

DAILY PAKISTAN WATCH

23 September 2026

Security

- ◆ **Army Chief Reaffirms Resolve to Eliminate Terrorism and Strengthen Security** — Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces (COAS & CDF), reaffirmed that Pakistan's armed forces, with the support of the nation, remain committed to defeating terrorism and ensuring lasting peace and stability. **During a visit to Peshawar Corps Headquarters, he was briefed on the security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, ongoing counterterrorism operations, border management and operational preparedness. He commended the professionalism, morale and readiness of officers and troops and directed formations to maintain vigilance and the highest levels of preparedness.** The field marshal also paid tribute to fallen soldiers at *Yadgar-e-Shuhada*, stating that **“their supreme sacrifices would never be forgotten”**. (*The News*, [23 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan Expands Military Cooperation Through Joint Exercises with Russia and Oman** — The 9th edition of the **Pakistan-Russia Joint Exercise Druzhba-IX** and the 2nd edition of the **Pakistan-Oman Joint Exercise Washaq Al Jabal-II (Mountain Lynx-II)** commenced at Cherat and the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), Pabbi, respectively. **The two-week exercises bring together troops from Pakistan, Russia and Oman to share operational experience, refine counterterrorism drills and procedures, and enhance interoperability among the participating forces.** According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the joint training aims to strengthen combat skills and tactical expertise through the exchange of best practices and coordinated exercises. **The exercises reflect the three countries' commitment to expanding military cooperation through regular training and professional exchanges.** (*The News*, [23 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Two Policemen Killed While Protecting Polio Vaccination Team in Nushki** — Unidentified gunmen shot dead two police constables assigned to protect a polio vaccination team in **Killi Jamal Abad, Nushki district, Balochistan**, during an ongoing anti-polio campaign. **The slain officers, identified as Abdul Rauf and Muhammad Yasir, were providing security to vaccinators when they came under attack.** According to **Munawar Zaman, Station House Officer (SHO), City Police Nushki**, the attackers fled after taking the policemen's weapons, while the vaccination team, including male and female workers, remained unharmed and was moved to a secure location. A search operation was launched to trace the assailants. **The incident underscores the persistent security challenges facing Pakistan's polio eradication efforts, particularly in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.** (*The Nation*, [23 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Security Forces Eliminate Six Militants in Intelligence-Based Operation in Balochistan** — Security forces killed six alleged terrorists affiliated with **Fitna al-Hindustan** during an intelligence-based operation in the **Saran Tangi area of Balochistan under Operation Shaban 2.** According to security sources, the operation was launched on the basis of intelligence regarding

militant presence in the area, resulting in the arrest of nine suspects. **A large quantity of weapons and ammunition was recovered from the slain militants, while operations against terrorist elements were stated to be continuing across the province.** President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif praised the security forces, with Zardari commending their “bravery and professional expertise” and the prime minister reaffirming the government’s resolve to prevent any attempt to undermine Pakistan’s peace and security. (*The Express Tribune*, [23 September 2026](#))

- ◆ **CTD Arrests ‘RAW agent’ in Pakpattan, Recovers Explosives and IED Components** — The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) arrested a suspect RAW agent identified as **Wajid Ali**, a resident of Bajaur district, KPK, during an intelligence-based operation near New Ghala Mandi in Pakpattan. **According to CTD officials, the suspect was allegedly planning terrorist activities targeting sensitive and security installations in the area.** During the raid, authorities recovered **1,825 grams of explosive material**, along with improvised explosive device (IED) components, detonators, electronic circuits, wires and other equipment. A Bomb Disposal Squad defused a live explosive device found in the suspect’s possession. **An anti-terrorism court granted a seven-day physical remand for further investigation, with the suspect directed to be produced again on 29 September.** (*Dawn*, [23 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Security Forces Foil Cross-Border Infiltration Bid in Kurram** — Security sources said Pakistan’s security forces thwarted an attempt by alleged militants linked to **Fitna-al-Khawarij** to infiltrate the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in Kurram district from Afghanistan’s Nangarhar and Paktia provinces. **According to the sources, after the infiltration attempt was blocked, Afghan Taliban forces opened unprovoked fire on Pakistani border posts, prompting a retaliatory response in which multiple Taliban positions were targeted.** The sources stated that several Afghan Taliban operatives abandoned their posts following the exchange. The incident occurred amid heightened security concerns following recent militant attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Pakistan’s reported strikes against militant hideouts near the Afghan border. **Pakistan has repeatedly called on the Afghan authorities to act against militant sanctuaries allegedly used for attacks inside Pakistan.** (*Dawn*, [23 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **ATC Extends Interim Bail of PTI Leaders in May 9 Jinnah House Case** — An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Lahore extended until **9 October** the interim bail of several **Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)** leaders and workers accused in the Jinnah House attack case linked to the May 9 violence. **ATC Judge Manzer Ali Gill** heard the petitions, while PTI MPA **Ali Imtiaz Warraich** and other accused appeared before the court to mark their attendance. During the proceedings, the prosecution requested additional time to present the case record. **The court accepted the request and summoned the record for the next hearing.** The petitioners include PTI women leaders **Syeda Fatima** and **Rukhsana Naveed**, along with several party workers seeking interim bail. (*The Nation*, [23 September 2026](#))

Economy

- ◆ **Pakistan Secures \$4.7 Billion in External Financing During First Two Months of FY27** — Pakistan raised approximately \$4.7 billion in foreign financing during July and August of FY2026-27, including \$3 billion through a Eurobond issue and a \$300 million commercial loan

from UBL Dubai. According to data released by the Economic Affairs Division (EAD), the country secured \$1.7 billion in foreign loans and grants from multilateral and bilateral partners during the first two months of the fiscal year, compared with \$1.37 billion in the corresponding period last year. **The World Bank emerged as the largest multilateral lender, while China, Germany, France, Saudi Arabia, Japan and other partners also assisted.** Pakistan additionally mobilised \$629.76 million through Naya Pakistan Certificates, with Islamic certificates accounting for the larger share. (*The News International*, [23 September 2026](#))

- ◆ **IMF Mission to Launch Pakistan's Fourth EFF Review and Economic Assessment** — An International Monetary Fund (IMF) review mission is scheduled to begin discussions with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) in Karachi, focusing on inflation, monetary policy and exchange rate developments. **The mission is expected to move to Islamabad on 28 September to hold talks with the Ministry of Finance, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and other government institutions as part of the fourth review of Pakistan's \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) programme.** The review will also include an **Article IV Consultation**, the IMF's regular assessment of a member country's economic health, which is being conducted after a three-year gap. **Its findings will be presented to the IMF Executive Board and released alongside the review report.** (*The News International*, [23 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **ADB Maintains Pakistan's Growth Outlook but Warns of External Risks** — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) retained its forecast for Pakistan's economic growth at **3.7 per cent for FY2026-27**, below the government's target of 4 per cent, while projecting inflation at **8.3 per cent**, above the official estimate of 7 per cent. **The ADB said economic growth was supported by stronger manufacturing, services, agricultural recovery and private investment, but warned that escalating conflict in the Middle East could raise energy import costs, fuel inflation and affect workers' remittances.** The bank also identified risks from tighter global financing conditions, revenue shortfalls, climate-related shocks and delays in structural reforms. **According to ADB Country Director Emma Fan, sustained reforms remain essential to strengthen resilience, attract private investment and achieve stronger, more inclusive growth.** (*Dawn*, [23 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Food Exports Recover as Import Growth Remains Modest** — Pakistan's food export sector showed signs of recovery in the first two months of FY2026-27, with **raw food exports rising 7.68 per cent year-on-year, reversing the sharp decline recorded in the previous fiscal year.** The improvement was driven largely by a **24.68 per cent increase in rice exports**, including significant growth in both basmati and non-basmati varieties, while meat, fish, tobacco and spice exports also increased. Food imports, by contrast, rose only **2.23 per cent to \$1.503 billion**, mainly due to higher imports of tea and milk products. Imports of palm oil, pulses and soybean oil declined during the period. **The figures suggest a strengthening export performance alongside relatively restrained import growth in the food sector.** (*Dawn*, [23 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Rs 17.2 Billion Initiative Launched to Strengthen Climate Resilience in Gilgit-Baltistan** — The Gilgit-Baltistan Rural Development and Climate Resilience (GBRDCR) Project, valued at **€54.24 million (Rs 17.2 billion)**, was launched through a partnership involving the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the European Union (EU), the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) and the Gilgit-Baltistan government. **The project aims to improve climate resilience through water supply and sanitation schemes, renewable energy initiatives, climate-smart**

infrastructure and institutional capacity-building, benefiting approximately 43,200 households or 325,600 people. The programme includes hydropower projects, vulnerability assessments in all union councils and support for energy-efficient housing. **An Energy Master Plan was also unveiled to address Gilgit-Baltistan's power shortages and promote a reliable, climate-resilient energy system.** (*Dawn*, [23 September 2026](#))

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Four Muslim Countries Reaffirm Support for Regional Diplomacy and Middle East Stability** — Foreign ministers of **Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Türkiye**, meeting on the sidelines of the 81st United Nations General Assembly in New York, reaffirmed support for the **Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the United States and Iran** and called for its implementation as a means of promoting lasting regional peace and stability. **The ministers stressed that “dialogue and diplomacy remain the only path towards a sustainable resolution of regional conflicts”.** They also condemned attacks against Saudi Arabia, reaffirmed support for Palestinian statehood based on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, backed Yemen's political process, and supported Sudan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. **The four countries agreed to maintain close coordination to strengthen collective security and regional stability.** (*The Nation*, [23 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Trump Credits Shehbaz Sharif in Remarks on Regional Peace Efforts at UNGA** — **United States President Donald J. Trump**, addressing the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly, praised **Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif** as a “**terrific man**” while highlighting his role in facilitating a ceasefire between Pakistan and India. **Trump stated that Prime Minister Shehbaz had acknowledged his intervention, saying he was “responsible for saving 30 million lives and probably many more than that”.** The US president cited the Pakistan-India ceasefire among several international conflicts he claimed to have helped resolve. On the sidelines of the UNGA session, Prime Minister Shehbaz also met **Kuwait Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah** and **Kenyan President William Ruto** to discuss bilateral cooperation and regional developments. (*The News International*, [23 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **President Zardari Reaffirms Strategic Partnership with Saudi Arabia on National Day** — **President Asif Ali Zardari** extended congratulations to the leadership and people of **Saudi Arabia** on the Kingdom's 96th National Day, highlighting the deep-rooted ties of faith, friendship, mutual trust and cooperation between the two countries. **In messages to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, he stated that the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement and the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement had further strengthened the strategic dimension of bilateral relations.** President Zardari expressed confidence that Pakistan-Saudi Arabia ties would continue to expand across areas of mutual interest and conveyed his desire to work closely with the Saudi leadership to deepen cooperation and promote regional peace, stability and security. (*The News International*, [23 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan and France Pledge Deeper Defence and Security Cooperation** — **Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of Army Staff (COAS)**, reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening defence and security ties with France during a meeting at

General Headquarters in Rawalpindi with **Nicolas Roche, Secretary General of France's General Secretariat for Defence and National Security (SGDSN)**, who was accompanied by French Ambassador **Jean-Noël Poirier**. **The discussions focused on regional security and expanding bilateral cooperation in defence and security domains.** According to the military's media wing, Roche acknowledged Pakistan's efforts to promote regional peace and stability and expressed France's interest in broadening collaboration in areas of mutual interest. **The meeting reflected both countries' intention to deepen strategic engagement and reinforce longstanding bilateral relations.** (*Dawn*, [23 September 2026](#))

- ◆ **Sikh Pilgrims Urge Reopening of Kartarpur Corridor During Guru Nanak Anniversary Events** — Sikh pilgrims from Pakistan and abroad participating in the **487th death anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak** at **Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, Kartarpur**, called on India to reopen the **Kartarpur Corridor**, arguing that its closure restricts the Sikh community's religious freedom. **The pilgrims demanded the immediate restoration of access to the sacred site and lodged a strong protest against the corridor's closure.** During the three-day commemorative events, pilgrims performed religious rituals, participated in the Nagar Kirtan procession, visited sacred locations within the complex and offered prayers. The concluding ceremony included special prayers for Pakistan's peace, security and communal harmony. **Organisers and officials welcomed visitors and arranged food, accommodation and security measures throughout the celebrations.** (*Dawn*, [23 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Jinnah Portrait Dispute Rekindles Debate Over Bangladesh's Historical Identity** — A controversy erupted at **Dhaka University** after a photograph of **Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah** displayed in a newly renovated museum exhibit was removed, sparking debate over Bangladesh's historical narrative and national identity. **The display, arranged by the Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU), was presented as part of a chronological account of the university's history.** According to **SM Farhad, DUCSU leader**, critics launched a "mob attack" on the exhibit, while opponents argued that highlighting Jinnah diminished the legacy of **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**, Bangladesh's founding leader. **The dispute reflects broader tensions over religion, nationalism and competing interpretations of history following Bangladesh's 2024 political upheaval.** (*The News International*, [23 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Türkiye Reiterates Support for UN-Based Resolution of Kashmir Dispute** — **President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Türkiye**, addressing the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly, called for the peaceful resolution of the **Kashmir dispute** through dialogue in accordance with the **United Nations Charter and relevant UN resolutions.** Erdogan stated that **"all disputes, including the Kashmir issue, be addressed through dialogue"** and reiterated Türkiye's **longstanding position on the matter.** In his wider UNGA address, he focused on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, support for Palestinian statehood, reform of the United Nations system and global conflict resolution. **He renewed his call for reform of the UN Security Council, arguing that the current structure no longer reflects contemporary global realities and advocating a more representative international system.** (*Daily Times*, [23 September 2026](#))

Politics, Culture, Etc.

- ◆ **Ji Suspends Islamabad March Following Prime Minister's Intervention** — Hafiz Naeemur Rehman, Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) chief, announced the temporary postponement of the party's planned long march on Islamabad after a telephone conversation with **Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif**, who requested time for talks on the petroleum levy issue upon his return from New York. **Naeem stated that the decision was made after consultations with the party's senior leadership but emphasised that nationwide sit-ins and protest camps would continue.** He argued that the government's proposed fuel relief package was inadequate compared with revenues collected through the petroleum levy and reiterated that **the abolition of the levy remained JI's sole demand.** The prime minister said the government was striving to provide relief to vulnerable and middle-income groups amid difficult economic circumstances. (*The News International*, [23 September 2026](#))

- ◆ **Government Rules Out PTI Entry into Islamabad Ahead of Planned Protest** — Attaullah Tarar, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, stated that the **Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)** would not be permitted to enter Islamabad on 27 September, alleging that the party was pursuing confrontational politics to secure the release of its founder, **Imran Khan**. **Tarar argued that "the people had rejected the politics of violence" and urged PTI to pursue dialogue rather than protests.** The development coincided with rising tensions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa over the reported detention of PTI leaders and lawmakers, prompting strong criticism from the party. Meanwhile, the **Islamabad High Court (IHC)** summoned the SSP (Operations) in a petition challenging alleged police raids on PTI leaders' homes. **PTI maintained that arrests and intimidation would not halt its "democratic struggle".** (*The News International*, [23 September 2026](#))

- ◆ **Senate Committee Urges Stronger Action to Address Glacier and Flood Risks** — Senator Sherry Rehman, Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, called for urgent measures to improve glacier monitoring, strengthen early warning systems and address the growing threat of **Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)** in Pakistan. **She warned that the country's 13,032 glaciers and more than 3,000 glacial lakes pose a serious risk, noting that 33 lakes have been identified as potentially dangerous and that 7.1 million people could be vulnerable to GLOF events.** Rehman stressed that **"many of these glacial lakes are effectively ticking time bombs"** and called for integrated institutional coordination, reliable monitoring and time-bound action plans. The committee also discussed deforestation, climate governance and stronger enforcement of legislation restricting plastic book covers in Islamabad. (*The News*, [23 September 2026](#))

- ◆ **Backchannel Contacts Continue as PTI Maintains Protest Plans** — PTI Interim Chairman **Gohar Ali Khan** and **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate Raja Nasir Abbas** confirmed ongoing contacts with the government ahead of the party's planned 27 September march on Islamabad. **According to PTI sources, backchannel talks briefly stalled following the detention of Imran Khan's sisters but later resumed after confidence-building measures by the government.** PTI has reportedly demanded the release of detained party leaders, workers and Khan's sisters, as well as implementation of a Supreme Court order concerning **Imran Khan's** medical treatment. **Gohar Ali Khan stated that "the PTI has never closed doors for**

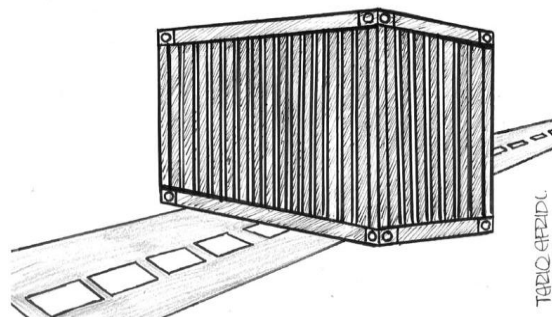
reconciliation” but emphasised that the protest march would proceed if the party’s demands were not met. (*The Nation*, [23 September 2026](#))

- ◆ **Islamabad Court Issues Arrest Warrants for PTI Leader in Audio Leak Case** — The District and Sessions Court in Islamabad issued arrest warrants for Ali Amin Gandapur, a senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in connection with an audio leak case. Additional District and Sessions Judge Hakim Khan Bukhari ordered the warrants after Gandapur and a co-accused failed to appear before the court during the hearing. As a result of their absence, witness statements could not be recorded and the proceedings could not move forward. The case remains pending before the Islamabad court, with the warrants issued to secure the accused’s appearance in future proceedings. (*The Express Tribune*, [23 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Faisalabad Unveils Heritage and Urban Renewal Plan Featuring Bhagat Singh Memorial** — Deputy Commissioner Nouman Siddique announced plans to construct a monument honouring Bhagat Singh, describing him as a shared freedom fighter of the pre- and post-Partition era, as part of a wider initiative to preserve Faisalabad’s heritage and enhance the city’s appearance. The administration also plans to develop walking tracks along both sides of the Rakh Branch Canal and establish new parks to promote healthier lifestyles and improve public recreational spaces. Additional projects include restoration of parks, redevelopment of historic bazaars around the Clock Tower, and construction of parking plazas to ease urban congestion. The initiatives form part of a broader urban regeneration and beautification programme aimed at preserving heritage while improving civic infrastructure. (*The Express Tribune*, [23 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Senior Bureaucrat Appointed to Lead AJK Tourism and Archaeology Department** — The ‘Azad’ Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) government has appointed Raja Shahid Hussain, a senior BS-19 bureaucrat, as the new Director General of the Tourism and Archaeology Department. Hussain replaces BPS-20 officer Shaukat Ali and assumes the role as part of a reshuffle under the government’s transfer and posting policy. Previously serving as Additional Secretary in the Higher Education Department, Hussain has held several important administrative positions, including Additional Secretary Home. Meanwhile, Shaukat Ali has been attached to the Services and General Administration Department until further orders. The appointment comes as the AJK government seeks to strengthen tourism infrastructure and further develop a sector that generates more than Rs10 billion annually for the region. (*The Express Tribune*, [23 September 2026](#))

37 TERRORISTS KILLED IN KP GROUND, AIR OPERATIONS: INFORMATION MINISTRY



GOVT PLANS TO INSULATE CAPITAL FROM DISRUPTION: NAQVI



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