Museum**, expressing admiration for the **Gandhara civilisation** and Pakistan’s rich cultural legacy. Welcomed by curator **Zubair Akhtar**, he was briefed on rare artefacts of Buddhism and ancient Taxila, described as a global centre of learning and culture. Touring the galleries, Karoblis commended preservation efforts and stressed the need for stronger international cooperation in cultural heritage. The museum administration said such visits project a positive image of Pakistan and promote cultural tourism. (*Express Tribune*, [28 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Govt Protests BBC Report on AJK** — Pakistan’s **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** lodged a formal complaint against **BBC Urdu**, accusing it of publishing “fake news” on ‘**Azad Jammu and Kashmir**’ based on unverified claims. Both the ministry and the **AJK government** issued fact-checks rejecting allegations that police blocked food, medicines and fuel, insisting roads remained open, and disruptions were caused by protesters. AJK police chief **Liaqat Ali Malik** warned against disinformation and AI-generated content, urging reliance on official sources. Authorities stressed that “the article is far away from reality”. (*Express Tribune*, [26 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Balochistan Enrols 717,000 Children** — Over the past two years, **Balochistan** has enrolled more than **717,000 out-of-school children** in public schools, marking a major step under the Prime Minister’s nationwide **Education Emergency**. Launched in September 2024 by Chief Minister **Sarfraz Bugti**, the **Zero Out-of-School Children campaign** has reduced the province’s out-of-school rate from **59% to 45%**, according to **PSLM data**. Provincial education leaders hailed the achievement as proof of commitment to universal education, aligning with national goals and securing a brighter future for youth. (*The Nation*, [26 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Price of Water** — On **Punjab’s Irrigation Debate** Mohsin Leghari argues that Punjab’s revised **flat-water tariff** under the **Irrigation, Drainage and Rivers Act 2023** raises revenue but

undermines water management. While defending the principle of higher charges to sustain a **\$20bn irrigation system**, he criticises the design for treating all crops equally despite differing water demands. He highlights a credibility gap: irrigation receipts are projected at **Rs43.6bn**, yet maintenance allocations remain just **Rs8.9bn**. Introduced amid agricultural distress, the reform risks being seen as fiscal extraction unless service delivery visibly improves. (*The Nation*, [28 June 2026](#))

- ◆ **Geo News Licence Suspended** — Pakistan’s media regulator **Pemra** has suspended **Geo News** for **15 days** after airing a Muharram transmission deemed offensive to religious sentiments. The order, issued under **Section 30 of the Pemra Ordinance 2002**, cited violations of obligations to uphold cultural and religious values. The suspension covers satellite and distribution platforms, with the matter referred to Pemra’s **Council of Complaints**. Geo News apologised, saying the content reflected rituals from Iraq and was not intended to promote sectarian views, and pledged internal inquiry and corrective action. (*Dawn*, [29 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Uniting Faiths, Strengthening Pakistan** — The **National Paigham-e-Aman Committee (NPAC)** has emerged as a national platform uniting Muslim scholars, minority faith leaders and state institutions to promote peace and inclusion. Founded to build consensus against extremism, NPAC secured unanimous endorsement of the **Paigham-e-Pakistan Code of Conduct**, rejecting sectarian violence, hate speech and misuse of religion. It has transformed declarations into practice through seminars, helplines and coordination with law-enforcement agencies, especially during **Muharram**. Looking ahead, NPAC aims to expand youth engagement, interfaith dialogue and digital literacy, positioning Pakistan as a hub for global peace initiatives. (*Express Tribune*, [29 June 2026](#))

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