

# DAILY PAKISTAN WATCH

04-07 September 2026

## Security

- ◆ **Border Clash Highlights Pakistan's Security Resolve** — According to the **Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR)**, security forces killed **15 terrorists of the Indian-sponsored Fitna al-Khwarij** during a 36-hour operation as they attempted to infiltrate across the **Pakistan-Afghanistan border near North Waziristan**. A large cache of weapons and ammunition was recovered, exposing the group's designs to destabilise the country. ISPR stressed that the incident underscores the **Afghan Taliban regime's failure to prevent cross-border terrorism**. President **Asif Ali Zardari** and Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif** commended the forces' professionalism, with the PM vowing that the **Azm-e-Istehkam counter-terrorism campaign will continue until terrorism is eradicated**. (*The Nation*, [4 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Counterterrorism Operations Intensify in Balochistan** — Pakistan's security forces have eliminated **48 terrorists linked to Indian proxies Fitna al-Hindustan and Fitna al-Khwarij** in multiple intelligence-based operations across **Mastung, Quetta, Kalat and Sibi** over the past 72 hours, according to the **ISPR**. A cache of weapons and explosives was destroyed, while sanitisation operations continue under **Azm-e-Istehkam**. President **Asif Ali Zardari** commended the forces, noting that **"the killing of over 1,188 terrorists in Balochistan during 2026 reflects both the threats faced and the capabilities of our security forces."** Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif** praised their professional commitment, reiterating that **"there will be no compromise on the peace of Pakistan."** (*The News*, [5 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Strategic Significance of the Makkah Defence Pact** — The **University of Lahore (UOL)** hosted an international conference chaired by **Awais Raooof** to explore the strategic impact of the **Makkah Joint Defence Alliance**, signed on 7 August 2026. Raooof described the pact as defensive and potentially the start of a new regional security structure. Federal Minister **Prof Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhry** stressed that **"the most consequential contests of the 21st century will not be decided by military power alone but also in universities, laboratories, technology centres, financial markets and factories."** Former foreign minister **Mian Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri** said the pact reflected wider Muslim world sentiments, while former NSA **Lt-Gen (retd) Nasir Janjua** highlighted shifting global power balances. The conference examined security, economic cooperation and multipolarity, affirming the pact's role in deterrence and regional unity. (*The Nation*, [4 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **The Civilisational State as a Political Fallacy** — In his opinion piece, **Bilal Mustafa** critiques the idea of the *civilisational state*, arguing that while it appeals to populist movements, it risks weakening institutions and concentrating unchecked political power. He notes that the concept often emphasises cultural homogeneity and can be manipulated to deepen divisions. Citing examples, he highlights **India's revocation of Article 370 under Hindutva ideology** and **Israel's expansionist policies under Benjamin Netanyahu** as manifestations of exclusionary civilisational narratives.

Mustafa warns that such frameworks can marginalise minorities and destabilise peace, stressing instead the need to **reform the international order to deliver equity, strengthen institutions, and balance national identity with pluralism**. (*The News*, [4 September 2026](#))

- ◆ **Pakistan's Expanding Strategic Space** — Pakistan's defence and diplomatic partnerships are evolving into a broader role beyond security. The **Makkah Defence Alliance**, signed with Saudi Arabia and Türkiye, commits members to collective defence, with Pakistan providing the first secretary general for three years. The editorial stresses that **"the real measure of Pakistan's emergence as a middle power will not simply be the number of defence agreements it signs but whether it can convert its growing strategic weight into a force for stability."** Alongside Kuwait's Protocol Agreement-2026 and Pakistan's **SCO chairmanship**, these moves highlight opportunities for dialogue, integration and peace despite regional threats. (*The News*, [4 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **NACTA Strengthened with Senior Intelligence Appointment** — In a significant reshuffle, **Major General Faisal Naseer**, currently serving as **DG Counter-Intelligence (GDC)** at ISI, has been appointed **National Coordinator of the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA)** for three years. His extensive intelligence and counter-terrorism background is expected to enhance **inter-agency coordination** and bolster Pakistan's CT response, particularly amid heightened militant threats in **Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**. The appointment, approved by the federal government under **Section 9(1) of the NACTA Act, 2013**, comes as NACTA seeks to unify federal and provincial efforts against terrorism emanating from Afghanistan. Observers view the move as pivotal in strengthening Pakistan's counter-terrorism architecture. (*The Nation*, [5 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **JKLF Intensifies Campaign for Yasin Malik** — The **Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF)** has condemned what it calls the "false implication" of its incarcerated chairman **Muhammad Yasin Malik** in the 1990 murder of Kashmiri Pandit woman **Sarla Bhat**. In a statement, JKLF spokesman **Muhammad Rafiq Dar** said the party would pursue its **"Save Yasin Malik"** and **"Justice for Yasin Malik"** campaigns with renewed vigour, following Malik's 25-page affidavit submitted from Tihar Jail. The leadership endorsed his position on the case and the 1990 exodus of Kashmiri Pandits, appealing to world leaders and human rights organisations to intervene. The JKLF reiterated its commitment to a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute through self-determination. (*The Nation*, [5 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Balochistan's Stability at the Core of State Policy** — During his visit to **Quetta Garrison**, **Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir**, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces, was briefed on the province's security environment and operational preparedness. He praised the professionalism of troops and emphasised that **"the peace, prosperity and well-being of the people of Balochistan remain central to the efforts of the state."** Munir underscored the importance of coordination among law-enforcement agencies and institutions to consolidate peace and create conditions for economic growth. He reaffirmed that a stable environment will facilitate **development initiatives, economic opportunities and improved prospects for the province's people**, while paying tribute to the sacrifices of martyrs. (*The Nation*, [6 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **ISPR Releases Patriotic Song 'Manzil Pakistan'** — To mark **Defence and Martyrs' Day**, the **Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR)** has unveiled a new national song titled *Manzil Pakistan*.

The track pays tribute to the sacrifices of Pakistan's martyrs while celebrating the nation's **resilience, determination and unity**. It highlights the strong bond between the armed forces and the people, underscoring shared patriotism. With its message of **sacrifice, loyalty and responsibility**, the song calls on citizens to contribute to Pakistan's progress, stability and prosperity. The release is part of nationwide commemorations honouring those who laid down their lives in defence of the country. (*The Nation*, [6 September 2026](#))

- ◆ **Paramilitary Soldier killed in AJK Attack** — In 'Azad' Jammu and Kashmir, armed miscreants opened indiscriminate fire at two locations in **Bagh and Tarar Khal Axis**, resulting in the killing of one paramilitary soldier and injuries to another. Security forces responded effectively, killing one attacker and recovering **two hand grenades, a Kalashnikov, three magazines and a dagger**. The **AJK Police spokesperson** confirmed that law-enforcement agencies have cordoned off the area and launched a search operation to trace the fleeing attackers. He stressed that **"no leniency will be shown towards elements attacking security forces and civilians,"** vowing strict legal action against those involved. (*The Nation*, [6 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Security Forces Foil Cross-Border Terror in KP** — Pakistan's security forces have killed **21 Khwarij militants** belonging to the Indian-sponsored **Fitna al-Khwarij** in multiple operations across **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa** between 3–5 September, according to the **ISPR**. Earlier, 10 militants were neutralised in **North Waziristan** during infiltration attempts, bringing the total to **25 terrorists eliminated** along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. In another engagement, seven militants were killed through precise action, while four more were neutralised in **Kohat and Dera Ismail Khan**. The ISPR said these repeated incidents highlight the **failure of the Afghan Taliban regime to prevent the use of Afghan soil for cross-border terrorism**, reaffirming Pakistan's resolve to defend its frontiers. (*The News*, [7 September 2026](#))

## Economy

- ◆ **Pakistan's Landmark Eurobond Success** — Pakistan has raised a record **\$3 billion** through a dual-tranche **Eurobond sale**, the largest single issuance in its history. The transaction drew nearly **\$6 billion in global investor orders**, signalling strong confidence in Pakistan's improving macroeconomic and credit fundamentals. The deal comprised **\$1.75b in 5.5-year bonds at 7.5%** and **\$1.25b in 10-year bonds at 7.9%**, reflecting robust demand across maturities. The Finance Ministry stressed this was more than borrowing: it is part of a **broadier sovereign liability management strategy** to diversify funding, extend maturities, and reduce refinancing risks. (*The Nation*, [4 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Sharif Launches Trade, Education and Health Reforms** — Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif** has approved the creation of a **Trade Facilitation Board**, which he will personally chair, to streamline cross-border commerce, enhance port capacity and promote SME participation. He directed the completion of the **first phase of Jinnah Medical Complex by March 2027** and finalisation of the **Daanish University plan within two weeks**, emphasising international-standard education for disadvantaged families. In recognition of extraordinary bravery, he awarded nurse **Razia Noreen Rs10 million** and announced she will receive the **Tamgha-e-Khidmat** for saving a newborn during the PIMS fire. (*The Nation*, [4 September 2026](#))

## Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Pakistan Recalls Kabul Envoy Amid Rising Resistance** — Pakistan has recalled its ambassador to Afghanistan, **Ubaid Ur Rehman Nizamani**, for consultations on the deteriorating security situation and the surge in **anti-Taliban armed resistance**. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister **Ishaq Dar** emphasised the need to closely monitor developments with implications for peace and security. Groups such as the **National Resistance Front, Afghanistan Freedom Front and United Front** have claimed dozens of attacks against Taliban positions, particularly in **Baghlan and Badakhshan**. Islamabad remains concerned about Afghan soil being used by militants against Pakistan, making Dar's meeting with Nizamani especially significant. (*The Nation*, [4 September 2026](#))
  
- ◆ **Pakistan Expresses Solidarity with Nepal Flood Victims** — Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif** visited the **Embassy of Nepal** in Islamabad to sign a condolence book for victims of recent flash floods and landslides. Accompanied by senior officials, including **Information Minister Attaullah Tarar** and **Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch**, he conveyed Pakistan's deepest sympathies and reaffirmed solidarity with Nepal. He announced that Pakistan would dispatch **emergency relief assistance later this week** to support rescue efforts. In his message, Shehbaz expressed confidence in Nepal's resilience, noting the **long-standing fraternal ties** between the two nations. Ambassador **Rita Dhital** thanked him, saying the gesture would be long remembered by the Nepali people. (*The Nation*, [4 September 2026](#))
  
- ◆ **Pakistan Rejects India's Narowal Temple Claim** — Pakistan's Foreign Office has dismissed India's allegations regarding damage to the **Adda Siraj Hindu temple in Narowal**, clarifying that the structure was harmed by **torrential rains on 21 July 2026** and is already under restoration. Spokesperson **Sajjad Haider Khan** termed India's assertions "false and politically motivated," adding that "**such deliberate distortion of facts cannot distract attention from India's abysmal record of systematic persecution of minorities.**" He accused New Delhi of weaponising **Hindutva ideology** against Muslims, Sikhs and Christians. On the **Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)**, Sajjad reiterated that both diplomatic and non-diplomatic options remain on the table, citing the **National Security Committee's April 2025 statement** that any attempt to divert Pakistan's water rights would be considered an act of war. Pakistan maintains the IWT remains binding and rejects India's unilateral suspension. (*The News*, [5 September 2026](#))
  
- ◆ **Pakistan Condemns Demolition of Historic Mosque in India** — Pakistan's Foreign Office has strongly denounced the demolition of a **century-old mosque in Uttar Pradesh** by Indian authorities, calling it a "**reprehensible action**" and part of a broader "**Islamophobic and Hindutva-driven campaign**" to erase Islamic heritage. FO spokesperson **Ambassador Sajjad Haider Khan** said the incident echoed the demolition of **Babri Masjid in 1992**, which remains a symbol of religious intolerance. Pakistan urged the international community to take immediate notice of what it described as the systematic persecution of Muslims and the destruction of their places of worship under state patronage, stressing accountability for violations of religious freedoms and cultural heritage. (*The News*, [7 September 2026](#))
  
- ◆ **Pakistan Dispatches Aid to Flood-Hit Nepal** — Pakistan has sent **100 tonnes of humanitarian assistance** to Nepal as the country reels from devastating floods and landslides that have killed over

**1,300 people.** Foreign Minister **Ishaq Dar** expressed solidarity, stating, “*Pakistan stands in solidarity with the government and people of Nepal and remains ready to extend all possible support in this difficult hour.*” The aid includes tents, blankets, mats, hygiene kits and medicines. Nepal’s Foreign Minister **Shisir Khanal** described the disaster as a “**Himalayan tsunami**”, warning reconstruction costs could reach billions. The UN has launched a **\$49.6 million flash appeal** to assist more than 84,000 affected people, with thousands still missing. (*The News*, [7 September 2026](#))

## Politics, Culture, Etc.

- ◆ **Liquor Permits Controversy in Punjab Assembly** — A heated debate unfolded in the **Punjab Assembly** as minority MPA **Tariq Masih Gul** demanded an end to liquor permits issued in the name of non-Muslims, insisting that “**liquor is forbidden in all religions, including Christianity, Hinduism and Sikhism.**” Parliamentary Secretary **Shehryar Malik** clarified that only licensed non-Muslims and foreigners could purchase alcohol, with eight authorised sale points under excise supervision. Treasury member **Ahsan Raza** urged action against illegal sales, noting poorer citizens resort to unsafe local liquor. Minority lawmakers stressed that linking alcohol consumption to their communities was unfair, a concern raised repeatedly in past assemblies. The session also addressed narcotics seizures, vehicle number plate delays, and opposition protests over healthcare facilities. (*The Nation*, [4 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Sindh Assembly Stands Firm on Unity** — The **Sindh Assembly** has unanimously passed a resolution rejecting any proposal to divide the province, declaring that “**Sindh is one and shall remain one.**” Moved by PPP leader **Nisar Ahmed Khuhro**, the resolution described Sindh as a “historic, civilisational and constitutional entity” and recalled its pivotal role in adopting the 1943 resolution supporting Pakistan’s creation. Chief Minister **Murad Ali Shah** warned, “*As long as even one member among us is alive, the province will not be divided.*” PPP leader **Faryal Talpur** added, “*We will not sell Sindh. This is our motherland, and we will protect it.*” Opposition lawmakers staged a walkout, but the house stood united in safeguarding Sindh’s territorial integrity under **Article 239(4)**. (*The Nation*, [4 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Wheat Crisis Reflects Systemic Failures** — Punjab’s iconic wheat fields, long symbols of abundance, now face scandal as flour millers allege supplies from **Passco warehouses contain excessive moisture, mould and foul odour**. Authorities deny the charges, insisting inspections are conducted, but the editorial stresses that “**wheat is Pakistan’s principal staple and one of the foundations of national food security.**” Past crises of hoarding, price manipulation, poor pesticides and rising costs already burden farmers and consumers. The piece warns this is not a mere commercial dispute but evidence of a wider rot in agriculture, where profiteers and negligent officials thrive. The government must investigate transparently, fix responsibility and strengthen storage systems to protect food security. (*The Nation*, [4 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Powerful Quarters Back New Administrative Units** — Senior ministers and influential quarters are increasingly voicing support for restructuring Pakistan’s administrative setup through the creation of **new provinces or empowered district governments**, though no formal proposal has yet reached the federal cabinet. **Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal** has suggested 12–15 provinces or 160 district governments, stressing the need for consensus, while **Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi** has argued for an overhaul to improve service delivery and accountability. The military’s media

wing has also called for debate on an “administrative reset.” However, strong resistance persists in **Sindh**, where the provincial assembly recently reaffirmed that “**Sindh is one and shall remain one.**” Defence Minister **Khawaja Asif** has added that devolution under the 18th Amendment remains incomplete, proposing divisions as a possible basis for reform. For now, the debate remains politically significant but institutionally preliminary, requiring broad consultations before any constitutional move. (*The News*, [6 September 2026](#))

- ◆ **ETPB Prioritises Restoration of Historic Religious Sites** — Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) Secretary **Nasir Mushtaq** has announced a major focus on restoring, renovating and rehabilitating historic **temples and gurdwaras across Pakistan**. Projects include repair of **Bhai Joga Singh and Bhai Beeba Singh Gurdwaras in Peshawar**, restoration of **Kali Bari Temple** and development of **Sadhu Bela Temple in Sukkur** as a model religious tourism destination. Work is also underway at **Gurdwara Janam Asthan, Nankana Sahib**, with plans to outsource management to a hotel company, and at **Kyara Sahib, Patti Sahib and Balila Sahib**. Mushtaq noted that despite limited federal funding and tax deductions, the ETPB has restored 17 gurdwaras in Punjab and shortlisted 23 more. He stressed that **religious tourism and heritage preservation are being advanced through partnerships and outsourcing under PPRA rules**. (*The News*, [4 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Hindutva and Hinduism: A Critical Distinction** — In his column, **Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani**, MNA and patron-in-chief of the Pakistan Hindu Council, welcomes RSS chief **Mohan Bhagwat**’s recent statement in New York that “*if any Hindu thinks there should be no Muslims in India, he will not remain Hindu.*” Vankwani stresses that **Hindutva has nothing to do with Hinduism**, noting it was a political slogan first raised during the British Raj and later linked to extremism. He argues Hinduism teaches compassion, tolerance and brotherhood, unlike Hindutva’s exclusionary agenda. He recalls that colonial rulers exploited divisions and that extremist Hindutva attitudes even targeted **Mahatma Gandhi**. Vankwani concludes that peace-loving Hinduism must not be confused with Hindutva, and Bhagwat’s words will only gain credibility if translated into equal citizenship and protection for minorities in India. (*The News*, [4 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **PPP Draws a Red Line on Sindh and Judicial Appointments** — The **Pakistan People’s Party (PPP)** has refused to support the government in Parliament until progress is made on **AJK elections and judicial appointments**. Senior leader **Syed Naveed Qamar** said, “*It takes two to tango,*” stressing that PPP’s grievances remain unaddressed. In London, **President Asif Ali Zardari** categorically rejected Interior Minister **Mohsin Naqvi**’s proposals for new provinces, declaring that “**dividing Sindh, or anything similar to that, was a no-go area.**” PPP leaders, backed by **Bilawal Bhutto Zardari**, vowed Sindh’s territorial integrity is non-negotiable. Meanwhile, PPP lawmakers recorded dissent against the **Islamabad Capital Territory Local Government (Amendment) Bill, 2026**, calling its provision for administrators “the most undemocratic.” The party insists elected representation must not be bypassed. (*The News*, [5 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **PTI Leader Arrested After Years in Hiding** — Former National Assembly member and **PTI leader Hammad Azhar** has been arrested in **Multan** after remaining in hiding since the **May 9, 2023 unrest**. Police said Azhar was declared a proclaimed offender and was wanted in more than **50 cases**, including an attack on the **GOR Gate**. He was detained near RA Bazaar and handed over to Lahore police. An **anti-terrorism court** had issued his permanent arrest warrants. PTI condemned the arrest, calling it “**political victimisation, state repression and fascist tactics**”,

insisting that Azhar should be produced before a court and dealt with according to law. The party vowed that arrests and repression could not eliminate its ideology. (*The Nation*, [7 September 2026](#))

- ◆ **Proposed Governance Model for Islamabad** — A high-powered committee led by **Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal** has recommended a new governance framework for the **Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT)**, centred on an **elected ICT Government (ICTG)** with a representative legislature and provincial-style departments. The proposed **ICT Assembly (ICTA)** would comprise 27 members, including reserved seats for women and minorities, and elect a chief minister/mayor as chief executive. While **law and order and master planning would remain under federal control**, 26 departments — ranging from education and health to transport and youth affairs — would be devolved to the ICTG. The committee suggested enacting an **Islamabad Capital Territory Government Act 2026**, requiring constitutional amendment, to grant administrative and financial autonomy. (*The News*, [7 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Foolproof Security at Rawalpindi Churches** — Acting on the directions of **City Police Officer Hassan Mushtaq Sukhera**, senior police officers visited churches and key locations in **Rawalpindi** to review security arrangements. **SP Potohar, SDPOs and other officers** supervised measures on the ground, ensuring strict entry protocols, including **complete body searches for worshippers** before entry. The police emphasised that **“protection of citizens’ lives and property remains the police’s top priority”**, with officers working round the clock to prevent crime and safeguard public safety. These steps form part of a broader effort to guarantee foolproof security for religious institutions and maintain peace in the city. (*The Nation*, [7 September 2026](#))

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The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of Pakistan, published a poster in several national newspapers to commemorate Defence & Martyrs' Day. (*The Nation*, [6 September 2026](#))



Sindh CM Murad Ali Shah displays a banner bearing the Sindhi inscription, “*Sindh Ji Dharti Munhinji Maa*” (The Land of Sindh is My Mother), during the Sindh Assembly session on the unity of Sindh on Thursday. –Photo shared by [CM House on X](#)



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