

# DAILY PAKISTAN WATCH

11-14 September 2026

## Security

- ◆ **Pakistan cautious as Houthis advance in Red Sea** — Fighting in Yemen has escalated, with **Iran-backed Houthis seizing Mocha port** and moving closer to controlling the **Bab al-Mandeb Strait**, a vital shipping chokepoint. Saudi Arabia accused the group of continuing strikes on its infrastructure, while Pakistan's Foreign Office spokesperson **Sajjad Haider Khan** clarified that **“there is no such thing under discussion right now ... when time comes (we) will act under the agreement”** under the **Makkah Defence Pact** with Saudi Arabia and Turkey. Defence Minister **Khawaja Asif** reiterated that aggression spilling into Saudi territory could trigger the joint security arrangement. Islamabad has also warned Iran to rein in the Houthis, stressing its role would remain defensive and confined to Saudi territory. (*The Nation*, [11 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **CTD kills ISKP commander in Peshawar raid** — The **Counter Terrorism Department (CTD)** announced that five militants of **Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP)** were killed in an operation near **Shamshatoo Camp, Peshawar**. Acting on intelligence that militants were planning attacks on sensitive installations, imambargahs and churches, CTD teams surrounded a compound and came under fire, prompting retaliation. Among the dead was **Imran alias Abdullah alias Bilal alias Abu Bakar**, a commander wanted in 20 cases, including the **February 6, 2026 suicide attack on an imambargah in Tarli, Islamabad**. He was also implicated in the killings of **Maulana Khan Zeb, Senator Hidayatullah and Rehan Zeb**. (*The News*, [11 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Evolving security challenges demand updated NAP** — In her column, **Amna Samar, public policy analyst**, highlights Pakistan's decades-long struggle against terrorism, noting the sacrifices of citizens and security forces. Following the **Army Public School attack in 2014**, the **National Action Plan (NAP)** became a comprehensive framework to counter extremism. Military operations such as **Zarb-e-Azb** and **Radd-ul-Fasaad** weakened networks, but terrorism has since evolved, involving propaganda, illegal financing and regional dynamics. Samar stresses that **“NAP must remain a living and continuously updated framework rather than simply a document referred to after a major terrorist incident.”** She underscores the need for development alongside security, especially in Balochistan, and calls for unity, institutional coordination and investment in youth to consolidate gains. (*The Nation*, [12 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **UN report warns of al-Qaeda regrouping in Afghanistan** — A quarter century after 9/11, **al-Qaeda and other militant groups are regrouping in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan**, according to a UN report cited by the *Washington Post*. Since the US withdrawal in 2021, al-Qaeda has established at least **eight bases** across the country, while its rival **Islamic State (ISKP)** has also opened training sites. The report notes that the Taliban has reintroduced **“a permissive environment”** enabling al-Qaeda to consolidate through safe houses and camps. However, experts suggest these groups are currently focused more on **regional conflicts than global jihad**, constrained by the Taliban's reluctance to provoke new international intervention. (*The Nation*, [13 September 2026](#))

- ◆ **Terrorists weaponise drones** — Terrorists have begun using **commercial quadcopters** to launch attacks on police installations in Peshawar, opening a new front in the conflict. Two recent incidents targeted the **Tarnab police post** and **Mattani police station**, injuring officers and civilians. Police officials say drones allow attackers to strike from kilometres away, complicating defence. **SSP Operations Farhan Khan** confirmed SOPs are being implemented, but limited resources make it difficult to equip all 34 police stations and 84 check posts with anti-drone systems. **Data shows over 250 attempted drone attacks in KP between January and July**. **Police Chief Dr Mian Saeed** noted preventive measures like metal mesh sheets helped limit damage, but acknowledged the force has only seven anti-drone guns for sensitive sites. The emergence of drone warfare marks a serious shift, forcing police to strengthen protection at vulnerable posts. (*The Express Tribune*, [14 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **TTP terrorists killed in Karachi operation** — A joint operation by **Sindh Rangers** and the **Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Sindh** in Karachi's Gulbai area resulted in the killing of **Qari Ziaur Rehman alias Qari Saifullah**, a highly wanted terrorist affiliated with the banned **Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)**, referred to by authorities as *Fitna al-Khawarij*. According to the Rangers spokesperson, Rehman was wanted for **“multiple attacks on Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps camps, as well as other acts of terrorism”**. Originally from Bajaur, he joined the **Qari Darvesh alias Bandiwan group** in 2006 and later received training at a terrorist camp in Bajaur. Weapons and ammunition were recovered during the operation. (*The Express Tribune*, [14 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Security forces intensify operations in Balochistan** — Security forces killed **three terrorists, including a commander**, during an operation in Mastung, according to state media. The strike, carried out with a quadcopter, destroyed a vehicle belonging to *Fitna-al-Hindustan*. The incident comes amid a surge in violence, with **terrorist attacks in the province rising by seven per cent in August compared to July**. Recent weeks have seen multiple high-tempo operations: on 31 August, **10 terrorists were killed in Pishin**, while **11 were eliminated in Chagai**. Further intelligence-based operations in Kalat, Kharan, Washuk and Sibi districts neutralised dozens more, reflecting intensified counter-terrorism efforts. (*Dawn*, [14 September 2026](#))

## Economy

- ◆ **IMF review mission set for Pakistan** — Pakistan and the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** will begin review talks and **Article IV consultations** on **22 September in Karachi and Islamabad**, expected to last two weeks. The discussions will cover the **fourth review under the \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF)** and Pakistan's compliance with IMF obligations. IMF Resident Mission Chief **Mahir Binci** confirmed the mission's visit, noting that Article IV consultations — paused since 2024 — will resume. Pakistan has submitted revised import data to address discrepancies worth billions of dollars. The IMF will also examine the implementation plan for the **Governance and Corruption Diagnostic Assessment (GCD)** report. Findings will be presented to the IMF Executive Board and made public. (*The News*, [11 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **China-Pakistan Business Centre launched in Beijing** — A new **China-Pakistan business platform** has been inaugurated in Beijing's **Lize Financial Business District**, offering companies from both countries a direct channel for trade, investment and economic cooperation. The

**China-Pakistan Business Centre** was unveiled during the **99 Global Business Linkage Festival 2026** and the **Fengtai District Opening-up Development Conference**. The initiative aims to connect Pakistani enterprises with Chinese markets and resources, while helping Chinese firms explore opportunities in Pakistan and South Asia. Supported by the **Embassy of Pakistan in China** and the **Pakistan Women's Association Beijing (PWAB)**, the launch also featured a **thalassemia charity initiative** and a welfare booth showcasing Pakistani products such as leather jackets, carpets, handicrafts and jewellery. (*The Nation*, [13 September 2026](#))

- ◆ **Pakistan and Africa eye stronger economic future** — Pakistan and African nations have pledged to raise bilateral trade to **\$15 billion by 2030**, marking a milestone in their economic relations. The commitment was announced at the launch of the **Pakistan-Africa Economic Council (PAEC)** in Islamabad, attended by diplomats from Rwanda, Mauritius, Morocco, Zimbabwe, Sudan, Kenya and Ethiopia. **Federal Minister Muhammad Raza Hayat Hiraj** hailed Africa's 1.5 billion population as "enormous potential," while **Ambassador (retd) Hamid Asgher Khan** described Africa as a "**slumbering giant**" awakening to play a major role in the global geo-economy. Business leaders from FPCCI, ICCI and RCCI pledged to act as bridges between private sectors. (*The News*, [13 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Petrol subsidy scheme launched for small vehicles** — Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif** has announced a special relief package offering a **Rs100 per litre subsidy on petrol** for motorcycles, rickshaws, Qingqi rickshaws and cars up to 800cc. Owners of small cars will be eligible for relief on **30 litres per month**, while motorcycles and Qingqi owners can avail up to 20 litres. The scheme, rolled out nationwide from 18 September, follows petrol prices rising to Rs375.82 per litre and diesel to Rs403.32 amid Middle East tensions. A **digital registration system** has been activated by the IT Ministry, requiring citizens to register via SMS and obtain tokens before purchasing subsidised fuel. (*The Nation*, [14 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan's imports from Iran continue upward trend** — Despite regional uncertainty, Pakistan's imports from Iran rose **17 per cent to \$248 million** in July–August 2026, compared to \$212 million in the same period last year. Official sources noted that imports persisted even during wartime, reflecting Islamabad's growing reliance on Iranian goods. Over the past six years, imports have steadily climbed from **\$440 million in FY2019-20 to a record \$1.395 billion in FY2025-26**, marking a 12 per cent year-on-year increase. June 2026 alone saw imports worth \$119 million, a sharp **47 per cent rise YoY**. Analysts say the consistent growth signals a significant shift in regional trade dynamics. (*The Nation*, [14 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan and China deepen technology cooperation** — Pakistan and China have reaffirmed their commitment to expanding **business-to-business cooperation in advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence and digital infrastructure** at a B2B Conference held alongside the **China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) 2026** in Beijing. The event, themed "*Win-Win Partnerships*", was attended by senior officials, business leaders and private-sector representatives. **Ambassador Khalil Hashmi** described the gathering as an important platform to strengthen direct links between enterprises. Prominent participants included **Yang Shuo**, Deputy Secretary General of Beijing Municipality, and **S. M. Tanveer**, Patron-in-Chief of FPCCI. The conference provided opportunities to explore **investment, joint ventures, technology transfer and commercial cooperation**. (*The Express Tribune*, [14 September 2026](#))

- ◆ **Pakistan's external debt and capital market return** — Pakistan entered FY27 with a stronger external position but a debt burden of **\$138.85bn**, leaving little room for complacency. About **30pc of external debt is owed to China**, nearly three times Pakistan's IMF exposure. During FY26, the country secured **\$27.2bn in loans and rollovers**, including \$5bn from Saudi Arabia and \$4bn from China. The State Bank reduced forward liabilities to \$950m, while reserves were bolstered by \$28bn in interbank purchases. **Pakistan raised \$3bn through its largest-ever bond issue, attracting nearly \$6bn in orders — a vote of confidence but not a solution.** As columnist **Mohiuddin Aazim** cautions, “the real question... is whether that \$3bn can help create an economy capable of generating the foreign exchange required to repay it tomorrow”. (*Dawn*, [14 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan's maritime resilience and future strategy** — Maritime trade is Pakistan's economic lifeline, yet evolving security challenges demand more than conventional port protection. As columnist **Mohsin Hyder Lodhi** argues, resilience means alternatives: **“a resilient maritime system must be able to absorb disruption, maintain essential operations and recover quickly.”** He highlights the concept of **“Three Ports, One System”**, integrating Karachi, Port Qasim and Gwadar to ensure continuity. Investment in inter-port connectivity, multimodal logistics, and digital cargo tracking is essential. Cyber resilience must also be prioritised, as ports can be disrupted without physical attack. Expanding the **blue economy**—from fisheries and ship repair to maritime tourism—offers strategic opportunity. Pakistan's location is advantageous, but Lodhi stresses that **infrastructure, governance, technology and human capital must convert geography into strength.** (*Dawn*, [14 September 2026](#))

## Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Diplomatic careers extended beyond retirement** — In recent years, Pakistan's former **foreign secretaries** have frequently continued in prominent public roles after leaving office, reflecting the government's reliance on seasoned diplomats. **Jalil Abbas Jilani** became ambassador to the US in 2014, while **Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry** followed the same path before heading the **Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI)**. **Tehmina Janjua**, the country's first woman foreign secretary, was appointed ambassador to China. **Sohail Mahmood** later led ISSI and now serves as **Secretary General of the D-8 Organisation for Economic Cooperation**. Similarly, **Dr Asad Majeed Khan** became **Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organisation**. Outgoing foreign secretary **Amna Baloch** will soon assume her role as ambassador to Türkiye. This pattern shows that for Pakistan's top diplomats, **“retirement has not necessarily meant an exit from public diplomacy.”** (*The Nation*, [11 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Afghan student visa directive sparks debate** — The recent circular ordering the immediate return of Afghan students from Pakistani medical colleges has triggered widespread concern. Although clarified to apply only to those without valid visas, the move prompted petitions in the **Lahore High Court** and criticism from commentators who lamented the lack of careful planning. The editorial notes that Pakistan, like other states, is within its rights to cancel visas for security reasons, stressing that **“security perhaps demanded that it be rolled out quickly and imperfectly, rather than later.”** While the policy may be justified, the haste created confusion, especially for students with valid visas or nearing final examinations. (*The Nation*, [11 September 2026](#))

- ◆ **Gilani appointed Pakistan's envoy to Beijing** — Ambassador **Ali Asad Gilani** has been nominated as Pakistan's new ambassador to China, succeeding **Ambassador Khalil Hashmi**, who returns to Islamabad next week. Foreign Minister **Ishaq Dar** praised Hashmi's contributions and expressed confidence that Gilani, currently **Additional Secretary (Afghanistan & West Asia)** and **Director General of the Foreign Service Academy**, will further strengthen the **Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership**. Gilani, a career diplomat since 1996, has served in Beijing, Geneva, Tokyo, Ankara and as ambassador to Uzbekistan. Meanwhile, Pakistan condemned **Houthi attacks on Saudi civilian and economic targets**, with **Asim Iftikhar Ahmad**, **Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN**, stressing that “such dastardly attacks threaten innocent lives as well as regional peace and security.” (*The News*, [12 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Shehbaz to meet Trump at UNGA 81** — Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif** will meet US President **Donald Trump** on the sidelines of the **81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** in New York on **23 September**, coinciding with Trump's 76th birthday. The meeting will be their first in seven months since Sharm el-Sheikh. Shehbaz will also attend a reception hosted by Trump and First Lady Melania for world leaders. In his UNGA address on **25 September**, Shehbaz is expected to raise the suspension of the **Indus Waters Treaty**, highlight the **Kashmir dispute**, outline Pakistan's role in Middle East peace, and refer to the trilateral security pact with **Saudi Arabia and Türkiye**. He will also meet Bangladesh PM, **Tarique Rahman**. (*The News*, [13 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan appoints first envoy to Armenia** — In a landmark step, **Ambassador Shafqat Ali Khan** has formally assumed his role as Pakistan's first ambassador to Armenia, presenting his credentials to **President Vahagn Khachaturyan** in Yerevan. Khan, who concurrently serves as Pakistan's envoy to the UAE, conveyed greetings from **President Asif Ali Zardari** and **Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif**, reaffirming Islamabad's commitment to strengthening ties. Both sides highlighted opportunities in **trade, investment, education, culture and people-to-people contacts**. Armenian Foreign Minister **Ararat Mirzoyan** and Deputy FM **Mnatsakan Safaryan** welcomed the appointment, noting it reflects a significant policy decision by both countries. The engagement is expected to provide fresh momentum to bilateral cooperation. (*The Nation*, [13 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Malaysia PM rebuffs Indian media narrative** — Malaysian Prime Minister **Anwar Ibrahim** has rejected attempts by Indian media to link Pakistan to terrorism, stating he had not been presented with any evidence connecting Islamabad to the **April 2025 Pahalgam attack**. Speaking to NDTV on the sidelines of the **Brics Summit**, Ibrahim first described Israel's actions in Gaza as “**state terrorism**” before dismissing claims against Pakistan, noting Malaysia's security agencies had not informed him of any such involvement. The attack in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir killed 26 tourists, with New Delhi accusing Pakistan without proof. Islamabad denied the charge and called for a neutral investigation. (*The Nation*, [14 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Bangladesh weighs joining Makkah Pact** — Bangladesh is considering whether to join the **Makkah Joint Defence Agreement**, signed by Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan in August 2026. As columnist **Ayesha Tariq** notes, Dhaka must negotiate terms before alignment, since [“once the ink is dry, every request becomes a favour”]. With three-quarters of Bangladeshi migrant workers in the Middle East and nearly half of remittances from GCC states, protecting jobs is vital. She stresses that Riyadh should co-fund **skills training and testing**, while Bangladesh should push for **energy security measures** such as deferred oil payments. Crucially, Dhaka must balance ties with

other Gulf states, especially the UAE, where visa restrictions have hurt remittances. (*Dawn*, [14 September 2026](#))

- ◆ **PIA and Kam Air streamline Gulf travel** — Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and Afghanistan's **Kam Air** have signed an interline agreement to ease passenger transit via Islamabad. The cooperation allows travellers to book a **single reservation**, transfer checked baggage directly, and bypass immigration during airside transit. The first phase activates the **Kabul–Islamabad–Dammam route**, connecting Afghanistan to Middle Eastern destinations. A PIA spokesman confirmed that Afghan passengers heading to Gulf states will benefit from simplified procedures. Meanwhile, authorities have made **NADRA-integrated vaccination proof mandatory** for outbound travel, covering polio, meningitis, yellow fever and influenza. Umrah pilgrims must obtain vaccination only at authorised government centres before departure. (*Dawn*, [14 September 2026](#))

## Politics, Culture, Etc.

- ◆ **Minority rights oversight in federal ministries** — The **Parliamentary Caucus on Minorities (PCM)**, chaired by **Senator Danesh Kumar**, expressed strong displeasure at the absence of senior officials, including the Establishment Division secretary and NHA chairman, during its latest meeting. The caucus reviewed issues of minority rights, workplace discrimination, and the **shortfall in the 5% recruitment quota** across federal ministries. It warned of strict action, including a joint privilege motion, if officials fail to attend next time. **MNA Ramesh Lal** rejected claims of a shortage of qualified minority candidates, stressing that thousands remain unemployed due to lack of institutional commitment. **Concerns were also raised over discriminatory recruitment ads reserving lower-grade jobs for non-Muslims.** Recommendations included a **centralised data portal, special recruitment drives, and flexible age-relaxation policies** to clear the backlog. (*The News*, [11 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Debate on new provinces to begin in Parliament** — The federal government has announced that the issue of creating new provinces will be formally debated in **Parliament in October**, following remarks by Interior Minister **Mohsin Naqvi** that the current governance system had “collapsed” and needed a “rest.” Minister for Parliamentary Affairs **Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhary** confirmed that sessions of both the **National Assembly and Senate** will take up the matter. He clarified that **Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) will not become a province**, but a legislative assembly is being proposed to improve governance. The government plans consultations with political parties, bar associations, chambers of commerce and residents before drafting legislation. The **PPP has opposed division of Sindh**, passing a resolution against the idea. (*The Nation*, [11 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Stricter oversight to curb child marriage** — The Punjab government's move to tighten criteria for **nikah registrars** is described as a long-overdue reform aimed at curbing underage marriages. By introducing stricter qualifications and oversight, the state seeks to close systemic loopholes that have allowed minors' rights to be bypassed. The editorial stresses that **“stricter oversight protects girls from exploitation, securing their access to education, personal choices, and future economic independence.”** It argues that lax enforcement has rendered existing laws ineffective, with registrars often prioritising local customs over legal mandates. Success now depends on

rigorous implementation, including audits and penalties, to ensure the law genuinely protects children. (*The Nation*, [12 September 2026](#))

- ◆ **Fourth polio case highlights urgent vaccination need** — Pakistan has confirmed its **fourth polio case of 2026**, reported from **Bannu district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**, according to the National Emergency Operations Centre for Polio Eradication. Three of the four cases this year have emerged from southern KP, where insecurity has hindered vaccination campaigns. The affected child was from Nurar union council in Miryan tehsil, an area where teams have struggled to reach children consistently. Officials stressed, “no child is safe from polio until every child is protected”. Despite a **99.8 per cent reduction in cases since the 1990s**, transmission persists in southern KP. A nationwide campaign from **21–27 September** aims to vaccinate nearly 31 million children. (*Dawn*, [11 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Bugti backs provinces on administrative grounds** — Balochistan Chief Minister **Mir Sarfraz Bugti** has supported the creation of new provinces, stressing they should be formed on **administrative rather than linguistic or ethnic lines**. He said the **Balochistan Assembly would endorse the move if the National Assembly reached consensus**. Bugti argued that Balochistan was too vast to be governed effectively from Quetta alone, making restructuring necessary. He emphasised civil-military balance, declaring “**those who raise arms against the state will be dealt with in every possible manner**.” On missing persons, he maintained the state had provided legal routes for cases. Separately, **Rana Sanaullah** stated that only Parliament could decide on new provinces, with any referendum requiring approval of a joint sitting. (*The News*, [13 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Bugti vows relentless fight against terrorism** — Balochistan Chief Minister **Mir Sarfraz Bugti** declared that the province’s fight against terrorism will continue “**until the last terrorist has been eliminated**,” ruling out any dialogue with armed separatists. Speaking to journalists in Quetta, he emphasised civil-military unity and said there was “**no ambiguity or confusion**” in prosecuting the campaign. A Home Department briefing revealed 1,175 missing-persons cases since 2011, with 282 unresolved. Bugti highlighted over **\$15 billion in projected mining investment in Chagai** over seven years, including major projects like **Reko Diq** and **Saindak**. He added that 1.1 million Afghan refugees had been repatriated, while reforms in police, CTD and Safe City projects were underway. (*The Nation*, [13 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **KP CM named in Radio Pakistan attack case** — Police in Peshawar have submitted a report to the **Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC)** confirming the alleged involvement of **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi** in the attack on **Radio Pakistan**. The investigation officer presented findings, including forensic reports from the **Punjab Forensic Science Agency**. Sources said the submission had been delayed but was made on instructions from senior police officials. The court adjourned proceedings until **14 September 2026** to hear arguments from all parties in light of the police and forensic reports. (*The Nation*, [13 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Cabinet reshuffle delayed amid provinces debate** — The anticipated reshuffle in Pakistan’s federal cabinet has been put on hold as the government focuses on deliberations over the creation of new provinces. According to parliamentary sources, a **two-year performance review of ministers and state ministers** — covering attendance, implementation of cabinet decisions, MoUs, and relations with bureaucracy — is already on the prime minister’s desk. Sources noted that only four ministers have been deemed satisfactory, with the rest facing possible reshuffle or removal. **Minister for**

Parliamentary Affairs **Tariq Fazal Chaudhary** downplayed speculation, while **Minister for Housing and Works Riaz Hussain Pirzada** emphasised that reshuffling remains the prime minister's discretion. The PPP, despite being a coalition partner, continues to stay out of the cabinet. (*The Nation*, [13 September 2026](#))

- ◆ **Azma Bukhari urges proactive fight against disinformation** — Punjab Information and Culture Minister **Azma Zahid Bukhari** has directed departments to adopt a **timely, fact-based and coordinated strategy** against disinformation, hate speech and anti-state propaganda. Chairing the fourth meeting of the Information Steering/Review Committee, she stressed that misleading narratives cannot be countered reactively, calling for **joint departmental coordination**. Bukhari emphasised the importance of **media literacy, critical thinking and responsible digital behaviour in schools**, noting that young people are particularly vulnerable to fake content. The meeting resolved to enhance institutional roles in countering harmful narratives. (*The Nation*, [13 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Tirah victims press for return and relief** — Victims of **Tirah Maidan and Rajgal** have reiterated their **37-point charter of demands**, prompting the **Awami National Party (ANP)** in Khyber district to announce phased protests and legal action. At a press conference, **ANP Khyber president Abdul Razzaq Afridi** said residents had suffered heavy losses but little progress had been made on promises of compensation and rehabilitation. He announced a peaceful protest at **Bara Chowk on 18 September**, warning of larger sit-ins at the **Chief Minister's House, Governor's House, Bala Hisar Fort and Corps Commander's House** if demands remain unmet. The ANP stressed the campaign seeks legitimate rights, not political blackmail, and vowed to continue until displaced families are allowed to return or compensated. (*The Express Tribune*, [14 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Restoration of Lahore's historic Nehru Park** — The Punjab Horticulture Authority (PHA) has announced plans to restore **Nehru Park in Krishan Nagar, Lahore**, a site of immense historical importance where the **Indian National Congress adopted its Purna Swaraj resolution on 31 December 1929**. At that session, **Jawaharlal Nehru** raised the flag to mark the demand for complete independence, rejecting Britain's dominion status offer under the Irwin Declaration. According to **PHA Director General Ahmad Usman Javaid**, the restoration will combine horticulture and engineering works, with lush grass, seasonal flowers, benches, swings, fountains and night lighting. He emphasised, "Nehru Park is not just a public park but a site of historical importance". The project is part of a broader plan to renovate over 800 community parks across Lahore. (*Dawn*, [14 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Gilgit-Baltistan's constitutional future under review** — The federal government is consulting stakeholders on a new constitutional arrangement for **Gilgit-Baltistan (GB)**, while the region's delayed FY2026-27 budget is being tabled. **Chief Minister Amjad Hussain Advocate** told the GB Assembly that a high-level committee formed by **Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif** is working to build consensus through a constitutional amendment. The committee, chaired by **Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal**, will meet on **25–26 September** to review reforms without affecting the Kashmir dispute. A financial agreement, similar to 'Azad' Jammu and Kashmir's, has already been endorsed by the GB cabinet and parliament. Hussain said the deficit budget would prioritise social-sector development, women and youth, while stressing GB's demand for a share in the **National Finance Commission award**. (*Dawn*, [14 September 2026](#))

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