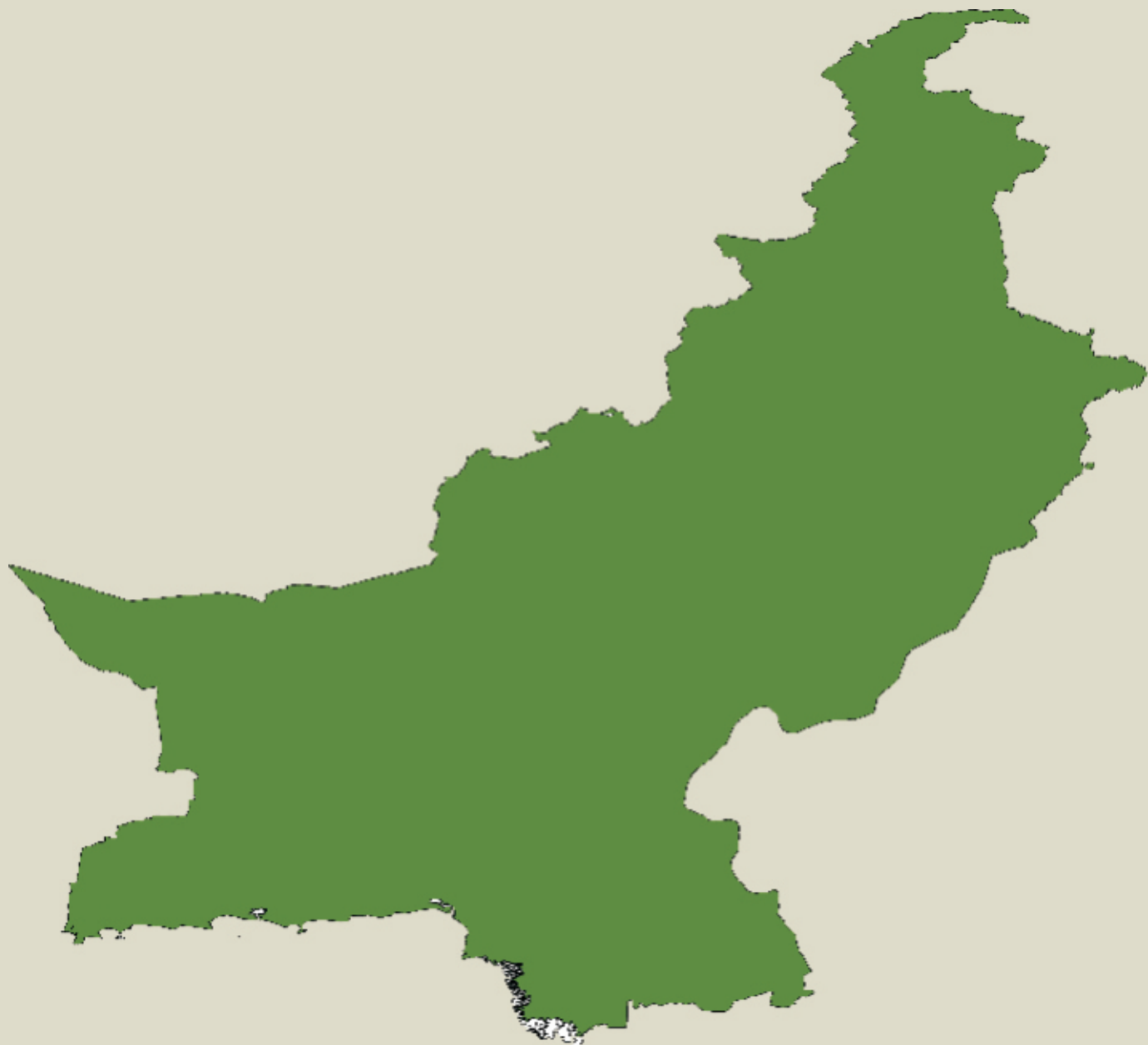


July 2025

# 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



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## POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

### PTI in disarray, Editorial, *Dawn*, 01 July <sup>1</sup>

Time has not been kind to the PTI and the party paints a sorry picture today. Despite putting up a brave front for many months, the PTI is finally starting to feel the weight of its own indiscipline and incoherence. With its ideological and executive leadership still behind bars, the lower tiers are struggling to ensure unity. *As a result, infighting, over matters both strategic and petty, has become the norm, with rival camps using every available platform to publicly question each other's loyalty and motives.* Recently, several PTI leaders openly acknowledged that a communication gap with party chief Imran Khan is at the heart of the party's growing dysfunction. With only his lawyers and close relatives allowed to meet him, party leaders say they cannot verify whether messages attributed to him even reflect his intent. Meanwhile, the chaos that energizes the party's social media echo chamber is now turning inward. Everyone is a suspect; no one can be trusted. Perhaps it was public sympathy and anger that kept the party from dispersing after Mr Khan was removed from the public eye. But that moment seems to have passed as his supporters move from outrage to disillusionment. *Some PTI leaders have claimed that 'establishment-backed elements' are exploiting the party's internal confusion to sow discord. They have alleged that disinformation campaigns and coordinated social media manipulation are being used to further weaken the PTI's already fragile structure.* The party's leaders have said they will soon hold a joint press conference to dispel the impression that they are not united. But such gestures alone cannot address the PTI's deeper issues.

### Regional partners, Editorial, *Dawn*, 02 July<sup>2</sup>

Senior officials from Pakistan, China and Bangladesh met in the Chinese city of Kunming recently to test the waters for a new trilateral mechanism for regional cooperation. *The meeting between the Chinese vice foreign minister, Bangladesh's acting foreign secretary, and Pakistan's relevant additional secretary, concluded in pledges by all three states to see how*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.dawn.com/news/1921328/pti-in-disarray>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.dawn.com/news/1921584/regional-partners>

*engagement in trade, culture and education, amongst other areas, could be expanded.* The meeting principally reflects China's desire to expand ties with regional states. As the Chinese official noted, both Pakistan and Bangladesh are "good neighbours, good friends, and good partners of China". Both Islamabad and Dhaka are also partners with Beijing in the latter's Belt and Road Initiative, of which CPEC is a part. Chinese efforts to spur regional integration and reduce tensions have also been visible in the recent rapprochement between Pakistan and Afghanistan. However, the meeting in Kunming has made certain quarters uneasy; for example, some in India are saying the trilateral moot is paving the way for the replacement of Saarc, even though the official Chinese statement said that "China-Bangladesh-Pakistan cooperation adheres to true multilateralism ... not directed at any third party". *While Pakistan-China ties are deep and multifaceted, relations with Dhaka have improved with the fall of the Hasina Wajed regime last year. The ex-Bangladesh PM had consistently given Pakistan the cold shoulder, and was close to India.*

### **Political wrangling, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, 03 July<sup>3</sup>**

The PTI is in a political crisis of its own, especially in the wake of the verdict on reserved seats. The Constitutional Bench's pronouncement that the PTI is neither a parliamentary party nor is it eligible for the seats reserved for women and minorities in national and provincial assemblies has literally decimated its locus standi. *The beleaguered party, faced with the threat of floor-crossing, is mulling an oath of allegiance from its MNAs and MPA, unsure of what turn this politics of exigency is going to take. Punjab and K-P assemblies are in the eye of the storm as PTI-backed independents face overtures from rival political forces.* The 12-member judgment from the Constitutional Bench dealt a death blow to the PTI and dashed its hopes of emerging as a viable entity on the floor of the house by grabbing some 77 reserved seats. Moreover, the ruling made it obvious that those who had earlier joined the Sunni Ittehad Council could now face the defection clause under Article 63A of the Constitution, if they chose to re-join PTI. This is where the political wrangling is underway - with some trying to saving the skin while others bent upon obliterating the party's nomenclature. *The PTI too has a blame to share as its political arithmetic was wayward. Had*

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<sup>3</sup> <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2553853/political-wrangling>

*its elected legislators joined the MWM on the floor of the house, instead of the SIC, this upheaval would not have occurred, because the former had formally participated in the general elections.*

#### **What KP needs, Editorial, *The News*, 07 July<sup>4</sup>**

Political instability in KP right now is not just a political issue but a matter of national security. In just the past week, a bomb blast in Bajaur killed five, including Assistant Commissioner Nawagai Faisal Ismail. Just days earlier, 13 soldiers were martyred in a suicide bombing in North Waziristan. *The province remains a frontline in Pakistan's ongoing battle against terrorism. In such an environment, any move that undermines the continuity of governance -- especially one driven by power calculations rather than genuine democratic necessity -- is both reckless and dangerous. Observers have rightly noted that despite the reinstatement of reserved seats that reduced the PTI's margin in the provincial assembly, the party still enjoys a comfortable majority.* This means any successful no-confidence move would likely rely on horse-trading, inducements, or coercion -- tactics that betray the spirit of democracy. Thankfully, some political voices including those of Maulana Fazlur Rehman and Aimal Wali Khan have rejected any role in such undemocratic maneuvering. *Their stance must be commended and echoed across party lines. What is perhaps most concerning is that, while headlines are dominated by this political theatre, real issues are being ignored. From the tragic drowning of tourists in the Swat River to sectarian tensions in Kurram, to grievances over civilian casualties in counterterrorism operations, KP is brimming with challenges that demand urgent attention.* Yet, what we see is political grandstanding and whispers of protests, not governance. It is time for political leaders -- especially those in the PTI -- to prioritise what truly matters.

#### **Talks with Kabul, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, 09 July<sup>5</sup>**

While the terror fissures with Kabul are far from being resolved, the good point is that the estranged neighbours are talking. *The consensus to break the ice and address the imbroglio is a welcome development, and the first round of additional secretary-level talks held in Islamabad*

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1326703-what-kp-needs>

<sup>5</sup> <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2554822/talks-with-kabul>

*was a case in point. The nod to further the understanding reached between the two sides on April 19 at the foreign ministers level and to focus on trade, transit cooperation, security and connectivity is the way to go.* A positive outcome from the bureaucratic parleys was the recognition from the Afghan leadership that terrorism, especially the presence of non-state actors such as TTP and their cross-border activism, needs decisive action and the onus is on the Taliban to act in real-time for peace in the region. Kabul and Islamabad luckily also took a holistic look at talks and trans-regional initiatives, such as the Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan railway framework agreement, were discussed, apart from the return of Afghan refugees. Taliban 2.0 must realise that regional states are eager to patch up with them, and their debut recognition by Moscow is a cheering moment. *However, Pakistan's stance that it is not in a rush to follow suit is based on the far-sighted premise that until and unless terrorism is done away with, there is no point in striking a de jure relationship.*

**PTI's protest call, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, 10 July<sup>6</sup>**

Driven by exigency and desperation alike, PTI chairman Imran Khan has decided to call off any kind of dialogue with the state and directed his party to gear up for a nationwide protest. Languishing in solitary confinement, the former prime minister believes that much water has flown down the bridge, and the 26th constitutional amendment, in particular, has come to jaundice the hopes of the masses in judiciary, otherwise thought of as the custodian of the Constitution, and thus the guarantor of the democratic order. Riven with infighting, the opposition party will have an uphill task if it launches an anti-government movement. *But the fact that the PTI has been pushed to the wall and that there is no political and institutional recourse to claim its due space makes the call for protest relevant for party sympathizers and alarming for the beleaguered government. The incarcerated leader's appeal to keep the protest lawful and peaceful is appreciated.* The onus is now on the fractured party to make its presence felt in the political arena, an aspect that its elected legislators and stalwarts have not been able to dispense. This time around the icing on the cake will be the inclusion of Khan's sons and his immediate family, who plan to lead from the front.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://tribune.com.pk/>

## SECURITY SITUATION

### **Terror strike, Editorial, *The News*, 01 July<sup>7</sup>**

The suicide attack on a security convoy in North Waziristan this past Saturday, which claimed the lives of thirteen Pakistan Army soldiers and injured three civilians, including two children, is yet another brutal reminder that the terror threat is alive and kicking and murdering our people. *The TTP, brutal and a proxy for foreign terror interventions, quickly claimed responsibility for the assault. Pakistan's military has laid the blame squarely on India, accusing it of orchestrating the attack through proxies. India has denied these allegations, but the gravity of Pakistan's claim and the ISPR's unambiguous language should not be ignored.* The Pakistani military has accused India of backing militant outfits such as the TTP and Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) both of which have been involved in repeated attacks against Pakistani forces and civilians. Indian state support, whether logistical, financial or tactical, has become more pronounced especially after India's setbacks in regional influence and recent confrontations with Pakistan. *Safe havens for the TTP across the border must be dismantled, and pressure should be consistently applied to the Taliban regime to cease all forms of passive or active support for militants operating against Pakistan.* On the Indian front, meaningful engagement remains elusive, largely because India refuses to acknowledge its covert war through proxies. Its silence or deflection on these matters, even while sermonizing about global terrorism, reveals a double standard.

### **The ugly face of terror, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, 04 July<sup>8</sup>**

Pakistan's security forces are battling a faceless enemy. The brave men have stood their ground in their endeavour to defeat terrorism, and accomplished great feats. This is why there are reprisals as desperate elements try to make their presence felt off and on. Tuesday's tragedy which saw more than 25 Pakistan Army soldiers martyred in Dera Ismail Khan district was, perhaps, in retaliation to an unwavering resolve of security force

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<sup>7</sup> <https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=414597>

<sup>8</sup> <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2449829/the-ugly-face-of-terror>



to purge the country of brutal terrorists. More than 27 terrorists were also killed in three separate incidents countrywide. *The unfortunate day will be remembered for registering the military's highest single-day death toll from terrorist attacks reported this year. The attack on a check-post in the Daraban area must be studied on a broader canvas in the wake of unabated infiltration from Afghanistan. While the Tehreek-e-Jihad, an affiliate of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP), has claimed responsibility for the vicious attack, it makes it crystal clear that foreign hand is involved in sabotaging peace in the country, and at the same time testing the determination and resilience of our security forces.* This calls for a coordinated and sustained response at civil, military and diplomatic levels to not only expose the ugly face of the enemy in disguise but also to eliminate the nefarious elements who act as abettors in various shades and guises.

## URDU MEDIA

**Tehreek-e-Insaf's anti-Pakistan narrative, Mohd kahn Abro, Jang, 01 July<sup>9</sup>**

*The country's politics is currently at a point where it has become difficult to distinguish between friends and enemies. Every party is fighting for its survival.* Some parties, however, are doing such politics in which national interest has taken a back seat and personal interests are being considered more important than the homeland. *The recent actions and statements of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) have forced the common citizen to think whether this party is really doing politics for the betterment of the country or is it being run under some external agenda?* Attempting to weaken Pakistan's institutions, inciting the young generation to revolt, propagating propaganda against the country from abroad, and inciting its workers to clash with institutions, all this cannot be called just a difference of opinion or political opposition. *This is the behavior that our enemies of the country have been adopting in the past, and today, unfortunately, the same behavior is being adopted by a Pakistani political party.* The leaders of the PTI repeatedly use language against state institutions, the Pakistani

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<sup>9</sup> <https://e.jang.com.pk/detail/920314>

army, the judiciary, and the police that is rarely heard even in the media of an enemy country. Is this patriotism? Should the youth of Pakistan be taught to abuse the institutions that guarantee the country's security? *In the past few years, the leadership of the PTI has made every effort to damage the image of Pakistan in the world.* Sometimes under the pretext of human rights, sometimes under the slogan of freedom of expression, and sometimes under the pretense of political revenge, Pakistan has been defamed on the international stage. To some level it is acceptable to point out the shortcomings of the country while staying in the country; but going abroad and calling one's own country a cruel, oppressive, and fascist state actually seems to be part of a systematic agenda. Pakistan's situation is already critical. The country is suffering from inflation, unemployment, terrorism and global pressure. In such a situation, the continuous confrontation of a large party with state institutions has become a poison for the country. Now is the time for the people to understand that by merely raising slogans, making videos and winning wars on social media, neither a country is built nor a system runs.

**Talks a way to get out of crisis, Editorial, *Daily Dunya*, 03 July<sup>10</sup>**

*In-jail leaders of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) have written in a letter from jail that talks remain the only option to get out of the crisis. They have asked that talks should be started immediately at the political and institutional level. On the other day in its parliamentary meeting the PTI leaders supported the proposal of talks.* The party chairman Barrister Gohar said that there is a wrong perception about the PTI that it does not want talks. Approving the proposal of talks signaled that the party leaders are wanting to get out of protest politics. In December 2024 some sessions of talks were held between the government and the PTI. But they did not succeed and the PTI ended talks saying that its demand to implement the charter of democracy was not acted upon. *Given the bitter nature of relations between the government and the PTI, talks may not take place. But it remains a fact that without mutual understanding, politics and democracy cannot function. The hope that the talks would start are slight. To make the functioning of the state affairs smooth it is necessary that an environment of political unity is forged in the country so that the energy spent on confrontational*

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<sup>10</sup> [https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2025-07-03&edition=LHR&id=7785869\\_77072563](https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2025-07-03&edition=LHR&id=7785869_77072563)

*politics is used for the betterment of the country.* There is nothing good to reach the matters to the point of no-return in a democracy. It serves neither political parties nor the countries. The parties in power today were in opposition a few years back. That is the beauty of democracy. However, due to some reasons and ego no party wants to establish contact and talks with the other party. However, the history is full of such cases where two opponents have talked and resolved their issues. A recent example is the ceasefire between Israel, America and Iran. *The political leadership of Pakistan should think and learn lessons from the past failed talks and move ahead with a positive mindset. So far there is a lack of trust among the parties. They should try to get over it and establish serious and visionary committees to hold negotiations that can proceed with talks.* The political crisis of the last three years has cost the country a lot. It should stop now. Therefore, the political parties should rise above their limited political interests and think about the nation and the country. They should participate in talks with honesty and get the nation out of this long stagnancy and crisis.

**Performances of the provincial government in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,**  
Aurang Zaib Awan, *Nawa-i-Waqt*, 04 July<sup>11</sup>

*Whenever the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) got the opportunity to form a government, it laid the foundation for development projects. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) also got the opportunity to form a government in the center, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) provinces.* PTI is the third consecutive term in power in KP, ruling the province for the past fifteen years. The people of Pakistan had blind faith in PTI. But unfortunately, during its tenure, the party did nothing but sought vendetta politics. *People, however, do not assess a government on how it treated the political opponent. They assess what you have done for them. During PTI's tenure, Punjab province was treated like an enemy. No development project, including any road or street, was started in any district of Punjab.* Perhaps the PTI considered the people of Punjab as its political rival. Or it had an idea that it had come to power by stealing the real mandate of the people of Punjab. The people of Punjab province had given their mandate to the PML-N as well. But by changing the results and forcibly changing political loyalties, PTI was given the opportunity to form the government in Punjab. But

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/04-Jul-2025/1908146>

instead of choosing experienced Chaudhry Pervez Elahi as the chief minister, an unknown person was given the responsibility (Usman Buzdar). He spent his term in power in this state of alienation. *PTI lacks political sensibility and is full of people who make emotional decisions. They got the opportunity to govern. But their behavior was pharaonic. They considered going after their political opponents as their distinguishing feature. While suppressing political opponents, they got involved and took fights against the most important institutions of the country. They believed that if they could weaken the country's institutions like they had their political opponents, then there would be no one left to compete with the party.*

**China-Russia-Pakistan Partnership: A Strategic Necessity, Ishtiaq Chaudhary, *Nawa-i-Waqt*, 05<sup>12</sup>**

*In the recent Pakistan-India war, India's defeat and the war imposed on Iran by the US and Israel—resulting in Israel's humiliation and Iran's victory—have brought the US, Israel, and India closer together. Although India's setback sent a clear message to the US that India is currently not in a position to fight, not even Pakistan, let alone China, which has significantly greater military strength. India needs to bolster its military and economy before considering confrontation with China. These two wars have reshaped political dynamics in the Middle East and South Asia, leading to new shifts that have aligned America, India, and Israel on the same strategic page. This convergence increases the likelihood that these three nations might jointly initiate a dangerous game against Pakistan in the near future, especially since the US policy toward China and Iran is unlikely to change. The strategic ambitions the US harbours about China and Iran significantly elevate Pakistan's geopolitical importance. Whether it's tightening the encirclement around China to curb its economic and defence progress or pursuing regime change in Iran, Pakistan's role becomes central in both cases. India's defeat at Pakistan's hands has forced both India and Israel to reconsider many aspects of their strategic planning. In this context, the need for a **strategic partnership among Pakistan, China, Iran, and Russia** has grown immensely. If we analyse the statement issued following the meeting of the foreign ministers of the US, Japan, Australia, and India under the*

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2025-07-05/page-5>

*QUAD meetings in Washington in comparison to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), where the Pahalgam incident was mentioned and condemned, we can deduce that India is once again busy preparing for war against Pakistan.* The war hysteria being fuelled by Indian media provides ample food for thought and deserves serious contemplation. Although *the QUAD alliance was formed back in 2007 to promote peaceful cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region among the US, Japan, Australia, and India, its activities have increased dramatically in recent times compared to the SCO, mainly due to the US intent to maintain its dominance in South Asia at any cost*

## **ELECTRONIC MEDIA**

**A new political landscape forms in Pakistan: SC Rejects PTI's reserved seat, Capital Talk with Hamid Mir, Geo News, 01 July<sup>13</sup>**

The Supreme Court's Constitutional Bench dismissed the petitions filed by the PTI in the reserved seats case, declaring that the party will not be eligible for them in the national and provincial assemblies. Reacting to the verdict in a post on X, the PTI termed the decision "the funeral of constitutional, judicial traditions, and justice." Hamid Mir asked how this SC judgment will impact the political landscape of Pakistan, will it take Pakistan backward or forward? **Guest:** Barrister Gohar Khan-Chairman PTI. **Barrister Gohar Khan** pointed out PTI hoped that even if we did not get seventy seven seats we hoped that we will get propionate seats and we hoped that SC will do the right thing and give the right judgment. In KPK PTI should get eight seats and from Punjab eight but now these seats will go to JUI and PML-N. There is always a conspiracy against PTI but we hope these struggles will not see the light of the day. Ninety MNA's and ninety one MPA's have filed affidavit in election commission as part of Sunni Ethad, SC stayed the order. All those part of the Sunni Ethad council those seats will be intact. All our MPA's in KP are part of Sunni Ethad and are not independent. Talking about the MNA's that are breaking away from

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.geo.tv/shows/capital-talk/611772-a-new-political-landscape-forms-in-pakistan>

PTI, he pointed out that these leaders are under pressure and as a party we also struck them out of the party. Talking about the infighting within PTI and most of it in KPK he pointed out that some leaders go out in the media and give statements which is working against the PTI. He pointed out that he has tried to resolve the issues but parties have problems but it should not come out in the media and resolved within the party. Talking about Junaid Akbar and his statement about him that he is not political person, he added that he was chosen by Imran Khan himself as chairman (*Main Khan sahab ki choose ho, majbori nahi*). Omar Ayub has been nominated to organize protests. Talking about the budget of KPK he added that Imran Khan has given his view and has said that the parliamentary committee should come back to him and Khan's reservation's will be sorted but the meeting could not take place. Talking about the meeting with Imran Khan and making an issue out of it he added that now they have started stopping the family members and that has become an issue. He underlined that the voters and supporters wish of bringing Imran Khan out he pointed out that we are fighting the cases on all forums and trying our best to bring him out.

**PTI's message of unity: Ali Amin Gandapur warns against toppling KP Government, Off The Record, ARY News, 02 July<sup>14</sup>**

The host pointed out that in the press conference the CM of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) which was organised after the meeting of the PTI seemed to challenge the government on the 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment, elections and the 9<sup>th</sup> May event using strict words against the government. He also challenged the government that if it wants to put governor's rule, they can go ahead and do the same. He asked is the press conference a message that all is well within PTI or he wants to keep himself relevant. **Guests:** Rana Ahsan Afzal-Coordinator of PM, PML-N, Shaukat Yousafzai-Senior leader PTI & Faisal Karim Kundi-Governor KPK. **Rana Ahsan Afzal** pointed out that Ali Amin Gandapur was selected as CM of KP by Imran Khan just because he is good in doing drama and saying anything and everything in press conferences such as like this, he is known for it. His focus is more on shouting and using words rather than focusing on the development in the

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<sup>14</sup> <https://videos.arynews.tv/video/x9m7zda/>

province. There is no point that PTI is relevant in politics and their party is breaking out into pieces, their only politics is around Imran Khan. They are not using the parliament to raise their voice but instead choosing the road for protest. The people of Pakistan are fed up with the policy of the PTI and its one man show focused on Imran Khan. Talking about the protests he added that the PTI is divided and there will be no protests by them in the future, people are not interested in it now. **Shaukat Yousafzai** pointed out that we are political people and will do political struggle. There is surplus budget in KP and there is no shortage of funds in the province. Talking about Aleema Khan's opinion on minus one in PTI he added that she knows what is happening with Imran Khan but she has half knowledge, budget had to be passed in KP, there is no other option. Overall the government of Pakistan is not able to improve the economy of the country. He added that talks are always the first choice of the PTI and pointed out that in politics both talks and protest go hand in hand. The point is that the government is not making an environment for talks and say so only for the media. **Faisal Karim Kundi** pointed out that Aleema Khan is right when she said that there is an effort to minus Imran Khan from PTI, it was KP that passed the budget first. Now they are trying to defend the move, it has to be noted that Ali Amin Gandapur had said that he will meet Imran Khan first before passing the budget but passed it without the meeting. He added that PTI do not need any outside efforts to dismantle the party, they are doing it themselves. Today everything in party PTI is going on without him, in order to keep their jobs they have to listen to Islamabad and establishment but it will not go on for long time. Talking about the PTI's planning for protest after Muharam he added that they will not try to enter in Islamabad and there will be no major protest but now it has reduced to Jalsa in the alleys. Gandapur has taken votes in the name of tourism but the state of tourism is in shambles, there is no empathy in him.

**Imran Khan Closes Door on Talks: Opts for Streets Confrontation, Report Card, Geo News, 10 July<sup>15</sup>**

The host pointed out that the opposition party PTI has finally decided to hit the streets and closed the door for dialogue with the government citing that the window for dialogue

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<sup>15</sup><https://www.geo.tv/shows/report-card/613262-imran-khan-closes-door-on-talks-opts-for-streets-confrontation>



has closed. It has to be noted that many senior leaders in the PTI including Barrister Gohar has said in the past that the party is keeping the room for dialogue but the host pointed out that now Imran Khan has come out strong against any possible dialogue and has decided to hit the road. His order has now been given to all party workers and his sister Aleema Khan has even hinted the possibility of Khan's sons joining the upcoming protest. The host asked is protest the only solution in the current situation or there should be dialogue, how beneficial will be the protests for PTI? **Guests:** Mazhar Abbas, Suhail Warraich, Saleem Safi & Umer Cheema (Senior Analysts /journalists) **Mazhar Abbas** underlined that Imran Khan and party leaders have finally concluded that there is no point in talks and that this government is not able to resolve any issue. PTI has decided to go for an all-out protest starting 5<sup>th</sup> August and is building pressure on the government and establishment. They believe that the establishment will then pressure the government to negotiate with the PTI. They are challenging the government and indicating that the sons can also join is a single that they are going all out and it can lead to violence. He also pointed out that after all these if the PTI is not able to perform in the protest, then it will be a great loss for the party and Imran Khan. **Suhail Warraich** pointed out that the bargaining position of the PTI has come down to a major low, earlier it was much higher after the elections. He added that also the protests so far by PTI has not be so successful. He also added that the sons coming to Pakistan in such a situation shows Imran Khan's desperation and if the sons get caught does Khan want the UK to be involved. The reaction of the government has to be noticed too, if his sons will be arrested on the airport as they are UK citizens. The government and establishment can only do is to bring Imran Khan out of the jail and straightaway go to Bani Gala and keep quite but on the other hand Khan wants to come out and bring down the PML-N government. So there is no understanding for talks between the two parties. He added that the war is not between Khan and government but between Khan and the military. He also added that had Khan was not interlocked in a war with establishment, this government of PML-N which is weak would have fallen down by now. The Imran Khan challenge is the main thing that is keeping this government intact by the establishment. **Saleem Safi** underlined that the option for talk is not available at this point because the PTI wants to talk to the establishment not the government but the military has asked them to talk to the government. He added that if the PTI is able to bring out people on the streets and also



bring some other opposition parties, and bring his sons that may be the protests will be successful. The point is that there is a need for the PTI to talk to the government, a section of the party also thinks like that but Imran Khan does not like this idea and he desires that talks should be with the establishment. **Umar Cheema** pointed out that over all the time is not in favour of the PTI and the bargaining position of the PTI has gone low and the relevance has also reduced. Imran Khan wants that things go according to his way and that he does not want to talk to the government (*apne barabarbar nahi samjate*). He added that **Imran Khan's celebrity status is given more importance than his political status**, he is not ready for a tactical compromise. Also there is very less people who can take guarantee for Imran Khan, therefore in all these situation the protests will not make any difference. In fact Imran Khan will be more frustrated in the future. The letter by the senior leaders of the PTI from jail has underlined that PTI should move forward and not concentrate wholly on Imran Khan.