

CLAWS Newsletter



Pakistan Unveiled | Volume I | Issue No. 02

by Shreeya Shubhi Mohanty

This edition of the Pakistan Newsletter captures a period marked by significant developments across the country's domestic, economic, and external affairs landscape. Domestically, Pakistan continued efforts to address security and governance challenges, particularly in Balochistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, where protests, counterterrorism measures, and political demands remained prominent. Economic indicators presented a mixed picture, with the Economic Survey 2025–26 highlighting growth in the digital economy, telecommunications sector, and information technology exports. Simultaneously, Pakistan advanced the next phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC 2.0), shifting its focus towards industrialisation, technological cooperation, renewable energy, and sustainable development.

In the external domain, relations with neighbouring Afghanistan witnessed renewed tensions following cross-border airstrikes and security incidents, underscoring the fragility of the bilateral security environment. Relations with India remained influenced by the ongoing dispute surrounding the Indus Waters Treaty, which re-emerged as a major point of contention with implications for regional stability. Pakistan also maintained an active diplomatic profile beyond South Asia, facilitating dialogue between the United States and Iran and contributing to efforts aimed at ensuring stability in the Strait of Hormuz. Together, these developments reflect Pakistan's continued efforts to navigate a complex intersection of internal security concerns, economic modernisation initiatives, and evolving regional geopolitical dynamics.

Domestic Developments

20 June (Dawn): Families of Pakistani Sailors Held by Somali Pirates Demand Government Intervention

Families of ten Pakistani sailors being held hostage aboard the oil tanker *MT Honour 25* staged protests in Karachi, calling for greater government efforts to secure their release. The vessel was hijacked by Somali pirates nearly two months earlier, and relatives expressed concern regarding shortages of food, medicine and clean drinking water aboard the ship. Family members reported that several hostages were suffering from deteriorating health conditions. Representatives of Jamaat-e-Islami joined the demonstrations and urged authorities to treat the issue as a national humanitarian concern. The case has drawn attention to the continued threat posed by piracy in parts of the western Indian Ocean.

22 June (Dawn): Balochistan Chief Minister Reiterates Dialogue Offer Amid Counterterrorism Push.

Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti reaffirmed his government's willingness to engage in dialogue with disgruntled political groups, provided they operate within Pakistan's constitutional framework, while ruling out negotiations with militant and anti-state organisations. Addressing the Balochistan Assembly during the provincial budget debate, Bugti stated that the government remained committed to both political engagement and a firm counterterrorism policy. The Chief Minister outlined a dual strategy focused on sustaining security operations against militant groups while simultaneously improving governance and public service delivery. He highlighted progress in the education sector, noting that over 15,000 schools were currently operational following the recruitment of 14,000 teachers, the reopening of more than 3,200 schools, and the enrolment of approximately 720,000 students across the province.

In the health sector, Bugti reported significant improvements in service delivery through the recruitment of more than 2,800 healthcare workers, the promotion of 4,519 doctors, and the restoration of 164 basic health units. He also cited increased availability of medicines and maternal healthcare services, while noting that no polio case had been reported in the province since November 2024. The Chief Minister further announced a series of development initiatives, including plans to upgrade the Quetta People's Train Project into a metro rail

service, expand fibre-optic infrastructure, and launch a scholarship programme for female students. The remarks underscored the provincial government's efforts to combine security measures with socioeconomic development in addressing long-standing challenges in Balochistan.

20–22 June ([Aljazeera](#); [BBC](#); [NDTV](#)): Protests Intensify Across Pakistan-Administered Kashmir

Large demonstrations continued across Rawalakot, Sudhnoti, Tarar Khel and other districts as protesters demanded political reforms, restoration of internet services and the release of detained activists.

The Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), which has been leading the movement, organised rallies involving students, women and community groups. Protesters criticised restrictions imposed by authorities and called for greater political participation and civil liberties.

Reports indicated that internet services remained suspended in several areas, while shortages of essential goods were reported following disruptions to transportation networks. Security forces maintained an increased presence throughout the region.

The movement evolved from a dispute over electoral representation into a broader protest campaign focused on governance, political rights and administrative reforms

22 June ([ANI](#); [NDTV](#)): Pakistan Warns Water Security Could Become a National Security Issue

Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif stated that water security forms an integral component of Pakistan's national security framework and warned that threats to the country's water interests would be taken seriously.

The remarks came amid growing concerns regarding water scarcity, irrigation shortages and the future of the Indus Waters Treaty. Asif linked water security to broader national interests and highlighted the importance of ensuring reliable water supplies for agriculture, industry and domestic consumption.

The comments also coincided with reports of significant water shortages in parts of Sindh and Balochistan, where irrigation systems and agricultural communities have faced increasing challenges due to declining water availability.

The issue has become a prominent topic within Pakistan's strategic and economic discourse given the country's heavy dependence on the Indus River system.

23 June ([Dawn](#); [News18](#)): Joint Awami Action Committee Issues 24-Hour Ultimatum

The Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) issued a 24-hour ultimatum to authorities, demanding acceptance of its charter of 38 demands.

Addressing a large gathering in Rawalakot, JAAC leaders warned that the movement would intensify if the demands were not addressed. Organisers announced plans for a major march towards Muzaffarabad involving tens of thousands of participants should negotiations fail.

Demonstrators continued to call for the restoration of communication services, release of detained activists and implementation of political reforms. Authorities maintained heightened security measures across the region amid concerns regarding further unrest. The ultimatum represented a significant escalation in the ongoing protest movement.

22 June ([NewsonAir](#); [National Herald](#)): Death Toll in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Clashes Rises to 124

Authorities reported that the death toll from ongoing tribal clashes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had risen to 124, highlighting persistent security and governance challenges in Pakistan's northwestern region. The clashes involved rival tribal groups and resulted in significant casualties, displacement and disruption to local communities. Provincial authorities and security forces continued efforts to restore stability and prevent further violence. The incident underscores the continuing complexity of internal security management in areas where tribal disputes, local grievances and governance challenges intersect.

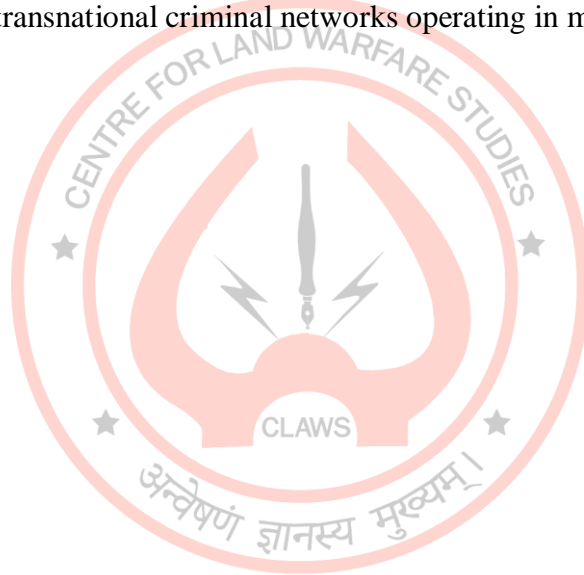
23 June ([Dawn](#)): Security Forces Seize \$215 Million Worth of Narcotics Near Gwadar Coast

Pakistani maritime security agencies announced the seizure of approximately two tonnes of narcotics during a joint operation near the Gwadar coastline.

The operation involved the Pakistan Navy, Pakistan Coast Guards and the Joint Maritime Information Coordination Centre. Authorities recovered approximately 1,500 kilograms of hashish and 500 kilograms of methamphetamine, with an estimated international market value of around \$215 million.

Officials stated that the narcotics were being transported through the Arabian Sea towards international destinations. The seized consignment was transferred to the Pakistan Coast Guards for further legal proceedings and investigation.

The operation reflects continuing efforts by Pakistani authorities to combat narcotics trafficking and disrupt transnational criminal networks operating in maritime domains.



External Affairs

10 June ([BBC](#)): **Pakistan Launches Airstrikes in Afghanistan, Reigniting Border Tensions**

Pakistan carried out a series of airstrikes in Afghanistan's eastern provinces of Khost, Kunar and Paktika, targeting what it described as militant hideouts, training centres and ammunition depots linked to groups responsible for attacks inside Pakistan. According to Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, the operation was launched in response to recent terrorist incidents, including an attack on Pakistani security personnel near Peshawar.

Islamabad stated that 26 militants were killed during the strikes and maintained that the operation targeted infrastructure used by anti-Pakistan militant organisations operating across the border. Pakistani authorities reiterated concerns that militant groups continue to exploit Afghan territory to plan and launch attacks against Pakistan.

The Taliban administration strongly condemned the operation, describing it as a violation of Afghan sovereignty. Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid stated that 13 civilians, including 11 children, one woman and one elderly man, were killed. Afghan authorities also reported multiple injuries among women and children.

The strikes marked one of the most serious escalations between Afghanistan and Pakistan in 2026 and highlighted the continuing security challenges along the Durand Line despite periodic diplomatic engagement between Kabul and Islamabad.

11 June ([Associated Press](#); [Pajhwok Afghan News](#)): **United Nations Confirms Civilian Casualties from Pakistani Airstrikes**

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) confirmed that Pakistani airstrikes conducted on 10 June resulted in the deaths of 13 civilians and injuries to at least 10 others, most of whom were women and children.

UNAMA stated that its assessment corroborated casualty figures released by Afghan authorities. The confirmation intensified international attention on the incident and renewed concerns regarding the humanitarian impact of cross-border military operations in populated border regions.

Pakistan maintained that the operation targeted militant infrastructure and was undertaken as part of efforts to counter terrorist threats emanating from Afghan territory. Afghan officials, however, condemned the strikes and accused Islamabad of violating international norms and Afghan sovereignty.

The incident disrupted a period of relative calm in bilateral relations and renewed concerns regarding the potential for further military confrontation between the two neighbouring states.

20 June ([Arab News Pakistan](#)): Pakistan Highlights Diplomatic Role in US-Iran Negotiations

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar stated that Pakistan played an active diplomatic role in facilitating recent negotiations between the United States and Iran held in Switzerland.

According to Pakistani officials, discussions conducted under the framework of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding established a roadmap aimed at reaching a broader agreement within a 60-day period. Islamabad also indicated that one of the outcomes of the talks was an understanding supporting uninterrupted commercial navigation through the Strait of Hormuz during the negotiation phase.

Dar stated that Pakistan remained in contact with regional and international stakeholders throughout the crisis and worked closely with Qatar in encouraging dialogue between Washington and Tehran. He further noted that Pakistan maintained extensive diplomatic outreach during the period of heightened tensions.

The development was presented by Islamabad as evidence of its growing diplomatic engagement in regional conflict management and its support for dialogue-based approaches to international disputes.

22 June ([CNBC](#)): Indus Waters Treaty Emerges as a New India-Pakistan Flashpoint

Tensions surrounding the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty intensified as Pakistan and India continued to exchange statements regarding the future of the agreement.

Indian officials reiterated that the treaty would remain suspended until Pakistan takes meaningful action against cross-border terrorism. New Delhi also signalled its intention to maximise utilisation of water resources allocated to India under the treaty framework.

Pakistan expressed concern regarding the implications of any disruption to existing water-sharing arrangements. The Indus Basin remains critical to Pakistan's agriculture, hydroelectric generation and water security, supporting a substantial proportion of the country's population and economic activity.

The dispute has elevated water management and resource security as major issues in bilateral relations and generated increased debate regarding long-term water sustainability across South Asia.



Economy and Development

03 June ([Express Tribune](#)): **CPEC 2.0 Shifts Focus On Industrialisation and Green Energy**

Pakistan and China signalled a transition from infrastructure-led development to a new phase of cooperation under CPEC 2.0, centred on industrialisation, technological advancement, renewable energy, and sustainable economic growth. Officials highlighted the role of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), industrial relocation, agricultural modernisation, information technology, and business-to-business partnerships in driving future cooperation.

Green development has emerged as a key pillar of the initiative, with Pakistan seeking to leverage Chinese expertise in renewable energy, electric mobility, and green manufacturing. The programme aims to accelerate the development of solar and wind energy projects, particularly in Sindh and Balochistan, strengthen energy infrastructure, and reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels.

12 June ([Dawn](#)): **Economic Survey 2025–26 Highlights Growth in Pakistan's Digital Economy**

Pakistan's Economic Survey 2025–26 reported strong growth in the IT and telecommunications sector. A \$509.6 million 5G spectrum auction, rising broadband penetration to 64.2 per cent, and telecom revenues of Rs837 billion underscored the sector's expansion. Mobile services now cover 92 per cent of the population, while total telecom subscriptions exceeded 207 million.

The survey also highlighted a 19 per cent increase in ICT export remittances, reaching \$3.38 billion, alongside the domestic production of 161.6 million mobile handsets, including 67 million smartphones. Pakistan further approved Wi-Fi 7 technology and announced initiatives in semiconductor training and digital infrastructure development, reflecting efforts to strengthen its position in the global digital economy.

About the Author

Shreeya Shubhi Mohanty is a Research Assistant at the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) with a focus on strategic and security issues concerning Afghanistan and Pakistan.

She completed her B.A. (Hons.) in English from St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi and has a M.A. in International Studies from Christ University, Bengaluru.

Experienced in event management for national and international events, with professional expertise as a Communication Consultant at Synodical Board of Social Services. She is also a Certified Youth Resource Trainer with Local Capacities for Peace, with a strong background in communication, training, and organizational coordination.

All Rights Reserved 2026 Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS)



No part of this publication may be reproduced, copied, archived, retained or transmitted through print, speech or electronic media without prior written approval from CLAWS. The views expressed and suggestions made in the article are solely of the author in his personal capacity and do not have any official endorsement. Attributability of the contents lies purely with author.