

DAILY PAKISTAN WATCH

28 July 2026

Security

- ◆ **Critics Reject DW Nuclear Documentary** — A Deutsche Welle (DW) film on Pakistan's nuclear programme has provoked sharp criticism after endorsement by former US envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, who warned instability could threaten the arsenal. Pakistani academics and politicians denounced the documentary as **"biased"** and misleading. Dr Rabia Akhtar argued it conflated governance, extremism and nuclear security, calling this its "central fraud." Senator Mushahid Hussain termed it a "hatchet job," while journalist Syed Talat Hussain dismissed it as "absurd fiction." Questions also arose about its origins, with claims it was first released by Vincent Productions in 2025. (*The News*, [28 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Deepening Pakistan-US Engagement** — A US congressional delegation met Chief of Defence Forces and COAS Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir at GHQ, discussing **regional security, defence ties and economic collaboration**. Munir stressed that "sustainable regional stability was deeply anchored in economic growth, trade expansion and connectivity." Separately, Federal Education Minister Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui met the delegation to expand cooperation in **education, cybersecurity and emerging technologies**, highlighting the Fulbright Programme's success and over 44,000 Pakistanis benefiting from US exchanges. Both sides reaffirmed commitment to stronger academic, trade and innovation linkages. (*The News*, [28 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan Plans Strategic Oil Reserves** — The National Coordination and Management Council (NCMC) directed accelerated work on a framework to build **60-day crude oil reserves and 30-day petroleum product stocks** to strengthen energy security amid fears of crisis from the US-Iran war. The Petroleum Division presented plans involving bonded storage, refinery upgrades and incentives such as tax exemptions. Currently, oil marketing companies maintain only commercial stocks for 20 days. Officials stressed that **strategic reserves are vital to address vulnerabilities exposed by disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz**. (*The Express Tribune*, [28 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Militant Confession Exposes Network in Balochistan** — Security officials reported that Habibullah, arrested in Khuzdar, confessed to being recruited by the militant outfit **"Fitna al-Hindustan"** through false promises, money and indoctrination. He revealed training in weapons, explosives and ambush tactics at Chanal Dasht and Sargadh camps, admitting participation in attacks in Khuzdar, Nal and Bela. He said militants were **paid Rs25,000 per attack** and recruits faced execution if they tried to leave. Habibullah described dire camp conditions, forcing looting for survival, reinforcing Pakistan's stance on the group's terrorist role. (*The Nation*, [28 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Peace Abroad, Security at Home** — As missiles fly across the Middle East, Pakistan positions itself as a **peacemaker and net security provider**, yet persistent violence at home undermines this claim. The editorial warns that incidents like the Chagai attack, where militants torched oil tankers, expose fragile internal security. It stresses that **"peace abroad cannot substitute for peace at home"**,

urging a comprehensive internal security strategy, stronger intelligence coordination, secure transport corridors and enduring state presence in vulnerable districts to match regional ambitions with domestic stability. (*The Nation*, [28 July 2026](#))

- ◆ **India's Manufactured Hostility** — In this editorial, Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's remarks rejecting talks with Pakistan are described as **"deliberately provocative, historically dishonest and calculated"** to entrench hostility over Kashmir. The piece argues that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government escalates tensions whenever facing domestic political difficulties, noting past military confrontations coincided with elections. It stresses that **Kashmir remains an internationally recognised dispute under UN Security Council agenda**, and warns that reckless rhetoric risks catastrophe between nuclear neighbours. Pakistan, it concludes, must stay militarily prepared, diplomatically active and politically united. (*The Nation*, [28 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **The Pipeline Pakistan Failed to Counter** — In his column, public policy expert Amir Jahangir explains how terrorist attacks in Balochistan are rapidly transformed into **international human rights crises** through a sophisticated diaspora-driven communications pipeline. He details how within minutes the Baloch Liberation Army issues multilingual claims, amplified by networks in London, Frankfurt and Toronto, later cited in **foreign parliaments and UN reports**. Jahangir stresses that Pakistan's slow, credibility-deficit responses cannot compete, urging the creation of a **credible, independent counter-narrative infrastructure** to reach citizens and global forums alike. (*The News International*, [28 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Removing Barriers to Pakistan-Iran Trade** — Iran's Consul General in Quetta, Mohammad Karimi Todashki, urged effective measures to eliminate obstacles to **bilateral trade** during a meeting with the Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI). He assured full cooperation to resolve business community concerns, highlighting ongoing talks to improve facilities at the **Gabd-Rimdan border**, simplify customs procedures and accelerate trade flows. QCCI President Haji Muhammad Ayub Mariani called for the border crossing to remain open 24 hours to prevent congestion and financial losses, noting heavy traffic of hundreds of vehicles daily. (*Dawn*, [28 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan's Water Security Challenge** — An editorial stresses that Pakistan faces **too much water at the wrong time and too little when needed**, with reactive responses instead of resilience. A new report, *Water, Climate and Diplomacy: Securing Pakistan's Indus Basin Future*, calls for a **national water security policy** that integrates climate change, agriculture, urban planning and diplomacy. Key vulnerabilities include **erratic rainfall, glacier melt, poor storage, weak flood preparedness, unchecked groundwater extraction and ageing irrigation systems**. The piece urges climate-smart agriculture, modern irrigation, stronger urban drainage, and sustained global engagement to restore the **Indus Waters Treaty**, illegally suspended by India. (*Dawn*, [28 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Hybrid Assault on Balochistan** — Faisal Ahmad's analysis of the Mastung ambush that killed Sessions Judge Abdul Hakeem Kakar argues that what looks like isolated militant violence is in fact a **multi-layered hybrid strategy**. He describes how BLA and BLF insurgents rely on **cross-border sanctuaries in Afghanistan** and financial/logistical pipelines allegedly linked to RAW. Civil advocacy groups like the **Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC)** provide narrative cover by framing counter-terrorism actions as human rights violations. The BLA then executes kinetic strikes on judicial, infrastructure and civilian targets, while **ISKP claims responsibility** to confuse

attribution and divide counter-terrorism focus. External platforms such as MEMRI amplify separatist propaganda for Western audiences, creating global tolerance. Ahmad concludes that this ecosystem — RAW support, BYC cover, BLA strikes, ISKP misdirection, and international amplification — functions as a single machine, requiring Pakistan to counter the **entire network rather than isolated incidents**. (*Pakistan Observer*, [28 July 2026](#))

- ◆ **TTP Operations – 26 July 2026:** On 26 July 2026 (11 Safar al-Muzaffar 1448 AH), Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed **19 operations** across four provinces. North Waziristan was the epicentre, with 13 incidents including sniper, DShK, GL and guerrilla attacks on forts, camps, and checkpoints, causing multiple fatalities and injuries among military and FC personnel. South Waziristan reported three strikes, notably an offensive in Azam Warsak that killed and injured around a dozen personnel. In Harnai, Balochistan, a police station was destroyed and a highway blockade staged. Peshawar saw a sniper attack on the Karbala post, killing one soldier and damaging surveillance equipment. These operations underscore TTP's sustained campaign against security forces and infrastructure, combining direct assaults with sabotage. (*Telegram*, 27 July 2026)

District	Area	No of Ops	Nature of Attack / Outcome
North Waziristan	Shawal, Gharayom, Razmak, Shewah, Mir Ali	13	Sniper, DShK, GL, guerrilla, offensive attacks; multiple personnel killed/injured; solar panels destroyed; prolonged clashes
South Waziristan	Azam Warsak, Shaktoi	3	Sniper, offensive, guerrilla attacks; approx. one dozen casualties; FC personnel killed; camera destroyed
Quetta & Harnai	Harnai	2	Police station blown up; highway blockade
Peshawar	FR Peshawar	1	Sniper attack; one personnel killed; security camera destroyed

Economy

- ◆ **Boosting Exports through Subsidy Schemes** — The Economic Coordination Committee chaired by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb approved three **dedicated export finance subsidy schemes**: the EXIM-administered Export Finance Scheme offering low-cost funds, a Long-Term Export Growth Financing Facility, and a **performance-based Rebate on Incremental Exports**. The package emphasises SME inclusion, reduced mark-up rates and rebates up to 8pc for value-added goods. A six-month performance review was mandated. The ECC also approved measures on pensions, tight gas exploration, arbitration costs and tariff fixation for RLNG power plants. (*The News International*, [28 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Expanding Pakistan–Iraq Economic Partnership** — Iraqi Consul General in Karachi Dr Maher Mjhid Jejan urged transforming fraternal ties into a **comprehensive strategic economic**

partnership, emphasising trade, investment, technology and AI collaboration. Speaking at the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, he invited Pakistani trade delegations to Iraq to witness its economic transformation. He noted that exports from Karachi — including **rice, seafood, fruits, food products and pharmaceuticals** — were rising after the reopening of Iraq's Consulate General, but stressed current engagement remained far below potential. (*The Express Tribune*, [28 July 2026](#))

- ◆ **UAE Visa Freeze Disrupts Pakistani Trade** — Business leaders warn that the UAE's reported visa freeze for Pakistanis is **hitting exports and disrupting international trade**, with participation in Dubai's Gulfood exhibition at risk. Ismail Suttar of the Salt Manufacturers Association said visas are being denied "under any category," leaving exporters uncertain. Former FPCCI secretary general Shahid Anwar noted Saudi Arabia and Kuwait eased travel, but the UAE situation remains "more complex." Aviation experts report a **95% drop in UAE travel flows**, with family visa rejections as high as 65%. (*The Express Tribune*, [28 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Access to Finance Plan Reviewed** — Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired the inaugural meeting of the **Access to Finance Steering Committee**, overseeing the Prime Minister's Access to Finance Plan 2026-2028. The committee aims to expand affordable finance for **SMEs, agriculture, IT, exports, renewable energy and housing**, with flagship schemes including Zarkhez-e (Asaan Zarai Qarza), the Apna Ghar Scheme and the Pakistan Accelerated Vehicle Electrification (PAVE) initiative. Aurangzeb emphasised the need for **measurable outcomes** under a three-tier governance framework, ensuring timely decisions and stronger financial inclusion. (*The News International*, [28 July 2026](#))

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Strengthening Ties with China and Honouring Sacrifice** — Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the **All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership with China**, pledging close collaboration on leadership decisions for mutual benefit during talks with Ambassador Jiang Zaidong. He conveyed greetings to President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang, while discussions also covered regional developments. Separately, President Asif Ali Zardari and PM Shehbaz paid tribute to Captain Muhammad Sarwar Shaheed, Pakistan's first Nishan-i-Haider, praising his "**unwavering bravery and timeless sacrifice**" for Kashmir's freedom. (*The News*, [28 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan Condemns Indian Defence Minister's Remarks** — Pakistan's Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi strongly rejected Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's provocative comments on Kashmir, stating they "**distort facts regarding the UN and internationally recognised Jammu and Kashmir dispute**" and threaten peace. He urged the UN to hold India accountable for ignoring Security Council resolutions. Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif also dismissed Singh's remarks as "irresponsible and misleading," stressing that **Kashmir remains a disputed territory** and warning India's rhetoric risks lowering the threshold for interstate conflict. (*Dawn*, [28 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Kuwaiti FM's Visit to Strengthen Ties** — Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah begins a two-day official visit to Pakistan at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar. Talks will review the **entire spectrum of bilateral**

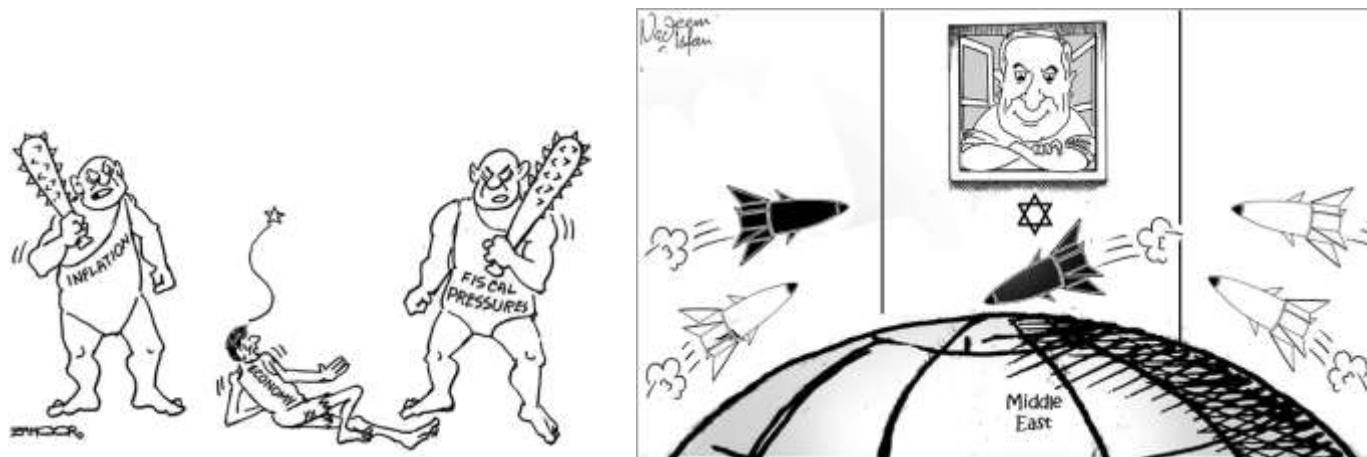
relations and exchange views on regional and international developments. Al-Sabah is also expected to call on Pakistan's leadership. The Foreign Office said the visit reflects the **shared resolve to expand cooperation and strengthen the enduring partnership** between Pakistan and Kuwait. (*The Express Tribune*, [28 July 2026](#))

- ◆ **Pakistan Condemns Drone Strikes on Saudi Arabia** — Pakistan's Foreign Office denounced recent drone attacks against Saudi Arabia, calling them a **“grave threat to peace and stability across the entire region”** and reaffirmed solidarity with the kingdom's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The FO pledged continued support for efforts to achieve lasting regional security. Saudi Arabia's Defence Ministry confirmed its air defences intercepted drones launched from Iraqi territory by “Iran-backed terrorist militias,” targeting oil facilities. Riyadh vowed to safeguard its security and retain the right to respond. (*The News International*, [28 July 2026](#))

Politics, Culture, Etc.

- ◆ **PML-N Leads in First Phase of AJK Polls** — In the opening phase of Azad Jammu and Kashmir's elections, the **Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)** secured seven seats while the **Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP)** won three, according to unofficial results. Key victories included PML-N's Chaudhry Azhar Sadiq in LA-1 Dadyal and PPP's Chaudhry Qasim Majeed in LA-2 Chakswari. The contest remained close in Mirpur Division, with several results pending. The process was marred by violence: **a PPP worker was killed in Kotli's Nakyal constituency**, ballot boxes were set ablaze, and 24 arrests were made. The Election Commission extended polling by one hour due to low turnout, while PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari condemned the killing and alleged misuse of firearms by rivals. Authorities insisted polling was largely peaceful, though clashes in Bhimber and Samahni led to suspensions of officials and re-polling considerations. (*The News International*, [28 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Journalists' Welfare Package Announced in K-P** — Provincial Information Minister Shafi Jan unveiled a **Rs1 billion package for journalists' welfare**, including an expanded Journalists' Endowment Fund raised from Rs200 million to Rs500 million. Speaking at Haripur and Abbottabad Press Clubs, he praised journalism as a “sacred profession” and paid tribute to those who sacrificed their lives during the war against terrorism. The package will provide **financial assistance for medical treatment**, while reflecting Chief Minister Muhammad Sohail Afridi's directive for cabinet members to engage directly with citizens. (*The Express Tribune*, [28 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Violence in Rawalakot Injures Policemen** — Two AJK police officials were injured when armed groups linked to the banned Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) attempted to forcibly enter Rawalakot, opening fire on law-enforcement personnel. Police appeals for calm were rejected, escalating the confrontation. A spokesperson accused JAAC's social media handlers of spreading **“fabricated videos and distorted facts”**, urging the public to ignore inflammatory content. DIG Poonch Region stressed that the state would ensure **rule of law and protection of citizens' lives and property**, warning of indiscriminate action against violence. (*The Express Tribune*, [28 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Punjab's AI Future Anchored in People** — In his column, Adviser to the Chief Minister of Punjab on Artificial Intelligence Ali Mustafa Dar argues that while **Artificial Intelligence is a defining technology of our era**, its true impact will be measured by outcomes in classrooms, hospitals, farms and businesses. He stresses that **“technology may accelerate progress. People will always**

determine its direction", urging universities, start-ups, industry and policymakers to ensure inclusivity and practical benefits. Dar highlights Punjab's AI-enabled Delivery Unit as a model to translate ambition into measurable improvements. (*The Nation*, [28 July 2026](#))



[Disclaimer: We do not subscribe to the views expressed by the Pakistani reporters, leaders and commentators, we are making available for perusal by our experts/analysts/policymakers every day. We put it all together in Daily Pakistan Watch (DPW) with a view to acquainting our readers with the prevalent thought process in Pakistan having its bearing on India, with the hope that such effort will help us in devising appropriate policies to deal with Pakistan in a more effective manner. DPW is prepared by Dr Afroz Khan, a Visiting Fellow in CPS]