

AFGHANISTAN WEEKLY

29 June – 5 July 2026

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

POLITICS

- Taliban deputy spokesman Hamdullah Fitrat and senior official Farahi keep up sharp rhetoric against Pakistan through the week, with Farahi's 28 Jun vow that strikes 'will definitely be retaliated against' shaping the political tone into July.
- Kabul's defence ministry publicly claims its air force struck alleged ISIL (ISIS-K) 'centres' in Pakistan's Pishin district and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on 1 Jul, marking a rare acknowledged offensive move against Pakistani territory.
- Herat governor Noor Ahmad Islamjar's administration continues defending women's detentions and the beard-growth directive for male aid workers as the crackdown enters a fourth consecutive week.
- Analysts (ICG's Ibraheem Bahiss) publicly question Islamabad's core assumption that pressuring the Taliban will reduce TTP violence, a debate that colours

Kabul's political messaging this week.

ECONOMY

- USD/AFN swings sharply with the conflict: the rate touched a 30-day high near 64.88 on 1 Jul before easing back toward 64.0 by 5-6 Jul as diplomatic contacts resumed.
- Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) holds its benchmark lending rate unchanged again this week, continuing to prioritise currency stability over active rate moves amid the border crisis.
- Afghanistan remains without a formal stock exchange; informal Sarai Shahzada currency-market trading continues as the primary barometer of economic sentiment.
- UNHCR's weekly returnee dashboard (published 5 Jul) shows continued large-scale forced and voluntary returns from Pakistan, adding fresh strain to an import-dependent economy already absorbing millions of returnees since 2023.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- Pakistan and Afghanistan trade escalatory actions: after Pakistan's 28-29 Jun strikes in Paktia, Paktika and Kunar, the Taliban's air force says it hit alleged ISIL sites in Pakistan's Pishin district on 1 Jul; Pakistan says it downed four Afghan drones over Balochistan the same day.
- China, holding the UNAMA-mandate penholder role, continues pressing both Kabul and Islamabad for 'calm and restraint' and is reported to be trying to arrange a second round of talks between the two sides.
- Turkey, Qatar and Saudi Arabia reportedly urge Pakistan to de-escalate and pause operations, continuing mediation efforts that began after the October 2025 ceasefire.
- India again rejects Pakistani allegations tying it to the Karachi Rangers attack, reiterating that Islamabad should focus on its own counter-terrorism shortfalls.

INTERNAL SECURITY

- Fallout from the 28-29 Jun Pakistani strikes in Paktia, Paktika and Kunar dominates the week, with Taliban officials maintaining their toll of 36 civilians killed and over 160 wounded.
- Pakistan's military reports shooting down four Taliban-launched drones over Balochistan on 1 Jul, hours after Kabul claimed retaliatory air strikes on alleged ISIL-K sites in Pishin district.
- Herat remains under heightened security presence for a fourth consecutive week, with continued morality-police enforcement and detentions of women.
- Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies data cited this week shows 699 'terrorist' attacks recorded across Pakistan in 2025, framing Islamabad's continued cross-border pressure on Kabul.

DEFENCE · HEALTH · EDUCATION · SOCIETY

29 JUNE – 5 JULY 2026

DEFENCE

- Cross-border escalation continues: Pakistan's ISPR says it neutralised four Afghan Taliban drones launched into Balochistan on 1 Jul, calling it part of the Taliban's 'patronisation and support of terrorist outfits'.
- Afghanistan's defence ministry says its air force struck a centre in Pishin district allegedly used to plan 'subversive activities and attacks in Afghanistan', its most overt claimed strike inside Pakistani territory this year.
- Taliban forces remain on high alert along the Durand Line through the week pending the outcome of Chinese-brokered informal mediation contacts.
- Analysts note the tit-for-tat pattern mirrors the October 2025 and February 2026 escalations, with a fragile Qatar-mediated ceasefire framework still unresolved.

HEALTH

- UN OCHA's humanitarian appeal for Afghanistan remains critically underfunded, continuing to anchor advocacy on the deepening 2026 aid shortfall (previously reported at only ~14% funded).
- An estimated 3.7 million children face acute malnutrition in 2026, with UN agencies warning cases in remote areas frequently go unrecognised until critical.
- Trauma casualties from the 28-29 Jun Pakistani strikes (160+ wounded per Taliban figures) continue straining an already under-resourced rural healthcare system into the new week.
- UNHCR's weekly returnee dashboards (28 Jun and 5 Jul) show sustained forced-return flows from Pakistan, adding further pressure on stretched health services at border crossings.

EDUCATION

- The Taliban's secondary and higher-education ban on girls remains in force, with UNAMA's estimate of roughly 250,000 additional girls excluded from school each year continuing to anchor international advocacy.
- UNICEF Innocenti's costing analysis, estimating the girls'-education ban costs Afghanistan close to 2.5% of GDP annually, continues to be cited by rights groups and donors this week.
- Large numbers of school-aged children among returning families continue to strain an already under-resourced education system in border provinces receiving returnees from Pakistan.
- The Special Rapporteur's warnings on the ban on women's medical education continue to reverberate, with rights groups flagging its long-term impact on the health workforce.

SOCIETY

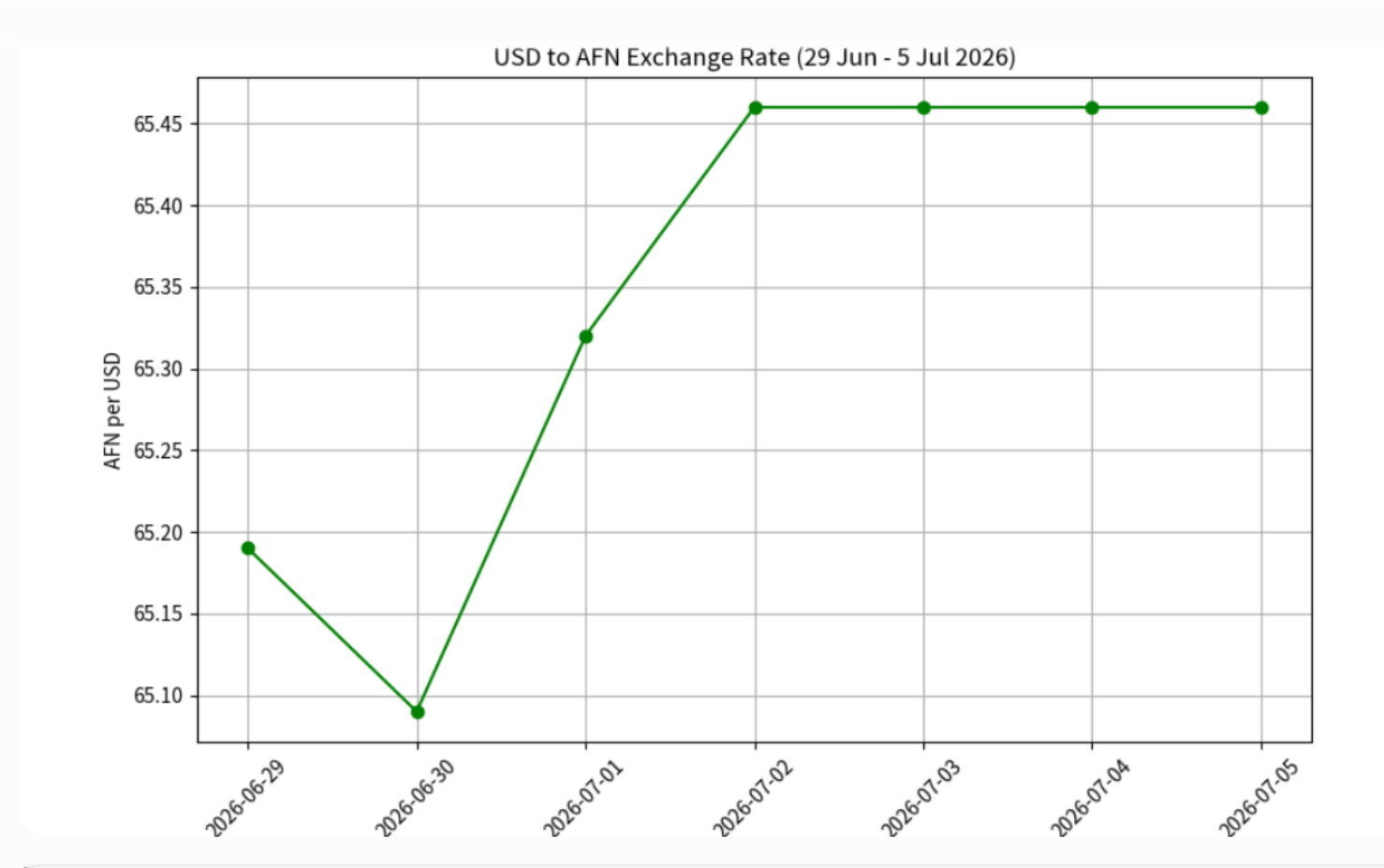
- Herat's women's-rights crisis persists into a fourth week, with continued detentions and enforcement of the beard-growth directive for male aid workers and guardians of female staff.
- Civilian casualties from the 28-29 Jun Pakistani strikes (36 dead, 160+ wounded per Taliban figures) continue to draw domestic and diaspora condemnation into the new week.
- UNHCR's 5 Jul weekly dashboard highlights continued hardship for returnee women and families crossing from Pakistan, with limited services available on arrival.
- Civil-society and rights groups (Amnesty, HRW) continue calling for accountability over the use of force against Herat protesters amid the ongoing crackdown.

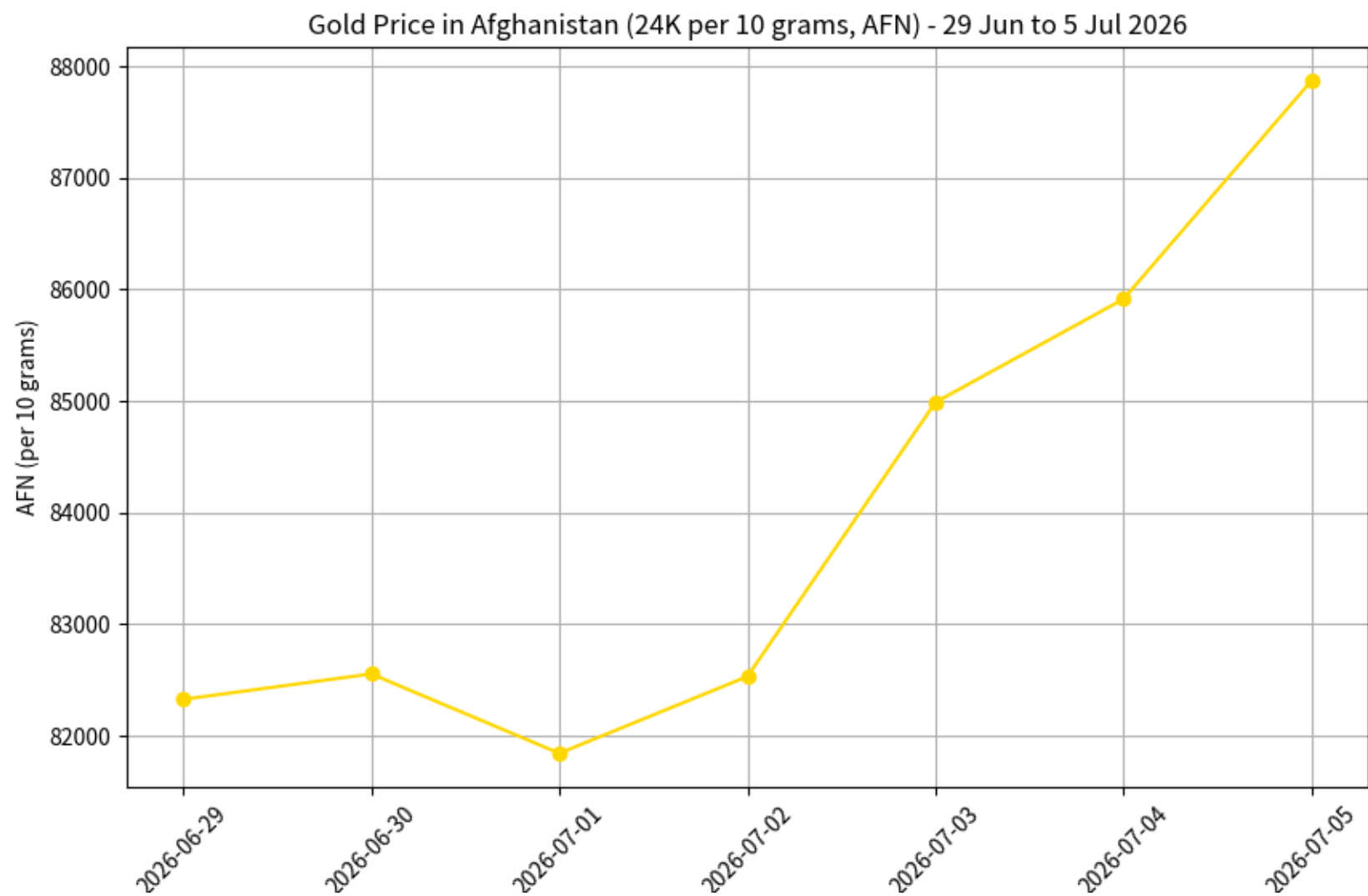
No.	Date	News Headline	Sector	Source
1	29 Jun	Pakistan launches ground operation and air strikes on Paktia, Paktika and Kunar, saying it killed 25-29 militants linked to Jamaat-ul-Ahrar	Defence	Al Jazeera
2	29 Jun	Pakistan says its security forces killed 29 fighters along Afghan border after Karachi Rangers HQ attack	Internal Security	Al Jazeera
3	29 Jun	Pakistan says it carried out ground operation and strikes along Afghan border, killing 29 militants	Defence	PBS News
4	29 Jun	Analysis: why Pakistan's Afghan air strikes aren't stopping armed attacks inside Pakistan	Foreign Affairs	Al Jazeera
5	1 Jul	Afghanistan fires drones into Pakistan's Balochistan; Islamabad says it downed four, escalating tensions further	Defence	Al Jazeera
6	1 Jul	Afghan defence ministry says its air force struck alleged ISIL 'centres' in Pakistan's Pishin district and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Foreign Affairs	Al Jazeera
7	1 Jul	USD/AFN touches a 30-day high near 64.88 as cross-border tensions peak before easing back	Economy	Wise / Trading Economics

No.	Date	News Headline	Sector	Source
8	2 Jul	China presses Kabul and Islamabad for calm as it seeks to arrange a second round of mediation talks	Foreign Affairs	Al Jazeera
9	3 Jul	Turkey, Qatar and Saudi Arabia reportedly urge Pakistan to de-escalate and pause cross-border operations	Foreign Affairs	Al Jazeera
10	4 Jul	Da Afghanistan Bank publishes updated exchange-rate data as USD/AFN eases back toward the mid-64 range	Economy	Da Afghanistan Bank
11	5 Jul	UNHCR's weekly dashboard tracks continued forced and voluntary Afghan returns from Pakistan	Society	UNHCR Data Portal
12	5 Jul	USD/AFN settles near 64.0 as diplomatic contacts resume and border tensions ease slightly into the weekend	Economy	AlanChand / Forbes Advisor
13	5 Jul	Herat crackdown enters fourth week as detentions of women and beard-growth enforcement continue	Internal Security	Amu TV
14	5 Jul	Rights groups renew calls for accountability over Herat crackdown as UNAMA's mandate keeps rights concerns in focus	Society	OHCHR

ECONOMIC INDICATORS | Week of 29 June – 5 July 2026 | Afghanistan

USD / Afghan Afghani (AFN) Exchange Rate





Silver Price in Afghanistan (per 10 grams, AFN) - 29 Jun to 5 Jul 2026

