



PAKISTAN WEEKLY

15 June – 21 June 2026

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

By Sakshi Singh



WEEKLY OVERVIEW | POLITICS · ECONOMY · FOREIGN AFFAIRS · INTERNAL SECURITY

POLITICS

- POKcrisis enters third week; death toll climbs to 22+ (incl. 4 law enforcement) as food and medicine shortages grip Rawalakot and Muzaffarabad amid prolonged internet blackout
- Defence Minister Khawaja Asif tells National Assembly POK residents should decide fate of 12 refugee assembly seats at the heart of the dispute
- Bilawal Bhutto renews calls for dialogue over confrontation, warning continued unrest is 'damaging the Kashmir cause and Pakistan's image'
- FY2026-27 federal budget process moves toward passage in National Assembly amid continued PTI walkouts and opposition protests

ECONOMY

- KSE-100 builds on budget-day rally, breaching 180,000 for the first time since February on Tue (180,393) and closing at a fresh high of 181,398 on Thu, +3.8% WoW
- SBP's Monetary Policy Committee keeps the policy rate unchanged at 11.5%, citing persistent inflationary pressure despite the equity rally
- Friday (Jun 19) sell-off erases nearly 2,500 points intraday after the planned Geneva signing session is reported postponed, before paring losses to settle near 178,920
- USD/PKR holds steady in the 278.2–278.5 band for the week; IMF EFF staff-level review continues alongside \$41bn remittance projection for FY26

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- US and Iranian presidents reported to have signed a peace framework on Jun 17; a planned formal Geneva ceremony is thrown into doubt after Tehran calls it 'unnecessary', unsettling markets
- Field Marshal Asim Munir continues to be credited internationally as a key mediator in the US–Iran de-escalation track
- Pakistani and Afghan Taliban delegations continue China-brokered talks in Urumqi aimed at stabilising the Durand Line
- Strait of Hormuz transit and reopening negotiations remain a live backdrop to regional diplomacy, with Pakistan voicing support for de-escalation

INTERNAL SECURITY

- POKcrackdown continues: NetBlocks confirms internet remains severely restricted for a third week; Amnesty International calls the JAAC ban 'unlawful and disproportionate'
- Balochistan remains volatile with continuing BLA-linked activity in Mastung, Khuzdar and Kech districts despite recent security force operations
- CTD and police continue intelligence-based operations against TTP cells in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, building on the prior week's North Waziristan sweep
- Authorities block CNICs and passports of dozens of proscribed JAAC organisers as a Rs10m bounty remains active for top leadership

WEEKLY OVERVIEW | DEFENCE · HEALTH · EDUCATION · SOCIETY

DEFENCE

- Cross-border friction persists on the Durand Line; Taliban claims capture of a Pakistani border post near Khost sector even as Urumqi talks continue in parallel
- Field Marshal Munir's diplomatic profile rises further on the back of the US-Iran mediation track, reinforcing the military's outsized foreign-policy role
- Pakistan Navy maintains elevated readiness posture in the Arabian Sea pending clarity on Strait of Hormuz transit arrangements
- Operation Azm-e-Istehkam continues in KP with further intelligence-based operations against TTP cells building on the prior week's gains

HEALTH

- NDMA's early-onset monsoon warning materialises with the first spells of heavy rain reported in southern Punjab and upper Sindh
- Karachi's pre-monsoon heat emergency persists; Edhi Foundation continues treating heatstroke cases as temperatures stay near 44°C
- WHO Pakistan's dengue early-warning for Lahore is reinforced by Punjab Health Department's continuing emergency fumigation drive
- Polio Phase III mopping-up campaign continues in KP following the prior week's new WPV1 detections

EDUCATION

- POKschool closures extend into a third week as the JAAC standoff and internet shutdown continue to disrupt roughly 200,000 students in Poonch district
- Criticism of the FY27 education allocation (Rs196bn) continues, with commentators reiterating it falls well short of the UNESCO-recommended 4% of GDP
- HEC's National Digital University initiative continues its rollout, with further onboarding reported in remote districts of KP and Balochistan
- UNICEF's 22.8 million out-of-school children estimate continues to frame budget and provincial policy debate, with Balochistan still worst-performing

SOCIETY

- POKrights crisis deepens: residents report acute food and medicine shortages amid the prolonged blackout; rights groups press for an independent probe
- Overseas Kashmiri diaspora activism continues in the UK, with more than 50 British parliamentarians having written to authorities over the AJK crackdown
- Displacement linked to Balochistan's security operations remains a live concern for humanitarian agencies tracking the IDP caseload from recent weeks
- FY27 BISP expansion (Rs50bn, 9 million households) continues to draw scrutiny from critics who note real wages remain below 2021 levels



NEWS HEADLINES | 15–21 JUNE 2026 (1/2)

No.	Date	Sector	News Headline	Source
1	15 Jun	Internal Security	AJK standoff enters third week as residents in Rawalakot and Muzaffarabad report acute food and medicine shortages amid prolonged internet blackout	<i>The News</i>
2	15 Jun	Politics	Defence Minister Khawaja Asif tells National Assembly AJK residents should decide fate of 12 contested refugee assembly seats	<i>Pakistan Today</i>
3	16 Jun	Defence	Pakistani and Afghan Taliban delegations continue China-brokered Durand Line stabilisation talks in Urumqi	<i>RNA</i>
4	16 Jun	Economy	PSX extends recovery rally as KSE-100 climbs toward the 180,000 level on improving regional sentiment ahead of expected Geneva signing	<i>Trading Economics</i>
5	17 Jun	Economy	KSE-100 surges past 180,000 for first time since February, settling at 180,393 after SBP keeps policy rate unchanged at 11.5%	<i>Dawn</i>
6	17 Jun	Foreign Affairs	US and Iranian presidents reported to sign peace framework; formal Geneva ceremony planned for the coming days	<i>Pakistan Today</i>
7	18 Jun	Internal Security	AJK death toll rises to 22 as two more fatalities confirmed in Rawalakot; Amnesty International renews call for independent probe	<i>The News</i>
8	18 Jun	Economy	KSE-100 closes at a fresh high of 181,398, up 3.8% week-on-week, as investor optimism builds around US-Iran de-escalation	<i>Business Recorder</i>
9	18 Jun	Education	AJK school closures extend into third week, leaving an estimated 200,000 students in Poonch district without classes	<i>UN News</i>
10	19 Jun	Economy	PSX sheds nearly 2,500 points intraday after planned Geneva signing session is reported postponed; index pares losses to settle near 178,920	<i>Pakistan Today / Business Recorder</i>

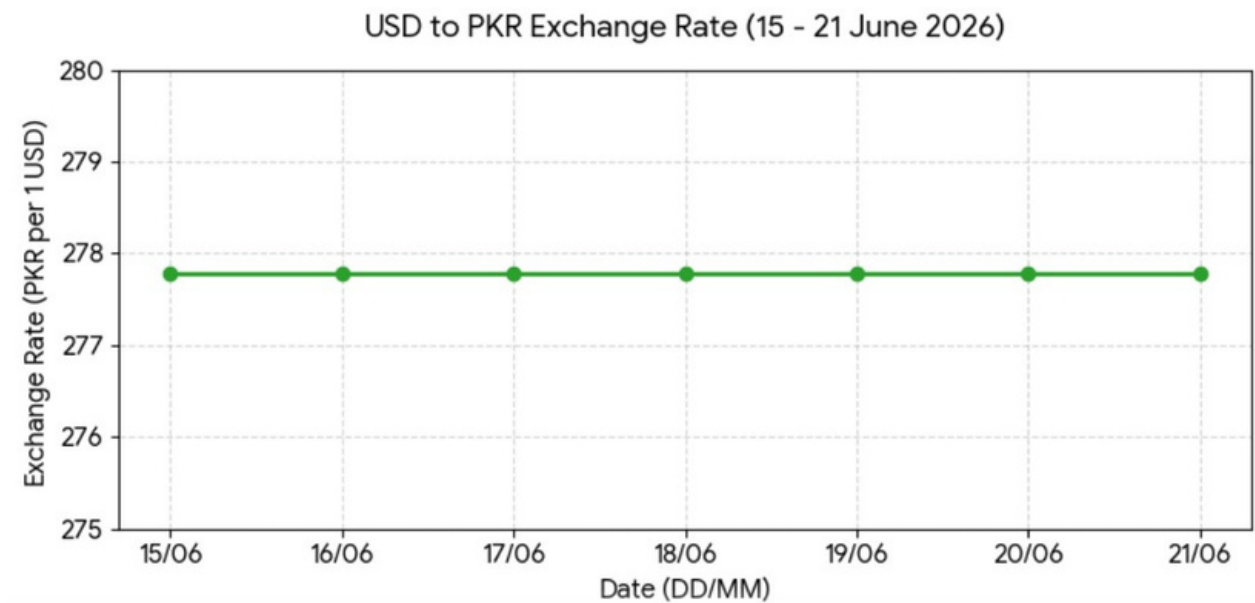


NEWS HEADLINES | 15–21 JUNE 2026 (2/2)

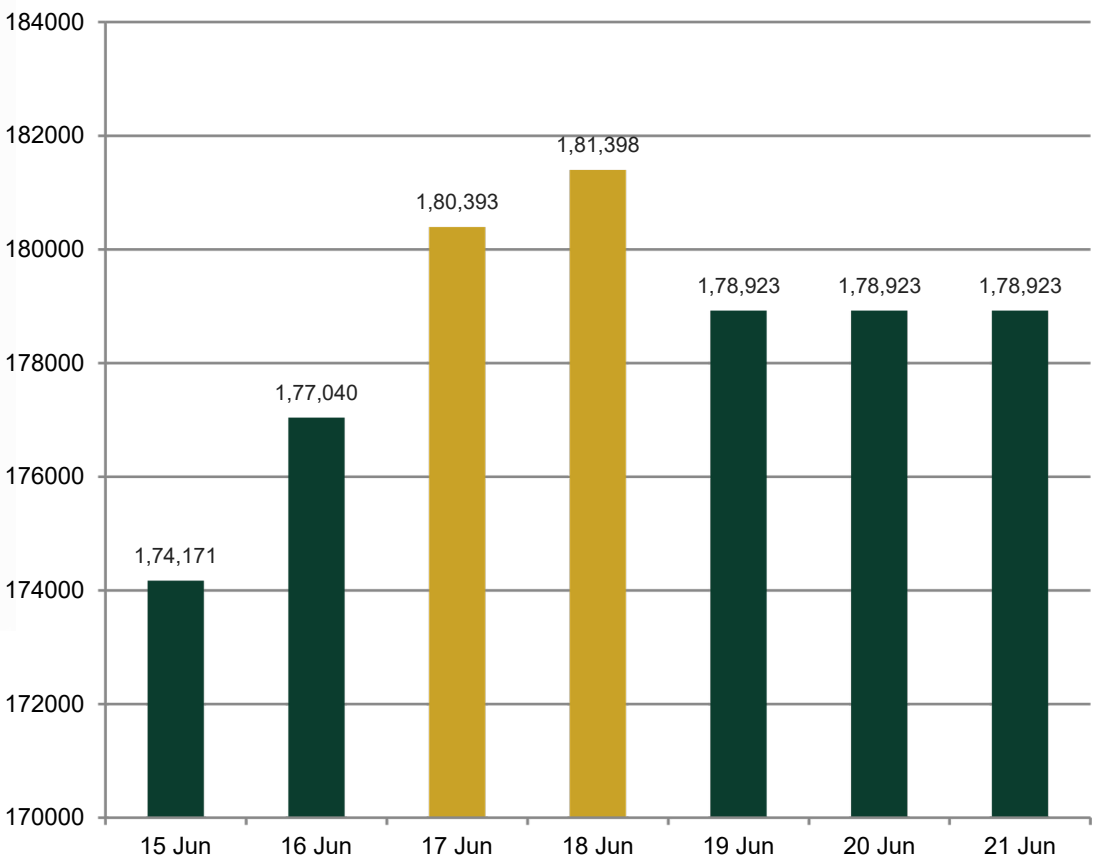
No.	Date	Sector	News Headline	Source
11	19 Jun	Foreign Affairs	Iran's foreign ministry casts doubt on need for formal Geneva ceremony, saying the agreement was already signed by both presidents	<i>Business Recorder</i>
12	19 Jun	Defence	Taliban officials claim capture of a Pakistani border post near the Khost sector amid continuing Durand Line friction	<i>RNA</i>
13	19 Jun	Health	NDMA's early monsoon warning materialises as first heavy rain spells hit southern Punjab and upper Sindh	<i>Dawn</i>
14	19 Jun	Internal Security	Balochistan security operations continue in Mastung, Khuzdar and Kech districts amid sustained BLA-linked activity	<i>Wikipedia / Security Desk</i>
15	20 Jun	Politics	Bilawal Bhutto renews calls for dialogue over confrontation in AJK, warning unrest is damaging Pakistan's Kashmir narrative	<i>Pakistan Today</i>
16	20 Jun	Society	More than 50 British parliamentarians have written to UK authorities over the AJK internet blackout and crackdown	<i>Al Jazeera</i>
17	20 Jun	Health	Dengue early-warning surge in Lahore prompts continuing Punjab Health Department fumigation drive ahead of peak monsoon	<i>WHO Pakistan</i>
18	21 Jun	Foreign Affairs	Pakistan reiterates support for Strait of Hormuz reopening negotiations as regional diplomacy continues alongside the US-Iran track	<i>CNN</i>
19	21 Jun	Education	Criticism continues of FY27 education allocation as commentators reiterate it falls short of UNESCO's 4%-of-GDP benchmark	<i>Dawn</i>
20	21 Jun	Society	Rights groups press for independent investigation into AJK clashes as authorities maintain CNIC and passport blocks on JAAC organisers	<i>Tribune</i>



USD / PKR Exchange Rate (Jun 15–21, 2026)



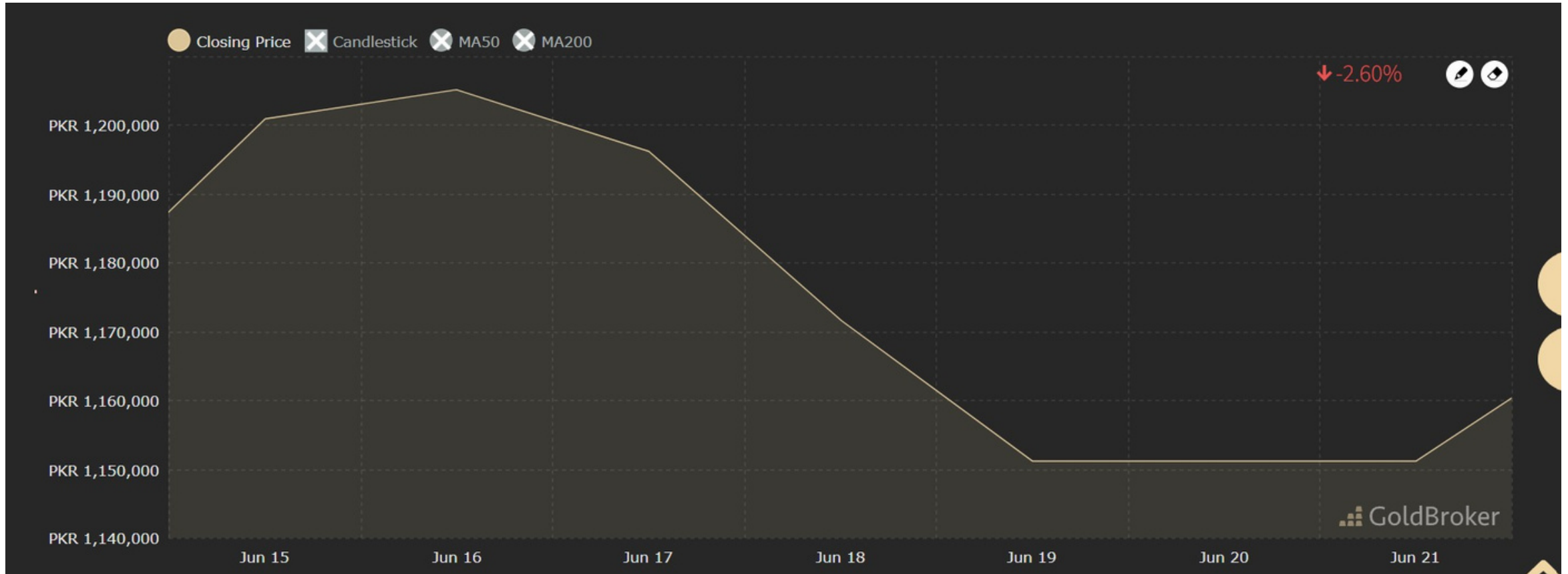
KSE-100 Index (Jun 15–21, 2026)





ECONOMIC INDICATORS | GOLD · SILVER

Gold Price —PKR per Ounce (24K) (Jun 15–21, 2026)



Silver Price —PKR per Ounce (Jun 15–21, 2026)

