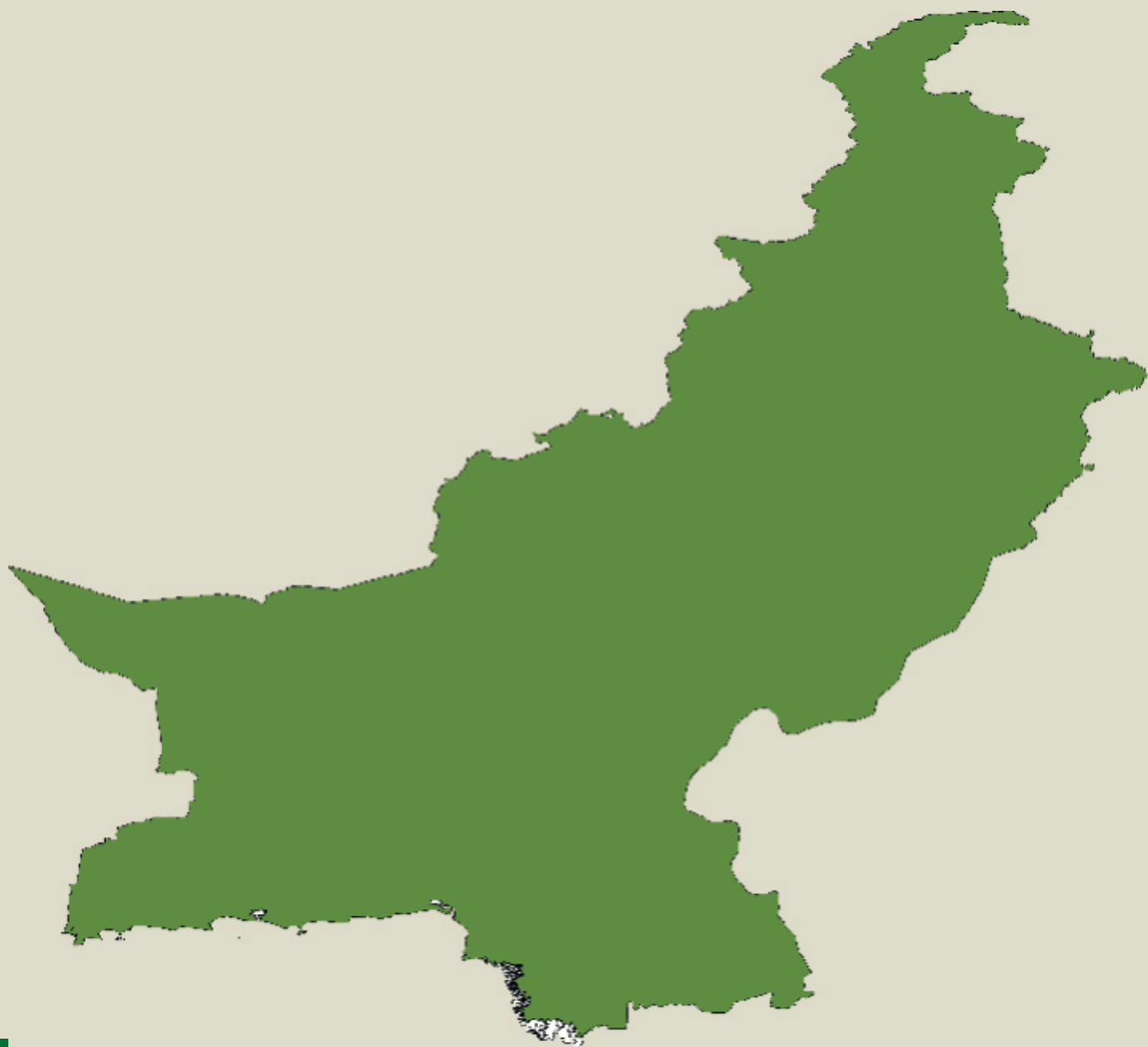


December 2025

PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST

*A Selected Summary of News, Views and Trends
from Pakistani Media*



Prepared by

Dr. Zainab Akhter

Dr. Nazir Ahmad Mir

Mr. Afroz Khan

Dr. Ashok Behuria



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST
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POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Soaring political mercury, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, 11 December 2025

The crackdown on PTI supporters staging a sit-in outside Adiala Jail on Tuesday night is not acceptable under any tenets of democracy and civil society. The use of water cannons on peaceful activists in the chilling winter is quite inhumane. It has led to the rise of political mercury, which is unnerving for the harmony of an already divisive society, as it comes at the cost of heightened bickering and instability. The PTI's demand for an audience with its jailed leader, Imran Khan, is logical and lawful in essence. The courts, too, have passed orders for it, and it is admissible by the rules of prison engagement, too. The government's contention, however, that "all doors are now closed" and the opposition party will be treated with a sledgehammer, is unfortunate and does not bode well. The rhetoric against the former PM is leading nowhere, rather pushing the fragile system into the abyss of anarchy and degeneration. *A political solution is the need of the hour. The diatribe of labelling the political opponents as "security threat, anti-state and traitor" has been played time and again in our chequered history. It did not serve any purpose and only weakened us as a unitary nation-state. It's time to step back from the brink and talk it out before it gets too late. PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali's desire for "common sense to prevail" solicits a quid pro quo from the government. Speaker National Assembly Ayaz Sadiq, who promised to broker a dialogue, must kick-start unconditional parleys with the leader of the opposition, Mehmood Achakzai, and this is how the stranded chariot of reconciliation can get moving.*

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2581510/soaring-political-mercury>

Legal Avalanche, Editorial, *The Nation*, 22 December 2025

There appears to be no respite for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf as adverse verdicts continue to rain down from the courts with relentless force. Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi have now been sentenced to 17 years' imprisonment in the Toshakhana II case, in addition to the 14-year and seven-year sentences they are already serving in the £190 million corruption reference. It has now become evident that PTI's decision to incite violence on

May 9, allegedly in concert with other actors within the state, was politically catastrophic. That choice has consigned much of the party's senior leadership to prison cells and courtrooms, burying them under an ever-expanding mountain of indictments, hearings and judgments.

With the sentencing of former ISI chief Faiz Hameed on corruption charges and the prospect of further prosecution for political manipulation, the government's intent is clearer still: to execute a comprehensive legal sweep of all those deemed responsible for the attempted rebellion. From this point onward, PTI risks becoming defined solely by its cases and by the fallout of its own miscalculations. The party now faces a stark and unavoidable choice. It must either fundamentally transform itself into a disciplined, law-abiding political force, or continue on its present path and slowly suffocate beneath the same avalanche of legal consequences it helped bring upon itself.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/21-Dec-2025/legal-avalanche>

Breaking the ice, Editorial, *Dawn*, 23 December 2025

It seems the political temperature in the federal capital fell by quite a few degrees this weekend. After weeks of fire and fury, which seems to have culminated this Saturday in a slate of fresh convictions for the PTI's senior leadership, Sunday saw leaders from both sides of the political divide regretting where things stand and ruminating on the possibility of talks. Both sides seemingly agree that a negotiated compromise is the only way out of the socio-legal-political morass they have managed to drag the country into. There is no denying the logic of that suggestion. But there is a strong sense of déjà vu regarding its timing. Last year, too, there had been similar talk about negotiations and the need thereof as the year was about to close. There had even been some hope more than there is now, for certain that the ice may finally break and we may see a long-awaited resolution.

The opposition parties have now floated the idea of a new Charter of Democracy, and senior PML-N leaders are also backing calls for a political dialogue. Now is as good a time as any to give it another go. But with so much baggage on both sides, nothing less than a sweeping revision of the rules of engagement may do. A formal reset is the only possible

motivation for both sides to bury the past. The ruling parties are responsible for making the first move by virtue of holding more power. They must consider easing some of the difficulties faced by the opposition. The opposition parties, too, have a responsibility not to make rapprochement efforts more difficult than they need to be. Their inflexible preconditions in the past have unravelled the negotiation process well before anything substantial could be achieved. Both sides must remain within the bounds of reason and approach this with sincerity. Much depends on it.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1962763/breaking-the-ice>

High-Profile Visit, Editorial, *Daily Times*, 29 December 2025

On paper, the Pakistan-UAE relationship looks robust. Bilateral trade crossed \$10.9 billion in 2023-24, remittances from nearly 1.5 million Pakistanis in the Emirates touched \$6.7 billion in 2024, and Emirati firms are now deeply embedded in Pakistan's banking, telecom and port infrastructure. Yet the imbalance is striking. Pakistani exports to the UAE remain modest compared to imports, reinforcing a familiar pattern: Pakistan consumes, and others sell. Remittances—vital as they are—cannot substitute for export growth or domestic productivity.

Worse, while official statements speak of brotherhood, ordinary Pakistanis experience something closer to exclusion. Reports of mass UAE visa rejections, particularly for young professionals, sit uneasily alongside lofty claims about people-to-people ties. The timing also matters. Pakistan is operating under the \$7 billion IMF programme, built in part on assurances and rollovers from Gulf partners. At the same time, foreign loans continue to rise, and Islamabad faces a foreign debt servicing bill of over \$25 billion this year. This is not an indictment of the UAE, which has acted as a reliable financial backstop in difficult moments. It is a critique of Pakistan's own habit of treating friendly capitals as short-term shock absorbers rather than long-term economic partners. Debt-financed stability is not stability. Rolling over deposits and stacking new loans to defend reserves may buy time, but it also shrinks policy space. Economists are right to warn that this path is unsustainable. If Pakistan wants the UAE relationship to mature, it must pivot from

cheque-book diplomacy to geo-economics, with a renewed focus on exports, joint ventures, value-addition and technology transfer.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1424716/high-profile-visit/>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

SAARC alternative?, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, 05 December 2025

The eight-member SAARC, now dysfunctional for more than a decade, needs a new lease of life. It cannot be resurrected in its present edifice as it has its genesis in the hegemonic ambitions of a member state that had led to its demise by all means. *A similar South Asian regional bloc can be created by inviting member states that believe in equality in interstate relations and do not wish to dominate by virtue of economic and military strength. Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar was quite apt as he said that South Asia could no longer afford to remain trapped in "zero-sum mindsets", political fragmentation, and a wayward regional architecture.* Dar minced no words in saying that Pakistan supports any initiative that is "open and inclusive", and a forum where multilateral elements could come to interact in a synchronised manner to further geo-economics. Addressing the 5th Conclave hosted by a think-tank, the foreign minister exhibited largesse as he said "India could also be invited" in the new protocol, but the new platform should not be held hostage to "anyone's" rigidity. SAARC has been defunct since 2016 when India boycotted the summit in Islamabad, as Bangladesh under Sheikh Hasina also followed suit. *As China, Bangladesh, and Pakistan have recently formed a troika of networking, it provides substance for reincarnating a SAARC-type bloc. All that is desired is a unanimous code of agreement to let it be intra-governmental and not supra-regional by any member state.*

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2580561/a-saarc-alternate>

Struggling economy, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, 08 December 2025

With a growth projection at 2.68% of GDP, it is struggling as exports have taken a nosedive amid fears of further depreciation of the rupee against the US dollar. *A survey by Ipsos has painted a more dismal picture as it says that the confidence of the masses is withering, and an overwhelming number of people do not see any hope in the economy picking up. The survey also mentions that people's confidence has dropped to pre-Indo-Pak conflict levels, as things have once again started deteriorating and the hope exhibited in the May duel is sliding away. It is registered that only 16% are confident about investing in the future, and only 18% believe the country's economic condition could turn around.* The independent survey has come on the heels of two major revelations, signalling that the economy is on the edge. The SBP says the "current economic growth model could not sustain a population of 250 million"; and the SIFC has also pointed out that there was "no growth plan", suggesting the need for an export-led growth model. This is a serious outcome and deserves some brainstorming in an unbiased manner, rather than jockeying up the indicators on a flimsy political premise. It is also a fact that more than 55% of the populace lives below the poverty line, and their daily income is less than \$3 (or less than Rs1,000). At the same time, a majority lacks proper sanitation, healthcare and education facilities, and the unemployment rate too has risen over 7%, making it one of the highest in history.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2581025/struggling-economy>

Defence Ties, Arifa Noor, *The Nation*, 09 December 2025

As the Indonesian President, Prabowo Subianto, arrived in Islamabad on Monday, his aircraft was escorted into Pakistani airspace by six JF-17 Thunders, which flanked the plane and welcomed him on behalf of the Air Chief. The choice of using JF-17s was notable. *The President's visit follows that of Indonesia's Defence Minister in July, when he met Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and Pakistan's military leadership to explore avenues of cooperation, particularly in defence production. With the Indonesian President now in Pakistan and being received by both Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Sardari, it appears that the ideas discussed during the earlier technical visit will move to a higher level.*

Military cooperation will not be the only focus, as Pakistan and Indonesia share cultural and historical affinities, but it will certainly remain central to the agenda. The Indonesian leader is expected to meet Pakistan's military command, and it is clear that future defence acquisition will be an important theme. Indonesia is set to emerge as a stronger player in the Asian region, and any independent state with regional ambitions requires a reliable and politically independent source of military equipment. Pakistan has been making visible advances in this field, and it is encouraging to see cooperation with countries such as Indonesia developing further.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/09-Dec-2025/defence-ties>

Beyond palm oil, Pak-Indonesia trade entering a new phase, Syed Haris Ahmed, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, 15 December 2025

Pakistan and Indonesia are steadily shaping one of South and Southeast Asia's most consequential, yet under-reported, economic relationships. *What began as a tariff-centred arrangement has matured into a broader commercial partnership driven by commodity flows, rising business-to-business engagement, and an expanding agenda for investment cooperation. Recent figures underline this momentum. Bilateral trade reached \$4.2 billion in 2024, and early 2025 numbers continue to climb. Between January and September 2025, trade volumes touched \$2.92 billion, up from \$2.69 billion during the same period of last year.* This steady rise reflects both the resilience of commodity flows and the gradual expansion of non-traditional product lines entering each other's markets. Yet the structural imbalance persists – Indonesia remains the dominant exporter, while Pakistan's outbound shipments largely remain confined to a narrow set of labour-intensive items. Palm oil remains the anchor of this asymmetry.

As one of the world's largest consumers of imported edible oils, Pakistan depends heavily on Indonesian supply – a reality that shapes pricing, availability, and strategic planning for domestic refiners and food manufacturers. The policy framework for bilateral trade is robust on paper but under-leveraged in practice. The Indonesia-Pakistan Preferential Trade Agreement (IP-PTA) provides a predictable tariff structure, yet businesses on both

sides note that the agreement has not kept pace with evolving supply chain realities. Rules of origin, digital documentation, sanitary and phytosanitary alignment, and services-sector protocols require updating. In short, the scaffolding exists; the operational architecture needs modernisation.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2582195/deepening-pak-indonesia-ties>

SECURITY SITUATION

After the trial, Arifa Noor, *Dawn*, 16 December 2025

After more than a year, the conviction of Faiz Hameed was announced last week. It's hard to say if it came as a surprise to anyone; after all, once the news of his arrest was made public last year, the conviction was a verdict foretold. *And in the last couple of months, there had been quite a few leaks about what was apparently due any day. For someone uninformed and with little access to power, it is hard to say what exactly this conviction means for Pakistan, its state structure and the military. Hence, here are some thoughts and questions on this conviction which undoubtedly is unprecedented, for no officer who headed the ISI has ever been held to account by its own institution. However, it is noteworthy that in Pakistan, with its complex civil-military relations, ISI chiefs have always attracted controversy, more a function of the political and power relations rather than individuals.* From Asad Durrani to Hamid Gul and Ehsan ul Haq, who too were rarely ever far from media, which in their day was rather staid and limited.

In recent times, we had Shuja Pasha, who perhaps set the trend for extensions, along with his boss. In addition, he was front and centre of crises such as Memogate, where his affidavit became a source of controversy and instability. Though of course, now he is more remembered for his role in propping up the PTI and being the brains behind the famous Lahore jalsa.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1961427>

Myopic Taliban, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, 17 December 2025

The Afghan Taliban apparently want to live in a world of their own and are not responsive to regional realities. That assumption was squarely solidified as Taliban 2.0 refused to attend a peace conference summoned in Tehran. Their unqualified reservations do not go well with other regional states, and Iran, especially, felt let down by this diplomatic snub. No reason was cited by Kabul for not attending the moot, which was specifically called to discuss the restive country's situation. It seems the reclusive regime feels the pressure as it has not been able to live up to the Doha Accord that required it to nail down the terror nexus on its soil, and to form an inclusive government. The Taliban's absence further complicated efforts to coordinate a unified strategy for the collective good of the region.

The conference, attended by the CARs, Russia and Pakistan, was unanimous that terrorism emanating from Afghan soil remains a significant threat to the region. A major drawback of Kabul's non-participation was that a joint communique could not be drafted, abandoning the regional initiative half-heartedly. Iran led from the front by exhibiting its willingness to maintain dialogue, exchange views, and coordinate on security and development issues. Pakistan's one-point submission, which was seconded by all member states, was that the Taliban's accountability is likely to remain central in future regional discussions. Perhaps, this was one of the reasons for Taliban 2.0 staying away. If so, that confirms the myopic vision of the dispensation in Kabul as the Afghan factions were on the mark in pushing for a resolution of the Afghan crisis through dialogue. The Afghan Taliban's unwillingness to engage at multilateral forums is all too evident.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2582502/myopic-taliban>

A clear indictment, Editorial, *Dawn*, 19 December 2025

Yet again, the UN Security Council's monitoring report on Afghanistan has painted a grim picture of the presence of transnational terrorist groups on Afghan territory. The report, a regular feature, reiterates that Afghanistan remains a staging ground for some of the most lethal terrorist outfits in the world. Pakistan, which has been a victim of the TTP, based in Afghanistan, has known this painful reality for years. For Pakistan, the TTP

largely due to the permissive environment it enjoys under Afghan Taliban rule poses a major security challenge. The UN document says that the terrorist group has conducted over 600 attacks against this country in the current year. Moreover, TTP chief Noor Wali Mehsud is believed to spend time in Kabul, while other anti-Pakistan terrorists, such as Gul Bahadur, are also based in Afghanistan. The report highlights links between the TTP and Al Qaeda, as well as ETIM.

Ittehad-ul-Mujahideen Pakistan, said to be a front for TTP and Al Qaeda fighters, is amongst the other terrorist groups active next door. Meanwhile, another matter of grave concern is the presence of madressahs run by IS-K near the Pakistani border. The details mentioned in the UN report shatter any illusion that Taliban-run Afghanistan poses no threat to its neighbours. On the contrary, just as it used to be before the US-led invasion, Afghanistan has become a safe haven for extremely dangerous and violent militant outfits that threaten the region and the world. And while the report says that there are differences within the upper echelons of the Taliban leadership on how to deal with the TTP, Kabul's rulers are unlikely to take action against the group, as the regime may actually "lack the ability to do so".

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1961955/a-clear-indictment>

Balochistan's Boon, Editorial, *The Nation*, 26 December 2025

As security forces continue to eliminate terrorists and their collaborators in Balochistan, the province is beginning to open up to what it should have been for Pakistan since its inception. It is a land where industry, mining and manufacturing can finally flourish and generate immense wealth for the country. Pakistan may have missed the global oil and gas bonanza, but it remains rich in minerals and elements that are indispensable to the modern world. The challenges ahead are straightforward.

The first is security, and sustained efforts are already under way to eliminate both fitna Hindustan and fitna al-Khwarij. Without lasting peace, no serious investment can take root. The second is infrastructure. Mining cannot drive growth unless roads, railways, energy supply and logistics are developed to ensure that extracted resources can reach ports and manufacturing

hubs efficiently. The third, and most critical, challenge lies in designing fair and enforceable incentive structures. While foreign partners may play a role in extraction, Pakistan, and Balochistan in particular, must reap the primary rewards. If these projects are built and become operational, they could generate millions of dollars in revenue and provide meaningful relief to the national exchequer. It is essential, however, that a substantial portion of this wealth is reinvested in Balochistan itself, especially in Quetta, Gwadar and other urban centres, to address the province's long-standing deficits in key development indicators.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/26-Dec-2025/balochistan-s-boon>

URDU MEDIA

Pakistan Army spokesperson's thought-provoking press conference, Editorial, Nawa-i-Waqt, 07 December 2025

Director General ISPR, Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, has said that the armed forces are the protectors of Pakistan; our uniform is our pride and honour. The Chief of Defence Forces Headquarters will provide guidance on matters of war. We lay down our lives and take lives for the integrity of Pakistan. Without Pakistan, we are nothing. We will not allow anyone, not even anyone's father, to create a rift between the Pakistan Armed Forces and the people.

Addressing a packed press conference on Friday, the Pakistan Army spokesperson, for the first time, adopted an extremely harsh tone regarding Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) and its leadership's politics, and asserted that the actual narrative of this party is dictated by a mentally unstable person. He said this narrative is influenced even by the traitor Sheikh Mujib. The one who considers himself the epitome of wisdom goes around calling others traitors. According to him, one person's ego and desires have become greater than the State of Pakistan. That person's politics has ended. Ending this negative narrative is now a necessity of time. Social media accounts from India and

Afghanistan amplify this narrative. Indian media runs his tweets and narrative. ... According to the DG ISPR, Pakistan's military leadership is neither a product of any elite class nor a representative of a privileged group. ...

DG ISPR clearly stated that there is no room in the country for politics that plays with national security. This statement reflects the sentiments of every patriotic Pakistani. At a time when Pakistan's civil and military leadership are on one page regarding national defence, economic development, peace, and stability, any form of meaningless political theatrics is poison for the country. The nation and the state have entered a phase where even a minor wave of discord can collapse the entire system.

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2025-12-07/page-5>

1,237 cases of enforced disappearances in 2025, 71 bodies found, Nasrullah Baloch, *Daily Sangar*, 11 December 2025

Nasrullah Baloch, chairman of Voice for Baloch Missing Persons (VBMP), an active and dynamic organization for missing persons in Balochistan, said in a video message released on the occasion of International Human Rights Day on 10 December that there has been a significant increase in enforced disappearances in Balochistan, and cases of enforced disappearance of women are also being reported in 2025.

Nasrullah Baloch said that in the ongoing year VBMP reported 1,237 cases of enforced disappearances. "Out of the total, 312 missing persons were released, while the mutilated bodies of 71 Baloch missing persons have been found." It should be remembered that VBMP had announced a protest outside the Press Club on 10 December this year as well, like every year, but they were not allowed to protest in Quetta city.

Nasrullah Baloch said that the period of Section 144 already imposed in Quetta city was to expire on 8 December, but on the same date a new notification was issued and Section 144 was imposed in the city until 22 December. He said that the

organization wanted to record a protest against enforced disappearances in Balochistan on the International Human Rights Day, but when they contacted the administration, they were not allowed to do so.

He said that “we were also told that if Section 144 is violated, action will be taken against you people.” He said that his organization has been peaceful and has been protesting within the ambit of the law, but we were not allowed to protest, due to which we had to postpone our protest. He said that it is our constitutional and legal right to protest peacefully, but this right is also being taken away from us.

It should be noted that on 8 December, the Home Department of the Government of Balochistan extended Section 144 in Quetta city until 22 December. According to a notification issued in this regard, in addition to other restrictions, a ban has been imposed on the gathering of five or more people in the city.

<https://dailysangar.online/?p=68508>

Sixty thousand Pakistanis deported for begging, Editorial, Roznamma92 News, 19 December 2025

The Standing Committee of the National Assembly on Overseas Pakistanis has been informed that 60,000 Pakistanis have been deported from various countries for begging. Pakistanis living abroad are regarded as ambassadors of Pakistan in foreign lands. Through their skills and hard work, they not only prove their worth across the world but also send more than 30 billion dollars in valuable foreign exchange back to Pakistan.

According to a cautious estimate, more than 9.6 million Pakistanis are earning their livelihoods in Saudi Arabia and the Central Asian states. Unfortunately, over the past few years, a begging mafia originating from Pakistan has spread to the Middle East as well, becoming a source of embarrassment for the country. Even more tragic is the fact that in recent years, several beggars have been caught who travelled to Saudi Arabia under the pretext of performing sacred duties such as Hajj and Umrah. Adding insult to

injury, women are also included among these beggars, which clearly shows that begging abroad has taken the form of an organised mafia.

There is no denying that the government has taken effective measures in response to complaints from brotherly countries, as evidenced by the prevention of 66,000 Pakistanis from travelling abroad on fake documents and work visas. It would be better if the government not only registers cases in Pakistan against deported beggars but also brings influential individuals involved in facilitating them to justice, so that criminal beggars do not dare in the future to defame Pakistan in foreign countries.

<https://roznama92news.com/post/>

Trump, Asim Munir likely to meet: Pakistan at a historic turning point, Maoz Asad Siddiqui, *Jasarat*, 19 December 2025

According to international media, an important meeting is expected between US President Donald Trump and Pakistani Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir. This meeting is not seemingly trivial, but its effects on Pakistan's future may be profound and far-reaching.

Pakistan is already under intense political, economic and diplomatic pressure, and it is feared that this pressure may increase further in the coming days (Pakistan pehle hi shaded siyasi, ma'eshi aur sifaraiti dabao mei ghere hai aur andeesha hai hai ki yeh dabao ayeenda dinoo'n mei mazeed badh sakta hai). In the context of this meeting, Field Marshal Asim Munir or Pakistan seem to be facing a very delicate situation. The reason is that Trump's proposed so-called "peace plan" for the Middle East seems to be facing practical failure.

Through American influence, an anti-Pakistan narrative is also being promoted in some Arab countries, while Afghanistan is also seen openly aligning itself against Pakistan. Trump has once again formally started his renewed love for India, which has been practically expressed in the form of the provision of Apache helicopters. On the contrary, a "carrot and stick" policy is being adopted with Pakistan. On the one hand, vague promises of F-16 aircraft or technical facilities are being made,

while on the other hand, strict economic conditions are being imposed through the IMF, and pressure is being increased by getting resolutions passed against the Pakistani government in the US Congress.

All these measures actually lead to the same conclusion: the purpose of all this is to force Pakistan to make specific policy decisions. So far, Pakistan has been playing its cards relatively wisely, but this stage is unusual. This is the time when the real face of the current system and the powerful circles will be exposed. According to a senior journalist, "There is intense pressure on Pakistan, but Pakistan is still standing by its position and it also knows that there will be a price to pay for this position."

The real question is whether Pakistan will be able to convince an egotistical leader like Trump in this meeting that Pakistan will not become a fuel for anyone's interests? ...

It should be remembered that the future of Pakistan is linked to Palestine at some level or the other. God forbid, if Palestine is once again handed over to the beasts, Pakistan will not be safe either. Whether it has nuclear capability or claims to be the largest Islamic army in the world. If the senior journalist's statement is true: "Pakistan will continue to withstand this pressure," then this would be good news indeed. But the sad reality is that in Pakistan, good news often turns out to be false and rumors become true.

<https://jasarat.com/2025/12/19/251219-03-3/>

Mama Qadeer, a metaphor for Baloch struggle, a beacon of light for the nation, BSO Azad, Daily Sangar, 21 December 2025

Baloch Students Organization (Azad) paid tribute to Mama Qadeer, saying that Mama as the metaphor of continuous Baloch freedom struggle has set an example by his invaluable sacrifices and long struggle. The organization will always remember him for his selfless revolutionary struggle and steadfastness in old age. The courage and bravery

with which he has fulfilled his responsibilities in old age within the Baloch national movement will be remembered in golden words in Baloch national history.

The statement said that Mama spent sixteen years of his life in this struggle for the recovery of Baloch children. Through his historic long march, he convinced not only the oppressive forces but also the world that the Baloch nation will not give up in the struggle for the recovery of its children. During this journey, he was constantly harassed and threatened with death by state institutions, but he did not back down from his struggle. He carried the body of his son, Jalil Reki on his shoulders, but instead of being discouraged, he joined the national struggle with more courage and boldness.

He was constantly being discouraged and fabricated rumors were spread against him, but his struggle forced the powers of the world to focus their attention on Balochistan. Be it a long march on rugged roads or the responsibility of sitting in a camp in the freezing cold, Mama, with his courage and determination, always stood like a shield for the Baloch nation and became the organized voice of the forcibly disappeared persons of the Baloch nation. ...

The statement said that the Baloch nation will always appreciate Mama's struggle for sacrificing everything for the Baloch homeland and for joining the Baloch national movement with humility and honesty. His struggle and courage are a beacon for the nation which always reminds us that by adhering to the philosophy of courage, honesty and continuous effort, we will succeed in the long journey of our great freedom.

<https://dailysangar.online/?p=68864>

Corps Commanders' Conference: Resolve to foil every conspiracy, Editorial, *Roznama Pakistan*, 26 December 2025

At the 273rd important Corps Commanders' Conference of the Pakistan Army held at General Headquarters (GHQ), Rawalpindi, it was once again made clear that no conspiracy against national unity, security, and stability will be tolerated. **Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, chaired**

the conference and stated that no attempt will be allowed to create a divide between the Pakistan Armed Forces and the people. Owing to the steadfast support of the Pakistani nation, the country is undoubtedly moving toward honour and dignity.

It is a fact that “anti-Pakistan unity” forces have been active from day one in trying to create a rift between the armed forces and the people. However, the way the Pakistani nation has stood wholeheartedly with the Pakistan Army on every front has made it impossible to create any such divide. The conference participants also stated that Indian-sponsored terrorists, their facilitators, and abettors will be dealt with decisively and without any leniency, and that no one will be allowed to sow discord between the armed forces and the people of Pakistan. ...

The forum categorically rejected any nexus between terrorism, crime, and political interests, stating that no one, regardless of political affiliation or identity, will be allowed to undermine national unity, security, and stability. The Field Marshal stated that through joint efforts of the government and the Pakistan Army, the country is steadily moving toward stability.

The forum appreciated the special development initiatives of the Balochistan government, stating that these measures help eliminate terrorism-related factors linked to governance through social engagement. The participants emphasised the need for similar initiatives in other regions to ensure sustainable peace and stability, and reaffirmed Pakistan’s steadfast support for the Kashmiri people’s right to self-determination and their legitimate struggle.

The conference participants also reaffirmed Pakistan’s principled stance on the Palestine issue, demanding an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, uninterrupted humanitarian aid, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. At the conclusion of the conference, the Army Chief directed the commanders to maintain the highest standards of operational readiness, discipline, training, innovation, and professional excellence on the battlefield.

https://dailypakistan.pk/epaper/#page_4

Consequences of Afghanistan's changing priorities, Dr Alimgir Afrid, Jasarat, 29 December 2025

With the Taliban's honeymoon period over, Afghanistan once again seems to be at a delicate diplomatic juncture. While the Taliban government is talking about increasing cooperation with India in sensitive areas like health, it is also making announcements to reduce decades of trade and geographical dependence on Pakistan. The recent visit of Afghan Health Minister Noor Jalal Jalali to India and the statements of Taliban Deputy Prime Minister Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar to restrict trade with Pakistan reflect this changing priority. It has far-reaching implications and consequences not only for Afghanistan but also for the entire region.

Afghan Health Minister Noor Jalal Jalali has described his visit to India as a “new chapter” in cooperation in the health sector between Kabul and New Delhi. ... During this visit, India's promises such as a vaccine worth \$5 million, a radiotherapy machine worth \$3 million, cancer drugs worth \$1 million, a CT scan machine and the establishment of a thalassemia treatment center seem to be a major step forward for the Afghan people facing immense health problems. The usefulness of these promises for the Taliban government is further increased at a time when tense relations with Pakistan are at their peak and the Pak-Afghan border, which was always open for Afghan patients, has been closed for the last three months. ...

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar clearly stated that if traders do not find other routes instead of Pakistan, the government will not help them. Apparently, the decision appears to be an attempt to retain autonomy but the ground realities present a different picture. Economists and representatives of trade organizations agree that alternative trade routes to Pakistan for Afghanistan are not only expensive but also time-consuming. ...

Although Pakistani officials are claiming that Afghanistan's decision will not cause much loss to Pakistan, but rather will reduce smuggling and improve security, trade experts do not fully agree with this. According to their views, Afghanistan is a major

export market and losing its grip on it could also be detrimental to Pakistani exports. ... Afghanistan's leaning towards India instead of fixing its relations with Pakistan may provide some temporary benefits, but in the long run, this strategy may prove to be detrimental (Aisey mei Afghanistan ka Pakistan ke saath mamulaat dru'st karne ke bajaye Bharat ki janib jhuka'o waqy tur per kuch fawaa'd tu de sakta hai magar tawee'l mudat ei yeh hikmat amlī nuqsān-deh sabit hu sakti hai).

Geography, history, culture, language and human connections are facts that cannot be ignored in Pak-Afghan relations. The decades of residence, business and education of millions of Afghans in Pakistan demonstrate the depth of this mutual relationship. Therefore, it is necessary for both countries to move beyond stubbornness, ego and temporary political gains and adopt realistic thinking. Otherwise, the people who are already suffering from war, poverty and uncertainty will bear the brunt of this tension. The future of the region does not require conflict but cooperation and this is the path that can lead Pakistan and Afghanistan towards sustainable stability.

<https://jasarat.com/2025/12/29/251229-03-6/>

Fateha khawani for Mama Qadeer at the ongoing protest camp of VBMP, Daily Sangar, 30 December 2025

The Voice for Baloch Missing Persons (VBMP) protest camp in Quetta, the central city of Balochistan, is holding a Fateha Khawani for the repose of Mama Qadeer's soul, who passed away recently.

The camp has entered its 6042nd day. Recently, people belonging to different schools of thought visited the protest camp and expressed solidarity with the families of the missing persons and recite Fateha for the repose of Mama Qadeer's soul.

The families of the missing persons, socio-political activists and people belonging to different faiths are participating in the Fateha Khawani, who are paying tribute to Mama Qadeer's struggle and services (Fateh khwani mei lapata afraad ke lawaheqeen,

samaji wa siyasi karku'naan aur mukhtalif tabka-i-fikr se taluq rakhne waley afraad shirkat kar rahey hain jo mama Qadeer ki jad-o-jihd aur khidmaat ko kharaaj-i-iqeedat pesh kar rahey hain). The participants appreciated Mama

Qadeer's long struggle against human rights and enforced disappearances and expressed their determination to continue her mission.

The participants demanded an immediate end to enforced disappearances and the recovery of the missing persons. They said that this long- standing issue should be resolved in accordance with the requirements of human rights. They said that the families of the missing persons have been suffering for a long time and state institutions need to take immediate and effective steps in this matter.

<https://dailysangar.online/?p=69203>

Pakistan's emerging role in South Asia, Ayema Afzal, Nawa-i-Waqt, 31 December 2025

A new rising sun on the horizon of global politics has completely transformed the geopolitical landscape of South Asia. Until recently, Pakistan was viewed as a state standing on the margins, but today its voice is being heard in the corridors of power in Washington as a decisive force.

A recent analytical report by the American publication, The Washington Times has astonished experts in international relations, describing 2025 as a year of revolutionary change in Pakistan–US relations, one without precedent in recent decades. This is not merely a diplomatic development; it is akin to a strategic earthquake that has shattered Delhi's dreams of dominance and brought Washington's "India First" policy to a definitive end. This unexpected shift has demonstrated that the pieces on the global chessboard are no longer bound by old scripts, but are being rearranged based on ground realities and concrete military and political behaviour. The foundation of this dramatic turn in US policy was laid by the brief but intense Pakistan–India

conflict in May, which dispelled several misconceptions within the Pentagon and the White House.

During this military confrontation, Pakistan's defensive capabilities, exceptional discipline, and strategic focus reportedly surprised President Trump, while India's military performance, internal political turmoil, and restrictions on personal freedoms presented it as an "unstable regional power." According to *The Washington Times*, Pakistan's asymmetric capabilities and decisive military response forced a reassessment of America's strategic map, leading to Pakistan being recognised not merely as a necessity but as a prominent emerging asset capable of managing South Asia's volatility. This sent a clear message to Washington that sidelining Islamabad had been a historic mistake, one that the Trump administration now considers a top priority to rectify. ...

It is noteworthy that this shift in US policy is not based on short-term interests alone, but on tangible realities created by Pakistan through steadfastness and improved governance. ...

In the near future, the durability of this new US policy will depend on the conduct of Delhi and Islamabad, but current indicators suggest that Pakistan has secured its position. The year 2025 will be recorded in history for rewriting the balance of power in South Asia, with Pakistan, under the leadership of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, asserting itself as a key regional actor.

Now that Pakistan is being described as a central pillar in Washington, the need of the hour is to translate this diplomatic success into sustainable economic and defence stability. Through its remarkable strategic flexibility, Pakistan has proven that it not only knows how to survive in a changing global environment but also possesses the ability to compel the world to acknowledge it on its own terms.

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2025-12-31/page->

Faiz Hamid Verdict: What really led to 14-year rigorous imprisonment?, Report Card, *Geo News*, 12 December 2025

Faiz Hameed was tried for 15 Months and was court martialed and now is convicted for 14 years imprisonment. According to the ISPR press release Hameed was, first meddling in politics, second violation of the official secrets act, third misuse of his position and power and last, for causing wrongful lose to persons. One main point in the press release is about political meddling and creating political instability by the general and has underlined that this angle will be investigated and tried in the coming days. The host asked what is the significance and message of this big development. Guests: Ayaz Syed, Shehzad Iqbal, Reema Umar, Mazar Abbas & Syed Mohammad Ali. Ayaz Syed informed that he reported an encroachment of a housing society case in which the name of Faiz Hameed was uncovered in the past. He added that today's conviction of Hameed is a logical ending of that case but many more actors are yet to be named and framed in this case.

Shehzad Iqbal pointed out that this case shows that power does not stay forever and no one stays powerful for life. There is no denying that establishment has always meddled in politics but rarely their meddling has come out in open but General Faiz Hameed did everything in the open and his misused his power left right and centre. He fully supported and accommodated the PTI and Imran Khan. His mission was to remove Nawaz Sharif and bring in Imran Khan. This accountability is not just because of housing society case and political meddling, this is beyond that, the current establishment set up was also a target of Hameed Faiz and there was a propaganda against him I which he failed and therefore the current trail against him. ... Syed Mohamad Ali pointed out that the lesson is that the power is not permanent and a powerful person like Faiz Hameed has been convicted. There was a time when Asim Munir was removed from ISI post and today he is chief of defence forces. He added that two points are important, first

official secrets act, article one says it extends to whole of Pakistan, citizens of Pakistan and people in service and this act should be looked differently from army act. This is not only for the army but extend to the whole nation. Misuse of authority is mentioned in the ISPR release, but misuse can be only done when one is in office and not after retirement.

<https://www.geo.tv/shows/report-card/638860-faiz-hamid-verdict-what-really-led-to-14-year-rigorous-imprisonment>

UN security council monitoring and sanctions committee report on Afghanistan | Pak Afghan tensions, *Talk Shock*, 19 December 2025

In his latest analysis, journalist Fida Adeel highlighted that the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has released a report dismissing the Taliban regime's claims that conditions in Afghanistan are stable and secure. According to Adeel, the 16th report of the UN Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team rejects the Taliban's assertions that Afghan soil is not being used against any other country. In reality, the report states that numerous banned militant organizations and individuals are living safely in Afghanistan, conducting attacks in neighboring countries, and planning operations elsewhere. The report specifically notes the presence in Afghanistan of Al-Qaeda-which maintains close ties to the Taliban-along with Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM, also known as the Turkistan Islamic Party), and other dangerous groups. It indicates that many such organizations are protected by the Taliban, while ISIS-Khorasan (ISIL-K) remains the only major group antagonistic to the Taliban and operating within the country. ... Meanwhile, Pakistan issued a statement following the UNSC report, stressing that the Taliban has failed to act on its promises-including the commitment that Afghan soil would not be used against any other country. Pakistan thanked Qatar, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia for their efforts to facilitate dialogue between Afghanistan and the Taliban, but noted that these negotiations have yielded no results. It added that, since the Taliban took power in Afghanistan, attacks in Pakistan have intensified. Adeel observed that the

report was released at a time when Pakistan, China, Iran, and Russia expressed deep concerns over escalating security threats emanating from Afghanistan. Adeel emphasized that the Taliban must take its neighbors' concerns seriously, especially in light of the UNSC report. He pointed out that when Pakistan accuses Afghanistan of providing safe havens to the TTP and other groups, the Taliban consistently rejects these claims, insisting that the TTP is Pakistan's internal issue—despite evidence to the contrary and similar accusations from other neighboring countries.

Pakistan and its neighbors have gathered and shared evidence of these banned groups' involvement with the Taliban, but no action has been taken. Many militant groups are recruiting, including Afghan nationals, in Afghanistan and launching attacks from there. He noted that a recent conference of Ulema's in Kabul issued fatwas against groups and individuals carrying out attacks from Afghan soil, but argued that this alone will not suffice unless the Taliban's supreme leader breaks his silence and directly instructs his followers to stop targeting Pakistan.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFszHvyWkz8>

Positive development in Pak-Afghan relations | China's security concerns on Afghan Tajikistan border, *Talk Shock*, 29 December 2025

In his latest analysis, journalist Fida Adeel described the recent thaw in Pakistan-Afghanistan relations as fragile but showing positive signs of potential reconciliation. He highlighted recent statements from top leadership in both countries that signal a softening of positions. Over the past few months, bilateral ties have been severely strained. Trade across the border has been halted, leading to economic losses for traders on both sides. People-to-people mobility has also stopped, cross-border skirmishes have occurred, and both nations exchanged tough media commentary and statements. Pakistan conducted airstrikes in Afghan territory, including in Kabul, while three senior Taliban leaders visited India—a development that irked Islamabad. Additional tensions arose from Afghan

statements questioning the viability of Pakistani medicines and threats to close trade and transit routes. ...

Haqqani appreciated the stance of Pakistani Ulema, including Maulana Fazlur Rehman and Mufti Taqi Usmani, who during a conference in Pakistan advocated brotherly relations with Afghanistan and prayed for its peace and prosperity. Haqqani thanked the Pakistani people and scholars for their goodwill and stressed the Taliban's desire for regional peace without poor relations with neighbors. Dar acknowledged and welcomed these Taliban assurances, noting their potential value in the current context despite similar past statements. Adeel viewed these exchanges as initial positive steps toward reconciliation, offering a shining light at the end of the tunnel amid mutual suffering from halted trade and mobility.

External pressures are also influencing the thaw. China and Saudi Arabia urge both countries to resolve differences quickly, given their stakes-particularly China's concerns over regional security. The recent killings of five Chinese nationals in Tajikistan, in attacks originating from Afghanistan's Badakhshan province, have alarmed Beijing. The Taliban has arrested suspects and assured Tajikistan of hunting down perpetrators, while recognizing the need to act against groups like ETIM to protect Chinese interests. Neighboring countries, including Pakistan and Iran, share similar grievances regarding misuse of Afghan soil. Adeel concluded that these factors are also prompting the Taliban to soften their position, realizing the risks of regional isolation.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wNVLp_QEBc

BOMBINGS, SHOOTINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES

(Select incidents culled out from the Pakistan media)

Place	Date	Description	Killed	Injured
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa				
Bisham ¹	26/03/2024	5 Chinese nationals killed in KP's Bisham suicide blast	05	00
Balochistan				
Turbat ²	26/03/2024	FC soldier martyred, 4 terrorists killed as security forces thwart attack on naval base in Turbat: ISPR	05	02

¹<https://www.dawn.com/news/1823903/5-chinese-nationals-killed-in-attack-in-kps-bisham-police-officials>

² <https://www.dawn.com/news/1823879>