

DAILY PAKISTAN WATCH

30 June 2026

Security

- ◆ **Pakistan Warns India on Water Rights** — Federal Climate Change Minister **Musadik Malik** declared Pakistan will not compromise on its share under the **Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)**, framing the issue as one of global justice and downstream rights. At a joint press conference with **Attaullah Tarar**, he accused India of violating commitments and attempting to create a water crisis, warning of a “strong response” to any obstruction. Pakistan fears India’s expanding **hydropower cascade on the Chenab basin** could let New Delhi regulate flows during critical crop seasons, threatening food security. (*The News*, [30 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **UN Must Blacklist BLA** — Senator **Samina Mumtaz Zehri** has urged the **United Nations** to designate the **Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA)** and its suicide unit, the **Majeed Brigade**, under the **UNSC 1267 sanctions regime**, stressing the group “does not represent Balochistan” but exploits deprivation. She cited the BLA’s **302 attacks in 2024** and its hijacking of the **Jaffar Express** in 2025, warning of external sponsorship and links to **TTP**. Zehri argued that designation would cut funding, restrict leadership mobility and deny legitimacy, calling the delay a threat to regional stability. (*Express Tribune*, [30 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Peace Deal Ends Mianwali Blood Feud** — An **11-year feud** among five clans in **Mianwali** has ended after a reconciliation ceremony brought together the **Kundi, Kalo, Bikhani Khel, Hazara Khel and Yaro Khel** families. The conflict, which began in 2015, claimed **11 lives** and left nine injured across multiple violent incidents. Local activists and community leaders mediated the settlement, with **Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan** praising the initiative. In a symbolic gesture, **Akram Khan** waived a **Rs12m qisas settlement**, forgiving rivals “for the sake of Allah.” (*Express Tribune*, [30 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Challenges to Digital Security** — Pakistan’s **National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency** logged over **77,000 complaints** in the first five months of 2026, with **58,000 verified cases** but only **520 arrests**, underscoring weak enforcement. Victims often avoid reporting due to low conviction rates and bureaucratic hurdles, leaving financial losses unaddressed. Women and minors face heightened risks from blackmail and social media hacks. Experts warn that basic failures — weak passwords, ignoring two-factor authentication, oversharing personal data — fuel cybercrime. The editorial urges stricter punishments and embedding **digital education** in schools, banks and institutions. (*Express Tribune*, [30 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Terror’s Refuge** — Following the **Karachi Rangers camp attack** that killed three personnel, Pakistan summoned the Afghan chargé d’affaires and launched cross-border strikes on militant hideouts. The editorial stresses that groups such as the **TTP, JuA and BLA** continue to destabilise Pakistan, aided by safe havens across the border. Islamabad’s demarche reflects frustration at the Afghan Taliban’s tolerance of internationally recognised terrorist organisations. It warns that harbouring militants invites diplomatic and economic isolation. Sustainable peace, it argues,

requires Kabul to dismantle sanctuaries and embrace international obligations. (*The News*, [30 June 2026](#))

- ◆ **Tarar: Terrorists Must Not Be Mislabeled** — Information Minister **Attaullah Tarar** condemned the use of the term “militants” for those behind the **Karachi Rangers facility attack**, insisting they be called terrorists. He stressed that “terrorists are terrorists, they have no caste, colour, creed or religion.” The **ISPR** identified one captured attacker as an Afghan national linked to **Jamaat-ul Ahrar**, trained in Afghanistan before crossing into Pakistan. Islamabad has since issued a demarche to Kabul, with Tarar accusing the Afghan Taliban of providing safe havens for extremist groups. (*Dawn*, [30 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Whispers of Instability** — Journalist **Arifa Noor** reflects on speculation in Islamabad over the government’s survival, sparked by **Sohail Warraich’s** prediction of its downfall in July. Critics cite **economic fragility, inflation and the PML-N’s lack of popularity**, while supporters emphasise the Prime Minister’s alignment with military leadership and the **PTI’s disarray**. Noor notes Pakistan’s history of unpopular governments being replaced before completing terms, arguing that longevity fuels unrest. She warns that despite official assurances, “**the steam continues to build up**” and legitimacy remains elusive. (*Dawn*, [30 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Cross-Border Warning** — Islamabad has signalled to Kabul that **terrorist attacks traced to Afghanistan will invite kinetic responses**, following the **Karachi Rangers facility assault** that killed three personnel. Pakistan claims to have eliminated 29 terrorists, including a commander, in retaliatory strikes. The attack, linked to **Jamaat- ul -Ahrar** with ties to the TTP, underscores the Afghan Taliban’s reluctance to act against groups on their soil. The editorial stresses that while “**perpetual conflict is not a long-term solution**”, Pakistan must bolster intelligence operations and prepare for terrorism’s return to urban centres. (*Dawn*, [30 June 2026](#))

Economy

- ◆ **FBR to Publish Bank Access Data** — The **Federal Board of Revenue (FBR)** will publish statistics on banks’ access to the **asset declarations of senior officials (grades 17–22)**, fulfilling an **IMF benchmark**. A digital portal allows banks to review records for anti-money laundering and counter-terror financing purposes. Between **Dec 2025 and May 2026**, banks submitted **2,628 requests**, of which **2,205 were approved** and **423 rejected**. The initiative, part of wider monitoring reforms, aims to boost transparency and strengthen oversight of financial dealings involving public officials. (*The Nation*, [30 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **AJK Passes Rs262bn Budget** — The **Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly** has approved a **Rs262 billion budget** for 2026-27, including **Rs32bn for the Annual Development Programme (ADP)** funded by Pakistan. Finance Minister **Chaudhry Qasim Majeed** announced a **7% salary increase** for government employees. Of the ADP, **31%** is allocated to the social sector, **12%** to the productive sector, and **57%** to communication and road infrastructure. Over **Rs26bn** is earmarked for ongoing schemes and nearly **Rs9bn** for new projects. The budget was passed without debate by suspending assembly rules. (*The Nation*, [30 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan, Italy Sign Rs6.3bn Agriculture Loan Pact** — Islamabad and Rome have inked a **concessional loan agreement worth Rs6.3bn** to boost agricultural skills and vocational education.

The deal, signed by **Economic Affairs Secretary Muhammad Humair Karim** and Italian Ambassador **Marilina Armellin**, supports the **Professional Capacity Building and Extension in Agriculture project** under Pakistan's **TVET National Reform Programme**. Backed by the **Italian Agency for Development Cooperation** and Pakistan's food security ministry, the initiative aims to strengthen training and extension services across provinces. (*Express Tribune*, [30 June 2026](#))

- ◆ **Inflation Eases to 11.5% in June** — Pakistan's headline inflation is projected to dip to **11.5% year-on-year** in June, down from 11.7% in May, as falling global oil prices offset rising food costs. Month-on-month CPI rose just **0.1%**, driven by a **4.9% fall in transport costs** and a **9.2% drop in motor fuel**. Food inflation remained firm, with wheat and tomato prices surging. **Ismail Iqbal Securities** warned that **core inflation** edged up to **8.9%**, reinforcing the State Bank's cautious stance. Analysts expect rates to stay unchanged, with easing possible only gradually. (*Express Tribune*, [30 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan Launches Urgent LNG Tender** — Islamabad has issued an **emergency tender** to secure a spot cargo of **140,000 cubic metres of LNG** for delivery at **Port Qasim** between Tuesday and Saturday, as renewed tensions in the **Strait of Hormuz** disrupt energy flows. The tender, published by the **Public Procurement Regulatory Authority**, comes amid attacks on commercial vessels that have unsettled shipowners and insurers. With domestic gas output shrinking and Qatar supplies disrupted, Pakistan is increasingly reliant on costly spot purchases to meet power sector demand. (*Express Tribune*, [30 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **SBP Repays \$1.3bn Debt** — The **State Bank of Pakistan's reserves** fell by **\$1.305bn** to **\$15.916bn** in the week ending 19 June due to external debt repayments, though fresh inflows of **\$2.4bn** are expected to bolster reserves by month-end. Pakistan's total liquid reserves stood at **\$21.485bn**, with commercial banks holding **\$5.568bn**. The rupee edged up to **Rs278.17 per US dollar**, while local gold prices dropped amid global declines linked to **US-Iran tensions**. Analysts warned gold could test lows near **\$3,600–\$3,900** before any rebound. (*Express Tribune*, [30 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **High Receivables Weigh on SNGPL** — State-run **Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Ltd (SNGPL)** has told the government it cannot retire **Rs50bn in bank loans**, citing financial strain from frozen gas prices and diversion of costly LNG to households. The utility's receivables stood at **Rs1,095bn** with surcharges of **Rs931bn** by December 2025. The **Petroleum Division** has sought an extension of sovereign guarantees until 2030, while the IMF reviews a **Gas Circular Debt Management Plan** for rollout in FY27. SNGPL is negotiating improved financing terms but admits no viable repayment mechanism. (*Express Tribune*, [30 June 2026](#))

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Pakistan Serves Demarches on Kabul** — Islamabad lodged **two formal protests** with Afghanistan after investigators confirmed Afghan nationals' involvement in the **Karachi Rangers camp attack**. The **Afghan chargé d'affaires** was summoned in Islamabad, while Ambassador **Ubaid-ur-Rehman Nizamani** delivered a similar demarche in Kabul. Pakistan said the assault, claimed by **Jamaat-ul-Ahrar**, proved Afghan soil continues to be used for terrorism. Three Rangers were martyred and four injured, though the attack was foiled. In response, Kabul protested Pakistani strikes in **Paktia, Paktika and Kunar**, while Islamabad ordered nationwide arrests of Afghans without visas from **10 July**. (*The News*, [30 June 2026](#))

- ◆ **Islamabad Hosts Indus Waters Seminar** — Pakistan is holding its **first international seminar** on the **Indus Waters Treaty** in Islamabad, titled “*An Instrument of Peace & Regional Stability.*” Information Minister **Attaullah Tarar** said the event will highlight Pakistan’s legal rights under the accord, stressing it cannot be unilaterally revoked. Key addresses will be delivered by **Deputy PM Ishaq Dar** and **Bilawal Bhutto Zardari**, alongside foreign experts and dignitaries. **Dr Musadik Malik** reaffirmed Pakistan’s stance at global fora and urged consensus on dam construction to secure long-term water supplies. (*The Nation*, [30 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **No Compromise** — As the Prime Minister pursues peace abroad, Pakistan must confront its own insecurity at home. Recent attacks in Karachi underline the scale of the threat, with reactive responses proving inadequate. Past operations such as **Zarb-e-Azb** and **Radd-ul-Fasaad** restored confidence but their gains were eroded when follow-up measures were abandoned. The editorial insists that only a **sustained, full-spectrum counterterrorism campaign** in Balochistan and KP, backed by intelligence, policing and political will, can deliver stability. Kabul must also be warned that cross-border sanctuaries will carry consequences. (*The Nation*, [30 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **UNSC Warned on Two-State Threat** — The **UN Security Council** heard renewed calls to halt Israeli settlement expansion, with delegates warning that escalating violence and land seizures are dismantling prospects for a **two-state solution**. Deputy UN envoy **Ramiz Alakbarov** highlighted worsening humanitarian conditions in Gaza and surging tensions in the West Bank. Pakistan’s envoy **Asim Iftikhar Ahmad** cited systemic settlement growth, including **4,750 housing units** and Israel’s new land registration system. **UN chief Antonio Guterres** condemned “relentless” expansion, warning the **E-1 project** could fragment the West Bank and pose an existential threat. (*Dawn*, [30 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Gulf Turmoil Hurting Pakistan’s Outlook** — Regional instability has dented Pakistan’s economic prospects, with **FDI down 28pc** in 11MFY26, domestic bonds seeing **\$2bn outflows**, and equities losing foreign interest despite local gains. Analysts warn that uncertainty over the Gulf war against Iran keeps investors away, leaving Pakistan vulnerable with a **\$35bn trade deficit** and **\$26bn in debt repayments** due in FY27. Remittances of **\$41bn** remain the main support. While risks persist, some see potential benefits if Pakistan’s growing Gulf role strengthens ties with Iran, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Qatar. (*Dawn*, [30 June 2026](#))

Politics, Culture, Etc.

- ◆ **Civil Service Reform Blueprint Faces Resistance** — The Shehbaz Sharif government has finalised what officials call the **most comprehensive civil service reform plan** in decades, prepared by a committee led by **Ahsan Iqbal**. Proposals include specialist recruitment, restructuring occupational groups, KPI-based promotions, reforming the **CSS exam**, replacing the **Annual Confidential Report system**, and creating a “Smart Civil Service” driven by technology and merit. Yet, like past efforts from **Dr Ishrat Husain** and earlier commissions, implementation faces stiff bureaucratic resistance. Analysts warn success depends on sustained political commitment to overcome entrenched institutional hurdles. (*The News*, [30 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **PIA Privatised Under Arif Habib Consortium** — Pakistan International Airlines has officially transitioned to **private ownership**, with management handed to **PIA Equity Ltd**, a special purpose vehicle of the **Arif Habib Consortium**. The Rs180bn transaction includes **Rs55bn divestment**

proceeds to the government and **Rs125bn fresh equity** for restructuring, fleet renewal and route expansion. Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif** hailed the milestone as a bold reform, reinforcing investor confidence. The consortium, comprising major industrial and financial groups, pledged to modernise PIA while preserving its heritage and improving service standards. (*Express Tribune*, [30 June 2026](#))

- ◆ **AJK Court Freezes PTI Relief** — The ‘Azad’ Jammu and Kashmir Supreme Court has suspended the **High Court’s interim order** granting provisional registration to PTI, pending a full hearing on **2 July**. The High Court had earlier directed the Election Commission to register PTI despite rejecting its application on **16 May** over alleged financial irregularities. A three-member bench led by **Justice Syed Shahid Bahar** issued the suspension, with **Chief Justice Raja Saeed Akram** ordering the relief to remain in abeyance until the full court hears the case. (*Express Tribune*, [30 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Minister Rebuts Railways Loss Report** — Railways Minister **Hanif Abbasi** rejected the **Auditor General’s claim of a 19% loss**, announcing record revenues of **Rs115bn**, the highest in the organisation’s 178-year history. He said reforms including digitisation, outsourcing of five trains, and increased freight and land earnings had cut costs by **Rs3.6bn** in four months. Abbasi confirmed all **railway schools and hospitals** will be outsourced under a public-private model. He also inaugurated upgraded running rooms for staff in Rawalpindi and unveiled plans to modernise the station’s exterior by December. (*Express Tribune*, [30 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Oil Production Starts at Bobi Deep-1** — The **Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDC)** has begun producing **2,000 barrels per day** from its **Bobi Deep-1 well** in Sanghar district. The output comes from the **Lower Goru Formation’s Massive Sand**, following the discovery announced on **3 June 2026**. OGDC swiftly laid a **1.5-km flowline** to connect the site to the Bobi Plant, enabling early monetisation. As operator with **100% working interest** in the Bobi and Dhamraki Mining Lease, OGDC executed the project entirely through indigenous capabilities. (*Express Tribune*, [30 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Balochistan Doctors Threaten Red Zone Sit-In** — The **Young Doctors Association (YDA)** has warned of a **province-wide hospital boycott** if demands are not met within 24 hours, announcing plans for a sit-in outside Quetta’s **Red Zone**. YDA President **Dr Hai Baloch** said their protest camp has lasted 22 days without government action, demanding the removal of the **Health Secretary** and **Civil Hospital MS**, alongside accountability for alleged corruption and a recent police assault on a doctor. Leaders vowed peaceful protest but cautioned the scope could expand if ignored. (*Express Tribune*, [30 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Aurangzeb Defends CM’s Aircraft Purchase** — Senior Punjab Minister **Mariyum Aurangzeb** told the Assembly the aircraft for Chief Minister **Maryam Nawaz Sharif** was acquired to improve governance and enable visits to remote districts in a single day. Rejecting criticism, she said it would enhance service delivery. Aurangzeb highlighted development projects including the **Sargodha Institute of Cardiology**, the **Nawaz Sharif Cancer Research Hospital**, and the **Rs70bn Suthra Punjab sanitation drive**. She announced **3,000 electric buses** by June 2027, housing schemes, water supply upgrades, and urban development across 84 cities. (*The Nation*, [30 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Punjab Extends Drone Ban** — The **Punjab government** has extended its ban on flying drones in open-air spaces for another **30 days** under **Section 144**, citing security concerns. Limited use of

small drones will be permitted indoors at events, with organisers responsible for safety. Intelligence and law enforcement agencies are exempt. The **Home Department** stressed that public safety and protection of life and property remain priorities, directing district administrations and police to ensure strict enforcement of the order across the province. (*The News*, [30 June 2026](#))

- ◆ **Quetta Voices of Dissent** — Supporters of the **Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC)** staged protests in Quetta after an anti-terrorism court sentenced **Dr Mahrang Baloch**, the group's chief organiser, and **Sibghatullah Shahjee** to life imprisonment over the death of an FC man during a 2024 gathering in Gwadar. Demonstrators blocked roads with burning tyres and raised slogans against the government, though police prevented them from rallying at Burma Hotel. The protest underscores rising anger over the convictions and the heavy security response. (*Dawn*, [30 June 2026](#))
- ◆ **Digital Climate Knowledge Hub** — In Islamabad, **IRADA** has launched *Climate Sangat*, a web portal designed to counter “**false, misleading and politically manipulated climate narratives**” by providing reliable resources. At a consultation titled *Climate Baithak*, co-designer **Waqas Naem** demonstrated features including a **media hub for journalists**, a **community action section** showcasing local initiatives, and a **learning centre** with an Urdu glossary of climate terms. Executive Director **Muhammad Aftab Alam** emphasised its role in strengthening climate communication. Participants urged additions such as policy briefs, interactive maps and historical weather data. (*Dawn*, [30 June 2026](#))



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