

DAILY PAKISTAN WATCH

07 October 2026

Security

- ◆ **Pakistan Tests Extended-Range Fatah 4 Missile** — Pakistan successfully conducted a test launch of an **indigenously developed extended version of the Fatah 4 Ground-Launched Cruise Missile**, according to the **Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR)**. The missile is equipped with advanced avionics and modern navigation systems and is capable of engaging targets at extended ranges with high precision. **The test also validated additional technical parameters designed to enhance accuracy and survivability.** Senior Pakistan Army officers, along with scientists and engineers associated with the programme, witnessed the launch. **President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Field Marshal Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces, and the services chiefs praised the successful launch and commended those involved for achieving this milestone in Pakistan's indigenous defence capability.** (*The News*, [7 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **UN Chief Reaffirms Support for Pakistan on Security and Diplomacy** — During a visit to Islamabad, **United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres** expressed solidarity with Pakistan's efforts against terrorism, stating that (**"We stand with Pakistan in confronting this threat of terrorism"**) and acknowledging the immense human cost the country has borne in combating militancy. In meetings with **Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar**, Pakistan raised concerns regarding the **Jammu and Kashmir dispute, the Indus Waters Treaty and the use of Afghan territory for terrorist attacks against Pakistan.** Guterres praised Pakistan's role in facilitating dialogue between the United States and Iran, its longstanding support for Afghan refugees, and its contributions to UN peacekeeping operations. During the visit, **President Asif Ali Zardari conferred the Nishan-e-Imtiaz on António Guterres** in recognition of his leadership and services to international peace and development. (*The News*, [7 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Russia and Pakistan Complete Ninth Druzhba Joint Military Exercise** — The **ninth Russia-Pakistan "Druzhba" military exercises** concluded in **Cherat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**, bringing together special forces from Pakistan and personnel of Russia's **201st Military Base** stationed in Tajikistan. The joint drills focused on **counterterrorism operations in challenging terrain** and included the use of advanced weapons systems and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). **Russian Ambassador Albert P. Khorev** attended the closing ceremony and praised the high level of coordination, professionalism and interoperability demonstrated by the participating forces. Commanders from both countries highlighted the exercises as an opportunity to exchange operational experience and military traditions. **Officials described the drills as an important step in strengthening defence cooperation and broader bilateral relations between Pakistan and Russia.** (*The Nation*, [7 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Three Security Personnel Martyred in Separate Attacks in Dera Ismail Khan** — **Two officials of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Enforcement Squad and a Highway Traffic Police officer** were martyred in separate militant attacks in **Dera Ismail Khan**. According to the FBR, **Arm Guard Rahmatullah and Sepoy Sulaiman** were killed when unidentified gunmen opened fire on



enforcement personnel near Qureshi Morr on Bypass Road, while another official returned fire and survived. The attackers reportedly escaped with official weapons and ammunition. In a separate incident, **Highway Traffic Police driver Habib-ur-Rehman** was killed and **Head Constable Muhammad Subhan** injured when a police vehicle came under attack near Mufti Mahmood Chowk. **Security forces launched search operations following the incidents, while funeral prayers for the deceased personnel were held with full official honours.** (*The News*, [7 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **Security Forces Kill 13 Militants in North Waziristan Operation** — According to **state media and security sources**, security forces killed **13 militants** in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in **North Waziristan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**, as part of ongoing counterterrorism efforts under the **Azm-e-Istehkam** campaign. The operation reportedly targeted members of the banned **Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)**, referred to by the state as **Fitna al-Khawarij**. **The operation follows a series of recent security actions in the district, including another IBO a day earlier in which five militants were reportedly killed.** The report noted that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa continues to face persistent security challenges, with militant attacks having increased in recent months despite sustained counterterrorism operations. **The latest operation underscores the continued focus of security forces on dismantling militant networks in the region.** (*Dawn*, [7 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Blast Damages JUI-F Leader's Residence in North Waziristan** — The residence of **Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) leader Maulana Misbahullah** in the **Hasukhel area of North Waziristan** was partially damaged in a blast caused by explosives reportedly planted near the main gate. **No casualties were reported, and all occupants remained unharmed.** Following the explosion, police and security personnel cordoned off the area, collected evidence and launched a search operation. Security was also enhanced in Hasukhel and surrounding localities, with additional law-enforcement deployments and surveillance measures put in place. **Officials stated that investigations were under way to determine the motive behind the attack and identify those responsible, while no group had claimed responsibility for the incident at the time of reporting.** (*Dawn*, [7 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Quetta Integrated Security Project Approved** — The Balochistan government has given the green light to the **Quetta Integrated Security Project**, aimed at modernising policing and strengthening the response to terrorism. Chaired by **Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti**, the meeting approved the installation of **2,900 surveillance cameras** under the Quetta Green Digital Corridor and new Quick Response Force stations for rapid emergency deployment. Officials said an integrated command-and-control system will enhance operational capacity. The session also reviewed police reforms, noting that **871 personnel were dismissed for absenteeism** and over **1,000 withdrawn from VIP duties**. CM Bugti stressed that police are on the **frontline against terrorism**, vowing full government support while redirecting resources to public welfare. (*Dawn*, [07 October 2026](#))

Economy

- ◆ **World Bank Warns of Economic Strain on Pakistan from Hormuz Crisis** — A **World Bank** economic update has said that the continuing **US-Iran conflict and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz** have imposed high economic costs across the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan region. The report noted that **fuel prices in Pakistan rose sharply, with petrol increasing by more than 40 per cent and diesel by over 40 per cent**, adding to fiscal and debt pressures. It also highlighted Pakistan's vulnerability to climate-related shocks, including the expected effects of a strong El Niño pattern, and warned that slower growth in Gulf economies could reduce remittance-

linked income flows. The World Bank nonetheless identified opportunities in artificial intelligence, noting Pakistan's growing ICT exports, large pool of IT graduates and plans to position itself as an AI services exporter through a long-term national programme. (*The News*, [7 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **Farmers' Group Warns of Deepening Cotton Crisis and Economic Fallout** — **Khokhar** Khokhar, President of the Pakistan Kissan Ittehad (PKI), warned on World Cotton Day that Pakistan's cotton crop is undergoing a severe decline, with potentially serious consequences for the textile industry and the wider economy. He argued that persistent policy neglect and the weakening of public cotton research institutions had undermined domestic production. **Khokhar claimed that nearly half of textile units in Faisalabad had ceased operations because of raw material shortages and rising production costs, stressing that industrial sustainability depends on a strong local cotton sector.** He also criticised administrative price controls in the dairy sector and called for long-term policy reforms. **Among his demands was a wheat support price of Rs5,000 per maund, warning that failure to incentivise farmers could reduce wheat production and contribute to future food-security challenges.** (*The News*, [7 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **World Bank Flags Pakistan as Region's Largest Concentration of Extreme Poverty** — According to a World Bank report on the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan (MENAAP) region, Pakistan accounts for approximately 48 per cent of people living below the US\$3-a-day poverty line in the region, representing the largest concentration of extreme poverty among MENAAP countries. The report attributes the rise in poverty to a succession of shocks, including the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2022 floods, high inflation, currency depreciation and a prolonged period of economic adjustment that weakened household incomes and employment opportunities. **The World Bank projected Pakistan's economic growth at 3.8 per cent and inflation at 8.2 per cent for FY2026-27, while warning that higher fuel prices, debt pressures and regional instability continue to weigh on the economy.** The report also highlighted Pakistan's low levels of business innovation but noted growing activity in artificial intelligence-related services and digital employment. (*The Express Tribune*, [7 October 2026](#))

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **President Seeks Deeper Cooperation with ILO on Labour and Skills Development** — President Asif Ali Zardari has called for a stronger and more results-oriented partnership between Pakistan and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) during a meeting with ILO Director-General Gilbert F. Hounbo at Aiwan-e-Sadr. He emphasised the importance of implementing the Decent Work Country Programme 2023-27 and sought greater cooperation on employment generation, social protection, labour standards, workplace safety and labour migration. **Zardari proposed initiatives including a comprehensive labour migration framework and a "From Skills to Global Jobs" partnership to align vocational training with international labour-market needs.** He also highlighted Pakistan's recent ratification of key ILO instruments and requested technical assistance for their implementation. **Hounbo reaffirmed the ILO's commitment to supporting Pakistan on decent work, social justice, skills development and occupational safety.** (*The News*, [7 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Punjab and Oman Deepen Cooperation in Agriculture, Livestock and Skilled Employment** — During a meeting in Muscat, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif and Oman's Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, Saud bin Hamoud bin Ahmed Al Habsi, agreed to expand cooperation in agriculture, fisheries, livestock and water resources. Oman offered to

establish Punjab's first shrimp centre, while both sides discussed increasing exports of Pakistani meat and livestock products. **The talks also focused on creating employment opportunities for skilled workers from Punjab, with Oman agreeing to share sector-specific labour requirements in areas such as construction, aquaculture and agriculture.** Maryam highlighted Punjab's vocational training programmes and ongoing plans to expand shrimp farming across 30,000 acres. **The two sides expressed confidence that enhanced cooperation would strengthen trade, investment and workforce mobility between Punjab and Oman.** (*The Nation*, [7 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **Saudi Arabia Reaffirms Support for Yemen's Government and Regional Defence Cooperation** — The **Saudi Council of Ministers**, chaired by **Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman**, reaffirmed the Kingdom's support for Yemen's **Presidential Leadership Council**, recognised government and people, pledging efforts to end the Houthi movement's control and restore state institutions. The Cabinet stated that continued military escalation by the Houthis was worsening Yemen's humanitarian and economic crisis while threatening regional security and maritime navigation in the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandeb Strait. **The Cabinet also welcomed the outcomes of the emergency meeting of the Makkah Alliance for Defence, which emphasised solidarity among member states and endorsed stronger collective deterrence and defence cooperation against attacks targeting Saudi Arabia, including its holy cities and civilian infrastructure.** (*The Nation*, [7 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistanis in Saudi Arabia Advised to Follow Security Guidelines** — **Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi**, **Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Interfaith Harmony**, has urged Pakistanis residing in **Saudi Arabia** to exercise caution and responsibility in light of the prevailing security situation. He advised community members to **refrain from sharing on social media images or videos related to Houthi drone and missile attacks, interception operations, debris, security installations or other sensitive locations.** Ashrafi also called on Pakistanis to fully comply with the directives of the **Saudi Ministry of Interior** and other relevant authorities, as well as the laws and regulations of the Kingdom. **His appeal emphasised responsible conduct and adherence to local security requirements during a period of heightened regional tension.** (*The Express Tribune*, [7 October 2026](#))

Politics, Culture, Etc.

- ◆ **KP Chief Minister Vows Islamabad March Will Proceed Despite Opposition** — **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi** declared that (**"no power would be able to stop"**) the PTI's planned march towards Islamabad, asserting that the movement would continue through peaceful and constitutional means. Addressing supporters in Kohat, he argued that all legal, political and institutional avenues had been exhausted and challenged critics to identify any unlawful demand among the march's seven-point agenda, adding that he would withdraw the march if any demand were proven unconstitutional. **Afridi called for medical treatment, meetings and due legal process for PTI founder Imran Khan, while warning that officials would be responsible if any harm came to him.** He also criticised existing counterterrorism policies and claimed that a provincial approach could restore peace more effectively. **Emphasising non-violence, he urged supporters to maintain discipline and conduct the protest peacefully.** (*The Nation*, [7 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **IRSA Projects Significant Water Shortfall for Upcoming Rabi Season** — The **Indus River System Authority (Irsa)** has projected a **22 per cent irrigation water shortage for Punjab and Sindh during the 2026-27 Rabi season**, raising concerns for key winter crops including wheat,

gram, lentils, potatoes, onions and tomatoes. The allocation plan provides **15.564 million acre-feet (MAF)** for Punjab, **11.748 MAF** for Sindh, **0.701 MAF** for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's CRBC system and **1.171 MAF** for Balochistan. Irsa noted that **Kharif 2026 inflows were below expectations and that reservoir storage levels at the end of September remained significantly lower than anticipated.** The authority also urged the early completion of WAPDA's hydropower projects, arguing that delays were contributing to recurring water shortages. **The projected deficit will be reviewed periodically during the Rabi season.** (*The News*, [7 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **Medical Report on Imran Khan's Health Sparks Fresh Controversy** — A medical report relating to a **10 August examination of PTI founder Imran Khan at Adiala Jail** has surfaced, indicating that a four-member medical board assessed his anxiety level at three-plus and recommended measures to address stress and blood pressure concerns. According to a **PTI source speaking anonymously**, the board included **Dr Farqad Alamgir, a London-based physician**, alongside Dr Arif Khan, Dr Akhtar Ali Bandesha and Dr Ali Arif. The report recommended daily exercise and greater access to family, newspapers, television and books. **PTI Information Secretary Waqas Akram** criticised the handling of Imran Khan's medical care, arguing that party leaders and family members were kept uninformed and demanding treatment under the supervision of his personal physicians. **The controversy has intensified debate over his health, access to medical care and conditions of detention.** (*The News*, [7 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Punjab Minister Defends 'Apni Chhat Apna Ghar' Programme Against PTI Criticism** — Punjab Information and Culture Minister **Azma Bokhari** rejected what she described as PTI's propaganda against the **'Apni Chhat Apna Ghar' housing initiative**, presenting videos of beneficiary families to support the programme's achievements. She argued that the scheme had delivered tangible results, citing the issuance of **214,302 interest-free loans worth more than Rs278.46 billion**, the completion of **120,753 homes** and the ongoing construction of **60,464 houses**. **Azma questioned PTI's claim that the houses were linked to projects from its tenure**, asserting that the programme was focused on providing deserving families with home ownership rather than political recognition. She maintained that the experiences of beneficiaries were the strongest evidence of the scheme's success, adding that **"This is not the politics of plaques; it is a practical programme to provide people with a roof of their own"**. (*The News*, [7 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Fazlur Rehman Calls for Broad Opposition Consultation Amid Political Tensions** — Maulana **Fazlur Rehman, Chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F)**, said the government had left little scope for meaningful political dialogue and called for a joint opposition strategy through an **All-Parties Conference (APC)**. Following a meeting with opposition leaders, he argued that **"democratic and political forces believed in negotiations, but the government had left no room for dialogue"**. **Fazlur Rehman said his party would consult internally before deciding on participation in the proposed APC and emphasised that any conference should formulate a common agenda through consensus among political parties.** **He also defended the right to peaceful protest, stating that the government should not obstruct PTI's long march, and argued that Governor's Rule or an emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would not resolve existing challenges, including terrorism.** (*The Express Tribune*, [7 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **PTI Criticises Detention of Imran Khan's Relative** — **Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)** has condemned the arrest of **Qasim Khan**, described by the party as an extended family member of imprisoned former prime minister **Imran Khan**. According to **PTI Central Information Secretary Sheikh Waqas Akram**, Qasim was detained while travelling to **Adiala Jail** on a scheduled family visitation day. **Akram argued that Qasim was neither a political office-bearer nor actively**

involved in politics, questioning the legal basis for his detention and describing it as part of a wider pattern of pressure on Imran Khan's family. The statement noted that Qasim had recently taken on a visible role in coordinating family affairs, legal matters and communications linked to Imran Khan's imprisonment. PTI characterised the arrest as another instance of the alleged targeting of the former prime minister's relatives. (*The Express Tribune*, [7 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **AJK Prime Minister Reassigns Portfolios Amid Cabinet Expansion Speculation** — 'Azad' Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Iftikhar Gillani has allocated additional portfolios to three cabinet ministers, a move that observers see as signalling that an immediate cabinet expansion may not be forthcoming. Under the new arrangement, **Health Minister Dr Mustafa Bashir Abbasi** has also been assigned **Population Welfare**, while **Chaudhry Abdul Rehman Arain** received the **Sports, Youth and Culture** portfolio in addition to his existing responsibilities. **Raja Mohammad Riasat**, already overseeing Revenue and Rehabilitation, was additionally given charge of the **Board of Revenue**. Despite these changes, **Prime Minister Gillani continues to retain several key ministries, including finance, agriculture, planning and development, communications, and law**. Official sources indicated that these portfolios could later be redistributed if a cabinet expansion takes place following elections to seven vacant assembly seats. (*Dawn*, [7 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Law Minister Raises India's Suspension of Indus Waters Treaty** — Federal Minister **Azam Nazeer Tarar** raised India's suspension of the **Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)** with British Minister of State **Stephen Doughty**, stressing its implications for Pakistan's **agriculture, food security and regional peace**. Tarar said the suspension was "**beyond the mechanism provided under the treaty**" and emphasised that water issues must be resolved under international law. He highlighted Punjab's role as Pakistan's food basket and linked water protection directly to the economy and people's well-being. Doughty acknowledged the importance of water and climate change, calling for cooperation. The meeting also discussed **human rights, child marriage prevention, trafficking and protection of women and children**, with Tarar briefing on Pakistan's legal measures, including fixing the marriageable age at **18 years**. (*Dawn*, [07 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Balochistan Assembly Approves Two Key Bills** — The Balochistan Assembly on Tuesday passed the **Code of Criminal Procedure 1898 Balochistan Amendment Bill** and the **Balochistan Citizen Facilitation and Governance Bill 2026**, strengthening the province's legal and public service framework. The session, chaired by **Speaker Abdul Khaliq Achakzai**, also presented the **Cadet Colleges Amendment Bill**, which was referred to committee for further review. JUI-F MPA **Zabid Reki** protested after being stopped from travelling for Umrah, alleging his passport was blocked and his name placed on the **Exit Control List**, prompting **CM Sarfraz Bugti** to summon the additional chief secretary for explanation. Former CM **Dr Abdul Malik Baloch** urged immediate release of funds for language academies, while Opposition Leader **Mir Younus Aziz Zehri** questioned delays in an inquiry into Forest Department recruitment. (*Dawn*, [07 October 2026](#))





Ninth Russia-Pakistan “Druzhba” military exercises concluded in Cherat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



[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].