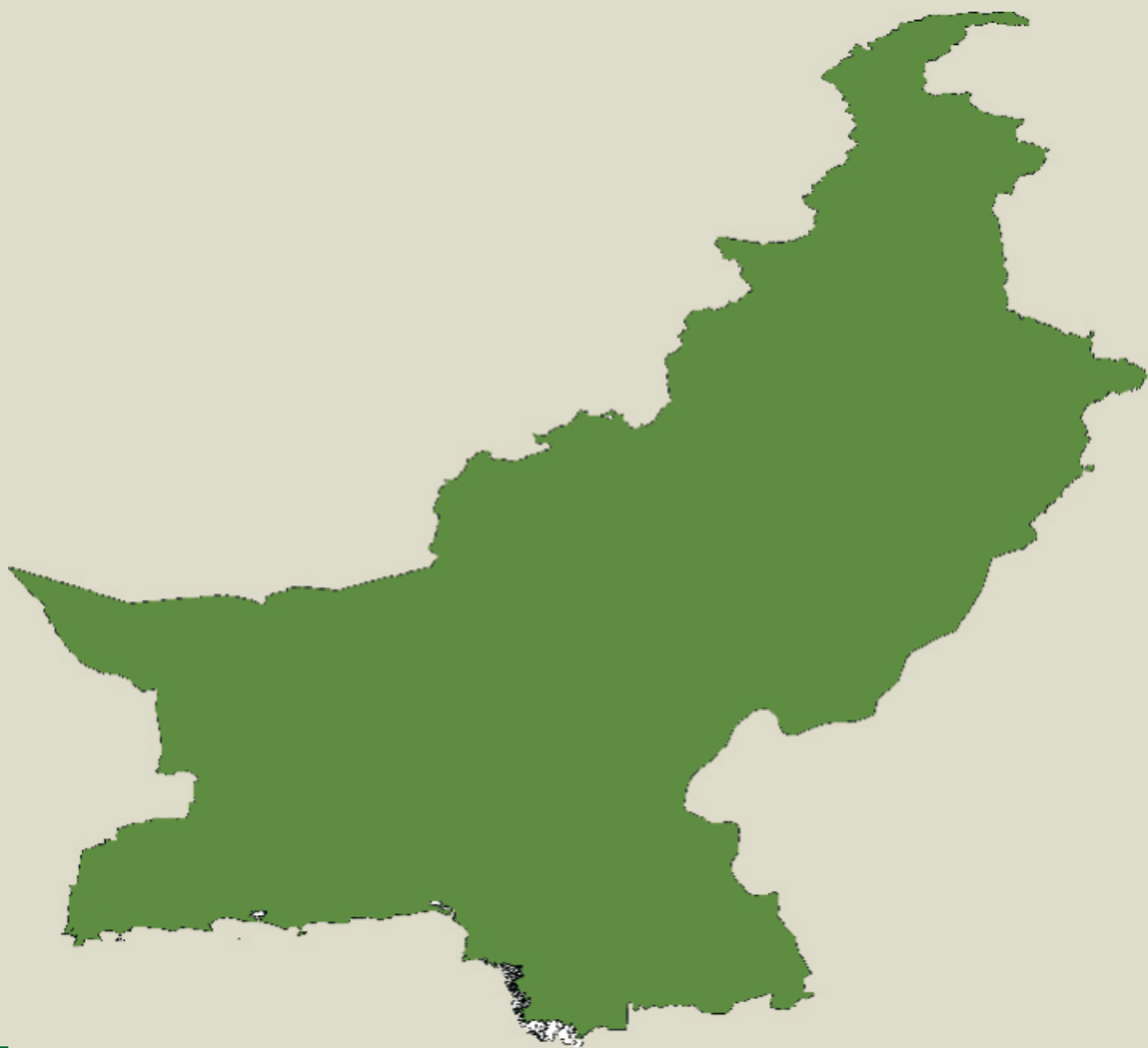


October 2025

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

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POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Politics of destabilisation, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, 01 October 2025

Pakistan remains under assault from enemies within, working hand in glove with external sponsors. But to frame Quetta's latest tragedy purely as terrorism is to miss the wider point, since this was a political act designed to exploit the fault lines of a fragile state. *The bombing outside the Frontier Corps headquarters, which killed 10 and wounded dozens, was about optics. It was meant to symbolise a direct challenge to state authority in a province that has long been a battleground of competing interests, signalled both reach and intent. Militancy in Balochistan is rarely divorced from geopolitics.* The TTP and its splinters are violent actors, but they are also proxies in a wider contest. External powers have long viewed Pakistan's internal instability as an opportunity to advance their agendas. Yet the external hand thrives because of internal weakness. Islamabad has failed to build political trust with the people of Balochistan, and the result is a vacuum in which militant groups can cloak themselves in the language of resistance, even when acting as proxies for hostile actors. The state's failure to address these grievances creates the conditions in which every attack resonates far beyond the immediate damage. *The danger now is not just violence but erosion. Each such incident chips away at the perception of a strong, coherent Pakistani state. It deepens public disillusionment and provides ammunition to those who argue that the federation is fractured.*

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2569861/politics-of-destabilisation>

Allies at odds?, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, 08 October 2025

The two major partners in the ruling coalition are at loggerheads with each other. The diatribe is making its presence felt on the floor of the elected houses and also in the body-politic, sending signals of further instability in an already fragile hybrid system in vogue. The PPP and the PML-N, it seems, are galvanizing their instincts for an electoral tradeoff, after years of an unnatural alliance merely to keep the PTI out of the fray. The origin of the dispute involves issues ranging from flood compensation to water rights. The alleged foul-mouthing of the

Punjab Chief Minister is said to be at the root of the dispute, as she asserted her provincial fiefdom to dole out flood relief. This aspect is being contested tooth and nail by the PPP which is at the vanguard in Sindh and demands that the succour should be routed through the BISP. *The verbal standoff is now graduating into a storm, and its intensity could be gauged from the fact that bigwigs such as President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, PML-N Supremo Nawaz Sharif and the Interior Minister are engaged in make-or-break parleys to ward off any serious consequences.* For many, nonetheless, this is no more than a stunt from the allies at the federation to hoodwink simmering ground realities as the government's performance is being questioned. The political discord has, however, come as an opportunity for the beleaguered PTI, which is flexing its political muscle to disrupt the status quo. The party's proactivity in the form of naming Mehmood Khan Achakzai and Raja Nasir Abbas as new opposition leaders in the National Assembly and Senate, respectively, is likely to help it stay afloat.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2571148/allies-at-odds>

PM Shehbaz reaffirms alliance with PPP, *The Express Tribune*, 17 October 2025

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) was an ally of the government, adding that the PML-N valued and respected its partnership with the coalition partner. The two parties share power at the federal level, although the PPP holds no positions in the cabinet. Relations between the allies have recently been strained, with both sides exchanging sharp words over the distribution of flood relief. PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari maintained that the Benazir Income Support Programme was the only effective channel for assisting flood victims, while Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz accused the PPP of politicizing the matter. Key figures, including the prime minister and President Asif Ali Zardari, made concerted efforts to ease tensions. President Zardari also urged Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi to help facilitate a possible reconciliation. *Last week, the premier and PPP chairman spoke over the phone to discuss the country's prevailing political situation. On Thursday, a delegation led by PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari called on the prime minister in the federal capital and discussed the overall political situation in the country.* PPP

leader and MNA Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Senator Sherry Rehman, Nayyar Bukhari, Nadeem Afzal Chan and Syed Ali Qasim Gilani present on the occasion.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2572850/pm-shehbaz-reaffirms-alliance-with-ppp>

Democracy without devolution, Editorial, *The News*, 23 October 2025

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has once again withdrawn the schedule for Punjab's local government elections, granting the provincial government four more weeks to complete delimitation and frame demarcation rules under the new Punjab Local Government Act, 2025. This development means another indefinite delay in Punjab's local polls – the fourth such postponement in nearly a decade. The elections, last held in 2015 under the Punjab Local Government Act, 2013, were prematurely dissolved by the then PTI government, which had promised to introduce a new and more empowered system of local governance. That never happened. After the PTI's ouster, the PML-N-led coalition passed a new act in 2022, but once again no elections were held. Now, under yet another new law, the promise of local representation has again been deferred. This pattern of delay is not unique to Punjab. Across all provinces, successive governments have shown an alarming disinterest in holding local bodies elections. *The reason is as simple as it is troubling: no government wants to share power. After the 18th Amendment, it was expected that provinces would strengthen local bodies to bring democracy closer to the people. Yet, despite their expanded powers, provincial chief executives remain unwilling to relinquish control over administration – the very domain that should belong to local governments.* The result is a dysfunctional system where some of the provinces' highest authorities concern themselves with municipal tasks like garbage collection and drainage management matters that should be handled locally rather than focusing on legislation and policy.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail/?id=440725>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Turning the Tide, Editorial, *The Nation*, 10 October 2025

Pakistan's recent economic indicators, particularly the sharp drop in its default risk and consistent improvement in financial stability, mark a long-awaited shift in narrative. For once, the headlines are not about crisis management but about cautious recovery, a testament to the disciplined fiscal measures and course corrections that have been painfully, yet necessarily, implemented over the past year. *The significance of this achievement should not be understated. After months of speculation and doomsday predictions, Pakistan has managed to instil a degree of confidence in international markets. This stabilisation did not materialize overnight; it reflects a series of coordinated efforts—restructuring debt, curbing unnecessary expenditure, and re-engaging with multilateral partners. These may sound like dry policy points, but they collectively speak to a state finally learning to manage its finances with a measure of restraint and foresight.* The short-term benefits are already visible: a stronger rupee, increased investor confidence, and improved fiscal predictability. In the long run, however, the implications are far more profound. Economic recovery is not merely about avoiding default, it is about laying the groundwork for growth that is sustainable, inclusive, and reflective of national potential rather than political expedience.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/06-Oct-2025/turning-tide>

Washington meetings, Editorial, *Dawn*, 15 October 2025

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb is in Washington to participate in the IMF-World Bank plenary meeting and engage with American officials, multilateral organizations, financial institutions, rating agencies, as well as investors. *However, the most challenging aspect of his visit involves salvaging the second review of Pakistan's ongoing IMF programme, which concluded earlier this month without a staff-level agreement, delaying \$1.2bn in pending loan disbursements. Even Pakistan's embassy in Washington had emphasized this aspect in its statement prior to the minister's arrival, saying the visit would focus on securing the*

third IMF tranche and meeting outstanding benchmarks under the extended programme and climate facility. The key issue preventing the agreement pertains to recent flood losses. The Fund insists that provinces not only bear flood damages from their own resources but also meet their cash surplus commitments to help the federal government attain its primary budget surplus target — the most critical condition of the IMF programme. Other contentious issues include missed deadlines for governance and corruption assessment report publication, and delays in declaration of assets of government officials in BPS-17 and above, and the upward revision of last year's GDP numbers.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1949020/washington-meetings>

Tax deception, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, 31 October 2025

The Sindh government's decision to defer collection of agriculture income tax from January 2025 at the rate of 45%, as agreed with the IMF, is a clear act of defiance – to say the least. This politically exigent move comes in the footsteps of Punjab, which had also put off collecting the enhanced revenue from the farms for a year. *It is little known as to how the Washington-based lender will react to this deferment, and how the federal government will deal with the books to stay afloat. What is certain, however, is that the beleaguered political dispensation has once again caved to pressure from influential landlords in the provincial assemblies.* An aftermath of this decision, meant to appease the land-wielding classes, will see revenue generation dip by billions of rupees, and that too at the cost of salaried persons who paid Rs575 billion in income tax in FY25. Under the new ordinance promulgated by Sindh, the feudal class will pay agriculture tax at the previous rate of 15%. The new scales are 5% tax on annual income of over Rs1.2 million to just 15% on income above Rs4.8 million. Whereas, the no-tax ceiling for the salaried class is just Rs600, 000. The move, coming through an ordinance, is detrimental to parliamentary supremacy. On top of that, Sindh and Punjab have sought to alter the income tax rates in future without amending the relevant laws. Unfortunately, a very few at the helm care about going by the book and keeping with foreign accords.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2575014/tax-deception>

SECURITY SITUATION

More Bloodshed, Editorial, *Daily Times*, 09 October 2025

Eleven soldiers, including a lieutenant colonel and a major, were killed in a pre-dawn assault in Orakzai, Central Kurram. *Nineteen militants died in return. The firefight lasted hours, a grim echo of battles Pakistan thought it had buried after Zarb-e-Azb. Across the province, villages watch the mountains in silence while gunfire writes the news. The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan has regained coherence. Its commanders move freely across eastern Afghanistan under Kabul's watchful indifference.* Whenever Islamabad presses for action, Kabul nods politely, shrugs, or points the finger at Pakistan, but nothing changes on the ground. *Every ambush reminds Pakistan of a truth diplomats have whispered for years: stabilisation in Kabul without accountability costs Pakistan blood. The international community has shifted its gaze. Beijing and Tehran deepen trade and connectivity ties. Washington quietly probes "re-engagement" in Bagram. Recognition, investment, and influence take precedence over verified counterterrorism. Meanwhile, Pakistan pays in lives, in morale, in sovereignty left half-guarded.*

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1381080/more-bloodshed/>

Afghan clashes, Editorial, *Dawn*, 13 October 2025

Tensions that had been brewing for some time between Pakistan and Afghanistan exploded into open conflict when the Afghan Taliban regime launched attacks against this country late on Saturday, and Pakistan responded by repulsing the aggression. *The number of attacks carried out by TTP terrorists inside Pakistan had been growing in frequency and lethality, with a high number of security men martyred over the last few weeks. On Thursday, there had been reports of attacks inside Afghanistan, including the apparent targeting of the TTP chief in Kabul. The Afghan regime issued a vague statement about the attack, making no mention of casualties, while Pakistan neither confirmed nor denied the operation, with both civil and military officials only saying Afghanistan needed to stop harbouring TTP terrorists.* It is in the backdrop of these events that the Kabul regime launched attacks against Pakistan. The

military says that 200 “Taliban and affiliated terrorists” had been killed, while 23 troops had been martyred. If these groups keep launching attacks inside this country, Pakistan must react. But while kinetic cross-border action has to be taken when faced with foreign aggression, this is not a long-term solution, as it risks sparking a full-fledged war with the Kabul regime. Pakistan has shown that it can very much defend itself on the battlefield. Now the focus must shift to addressing the issue of terrorism through diplomacy. This can be done by working with Muslim states that have helped de-escalate matters, as well as engaging regional allies such as China, which have influence with Kabul.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1948527/afghan-clashes>

A Permanent Ban, Editorial, *The Nation*, 24 October 2025

Following decisive action by the Punjab government, the federal authorities now appear to be taking similar steps to ensure that Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) is once again pushed out of the political mainstream and confined to the fringes where it belongs. On Thursday, the federal government formally approved a ban on the group under the Anti-Terrorism Act, citing its recent violent protests a long overdue and essential move. While Punjab’s initial crackdown was aimed at restoring law and order, the federal government’s endorsement provides the political and legal backing needed to ensure that this effort is effective and enduring. The hope this time is that the ban does not repeat the cycle of 2021, when similar action proved short-lived, allowing the group to resurface with renewed strength. Pakistan’s history is filled with instances where political expediency led to dangerous compromises with extremist groups bargains that have always come back to haunt the state. Though alliances with such movements may offer short-term political or street-level advantages, they exact an enormous long-term cost. TLP remains tethered to one defining principle: unyielding religious extremism. For this reason, the ban must be absolute and implemented in full accordance with the law, including through measures enforced by the Election Commission of Pakistan and the judiciary. Its leadership may currently be in hiding, but the group’s influence and capacity for disruption remain real.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/24-Oct-2025/permanent-ban>

Should Israel be recognized?, Moulana Zahid Rashdi, *Daily Ausaf*, 05 October 2025

In my humble opinion, Dr. Muhammad Hamidullah is absolutely right in saying that the verse of the Holy Quran in which friendship with Jews and Christians is prohibited does not constitute an obstacle to normal relations with Jews and Christians. This is why the Islamic nations have never hesitated in establishing relations and dealings with Christian countries. Since the Khilafah Rashidah until now, our relations and dealings with Christian countries have been continuous. However, the issue of relations between the Jews and the state of "Israel" formed after two thousand years is of a slightly different nature and the reason for this is not this verse.

The reasons for recognizing Israel and disagreeing with diplomatic relations with it are different. For example, the biggest reason is that the settlement of Jews in Palestine did not happen with the consent of the centuries-old population, i.e., the Palestinians. Rather, first Britain occupied the region in 1917 and settled Jews in Palestine by military force. Now, the United States and its allies are using all their military power to force the Palestinians to accept the forced settlement of Jews. This is a path of intimidation and coercion that no civilized and civilized nation in the world can accept. ...

Then there is a practical obstacle to recognizing Israel. That is, what are the four borders of Israel? This issue has not yet been resolved. Many Arab countries and the majority of the Palestinian people do not accept the partition of Palestine at all. Israel does not recognize the borders that the United Nations has set between Israel and Palestine in its resolutions. By roaming around Palestine, without regard for any principle or law, the map of its borders looks completely different. And the map of "Greater Israel" that exists on record, embodying the ambitions of Israeli rulers, is different from all of them. These obstacles are practical, viable and objective. They need to have a dignified and workable solution and then of course recognize Israel as a Jewish state in the same way that we have been recognizing many Christian countries. In my opinion, the discussion in this regard should focus on practical

issues and objective facts, and not further complicate the issue by getting entangled in theoretical and academic debates.

<https://dailyausaf.com/columns/2025/10/05/186336/>

China to continue supporting Pakistan, Editorial, Roznama92, 13 October 2025

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zedong has said that China will always continue to support Pakistan. Pakistan and China are friends who have stood the test of time. The foundation of the relations between the two countries is based on mutual respect and the deep commitment of the people of both countries.

Be it Pakistan's economic crisis or the Pakistan-India tension, *China's friendship has always stood the test of time. This is why Pakistan's ill-wishers have always wanted and tried to somehow disrupt the Pakistan-China friendship, which is higher than the Himalayas and deeper than the sea, as evidenced by the rumors being spread by Pakistan's ill-wishers after the meeting of the Prime Minister and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir with the US officials during the General Assembly session. The Chinese Ambassador responded yesterday to these rumors with a message from Chinese President Xi Jinping that China will continue to support Pakistan.*

Without a doubt, after the Chinese Ambassador's blunt statement and firm determination, the dreams of those who wanted to see a rift between the two countries have been shattered. There is a need for the two countries to further strengthen their close ties in a similar manner so that no one gets the opportunity to disrupt the relations between the two friends.

<https://roznama92news.com/post/%DA%86%DB%8C%D9%86-%DA%A9%D8%A7-%D9%BE%D8%A7%DA%A9%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%A7%D9%86-%DA%A9%DB%8C-%D8%AD%D9%85%D8%A7%DB%8C%D8%AA-%D8%AC%D8%A7%D8%B1%DB%8C-%D8%B1%DA%A9%DA%BE%D9%86%DB%92-%DA%A9%D8%A7-%D8%B9%D8%B2%D9%85>

3-day protest campaign begins against illegal detention of BYC leaders, *Daily Sangar*, 17 October 2025

Baloch Yekjehti Committee (BYC) leader Sammi Deen Baloch has said in a video statement that for the past six months, BYC leaders Dr. Mahrang Baloch, Beberg Baloch, Shahji Baloch, Bebo Baloch and Gulzadi Baloch have been illegally detained.

She said that first, the laws like the Three MPO were illegally used against them, then they were sent on a long series of remands without submitting any report under political FIRs. Now, when they have been judicially charged, their future appearances are being unnecessarily delayed. Moreover, without giving any reason for their remaining appearances in the court, it has been decided they will be inside the jail, instead of in the court.

Sammi Deen Baloch said that this tactic is a link in the same chain, through which an attempt is being made to suppress public voices (Jis ke zaarye awami awaazoon ko dabaney ki koshish ki jar ahi hai). The government, which is afraid of the popularity of these leaders, when it could not eliminate the public support they received, despite being imprisoned, has now adopted a new tactic of conducting appearances in jail without any legal justification.

Sammi said that BYC considers this process illegal and oppressive and an online protest campaign has been launched against this process. A three-day protest campaign has started today. Participate in this campaign, record your protest and raise your voice against the system of oppression.

<https://dailysangar.online/?p=66543>

Barter trade with Iran, Afghanistan and Russia, Editorial, *Nawa-i-Waqt*, 21 October 2025

Pakistan has introduced a new barter trade framework with Afghanistan, Iran and Russia. Various conditions for barter trade with these countries have been relaxed. *According to the notification issued in this regard, the condition of mandatory import before export has been*

abolished and simultaneous import and export has been allowed. Private entities have also been allowed to form consortiums. Moreover, the period of barter trade transactions has been increased from 90 days to 120 days. These measures will make the barter trade mechanism more practical and business-friendly.

Pakistan had implemented the barter trade mechanism with Afghanistan, Iran and Russia in June 2023. However, several problems and obstacles had come to the fore during its implementation, which business groups and stakeholders have repeatedly drawn attention to. Pakistan the issue of red-tape has been a big issue. While at the international level, the resolution of such issues depends on the competence and seriousness of the officials of the relevant departments. If the mechanism of the barter system had been implemented, there should have been no obstacles in its path. In fact, if there was any difficulty, it should have been resolved immediately.

Anyhow, being late is good, now things are moving in the right direction. This is a step towards Pakistan's self-reliance. At present the country is dependent on external aid and loans. Unless we increase our trade and exports, we cannot become economically stable.
...

Pakistan should further strengthen its trade relations with the Central Asian states and the Middle Eastern countries so that opportunities in the nearby markets can be identified and how Pakistan can help them and in which fields they can provide us with cooperation. When Pakistan takes serious steps in this direction, its economy will automatically become strong enough that it does not have to go to the IMF with a begging bowl again and again.

But the prerequisite for this is that the government should not limit itself to announcements and statements; it should ensure the implementation of these decisions. Otherwise, all this will remain just verbal accumulation and expenditure. The real change will come only when words are followed by action.

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/21-Oct-2025/1938386>

Ban on TLP, Qasim Jamal, Roznama Jasarat, 27 October 2025

The federal cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, has approved a complete ban on the religious-political party Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) under the Anti-Terrorism Act. In the meeting chaired by the Prime Minister, members were informed about the Punjab government's recommendation to ban the TLP. The federal cabinet approved the ban on the TLP under Article 17 of the Constitution. ...

Legal experts commenting on the ban said a provincial government can recommend that a party be banned. However, according to Article 17(2) of the Constitution, the federal government may forward that recommendation to the Supreme Court when a party is acting against Pakistan's sovereignty or territorial integrity. Experts say the Supreme Court makes the final decision to ban any political party. According to the article, the federal government will present the matter to the Supreme Court within fifteen days of its announcement, and the Court's decision will be final.

The political impact of banning the TLP in Pakistan will only become clear after some time. The government is already at odds with the PTI and has been putting pressure on them from day one; now TLP is also raising its head and has come into the field to confront them. There appears to be no obvious benefit to the government from declaring the TLP unlawful, because the more you suppress a group, the more strongly it tends to re-emerge. Past examples include Sipah-e-Sahaba, Sipah-e-Muhammad, and the National Awami Party. Whenever governments have banned these parties, they and others have continued activities under different names.

TLP is a large party with significant influence across the country and an organisational network with millions of workers. TLP and other parties and their leaders also have a responsibility not to take the law into their own hands or destroy the country's peace and security.....*The government should also show forbearance, provide the TLP a way forward, and withdraw the anti-terrorism cases. A majority of TLP and PTI supporters are young people. Alienating such a large number of youth from the state and nation reflects an extremely frightening situation.* ... Therefore, political parties and the government must act with wisdom and restraint, prioritising the nation's long-term stability and prosperity over

emotional or reactionary decisions. Failure to do so could once again create conditions for power seizures and political turmoil, undermining Pakistan's progress and unity.

<https://jasarat.news/islamabad/2025/10/27/islamabad/2>

Official abolition of Levies Force announced in Balochistan, *Daily Sangar*, 30 October 2025

Balochistan's puppet Chief Minister Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, while addressing an important press conference along with Balochistan IG Police Muhammad Tahir, announced a fundamental change in Balochistan's security policy. Bugti said that the government has taken a final decision to abolish all 'B Areas' (areas managed by levies) from Balochistan and convert them into 'A Areas' (areas managed by police). Sarfaraz Bugti admitted that this may not be a "popular decision" but it is the "right decision" which time will prove correct.

He said that after this decision, a heavy responsibility will fall on the police, for which the federal government has approved a package of Rs 10 billion to increase the capacity of the Balochistan Police. Regarding police reforms and capacity building, the Chief Minister said that this amount of Rs 10 billion will be spent on the combat capabilities of the police, intelligence, and modern equipment. He said, "We are acquiring drone technology, night vision equipment and air capacity for the police, for which discussions are also underway with China at the government-to-government (G2G) level through the Ministry of Defence." He added that a strong force is being formed by bringing together the scattered specialized forces like CTD, SOG and RRG.

Referring to depoliticization of police and New Recruitments, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, said, while addressing the IG Police, "I am telling you publicly that there will be no political pressure on the police, you are fully empowered." He also announced a major change in the recruitment system.

The Chief Minister said that there is delay in recruitments through the Public Service Commission, hence we are bringing a proposal to the cabinet to make the recruitment of

ASIs and other officers in the police on the basis of merit, possibly on the pattern of PMA (Military Academy). In addition, IT experts will be recruited from the market on contract.

<https://dailysangar.online/?p=67046>

ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Media persons covering protests in support of Jammu Kashmir action committee attacked by Police in Islamabad, Capital Talk with Hamid Mir, *Geo News*, 02 October 2025

Hamid Mir talked about the protesting Awami Committee members of Kashmir in front of the press club in Islamabad and now the police came to arrest them but at the same time also attacked the journalists and media persons covering the event. This event is not new, attacking the media, it has been done in the past. The joint action committee of Azad Kashmir is in talks with the government but at the same time the committee also blames the media and say that it is not showing the reality of Kashmir. He added that the media is been pressurized from all the sides. Although the government, internal Minister Talal Chaudhary has apologized for the action but Hamid Mir asked why the attack on media. He asked if these media persons are attacked for covering the press conference of the Kashmir committee then how the protesters in Kashmir might be handled.

Guests: Barrister Akeel Malik-, Naz Baloch-PPP and Senator Humayu Memnon-PTI.

<https://www.geo.tv/shows/capital-talk/626718-hamid-mir-reveals-last-message-from-mushtaq-ahmed-khan>

Pakistan's Afghan policy | Future of Military operations in KP, *Talk Shock*, 14 October 2025

In the latest episode, journalist Fida Adeel discussed Pakistan's Afghan policy amid recent clashes between the two neighbors. He also addressed the future of military operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) following the proposal of a new KP Chief Minister (CM),

whose case is pending in court as his oath ceremony has not yet taken place. Adeel highlighted that, with rising militancy in KP, the military has launched intelligence-based operations over the past two months. However, locals in KP oppose these military operations, as they result in large-scale civilian displacement, loss of lives, and damage to livelihoods. With the change in leadership in KP and the resignation of KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur, the newly proposed CM, Sohail Afridi, stated in his first speech in the KP Assembly that no military operations would be allowed in KP without consultation with the KP government and local tribal jirgas. Adeel noted that Afridi also urged the military establishment and the federal government to reformulate the current policy toward Afghan migrants. Additionally, Afridi questioned why the Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM) has been banned without substantial reasons provided regarding the security threats they allegedly pose to Pakistan.

Furthermore, he highlighted that KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi initially did not accept Gandapur's resignation, and even after Gandapur submitted his resignation a second time on the floor of the KP Assembly, the governor is employing tactics to delay the resignation process and prolong the issue. Adeel urged the federal government and the KP governor to engage local leaders in KP and facilitate the formation of a new government as soon as possible. He added that PTI and Imran Khan are a reality, and rather than playing politics, PTI should be engaged, especially since it is the ruling party in KP. Moreover, with growing tensions between India and Pakistan, Adeel emphasized that the federal government should work to promote consensus in KP. On Pakistan's Afghanistan policy, Adeel stressed that KP and local tribes must be taken into consideration when formulating policies to guide Pakistan-Afghanistan relations.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cH_34y20ucQ

What options does Pakistan have against Afghanistan?, Report Card, Geo News, 29 October 2025

The host informed that the new round of talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan are going on in Istanbul, Turkey. She informed that after the third round of talks between the two parties there was some news that the talks have stopped as it reached a deadlock but

then after some time there was some semblance from both sides and they agreed to continue the talks. Now the fourth round of talks are going on and the effort is to keep it on and reach to some conclusion. The host added that according to sources the problem in the talks is the attitude of the Afghani delegations, although they agreed to terror attacks from its soil into Pakistan but they rejected the idea of giving that I written to the Pakistani side. She added that this is a complex issue but asked the guests in such a situation what is the option for Pakistan? Guests: Umer Cheema, Reema Umar, Arshad Bhatti & Saleem Safi

Umer Cheema pointed out that the Taliban has committed in the past too and then have taken a U-turn, this is the reason that Pakistan had not funded the Taliban in the past to fight terrorism for this reason and another brotherly country funded them. ***He added the group that is in the talks with Pakistan in Turkey are from the Haqqani group and it is to note that this group supports the TTP. ... Reema Umar said*** it's very complicated and the status quo is not sustainable. We can't deny that terrorism is effecting one part of the region KPK badly and it can have a trickledown effect and spread to other parts. She pointed out that when Israel attacked Qatar they said that if there are non-state actors in other region, they can attack the country, she said that I don't agree. ... Saleem Safi talking about the option of Pakistan going into Afghanistan's soil and attacking the terror camp, then the Taliban will consider it an attack on them and it will push us towards a war yet again. Talking about Pakistan-Afghanistan relations he added that Pak-Afghanistan re not so close like Pakistan-Saudi and not enemies like Pakistan-India, it is somewhere in between. Pakistan has soft power to play with Afghanistan in the form of trade, but unfortunately the Afghan refugee crisis and its exodus from Pakistan was not handled by Pakistan properly, Pakistan can now take China and Central Asia in confidence and then continue the talk, second option is to make a Jirga between the Afghans on both sides of the border and include key figures like KP CM that have a link with the Afghan Taliban.

<https://www.geo.tv/shows/report-card/631026-what-options-does-pakistan-have-against-afghanistan>