

DAILY PAKISTAN WATCH

13 October 2026

Security

- ◆ **Pakistan and Brazil Agree to Enhance Defence Cooperation** — A high-level Brazilian military delegation led by **Admiral Renato Rodrigues De Aguiar Freire, Chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of Brazil**, met with **Field Marshal Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces**, at General Headquarters in Rawalpindi. During the meeting, both sides discussed matters of mutual interest, the regional security environment and opportunities to strengthen **bilateral defence and security cooperation**. They expressed satisfaction with the longstanding cordial relations between Pakistan and Brazil and agreed to further expand military-to-military collaboration. **Field Marshal Asim Munir reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to enhancing defence ties with Brazil**, while the visiting dignitary praised the professionalism and operational preparedness of Pakistan's armed forces. **The visit reflected the shared resolve of both countries to deepen defence cooperation and strengthen bilateral military relations.** (*The News*, [13 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Four youths died in LoC landmine blast** — The Directorate General of Public Relations (DGPR) in 'Azad' Jammu and Kashmir confirmed that **four young men were killed instantly** when a landmine drifting from the Indian side exploded near Mahandlah and Madarpur villages in Poonch. The victims — **Faizan Sagheer, Ishtiaq, Asim Rafiq and Waqas Sharif** — had gone to repair a water pipeline when the blast occurred. The tragedy plunged the local community into mourning, with residents expressing deep grief. The DGPR warned that **residents and livestock near the LoC remain at risk** due to the terrain, unclear border demarcation and landmines drifting across. (*The News*, [13 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Two Army Personnel died in a training aircraft crash** — A Mushshak training aircraft of the **Pakistan Army Aviation** crashed near Nawan Killi, Quetta, reportedly due to a technical fault. Both occupants of the aircraft, **Major Husnain Shehzad Humayun, Instructor Pilot, and Captain Abdul Samad, Student Pilot**, lost their lives in the incident. The crash occurred during a training mission, and the two officers were described as having embraced 'martyrdom' in the line of duty. **The aircraft reportedly went down after developing a technical fault during flight.** (*The News*, [13 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan Cites UN Report on TTP Presence in Afghanistan** — Pakistan has referred to a **United Nations Security Council Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team report** which, according to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, estimated the presence of **around 6,000 Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) fighters in Afghanistan** and reported Taliban support for the group. Responding to remarks by the Afghan Taliban administration, Pakistan stated that attempts to divert attention could not obscure concerns regarding militant activities originating from Afghan territory. The ministry urged the Afghan authorities to take **"concrete, verifiable and irreversible action"** against terrorist sanctuaries and support networks. **It maintained that meaningful progress requires the Afghan Taliban regime to honour its counterterrorism commitments and ensure Afghan soil is not used for attacks against Pakistan.** (*The News*, [13 October 2026](#))



- ◆ **Three Terror Suspects Arrested in Karachi** — The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) and a federal intelligence agency arrested **three suspected militants** in separate raids, recovering **two grenades and a ready-to-use improvised explosive device (IED)**. Officials said the suspects were planning attacks on sensitive installations and law enforcement agencies. Near Lasbela Chowk, two alleged members of the banned **Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA)** — **Sajid Yousuf and Shaukat Ali alias Shoki** — were detained, with grenades seized. In another raid near Old Sabzi Mandi, **Dad Muhammad alias Adil**, linked to the banned **Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)**, was caught with an IED. CTD said he had received training in Afghanistan. Cases have been registered, and further operations are underway to trace accomplices and financiers. (*The Express Tribune*, [13 October 2026](#))

Economy

- ◆ **Pakistan Explores Digital Finance and Tokenisation with World Bank** — Pakistan is exploring collaboration with the **World Bank Group** on **tokenisation, digital bonds and artificial intelligence-enabled financial operations** as part of efforts to modernise its financial sector and develop a regulatory framework for virtual assets. The discussions took place during a meeting between **Bilal bin Saqib, Minister of State and Chairman of the Pakistan Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority (PVARA)**, and **Jorge Familiar, World Bank Group Vice President and Treasurer**, on the sidelines of the IMF-World Bank annual meetings in Bangkok. The talks focused on knowledge sharing, institutional capacity building and the potential of financial innovation to deepen capital markets and improve efficiency. **Bilal bin Saqib said Pakistan had moved from a blanket ban on virtual assets to a regulatory framework within 15 months, with 75 applications received from local and international firms.** (*The News*, [13 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **PM Pushes Tax Digitisation and SME Growth Agenda** — Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed the **Federal Board of Revenue (FBR)** to complete the installation of automated production monitoring systems across all manufacturing sectors by the end of 2026 to strengthen sales tax collection and improve compliance. He emphasised that businesses collecting taxes from consumers must deposit them with the national exchequer and warned against any concessions for violators. The prime minister also highlighted the importance of **small and medium enterprises (SMEs)**, directing SMEDA to increase SME financing from **Rs1.1 trillion to Rs2.2 trillion by 2028**. Additionally, he ordered the development of **Daanish IT Park** as a world-class technology hub and called for a modern IT ecosystem linking academia, industry, artificial intelligence and entrepreneurship. **The government reported collecting an additional Rs1.3 trillion in taxes over the past three years through enhanced enforcement measures.** (*The Nation*, [13 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Finance Minister Projects Over 4% Economic Growth in FY2026-27** — **Muhammad Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue**, has expressed confidence that Pakistan's economy will grow by **more than 4%** during the current fiscal year despite higher global oil prices. Speaking on the sidelines of the IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings in Bangkok, he said Pakistan had secured adequate fuel supplies and maintained economic stability. Aurangzeb also highlighted the government's privatisation agenda, stating that **five to six state-owned entities could be privatised this fiscal year, potentially generating over \$1 billion**. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to **fiscal discipline, tax reforms, privatisation and sustainable growth**, while noting progress in inflation control, foreign exchange reserves and macroeconomic stability. **Aurangzeb said the government expects the economy to "clock north of 4 percent" despite external challenges.** (*The Nation*, [13 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **Pakistan's Poverty Rate Higher Than Neighbours** — The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has reported that **38.3% of Pakistan's population is multidimensionally poor**, facing overlapping deprivations in health, education and living standards. This compares with **16.4% in India and 14.9% in Bangladesh**, based on household surveys. In Pakistan, the **intensity of deprivation among the poor stood at 51.7%**, while another 12.9% were vulnerable to falling into acute poverty. The MPI highlights disadvantages in nutrition, schooling, sanitation, clean water, electricity and housing. Globally, multidimensional poverty has risen for the first time in 15 years, affecting **1.2 billion people**, with children making up more than half. UNDP Administrator **Alexander De Croo** warned: **"The rise in poverty should be a wake-up call for the world."** (*Dawn*, [13 October 2026](#))

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Pakistan Urges Afghanistan to Take Verifiable Action Against TTP** — Pakistan has once again called on Afghanistan to take **"concrete, verifiable and irreversible action"** against the **Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other militant groups**, stressing that Afghan territory should not be used for attacks against Pakistan or any other country. Addressing a conference on counterterrorism, **Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar** reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to combating terrorism through measures such as the National Action Plan, Azm-e-Istehkam and enhanced intelligence coordination. He also defended the imposition of emergency and governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, arguing that **the move was not politically motivated but aimed solely at addressing the threat of terrorism**. Separately, **Information Minister Attaullah Tarar** called for greater regional cooperation and warned against allowing terrorist safe havens to persist. (*The Nation*, [13 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan Hosts Landmark Russian Interior Minister Visit** — Pakistan and Russia are set to deepen bilateral cooperation following the arrival of **Vladimir Kolokoltsev, Russia's Interior Minister**, in Islamabad on a four-day official visit. The visit, undertaken at the invitation of **Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi**, marks the **first visit by a Russian interior minister to Pakistan**. Discussions are expected to focus on strengthening bilateral relations and expanding cooperation in areas of mutual interest, alongside meetings with Pakistan's leadership. In a parallel diplomatic engagement, **Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Albusaidi, Foreign Minister of Oman**, is visiting Pakistan to co-chair the **8th session of the Pakistan-Oman Joint Ministerial Commission** with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar. **The meetings are expected to advance cooperation and review the full spectrum of bilateral ties.** (*The News*, [13 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Asim Iftikhar Takes Charge as Pakistan's 34th Foreign Secretary** — Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad formally assumed office as **Pakistan's 34th Foreign Secretary** and called on **Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar** at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the meeting, Ishaq Dar congratulated the newly appointed foreign secretary and praised his contributions as Pakistan's former Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. **Dar expressed confidence in Ambassador Ahmad's ability to strengthen Pakistan's diplomatic engagement and effectively advance its foreign policy objectives.** As Foreign Secretary, Ahmad will oversee the Foreign Office's diplomatic machinery, coordinate the implementation of key foreign policy priorities and advise on international affairs. **His appointment comes at a significant time as Pakistan continues engagement with regional and international partners on political, economic and security issues.** (*The Nation*, [13 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **Amnesty International Urges Rights Safeguards During KP Emergency** — Babu Ram Pant, Deputy Director for South Asia at Amnesty International, has expressed concern that the declaration of a state of emergency, imposition of governor's rule and deployment of armed forces in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa could lead to restrictions on fundamental rights if not properly monitored. Referring to reports of detentions of political leaders and internet disruptions, he said these developments raised questions about the proportionality of the emergency measures. **(Pant stressed that emergency powers are not a “blank cheque” to crack down on human rights, silence dissent or concentrate power.)** He urged federal authorities to ensure independent oversight of all actions taken under the emergency framework and to guarantee that any measures adopted are strictly necessary and proportionate to the situation. (*The Nation*, [13 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Central Asia Positions Itself as Independent Economic Hub** — The **Eighth Consultative Meeting of the Heads of State of Central Asia and Azerbaijan**, held in Avaza, Turkmenistan, marked a shift from trust-based diplomacy to **economic and technological cooperation**. Commenting on the outcomes, Akramjon Nematov, First Deputy Director of Uzbekistan's ISRS, said the region is “increasingly emerging as a centre capable of shaping its own economic and technological agenda.” President Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasised that “strong, sovereign, and independent states cooperate on the basis of mutual respect, trust and pragmatism,” proposing initiatives such as “six economies – one product” to build regional value chains. Leaders outlined priorities in trade, transport, energy, AI, critical minerals and climate cooperation, signalling Central Asia's readiness to act as a **bridge between East Asia, the Caspian, South Caucasus, Europe, South Asia and the Middle East**. (*The Nation*, [13 October 2026](#))

Politics, Culture, Etc.

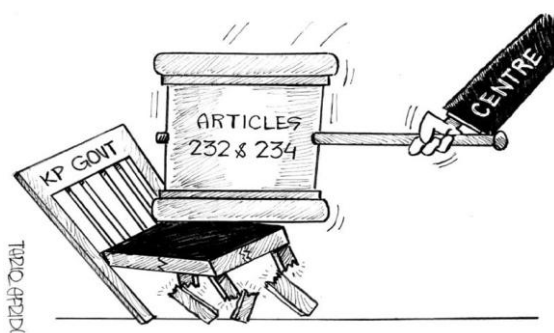
- ◆ **Centre and KP Administration Pledge Joint Action Against Terrorism** — The federal government and the new Khyber Pakhtunkhwa administration have agreed to **work jointly to combat terrorism, strengthen law enforcement and restore lasting peace in the province**. Speaking at a Provincial Apex Committee meeting, Syed Mohsin Naqvi, **Federal Interior Minister**, said the Centre would provide full support to enhance the capabilities of the police and Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), including modern equipment, resources and personnel. **Governor Faisal Karim Kundi** reaffirmed a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism and pledged visible action against militant threats. The committee also decided to continue intelligence-based operations and improve security infrastructure. Meanwhile, opposition leaders, bar councils and PTI representatives criticised the emergency and governor's rule, with legal challenges filed against the move. **The forum reaffirmed that eliminating terrorism and maintaining peace remained shared objectives and top priorities of all state institutions.** (*The News*, [13 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **PPP Says Parliament Will Decide on KP Emergency Measures** — Syed Nayyar Hussain Bukhari, Secretary General of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP), has stated that the imposition of emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will be brought before parliament, where elected representatives will debate the matter and decide its future in accordance with the Constitution. Emphasising the PPP's commitment to **democracy, constitutional supremacy and parliamentary sovereignty**, Bukhari said that extraordinary constitutional measures should be guided by legal requirements rather than political considerations. He argued that concerns had been raised over the provincial government's handling of law and order and counterterrorism efforts, citing attacks on security personnel, police stations and places of worship. **Bukhari said parliament would have the opportunity to deliberate on the emergency issue and determine an appropriate course of action.** (*The News*, [13 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **PTI Opts for Legal Challenge Against KP Governor's Rule** — The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has announced that it will challenge the imposition of **emergency and governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa** through the courts while remaining part of the parliamentary system rather than resigning from assemblies. **PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan** said the party would file a petition in the Peshawar High Court and continue protesting what it regards as an unconstitutional dismissal of its elected provincial government. **PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja** stated that resigning from assemblies would be counterproductive and that the party would continue its struggle through parliament, the courts and public mobilisation. **Gohar described October 11 as a "black day" in Pakistan's democratic history and demanded the immediate restoration of the provincial government.** (*The Nation*, [13 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Legal Experts Back Governor's Rule as Constitutional Response to Security Crisis** — Legal and constitutional experts have described the imposition of **governor's rule and emergency measures in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa** as a constitutionally permissible response to the province's deteriorating security situation. **Malik Ashfaq Advocate, senior lawyer**, argued that Articles 232 and 234 of the Constitution empower the President to intervene when a provincial government is unable to function in accordance with constitutional requirements, particularly in matters of law and order and counterterrorism. He said such measures could be used to restore peace, strengthen the writ of the state and ensure continuity of governance. Meanwhile, normal life gradually resumed in Peshawar, with roads and offices reopening. **Governor Faisal Karim Kundi maintained that the extraordinary measures were aimed at restoring peace, security, stability and development rather than targeting any political party.** (*The Nation*, [13 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Governor Kundi Pledges Coordinated Anti-Terror Drive Under Emergency Rule** — **Faisal Karim Kundi, Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**, said the province's policies would now be formulated in coordination with the federal government, declaring that **"our policies will come from Islamabad, not Kabul, Jalalabad or Kandahar"**. Chairing a meeting of the Provincial Apex Committee, he reaffirmed that eliminating terrorism and restoring law and order were top priorities. The committee directed all departments to take **effective, coordinated and decisive action against terrorism**, while confirming that intelligence-based operations would continue. The administration also pledged to strengthen the police and Counter-Terrorism Department with modern equipment, manpower and resources. **Governor Kundi stressed that the extraordinary measures were aimed at restoring peace, security, stability and development, not targeting any political party.** Meanwhile, life in Peshawar began returning to normal, with roads reopened and offices resuming operations. (*The Nation*, [13 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Train Derailment in Multan Leaves Five Dead** — At least **five passengers were killed and more than 30 injured** when the Peshawar-bound **Rehman Baba Express derailed near Sher Shah Railway Station in Multan** on Tuesday. A Pakistan Railways spokesperson confirmed the casualties, while Rescue 1122 initially reported 49 injured. **Railways Minister Hanif Abbasi** expressed grief, directed provision of medical facilities, and announced compensation under the insurance policy. He also ordered an inquiry by the inspector of railways. Train driver **Rizwan Abbas** said the train was travelling at 100 km/h when he **"suddenly felt a push"** before coaches derailed. Pakistan Railways has set up help desks, arranged buses, and dispatched a replacement train for over 500 passengers. The incident adds to a series of derailments in recent months, raising concerns over **maintenance and safety lapses.** (*Dawn*, [13 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **AJK Leaders Call for Peaceful Settlement in Poonch** — Political leaders in 'Azad' Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) have urged a **peaceful and dignified resolution** of the crisis in Poonch division, voicing concern over deteriorating law and order. The appeal came during a meeting hosted by

Muslim Conference President Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan at his Rawalpindi residence, attended by figures including **PPP's Sardar Yaqoob Khan**, **PML-N AJK President Shah Ghulam Qadir**, **Raja Farooq Haider**, **Opposition Leader Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin**, and **IPP AJK President Sardar Tanveer Ilyas**. Participants demanded restoration of **internet services, food and medicine supplies, communication links and free movement**, alongside ensuring eligible voters' participation in the electoral process. They stressed that the Poonch crisis must be resolved through **political dialogue and peaceful means**. (*Dawn*, [13 October 2026](#))

- ◆ **Ex-GB Chief Minister Arrested Alongside PTI Leaders** — Former Gilgit-Baltistan chief minister and PTI regional president **Khalid Khurshid Khan** was arrested in Peshawar along with **KP Assembly Speaker Babar Saleem Swati** and several others, police confirmed. Authorities said Khurshid was wanted in multiple criminal cases, including a **34-year sentence handed down by an anti-terrorism court in 2024** for threatening security institutions. He had reportedly been staying at official residences since 2023 to avoid arrest. Khurshid was also disqualified in 2023 by the GB Chief Court over a **fraudulent educational degree**, ending his tenure as chief minister and triggering political realignment in the region. Despite court orders, he had remained outside GB police custody until his detention on Sunday night. (*Dawn*, [13 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Balochistan Opposition Rejects KP Emergency** — Opposition members in the **Balochistan Assembly** strongly criticised the imposition of emergency and governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, demanding restoration of the PTI-led provincial government. **Opposition Leader Younus Aziz Zehri** called the move undemocratic, asking, "**Where has the claim of respecting the people's vote gone?**" and warning of serious consequences for democracy. **Dr Abdul Malik Baloch** of the National Party also condemned the decision, cautioning that such measures could spread nationwide. Government members defended the step, with **Provincial Minister Zahoor Buledi** insisting emergency was necessary to combat terrorism, while **CM Sarfraz Bugti** argued the KP government had failed in its responsibilities, even diverting security funds to social media teams. (*Dawn*, [13 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Sindh Nationalists Announce 'Unity March' in Larkana** — The **Jeay Sindh Rehbar Committee**, a coalition of four Sindhi nationalist parties, has declared it will hold a **'Sindh Unity March' on 15 October in Larkana** against federal plans to create new provinces. Committee head **Riaz Chandio**, chief of JSM-R, said the march was also aimed at resisting the "**seizure of Sindh's resources**," accusing Punjab of usurping water and energy while criticising the PPP for acting as a tool of the establishment. Chandio warned that if the rally was obstructed, participants would block the Indus and National highways. He alleged Sindh faced drought, collapsing agriculture, and unfair water distribution under the 1945 and 1991 accords, stressing that "**Sindh is not an administrative unit, but a historical homeland**." (*Dawn*, [13 October 2026](#))
- ◆ **Federal Source Sees No Path Back for Afridi as KP Chief Minister** — A senior federal government source has claimed that **Sohail Afridi, the suspended Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**, has "**zero chance**" of returning to office, even if the emergency and governor's rule imposed in the province prove temporary. The source attributed this assessment to Afridi's confrontational political stance and his strained relations with the federal government and state institutions. In addition to the political uncertainty arising from the federal takeover and his preventive detention, Afridi faces a series of legal challenges, including proceedings related to his appointment as chief minister, election matters and cases linked to the May 2023 unrest. **The source maintained that Afridi's return to the chief minister's office is no longer considered a viable option at the federal level.** (*The News*, [13 October 2026](#))

EMERGENCY, GOVERNOR'S RULE BRING PTI'S LONG MARCH TO AN END



[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**].