

DAILY PAKISTAN WATCH

1-3 August 2026

Pakistan's recent developments reveal a state grappling with intensifying internal security challenges while simultaneously deepening strategic partnerships abroad. The interplay of counter-terrorism operations, governance reforms, and foreign policy alignments carries significant implications for India's security calculus and regional strategy. Its current trajectory reflects a state attempting to stabilise internally while deepening external alignments, particularly with China. For India, the challenge lies in anticipating how Pakistan's domestic fragility and external partnerships may be leveraged strategically. A calibrated response — combining security vigilance, diplomatic engagement with like-minded countries, and economic competitiveness — is essential to safeguard India's interests.

Security

Pakistan's counter-terrorism surge may reduce militant spillover but risks fuelling anti-India narratives. Vigilance along the Line of Control and in Jammu & Kashmir remains essential.

Pakistan's framing of India-Israel ties as Islamophobic could be weaponised diplomatically. India should proactively engage Muslim-majority states to mitigate reputational risks.

- ◆ **Governance Reset and Security in Balochistan** — DG ISPR Lt-Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry stated at a press conference that “**if the system needs to be reset, then it should be reset**”, endorsing calls for new administrative units under the Constitution to strengthen governance. He emphasised that **good governance is quintessential for Pakistan's security and stability**, adding that people of Balochistan must be empowered rather than elites. He warned the banned JAAC that no one can take the law into their own hands, while highlighting ongoing kinetic operations, socio-economic projects, and efforts to dismantle terrorist infrastructure. (*The Nation*, [1 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **State's Open Door Policy in Balochistan** — Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti declared that “**the state is keeping its doors open for those who want to give up arms and join the national mainstream**”, with a comprehensive plan for rehabilitation, education, employment and social integration. Addressing the ATF passing-out parade in Quetta, he warned that conspiracies to destabilise Pakistan would fail, stressing that sacrifices of martyrs are the nation's capital. He praised Balochistan Police, ATF, CTD and Special Operations Wing, promising modern resources, higher salaries and expanded facilities to strengthen counter-terrorism capacity. (*The Nation*, [1 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **PLA Anniversary Marked at GHQ** — The 99th anniversary of the founding of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) was commemorated at GHQ Rawalpindi, attended by Ambassador Jiang

Zaidong and senior officers. **Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir** congratulated the PLA, paying tribute to its role in defence and peace, and reaffirmed that **“Pakistan Armed Forces and the PLA are true partners, bound by mutual trust, unwavering support and a shared commitment to regional peace.”** Ambassador Jiang praised Pakistan’s sacrifices against terrorism and pledged China’s continued support for the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership. (*The Nation*, [2 August 2026](#))

- ◆ **Security Forces Intensify Counter-Terrorism in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa** — Under **Operation 11 Gurj**, security forces killed **10 terrorists** in separate intelligence-based operations across Bajaur and Khyber districts. Two members of **Fitna al-Khawarij (TTP)** were eliminated in Shakro, while eight others were neutralised in Darbi Khel and Batan. Separately, a key commander, **Muawiya**, mastermind of the recent Hangu check post attack, was killed in Chapri Naryab. Authorities confirmed operations were based on verified intelligence and vowed to continue until terrorism is eradicated, reinforcing the campaign for peace and stability in the region. (*The Nation*, [3 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Deadly Suicide Attack in Swat** — At least **15 people, including six police personnel, were martyred** in a suicide bombing outside **Kabal Police Station, Swat**, on Sunday. District Police Officer **Muhammad Omer** said the attacker detonated explosives after being stopped at the gate, preventing entry into sensitive installations. Malakand DIG **Syed Fida Hussain** noted police action averted greater devastation, though casualties were heavy. The blast struck during an anti-terrorism rally at nearby Kabal Chowk, spreading panic. **Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the attack**, vowing terrorism will be eradicated. KP Governor **Faisal Karim Kundi** and CM **Sohail Afridi** also paid tribute to police sacrifices. The Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies reported **154 terrorism-related deaths in July**, underscoring worsening violence in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. (*The Nation*, [3 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Defining Economic Security the Right Way** — In an opinion piece, **Shakeel Ahmad Ramay**, Visiting Research Fellow at Hebei University, argues that Pakistan’s new National Security Policy rightly places the economy at the centre of national security, but warns that success depends on how economic security is defined and implemented. He contrasts three models: the **US military-industrial complex**, which sidelined citizens and bred inequality; the **USSR’s militarisation**, which neglected people’s development; and **China’s people-centric approach**, which prioritised growth, poverty reduction and human capital. He concludes that Pakistan must learn from these lessons. (*The Express Tribune*, [3 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan’s ‘Hard State’ Without a Clear Purpose** — In a thought-provoking op-ed, **Umair Javed, who teaches politics and sociology at LUMS**, critiques the rhetoric of turning Pakistan into a ‘hard state’. He argues that recent measures — curbing protests, regulating speech, banning movements and hollowing out institutions — lack a coherent larger agenda. **“What objective does this particular, three-year-old vintage of the ‘hard state’ serve in Pakistan?”** he asks, noting that unlike China’s prosperity drive or Europe’s redistribution, Pakistan’s hardening appears aimed merely at prolonging office and rewarding loyalists. (*Dawn*, [3 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan’s Resilience Against Terror Surge** — In this editorial, it is noted that **July 2026 was the deadliest month**, with **112 security personnel martyred** and **401 terrorists eliminated** nationwide. Violence spiked in **Balochistan (241% increase)** and **Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (over 100% rise)**,

marked by suicide bombings and vehicle attacks on security posts. Civilians, including **Chinese engineers and CPEC staff**, were also targeted, reflecting foreign conspiracies to derail regional geo-economics. Yet, the editorial stresses that **“Pakistan remains resilient and fully possesses the capability to uproot this threat”**, urging a synchronised political-military roadmap for decisive action. (*The Express Tribune*, [3 August 2026](#))

- ◆ **India’s Tilt Towards Israel: Realpolitik or Ideological Alignment?** — In his February 2026 speech at the Knesset, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** declared, *“Israel is Fatherland, and India is Motherland”*, sparking debate over whether India’s foreign policy shift is strategic or ideological. Analysts such as **Maj Gen (retd) Inam Ul Haq** and **Ambassador Sardar Masood Khan** highlight Modi’s alignment with **Benjamin Netanyahu**, rooted in shared **strongman politics, expansionist visions, and Islamophobic narratives**. Critics note parallels between **Kashmir and Gaza**, while Amnesty International reported India’s defence exports aiding Israel’s Gaza campaign. The partnership, though yielding defence and technology gains, raises concerns of **regional destabilisation and exclusionary ideologies**. (*The Tribune Magazine*, [2 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **China’s Adaptive Statecraft vs Doctrinal Rigidity** — In his essay, **Sarmad Khawaja** explores whether China is socialist or capitalist, concluding that labels miss the essence of its governance tradition: **jingshi**, or statecraft judged by public welfare. He contrasts China’s pragmatic stabilisation in 1988 with Eastern Europe’s “shock therapy,” which led to collapse. China’s success lies in **“crossing the river by feeling the stones”** — experimentation, correction, and adaptation. For Pakistan, the lesson is to prioritise **statecraft over doctrine**, focusing less on ideological purity and more on institutional learning and welfare. (*The News*, [2 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Major Hafiz Ihsan Elahi Martyred in Counter-Terrorism Operations** — Security forces carried out intelligence-based operations in **Razmak, North Waziristan** and **Nushki, Balochistan**, targeting Indian-sponsored terrorist groups. In Razmak, **five Khwarij were killed**, but **Major Hafiz Ihsan Elahi (34, Mianwali)**, leading from the front, embraced shahadat. ISPR stated he fought gallantly, embodying the army’s commitment to safeguard the nation. In Nushki, **seven terrorists, including a suicide bomber, were neutralised**, with caches of weapons destroyed. ISPR reaffirmed that under **“Azm-e-Istehkam”**, operations will continue relentlessly to wipe out foreign-backed terrorism. (*The Nation*, [2 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **TTP Operations – 1 & 2 August 2026:** Across 1–2 August 2026 (17–18 Safar al-Muzaffar 1448 AH), Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility for **17 operations** spanning six provinces. On **1 August**, eight attacks were reported. **North Waziristan (4 incidents)** saw grenade launcher and landmine strikes in Zirki, an ambush on ration supply vehicles in Tappi, and a sniper attack killing a Frontier Corps soldier in Bora Khel. **South Waziristan (2 incidents)** included a laser gun strike damaging surveillance equipment in Langar Khel Kot and an ambush in Kotkai killing one soldier and injuring another. In **Bajaur (1 incident)**, a checkpoint at Malangi seminary was destroyed in an explosion, with warnings to contractors. In **Peshawar (1 incident)**, a grenade launcher attack on Karbala post injured two personnel and damaged its solar system.
- ◆ On **2 August**, nine operations were claimed. **North Waziristan (4 incidents)** included harassing and sniper attacks in Mir Ali, damaging a bunker and killing one soldier, plus a grenade launcher strike in Spalga destroying a solar system. **Dera Ismail Khan (2 incidents)** saw a sniper attack on a convoy in Kulachi killing one and wounding another, and a harassing strike on Daraban police

station damaging a camera. **Peshawar (1 incident)** involved a mine blast near Zakori Bridge injuring four policemen. **Orakzai (1 incident)** saw a sniper attack in Mir Gharah killing one and wounding another. **South Waziristan (1 incident)** reported the detention and conditional release of a soldier in Toi.

Operations Table

Date	Province	District(s)	Incident/Outcome
1 Aug 2026	North Waziristan	Mir Ali (2), Miram Shah, Razmak	GL attack on Shishkarwar post; armoured vehicle destroyed; ambush on ration vehicles; FC soldier killed in sniper attack
1 Aug 2026	South Waziristan	Ladha, Sararogha	Laser gun damaged camera; ambush in Kotkai killed one soldier, injured another
1 Aug 2026	Bajaur	Lohi Mamond	Explosion destroyed checkpoint at Malangi seminary, warning issued to contractors
1 Aug 2026	Peshawar (FR)	Hasan Khel	GL attack injured two personnel, solar system damaged
2 Aug 2026	North Waziristan	Mir Ali (3), Miram Shah	Harassing and sniper attacks caused casualties, destroyed bunker, camera, solar system; GL strike destroyed solar system
2 Aug 2026	Dera Ismail Khan	Kulachi, Daraban	Sniper attack killed one, wounded another; harassing attack damaged camera
2 Aug 2026	Peshawar City	Gul Bahar	Mine blast injured four police personnel, vehicle damaged
2 Aug 2026	Orakzai	Kalaya	Sniper attack killed one soldier, wounded another
2 Aug 2026	South Waziristan	Toi	Soldier detained and released under tribal elders' guarantee

Economy

Pakistan's removal from the global war risk insurance list is a symbolic boost to investor confidence, potentially lowering shipping and insurance costs. Record IT exports of \$4.6 billion highlight modest progress, though structural vulnerabilities remain — notably in pensions and oil security. For India, Pakistan's economic stabilisation may embolden its leadership, but fiscal fragility presents opportunities to maintain competitive advantage and anticipate instability spillovers.

- ◆ **Pakistan Removed from War Risk Insurance List** — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar welcomed the Lloyd's Market Association Joint War Committee's decision to remove Pakistan from its **global war risk insurance list**, calling it a major boost to investor confidence. In a post on X, he said the move reflects growing international trust in Pakistan's improving security and economic outlook. "[Pakistan's removal is expected to lower shipping and insurance costs, making trade more competitive and enhancing attractiveness for investment]," Dar noted, adding it will ease business costs and strengthen maritime trade. (*The Nation*, [1 August 2026](#))

- ◆ **SBP Injects Rs12.38 Trillion to Maintain Liquidity** — The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) injected **Rs12,384.1 billion** into the market through Reverse Repo Purchase and Shariah-compliant Mudarabah-based Open Market Operations (OMO). On 31 July, Rs11,913.1 billion were accepted against 33 bids in 7- and 17-day tenors, while Rs471 billion were injected via Shariah-compliant OMO. The SBP accepted Rs11,750 billion at 11.51 percent for the 17-day tenor and Rs163.1 billion at 11.54 percent for the 7-day tenor, ensuring liquidity stability across the financial system. (*The Nation*, [1 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Transforming Pakistan into a Manufacturing Powerhouse** — The government has pledged to turn Pakistan into a **competitive manufacturing economy**, with Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Industries and Production **Haroon Akhtar Khan** emphasising the empowerment of MSMEs and strengthening of industrial value chains. At a meeting with SMEDA and PAAPAM officials, Khan highlighted the upcoming **Pakistan Auto Parts Show (PAPS) 2026**, scheduled for 18–20 September in Lahore, as a “grand global show” to promote local manufacturing, innovation and investment. He stressed that “**Pakistan’s automotive industry has demonstrated remarkable resilience and potential**”, urging B2B linkages, MoUs and joint ventures. SMEDA CEO **Nadia Jahangir Seth** noted that MSMEs form the backbone of the auto parts industry, and the partnership with PAAPAM will provide them with a platform to showcase capabilities, adopt modern technologies and explore new opportunities. (*The Nation*, [2 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan’s Pension Crisis and the Path to Reform** — In an opinion piece, **Ahmad Mukhtar** warns that Pakistan’s antiquated **Defined Benefit pension system** has become a fiscal “time bomb,” consuming up to **87% of the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP)** and crowding out investment in schools, hospitals and infrastructure. He argues for a transition to **Defined Contribution funds**, already piloted in Punjab and Balochistan, where private asset managers handle retirement accounts. Mukhtar stresses that a **dual-tier system** combining a modest state safety net with decentralised DC funds is the only viable way to secure both retirees and national solvency. (*The Express Tribune*, [3 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan’s Oil Security Vulnerabilities Exposed** — Rising **US-Iran tensions and risks to the Strait of Hormuz** have highlighted Pakistan’s dependence on imported fuel and the absence of a **strategic petroleum reserve**. Currently, the country relies on commercial stocks held by oil firms, insufficient for emergencies. Energy experts warn that monitoring supplies cannot replace reserves, urging storage capacity for at least **60 days of consumption**. Legal expert **Azhar Siddique** recalled a 2020 petition recommending reserves, stressing that “**energy security is not only about importing oil but also about maintaining secure emergency reserves.**” (*The Express Tribune*, [3 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan’s IT Sector Eyes AI-Driven Growth** — Pakistan closed FY2025-26 with **record IT exports of \$4.6 billion**, up 21% from the previous year, though short of the \$5 billion target. Experts such as **Habibullah Khan (Founder, Penumbra Digital)** and **Saad Shah (CEO, Hexalyze)** stressed the need to move beyond low-cost coding towards **high-value products in AI, cybersecurity and enterprise solutions**. Freelancers contributed about **\$1.1 billion (25% of exports)**, highlighting their growing role. As **Kapeel Kumar (Founder, The Founders Space)** noted, “**the next \$5 billion won’t come from working harder... but from working smarter by owning intellectual property.**” (*The Express Tribune*, [3 August 2026](#))

Foreign Policy

Deepening Sino-Pak cooperation across defence, judiciary, agriculture and education consolidates China's influence. India must strengthen its own regional partnerships to counterbalance.

- ◆ **Pakistan Welcomes Gaza Disarmament Progress** — Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan welcomes developments under the Board of Peace towards implementing the Gaza Peace Plan. In a post on X, he praised the mediating countries — **United States, Egypt, Qatar and Turkiye** — for their efforts, noting that “under President Trump’s courageous leadership, this represents a significant achievement for the Board of Peace.” He expressed hope that these steps will lead to a credible, time-bound process ensuring Palestinian self-determination and the establishment of a sovereign state based on pre-1967 borders with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. (*The Nation*, [1 August 2026](#))

- ◆ **Judicial Cooperation with China Advances** — A Supreme Court of Pakistan delegation led by Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Judge and Chairman of the National Judicial Automation Committee, concluded a working visit to the **Supreme People’s Court of China** from 26–30 July 2026. The team, including IT officers, explored **technology-enabled adjudication, case management and court administration systems** as part of the Chief Justice’s digital reform vision for a citizen-centric justice system. Meetings with senior Chinese officials provided practical demonstrations of judicial automation, strengthening institutional engagement under the cooperation framework. (*The Nation*, [1 August 2026](#))

- ◆ **China-Pakistan Educational and Agricultural Cooperation** — Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong reaffirmed Beijing’s commitment to expand cooperation with Pakistan in **poverty alleviation, agriculture, education and vocational training** during his visit to the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF). He praised UAF and its **Confucius Institute** for promoting cultural and academic ties, noting that modernisation of agriculture could help Pakistan reduce poverty. The Ambassador highlighted that **scientific innovation and academic collaboration are vital pillars of the strategic partnership**, while Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali emphasised UAF’s role through joint research, innovation and people-to-people exchanges. The Confucius Institute at UAF has trained over 35,000 students and operates branches at 13 universities. The visit concluded with a tree plantation ceremony symbolising sustainable cooperation. (*The Nation*, [1 August 2026](#))

- ◆ **Pakistan Criticises Al Jazeera’s Coverage of AJK Polls** — The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said it had taken notice of what it termed “**Al Jazeera’s selective reporting from handpicked polling stations in Muzaffarabad**” during the second phase of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir elections. In a statement on X, the ministry alleged that the channel used “**carefully chosen timings and scripted statements**” to misrepresent the voting process. It described the coverage as “**yellow journalism**”, claiming it served the agenda of external actors seeking to delegitimise the electoral exercise and undermine the popular will. (*The Nation*, [3 August 2026](#))

- ◆ **Protesters Demand Reopening of Torkham Border** — A massive protest at **Bacha Khan Chowk, Landi Kotal**, saw political activists, tribal elders, traders, transporters and labour groups unite against the **10-month closure of the Torkham border**, warning of an indefinite sit-in if pedestrian movement and trade are not restored. Speakers including **Merajuddin Shinwari, Hashim Afridi**

and Shah Faisal Afridi said the shutdown had paralysed livelihoods, leaving thousands in crisis. “Closing the border is tantamount to paralysing the economic life of ordinary people,” declared Haji Shah Khalid Shinwari, urging urgent government action. (*The Express Tribune*, [3 August 2026](#))

- ◆ **Pakistan, Uzbekistan Deepen Customs Cooperation** — Pakistan and Uzbekistan agreed to expand **strategic Customs collaboration through advanced technologies** during a bilateral meeting in Tashkent on the sidelines of a UNODC–WCO conference. The Pakistani delegation, led by **Syed Shakeel Shah (Member Customs, FBR)**, met Uzbekistan’s First Deputy Chairman of the Customs Committee to discuss **digitalisation, cargo tracking, AI-enabled risk management, and real-time data exchange**. Officials highlighted that Uzbekistan is the first country linked to Pakistan’s **Single Window system**, with plans to extend connectivity to transit trade. Both sides reaffirmed commitment to **regional trade security and integration**. (*Dawn*, [3 August 2026](#))

Politics, Culture, Etc.

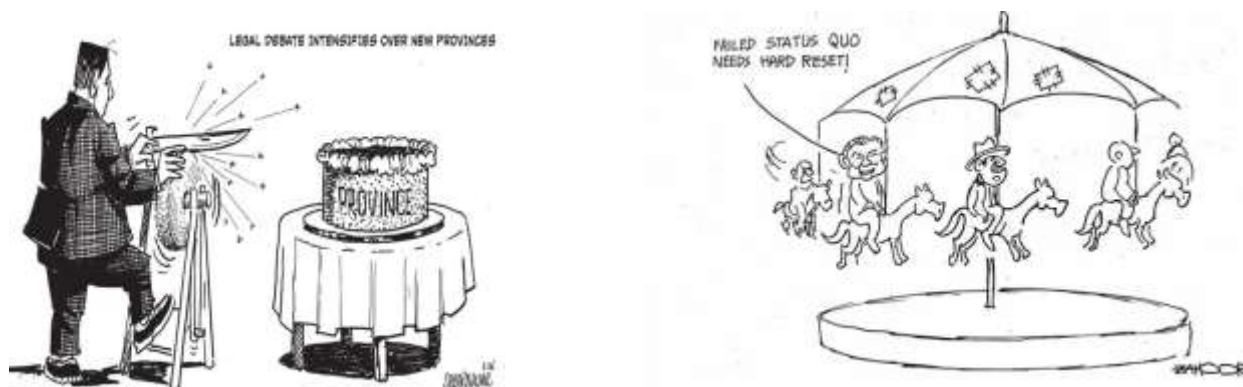
- ◆ **PM Orders Fast-Track OGRA Reforms** — Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed **comprehensive reforms in the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA)** to ensure transparency, oversight and efficiency. Chairing a meeting, he called for a **digital monitoring system of the petroleum supply chain**, adopting FBR’s tracking model, and urged recruitment of private-sector experts through merit-based processes. He noted OGRA’s progress with tools like the National Monitoring Dashboard and Tanker Track System. The PM also ordered a high-level committee to review the World Bank’s fiscal federalism report and reaffirmed Pakistan’s commitment to constitutional federalism. (*The Nation*, [1 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) Conferred on Gen Syed Aamer Raza** — President Asif Ali Zardari has approved the conferment of **Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military)** upon General Syed Aamer Raza, Commander National Strategic Command. The honour follows his elevation to the four-star rank and appointment as Commander of Strategic Command. Previously, Gen Raza served as Chief of the General Staff of the Pakistan Army. On 24 July, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif promoted him to four-star general and appointed him to lead the National Strategic Command. (*The Nation*, [1 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Parliament’s Sole Authority on Provinces** — PPP Secretary General Syed Nayyer Hussain Bukhari asserted that **“the authority to reorganise provinces rests solely with Parliament and cannot be exercised through executive orders.”** Speaking to journalists, he praised Pakistan’s recent diplomatic successes credited to Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy PM Ishaq Dar and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, but stressed that **diplomatic gains must now translate into economic relief for citizens**. He urged ministers to raise governance concerns formally in Parliament and reiterated that constitutional mechanisms require two-thirds approval in assemblies for new provinces. (*The Nation*, [1 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Administrative Illusion** — The editorial critiques the popular call for **new provinces** as a superficial fix to Pakistan’s governance challenges. It argues that while smaller administrative units may improve logistical efficiency, they cannot resolve systemic failures if the **political and bureaucratic culture** remains unchanged. The editorial warns that “[a map is not a management strategy],” stressing that without a fundamental overhaul of accountability and performance

metrics, new provinces will simply replicate old dysfunction. The conclusion: true reform requires a **system reset** focused on governance, not boundary lines. (*The Nation*, [1 August 2026](#))

- ◆ **AJK Voters Head to Polls Amid Tight Security** — More than **1.33 million registered voters** will cast ballots today in the second phase of the 2026 Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly elections, covering nine constituencies in Muzaffarabad Division and **12 refugee constituencies in Pakistan**. Authorities have set up 1,483 polling stations, with **533 declared highly sensitive**. A total of **207 candidates are contesting in Muzaffarabad**, while 137 vie for refugee seats. Meanwhile, SSP Khurram Iqbal confirmed **12 arrests in Mirpur** following post-election unrest, warning strict action against any disruption. (*The Nation*, [2 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Lahore to be Made Beggar-Free** — In a meeting chaired by **Secretary Home Dr Ahmed Javed Qazi**, Punjab's Interior Department decided to implement an integrated strategy to eliminate begging from Lahore. The initiative marks the first phase of a broader campaign to clean up the city. Senior officials including **Secretary Social Welfare Saira Umar**, **Special Secretary Interior Zainab Khan**, and DG Social Welfare Dr Sheshanshah Faisal attended, alongside representatives from probation, parole, prisons and judiciary. The plan aims to coordinate institutions for effective enforcement and rehabilitation. (*The Nation*, [2 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Reclaiming Gandhara's Forgotten Legacy** — Preserving the **Gandhara heritage** is described as a critical step toward reclaiming a neglected legacy and recognising that national identity is not monolithic. The editorial stresses that **"a map is not a management strategy"** and argues that safeguarding Gandhara's monuments is not nostalgia but a **strategic investment in cultural capital**. It insists that protection must go beyond stone and mortar, integrating sustainable tourism, academic research and education to transform ruins into drivers of growth. Long-term branding of Gandhara is urged to project Pakistan's pluralistic depth. (*The Nation*, [2 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **PML-N Leads Amid Allegations in AJK Elections** — The second phase of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly elections saw **PML-N candidates leading in both Muzaffarabad Division and refugee constituencies**, though the process was marred by violence, delays and accusations of rigging. Polling in **LA-27 was postponed due to heavy rain**, while 50 stations in LA-28 were deferred after landslides. **Bilawal Bhutto Zardari alleged "widespread electoral malpractice, ballot stuffing and politically motivated violence"**, condemning an attack on PPP's Chaudhry Latif Akbar and claiming a worker was killed. **Marriyum Aurangzeb rejected rigging claims**, insisting elections were won through public support. The Election Commission stressed results remain unofficial until consolidation. (*The Nation*, [3 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Development Drive in Jamrud** — Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister **Muhammad Sohail Afridi** laid foundation stones for **five projects worth over Rs2 billion** in Jamrud, including a Nursing College, AI classes, solarisation of water schemes, bazaar beautification and road rehabilitation. He declared these initiatives as **"the people's right"**, noting his historic election as the first CM from tribal districts. Afridi linked development to political struggle, saying **"August 5 is the semi-final in which decisions will be made"**, urging resistance against injustice and pledging to lead from the front. (*The Express Tribune*, [3 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Targeted Polio Drive in Balochistan** — Health authorities have launched a special campaign across **62 high-risk union councils in 13 districts**, aiming to immunise **over 200,000 children**

under five against polio. The initiative coincides with Pakistan's **peak transmission season (May–September)**, when higher temperatures favour virus spread. Teams will administer oral drops, with officials noting transmission typically declines from late September until early May. The campaign underscores the urgency of protecting vulnerable children and sustaining progress toward eradication. (*The Express Tribune*, [3 August 2026](#))

- ◆ **PTI's Next Phase of Struggle** — Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Information and Public Relations Minister **Shafi Jan** announced that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) will unveil its new strategy at a **public rally in Peshawar on 5 August**, marking the next stage of its political struggle. He emphasised that PTI had exhausted all constitutional and democratic avenues to secure the release of its founder **Imran Khan**, yet justice remained denied. **“We approached the courts and adopted every constitutional and legal path, but justice was not delivered. Now the people will decide,”** he remarked. (*The Express Tribune*, [3 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Balochi Academy Warns Against Languages Bill** — The **Balochi Academy** has voiced strong concern over the proposed **Balochistan Literary and Languages Bill, 2025**, calling it a **“threat to the autonomy of literary institutions.”** Chairman **Haibtan Omar** urged the provincial government to withdraw the legislation and instead enhance financial support for cultural organisations. General Secretary **Irfan Jamaldini** highlighted progress on a **Balochi encyclopedia** and the first **Balochi OCR system**, while stressing priorities like Natural Language Processing projects. Publication Secretary **Zakir Qadir** reported 11 books published, with more manuscripts underway. (*Dawn*, [3 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan's Data Centre Boom and Its Hidden Costs** — In a critical column, **Rafia Zakaria**, attorney and teacher of constitutional law and political philosophy, reflects on the inauguration of Pakistan's largest **8.5 MW data centre** by Sky47 AI Cloud. While hailed **Pakistan's Data Centre Boom and Its Hidden Costs** — In a critical editorial, **Rafia Zakaria**, attorney and teacher of constitutional law and political philosophy, reflects on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's inauguration of Pakistan's largest **8.5 MW data centre**. While acknowledging the need for AI infrastructure, she warns of the **immense water and electricity demands** such facilities impose. **“Who pays the price when power and water are diverted to computers?”** she asks, noting Karachi's dire water shortages and fragile grids. Zakaria argues that technological progress must not deepen suffering for already deprived citizens. (*Dawn*, [1 August 2026](#))



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