

DAILY PAKISTAN WATCH

7 August 2026

Security

- ◆ **Strike Averted in Balochistan** — Traders in Balochistan have called off their planned two-day shutter-down strike after successful negotiations with the provincial government. At a joint press conference in Quetta, **Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langue**, Deputy Commissioner **Mehrullah**, and Anjuman Tajiran Balochistan President **Abdul Rahim Agha** announced the decision, with authorities assuring that traders' concerns would be addressed promptly. Langue emphasised the government's commitment to peace and a secure business environment, while alleging that unrest in the province was being fuelled by **external interference from India and hostile elements operating from Afghan territory**, noting Afghan soil was still being used against Pakistan. (*The Express Tribune*, [7 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Counterterrorism Success in Balochistan** — Security forces killed **12 terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Hindustan** during intelligence-based operations in Washuk and Mastung districts, according to the ISPR. These actions were part of the ongoing **“Rad-ul-Fitna-3” campaign**, aimed at eliminating Indian-sponsored proxies. The federal government had last year designated all terrorist outfits in Balochistan under this label. President **Asif Ali Zardari** hailed the operations as proof of the **“resolve, courage and skill of Pakistan’s security forces,”** while Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif** praised their professionalism under the **Azm-e-Istehkam initiative**, reaffirming commitment to the complete elimination of terrorism. (*The Express Tribune*, [7 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan Reaffirms Defence Cooperation with Somalia** — A high-level Somali delegation led by **Defence Minister Ambassador Ahmed Moallim Fiqi** met **Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces**, at GHQ Rawalpindi. Discussions focused on mutual interests, regional security dynamics and enhancing bilateral defence cooperation. Both sides stressed the importance of **deepening military-to-military ties and capacity building initiatives to counter common security challenges**. According to ISPR, the visiting dignitary praised Pakistan's steadfast support and the professional role of its armed forces in promoting regional peace. Munir reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening Somalia's security apparatus. (*The Express Tribune*, [7 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Afghan Taliban's Ties to Militants Threaten Region** — An editorial in *Dawn* warns that despite international pressure, the **Afghan Taliban refuse to sever links with terrorist groups such as the TTP**, creating grave security challenges for neighbours, particularly Pakistan. Both **KP and Balochistan are in the grip of insurgencies**, with militants finding safe havens across the border. Pakistan's envoy at the UN Security Council highlighted the **“increasingly permissive environment”** for terrorist groups in Afghanistan, a concern echoed by China, which also called for sanctions on the BLA and Majeed Brigade. The editorial stresses that **a regional response is essential**, combining deterrence and incentives, while urging the Taliban to prioritise trade and integration over harbouring militants. (*Dawn*, [7 August 2026](#))

- ◆ **FC Soldier Martyred in Lower Dir Clash** — In Sar Banda, Lower Dir, an exchange of fire between suspected militants and security forces left **Sepoy Nasir Iqbal martyred** and four personnel injured, including an army captain. The injured were identified as **Sepoy Osama, Sepoy Zubair, Sepoy Asif and Lance Naik Inam**. Local sources said the clash lasted for a considerable time before the assailants fled under cover of darkness. Security forces later cordoned off the area and launched a search operation. **DPO Talal Ahmad Shah** confirmed the situation was under control, with efforts underway to apprehend the attackers. (*The Nation*, [7 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Between Scrutiny & Slander: Pakistan's Labour Reality** — In his column, **Faisal Ahmad** argues that Pakistan deserves “**criticism that is specific, documented and commensurate, rather than a blanket condemnation of the entire sector.**” He notes concerns raised in the EU's GSP+ monitoring report and the UK group Labour Behind the Label's *Silenced*, which cited intimidation of workers and dismissals at a Lahore factory. Ahmad stresses that while compliance systems exist, audits often miss wage theft and harassment due to structural flaws. He highlights ILO data showing relatively low non-compliance rates, alongside investments by firms like Interloop and Soorty. The piece calls for **independent grievance mechanisms** and disclosure of audit reports, urging reform over denial. (*Dawn*, [7 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **PHC Rejects Afghan Petitioners' Pleas** — The **Peshawar High Court (PHC)** dismissed petitions filed by former Afghan National Army General **Baryalai Sharifi** and ex-Presidential Protective Service agent **Abdul Mujeeb Ghairat**, along with their families, seeking protection against arrest and deportation. The petitioners cited fear of Taliban persecution if returned to Afghanistan. However, the bench of **Justices Wiqar Ahmad and Kamran Hayat Miankhel** ruled that “**mere apprehension... does not furnish a valid ground**” for invoking constitutional jurisdiction. The court held that **visa, immigration and residency matters fall within the executive's domain**, and requests for refugee resettlement via SHARP or UNHCR do not create enforceable legal rights. (*Dawn*, [7 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan's Expanding Role in Military Diplomacy** — In his column, **Dr Raashid Wali Janjua** explains that military diplomacy, both coercive and non-coercive, has historically shaped global relations, from **gunboat diplomacy in Japan (1853)** to **UN peacekeeping missions**. He highlights Pakistan's recent success in **non-coercive military diplomacy**, particularly its mediation in the Iran–Israel–US conflict, noting that “**Pakistan was the only country that stayed neutral and offered its sincere mediation without any strings attached.**” He attributes this success to Pakistan's reputation after foiling Indian aggression in 2025, its balanced ties with major powers, and its credibility with Iran. The emergence of a **Middle East Quad (Egypt, Turkiye, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan)** and Pakistan's role in the **Maritime Defence Alliance** underscore its growing relevance as a peacebuilder. (*The News*, [7 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **TTP Operations – 6 August 2026:** On 6 August 2026 (22 Safar al-Muzaffar 1448 AH), Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed **seven operations** across seven provinces. In **Lower Dir**, FC personnel Naik Nasir Iqbal was killed and six wounded in a camp attack. **Dera Ismail Khan** saw supplies seized en route to a fort. In **South Waziristan**, a post's surveillance and Wi-Fi systems were destroyed. **Bajaur** reported a grenade strike on a school-occupied military site. **North Waziristan** witnessed an ambush killing three soldiers. In **Tank**, a police officer was detained and released under conditions. Finally, **Peshawar** saw a grenade attack on a police checkpoint, with possible casualties. (Telegram, 7 August 2026)

Operations Table

District	Area	Incident/Outcome
Lower Dir	Lal Qila	FC camp attacked; Naik Nasir Iqbal killed , six wounded
Dera Ismail Khan	Prova	Supplies seized en route to military fort
South Waziristan	Shaktoi	Security camera and Wi-Fi system destroyed
Bajaur	Wara Mamond	Grenade attack on military at school; possible casualties and material losses
North Waziristan	Garyum	Ambush on vehicles; three killed, one wounded , vehicles damaged
Tank	Gomal	Police officer detained, released under elders' guarantee
Peshawar	Badh Bera	Grenade attack on police checkpoint; possible casualties

Economy

- ◆ **K-IV Project Cleared Amid Escalating Costs** — The Central Development Working Party (CDWP), chaired by **Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal**, approved Karachi's **Greater Bulk Water Supply Scheme (K-IV)** at a revised cost of **Rs172bn**, reflecting a staggering **975 per cent escalation** since its inception in 2007. Originally designed for 650MGD, the project's capacity has been cut to **260MGD**, with completion now eyed for June 2027 after repeated delays. **Gen Muhammad Saeed, Wapda Chairman**, attributed setbacks to financing problems. Iqbal stressed the scheme's "**far-reaching social and economic benefits**," aiming to provide clean water and reduce reliance on the tanker mafia. (*Dawn*, [7 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Services Exports Surge in FY26** — Pakistan's services exports rose **18.81 per cent to \$10.04bn in FY26**, driven mainly by the **information technology sector**, according to official data. In rupee terms, exports climbed **19.33pc to Rs2.815tr**, while monthly exports in June jumped **37.20pc year-on-year**. Telecommunications, computer and information services surged **20.42pc to \$4.60bn**, and other business services grew **27.22pc to \$2.15bn**. Travel services also expanded sharply, up **52.74pc to \$1.115bn**, though transport services fell 6.61pc. Imports of services rose 5.67pc to \$11.93bn, yet the **trade deficit narrowed by 33.38pc to \$1.894bn**, reflecting stronger export performance. (*Dawn*, [7 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Iran Eyes Trade Expansion via Pakistani Ports** — During a meeting with **Federal Minister for Energy Awais Leghari**, Iranian Ambassador **Dr Reza Amiri Moghaddam** expressed interest in routing a significant portion of Iran's trade through Pakistani ports, emphasising closer cooperation in the **energy sector**. He highlighted ongoing cross-border electricity supply and plans for a second transmission line, with consideration to expand the current **100MW arrangement**. The ambassador underscored regional connectivity and invited Pakistani institutions to the upcoming **Pakistan–Iran Joint Commission in Tehran**. Leghari stressed Gwadar's strategic importance, noting that uninterrupted electricity imports from Iran remain integral to Pakistan's long-term energy planning. (*The Nation*, [7 August 2026](#))

- ◆ **Pakistan Eyes Medical Tourism Boom** — Pakistan is positioning itself to capture a share of the **multi-billion-dollar global medical tourism market**, leveraging its internationally trained healthcare professionals, lower treatment costs and growing reputation in **aesthetic medicine**. Experts told the **Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC)** that the industry, valued at \$144.5bn in 2024, could reach \$704.8bn by 2033. **Dr Salman**, a plastic surgeon and hair transplant specialist, noted rising demand for procedures such as hair transplants, rhinoplasty and body contouring, with Pakistan offering treatments at **60–90pc lower costs** than Western countries. With supportive policies, accreditation and investment, Pakistan could become a regional healthcare hub. (*The News*, [7 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Modernising Pakistan's Agriculture with U.S. Agri-Tech** — The United States has expressed readiness to support Pakistan's farm sector through **advanced technology, expertise and investment**, creating new commercial opportunities for both nations. “**American companies are well positioned to bring their expertise, technologies and decades of practical experience to the table**,” said U.S. **Chargé d’Affaires Natalie A. Baker** during a webinar organised by the **Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU)**, the U.S. Embassy and Pakistan's government. She emphasised that agriculture contributes nearly one-quarter of Pakistan's GDP, and U.S. innovation in **precision machinery, irrigation systems, digital farm management and cold chain logistics** could boost productivity while conserving resources. (*The News*, [7 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Critical Minerals and Transparency in Pakistan** — Growing U.S. interest in Pakistan's **critical minerals** has already produced a \$500m agreement and \$1.3bn financing for **Reko Diq**, but the editorial cautions that “**contracts signed today will shape the nation's economic future for years**.” It stresses that mineral wealth must be treated as **long-term national assets**, not closed-room deals, and calls for **rigorous legal, financial and technical scrutiny**. Transparency, parliamentary oversight and local community participation are deemed essential. The piece argues that competition between U.S. and Chinese firms could secure better terms, technology transfer and value addition. (*Dawn*, [7 August 2026](#))

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Sharif's Diplomatic Mission to Riyadh** — Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif** arrived in Jeddah on Thursday at the invitation of Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister **Mohammed bin Salman**, accompanied by Deputy PM and Foreign Minister **Ishaq Dar**, Army Chief **Field Marshal Asim Munir**, and senior ministers. The high-profile visit underscores Islamabad's commitment to Riyadh amid heightened Gulf tensions. The Foreign Office said talks will focus on **strengthening bilateral ties and reviewing regional developments**, with Pakistan's diplomatic efforts to reduce Gulf tensions also on the agenda. The premier will also perform Umrah and visit the **Roze-e-Rasool (PBUH)** in Medina. (*The Express Tribune*, [7 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Hormuz at the Heart of Diplomacy** — Pakistan's Foreign Office spokesperson **Tahir Andrabi** stated that resolving the **Strait of Hormuz standoff** is central to easing wider tensions between the US and Iran. He emphasised that Pakistan remains engaged with regional partners, praising **Oman's constructive role** in promoting peace and stability. Andrabi noted that “**the resolution of the standoff in the Strait of Hormuz will obviously create a conducive environment for the parties to return to the Islamabad MoU**,” potentially reviving technical-level talks between Tehran

and Washington. He also rejected India's criticism of AJK polls, reaffirming Kashmir's disputed status under UN resolutions. (*The Express Tribune*, [7 August 2026](#))

- ◆ **Diaspora Protest Marks Kashmir Anniversary** — Hundreds of British Kashmiris and activists gathered outside the **Indian High Commission in London** to mark the seventh anniversary of India's revocation of Articles 370 and 35A, which ended Jammu and Kashmir's semi-autonomous status. Organised by **Tehreek-e-Kashmir UK**, the demonstration called the move a violation of the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination. **Fahim Kayani, TeK UK President**, stressed that **"the only inherent right Kashmiris are fighting for is the right to determine their own future through a free and fair vote."** Protesters urged the international community to press for UN-backed resolutions and warned against demographic changes they described as settler colonialism. (*The Express Tribune*, [7 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Eight Muslim States Condemn Gaza Violations** — In a joint statement, the foreign ministers of **Pakistan, Egypt, Türkiye, Indonesia, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE** strongly denounced Israel's actions in Gaza, citing **attacks on healthcare facilities, civilian infrastructure and the killing of women and children** as **"grave violations of international law, including international humanitarian law."** The ministers warned that such actions undermine the **Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict**, despite Palestinian factions' acceptance of the roadmap announced by US President Donald Trump. They urged the UN Security Council to assume its responsibilities and hold Israel accountable, rejecting any attempts to annex Palestinian territory. (*The Express Tribune*, [7 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Rights Groups Reject Foreign Media Restrictions** — The **Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP)** and the **Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ)** condemned the government's new **Foreign Media Facilitation Guidelines 2026**, warning they would **"risk deterring independent reporting on matters of public interest."** HRCP described the move as part of a **"growing pattern of restrictions on media freedom in Pakistan,"** while PFUJ leaders **Afzal Butt** and **Arshad Ansari** said the notification amounted to **"attacking the freedom of expression and putting curbs on press freedom."** Both organisations demanded immediate withdrawal, warning of protests if press freedom continues to shrink. (*The Express Tribune*, [7 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Xi's Letter Strengthens Bilateral Ties** — Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif** met Chinese Ambassador **Jiang Zaidong**, who handed over a letter from President **Xi Jinping** conveying appreciation for the PM's message on the 105th anniversary of the Communist Party of China. The meeting underscored the importance of **people-to-people contacts** and highlighted the **positive trajectory of Pakistan-China relations**. Discussions also covered bilateral cooperation and regional issues of mutual interest, reflecting the enduring partnership between the two countries and their shared commitment to strengthening ties across multiple sectors. (*The Express Tribune*, [7 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan Dismisses Indian Remarks on AJK Elections** — At his weekly briefing, **Foreign Office Spokesperson Tahir Andrabi** categorically rejected the Indian Ministry of External Affairs' comments on Azad Jammu and Kashmir's legislative polls, calling them **"baseless and politically motivated."** He linked the remarks to the anniversary of India's **5 August 2019 unilateral actions**, which he termed a **"flagrant violation of UN Security Council resolutions, international law and India's own commitments."** Andrabi stressed that AJK elections are being conducted peacefully and transparently, reflecting the democratic will of its people, and reiterated that Jammu and

Kashmir remains an internationally recognised disputed territory. (*The Express Tribune*, [7 August 2026](#))

- ◆ **Riyadh Air Expands Routes to Pakistan** — Saudi Arabia's new national carrier **Riyadh Air** will begin daily flights between **Islamabad and Riyadh from 14 August**, with ticket sales already open. The airline also announced that the **Lahore–Riyadh service will launch on 18 August**, operating three flights per week. Services will be operated on **Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners**, offering four cabin classes: Business Elite, Business, Premium Economy and Economy. The routes are designed to provide **smooth onward connectivity to Europe and the Middle East**, catering to both business and leisure travellers from Pakistan. (*Dawn*, [7 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan's Tightrope in Saudi Arabia** — As **Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif** and **Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir** embark on another visit to Riyadh, the editorial notes that Saudi Arabia faces mounting pressure amid a widening regional war, with attacks threatening shipping routes, oil facilities and military sites. Pakistan's obligations under the **Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement** require support, yet the piece stresses that Islamabad must remain a stabilising power rather than an active combatant. "**Above all, Pakistan must avoid being drawn into a war for which it has neither the economic nor the strategic bandwidth,**" it cautions, urging careful diplomacy to reassure allies while keeping peace channels open. (*Dawn*, [7 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan to Adopt China-Style Policing Reforms** — Interior Minister **Mohsin Naqvi** has announced major reforms to Pakistan's policing system, including the establishment of a **Law Enforcement Investigation Centre in Islamabad** modelled on Chinese practices. The centre will integrate **detention, investigation and summary trial facilities under one roof**, aiming to speed up disposal of minor offence cases and reduce delays. Naqvi emphasised that **foreign training programmes in China and Turkiye** will become a permanent part of police development, while modern drones, advanced surveillance systems and specialised investigation rooms at the National Police Academy will strengthen capacity. He also revealed plans for new police uniforms and the inclusion of **modern interrogation techniques** as an academic subject in training. (*Dawn*, [7 August 2026](#))

Politics, Culture, Etc.

- ◆ **Transporters Announce Nationwide Shutdown** — The **Pakistan Mini Mazda Association** and the **All-Pakistan Goods Transport Owners Association** declared a wheel-jam strike from 8 August, protesting against the government's **daily revision of petroleum prices, excessive fines and corruption in enforcement**. Association leaders warned that the strike could severely disrupt imports and exports. **Tanveer Jatt**, Central President of the Mini Mazda Association, cautioned that "**the strike will affect the country's import and export business**" unless demands are met. **Chaudhry Owais Gujjar** highlighted rampant corruption in axle-load enforcement, while **Khalid Arain** criticised government policies and mistreatment of drivers. (*The Express Tribune*, [7 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **PML-N Confident of Victory in AJK** — **Shah Ghulam Qadir**, President of the PML-N AJK chapter, expressed optimism that the party's strong performance in the ongoing elections would enable it to form a stable government in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing party workers and

refugees from IIOJK, he congratulated supporters on what he termed a “**resounding victory**,” crediting the leadership of **Nawaz Sharif, Shehbaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz**. He urged peace during polling in Rawalakot Division on 10 August and dismissed PPP’s allegations of irregularities as “baseless,” insisting that voting had been free and fair. (*The Express Tribune*, [7 August 2026](#))

- ◆ **Mullick Urges Unity in AJK** — Prime Minister’s Special Assistant on Human Rights **Mushaal Hussein Mullick** reaffirmed her support for the Kashmir cause, calling for **unity and peaceful dialogue** in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. On **Youn-e-Istehsal**, she paid tribute to the resilience of Kashmiris, describing AJK as the “**peaceful base camp of the Kashmir freedom movement**.” Mullick stressed that grievances must be addressed through constitutional and institutional mechanisms, offering to mediate the crisis. She warned that internal discord would weaken the broader struggle, urging restraint and dialogue to reinforce AJK’s role in supporting the Kashmiri people’s right to self-determination. (*The Express Tribune*, [7 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **PTI Launches ‘Free Imran’ Campaign in Peshawar** — The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf formally began its movement for the release of party founder **Imran Khan** with a rally in Peshawar. **Shafi Jan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Information Minister**, hailed the event as proof of “**overwhelming confidence of the public, particularly the youth, in Imran Khan and his nominated Chief Minister Sohail Afridi**.” He described the rally as a milestone in the struggle for Khan’s release, stressing that Afridi’s demands were within constitutional bounds. Jan insisted that justice must be ensured for both Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi, calling timely access to justice their fundamental right. (*The Express Tribune*, [7 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Child Abuse Cases Surge in Pakistan** — A report by child protection NGO **Sahil** revealed that **1,914 child abuse cases** were reported in the first half of 2026, including **1,015 incidents of child sexual abuse**. The findings showed that **Punjab accounted for 80% of cases**, with girls making up 58% of victims and children aged 11–15 the most vulnerable. Alarming, **45% of abuse occurred inside victims’ own homes**, often at the hands of acquaintances. The report also documented abductions, child marriages, pornography cases, and 49 abandoned infants, underscoring the urgent need for stronger protection and enforcement mechanisms. (*The Express Tribune*, [7 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Sindh CM Defends Stability, Highlights Thar Model** — Sindh Chief Minister **Murad Ali Shah** rejected claims of system failure, stressing that “**no one will be allowed to shed blood over the issue of new provinces**.” He reiterated that the Sindh Assembly has unanimously opposed their creation, while defending peaceful protest as a constitutional right. Shah showcased the **Thar coal project as a successful model** of collaboration between communities, investors and government, urging replication nationwide. He also announced wheat procurement to protect farmers. At a mining conference, experts highlighted Pakistan’s vast untapped reserves, with plans for an international summit next year. (*The Express Tribune*, [7 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Sindh Film Breakthrough at Oscars** — Senior Minister **Sharjeel Inam Memon** announced that the Sindh government-produced film *Mera Lyari* has entered the race for nominations at the Academy Awards, calling it a “**significant honour for Pakistan, particularly Sindh**.” Chairing a meeting of the Sindh Information Department’s Film Board, he described the development as a milestone for the province’s cultural and creative sectors. Memon emphasised that securing a nomination would showcase Sindh’s art and talent globally, adding that the government aims to

build a **modern, globally competitive filmmaking hub** to provide opportunities for local talent at national and international levels. (*The Express Tribune*, [7 August 2026](#))

- ◆ **Parvez Butt Remembered as ‘Silent Hero’** — At a memorial reference in Islamabad, former Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission chairman **Parvez Butt** was hailed for his lifelong dedication to the country’s nuclear programme. Organised by **Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed**, the event was attended by family members, scientists, engineers and former officials of the Strategic Plans Division. In his keynote, Senator Mushahid described Butt as a “**silent hero of Pakistan’s nuclear project because he believed in professionalism rather than self-promotion.**” He also noted that five individuals were instrumental in the programme’s development, including **Zulfikar Ali Bhutto**, whom he termed its architect. (*The Express Tribune*, [7 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Imran Khan’s Sons Raise Alarm Over Health** — Former prime minister **Imran Khan’s sons, Kasim and Sulaiman**, voiced fears about their father’s condition, alleging that family, lawyers and doctors have been denied access for seven months. Speaking to CNN in London, they said they had not seen him since November 2022, after the assassination attempt, and claimed visa applications submitted in January remain unanswered. Kasim stated, “**We’re trying, we’d like to go, but nothing’s coming through.**” The Ministry of Information rejected the allegations as “misleading,” insisting the brothers’ NICOP cards allow entry without visas, though they maintain the cards have expired. (*The Express Tribune*, [7 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **‘Naqsh-e-Watan’ Cultural Vision Unveiled** — Pakistan’s National Cultural Narrative, *Naqsh-e-Watan*, was launched at the PNCA in Islamabad by **Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Aurangzeb Khan Khichi**, who hailed it as a “**historic milestone towards safeguarding Pakistan’s rich cultural heritage and projecting the country’s authentic cultural identity to the world.**” He emphasised that the initiative is a **comprehensive national development vision**, linking culture to employment, tourism, exports, rural economies, women’s empowerment and preservation of crafts. Khichi urged universities, the private sector, overseas Pakistanis and citizens to collectively promote the narrative across institutions and digital platforms. (*The Express Tribune*, [7 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Govt Signals Flexibility in Talks with PTI** — The government renewed its invitation to the opposition for dialogue, with **Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry** stressing that “**meaningful dialogue is the only way to resolve political issues.**” Following a meeting between Speaker **Sardar Ayaz Sadiq** and PTI Chief Whip **Amir Dogar**, the government indicated talks could be held at a venue proposed by the opposition, marking a key concession. **TTAP spokesperson Yousafzai** said opposition leaders must first be allowed to meet **Imran Khan**, insisting “**How can we negotiate with the government without consulting our leader?**” (*The Express Tribune*, [7 August 2026](#))
- ◆ **Global Recognition for Pakistani Hindu Leader** — Writing from Calgary, **Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani**, Member of the National Assembly and patron-in-chief of the Pakistan Hindu Council, reflects on receiving the **Global Hindu Award 2026** at the Dhanteras Gala. He dedicated the honour to Pakistan, emphasising Hinduism’s universal message of peace, tolerance and compassion, recalling his father’s advice that “**a truly good human being is one who shares the pain and suffering of others.**” Vankwani highlighted his decades-long struggle for minority rights,

interfaith harmony and social justice, and invited international delegates to visit Pakistan's ancient Hindu sites, underscoring faith tourism as a bridge for peace. (*The News*, [7 August 2026](#))



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