

PAKISTAN WEEKLY

20 – 26 July 2026

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

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

POLITICS

- PoK unrest continues: refugee-seat election for 12 disputed AJK Assembly seats set for 2 Aug amid JAAC-led shutdown; PM's spokesman renews call for dialogue, urges restoration of internet (20 Jul)
- Balochistan: former senator Tahir Bizenjo accuses National Party leadership of policy drift amid Op Shaban fallout (20 Jul)
- JUI-F leader summoned over remarks alleging 'orchestrated conflict', denies anti-institution intent, cites militancy toll on party workers (20 Jul)
- HRCP warns of shrinking space for independent journalism and press freedom amid PECA-era prosecutions (24 Jul)

ECONOMY

- KSE-100 whipsaws on Iran-US war fears: 175,928 (20 Jul) → 176,134 (21 Jul) → 174,430 (22 Jul) → 171,739 (23 Jul) → 171,021 (24 Jul), down ~2.7% w/w
- SBP policy rate held at 11.5% through the week; MPC's 27 Jul decision (post-week) confirms second consecutive pause, inflation eased to 11.1% in June
- Government raises petrol price by Rs3.66/litre and HSD by Rs4.80/litre (24 Jul) on rising global oil prices
- USD/PKR holds a narrow 277.7–278.4 band, supported by remittances and stable FX reserves near \$17–18bn

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- DPM/FM Ishaq Dar leads Pakistan delegation to 33rd ASEAN Regional Forum in Manila; meets UK FS Miliband and EU High Rep Kallas on regional security, GSP+ (22–23 Jul)
- Dar travels to Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan for SCO Council of Foreign Ministers; meets Iranian FM Araghchi, reaffirms bilateral ties amid US-Iran war (23–24 Jul)
- Iranian Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni visits Islamabad, meets PM Shehbaz, Interior Minister Naqvi and COAS on regional coordination (week of 20 Jul)
- Pakistan addresses UNSC open debates on peaceful dispute settlement and natural-resource governance; rebuts India at Security Council (22–23 Jul)

INTERNAL SECURITY

- Operation Shaban continues in Balochistan; cumulative militant deaths since 5 Jul cross 100, per ISPR/security officials
- PoK crisis deepens: near-40 killed since June in JAAC-linked clashes; internet and mobile services remain suspended, banks shut for two weeks
- CPJ presses for release of AJK journalist Syed Farhad Ali Shah, detained without FIR under Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance while covering Kashmir unrest
- Freedom Network flags rising threats to journalists nationwide, with Punjab and KP the worst-affected in latest quarterly tracker



WEEKLY OVERVIEW | DEFENCE · HEALTH · EDUCATION · SOCIETY

DEFENCE

- Security forces sustain intelligence-based operations against TTP and Baloch separatist networks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan through the week
- Op Shaban militant-elimination tally rises further in Balochistan following the early-July coordinated insurgent assaults
- Analysts note Pakistan reinforcing border posture and intelligence-sharing as the US-Iran war intensifies along the Strait of Hormuz, without opening a direct front
- Military leadership continues coordination meetings with visiting Iranian officials on regional security spillover

HEALTH

- NDMA issues high alert (through 24 Jul) for flash floods, urban flooding and landslides across GB, KP, AJK, Punjab and NE Balochistan as a fresh westerly wave hits
- Monsoon death toll climbs from 53 (21 Jul) to 86 (25 Jul) nationwide since 26 June; KP worst-hit with 51 deaths, then Punjab (22), pok (7), Balochistan (6)
- PMD warns of high flood levels on the Chenab at Marala and the Jhelum upstream of Mangla amid rising river flows
- House/roof collapses remain the leading cause of monsoon fatalities; hundreds injured, livestock and property losses reported nationwide

EDUCATION

- HEC directs over 80 public and private universities to redesign curricula around AI and emerging technologies, following a VCs' meeting at UET Lahore (~24 Jul)
- HEC continues rollout of its fully online, paperless Degree Attestation System (DAS) nationwide
- Budget FY2026-27 allocates Rs112bn to HEC, raising development spending for higher education
- AI education push follows HEC's earlier mandate making a 3-credit-hour AI course compulsory at undergraduate and postgraduate levels

SOCIETY

- pokK's 'unofficial state of emergency' persists: Al Jazeera reports banks shut for two weeks, and mobile/internet still suspended across most of the territory
- 12 disputed refugee-representation seats dominate AJK election debate ahead of 2 Aug polling, reviving autonomy and representation questions
- HRCP (24 Jul) expresses grave concern over worsening freedom-of-expression climate and shrinking independent-journalism space
- Rights bodies continue advocacy on detained journalists and activists linked to Kashmir-unrest coverage

NEWS HEADLINES | 20 – 26 JULY 2026 (1/2)

No.	Date	Sector	News Headline	Source
1	20 Jul	Politics / Society	AJK election for 12 refugee seats pushed to 2 Aug; internet, banks remain shut amid JAAC unrest	<i>Al Jazeera</i>
2	20 Jul	Politics	AJK PM's spokesman renews call for dialogue, urges restoration of internet services amid unrest	<i>Dawn</i>
3	20 Jul	Internal Security	Gunmen kill man in Jhal Magsi district, Balochistan, in unidentified armed attack	<i>Dawn</i>
4	20-24 Jul	Health	NDMA issues high alert for flash floods, urban flooding and landslides through 24 July after monsoon toll hits 53	<i>Arab News</i>
5	20 Jul	Economy	KSE-100 ends marginally higher at 175,927.73 as banking, refinery stocks offset Mideast-driven selling	<i>PkRevenue</i>
6	21 Jul	Economy	PSX settles at 176,133.56 after volatile session as geopolitical tensions rattle investors	<i>Business Recorder</i>
7	22 Jul	Foreign Affairs	DPM/FM Ishaq Dar leads Pakistan delegation to 33rd ASEAN Regional Forum in Manila	<i>MOFA Pakistan</i>
8	22 Jul	Foreign Affairs	Britain lauds Pakistan's efforts to promote dialogue during US-Iran tensions at ASEAN Forum	<i>Radio Pakistan</i>
9	23 Jul	Economy	KSE-100 falls over 1.5% to 171,739.44 as Mideast war sends oil prices to six-week highs	<i>Business Recorder</i>
10	23-24 Jul	Foreign Affairs	DPM/FM Dar travels to Kyrgyzstan for SCO Council of Foreign Ministers, meets counterparts	<i>MOFA Transcript</i>

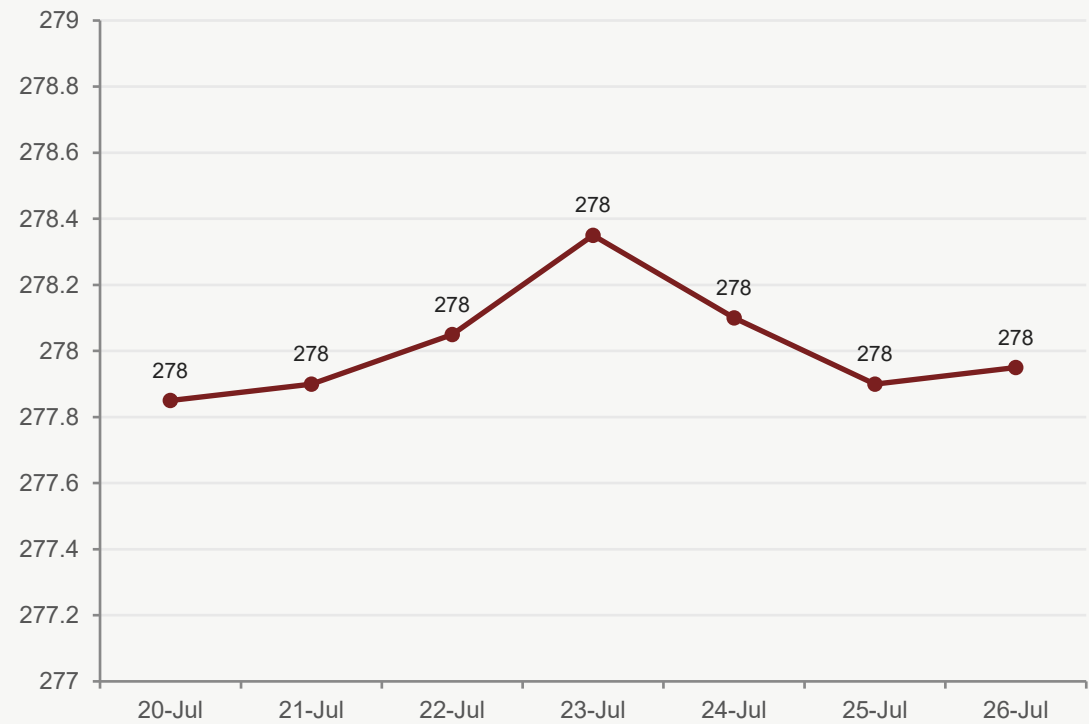
NEWS HEADLINES | 20 – 26 JULY 2026 (2/2)

No.	Date	Sector	News Headline	Source
11	24 Jul	Foreign Affairs	Dar, Araghchi reaffirm commitment to diplomacy and regional stability on SCO sidelines	<i>The Express Tribune</i>
12	24 Jul	Foreign Affairs	DPM Dar and EU High Representative Kallas underscore diplomacy for peace at ASEAN Forum	<i>The Nation</i>
13	24 Jul	Economy	Government raises petrol price by Rs3.66/litre, HSD by Rs4.80/litre amid global oil rally	<i>The Nation</i>
14	24 Jul	Society	HRCP expresses grave concern over shrinking space for independent journalism in Pakistan	<i>HRCP / Prokerala</i>
15	24 Jul	Education	HEC directs over 80 universities to redesign curricula around AI and emerging technologies	<i>Academia Magazine</i>
16	24 Jul	Internal Security	CPJ calls for release of AJK journalist Syed Farhad Ali Shah, detained without FIR under MPO	<i>Journalism Pakistan / CPJ</i>
17	25 Jul	Health	Monsoon death toll climbs to 86 as fresh rain spell threatens further flooding across country	<i>Pakistan Today</i>
18	ongoing	Internal Security / Defence	Operation Shaban continues in Balochistan; militants killed since 5 July surpass 100	<i>Arab News PK</i>
19	ongoing	Society	Pakistan-administered Kashmir's 'collapsed' economy: roadblocks, internet blackout leave region in limbo	<i>Al Jazeera</i>
20	27 Jul (dec. wk)	Economy	SBP holds policy rate at 11.5% for second consecutive meeting as inflation eases to 11.1%	<i>Trading Economics / SBP</i>

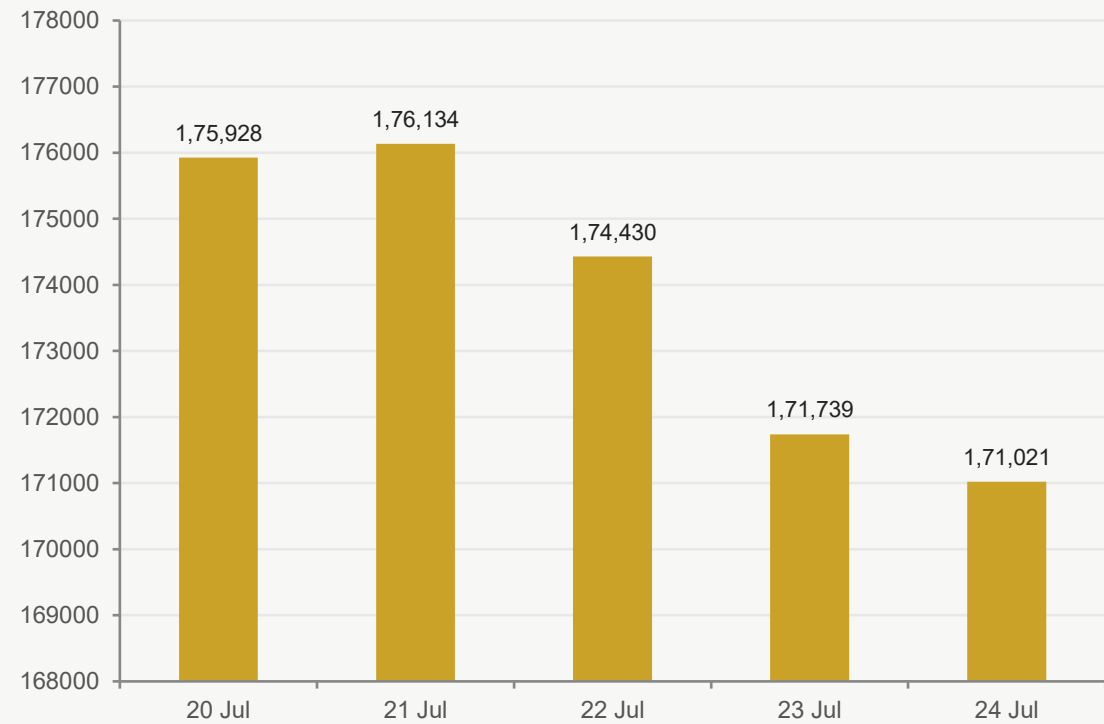


ECONOMIC INDICATORS | USD/PKR • KSE-100

USD / PKR Exchange Rate (20 – 26 Jul 2026)

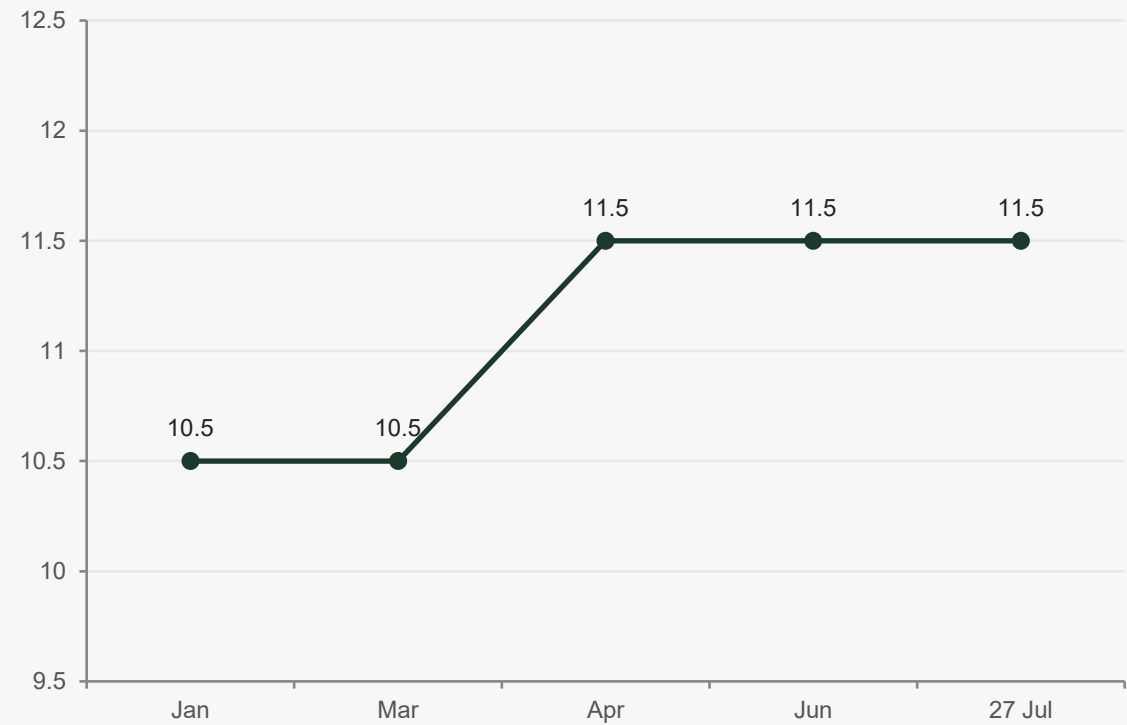


KSE-100 Index (20 – 26 Jul 2026)

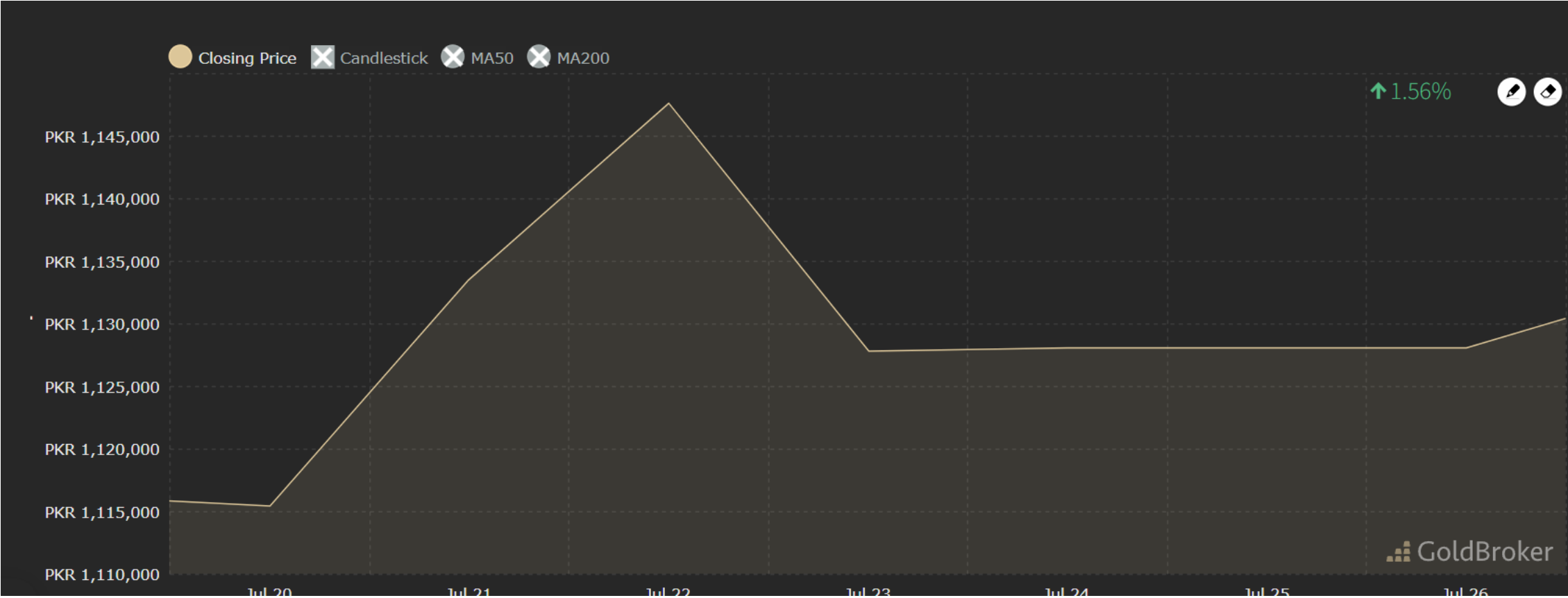




SBP Policy Rate Trajectory (2026)



Gold Price PKR



Silver Price PKR

