



## CoronaCrimeWatch Pakistan

### Weekly Review of Organised Crime and Pandemic

*Compiled by National Initiative against Organised Crime (NIOC)*

#### 20 July to 27 July 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic is not only affecting the economies and societies across the world but also changing the trends of the organized crime and illicit markets. Pakistan is already facing critical economic challenges as well as issues related to governance and internal security. While the coronavirus pandemic has complicated these challenges, it can also bring to fore new challenges related to organized crime and non-state actors in the country. There is a need for institutional vigilance to monitor the changing trends for better understanding and preparedness to cope with future challenges. The National Initiative against Organized Crime (NIOC) is initiating a weekly monitor on Organized Crime as a civil society initiative to support the institutional and community responses. The weekly brief is a result of information collected from open sources, mainly the mainstream media reports, both Urdu and English as well as information collected from various experts associated with the Project.

The nationwide confirmed COVID-19 cases jumped past 273,000, and death toll crossed 5,800 on July 28<sup>th</sup> morning. The distribution of the total detected cases and linked deaths is given below:

Area	Number of Confirmed Cases	Number of Deaths	Deaths as % of Cases
AJK	2023	49	2.42
Balochistan	11578	136	1.17
Gilgit Baltistan	1952	47	2.40
Islamabad	14841	163	1.12

KP	33220	1176	3.54
Punjab	91901	2116	2.30
Sindh	117598	2135	1.81

## 1. General Trends

### 1.1. Street Crime

During first half of the year 2020, twenty each persons in Lahore and Karachi have lost their lives while resisting to attempts of thefts or robberies. A media report indicated that the street crime is still a big challenge for both provincial capitals.<sup>1</sup>

### 1.2. Terrorism Watch

During the week under review, terrorists in tribal districts of KP province and parts of Balochistan continued their malicious campaigns. Meanwhile, security forces averted a major terrorist plot by raiding a suspected terrorist hideout in Buleda tehsil of Balochistan's Kech district, recovering an arms cache and improvised explosive device (IED) material. According to a media report, a key terrorist of the proscribed Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) was also killed during the intelligence-based operation (IBO) carried out by Frontier Corps (FC) Balochistan.<sup>2</sup>

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, militants targeted security forces in three attacks reported from North Waziristan, Peshawar and Kurram districts. On July 24, security forces officials were patrolling in an area of North Waziristan when their vehicle was hit with a remote controlled IED resulting in the martyrdom of a soldier Mansoor and injuries to three others.<sup>3</sup> On the same day, unknown assailants shot dead three people, including a soldier of the paramilitary Frontier Corps, in the Mattani area on the outskirts of the provincial capital Peshawar. All three including FC soldiers Shahzad were on way to Pasani Bazaar on a motorbike when they were attacked.<sup>4</sup> In Kurram, personnel of the Frontier Corps were patrolling the border area in the surroundings of Assad Shaheed checkpoint in Kot Raghe when two landmines exploded. As a result, three soldiers suffered injuries.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Daily Jang, July 20, 2020 <https://e.jang.com.pk/07-20-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=635.png>

<sup>2</sup> Dawn, July 25, 2020 <https://www.dawn.com/news/1571073/major-terrorist-activity-averted-as-arms-cache-recovered-bla-militant-killed-in-balochistan-ispr>

<sup>3</sup> The Express Tribune, July 25, 2020, <https://tribune.com.pk/epaper/news/Karachi/2020-07-25/YmM0MDM0Y2NiMDA2Y2JhODI5YThmNWwOTZiNmFjZWUuanBIZw%3D%3D>

<sup>4</sup> Dawn, July 25, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1571009/fc-soldier-among-three-shot-dead-in-peshawar>

<sup>5</sup> Dawn, July 26, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1571164/three-soldiers-hurt-in-landmine-blasts>

## 2. Terror Financing

The government and members of the opposition parties will meet on July 27th to discuss draft laws concerning the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) action plan and the National Accountability Bureau (NAB).<sup>6</sup> The government has proposed legal changes for the third time in nine months aimed at increasing punishment in terror financing cases and providing a legal base to help other countries in terrorism-related investigations in order to meet the FATF requirements. Over half a dozen amendments are recommended in the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) of 1997 that also seeks to promptly and effectively investigate terror financing cases and ensure strict punishments. According to the media reports, the draft proposes removal of restriction of court's permission for seeking financial information from banks and recommends such powers for the deputy inspector general of the police to ensure a swift investigation into the terror financing cases. At present, the powers to call information from a financial institution is either with the JIT or the police have to seek permission of the anti-terrorism court before asking for such information. The government is of the view that timely availability of the information was pivotal to investigating the financing of terrorism and the court's permission may cause delays.<sup>7</sup>

Meanwhile, Punjab government has restricted 48 banned organizations to collect the animal hides at the eve of Eidul Adha; as many as 263 religious seminaries have submitted applications to collect animal hides in the province.<sup>8</sup>

## 3. Drug Trafficking

During the week under review, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province made further successes in dismantling drugs trafficking rackets. Inspector General of Police of the province claimed that during last six months, police have arrested 15,566 drug peddlers.<sup>9</sup> Meanwhile, in DI Khan, Anti-Narcotics Force arrested two drug smugglers and seized 153 kg hashish from their possession, while foiling an attempt to smuggle it to Balochistan.<sup>10</sup> In a statement issued on July 24th, ANF claimed that in a countrywide operation the agency had recovered 8 kg heroine,

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<sup>6</sup> *Dawn*, July 25, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1571067/govt-opposition-to-discuss-nine-draft-laws-about-fatf-nab-on-monday-qureshi>

<sup>7</sup> *The Express Tribune*, July 25, 2020, <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2256670/new-bill-seeks-to-enhance-punishments-in-terror-financing-cases>

<sup>8</sup> *Daily Dunya*, July 23, 2020, [https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-07-24&edition=GUJ&id=5271864\\_87389720](https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-07-24&edition=GUJ&id=5271864_87389720)

<sup>9</sup> *Dawn*, July 23, 2020, [https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=23\\_07\\_2020\\_183\\_006](https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=23_07_2020_183_006)

<sup>10</sup> *Daily 92*, July 24, 2020,

[https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station\\_id=4&page\\_id=5&is\\_common=&xdate=2020-7-22&n=n20](https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=4&page_id=5&is_common=&xdate=2020-7-22&n=n20)

40,000 kg hashish, 81 kg opium and 5 kg ice drug. It also claimed to have arrested 27 drug dealers including three women, during last month.<sup>11</sup>

Other related incidents reported during the week are listed below:

- Muzaffargarh police arrested a smuggler and recovered 12 kg heroine from his possession.<sup>12</sup>
- Peshawar police recovered 5 kg hashish and arrested a drug peddler.<sup>13</sup>
- In district Naseerabad in Balochistan, Excise Narcotics Department seized 40 kg hashish and foiled an attempt to smuggle it to Sindh province.<sup>14</sup>
- In North Waziristan, local police confiscated 30 kg hashish from a drug dealer.<sup>15</sup>
- Islamabad police thwarted an attempt to smuggle 4 kg hashish and arrested a drug peddler.<sup>16</sup>

## 5. Cyber Crime

An op-ed in *Dawn* pointed out that this year has seen renewed efforts to stifle digital platforms, beginning with the citizen protection (CP) rules against online harm; followed by a draft data protection bill; an over-the-top (OTT) services regulation, which is in the works; action against VPN services; and now a wave of warnings and bans — all representing accelerated efforts towards censorship and control of digital platforms. It argued that if successful, 2020 may become known as the year the Pakistani authorities drastically deepened online surveillance and throttled the digital economy. The op-ed recommended that a data protection policy is needed, one that is consumer-oriented and designed to protect citizens from misuse of their data, whether by private companies or state entities. The current draft as it stands is flawed.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Daily *Dunya*, July 24, 2020 [https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-07-24&edition=GUJ&id=5271740\\_85799284](https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-07-24&edition=GUJ&id=5271740_85799284)

<sup>12</sup> *Daily 92*, July 25, 2020, [https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station\\_id=8&page\\_id=5&is\\_common=&xdate=2020-07-25&n=n26](https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=8&page_id=5&is_common=&xdate=2020-07-25&n=n26)

<sup>13</sup> *Daily 92*, July 23, 2020, [https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station\\_id=4&page\\_id=5&is\\_common=&xdate=2020-07-23&n=n41](https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=4&page_id=5&is_common=&xdate=2020-07-23&n=n41)

<sup>14</sup> *Daily 92*, July 21, 2020, [https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station\\_id=7&page\\_id=5&is\\_common=&xdate=2020-7-21&n=n6](https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=7&page_id=5&is_common=&xdate=2020-7-21&n=n6)

<sup>15</sup> *Daily 92*, July 21, 2020, [https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station\\_id=4&page\\_id=5&is\\_common=&xdate=2020-7-21&n=n5](https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=4&page_id=5&is_common=&xdate=2020-7-21&n=n5)

<sup>16</sup> *The Nation*, July 22, 2020 <https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-07-22/page-14/detail-6>

<sup>17</sup> *Dawn*, July 26, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1571209/regulating-ict>

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**About NIOC:**

National Initiative against Organized Crime (NIOC), in collaboration with the Global Initiative Resilience Fund is the first-ever initiative in Pakistan launched by a group of committed professionals and experts with law enforcement, media and other public service backgrounds. NIOC aims to build community resilience and influence public policy to combat organized crime.

Website: <https://nioc.pk>

Email: [info@nioc.pk](mailto:info@nioc.pk)