

DAILY PAKISTAN WATCH

30 September 2026

Security

- ◆ **Pakistan Warns UN of Risks to Regional Stability Over Water Treaty Dispute** — Pakistan has urged the UN Security Council to address what it describes as India's violations of the Indus Waters Treaty, warning that **any attempt to politicise water flows or place them under unilateral control could trigger humanitarian, economic and security repercussions across an already fragile region**. Pakistan argued that disregarding the treaty's binding character and its dispute-settlement mechanisms would undermine international law and weaken confidence in transboundary water agreements worldwide. **The letter stressed that Pakistan had exercised restraint and remained committed to dialogue, lawful conduct and the peaceful resolution of disputes, including Jammu and Kashmir**. However, it maintained that threats to its water and food security, economic stability and the welfare of its people could not be normalised. **It reiterated that "any attempt to stop or divert the flow of water lawfully belonging to Pakistan under the Treaty would be regarded as an act of war"**. (*The Express Tribune*, [30 September 2025](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan Warns Against Efforts to Undermine Regional Peace** — Information Minister **Attaullah Tarar** said Pakistan's commitment to peace should not be mistaken for weakness, warning that any attempts from Afghanistan to destabilise Pakistan had been and would continue to be met with a response. Speaking at a seminar titled **"Afghan Predicament and the Trajectory to Peace"** in Islamabad, he stressed that Pakistan believes in peaceful coexistence and has repeatedly pursued dialogue through high-level engagements with Afghanistan. **Tarar argued that the Afghan interim government must move beyond a "militant mindset" and adopt a statesmanlike approach to governance**. He highlighted Afghanistan's potential for regional trade and connectivity but identified violent extremism, terrorist safe havens and militancy as the principal obstacles. **He also criticised restrictions on women and described the prevailing ideological approach as inconsistent with Islam's true principles**. (*The Express Tribune*, [30 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Somali Forces Free Hijacked Tanker, Pakistani Crew Members Killed** — **Three Pakistani nationals were killed and four others injured** when Somali pirates opened fire during a security operation to rescue the **MT Honour 25**, a Palau-flagged petroleum tanker hijacked off the coast of Puntland in April. According to the **Ansar Burney Trust**, the exchange of fire during the operation also claimed the lives of an Indian and a Myanmar national. **Security forces from Somalia's semi-autonomous Puntland state successfully freed the vessel and detained the pirates, who are expected to face prosecution**. The tanker had been seized on 21 April with 17 crew members on board, including 10 Pakistanis. **The rescue is part of Puntland's ongoing counter-piracy efforts, following the liberation of another hijacked tanker, *Sibu 1*, earlier this month**. (*The News*, [30 September 2026](#))

- ◆ **Inquiry Sought After Fatal Drone Strike During Anti-Crime Operation** — Three people, including a father, his son and a minor girl, were killed and four others injured in a reported drone strike during a joint police operation in the katcha area of **Shikarpur** aimed at recovering kidnapped journalist **Muhammad Azeem Siyal**. Relatives of the victims alleged that the strike was carried out by police, a claim reportedly denied by law enforcement authorities. **Gulab Mirani, a relative of the victims, said the deceased were civilians and not connected to criminal groups, stating that Muhammad Hassan Mirani earned his livelihood through fishing.** He further alleged that authorities refused to acknowledge the incident and that post-mortem examinations could not be conducted. **The affected family has demanded an official inquiry and justice for the victims.** (*The News*, [30 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Security Forces Conduct Operations Against Militants in KP and Balochistan** — According to security sources, **seven militants were killed in separate intelligence-based operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.** In the Bara area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, security forces reportedly killed five militants and recovered a large quantity of weapons and ammunition. In a separate operation in **Chagai district, Balochistan**, two militants were killed after allegedly setting an empty water tanker on fire and attempting to flee. **Security sources further claimed that the individuals were involved in arson attacks along the N-40 highway.** The operations were presented as part of ongoing efforts to counter militancy and maintain security in the two provinces. **Security forces reiterated their commitment to continuing operations against militant groups in both Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.** (*The Nation*, [30 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Strategic Consistency Key to Countering Militancy** — In an opinion article, **M Zeb Khan, PhD in Administrative Sciences and lecturer at the University of Plymouth**, argues that Pakistan's challenge is not a lack of military capability but the difficulty of translating that power into sustained strategic success. Referring to recent militant attacks in **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**, he contends that insurgent groups survive through adaptability, local networks and safe havens rather than conventional military strength. **Khan maintains that military operations alone cannot eliminate militancy unless accompanied by effective policing, intelligence, governance, border management and economic opportunities.** He further criticises distinctions between “good” and “bad” militants, asserting that **“no armed non-state organisation should be permitted to operate outside the law”**. Concluding, he argues that terrorism persists where state responses lack consistency, coordination and long-term political commitment. (*The Express Tribune*, [30 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Security Forces Carry Out Counterterrorism Operation in North Waziristan** — According to state media and security sources, **three militants were killed in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in the Mir Ali area of North Waziristan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.** The operation reportedly targeted hideouts linked to the banned **Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)**, referred to by the state as **Fitna al Khawarij**, and resulted in the recovery of a large quantity of weapons and ammunition. **Security sources also stated that forces thwarted an attempt by militants to intercept a ration truck near Mir Ali Bazaar.** President **Asif Ali Zardari** and Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif** praised the operation, reiterating their commitment to combating terrorism. **The report noted that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa continues to face significant security challenges, with militant attacks rising in recent months despite sustained counterterrorism operations.** (*Dawn*, [30 September 2026](#))

- ◆ **Jirga Calls for Relief Measures and End to Quadcopter Strikes in South Waziristan** — A jirga organised by the All Political Alliance, Upper South Waziristan in the Shaktoi area demanded an end to alleged **quadcopter strikes and mortar firing in residential areas**, arguing that such actions endanger civilian lives and property. Attended by tribal elders, religious scholars and political and social figures, the gathering also called for an easing of the frequently imposed curfew and better arrangements for the movement of patients, elderly people and emergency cases. **Participants highlighted difficulties at security checkpoints, including restricted operating hours, excessive speed-breakers and obstacles affecting large vehicles.** The jirga further raised concerns about poor mobile phone and internet connectivity in the region. **The resolution urged greater coordination between authorities and local residents to address public grievances and improve daily life.** (*Dawn*, [30 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Hostages Released After Negotiations in Bannu's Hathikhel Area** — **Thirteen villagers who had been held hostage by militants in the mountainous Hathikhel area of Bannu's Wazir subdivision were released following negotiations with local elders**, according to local sources. The hostages had reportedly been detained while attempting to relocate to safer areas amid ongoing tensions in the region. A video circulating locally purportedly showed the released individuals alongside local elders and a commander of the banned **Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)**. **The development comes amid continuing conflict involving militants, police and a local peace committee, which has reportedly displaced several families.** In a separate operation in the Talgi area, security forces detained eight suspects and demolished alleged militant hideouts. **Weapons were also seized during the joint operation involving police, counterterrorism personnel and security forces.** (*Dawn*, [30 September 2026](#))

Economy

- ◆ **Pakistan Returns to Global Capital Markets with Landmark Eurobond Launch** — **Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif** became the first Pakistani prime minister to open a trading session at the **London Stock Exchange (LSE)**, where he formally launched Pakistan's **US\$3 billion dual-tranche sovereign Eurobond**. Addressing investors and financial leaders, he highlighted strengthening macroeconomic indicators, structural reforms and economic digitisation as evidence of Pakistan's improving economic outlook. **Shehbaz credited Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and his team for securing the country's largest-ever international bond transaction, which attracted nearly US\$6 billion in investor demand.** He also underscored the government's privatisation agenda, including Pakistan International Airlines and First Women Bank, and invited greater UK investment. **The visit was presented as a sign of renewed international investor confidence and Pakistan's re-entry into global capital markets.** (*The News*, [30 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **IMF Urges Fiscal Discipline as Pakistan Unveils FY27 Borrowing Strategy** — Pakistan presented its **FY27 Annual Borrowing Plan** while holding discussions with an **IMF review mission led by Iva Petrova** under the US\$7 billion Extended Fund Facility. The IMF expressed concerns over the country's rising debt burden, persistent circular debt in the energy sector and delays in structural reforms, including legislation related to the Sovereign Wealth Fund. **Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb assured the Fund that Pakistan would continue fiscal consolidation and reform efforts despite regional economic challenges.** The borrowing plan projects a federal fiscal deficit of **Rs7.02 trillion** and gross financing needs of **Rs28.65 trillion**, with

reliance on medium- and long-term domestic borrowing and more than US\$2 billion in planned Eurobond and International Sukuk issuances. The government also expects multilateral financing to remain its main external funding source while seeking to diversify financing and reduce refinancing risks. (*The News*, [30 September 2026](#))

- ◆ **Pakistan's Debt Burden Climbs as Government Plans Fresh Borrowing** — According to the Ministry of Finance's Annual Borrowing Plan 2027, Pakistan's total public debt rose by 76 per cent from Rs49.3 trillion in June 2022 to Rs86.7 trillion by June 2026, comprising Rs59.4tr in domestic debt and Rs27.3tr in external obligations. The government plans to borrow an additional Rs6.86 trillion in FY27 to help finance a projected fiscal deficit of Rs7.02tr, while gross financing needs are estimated at Rs28.65tr, equivalent to around 20pc of GDP. The strategy focuses on reducing reliance on short-term treasury bills, expanding medium- and long-term borrowing instruments, and increasing sukuk and bond issuances. The government also aims to raise over \$2 billion through Eurobonds and international sukuk while continuing engagement with multilateral lenders and credit-rating agencies. (*Dawn*, [30 September 2026](#))

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Pakistani Senators Join Global Fiscal Governance Conference in Manila** — A Pakistani parliamentary delegation led by Senator Abdul Qadir, with Senator Waqar Mehdi as a member, participated in a two-day international conference in Manila, Philippines, titled “Independent Fiscal Institutions and the Management of Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations: Towards Strengthening Economic and Inclusive Growth”. The event, held from 28 to 29 September, brought together parliamentarians, economists, heads of fiscal institutions and policymakers from around the world. Discussions focused on fiscal governance, intergovernmental fiscal relations and strategies to promote sustainable and inclusive economic development. The participation of the Pakistani delegation reflected the Senate's engagement with international forums addressing public finance, economic policymaking and institutional strengthening. (*The Nation*, [30 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan's Emerging Role in Regional Diplomacy** — In an opinion article, Sadia Sulaiman, Assistant Professor at the Area Study Centre for Africa, North and South Americas, Quaid-e-Azam University, argues that Pakistan is uniquely positioned to facilitate diplomacy amid growing tensions in the Middle East. She contends that Pakistan's value lies not in its ability to resolve complex conflicts alone but in its access to multiple stakeholders, citing the April 2026 meeting between American and Iranian representatives in Islamabad as an example of dialogue facilitation. Sulaiman identifies five factors underpinning Pakistan's diplomatic potential: its ties with Iran and the United States, strong Gulf connections, growing diplomatic engagement, strategic mineral resources and its partnership with China. She argues that “Pakistan may not be able to end the conflicts around it. But it can offer something the world urgently needs: a place where difficult conversations remain possible”, provided it sustains economic reform and diplomatic engagement. (*The Express Tribune*, [30 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistani Human Rights Lawyer Receives Prestigious International Award** — Jalila Haider, a Pakistani human rights lawyer and activist from the Hazara community, has been awarded the Right Livelihood Prize, often referred to as the “alternative Nobel”. The Right Livelihood

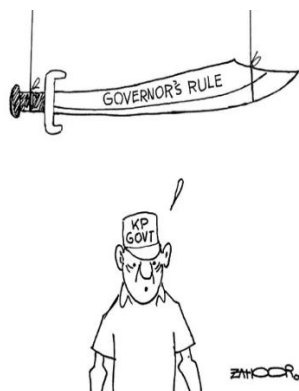
Foundation recognised her for challenging ethnic, gender and state-based discrimination and for her commitment to the principle that **“no human being is illegal”**. The foundation highlighted her leadership of a 2018 hunger strike against targeted killings of Hazaras, as well as her legal advocacy for minorities, refugees, political activists and human rights defenders. **Haider was also recognised for founding initiatives that support widows of terrorism victims and for helping pioneer women’s rights activism in Balochistan.** Despite threats and harassment, she continues her work promoting human rights and social justice. (*Dawn*, [30 September 2026](#))

- ◆ **US Reaffirms Longstanding Position on Kashmir Dispute** — The United States has assured Pakistan that there has been **“no change” in its position on Kashmir** and that it continues to regard the territory as a dispute requiring resolution between Pakistan and India, according to diplomatic sources. The clarification followed remarks by **US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor**, who had described Jammu and Kashmir as an “important part of India” during a visit to Srinagar, prompting Islamabad to seek an explanation and lodge a protest. **Pakistani officials cited President Donald Trump’s earlier offer to help resolve the dispute as evidence that Washington still considers the issue unresolved.** During discussions in Washington, **Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir**, and **Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh** reiterated that a peaceful settlement in line with UN Security Council resolutions was essential for regional stability and lasting peace in South Asia. (*Dawn*, [30 September 2026](#))

Politics, Culture, Etc.

- ◆ **K-P Chief Minister Defies Federal Pressure Ahead of PTI March** — Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa **Chief Minister Sohail Afridi** rejected warnings of possible federal intervention and insisted that the **PTI’s 4 October long march** would proceed peacefully under all circumstances. Responding to discussions about the potential imposition of Governor’s Rule, he declared that he would not retreat under pressure and warned that supporters could mobilise if attempts were made to remove him. **Afridi argued that federal policies were harming the province and stated that “if needed, we will rebel” to force policy changes.** He also criticised the federal government’s performance and contrasted it with that of the former PTI administration. **While predicting a massive turnout, he urged participants to remain unarmed, stressing that no violence, provocation or damage to property would be tolerated and that the march would remain a peaceful democratic protest.** (*The Express Tribune*, [30 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan Plans National Showcase for Gandhara Buddhist Heritage** — Federal Minister for National Heritage **Aurangzeb Khan Khichi** announced that the government is considering the transfer of significant **Buddhist relics from the Peshawar Museum to the National Museum in Islamabad** to provide a stronger national platform for Pakistan’s Gandhara heritage. During a meeting with **Myanmar Ambassador Wunna Han**, he said the proposed move would improve access for Buddhist pilgrims and promote religious tourism. **Khichi also revealed plans for a dedicated facility on Murree Road to preserve and display sacred relics and announced that the Shah Allah Ditta Caves would be opened to visitors next month.** The ambassador highlighted the global significance of Gandhara civilisation and expressed interest in expanding Buddhist pilgrimage links between Myanmar and Pakistan. **Both sides agreed to strengthen cultural cooperation, heritage promotion and people-to-people exchanges.** (*The News*, [30 September 2026](#))

- ◆ **Punjab Imposes Temporary Restrictions on Outdoor Drone Operations** — The Punjab Home Department has imposed a 30-day ban on outdoor drone flights across the province under **Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure**, citing security concerns and the need to maintain public safety and law and order. Limited use of small drones will remain permissible for events held inside halls and marquees, with organisers responsible for ensuring compliance and safety requirements. **Intelligence and law-enforcement agencies have been exempted from the restrictions.** The government has also established **district-level “Safe Drone Usage Committees”** empowered to grant written permission for drone operations related to agriculture, irrigation and research. **The authorities have directed district administrations and police to strictly enforce the order, describing it as a precautionary measure to protect public and private property.** (*The Nation*, [30 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Family Alleges Hunger Strike by Imran Khan’s Sisters in Jail** — Qasim Zaman, cousin of PTI founder Imran Khan, claimed that Aleema Khan, Dr Uzma Khan and Noreen Niazi, currently detained at **Kot Lakhpat Jail**, have been on a **48-hour hunger strike**. According to Zaman, the protest followed the alleged failure of jail authorities to provide essential items despite a directive from the **Lahore High Court (LHC)**. **He further alleged that the sisters had been denied family meetings and access to necessities, and had returned food after what he described as rude treatment by jail staff.** Expressing concern over their situation, he called for the authorities to allow family visits and legal access, while seeking clarification on whether the court’s orders had been implemented. **The claims were presented by family members, and no official response was reported in the article.** (*The Express Tribune*, [30 September 2026](#))
- ◆ **Karachi Launches Rs14 Billion Water Supply Project for DHA and Clifton** — A Rs14 billion **Dumlottee-DHA water supply project** has been launched in Karachi to provide **10 million gallons of water per day** to residents of DHA and Clifton and reduce dependence on water tankers. The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by **Sindh Local Government Minister Nasir Hussain Shah, Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab** and other officials. **The project, to be executed by the Frontier Works Organisation (FWO), is expected to be completed within 18 months and will draw, filter and transmit water from Dumlottee to a DHA reservoir through an 800mm HDPE pipeline.** Officials said the scheme would include integrated filtration and pumping facilities, along with a centralised SCADA monitoring system to curb water theft and leakage. **The project aims to improve the reliability and quality of water supply for millions of residents.** (*The Express Tribune*, [30 September 2026](#))



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