



## CoronaCrimeWatch Pakistan-25

### Weekly Review of Organised Crime and Pandemic

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

#### **20 September to 27 September 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.

As of September 28th morning, nationwide confirmed COVID-19 cases in Pakistan were 31,0275, while 295,613 of them have recovered so far. The death toll reached 6,457. The detail on regional distribution of the total detected cases across Pakistan as well as consequent deaths is given in the table below:

Area	Number of Confirmed Cases	Number of Deaths	Deaths as % of Cases
AJK	2661	71	2.67
Balochistan	15092	145	0.96

Gilgit Baltistan	3681	87	2.36
Islamabad	16470	181	1.10
KP	37701	1259	3.34
Punjab	99219	2231	2.25
Sindh	136017	2492	1.83

## 1. General Trends

### 1.1. Terrorism Watch

A lady health worker was shot dead by some unidentified attackers in an incident of targeted killing in Mirali sub-division of North Waziristan tribal district.<sup>1</sup> Separately, in Bajaur, the TTP terrorists sheltered in Afghanistan attacked the post of security personnel located in the border area in Bajaur. As a result a soldier, Sabir Shah, 24, was martyred.<sup>2</sup>

## 2. Terror Financing

The government is expecting relief from Financial Action Task Force (FATF) after the approval of 15 terrorism related legislations from the parliament. However, the experts and media are still commenting on different aspects of these laws. During the week under review, *The News International* commented that the anti-terror financing bill held to evolve a consensus on the legislation required by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), was passed by parliament in a different form but without changing its text even slightly. The earlier bill sought an amendment in the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) and was sponsored by the government. At the time, three bills were discussed between the two sides. A consensus on two of them had emerged and they were later unanimously passed by parliament, while the third one was abandoned after mutual consultations. One change in the new bill is that it has been sponsored by a private member, Faheem Khan from Karachi belonging to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Another difference is the same text was incorporated in the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA), 1997, instead of the CrPC. Normally, government bills are moved by the concerned ministers while private members' bills are tabled by the relevant MPs.<sup>3</sup>

The same newspaper reported that at least five premier Pakistani regulators will cooperate with their foreign counterparts and make reciprocal arrangements to share, request and receive information relating to money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (CFT). They include the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP); the Supervisory Board for National Savings Schemes and Pakistan Post and the Federal

<sup>1</sup> *Dawn*, September 22, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1580991/lady-health-worker-shot-dead-in-mirali>

<sup>2</sup> *Daily Jang* (Urdu), September 23, 2020, <https://e.jang.com.pk/09-23-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=48.png>

<sup>3</sup> *The News*, September 23, 2020 <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/718818->

Board of Revenue (FBR) for real estate agents, jewelers, dealers in precious metals and precious stones and accountants who are not members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) and Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan (ICMAP). According to the recent amendments in the Anti-Money Laundering (AML) Act, there will be self-regulatory bodies (SRBs) for the AML/CFT regulatory authorities. They will be the ICAP and ICMAP for their respective members, Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) for lawyers and other independent legal professionals that are enrolled under the PBC or provincial bar councils and any other SRB notified by the federal government.<sup>4</sup> Meanwhile, President of Pakistan, Dr Arif Alvi has promulgated the Anti-Money Laundering Amendment Act, 2020, bringing it into force with immediate effect.<sup>5</sup>

### 3. Drug Trafficking

During the week under review, Balochistan Levies recovered 36 KG heroin from a vehicle in Khuzdar district and arrested two drug smugglers.<sup>6</sup> Separately, the Coast Guards in Balochistan recovered 450 KG hashish from a vehicle and arrested the driver.<sup>7</sup> The Sindh Excise Department also seized 5 KG opium in Karachi.<sup>8</sup>

The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) has carried out operation against drug mafia across the country and arrested 18 suspected smugglers and seized huge quantity of narcotics. The value of seized narcotics is said to be 1.308 billion US dollars. Some nine vehicles have also been impounded by the ANF from the possession of smugglers. According to a ANF Press release, ANF has seized 1.652 ton narcotics and arrested 18 culprits including a foreigner and a lady and impounded nine vehicles while conducting 16 counter-narcotic strikes.<sup>9</sup> The ANF carried out a raid near Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU) Islamabad and held a notorious drug supplier besides recovering heroin from his possession<sup>10</sup>. ANF also foiled an attempt to smuggle drugs to Dubai at Lahore airport<sup>11</sup>

Meanwhile, the police in KP, Sindh and Punjab provinces continued operations against drug traffickers.

- The police foiled a narcotics smuggling bid and recovered 26-kg heroin from the accused in Phularwan, district Sargodha.<sup>12</sup>
- Ten persons were arrested and 8 KG hashish was recovered by police in Kotri Sindh.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> *The News*, September 28, 2020, <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/721057->

<sup>5</sup> ARY News, September 24, 2020, <https://arynews.tv/en/president-promulgates-anti-money-laundering-act/>

<sup>6</sup> *Dawn*, September 21, 2020, [https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=21\\_09\\_2020\\_003\\_007](https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=21_09_2020_003_007)

<sup>7</sup> *Daily 92*, September 24, 2020,

[https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station\\_id=1&page\\_id=5&is\\_common=&xdate=2020-9-24&n=n55](https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=1&page_id=5&is_common=&xdate=2020-9-24&n=n55)

<sup>8</sup> *Dawn*, September 22, 2020, [https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=22\\_09\\_2020\\_114\\_002](https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=22_09_2020_114_002)

<sup>9</sup> *The Nation*, September 25, 2020, <https://nation.com.pk/25-Sep-2020/anf-arrests-smugglers-seizes-narcotics>

<sup>10</sup> *The Nation*, September 27, 2020, <https://nation.com.pk/27-Sep-2020/anf-arrests-drug-peddler>

<sup>11</sup> *Daily Express*, September 23, 2020,

[https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107754015&Issue=NP\\_LHE&Date=20200922](https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107754015&Issue=NP_LHE&Date=20200922)

<sup>12</sup> *The Nation*, September 22, 2020, <https://nation.com.pk/22-Sep-2020/drug-smuggling-bid-foiled-26-kg-heroin-seized>

- KP police arrested three drug dealers and confiscated 7 KG hashish in Jamrud, district Khyber.<sup>14</sup>
- Four drug peddlers were also arrested from district Nowshera, KP, and 8 KG hashish was recovered from their possession<sup>15</sup>
- Police arrested 3 drug paddlers in Lahore.<sup>16</sup>
- Islamabad Police arrested 14 drug peddlers.<sup>17</sup>

#### 4. Cyber Security

The government has started process of formulating the National Cyber Security Policy and consultation process with the experts and relevant stakeholders has been initiated.<sup>18</sup>

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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 in November 2019 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.

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<sup>13</sup> *Daily Express*, September 21, 2020,

[https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107750506&Issue=NP\\_KHI&Date=20200921](https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107750506&Issue=NP_KHI&Date=20200921)

<sup>14</sup> *Daily Express*, September 21, 2020,

[https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107751101&Issue=NP\\_PEW&Date=20200921](https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107751101&Issue=NP_PEW&Date=20200921)

<sup>15</sup> *Daily Express*, September 22, 2020,

[https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107753568&Issue=NP\\_PEW&Date=20200922](https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107753568&Issue=NP_PEW&Date=20200922)

<sup>16</sup> *Daily Dunya*, September 21, 2020, [https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-09-](https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-09-21&edition=LHR&id=5339224_56180878)

[21&edition=LHR&id=5339224\\_56180878](https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-09-21&edition=LHR&id=5339224_56180878)

<sup>17</sup> *Daily 92*, September 27, 2020,

[https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station\\_id=3&page\\_id=1&is\\_common=&xdate=2020-09-27&n=n13](https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=3&page_id=1&is_common=&xdate=2020-09-27&n=n13)

<sup>18</sup> *Daily Jang*, September 21, 2020, <https://e.jang.com.pk/09-21-2020/Lahore/pic.asp?picname=109.png>