

AFGHANISTAN WEEKLY

21 June – 28 June 2026

POLITICS · ECONOMY · FOREIGN AFFAIRS · INTERNAL SECURITY · DEFENCE · HEALTH · EDUCATION · SOCIETY

POLITICS · ECONOMY · FOREIGN AFFAIRS · INTERNAL SECURITY | 21–28 JUNE 2026

POLITICS

- Taliban leadership continues to defend the Herat crackdown, citing Akhundzada's Sharia-governance directive even as UNAMA's mandate renewal (15 Jun, Resolution 2822) keeps rights concerns in focus through the week
- Herat governor Noor Ahmad Islamjar continues defending women's detentions as enforcement of religious obligation; further detentions reported alongside new beard-growth orders for male aid workers
- Taliban deputy spokesman Hamdullah Fitrat becomes the face of the regime's response to the 28–29 Jun Pakistani strikes, accusing Islamabad of a 'cowardly act of aggression'
- Senior Taliban official Farahi vows retaliation against Pakistan, signalling a harder political line as cross-border tensions peak at week's end

ECONOMY

- USD/AFN remains volatile, easing to a 30-day low near 63.76 mid-week before climbing back toward 64.5–64.7 by 28 Jun amid renewed Pak-Afghan border tensions
- Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) holds its benchmark lending rate steady through the week, prioritising currency stability over rate moves
- Afghanistan has no formal stock exchange; informal Sarai Shahzada currency-market activity remains the key barometer of economic sentiment
- UNDP reports nearly 5 million returnees since 2023 are straining the import-dependent economy, with 92% of recent returnees unable to secure basic necessities

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- UNAMA's mandate is renewed for one year to 17 Jun 2027 under Resolution 2822; the resolution's human-rights and central-bank-asset provisions continue to frame diplomacy this week
- Pakistan and Afghanistan summon each other's top diplomats on 29 Jun to protest the Karachi attack and retaliatory border strikes respectively
- China reiterates calls for 'calm and restraint' from both Kabul and Islamabad as the penholder of UNAMA's renewed mandate
- India rejects Pakistani allegations linking it to the 27 Jun Karachi Rangers attack, urging Islamabad to focus on its own counter-terrorism efforts

INTERNAL SECURITY

- Pakistan conducts a ground operation and air strikes on 28–29 Jun in Paktia, Paktika and Kunar after the 27 Jun Karachi Rangers HQ attack claimed by Jamaat-ul-Ahrar
- Taliban officials report 36 civilians killed and over 160 wounded in the strikes, including a second strike on villagers who had gathered to help victims in Chamkani district
- Pakistan says the operation killed 25–29 militants linked to Jamaat-ul-Ahrar and Fitna al-Khwarij, destroying weapons and ammunition stockpiles
- Herat remains under heightened security presence for a third consecutive week as morality-police enforcement and detentions of women continue

DEFENCE

- Pakistani strikes hit three locations in Paktia, Paktika and Kunar overnight 28-29 Jun, marking the most intense cross-border escalation since the prior round of strikes weeks earlier
- Taliban forces remain on high alert along the Durand Line through the week pending the outcome of informal mediation contacts
- Senior Taliban figures signal that retaliation against Pakistan will follow at 'the right time', raising the risk of renewed cross-border clashes
- Russia-Taliban defence cooperation, following Defence Minister Yaqoob's Moscow visit, continues to be cited by analysts as the Taliban diversifies external security partnerships

HEALTH

- UN/OCHA warns Afghanistan's humanitarian crisis is deepening, with the \$1.7bn 2026 appeal only 14% funded and aid reaching just 5.9 million people from January-April
- An estimated 3.7 million children face acute malnutrition in 2026, with cases in remote 'ghost villages' frequently going unrecognised until critical
- Returnee health crisis persists: roughly 8,000 people returned to Afghanistan in the week to 20 Jun alone, most with no prior ties to the country
- Strikes in Paktia, Paktika and Kunar add a fresh wave of trauma casualties (160+ wounded) to an already strained rural healthcare system

EDUCATION

- The secondary and higher-education ban on girls remains in force, with UNAMA's ~250,000-additional-girls-excluded-per-year figure continuing to anchor advocacy
- UNICEF's Innocenti analysis continues to be cited this week, estimating the girls'-education ban costs Afghanistan roughly 2.5% of GDP annually
- Large numbers of school-aged children among returning families continue to strain an already under-resourced education system in border provinces
- Drought and water-access strain in rural provinces continue to compound education disruption alongside the broader humanitarian funding shortfall

SOCIETY

- Herat women's-rights crisis persists into a third week, with fresh detentions and a new beard-growth directive for male aid workers and male guardians of female staff
- UNAMA's renewed mandate keeps international attention on accountability for the use of force against Herat protesters and continued detentions
- Civilian casualties from the 28-29 Jun Pakistani strikes (36 dead, 160+ wounded per Taliban figures) draw widespread domestic and diaspora condemnation
- UN Women highlights mounting hardship for returnee women, who make up roughly a third of returns from Iran and half from Pakistan this year

Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan | 21–28 JUNE 2026 | News Index (1/2)

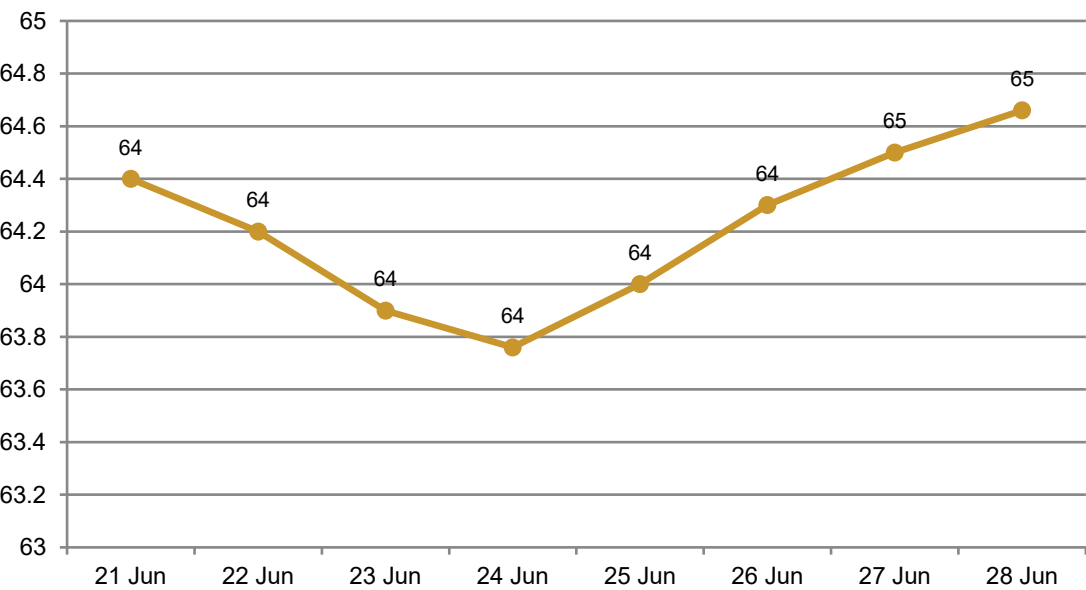
No.	Date	News Headline	Sector	Source
1	21 Jun	Taliban officials continue defending Herat women's detentions as enforcement of religious dress obligations amid international criticism	Politics	Amu TV
2	22 Jun	OCHA warns Afghanistan's \$1.7bn 2026 humanitarian appeal is only 14% funded as drought and malnutrition deepen the crisis	Health	UN News
3	23 Jun	UNHCR reports roughly 8,000 Afghans returned in the week to 20 June, most with no prior ties to the country and few prospects on arrival	Society	UN News
4	24 Jun	Da Afghanistan Bank exchange-rate data shows USD/AFN easing toward a 30-day low near 63.76 amid relative calm before the weekend escalation	Economy	Da Afghanistan Bank
5	25 Jun	UN Women highlights mounting hardship for returnee women, who comprise about a third of 2026 returns from Iran and half from Pakistan	Society	UN Women
6	26 Jun	Herat authorities reportedly order male aid workers and male guardians of female staff to grow beards within a month or face detention	Internal Security	Amu TV
7	27 Jun	Jamaat-ul-Ahrar claims attack on Sindh Rangers headquarters in Karachi, killing 3 paramilitary personnel and setting off cross-border tensions	Foreign Affairs	Al Jazeera

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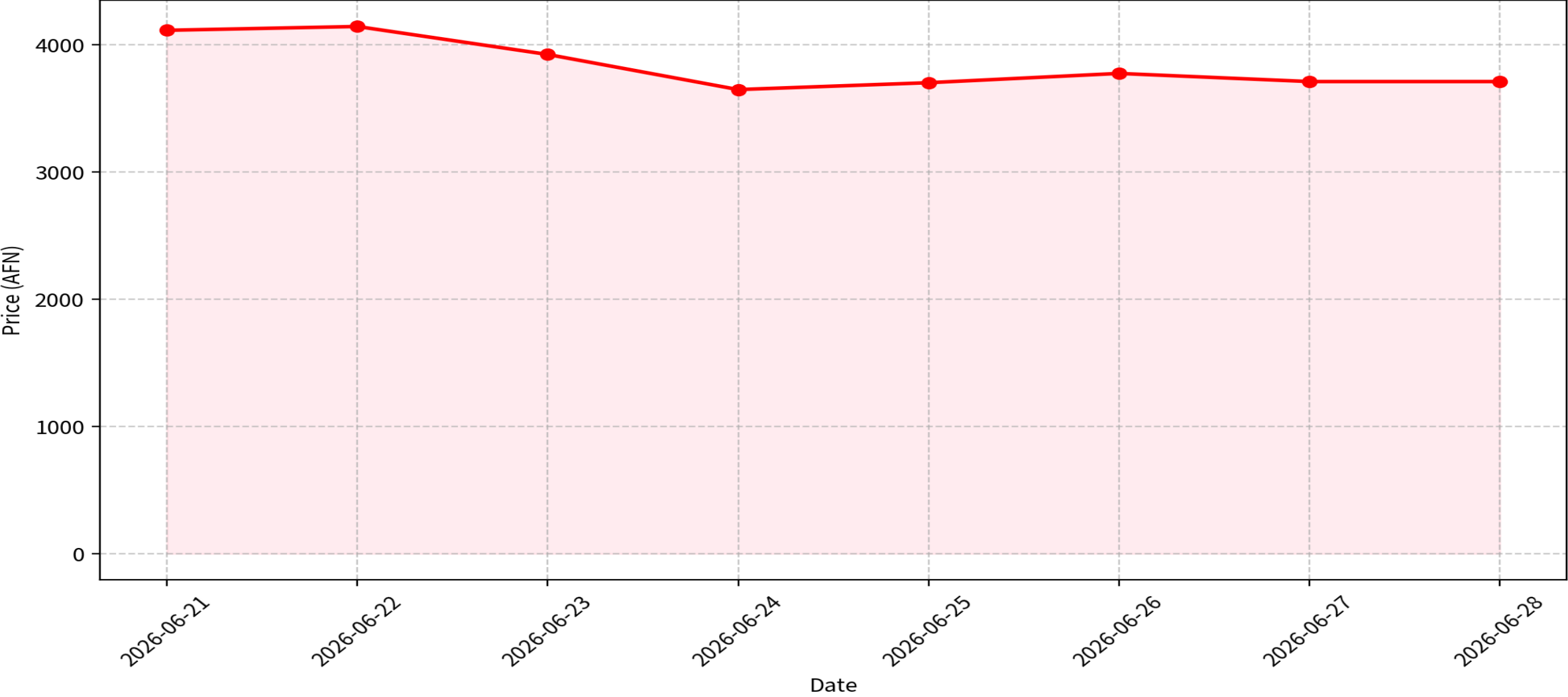
No.	Date	News Headline	Sector	Source
8	28 Jun	Pakistan launches ground operation and air strikes on Paktia, Paktika and Kunar overnight, saying it killed 25-29 militants linked to Jamaat-ul-Ahrar	Defence	CBS News
9	28 Jun	Taliban deputy spokesman Hamdullah Fitrat says Pakistani strikes killed 36 civilians and wounded over 160 across Paktia, Paktika and Kunar provinces	Internal Security	NPR
10	28 Jun	A second strike hits villagers gathered to rescue victims in Chamkani district, Paktia, killing 28 and wounding 158 according to Taliban officials	Defence	Washington Times
11	28 Jun	Six people, mostly women and children, killed in a separate strike on a home in Giyan district, Paktika province, Taliban officials say	Internal Security	ABC News
12	28 Jun	Senior Taliban official Farahi vows the Pakistani strikes 'will definitely be retaliated against,' signalling a harder line as tensions peak	Politics	Washington Times
13	28 Jun	Afghanistan and Pakistan summon each other's top diplomats to protest the Karachi attack and the retaliatory cross-border strikes	Foreign Affairs	NPR
14	28 Jun	India rejects Pakistani allegations linking it to the Karachi Rangers attack, urging Islamabad to address terrorism on its own territory	Foreign Affairs	NPR

ECONOMIC INDICATORS | Week of 21–28 June 2026 | Afghanistan

USD / Afghan Afghani (AFN) Exchange Rate



AFG Silver Price per Ounce (21 - 28 June 2026)



AFG Gold Price per Ounce (21 - 28 June 2026)

