

DAILY PAKISTAN WATCH

10 July 2026

Security

- ◆ **Shehbaz blames it on India:** While chairing a high-level meeting of the Provincial Apex Committee on the National Action Plan, which was called in the immediate aftermath of the severe wave of insurgent attacks that roiled the province during the first week of July, Shehbaz Shaarif said that Pakistan's *mashriqi humsaya* (eastern neighbour) was responsible for terrorism in the country and the government has resolved to crush all forms of terrorism (*hum is fitne ko kuchal ked um lengey*). The meeting was notably attended by the Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of the Army Staff, Field Marshal Asim Munir. (*Radio Pakistan*, [9 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Deadly Attack on PPP Leader's Residence in Khuzdar** — At least 14 people, including five police personnel, were killed in a “**highly organised**” suicide and armed attack on the residence of PPP leader Mir Shafiqur Rehman Mengal. A suicide bomber detonated explosives at the gate, enabling armed assailants to storm the compound, sparking a three-hour gun battle in which all five attackers were killed. Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti condemned the assault, declaring that “**enemies of peace**” sought to undermine stability, while praising Mengal's courage and directing agencies to bring perpetrators to justice. (*The Express Tribune*, [10 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Civil-Military Unity Against Terrorism in Quetta** — Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif declared that “**the country's political and military leadership is fully united in its determination to eradicate terrorism, and this battle will continue until the last disruptive terrorist is eliminated.**” Chairing the Provincial Apex Committee meeting in Quetta, he accused India of funding and arming terrorists to destabilise Pakistan, vowing to foil their designs. Paying tribute to fallen personnel and citizens, PM Shehbaz pledged that their sacrifices “**will not go to waste.**” Field Marshal Asim Munir and senior officials attended. (*The Express Tribune*, [10 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Violence and Dialogue in Balochistan** — The alarming rise in terrorist violence in Balochistan has claimed dozens of lives among civilians, police and soldiers since July 5. The ISPR chief attributed the Ziarat attack to the banned TTP and the Bela ambush to the proscribed BLA, while warning of “**state-sponsored ... hostile intelligence agencies**” fuelling unrest. Editorial stresses that while kinetic action is vital, a **serious political strategy** is equally necessary. Dialogue with non-violent Baloch nationalists and addressing entrenched poverty and inequality are essential to lasting peace. (*Dawn*, [10 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **China, India-Linked Hackers Target Pakistani Law Enforcement** — A report by cybersecurity firm SentinelOne revealed that from February 2024 to April 2026, **Pakistani law enforcement agencies** were hit by separate cyberespionage campaigns linked to groups associated with China and India. Principal researcher Aleksandar Milenkoski noted that “**the convergence itself is a signal of target value**”, as these institutions hold sensitive internal security data. Targets included the **Balochistan police**, **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police**, Islamabad police and the **Punjab Safe Cities**

Authority. While China denied involvement, India offered no comment. Pakistani officials stressed system security, citing increased cyber activity during heightened tensions. (*The News*, [10 July 2026](#))

- ◆ **Governance, Not Just Force, Key to Balochistan's Stability** — In his commentary, **Dr Farrukh Saleem** argues that militants in Balochistan seek disruption and delegitimisation rather than conquest, with their real battlefield being **public trust**. He stresses that Pakistan's challenge is not a shortage of force but of governance: **"Where the state is present only as a checkpoint, cantonment, convoy or raid, militants get narrative space. Where the state is present as a school, clinic, court, police station, water scheme, job office and local council, militants lose oxygen."** He calls for a two-handed strategy; **precise military action alongside visible justice**, local government and service delivery, noting that **clear, hold, build** must guide counterinsurgency. Success, he concludes, lies in citizens trusting the state enough to provide intelligence, not in body counts. (*The News*, [10 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **K-P prepares final deportation phase of Afghan nationals** — The Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa government has finalised plans to repatriate around **20,000 Afghan nationals from Peshawar** in the concluding phase of the federal-provincial deportation drive. Law enforcement agencies, including the Special Branch and Peshawar Police, have compiled detailed lists of residents from key areas such as Afghan Colony, Chamkani and Warsak Road colonies, as well as business hubs like Fruit Market and Khyber Bazaar. Families will first be moved to the **Nasir Bagh Transit Centre** before repatriation via the Torkham border. Officials emphasised the process will be conducted **"in a dignified manner."** (*The Express Tribune*, [10 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **India's organised crime under global scrutiny** — The arrest of 24 suspects across the US, Canada and Europe under **Operation Hard Ball** underscores the sprawl of India's crime networks. For New Delhi, however, the arrests are an indictment of its reluctance to act against gangs operating freely at home. The editorial cites **Lawrence Bishnoi**, imprisoned for nearly a decade yet commanding operations from jail. "Gang bosses in India are treated like royalty inside prison." Analysts allege links between Bishnoi's gang and assassinations abroad, with investigations even drawing connections to Indian officials. (*The Express Tribune*, [10 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Balochistan's terror crisis demands dual response** — Three coordinated attacks in **Ziarat, Hanna Urak and Bela-Winder** left 42 civil and military casualties, underscoring that the regional terror network remains intact. The editorial notes that infiltrators enjoy backing from **Indian proxies and the outlawed TTP**, with foreign interference aimed at destabilising Pakistan. Security forces neutralised over 54 militants, projecting resilience. Yet, "Balochistan is deeply plagued by a volatile mix of geopolitical rivalries and home-grown grievances, requiring both decisive military action and governance reforms to address local deprivation." (*The Express Tribune*, [10 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **State reprisals against Baloch families condemned** — The **Baloch Solidarity Committee (BYC)** has denounced the demolition of homes belonging to victims of enforced disappearances in Jiwani, calling it **"the height of state oppression"**. The statement highlighted the case of **Asghar Ali's family**, subjected to raids, harassment and forced eviction, alongside demolitions of houses belonging to **Rizwan Rashid, Ali Asghar, Ghulam Nabi Jafar, Yar Jan, Muhammad Jan and Ghani Jafar**. BYC described these acts as collective punishment and part of a **"Baloch genocide policy"**, urging international human rights bodies to hold Pakistan accountable. (*Daily Sangar*, [9 July 2026](#))

TTP Operation Khyber continues despite brutal state action: On 9 July 2026 (23 Muharram 1448 AH), the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed eight operations spanning multiple districts. The attacks resulted in the confirmed deaths of one soldier in Tiyarza and a Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) officer in Tank, alongside injuries to a soldier in Miranshah. Militants targeted state forces using grenade launchers (GL) and DShK heavy machine guns, while also claiming to shoot down an Indian military drone in Quetta. Non-combat actions included the documented resignation of a police officer in Azam Warsak and the conditional release of an alleged spy in Sadda. Additionally, the TTP highlighted a morning military bombing campaign in Jandola, which they claimed destroyed civilian homes and caused casualties among women and children. (*Telegram*, [10 July 2026](#))

TTP Operational Summary (9 July 2026)

District	Location	Operation Type	Reported Outcome / Details
North Waziristan	Miranshah (Biblah Post)	Grenade Launcher (GL) attack	1 security personnel injured; solar panel system damaged.
North Waziristan	Miranshah (Bush Post)	DShK heavy machine gun attack	Potential security forces casualties reported.
South Waziristan	Tiyarza (Khaisora)	Ambush on military patrol	1 soldier killed.
South Waziristan	Azam Warsak	Personnel defection	Police officer Azizullah resigned from his post.
Tank	Central Tank District	Targeted market attack	CTD officer Ziaullah killed.
Dera Ismail Khan	Daraban (Zarkani Fort)	Grenade Launcher (GL) attack	Potential military casualties reported.
Quetta	Quetta (Hanna Urak)	Anti-aircraft engagement	Claimed downing of a "Royal Indian Army" drone.
Khurram	Sadda (Tindo Tondori)	Prisoner release	Alleged spy released on elders' guarantee after 14 days.
<i>Note: Tank (Jandola)</i>	<i>Sarah Ghar area</i>	<i>Military airstrikes</i>	<i>TTP reported civilian homes burned; women and children injured/killed.</i>

Economy

- ◆ **Pakistan–Türkiye Eye \$5 Billion Trade Goal** — ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Atif Ikram Sheikh has proposed a Pakistan–Türkiye joint business meeting to help achieve the **\$5 billion bilateral trade target** set by both countries’ leadership. He noted that despite longstanding ties, current trade stands at only \$1.236 billion, with Pakistan exporting rice, textiles, leather, sports goods and surgical instruments, while Türkiye supplies machinery, steel, chemicals, electrical equipment and processed food. Sheikh stressed that “**strong industrial complementarities**” could be leveraged through joint ventures and supply chain linkages. (*The Express Tribune*, [10 July 2026](#))

- ◆ **Tariff Reform Reshapes Import Structure** — Pakistan’s tariff rationalisation drive has shifted nearly two-fifths of imports into the **duty-free category**, with \$27.02bn worth of goods exempted in FY26. Official data shows concessions increasingly target **industrial inputs** such as machinery, chemicals and textiles, which together accounted for over \$17bn in duty-free imports. By contrast, commodities like petroleum, edible oils, vehicles and base metals remain largely dutiable, preserving customs revenue. The government has cut **additional customs duty on 3,149 tariff lines** and reduced regulatory duties to 20pc on 1,900 lines in FY27. (*Dawn*, [10 July 2026](#))

- ◆ **Cryptocurrency Declared *Haram* Under Shariah** — Mufti Muhammad Taqi Usmani, president of **Wifaq-ul-Madaris Al-Arabia Pakistan** and Darul Uloom Karachi, has issued a fatwa ruling that **cryptocurrency transactions are not permissible under Shariah**. He stated that crypto tokens, including **USDT (Tether)**, do not qualify as *maal* (property or wealth) but are merely “notional numbers in an account.” His son Hassan Usmani confirmed the fatwa’s authenticity. The ruling advised a questioner to return books purchased via crypto and to delete an illegally obtained digital course, stressing that both transactions were impermissible and unlawful. (*The News*, [10 July 2026](#))

- ◆ **Cabinet Defers IFRS Relief for Gas Utilities** — The Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCoSOEs), chaired by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, has put on hold the accounting relief sought by **SNGPL** and **SSGC**. The Petroleum Division had requested exemptions from **IFRS 4** and **IFRS 9** for selected energy-sector entities, citing the financial strain of circular debt. Both utilities warned that without exemptions, they risk being declared insolvent due to accounting treatment. The committee directed the Petroleum Division to revise its proposal after consultations with the Finance and Law ministries before resubmission. (*The Express Tribune*, [10 July 2026](#))

- ◆ **ADB warns of slower growth and tariff risks** — The **Asian Development Bank** has cut Pakistan’s FY2027 growth forecast to **3.7%**, down from 4.5%, making it South Asia’s third slowest economy after Afghanistan and the Maldives. Inflation is projected at **8.3%**, the second-highest after Bangladesh. The ADB cited higher energy costs, weaker remittances, and spillovers from the Middle East conflict. Pakistan also faces a risk of **10–12.5% US tariffs** under Section 301, effective 24 July, despite earlier surcharges expiring. The IMF separately forecasts 3.5% growth, while India is projected at 7.3%. (*The Express Tribune*, [10 July 2026](#))

- ◆ **Pakistan–Russia trade poised for revival** — Federal Minister for Energy **Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari** said Pakistan and Russia have immense untapped potential in trade, energy, education and connectivity, stressing that stronger cooperation and transport linkages could help bilateral

trade surpass **\$1 billion** in the coming years. Speaking at a webinar, he noted relations had gained momentum over two decades, driven by mutual trust and regional stability. He emphasised Eurasian connectivity, citing the **International North-South Transport Corridor** and new rail agreements, while also calling for the resumption of direct flights. (*The Express Tribune*, [10 July 2026](#))

- ◆ **Record remittances highlight resilience but expose policy voids** — Pakistan's remittances surged to **\$41.58 billion in FY2025-26**, up **8.6%** from the previous year, despite Middle East tensions and without structured educational, training or welfare support. **Saudi Arabia remained the largest source (\$9.78bn)**, followed by the **UAE (\$8.8bn)**, the **UK (\$6.3bn)** and the **EU (\$5.2bn, fastest growth at +15%)**, while US inflows dipped slightly. Experts Ibrahim Amin and Saad Shah praised fintech-driven convenience and Gulf labour demand but warned of critical policy gaps. "Remittances are financing deficits rather than building a self-sustaining economy." (*The Express Tribune*, [10 July 2026](#))

Foreign Policy

- ◆ **Global Security Cooperation Urged by Pakistan** — Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, speaking at the United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit in New York, stressed that **"no country is immune to these challenges, and no nation can address them on its own."** He called for deeper collaboration among law enforcement agencies to counter terrorism, organised crime, cybercrime, and trafficking, urging **trust, timely intelligence sharing and mutual support**. Meeting UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Naqvi highlighted Pakistan's mediation efforts and longstanding peacekeeping contributions, emphasising realistic mandates and adequate resources for UN missions. (*The Express Tribune*, [10 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan and Qatar Strive to Preserve Islamabad MoU** — Pakistan and Qatar intensified diplomatic efforts to rescue the fragile peace process between Iran and the United States after renewed hostilities in the Gulf. The crisis escalated when US strikes on Iranian military targets prompted Tehran's missile and drone retaliation. Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir discussed the situation with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who condemned the US actions as a "clear violation" of the UN Charter and the Islamabad MoU. Pakistan's Foreign Office stressed that **"there is no alternative to continued engagement, dialogue and diplomacy."** (*The Express Tribune*, [10 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **UN Chief Commends Pakistan's Mediation Role** — United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres praised Pakistan's peace efforts during a meeting with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi at UN headquarters in New York. The discussion focused on Pakistan's **mediation initiatives in West Asia** and its longstanding contributions to UN peacekeeping operations. Guterres acknowledged Pakistan's commitment to promoting peace, while Naqvi emphasised that, under the leadership of **Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir** and **Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif**, Pakistan had acted responsibly to safeguard lives and regional stability despite numerous challenges. (*The Express Tribune*, [10 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan-Croatia to Expand Cooperation with Visa Facility** — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar announced that Pakistan and Croatia are working to expedite the opening of a **Croatian visa processing facility in Islamabad**, providing "welcome relief" to

applicants. He also highlighted Pakistan's preparations for re-entry into the EU's **GSP+ framework** in 2027 and cooperation on legal pathways for skilled workers. Croatian Foreign Minister Dr Gordan Grlić Radman met Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, with both sides agreeing to strengthen ties in trade, investment, IT, agriculture and tourism. (*The Express Tribune*, [10 July 2026](#))

- ◆ **India's fractured union and looming risks** — In his column, retired Brigadier **Masud Ahmad Khan** argues that India faces profound governance and security crises across multiple regions. He traces the rise of **RSS and BJP**, likening their ideology to Nazi Germany, and highlights ["hate speech, crimes and lynching surged against Muslims across India"]. He recalls massacres of Muslims in Gujarat (2002), Sikhs during **Operation Blue Star**, and violence against Christians and Dalits. He notes insurgencies in the northeast, Naxalite influence over 13 states, and separatist demands in Tamil Nadu. Khan warns that unchecked oppression of minorities could lead to **catastrophic consequences and eventual disintegration**. (*The Nation*, [10 July 2026](#))

Politics, Culture, Etc.

- ◆ **Burhan Wani remembered as symbol of 'resistance'** — On the 10th anniversary of Burhan Muzaffar Wani's death, a rally in Muzaffarabad drew leaders of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, officials, refugees, and youth. **Participants carried Pakistani and AJK flags and chanted slogans against India and in support of Wani**. Speakers described him as "*a symbol of the Kashmir freedom movement*" whose legacy continues to inspire. Shaukat Javed Mir, spokesperson for the AJK Prime Minister, emphasised that Kashmiris remain committed to self-determination, condemning India's human rights violations. (*The Express Tribune*, [09 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Pakistan's Lawfare Opportunity on Kashmir** — International law practitioner **Hassan Aslam Shad** argues that Pakistan stands at a rare diplomatic juncture, with rising global stature after mediating between the US and Iran. He urges Islamabad to pursue a **sustained lawfare strategy** through international institutions, noting that "**a sustained lawfare strategy must be pursued through international institutions with sufficient seriousness.**" Drawing parallels with Mauritius' Chagos case and the ICJ's advisory opinion on Palestine, he suggests Pakistan seek a UNGA resolution for an ICJ opinion on Kashmir's right to self-determination, bypassing Security Council vetoes. (*Dawn*, [10 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **Govt Turns to Military Leadership on Population Challenge** — Federal Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal disclosed that the government has enlisted **Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir** to help curb Pakistan's rapid population growth, reflecting the seriousness of the issue. Pakistan, the fifth most populous country, records around 6.7 million births annually and is projected to become the fourth largest by 2030. Kamal noted that the current **NFC Award formula "unintentionally incentivises provinces to have higher population growth"**, proposing reforms. Tax exemptions on contraceptives have been introduced, with wider access expected to reduce growth significantly. (*Dawn*, [10 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **SC Acquits Remaining Convicts in Kot Radha Kishan Case** — The Supreme Court has acquitted the last three convicts sentenced to death for the **2014 burning alive of a Christian couple in Kot Radha Kishan**, District Kasur. A three-member bench led by **Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan** granted them the benefit of the doubt, citing weak prosecution and flawed evidence, while dismissing the Punjab government's appeal against the earlier acquittal of 102 accused. On Nov 4,

2014, Shahzad Masih and his pregnant wife, Shama Bibi, were tortured and burned by a mob over blasphemy allegations. (*The News*, [10 July 2026](#))

- ◆ **Christian sanitation workers challenge Sunday duties in IHC** — The Islamabad High Court has sought a response from the **Capital Development Authority (CDA)** on a petition filed by Christian sanitation workers, led by **Ilyas Masih**, against being required to work on Sundays, their weekly day of worship. Justice **Inam Amin Minhas** issued notices to the CDA, directing submission of a detailed reply with para-wise comments. Advocate **Yasir Mahmood Chaudhry** argued that the CDA's Sanitation Directorate has long deprived Christian workers of attending church services by mandating Sunday duties. (*The Express Tribune*, [10 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **JAAC threatens march on Muzaffarabad amid clashes** — The proscribed **Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC)** has warned it will resume its long march on **Muzaffarabad on 15 July** if its demands are not met by 14 July. Core member **Umar Nazir Kashmiri** told protesters at the Eidgah sit-in that “there will neither be this charter of demands nor any demand for the implementation of any agreement” if the deadline passes. Sit-ins have continued near Rawalakot since June 10. Meanwhile, two people were killed in **Poonch district** during clashes as security forces cleared road blockades for food convoys. (*Dawn*, [10 July 2026](#))
- ◆ **India's defiance of the Indus Waters Treaty** — Senator **Sherry Rehman**, chair of the Senate Climate Standing Committee, warns that India is waging a “hydro war” against Pakistan by **withholding data, diverting rivers and rejecting binding arbitration**. She stresses that “India's abeyance posture carries no weight in international law” and recalls rulings by the Permanent Court of Arbitration directing uninterrupted flows of the western rivers. Projects such as the **Chenab-Beas Link Tunnel** and unilateral dam operations threaten Pakistan's food security, with 240 million people at risk. She urges urgent legal, diplomatic and domestic action. (*The News*, [9 July](#) & [10 July 2026](#))



US CONDUCTS NEW WAVE OF STRIKES ON IRAN AS CEASEFIRE FILTERS



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