

DAILY PAKISTAN WATCH

02-05 October 2026

Security

- ◆ **Pakistan claims it has exposed India's False Flag** — Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Lt-General Ahmad Sharif Chaudhry presented retired SSG Havaladar Muhammad Asif alive, refuting Indian claims of his death in Kashmir. Chaudhry declared India's narrative fabricated, stressing, **"You have a great internal problem of oppression and torture and you cannot externalise it and put blame on Pakistan."** Asif confirmed he was living in Attock since retirement in 2023, rejecting allegations of terrorism as "entirely false, fabricated and baseless." The ISPR DG warned India against misadventures, vowing **"the cost inflicted on their strategic folly would be severe and the retribution very harsh."** He criticised India's "theatre of war" and obsession with Pakistan. (*The News*, [02 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan Strikes Terrorist Hideouts in Afghanistan** — The Ministry of Information confirmed that Pakistan carried out **"well-planned and calibrated"** aerial strikes under Operation Ghazab lil-Haq, targeting militant camps of Fitna al-Khwarij and Fitna al-Hindustan. The strikes, based on credible intelligence, destroyed hideouts and large caches of weapons, with initial reports suggesting **22 terrorists were killed**. The ministry emphasised that Pakistan's actions were aimed at safeguarding citizens, noting Afghanistan remained a hub of terrorism. Separately, security forces killed six militants in Balochistan's Kachhi district during Operation Radd-ul-Fitna 3, using quadcopters to strike targets. Additional intelligence-based operations in North Waziristan destroyed tunnels and explosives, with multiple militants neutralised. (*The News*, [02 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Militant Violence Peaks in September** — Pakistan witnessed **225 militant attacks in September 2026, the highest monthly figure in 12 years**, according to data from the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS). The attacks caused **259 deaths and 242 injuries**, marking a sharp rise from August. Overall, militant violence and security operations left 545 people dead, including 103 security forces personnel and 346 militants. Kidnappings also surged, with **72 people abducted — the highest monthly figure in a decade**. Balochistan was worst affected, recording 131 attacks, while mainland KP saw fatalities more than double. PICSS noted three suicide attacks, causing 45 deaths and 138 injuries, underscoring the escalating intensity of conflict. (*The Nation*, [02 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **BSF Firing Kills Two Pakistanis** — Security sources confirmed that **two Pakistani citizens were killed and another injured** after Indian Border Security Force (BSF) personnel opened unprovoked fire near Kasur. The victims, Azmat Rasool Shah and Mohsin Jutt of Ladhar village, were reportedly unarmed and had not attempted to cross the border fence. Sources described the incident as an **open violation of border agreements and SOPs**, noting Indian media portrayed the civilians as infiltrators, reflecting a pattern of false-flag narratives. The firing occurred just a day after Pakistan's ISPR exposed India's staged operation in Kashmir, where retired SSG Havaladar

Muhammad Asif was falsely claimed killed but appeared alive before the media. (*The News*, [02 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **Makkah Pact Members to Discuss Houthis** — Pakistan condemned the “**reprehensible attack on civilian infrastructure supplying electricity to Masjid-e-Nabawi**”, calling it a grave provocation against millions of Muslims. Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar reaffirmed solidarity with Saudi Arabia, pledging full support for its sovereignty and security. Dar announced an emergency meeting of the Strategic Political and Defence Committee under the **Makkah Joint Defence Agreement (MJDA)** with Türkiye and Saudi Arabia, to be held in Riyadh next week, specifically to address Houthi attacks. He revealed Iran denied links with Houthis, suggesting they be engaged politically rather than through “kinetic action.” Dar also confirmed efforts to rescue Pakistani crew from hijacked MV Honour 25 and warned India that violating the Indus Waters Treaty would be viewed as “**an act of war.**” (*The News International*, [03 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **Army Warns Against Agitation** — At the 277th Corps Commanders’ Conference chaired by **Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces**, the military leadership resolved that any attempt to create unrest or a “**May 9-like situation**” **would be met with decisive force and rule of law.** Reviewing the security environment, the forum affirmed Pakistan’s right to self-defence against terrorism emanating from Afghanistan, blaming the Taliban’s “delusional leadership” for facilitating India-backed militancy. It praised successful counter-terrorism operations but stressed complementing kinetic action with governance reforms and dismantling terror-crime nexuses. Expressing solidarity with Saudi Arabia, the forum welcomed the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement and reiterated Pakistan’s principled stance on Kashmir. Munir commended formations’ preparedness, vowing the armed forces remain fully ready to safeguard sovereignty. (*The News*, [03 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **India’s Defence Commercialisation Risks Regional Stability** — In a commentary, Yasir Hussain warns that India’s decision to transfer sensitive missile technologies from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to the private sector mirrors the US military-industrial complex but in a far more volatile South Asian context. He argues that once private firms such as Adani Defence invest heavily, they will require “**uninterrupted, high-volume orders to remain profitable**”, creating incentives for sustained crises and arms races. Hussain cautions that commercialised missile production could accelerate instability, fuelling escalation between nuclear rivals India and Pakistan. What may appear as self-reliance risks “**commercialising instability in crisis-ridden South Asia**”, locking the region into an expensive arms race driven by industrial imperatives rather than strategic necessity. (*The News*, [03 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **Security Forces Neutralise Terrorists in North Waziristan** — Security sources confirmed that **seven Khwarij terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Khwarij were killed** during an intelligence-based operation in the Eidak area of North Waziristan. Conducted under the **Azm-e-Istehkam vision**, the operation destroyed terrorist hideouts and marked another decisive step in ongoing counter-terrorism efforts across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Officials emphasised that the security forces remain firmly committed to eliminating terrorism and ensuring sustainable peace in the country. (*The Nation*, [03 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **Indian Army's Fake Encounter Questioned** — Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting **Attaullah Tarar** said India must explain whom it killed in its staged operation after Pakistan's DG ISPR presented retired soldier Muhammad Asif alive before the media. In a post on X, Tarar declared, **"This is an embarrassment at the highest level for India"**, stressing that the Indian Army now faces unanswered questions about whether an innocent Kashmiri was targeted in the fake encounter. His remarks followed Pakistan's exposure of India's false-flag narrative in Kashmir, which had claimed Asif's death despite him being alive and residing in Pakistan. (*The Nation*, [03 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan's Leadership Heads to Riyadh for Makkah Agreement Talks** — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister **Ishaq Dar**, Defence Minister **Khawaja Asif**, and Chief of Army Staff & Chief of Defence Forces **Field Marshal Asim Munir** arrived in Riyadh on 5 October to attend a meeting of the Strategic Political and Defence Committee (SPDC) under the **Makkah Joint Defence Agreement (MJDA)**. The trilateral pact, signed in August by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Türkiye, is described as a defensive framework aimed at **collective deterrence, military cooperation, and regional stability**. The Riyadh meeting, also attended by Saudi and Turkish counterparts, will review ongoing cooperation and regional developments, particularly in light of recent Houthi attacks on Saudi infrastructure. Pakistan reaffirmed its support for Saudi sovereignty and the sanctity of the Two Holy Mosques. (*The Express Tribune*, [05 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **JI Urges Expansion of Makkah Pact to Prioritise Palestine** — Jamaat-e-Islami chief **Hafiz Naeem** has called for broadening the **Makkah Joint Defence Agreement (MJDA)**, signed by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye, to include Iran, Bangladesh and other Muslim states. Addressing a Gaza March in Karachi, he stressed that the pact's foremost priority should be **ending Israeli aggression against Palestinians, particularly in Gaza**. Naeem criticised Israel for continuing bombardments despite the ceasefire, accusing it of enjoying US backing, and urged the Muslim Ummah to overcome sectarian and geographical divisions. He described Hamas's struggle as **"legitimate resistance"** and emphasised the need for unity to protect Palestine and Kashmir. He also noted that JI's Alkhidmat Foundation had sent Rs10bn in relief to Palestinians. (*The Express Tribune*, [05 October 2026](#))

Economy

- ◆ **Pakistan's Public Debt Climbs to PKR 86.7tr** — The Ministry of Finance reported that Pakistan's total public debt rose **7pc year-on-year to PKR 86,715 billion** by June 2026, compared to a 13pc increase in the previous year. Domestic debt stood at Rs59,441 billion, while external debt reached Rs27,274 billion. The debt-to-GDP ratio fell to **68.3pc from 70.6pc**, reflecting fiscal consolidation and a primary surplus. External debt rose to US\$98,075 million, with **multilateral creditors holding 45.5pc** and bilateral creditors 28pc. IMF claims grew to US\$11,050 million, representing 11pc of external debt. Punjab remained the largest provincial borrower at US\$6.40 billion, followed by Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Most external debt maturities (84pc) are medium to long-term. (*The News*, [02 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **NA Committee Urges Rs 5,000 Wheat Support Price** — The National Assembly Standing Committee on National Food Security and Research recommended fixing the minimum wheat

support price at **Rs 5,000 per 40kg or above** and called for a uniform subsidy mechanism nationwide. Chaired by Syed Tariq Hussain, MNA, the Committee stressed that the **National Wheat Policy 2026–2030 must be finalised before sowing season**, warning that late decisions would be ineffective. Concerns were raised over rising input costs, poor-quality seeds, weak storage facilities and inconsistent provincial subsidies. Punjab, Sindh and KP were noted for differing subsidy models, prompting calls for a simple, accessible programme. The Committee also urged strict action against fertiliser hoarders and emphasised agriculture's role as a key pillar of the economy. (*The Nation*, [02 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **Govt Fails to Collect CPEC Security Levy** — At a NEPRA hearing, it was revealed that the federal government has **not collected the 1pc security levy on CPEC power projects despite nine years passing since approval**, as no designated entity has been notified. The issue surfaced during SK Hydro's tariff modification petition for the 884MW Suki Kinari Hydropower Project, which sought revisions citing design changes, Covid-19 impacts, and security requirements. NEPRA questioned additional costs of Rs918.64m for construction-phase security and Rs1.95bn for operation-stage arrangements, including 395 personnel. The ECC had approved the levy in 2016, allowing 19 projects worth \$15.56bn to charge consumers, but implementation remains stalled. The CPPA-G and industry representatives opposed several cost escalations. (*The Nation*, [02 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **IMF Draft Policy Shared with Pakistan** — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has presented the first draft of the **Memorandum of Financial and Economic Policies (MEFP)** to Pakistani authorities, initiating negotiations for a staff-level agreement. The IMF raised concerns over the breach of the **circular debt target, which stood at Rs1,675bn by June 2026**, and urged elimination of cross-subsidies on power usage up to 200 units, replacing them with targeted support via BISP from January 2027. It projected the current account deficit at **\$4bn**, higher than Pakistan's estimate of \$2.7bn. GDP growth is targeted at 4pc, while inflation is expected to average between **8.5–9.5pc**. Talks will continue until consensus is reached. (*The News*, [03 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Rice Export Boosts Farmers' Prosperity** — Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced that **Pakistan will export an additional 70,000 metric tons of rice to Malaysia between October and December 2026**, calling it a significant step for the economy and a source of prosperity for farmers. He praised Deputy PM Ishaq Dar and relevant ministries for securing the deal, stressing that **"export-led economic growth through sustained hard work"** remains the government's priority. Chairing a meeting on regulatory reforms, Sharif directed measures to ease business processes, modernise institutions, and harmonise systems across provinces. He also ordered practical steps for railway track repairs and freight efficiency. The Cabinet has approved 557 reforms expected to save Rs460bn annually. (*The Nation*, [03 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Gwadar Development Projects to be Fast-Tracked** — The Balochistan government has announced prioritised resources for **urban rehabilitation, water supply, sports and education** in Gwadar, following a high-level review meeting chaired by Provincial Planning and Development Minister **Mir Zahoor Buledi**. Officials were briefed on the **Old Town Rehabilitation Project**, a master plan aimed at upgrading civic amenities and preserving Gwadar's cultural heritage. The Gwadar Development Authority reported progress on roads, bazaars, schools, graveyards, and traffic intersections, alongside planting over **5,000 trees** and maintaining key infrastructure

including sewage drains, drainage channels, sports stadiums, parks, hospitals and jetty facilities. The meeting also reviewed measures taken to improve the city's water supply over the past year. (*Dawn*, [05 October 2026](#))

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **China Praised as Global Role Model** — Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif congratulated China on the **77th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic**, extending best wishes to President Xi Jinping and the Communist Party leadership. In her message, she lauded the Chinese nation's perseverance and progress, stating that **"China's role in promoting development and peace at the global level is highly commendable."** She described China's achievements in science and technology as a model for the world, crediting Xi Jinping's far-sighted leadership for guiding the country to new heights. Maryam Nawaz emphasised that Pakistan-China relations are reaching new levels, transcending seasonal challenges, and reaffirmed that the people and government of Pakistan hold their friendship with China in the highest regard. (*The Nation*, [02 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **FO Condemns Targeting of Muslim Heritage** — Pakistan's Foreign Office Spokesperson, Ambassador Sajjad Haider Khan, strongly denounced the attempted demolition of the historic Shahi Masjid in Madhya Pradesh and the use of force against peaceful Muslim protesters. He warned that such actions reflect an **"Islamophobic and Hindutva-driven pattern of persecution of minorities"** and urged the international community to take immediate cognisance. On water disputes, he rejected India's misrepresentation of the Court of Arbitration's ruling, stressing that the **Indus Waters Treaty remains binding and India must observe its obligations**. He added that Pakistan values its strategic partnership with the United States and continues to mediate between Iran and the US, advocating dialogue and restraint. (*The Nation*, [02 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Asim Iftikhar Ahmad to Become Foreign Secretary** — Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, **Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, will assume charge as Foreign Secretary on 15 October**, returning from New York to replace Amna Baloch, who has been appointed ambassador to Turkey. The reshuffle also includes Salman Sharif taking over as ambassador to Germany, while senior diplomat Muhammad Asif Khan has been appointed Director General for Foreign Affairs at the Prime Minister's Office. Acting Foreign Secretary Muhammad Khalil Hashmi has been named National Coordinator for SCO affairs, with Dr Muhammad Faisal appointed Additional Foreign Secretary for Asia Pacific. Pakistan is set to host the **SCO heads of state summit next year in Islamabad**, with invitations extended to all member leaders including India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi. (*The News*, [02 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Water Security Requires Diplomacy and Reform** — Experts at a seminar in Islamabad stressed that Pakistan must combine **sustained diplomatic engagement under the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)** with stronger domestic water management to safeguard its future. Ambassador Abrar Hussain highlighted the treaty's strategic and socioeconomic importance, while IPS chairman Khalid Rahman noted that resolving IWT challenges depends on political goodwill from India. Former UN official Shafqat Kakakhel described the IWT as a "gold standard" but warned India had long sought revisions, urging Pakistan to pursue diplomacy and avoid provocations. Dr Afsah

Qazi emphasised that India's refusal to heed the Permanent Court of Arbitration does not absolve its obligations, while Dr Summera Khan called for **better institutional coordination to reduce water wastage and strengthen management**. (*The News*, [03 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **Moscow Format Talks to Address Pak-Afghan Strains** — The upcoming Moscow Format Consultations on Afghanistan are set to be dominated by **tense relations between Pakistan and the Taliban regime**, following Pakistan's strikes on terrorist hideouts inside Afghanistan and Kabul's condemnation of those actions. Afghan Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi will lead the Taliban delegation, while Pakistan will be represented by Special Representative Mohammad Sadiq and its ambassador to Kabul. The meeting, hosted by Russia, will include Afghanistan, Pakistan, China, Iran, India, and Central Asian states, with Belarus and Egypt as guests. Notably, **no bilateral meeting between Pakistan and Afghanistan is scheduled**, underlining the seriousness of the crisis. Since its launch in 2017, the Moscow Format has evolved to reflect shifting regional approaches after the Taliban's return in 2021, with China deepening engagement, India recalibrating its stance, and Pakistan's ties with Kabul deteriorating. The talks aim to promote peace and reconciliation amid heightened instability. (*The Express Tribune*, [05 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **Diplomats Explore Gandhara Heritage at Jaulian** — A high-level delegation from **Japan, Australia and Canada** visited the ancient Jaulian ruins in Haripur, a UNESCO World Heritage site, to explore the region's Buddhist heritage and Gandhara civilisation. The diplomats toured the **Jaulian Stupa and adjoining ruins**, examining centuries-old artefacts and architectural remnants. A field officer from the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Directorate of Archaeology briefed them on the historical significance of Gandhara civilisation and preservation efforts of Buddhist monastic life in the Taxila Valley. The visitors expressed keen interest in the site's cultural value and praised the conservation and restoration work being carried out by the Archaeology Department. (*The Express Tribune*, [05 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **Kazakhstan Seeks Technology Partnership with Pakistan** — Kazakhstan's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Development **Zhaslan Madiyev** announced plans to expand cooperation with Pakistan in **artificial intelligence, drones, fintech and digital governance**. Speaking to foreign journalists in Astana, he emphasised that both countries are in "close contact" and see substantial potential for collaboration. Madiyev highlighted drones as a key area, with Kazakhstan developing design, manufacturing and anti-drone capabilities. He also pointed to fintech and government technology as promising fields for joint projects. Kazakhstan is building a broad technology ecosystem, including **Alem AI**, an international centre for education, research and startups, and AI programmes reaching nearly one million people. Madiyev stressed that closer cooperation could create new opportunities and strengthen both nations' digital economies. (*The Nation*, [05 October 2026](#))

Politics, Culture, Etc.

- ◆ **Govt, PTI Move Towards Talks** — Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari met in Islamabad to review the political and security situation, with concern expressed over instability in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It was decided that a **joint delegation of the federal**

government and PPP would meet PTI leadership today to discuss the opposition's planned October 4 march. PTI interim Chairman Gohar Ali Khan confirmed acceptance of the talks, stating, **"You will put the federation at risk if you take any action in a province that goes against the will of its people."** Federal ministers Rana Sanaullah and Syed Mustafa Kamal acknowledged backchannel contacts with PTI, while Sanaullah warned the march resembled **"a provincial government attacking the capital."** (*The Nation*, [02 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **PTA Clarifies Position on Social Media Ban** — The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) informed the Islamabad High Court that **no law currently bans social media use by children under 16**, and it cannot establish age-verification systems beyond its legal mandate. The PTA stressed the need for a new legal and policy framework to protect children online, noting that its powers to block illegal content are limited and temporary. It highlighted that a **Social Media Protection and Regulatory Authority is being set up under the PECA Amendment 2025**. The PTA reported blocking over 1.577 million illegal URLs, with an overall blocking rate of 88.20pc, while also launching awareness campaigns with UNICEF and tech firms. A toll-free helpline (1121) has been activated for child protection. (*The Nation*, [02 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Balochistan Enforces Section 144 on N-25** — The provincial government has imposed **Section 144 for three months** in Sorab, Khuzdar and Wadh to prevent protests and road blockades along the N-25 National Highway. Advisor to the Interior Department **Babar Yousafzai** said the move aims to ensure uninterrupted traffic flow, as closures cause severe hardship for patients, passengers, traders and transporters. District administrations and police have been directed to enforce the order strictly, with authorities stressing that **"rule of law and maintenance of peace will be upheld at all costs."** Meanwhile, Home Minister **Mir Ziaullah Langau** ordered a transparent investigation into Dr Sonia Noor's case, reaffirming the government's commitment to justice and the supremacy of law. (*The Express Tribune*, [05 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Punjab Marks World Animal Day with Conservation Drive** — Senior Punjab Minister **Marriyum Aurangzeb** announced that Punjab is entering a "new era" of wildlife protection under Chief Minister **Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision**, making animal welfare a government priority. Punjab has become the first province to expand its **Wildlife Rangers to 552, with 24% women**. Over the past two years, more than **14,000 challans and 2,000 FIRs** were registered against illegal hunting and trafficking, recovering Rs215m in fines. Enforcement operations rescued over **51,000 birds and 38 bears**. New facilities include Pakistan's first modern wildlife hospital at Safari Zoo, mobile veterinary clinics, and a Wildlife Rescue Force. Aurangzeb stressed that cruelty against animals will not be tolerated, calling protection a **"collective responsibility of society."** (*The Express Tribune*, [05 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Hazara Province Demand Intensifies** — Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Hazara Province Movement Chairman **Sardar Muhammad Yousaf** reiterated calls for the creation of Hazara province, stressing that the matter had already been taken up by both the **Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Assembly and the National Assembly**. Addressing a convention, he declared, **"The Hazara province movement is strong and its case is ready,"** noting that resolutions in favour had been passed three times by the provincial assembly. Yousaf claimed the demand had support from political and military leadership, while Senator **Talha Mahmood** argued Haripur would be the

economic backbone of the new province. Former minister **Murtaza Javed Abbasi** and ex-chief minister **Pir Sabir Shah** echoed support, with Jamaat-i-Islami's **Abdul Razzaq Abbasi** pledging full backing. (*The Express Tribune*, [05 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **Govt–PTI Talks Collapse Over K-P Security Clauses** — Negotiations between the government and PTI broke down after initial agreement on a **five-point framework** that included legal facilities for Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi, early hearings of pending cases, and meetings with family and lawyers. Sources said Interior Minister **Mohsin Naqvi** and PML-N leader **Talal Chaudhry** met PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan and others before formal talks, agreeing that decisions would be put in writing. The most contentious issue was the proposal for **joint federal–provincial counterterrorism operations in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa**, with options for emergency powers and police-led operations backed by the military. PTI's K-P leadership, led by Chief Minister **Sohail Afridi**, sought extensive changes, causing the framework to collapse. (*The Express Tribune*, [05 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **Climate Change Endangers Kalash Valley's Heritage** — Communities in the **Kalash Valley of Lower Chitral** face mounting challenges as climate change, deforestation and erratic rainfall disrupt agriculture and centuries-old traditions. Residents report **shorter winters, hotter summers, drying springs and frequent flash floods**, damaging farmland, homes and infrastructure. Social activist **Daniel Feroz** noted that repeated floods have severely disrupted daily life, while journalist **Sameer** highlighted unsustainable timber dependence due to lack of alternative energy. Livestock grazing further hinders forest regeneration, compounding environmental stress. Activist **Log Rahmat** stressed that Kalash culture is inseparable from its natural surroundings, warning that declining forests and water sources threaten both livelihoods and traditions. The valley's fragile ecosystem underscores the urgent need for sustainable solutions. (*The Express Tribune*, [05 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **KP Police Law Sparks Fears of Politicisation** — Senior police officials in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have expressed concern that the proposed **Police Act 2026**, approved by the provincial cabinet on 23 September, will transform the force into a **“political force”** aligned with the provincial government amid confrontation with the Centre. The law seeks to replace the **Police Act 2017**, which had granted independence to the police chief, by requiring operational, financial and administrative decisions to be approved by the provincial government or chief minister. Officials warned that curtailing the inspector general's powers could trigger contempt of court, drive officers to leave the province, and undermine reforms once hailed as a model of autonomy. (*Dawn*, [05 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **Governor's Rule Threatens Democracy's Fragile Balance** — In her column, former ambassador **Maleeha Lodhi** warns that the collapse of government–opposition talks and PTI's planned march on Islamabad have sharpened confrontation, with ministers repeatedly threatening **governor's rule and emergency in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa**. Lodhi argues that history shows **“ousting provincial governments has always ended badly for the country”**, weakening the federation and fuelling alienation. She cautions that removing a government with a two-thirds mandate in KP would escalate conflict, undermine counterterrorism efforts, and provoke public backlash. Speculation about provincial restructuring without consensus further risks legitimacy. Lodhi concludes that

only a modus vivendi between government and opposition can avert disaster, as toppling elected governments puts the country's future at stake. (*Dawn*, [05 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **Vlogger Charged with Blasphemy in Rahim Yar Khan** — Police in Rahim Yar Khan registered a case against a local vlogger, a fruit vendor by profession, for allegedly using “**highly objectionable, insulting and provocative language**” about companions of the Prophet (PBUH) in a video posted on TikTok and Facebook. According to the FIR, Sub-Inspector **Munawar Maqsood** discovered the video while on patrol, noting that it posed a threat of spreading religious hatred and disturbing public peace. The case was filed under **sections 295 and 298-A of the Pakistan Penal Code and 16-MPO**. Authorities said the suspect's remarks during a discussion on sectarian matters had crossed legal boundaries, prompting swift action. (*Dawn*, [05 October 2026](#))



INDIA'S COCKROACH PARTY JOINS PROTEST AGAINST POLL CHIEF



[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].