

DAILY PAKISTAN WATCH

1 September 2026

Security

- ◆ **Makkah Alliance Launched with Pakistani Leadership** — Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye have formally launched the **Makkah Alliance** under the **Joint Defence Agreement**, establishing a secretariat in Saudi Arabia to be headed by a **Pakistani Secretary-General for three years**. The inaugural meeting in Istanbul brought together foreign and defence ministers, chiefs of defence forces and general staffs of the three nations. A joint statement reaffirmed their commitment to **regional peace, de-escalation and collective security**, stressing that the alliance is founded on principles of **sovereignty, non-interference and cooperation**. Turkish Foreign Minister **Hakan Fidan** hailed the pact as a “**historic step**”, noting it will reduce uncertainty and strengthen regional stability. The alliance is open to other states in the region that adhere to its principles, with membership procedures under discussion. (*The Nation*, [1 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Court Upholds Indus Waters Treaty, Restricts Indian Projects** — The **Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague** has ruled that the **Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)** remains fully in force, rejecting India’s attempt to suspend it. The Court held that India cannot unilaterally terminate or hold the treaty in abeyance, stressing the principle of *pacta sunt servanda*. It ordered India to **limit construction on the Ratle Hydro-Electric Plant in Kashmir**, prohibiting concreting above specified levels until a **Neutral Expert’s decision in July 2027**. Pakistan welcomed the ruling, which reinforces that disputes must be resolved through treaty mechanisms, not unilateral action. (*The Nation*, [1 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Punjab Assembly Passes Controversial Anti-Terrorism Bill** — The **Punjab Assembly** has passed the **Punjab Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Bill 2026**, despite strong objections from **PTI lawmakers** who warned it undermines fundamental rights and fair trial safeguards. Opposition Leader **Moin Riaz Qureshi** accused the government of using the law to consolidate power, while PTI’s **Ahmed Rashid Bhatti** called it a “black law,” citing secrecy provisions for judges, prosecutors, lawyers and witnesses. The bill establishes a framework for **Special Security Cases**, allowing sealed records, concealed identities, video-linked hearings and secure locations. The government insists these measures are necessary to protect judicial participants in high-security terrorism trials. (*The Express Tribune*, [1 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Field Marshal Asim Munir’s Strategic Engagements in Istanbul** — During his official visit to **Türkiye**, **Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir**, Chief of Army Staff & Chief of Defence Forces, held high-level meetings with **Saudi Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman**, Turkish Foreign Minister **Hakan Fidan**, Defence Minister **Yaşar Güler**, and Chief of General Staff **General Selçuk Bayraktaroğlu**. Discussions focused on **bilateral defence cooperation, mutual interests, and regional security**. Munir also attended the **Strategic Political and Defence Committee meeting under the Makkah Agreement**, alongside Saudi and Turkish counterparts, reviewing ways to strengthen **strategic coordination and collective defence**. The engagements underscored the

growing **Pakistan-Saudi-Turkish partnership** and shared commitment to regional stability. (*The Nation*, [1 September 2026](#))

- ◆ **Resistance Strike Targets Taliban Intelligence in Kandahar** — The **National Independence Front (NIF)** has claimed responsibility for a targeted operation in Kandahar on 30 August 2026, killing **Mullah Tajmir Jawad**, identified as the Taliban's **First Deputy Director General of Intelligence**. The NIF described the attack as “**a direct strike against the Taliban’s intelligence and coercive structure**”, warning that senior officials involved in repression could no longer expect immunity. The group said resistance activity is shifting toward **senior Taliban officials and centres of power**, aiming to challenge the Taliban’s monopoly on governance. (*The Nation*, [1 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Security Forces Eliminate Militants in Washuk Operation** — Security forces in **Balochistan** have killed two alleged operatives of an **Indian-sponsored terrorist outfit** during an **intelligence-based operation (IBO)** in the **Palantuk area of Washuk district**. A statement shared on **Pakistan Television (PTV)** showed a vehicle engulfed in smoke after the strike. The militants were reportedly involved in attacks on **Mashkhel Police Station** and **Customs House**. A large cache of arms and ammunition was recovered. Officials vowed continued operations against “**Fitna Al-Hindustan**” until the complete elimination of terrorists. (*The Express Tribune*, [1 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Reko Diq Convoy Attack Repelled in Chagai** — Security forces in **Balochistan** killed **12 armed assailants** after a convoy from the **Reko Diq copper and gold project** came under heavy fire in the **Nokacha area of Chagai**. The attackers attempted to intercept around three dozen empty vehicles travelling to **Quetta** under security escort. A fierce two-hour gun battle ensued, leaving two security personnel injured. **Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti** confirmed the deaths and vowed continued **intelligence-based operations** against militants, declaring that “**there will be no negotiations with those who take up arms against the state.**” He reaffirmed that the government would not compromise on its writ or citizens’ safety. (*Dawn*, [1 September 2026](#))

Economy

- ◆ **Aurangzeb Warns of Economic Risks Amid Gulf Conflict** — Finance Minister **Muhammad Aurangzeb** cautioned that Pakistan’s growth and inflation outlook could be affected by the ongoing **US-Iran war**, noting that the conflict has created new risks for recovery. Addressing an **EXIM Bank** event, he said Pakistan had moved from stabilisation to growth, expecting GDP to rise above 4% this fiscal year. He highlighted achievements including a **3.7% GDP growth last year**, **the lowest fiscal deficit in 22 years**, and **three consecutive primary surpluses**. Aurangzeb stressed sustainable growth, an export-led strategy, and private-sector participation. (*The Nation*, [1 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan Emerges as Global Crypto Leader** — Pakistan has become the **world’s third-largest cryptocurrency market**, with nearly **40 million crypto accounts**, according to **Bilal Bin Saqib**, Chairman of the **Pakistan Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority (PVARA)**. He told the **Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat** that Pakistani youth are embracing digital currencies for greater economic independence. Bilal said PVARA was created to regulate the sector and bring users into the tax net, adding that “**banning technology would amount to restricting the country itself.**” Several international firms have applied for licences to operate in Pakistan’s digital currency market. (*The Express Tribune*, [1 September 2026](#))

- ◆ **K-P Demands Fair Share of Hydel Profits** — The **Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P)** government has accused the **Centre** of violating the Constitution by giving **preferential treatment to Punjab** in hydel profit payments, despite K-P's larger share in electricity generation. Citing **Article 161(2)**, officials said K-P produces over **70 per cent of Pakistan's hydel power** but receives disproportionately lower payments. The **Power Division** rejected the claim, saying Punjab's receipts were far smaller than alleged. K-P warned that arrears exceeding **Rs 87 billion** threaten its fiscal stability and urged a **judicious, constitutional distribution** of profits. (*The Express Tribune*, [1 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan's Debt Trap and Borrowing Culture** — In his thought-provoking column, **Dr Shujjat Ahmed** examines Pakistan's deepening reliance on borrowing, arguing that the country is trapped in a **"cycle of abusive structure that refuses to break."** He traces the evolution of debt from personal survival loans to sovereign borrowing, warning that **"borrowed existence eventually catches up with unpleasant consequences."** Dr Ahmed critiques Pakistan's breach of the **Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Limitation Act 2005**, noting that debt has exceeded the 60 per cent GDP cap and continues to rise due to **"debt-fuelled spending sprees."** He calls for genuine reform, stressing that unless policymakers act, **"the debt sentence will be served not by those who borrowed, but by those who never had a choice."** (*The Express Tribune*, [1 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Dubai Property Loses Safe Haven Status** — In a detailed report, *Dawn* highlights how the **Gulf war has disrupted the flow of black money from Pakistan to Dubai**, reversing years of investment trends. According to **All Pakistan Builders Association Chairman Hassan Bakhshi**, about **\$60 million in illegal money was created monthly in Pakistan and funnelled into Dubai**, but this has now stopped. Currency dealers confirm that funds are being repatriated, with **remittances from Dubai rising** as Pakistanis attempt to recover stuck investments. The editorial notes that **"property prices in Defence went up 50–60 per cent after the Gulf war started"**, while other Karachi areas saw 20–25pc increases. Analysts warn Dubai has lost investor confidence, with Pakistan's property market now absorbing diverted liquidity. (*Dawn*, [1 September 2026](#))

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Pakistan and Iran Pledge Regional Peace Efforts at SCO Summit** — Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif** met Iranian President **Masoud Pezeshkian** on the sidelines of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Bishkek**, reaffirming that the two **brotherly neighbours will continue joint efforts to promote peace and de-escalation**. Shehbaz emphasised building on the **Islamabad MoU** and highlighted Field Marshal **Asim Munir's recent visit to Tehran** as a positive step. Both leaders stressed strengthening bilateral ties, regional connectivity and unity of the Ummah. Separately, Shehbaz met **Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev**, vowing to deepen the **Pak-Uzbekistan strategic partnership**, expand trade to **\$2 billion by 2029**, and advance projects like the **Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan Railway**. (*The Nation*, [1 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan Shows Solidarity with Nepal After Floods** — Acting on President **Asif Ali Zardari's** directives, former Senate chairman **Syed Nayyar Hussain Bukhari** and presidential spokesperson **Murtaza Solangi** visited the **Embassy of Nepal in Islamabad** to convey condolences over last week's devastating floods. Triggered by landslides and a glacier burst along the China-Nepal border, the disaster caused widespread destruction and loss of life. Nepal's Ambassador **Rita Dhital** thanked Pakistan for its support, calling it a reflection of deep friendship and cooperation. Pakistan

assured unwavering solidarity and readiness to assist Nepal in recovery, reinforcing the importance of **regional empathy and humanitarian cooperation**. (*The Nation*, [1 September 2026](#))

- ◆ **Pakistan and Russia to Launch Pilot Freight Train** — Pakistan has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening railway cooperation with Russia, signing a **Freight Forwarding Contract with RZD Logistics** to establish a framework for international freight transport and multimodal logistics. The two sides agreed to launch a **Pakistan-Russia Pilot Container Freight Train** to boost rail-based trade and regional connectivity, though its start has been delayed by regional conflict. The initiative is expected to modernise **Pakistan Railways**, enhance logistics efficiency, and integrate Pakistan more closely with **regional and international trade routes**. (*The Nation*, [1 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan to Table Mediation Law in Parliament** — Law Minister **Azam Nazeer Tarar** announced that Pakistan's ratification of the **Singapore Convention on Mediation** is progressing steadily, with implementing legislation to be presented to Parliament soon. Addressing the **Singapore Convention Week 2026**, he noted Pakistan became the **58th signatory** in May 2025. Once enacted, the law will make **mediated settlements enforceable across 57 other signatory states**, enhancing investor confidence and providing greater certainty in resolving commercial disputes. (*The Express Tribune*, [1 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **PCA Verdict Exposes India's Hydro-Politics** — The *Express Tribune* editorial emphasises that the **Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)** has ruled the **Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)** remains fully in force, rejecting India's attempt to suspend it and ordering a halt to construction on the **Ratle Hydro-Electric Plant** in occupied Kashmir. The paper notes this is the **third consecutive decision in Pakistan's favour**, nullifying India's claim that the PCA lacked authority. It condemns India's "**rogue conduct**" in weaponising water, stressing its actions violate the **1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties**. The editorial highlights the PCA's assertion that "**India had no legal grounds under treaty law or customary international law... to unilaterally suspend or terminate the treaty**", reaffirming the principle of **pacta sunt servanda (agreements must be kept)**. (*The Express Tribune*, [1 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **RSS Faces Global Backlash Amid Declining Influence** — In his column, *Dawn's* Delhi correspondent **Jawed Naqvi** argues that the **Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)** is encountering unprecedented resistance abroad, particularly in the US and Canada, where protests highlight its "**documented hatred of Muslims and Christians.**" The timing coincides with a youth-led challenge to the Modi government's ideology and the **decline of Israel's moral standing**, which has damaged India's reputation as a trusted partner. Naqvi recalls India's past role as an honest broker in conflicts, contrasting it with today's diminished respect. He notes that the RSS, a "**shadowy unregistered paramilitary body**", faces scrutiny over opaque finances and diaspora support. Bhagwat's conciliatory tone in New York suggests internal strain, with critics pointing to Golwalkar's writings that demanded non-Hindus "**lose their separate existence to merge in the Hindu race.**" Naqvi concludes that the RSS may be at odds with Modi's government and in **serious trouble**. (*Dawn*, [1 September 2026](#))

Politics, Culture, Etc.

- ◆ **Govt Attributes Loadshedding to Regional Conflict and Energy Disruptions** — Federal Minister for Energy **Awais Leghari** and Minister of State for Petroleum **Ali Pervaiz Malik** said the ongoing

Iran-US war and closure of the Strait of Hormuz have disrupted energy markets, causing current power shortages. Leghari explained that while diesel- and coal-fired plants are operational, expensive spot-market gas would raise tariffs by Rs5–6 per unit, which the government is avoiding. He noted loadshedding is concentrated in theft-prone areas, worsened by heat and humidity. Malik highlighted halted **Qatar LNG supplies** and thanked Qatar and Iran for their facilitation, stressing Pakistan's efforts to procure LNG despite soaring costs. Both ministers assured that relief measures are underway and appealed for public patience until supplies stabilise. (*The Nation*, [1 September 2026](#))

- ◆ **PTI Expands Street Movement to Sindh** — The **Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)** leadership will launch a **five-day campaign in Sindh from September 3–7**, beginning in **Ghotki** and culminating in **Karachi**. According to **Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Information Shafi Jan**, the Sindh leg is part of PTI's nationwide **Street Movement** aimed at expanding public outreach. **Chief Minister Sohail Afridi**, PTI Chairman **Barrister Gohar Ali Khan**, and Secretary General **Salman Akram Raja** will address gatherings across Sindh, concluding with a **Lawyers' Convention at the Sindh High Court Bar**. Shafi Jan added that after Sindh, the campaign will move to **Punjab and Balochistan**, following the directions of PTI founding chairman **Imran Khan**. (*The Express Tribune*, [1 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Balochistan Assembly Acts on Acid Attack Law and Security** — The **Balochistan Assembly** unanimously passed two resolutions: one urging tougher legislation against **acid attacks** and another demanding stronger implementation of the **National Action Plan (NAP)**. Legislator **Shaheeda Rauf** condemned the attack on **Dr Mahnoor**, calling it a grave violation of women's rights, and urged strict punishment, rehabilitation, and regulation of acid sales. The House also adopted a resolution by **Engineer Zamrak Khan Achakzai** of the ANP, condemning terrorist incidents in **Ziarat, Hanna Urak, Mastung and Qilla Abdullah**, including the killing of **Sessions Judge Abdul Hakeem Kakar**, and called for urgent action. (*The Express Tribune*, [1 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **PCA Ruling Strengthens Pakistan's Water Rights** — Deputy PM **Ishaq Dar** and PPP Vice President **Sherry Rehman** welcomed the **Permanent Court of Arbitration's unanimous award**, which reaffirmed that the **Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) remains fully in force** and rejected India's attempt to suspend it. Dar said the ruling vindicated Pakistan's position that **binding treaties cannot be unilaterally set aside**, urging India to comply with obligations and dispute-settlement decisions. Rehman stressed that India's hydroelectric projects must remain within treaty parameters, noting that **"The Indus is the lifeline of Pakistan. Water security is food security, economic security and increasingly climate security."** (*The Nation*, [1 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Church and UNICEF Strengthen Maternal, Newborn Health in Pakistan** — The **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** and **UNICEF** have announced a **\$1.2 million contribution** to improve maternal and newborn healthcare in Pakistan. Over two years, the programme will reach **410,000 mothers and newborns**, aiming to boost antenatal care and institutional deliveries by 50%. It will enhance health infrastructure, ensure essential medicines, strengthen referral systems, and train frontline workers to manage high-risk pregnancies. UNICEF's **Pernille Ironside** emphasised that investing in maternal care saves lives and builds a healthier Pakistan. Elder **Kelly R. Johnson** highlighted the Church's commitment to supporting vulnerable families. (*The Nation*, [1 September 2026](#))

- ◆ **Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Denies Wedding Rumours** — PPP Chairman **Bilawal Bhutto Zardari** has categorically dismissed social media speculation linking him to an engagement or marriage with “Princess Gloria.” In a video statement, he clarified: “Neither has the match been finalised nor have I got engaged.” Bilawal stressed that such rumours are baseless distractions from Pakistan’s pressing political and economic issues. He added that any personal decision regarding his marriage would be officially announced by his family, not through social media. The clarification came after reports suggested discussions abroad, fueling speculation online. (*The Nation*, [1 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Internet Services Restored in Parts of AJK** — Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister **Iftikhar Gilani** has fulfilled his promise to **restore internet services** across the region, bringing relief to thousands of residents, students, freelancers and business owners after months of disruption. The AJK government ordered the restoration in **eight districts**, with full services resumed in four, while **broadband and Wi-Fi** will be limited to educational institutions in the remaining areas. However, connectivity will remain suspended in **Sudhnoti and Rawalakot** districts of **Poonch Division**. (*The Express Tribune*, [1 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **AJK Leaders and Citizens March for Peace, Supplies** — Political and religious groups in **Sudhnoti, ‘Azad’ Jammu and Kashmir (AJK)** held a large peace march organised by the **Awami Ittehad Forum**, demanding an end to unrest and the restoration of essential supplies from Pakistan. Participants from major parties, including **PML-N, PPP, JUI, PTI and IPP**, raised slogans such as “**No to unrest in AJK**” and “**Kashmir and Pakistan are one.**” A joint declaration urged immediate elections, restoration of internet and travel facilities, and removal of blockades disrupting food and goods transport. (*The Express Tribune*, [1 September 2026](#))



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