

DAILY PAKISTAN WATCH

06 October 2026

Security

- ◆ **Regional Defence Pact Activated as Yemen Fighting Intensifies** — Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye agreed to immediately implement their collective defence commitments and ensure the rapid deployment of military forces and capabilities in Saudi Arabia following an emergency meeting of the Makkah Defence Alliance. The three countries condemned attacks on Saudi cities, economic infrastructure and the holy cities of Makkah and Madinah, reaffirming their solidarity against security threats. **Retired Lieutenant General Nauman Mahmood was endorsed as the alliance's first Secretary-General.** Meanwhile, Saudi-backed Yemeni government forces claimed significant gains around the strategic Bab el-Mandeb Strait and the city of Mocha, pushing Houthi fighters from key coastal positions, though the Houthis rejected those claims. **The developments highlight growing regional tensions and risks to vital global shipping and energy routes.** (*The News International*, [06 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Nine Major Generals Elevated to Lieutenant General** — The Pakistan Army has promoted nine Major Generals to the rank of Lieutenant General, marking a significant reshuffle in its higher command structure. Among those elevated are **Maj Gen Iftikhar Hassan Chaudhary, Maj Gen Chaudhary Amir Ajmal, Maj Gen Asad, Maj Gen Bilal, Maj Gen Wajid Aziz, Maj Gen Muhammad Umer Bashir, Maj Gen Muhammad Imtinan Babar, and Maj Gen Nadeem Ashraf**, all from the 86th and 87th PMA Long Courses. The reshuffle also includes key corps postings: Lt Gen Inayat to XII Corps Quetta, Lt Gen Amir Najam to II Corps Multan, Lt Gen Shakirullah Khattak to I Corps Mangla, and Lt Gen Umer Bashir to IV Corps Lahore. The changes reflect wider adjustments in Pakistan's senior military leadership during 2025–26. (*Pakistan Observer*, [02 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Forces Kill Three Terrorists in DI Khan IBO** — Security forces killed **three terrorists** during an Intelligence-Based Operation (IBO) in Dera Ismail Khan, according to Radio Pakistan. The operation followed a major strike a day earlier in which **eight terrorists, including three key commanders, were eliminated.** President **Asif Ali Zardari** praised the forces, saying their effective operations were “playing an important role in dismantling terrorist networks.” Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif** also lauded the success, noting that such actions were dealing a “heavy blow” to terrorist networks. (*The Express Tribune*, [06 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Section 144 Imposed on N-25 Highway Points** — The Balochistan government has enforced **Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code** at sensitive points along the Quetta–Karachi National Highway (N-25) for three months, citing repeated blockades caused by protests and sit-ins. The order covers Surab, Khuzdar and Wadh districts, prohibiting rallies, gatherings, or any obstruction to traffic flow. Adviser to the Home Department **Babar Yousafzai** stated that uninterrupted movement on national highways is a priority, noting that closures of the N-25 have caused severe difficulties for patients, passengers, traders and transporters. District administrations and police have been directed to ensure strict enforcement of the ban to maintain peace and public convenience. (*Dawn*, [06 October 2026](#))



- ◆ **Moscow Talks End Without Consensus on Afghanistan** — The eighth round of the Moscow Format consultations on Afghanistan concluded without a joint communiqué after Pakistan and Afghanistan failed to agree on language relating to terrorism. According to Zamir Kabulov, Russia's presidential envoy for Afghanistan, the main obstacle was that the Pakistani and Afghan delegations "didn't see eye to eye". Pakistan's Special Representative Mohammad Sadiq maintained that **terrorist attacks from Afghan soil had increased despite Islamabad's political and diplomatic engagement with the Taliban**, alleging that its goodwill efforts had been misconstrued. Meanwhile, Amir Khan Muttaqi, Afghanistan's Taliban foreign minister, criticised Pakistan's approach but insisted that bilateral disputes could still be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy. **Russia offered to help de-escalate tensions between the two neighbours.** (*Dawn*, [06 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Defence Minister Blames PTI for K-P Security Crisis** — Defence Minister **Khawaja Asif** accused the PTI of backing negotiations with the **Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)**, saying the party's policy had worsened the security crisis in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. In a statement on X, Asif stressed the issue was "**not politics but terrorism**," criticising PTI's 13-year control in the province and its leadership's "**soft corner for TTP**." He alleged former ISI chief **Gen Faiz Hameed** was used to advance talks with militants. Asif cited official data showing **6,200 terrorism incidents and 1,200 deaths in two years**, including 37 suicide attacks by Afghan nationals. He also highlighted police vacancies, weak CTD capacity, and misuse of federal funds. PTI's **Muzammil Aslam** rejected the criticism, insisting resources were being prioritised for security. (*The Express Tribune*, [06 October 2026](#))

Economy

- ◆ **PM Unveils Livestock Export Strategy with Duty-Free Imports** — Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif** approved a plan to boost livestock exports through the duty-free import of high-yield and superior-breed animals for rearing in specialised export-oriented farms. Chairing a high-level review meeting, he also endorsed restructuring the livestock sector along corporate lines and introducing a modern livestock tagging system to ensure traceability and exports. **The prime minister directed authorities to formulate a comprehensive plan for eradicating Foot-and-Mouth Disease within two weeks and to secure international certification and third-party validation for slaughterhouses.** Noting that livestock contributes over 60pc of agricultural output, he highlighted its export potential. Pakistan's livestock sector is valued at approximately **Rs5.5 trillion**, while meat exports reached about **\$530 million in 2025-26**. (*The News*, [06 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan, IMF Move Closer to Staff-Level Agreement** — Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have begun detailed discussions on the Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP), with both sides aiming to reach a Staff-Level Agreement (SLA) **within the current week**. The IMF mission is scheduled to remain in Islamabad until Wednesday, with outstanding issues expected to be resolved either during the visit or through subsequent virtual consultations. **Officials expressed optimism that an SLA could be finalised in the coming days, paving the way for the next stage of the IMF programme.** Discussions are taking place against the backdrop of risks arising from the ongoing US-Iran conflict, including pressure on fuel prices, economic growth and exchange-rate management. The government has also amended policies governing state-owned enterprises to align with IMF-mandated governance and financial reporting reforms. (*The News International*, [06 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **Thar Coalmine Begins Third Expansion** — The **Thar Block-II coalmine** in Sindh has entered its third expansion phase, raising annual production capacity from **7.6 million tonnes to 11.2 million tonnes**. Operated by **Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC)**, the project began in 2019 with 3.8 million tonnes, later expanded in 2022. The additional coal will fuel power plants with a combined capacity of **1,980 MW**, including Lucky Electric Power Company Limited and Engro Powergen Thar Limited. The expansion is expected to cut the coal tariff to **\$32.01 per tonne**, saving **\$220 million in fuel imports** and reducing generation costs by Rs15 billion annually, providing electricity to **4.5 million households**. CEO **Amir Iqbal** hailed Thar's journey as "from the impossible to excellence," while **Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari** praised the unmatched scale of development. (*The Express Tribune*, [06 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **Gulf Investors Increase Exposure to Pakistan Investment Bonds** — **Pakistan Investment Bonds (PIBs)** attracted significant inflows from Gulf investors in September, with State Bank data showing nearly **\$129.8 million** invested in long-term government bonds during the first 25 days of the month. The UAE accounted for **\$110 million in PIB investments**, while Bahrain invested \$10 million, reflecting growing interest in Pakistan's higher-yield, government-backed debt instruments. During the same period, investors also placed funds in treasury bills, though outflows continued from some maturing holdings. **S.S. Iqbal, a money market expert, said most maturing investments were being reinvested and described the trend as a positive sign of confidence in Pakistan's domestic bond market.** Analysts attributed the inflows to attractive returns and regional uncertainty affecting Gulf economies. (*Dawn*, [06 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **Pakistan's IMF Path Hinges on Energy and Subsidy Reforms** — Pakistan's negotiations with the International Monetary Fund are set to conclude positively, paving the way for a **\$1.2 billion disbursement** under the Extended Fund Facility and Resilience and Sustainability Facility. Informed sources said the two sides are finalising the Memorandum of Economic and Fiscal Policies, with no new demands beyond adjustments for past slippages. The government faces a critical winter LNG shortfall, with imports likely capped at **7–8 cargoes** despite requests for 22, directly affecting current account targets. Circular debt in the gas sector has surged to **Rs3.6 trillion**, prompting reforms to shift subsidies to BISP for low-income households. A structural benchmark requires replacing cross-subsidies with targeted subsidies by January 2027. (*Dawn*, [06 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **Flour Price Spike Fuels Bread Affordability Crisis in Peshawar** — The price of a 20kg flour bag has surged to **Rs3,300 in Peshawar**, triggering sharp increases in roti prices and widespread public concern over what many residents describe as an artificial shortage. Coarse flour now sells at Rs3,300 per 20kg bag, while fine flour costs Rs3,120, pushing bakers to raise the price of a **50-gram roti from Rs20 to Rs30**. In several markets, single rotis have reportedly disappeared, with only double rotis available for Rs40. **Authorities have begun monitoring flour dealers and warehouses amid allegations of profiteering and hoarding.** Meanwhile, the Food Department stated that it distributed over **417,000 bags of subsidised flour** last week and is releasing 3,000 metric tonnes of wheat daily to stabilise supplies. (*The Express Tribune*, [06 October 2026](#))

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Call for Dialogue Amid Pakistan-Afghanistan Tensions** — Speaking at talks on Afghanistan in Moscow, Afghan Taliban Foreign Minister **Amir Khan Muttaqi** said **disputes between Afghanistan and Pakistan could be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy rather than confrontation.** He criticised Pakistan for relying on what he described as a military approach

instead of pursuing “political understanding”, and alleged that Pakistani actions constituted aggression in violation of international law. **Muttaqi maintained that Kabul considers self-defence against any aggression its “legitimate and undeniable right”**. In response, Pakistan’s Foreign Ministry stated that its representative reaffirmed the country’s determination to eliminate cross-border terrorism and urged the Taliban authorities to end the “impunity with which terrorist groups continue to operate from their soil”. (*The News*, [06 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **ICC Expands Case Details Against Taliban Leaders** — The International Criminal Court (ICC) disclosed further details of arrest warrants issued for Taliban supreme leader Haibatullah Akhundzada and Chief Justice Abdul Hakim Haqqani, who are accused of crimes against humanity involving gender-based persecution. The court stated that judges found the two leaders had implemented policies resulting in “severe violations of fundamental rights and freedoms”, including acts linked to murder, imprisonment, torture, rape and enforced disappearance. The judges concluded that **women and girls had been specifically targeted through restrictions on education, freedom of expression and freedom of movement**. The report also noted that Afghanistan remains the only country in the world barring girls from secondary education and women from attending university, according to UN Women. (*The News*, [06 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **UN Chief Visits Pakistan for High-Level Talks** — United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres arrived in Pakistan on a three-day official visit at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar. During the visit, he is scheduled to meet Pakistan’s President, Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces. **Guterres will also visit the headquarters of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) and receive a briefing from the National Disaster Management Authority**. The visit is expected to focus on Pakistan’s role in promoting multilateralism, international peace and regional stability, including its diplomatic and mediation efforts in international conflicts. **The trip also provides an opportunity to reaffirm Pakistan’s longstanding cooperation with the United Nations**. (*The Nation*, [06 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan Backs Bangladesh’s Successful Bid for IPU Executive Committee** — Pakistan extended its full support to the candidature of Bangladesh’s Jasharat Adib Chowdhury for membership of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Executive Committee during the Asia-Pacific Group meeting on the sidelines of the 153rd IPU Assembly in Arusha, Tanzania. Led by Senate Chairman Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, the Pakistani delegation endorsed the Bangladeshi candidate, who subsequently secured a majority of votes and was elected to the committee. **Gilani said Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with Bangladesh and looked forward to strengthening parliamentary engagement between the two countries**. He added that parliamentary diplomacy remains an important tool for promoting dialogue, mutual understanding and cooperation on shared regional and global challenges. (*The Nation*, [06 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan Calls for Democratic Reform of UN Security Council** — Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, Pakistan’s outgoing Permanent Representative to the United Nations and incoming Foreign Secretary, said Pakistan opposes the creation of new permanent seats on the UN Security Council and instead favours expanding elected, non-permanent membership. He argued that adding permanent members would worsen existing inequalities, stating that a more democratic, representative and accountable Council was needed. **Speaking to Dawn, he highlighted Pakistan’s role during its 2025-26 Security Council term in promoting conflict prevention, peacekeeping, counterterrorism and the peaceful settlement of disputes**. Ahmad described Security Council Resolution 2788, sponsored by Pakistan, as a landmark achievement

and also pointed to Pakistan's diplomatic engagement on the US-Iran ceasefire, Palestine and the Kashmir dispute. (*Dawn*, [06 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **Pakistan, Poland Agree to Expand Strategic Cooperation** — Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Tomasz Siemoniak, Poland's Minister and Coordinator of Special Services, reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations and expanding cooperation across multiple sectors. During talks in Islamabad, the prime minister expressed satisfaction with the positive trajectory of Pakistan-Poland relations and stressed the importance of transforming the longstanding friendship into a robust and multifaceted partnership. He highlighted the value of leadership-level exchanges and greater engagement between the two countries' business communities. Shehbaz Sharif also appreciated Poland's support for Pakistan under the EU's GSP Plus scheme and voiced confidence that bilateral ties would continue to deepen. The two sides additionally exchanged views on regional and international developments, emphasising the importance of lasting peace in the Middle East. (*Dawn*, [06 October 2026](#))

Politics, Culture, Etc.

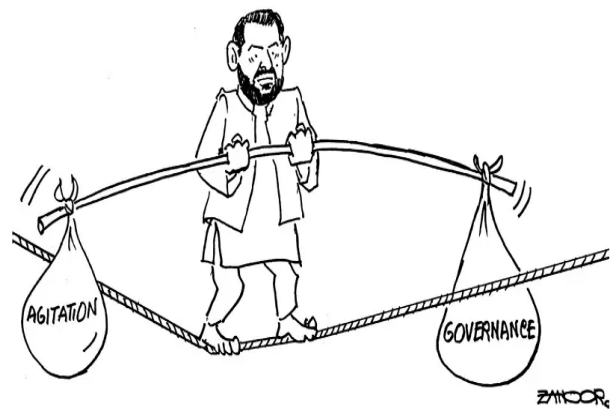
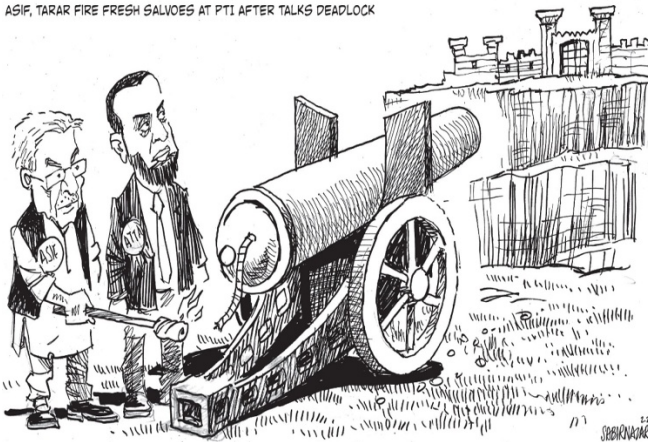
- ◆ **Bilawal Promotes Thar Development Model Over Provincial Restructuring** — PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari rejected calls for creating new provinces, arguing that Pakistan's challenges can be addressed through effective governance, provincial autonomy and the replication of the Thar development model. Speaking at the inauguration of the expanded Thar Coal Project and Pakistan's first coal-drying facility, he described Tharparkar's transformation as a success of the 18th Constitutional Amendment and public-private partnership. He highlighted that electricity generation from Thar coal has risen from 600MW to 2,000MW, supplying nearly 14pc of the national grid while saving Pakistan an estimated \$1.6 billion in foreign exchange. Bilawal also cited improvements in education, healthcare and employment, urging policymakers to replicate the Thar experience nationwide rather than pursuing administrative restructuring. (*The News*, [06 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **KP Government-Federal Centre Rift Deepens Over Security and Politics** — Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi vowed to resist any policy he claimed was contrary to the people's interests, urging supporters to continue what he described as a struggle for "real freedom". Addressing participants of the PTI long march, he criticised federal policies, defended jailed PTI founder Imran Khan and alleged that pressure was being exerted on the provincial government to support policies it opposed. PTI leaders, including Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and Secretary General Salman Akram Raja, said negotiations with the federal government had stalled over security issues, political grievances and demands for dialogue with Imran Khan. Meanwhile, federal ministers accused the KP government of failing to cooperate in counter-terrorism efforts and warned against the planned march on Islamabad. (*The News International*, [06 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Khyber Reports Sixth Polio Case of 2026** — Pakistan has recorded its sixth polio case of 2026 after a seven-year-old boy from Union Council Ghundi-A in Jamrud tehsil, Khyber district, tested positive for the virus. According to the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC), five of the six cases reported this year have emerged from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with four originating in the province's southern districts. The Pakistan Polio Eradication Initiative has launched an investigation and is planning additional vaccination measures, including oral and

injectable vaccines for older children and stronger routine immunisation. **Although poliovirus transmission has declined compared with 2025, the Khyber-Peshawar block remains a key reservoir of the virus.** Pakistan recorded 31 polio cases in 2025, while vaccination campaigns in 2026 have reached more than 45 million children. (*The News International*, [06 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **PTI Makes Imran Khan's Inclusion a Precondition for Dialogue** — Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) stated that no meaningful negotiations with the federal government can proceed without the direct involvement of its jailed founder, Imran Khan. Addressing a press conference, PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja said, **"Without including Imran Khan in any kind of talks, no talks can take place ever,"** describing his participation as essential to any political settlement. He said the opposition and government had reached an understanding on several issues, but progress remained impossible without resolving two core disputes. **The party's primary demand is unrestricted access to Imran Khan, including meetings with family members, legal representatives and medical professionals.** PTI also requested that Dr Uzma Khan and Dr Faisal Sultan be included in the medical board examining the former prime minister. (*The Nation*, [06 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **PTI Boycotts PP-203 By-Election in Sahiwal** — Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) announced a complete boycott of the PP-203 (Sahiwal-VI) by-election scheduled for 8 November, stating that **no party worker, supporter or office-bearer would participate in campaigning or any election-related activity.** The decision was conveyed by Shaikh Waqas Akram, PTI's Information Secretary, who said the directive had been issued by the party's founder, Imran Khan. **He warned that any candidate using the party's name, flag or election symbol would not have PTI's official backing.** Former MNA Rai Hasan Nawaz also confirmed that PTI supporters and the Rai family would neither contest nor support any candidate, arguing that elections under the "Form-47 government" were unacceptable to the party. (*Dawn*, [06 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Kundi Signals Readiness for Emergency Role** — Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has declared his willingness to play his constitutional role if **President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif deem governor's rule or an emergency necessary in the province.** The statement followed his meeting with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi at Governor House, Peshawar, where both expressed concern over the worsening law and order situation and the PTI long march. They warned that the use of official helicopters and government resources during the march would violate court decisions. The KP police chief briefed Naqvi, noting the force is on **high alert** with personnel recalled and a rapid mobilisation strategy prepared in case of emergency. (*Daily Times*, [06 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Over 2,500 Federal Officers Found with Dual Nationality** — A federal government investigation has revealed that more than **2,500 officers hold dual nationality**, with verification of around 350,000 employees completed so far. Journalist **Zahid Gishkori** reported that the scrutiny, covering nearly 500,000 employees, checks immigration records and foreign travel documents of officers and their families. Officials found **756 officers and family members failed to disclose their dual nationality**, raising compliance concerns under Civil Servants Rules 2026. The probe also showed that the wives of over **1,200 officers possess foreign or dual nationality**, while 1,680 officers and spouses have already declared theirs. Employees must submit affidavits by **9 October**, or face disciplinary action under Civil Servants (Efficiency and Discipline) Rules, 2020. (*Pakistan Observer*, [06 October 2026](#))

◆ **Last Ruler of Khairpur State Passes Away** — Mir Ali Murad Khan Talpur, the last ruler of the former princely state of Khairpur, died in Sukkur on Monday at the age of 93. He leaves behind two sons and a daughter. Funeral prayers will be held at Kot Diji today at 11am. Talpur played a pivotal role during Pakistan's creation, signing the instrument of accession to join Khairpur State with Pakistan, placing his trust in Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. His death has cast a pall of grief across Khairpur and Sindh. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah expressed sorrow, saying Talpur's services for preserving the history and culture of Khairpur and Sindh "will always be remembered." (Dawn, [06 October 2026](#))

ASIF, TARAR FIRE FRESH SALVOES AT PTI AFTER TALKS DEADLOCK



[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].