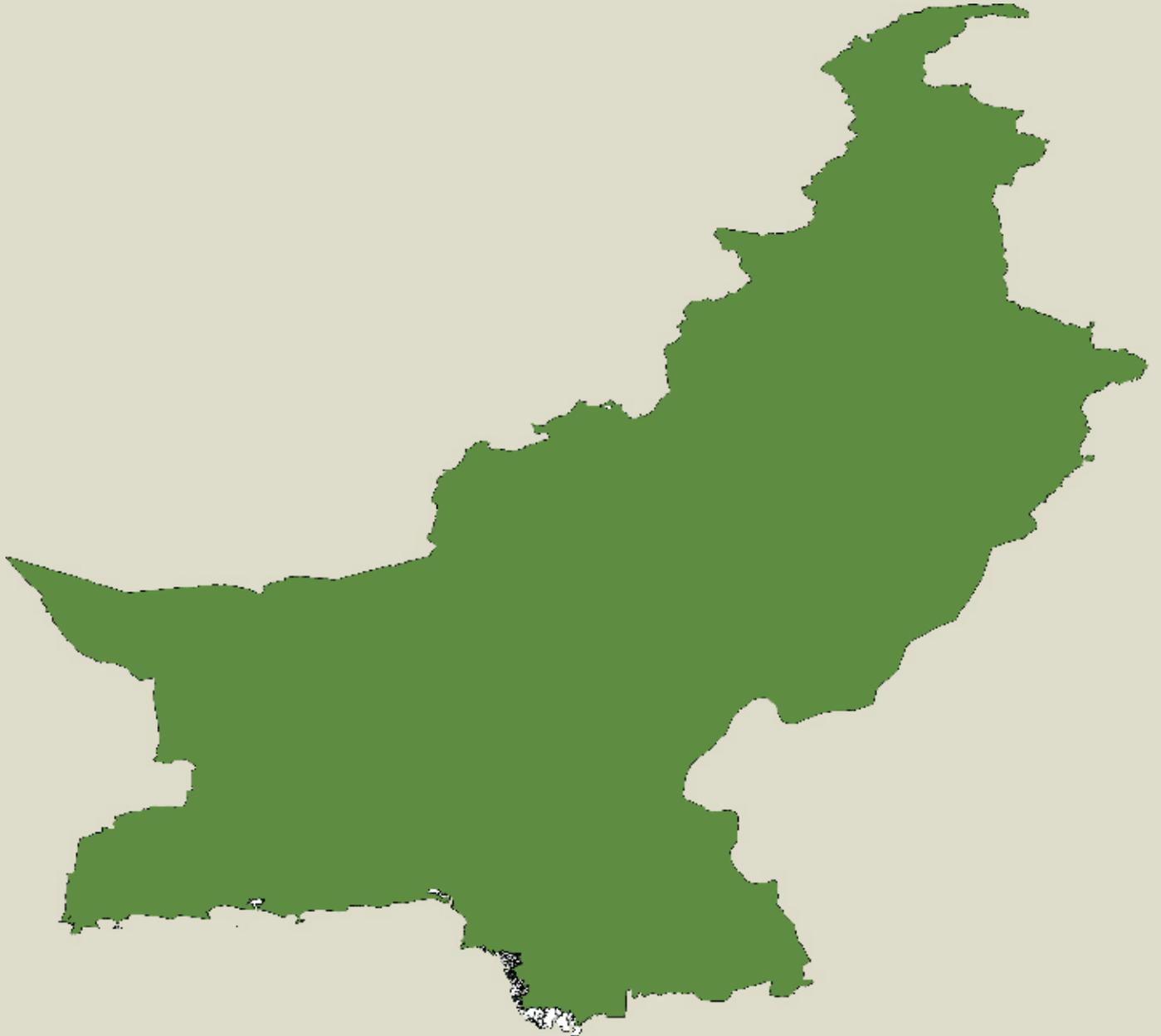


January (1-15) 2017

PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST

*A Selected Summary of News, Views and Trends
from Pakistani Media*



*Prepared by
Dr Ashish Shukla &
Nazir Ahmed
(Research Assistants, Pakistan Project, IDSA)*

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INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE
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रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST, January (1-15) 2017

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADB: Asian Development Bank
AIIB: Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
ANP: Awami National Party
APC: All Parties Conference
ATC: Anti-Terrorism Court
CPEC: China- Pakistan Economic Corridor
CTD: Counter Terrorism Department
ECP: Election Commission of Pakistan
IED: Improvised Explosive Device
IHC: Islamabad High Court
IMF: International Monetary Fund
ISI: Inter-Services Intelligence
ISPR: Inter Services Public Relations
JI: Jamaat-i-Islaami
JuD: Jamat-ul- Dawa
JUI-F Jamiat-Ulema-e-Islam (Fazal)
KP: Khyber Pakhthunkhwa
LHC: Lahore High Court
MQM: Muttahida Qaumi Movement
NAB: National Accountability Bureau
NADRA- National Database and Registration Authority
NAP: National Action Plan
PAT: Pakistan Awami Tehreek
PML-N: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz
PPP: Pakistan People's Party
PTI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
QCG: Quadrilateral Coordination Group
QWP: Qaumi Watan Party
RRG: Rapid Response Group
TTP: Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan

EDITOR'S NOTE

Amid the tensed relations and charged atmosphere, India and Pakistan exchanged the list of their nuclear installations as part of a 26 years old Nuclear Confidence Building Measure (NCBM). Ever since the CBM came into effect, the two countries provide each other a list of nuclear installations on January 1 and the two countries have done that without fail in all these years. Military in Pakistan is often seen as stumbling block in the normalization of relations with India. Given the kind of internal security challenge and possibility of international isolation, there seems to be a tactical change in the Pakistani approach. As per some newspaper reports, the civil military huddle is planning to reach out to the neighbouring countries—India and Afghanistan.

Panamagate continues to dominate the political discussion in Pakistan. PTI Chairman Imran Khan has recently demanded that Qatari Prince, who had written a letter to support Nawaz Sharif and his family members in Panamagate issue, to be jailed for his fraudulent letter. He even vowed to expose the fraud. Supreme Court of late has decided to hear the Panamagate case on a daily basis so that it could be resolved in the shortest possible time. The five member bench also asked Sharifs to prove the money trail in the London properties. The opposition seems to be happy with the recent Supreme Court decision to hear the case daily with no further adjournment. Jamaat-e-Islami Chief Siraj-ul-Haq went on to claim that the government was stuck in the quagmire of Panama and it would drown in it very soon.

The KP government has urged business community to benefit from the multibillion dollar CPEC projects. KP Governor Iqbal Zafar Jhagra recently asked the business community to avail all the available opportunism offered by CPEC to strengthen the provincial economic sector of KP. There were newspaper report predicting Pakistan to be the fastest Muslim economy in 2017, much ahead of Indonesia, Malaysia, Turkey and Egypt.

Amid the government propaganda about the benefits of CPEC, the Corridor Front (CF) has asked KP Chief Minister Pervez Khattak to resign because he had badly failed to achieve a single scheme in the CPEC during his participation in the Joint Coordination Council (JCC) meeting in Beijing. This allegation was soon refuted by the Chief Minister himself. He argued that KP had seven projects to be completed under the CPEC.

Dr Ashish Shukla

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

NATIONAL POLITICS

Senate panel passes Hindu Marriage Bill, *The News*, January 2¹

Senate Functional Committee on Human Rights on Monday (January 2) unanimously passed the much-awaited Hindu Marriage Bill 2016, in a landmark move aimed at easing growing insecurity among the country's Hindu community. [...] *The bill will enable the Hindu community to get their marriages registered and separation cases could be resolved in the courts. "There is no contradiction regarding the bill; this is right of minorities to live according to their religion," Senator Aitzaz Ahsan said.* "Shariat law is totally different from Hindu law and Islam gives freedom to non-Muslims," he added. Dr Vankwani said, "There was no Hindu marriage law in the country for 66 years. The country's leadership and all the political parties have done a commendable job."

Govt decides to review NAB Ordinance, *The Dawn*, January 3²

Federal Law Minister Zahid Hamid, while speaking before a Senate's standing committee on Monday (January 2), said the government is in the process to form a committee comprising parliamentarians tasked with reviewing the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Ordinance, keeping in view the growing criticism regarding plea bargain and voluntary return. The law minister said this during the meeting of Senate's Standing Committee on Law and Justice, after the committee members, following intense deliberations, recommended that the NAB Ordinance of 1999 should be reviewed. [...] PPP Senator Farhatullah Babar said there was a strong perception that NAB was promoting corruption rather eradicating the menace.

Nawaz govt stabbed in the back of CoD: Khursheed, *The News*, January 3³

Opposition leader in the National Assembly and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) stalwart Syed Khursheed Shah has stated that Nawaz Sharif government stabbed in the back of the Charter of Democracy. Speaking to media in his chamber here Tuesday (January 3), Khursheed Shah said, "We still adhere to Charter of Democracy, however, Nawaz Sharif government stabbed in the back of this charter." PPP leader was referring to Nawaz Sharif statement in which the Premier had said that he was still committed to the Charter of Democracy (CoD) and termed those who were trying to abandon the charter as

¹ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/176247-Senate-panel-passes-Hindu-Marriage-Bill>

² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1305979/govt-decides-to-review-nab-ordinance-after-growing-criticism-on-plea-bargain-law>

³ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/176475-Nawaz-govt-stabbed-in-the-back-of-CoD-Khursheed>

'incurable'. "Being a signatory to the Charter of Democracy, I'm still firm on it. However, if someone pursues the policy of denial, then there is no remedy for them," Nawaz said during the 53rd budget session of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council. Khursheed Shah said PPP would start public gathering from January, adding that his party, through these rallies, would expose the damages caused in the past four years. "We will welcome PTI Chairman Imran Khan if he joins our alliance," he said.

Aitzaz 'surprised' over Zardari's decision, *The Dawn*, January 4⁴

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Senator Aitzaz Ahsan on Tuesday (January 3) conceded that he was "quite surprised" over the announcement made by the party's co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari on December 27 — to contest by-elections and become part of "this Parliament". The senior politician and lawyer said that the announcement made by PPP's co-chairman was a "very jolting surprise" for him. Speaking during a talk show on ARY News, Ahsan said: "In his [Zardari's] absence, PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto had been thriving to re-ignite the party's revival in Punjab, which might go on the back burner now." When asked about how Zardari's return would affect the party's politics, he said "time will tell whether it turns out to be good or bad for the party". "There will be different kind of politics now, which might benefit the party or might not," he added.

Over 100 clerics arrested in Lahore, *The Express Tribune*, January 4⁵

Punjab Police on Wednesday (January 4) arrested over 100 clerics for attempting to hold a rally in Lahore in 'celebration' of the assassination of Salmaan Taseer on his death anniversary. The clerics were gathering to hold a rally on Main Boulevard in Gulberg area of the city. Meanwhile, Tehreek Labbaik Ya Rasoolallah has organised two separate rallies, one on Mall Road and the other in Gulberg led by Dr Ashraf Asif Jalali and Hafiz Khadim Hussain Rizvi respectively, sources told The Express Tribune.

Zardari elected as President, Bilawal Chairman, *The News*, January 8⁶

Asif Ali Zardari has been elected as President Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) while Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was elected as Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP). The elections for office bearers of PPP and PPPP were held at Bilawal House Karachi on January 07 and January 08 respectively. According to the statement issued here, Asif Ali Zardari was

⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1306175/aitzaz-surprised-over-zardaris-decision-to-run-for-national-assembly>

⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1284399/100-clerics-arrested-lahore-trying-celebrate-salmaan-taseers-assassination/>

⁶ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/177691-Zardari-elected-as-President-PPP-Parliamentarians>

elected as President PPP Parliamentarians, Farhatullah Babar as Secretary General, Saleem Mandviwalla as Finance Secretary and Moula Bux Chandio as Secretary Information.

State must ensure new groups don't emerge, *The Dawn*, January 9⁷

Despite the decline in violence over the last year, Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Jamaatul Ahrar are major actors in causing instability, the annual Pak Institute of Peace Studies (PIPS) report has found. Released on Sunday (January 8), the report also stated that Islamist militants were a more grave threat than Baloch insurgents, and a mechanism for parliamentary oversight of the criminal justice system was needed. *PIPS head, defence analyst Amir Rana, told Dawn that while the state had taken action against militant groups such as the TTP, groups such as the Jamaatul Ahrar and Lashkar-i-Jhangvi (LJ) were getting stronger. He said the state must ensure while taking action against the TTP that new groups did not emerge.*

Plea seeking disqualification of PM, CM dismissed, *Daily Times*, January 10⁸

A division bench of the Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday (January 9) dismissed an inter court appeal seeking disqualification of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif for their alleged involvement in corrupt practices. The bench termed the appeal not maintainable. Faisal Naseer, a local resident had moved the petition against the single bench order. During hearing on Monday (January 9), the court inquired from petitioner counsel if he had approached the Election Commission of Pakistan or the National Assembly speaker. Counsel for applicant counsel said that the speaker was not inclined to hear the appeal. The court, however, dismissed the appeal observing that a member of parliament or provincial assembly could not be held disqualified without approaching the relevant forum.

The man who defied all odds, *The Express Tribune*, January 11⁹

Justice (retd) Saeeduzzaman Siddiqui passed away in Karachi on Wednesday (January 10). The 79-year-old, who had previously served as 15th Chief Justice of Pakistan, was the 31st governor of Sindh. The most controversial event of his career was taking oath under the Provisional Constitutional Order (PCO) promulgated by the then military dictator General Ziaul Haq. The former chief justice, however, got this stain washed after he refused to take another oath

⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1307339/state-must-ensure-new-groups-dont-emerge-while-taking-on-ttp>

⁸ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/punjab/10-Jan-17/plea-seeking-disqualification-of-pm-cm-dismissed>

⁹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1291888/man-defied-odds-defend-constitution/>

under the PCO issued by then chief of army staff general (retd) Pervez Musharraf in October 1999. "Taking an oath under the PCO, in my opinion, will be a deviation from the oath I had taken to defend the Constitution of 1973," Justice Siddiqui famously remarked. This led to his house arrest. [...] On August 25, 2008, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and Jamaat-e-Islami unanimously nominated Justice Siddiqui as their candidate for the office of the president to replace Musharraf. He, however, lost the September presidential elections by 79 votes to Pakistan Peoples Party co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari.

THE PANAMA PAPERS

Qatari prince should be sent to jail: Imran Khan, *The News*, January 3¹⁰

PTI chief Imran Khan said on Tuesday (January 3) that the letter by the Qatari prince submitted by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif at the Supreme Court in the Panama Leaks case was fraudulent and demanded that the prince should be sent to prison. Addressing a media briefing and flanked by senior party leaders, Imran claimed that the letter by the Qatari prince was a fraud and that PTI would expose it. Imran also said that Maryam Nawaz was not the trustee but was a beneficiary owner of the companies and in reality, the Mayfair flats were also owned by her. "In 2004, Mayfair flats were worth Rs 4 billion. Where did Maryam Nawaz acquire such enormous wealth from?" questioned the PTI chairman.

SC to hold Panama hearings on daily basis, *The Express Tribune*, January 4¹¹

The Supreme Court on Wednesday (January 4) resumed hearing of the ongoing Panamagate case, and decided to hold hearings on a daily basis without further adjournments. A new five-judge bench, headed by Justice Asif Saeed Khosa, which includes Justice Ejaz Afzal Khan, Justice Gulzar Ahmad, Justice Azmat Saeed Sheikh and Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan, resumed hearing of the case. During the hearing, the bench raised questions over the money trail shown by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's family to purchase properties in London. Justice Khosa, in his remarks stated that PM Nawaz did not give any reference regarding investments from Qatar in his speeches earlier. He further directed PTI counsel Naem Bokhari to establish that the Sharif family owned properties in London prior to 2006.

Sharifs need to prove money trail: SC, *The Nation*, January 5¹²

The five-member Supreme Court bench, formed on the Panama leaks, yesterday held transfer of money from Dubai to Qatar or Qatar to London or Dubai to

¹⁰ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/176467-Letter-by-Qatari-prince-is-blatant-fraud-Imran-Khan>

¹¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1284035/sc-resumes-panama-leaks-case-hearing/>

¹² <http://nation.com.pk/national/05-Jan-2017/sharifs-need-to-prove-money-trail-sc>

Jeddah would have to be established. Justice Khosa is heading a five-judge bench which is hearing the petitions of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Jamaat-e-Islami, Pakistan Awami Muslim League and Tariq Asad advocate on the Panama leaks. The bench decided to hear the case on a day-to-day basis from 9:30am to 1pm while on Friday (January 6) the case would be heard until 11am. Justice Asif Saeed Khan Khosa said the question would be relevant to look into the allegations made by the petitioners concerning possible conflict of interest as to how the official position was used. He stated Nawaz Sharif had said in an interview that he had left the family business in 1997. Makhdoom Ali Khan, who is now representing the prime minister, assured the court of providing the details today (Thursday) about when Nawaz Sharif became a minister, the Punjab chief minister and the prime minister. Justice Khosa observed Mian Muhammad Sharif died in 2004, while settlements for the London flats were made in 2006. As to the Qatari prince's letter, he questioned whether there was any will or court decree that Mian Sharif had asked for transferring the property in the names of his grandsons.

Rulers to drown in Panama quagmire soon, *The Nation*, January 6¹³

Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Ameer Sirajul Haq claimed the government has got stuck in the quagmire of Panama and it would drown in it very soon. Addressing a news conference here at local JI office on Thursday (January 5), he said the rulers could not come out of this quagmire. He pointed out that the statements given by the rulers in the parliament contradicted their own statements in the court. *"Mian Nawaz Sharif's lawyer says that his client's statement in the parliament was political and it should not be taken seriously. But it is a serious issue that Mian Nawaz Sharif can face action under Sections 62/63 as he does not fall under the category of Sadiq and Ameen after giving these statements," he declared.*

PTI chief failed to produce proof, says Marriyum, *The Nation*, January 6¹⁴

Minister of State for Information Marriyum Aurangzeb on Thursday (January 4) said everyone is bound to respect and honour the constitutional institutions. She was addressing a joint news conference here with Minister of State for Privatisation Muhammad Zubair and PML-N MNA Daniyal Aziz. *She said PTI Chief Imran Khan could not produce any concrete evidence in support of his allegations and has himself admitted his failure.* Marriyum Aurangzeb said Imran Khan has a habit of harassing and defaming the constitutional institutions which does not serve any good purpose.

¹³ <http://nation.com.pk/national/06-Jan-2017/rulers-to-drown-in-panama-quagmire-soon>

¹⁴ <http://nation.com.pk/national/06-Jan-2017/pti-chief-failed-to-produce-proof-says-marriyum>

Sharif Family documents are incomplete: SC, *The News*, January 9¹⁵

The Supreme Court bench on Monday (January 9) observed that the documentary evidences provided by the Sharif Family are incomplete. A five-member bench of the apex court is hearing the Panama Leaks case on day to day basis. Continuing his arguments, PTI Counsel Naeem Bukhari said Sharif Family had no capital for Qatar investments. On this Justice Khosa remarked that if the properties are of Qatari prince then there's no question of money transfer. Justice Ejaz Afzal asked Naeem Bukhari how can he establish that Nawaz Sharif transferred money through illegal means. If Mian Sharif was doing businesses, is this the responsibility of his children to provide money trail? *The PTI Counsel said, we have enough evidence that Maryam Nawaz is dependent on his father. In her tax returns, she had declared zero taxable income.* On Hussain Nawaz's Rs810 million gift to his father Nawaz Sharif, Bukhari said no tax had been paid on the amount. Justice Azmat Saeed remarked that one needs an NTN to exchange gifts. The court added that proof for exchange of gifts may be demanded.

PTI counsel asks for Hussain Nawaz's income source, *Daily Times*, January 9¹⁶

The larger bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Justice Asif Saeed Khosa recommenced hearing the Panama Leaks case on Monday (January 9). During the hearing, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) counsel Naeem Bukhari brought forward evidence related to the beneficial ownership of the London flats. The lawyer said that Hussain Nawaz had gifted Rs 810 million to Nawaz Sharif however no tax had been paid on the amount. He also pointed out that when Hussain moved abroad his NTN stopped working. The court in this regard said that a proof of the exchange of gifts could be demanded from the defendants, with Justice Khosa noting that NTN numbers are required in the exchange of gifts. Bukhari further argued that it would be difficult to proceed with the case without finding out Hussain Nawaz's undisclosed income sources.

Sharif can't save himself in Panamagate: Imran, *The Dawn*, January 9¹⁷

Launching his party's mass contact campaign here on Sunday (January 8), Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan alleged that the prime minister had bought assets abroad in the name of his daughter through "ill-gotten money" and he would not be able to save himself as the Panama case was going to be decided soon. Speaking at a public meeting at the Dring Stadium, he also targeted Defence Minister Khawaja Asif and Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, lambasting the former for his remarks that

¹⁵ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/category/national/2>

¹⁶ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/09-Jan-17/pti-counsel-asks-for-hussain-nawazs-income-source-in-panama-leak-case-hearing>

¹⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1307296/sharif-cant-save-himself-in-panamagate-says-imran>

Panama leaks had nothing to do with Pakistanis and terming the latter an agent of Nawaz Sharif. The PTI chief asked Mr Asif if Panamagate was not an issue for Pakistanis, then was it a problem for Indians. Mr Khan branded the group of spokesmen for the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-N, who often criticised him, as “Motu Gang”.

PM not answerable for son's business, *The Express Tribune*, January 12¹⁸

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's counsel on Thursday (January 12) told the Supreme Court that the premier is not answerable to anyone for his son's business. During his arguments, PM Nawaz's counsel Makhdoom Ali Khan contended before a five-bench larger bench hearing the Panamagate case that no law can hold the premier questionable for his son's business. “PM Nawaz was not a shareholder in Gulf Steel Mills,” Khan upheld. However, Justice Asif Saeed Khosa observed that none of the records submitted in SC suggest PM Nawaz was not a shareholder. While the counsel argued that the premier did not lie before the Parliament, he admitted that there were some omissions in PM Nawaz's speech. “PM Nawaz only gave an overview of his business in the speech, however, there were some omissions in it,” the counsel stated.

PROVINCIAL POLITICS

Senator wants CNICs for Baloch before census, *The Dawn*, January 1¹⁹

Senator Israrullah Zehri, president of the Balochistan National Party-Awami (BNP-A), has said that *before conducting census in Balochistan, the government should ensure that all Baloch people are issued their computerised national identity cards (CNICs) because hundreds of thousands in the province do not have the card.* Talking to journalists on Saturday (December 31), he said that issuance of the CNICs to Baloch people was crucial for recording actual population of the Baloch in the province. “Protecting national identity of Baloch people is the responsibility of their leadership,” Senator Zehri said.

Sindh expresses reservations over govt's attitude, *The News*, January 2²⁰

Sindh Chief Minister's Adviser on Information Maula Bux Chandio on Monday (January 2) stated that the federal government was not fulfilling its responsibilities or playing the role that it should with regard to the National Action Plan. Addressing media personnel after the apex committee meeting concluded, Chandio said that CM Sindh had expressed his reservations at the attitude of the federal government. “The federal government has no clear policy

¹⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1292495/pm-not-answerable-sons-business-counsel/>

¹⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1305691/senator-wants-cnics-for-baloch-before-census>

²⁰ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/176229-Murad-expresses-reservations-over-federal-govts-attitude>

with regard to banned militants," he said. "The federal government has also not fulfilled its role with regard to madrassahs," he added.

Police want mayor's name on 4th Schedule, *The Express Tribune*, January 5²¹

The Karachi police have recommended the names of around 75 suspects, including Karachi Mayor Wasim Akhtar, to be placed on the Fourth Schedule list for their alleged anti-state, sectarian and terrorism activities, it emerged on Wednesday (January 4). The Fourth Schedule is a list of 'proscribed' persons, suspected of terrorism and/or sectarianism, under Section 11EE of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA), 1997. Usually, the name of a suspect is placed in the Fourth Schedule list for three years – it can also be extended if needed after completion of three years. It is mandatory for people whose names are on the list to register themselves with the local police regularly. They are also bound to submit an affidavit to the police to seek permission for leaving the city. Besides the mayor, the 75 suspects whose names have been recommended for inclusion in the Fourth Schedule include militants of banned outfits such as the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and sectarian outfits such as the Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ).

JUI threatens agitation if decisions 'imposed' on Fata, *The Dawn*, January 9²²

Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-F leaders on Sunday (January 8) rejected the federal government's plan to merge Fata with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and threatened to launch a protest movement if any changes were 'imposed' on the tribal people. They made the threat while addressing a public gathering here. A number of students and teachers of both the religious seminaries and public educational institutions also showed up at the gathering, which was considered a public demonstration against the proposed reforms in the tribal areas. Senior JUI-F leaders, including its Fata head Mufti Abdul Shakoor, Bajaur emir Maualna Abdur Rahseed, Haji Said Badshah, Mufti Mohammad Ijaz Shinwari, Qari Mustafa and Ahmed Zeb Khan Advocate addressed the gathering and expressed their grave concerns over the proposed reforms in the tribal areas.

Afghan refugees' presence may delay census, *The News*, January 9²³

The schedule of sixth population census in Balochistan may be affected in the wake of a considerable political opposition to it mainly due to the presence of a large number of Afghan refugees in the province. A key ally of Prime Minister

²¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1284542/observation-police-want-mayors-name-fourth-schedule/>

²² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1307355/jui-threatens-agitation-if-decisions-imposed-on-fata-people>

²³ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/177804-Afghan-refugees-presence-may-delay-census-in-Balochistan>

Nawaz Sharif has publicly rejected the census saying that it would be futile unless the Afghan refugees living in Balochistan are evacuated from the province. Federal Minister for Ports & Shipping and President of National Party (NP) Mir Hasil Bizenjo has been quoted as saying that the situation can be marred if census was conducted in the presence of Afghan refugees. "The positive results of the ongoing efforts to improve the state of affairs in Balochistan can produce negative consequences. First a mini census of Afghan refugees be carried out and they should be confined to camps. Only then, there can be room for national census in Balochistan."

Villagers attacked convoy of Qatari royal: Officials, *The Nation*, January 15²⁴
A group of villagers brandishing guns and knives attacked the convoy of a Qatar royal family member on an expedition to hunt the houbara bustard, a rare bird whose meat is prized by Arab sheikhs, officials said on Monday (January 15). The hunting party was unhurt, but three security guards were wounded during the attack on Sunday evening (January 14) in Balochistan's Musakhel district, deputy commissioner Muhammad Yasar said.

EDITORIALS AND OPINION

Accountability of NAB, Andleeb Abbas, *Daily Times*, January 1²⁵
Who will bell the cat? Who will watch the watchdog? Who will monitor the monitoring body? Who will catch the one who catches others? Who will nab the NAB? These are some simple questions with tough answers. Difficult because it is an "autonomous" state institution that has selective autonomy; difficult because these are state institutions answerable to its citizens but are instead answering to the government; difficult because they are supposed to be a-political but are t-political (totally political); difficult because the answers to these questions will point fingers at people who have an unwritten persecution immunity. Thus, the overwhelming question is what is NAB's *râison d'être* (reason to exist)? Again, the answer would be to reduce corruption in the country.

However, when from every nook and corner the reason to be for an institution becomes a question mark, it is time for a diagnostic analysis. [...] *The whole concept of a plea bargain is an amnesty for the corrupt mafia and a mockery to the honest citizens. The sad part is that even the voluntary returns are just promises.* Last year figures show that 285 people had plea bargained with the Bureau and agreed to pay Rs15.036 billion but deposited with NAB only Rs2.73 billion, which comes to only 18 percent of the minuscule plea bargain amount.

²⁴ <http://nation.com.pk/national/15-Jan-2017/qatari-prince-escapes-life-attempt-in-balochistan>

²⁵ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/opinion/01-Jan-17/accountability-of-national-accountability-bureau>

So far 1584 government officers have been absolved of their corruption on a plea bargain. *What was the original amount? What happened to their punishment? What was the follow-up action? Silence!*

Quetta, Abbottabad, Pakistan, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, *The Dawn*, January 2²⁶
[...] *The Qazi Faez Isa inquiry report into the double acts of terrorism in Quetta on Aug 8, 2016 has documented the dysfunctional state of administration and the rot that infests almost all institutions of governance at all levels. Had it not been a report by a Supreme Court justice authorised by the Supreme Court that accepted the report's request that it be made public it would never have seen the light of day.* This is because governance in Pakistan has become a way of keeping the people in the dark so that the government never has to answer for its comprehensive and ceaseless misdemeanours. [...] After the Qazi Faez Isa report, pressure mounted for the release of the Abbottabad inquiry report. There have been contradictory responses from the prime minister and the minister of interior. The minister of interior has belatedly (deir ayad valey durust ayad!) called for the release of the Abbottabad Commission report even though he has criticised making the Qazi Faez Isa report public because it criticises his performance. However, the prime minister has only undertaken to review the possibility of making the Abbottabad Commission report public.

NAP In Sindh, Editorial, *The Nation*, January 4²⁷

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, while chairing the 19th meeting of the Apex Committee, expressed dismay over the non-implementation of NAP. Placing the onus on the federal government, he stated that the government had failed to implement key portions of the plan and does not prioritise its realisation. While it is difficult to argue the truth of this statement, especially in light of the Quetta report, the PPP government had misgivings regarding the Rangers operation in Sindh. But here we are today, the streets of Karachi safer, its ranking as the 6th most dangerous city in the world down to 31 and falling, and the PPP government claims the success as their own. [...] *The NAP calls for banning all terrorist groups, yet many function openly in broad daylight. The National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), should have been made functional, but this has not been done so far as the federal government never released the funds required for its establishment.*

Accountability in name alone, Editorial, *The Dawn*, January 4²⁸

²⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1305817/quetta-abbottabad-pakistan>

²⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/04-Jan-2017/nap-in-sindh>

²⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1306200/accountability-in-name-alone>

THE National Accountability Bureau is a patently flawed organisation, both in terms of its design and discretionary powers and the workings of the institution. It is for that very reason there is a political consensus that NAB should be replaced with a new, better designed and better resourced organisation. However, for obvious reasons, the political class has been slow to move on the accountability agenda — public pressure and the misdeeds of many a politician could rock the country's foundations if an empowered and independent accountability body were to be unleashed on the political landscape. But flawed as the *existing NAB is, it need not be the national embarrassment that it has become and seems determined to continue being.*

NAB matters, Editorial, *The News*, January 4²⁹

The recent plea bargain struck between the National Accountability Bureau and former Balochistan finance secretary Mushtaq Raisani, who had corruption cases dropped against him after returning only a fraction of the money he is accused of stealing, has brought renewed focus to the practices of the accountability body. *The Supreme Court's long-running suo motu hearing into the use of plea bargains and voluntary return schemes now seems to nearing an end with NAB given one week to defend these practices.* The Supreme Court has made it clear that it disapproves of both practices since they allow corrupt government officials and others to pay a small portion of their illicit gains and then stay away from jail. Although details of the deals reached with those accused of corruption are sometimes released, as in the Raisani case, most of the time they are kept secret. These would seem to confirm that plea bargains and voluntary return will not be able to withstand public scrutiny.

Corruption In Balochistan, Editorial, *The Nation*, January 9³⁰

[...]When massive wads of money were discovered by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in May last year, from the residence of Balochistan Finance Secretary Mushtaq Ahmed Raisani, there was an uproar over the conditions in Balochistan and the unabashed looting from local government development funds. The NAB recovered more than Rs730 million from the house, an amount so large, if utilised properly, had the potential to transform the backward province. *The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) made two controversial plea bargain deals with Raisani, enforcing the fact, that cheaters will be allowed to prosper. The IG probably understood as much when he decided to keep the official motorcade, and if the accusation is unfounded, a clarification must be given. If it is true, he should be investigated and prosecuted to the full extent of the law.* Former federal minister Sardar Yar Mohammad Rind had brought to attention the Raisani case in October 2014,

²⁹ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/176554-NAB-mattersv>

³⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/09-Jan-2017/corruption-in-balochistan>

and it took three years for the NAB to take action, only to allow a way out for the corrupt. Rind alleged that the Raisani-led government had committed massive corruption in the Reko Diq gold-cum-copper project deal and the province still awaits justice. How long will it take to get to the bottom of this one?

FOREIGN POLICY

China to provide loan for rail up-gradation, *The Nation*, January 5³¹

China has agreed to provide loan for up-gradation of ML-1 rail that will run from Karachi to Peshawar, said a government official, days after Pakistani and Chinese authorities agreed to include three Sindh projects in the multi-billion economic corridor project “China has agreed to provide loan for gradation of ML-1 on most favourable terms,” said Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique. He said that a working group would begin negotiations on the project by the midst of this month.

EDITORIALS AND OPINION

The regional security challenges, Saman Zulfqar, *Daily Times*, January 1³²

South Asia’s regional security environment is in a flux mainly due to deteriorated relations between India and Pakistan and partly due to the security situation in Afghanistan. New momentum in Kashmiri freedom struggle, the arrest of an Indian spy in Pakistan, violation of Pakistan’s maritime boundary, claims of surgical strikes, unprovoked aggression on LOC and working boundary, all these developments have given rise to new tensions. *Irresponsible rhetoric has been a hallmark of Indian political leadership since assuming of power by Modi government.* [...]It is trying to isolate Pakistan at regional as well as global level but has achieved limited success in this regard. Chinese and Russian representatives at BRICS did not fulfil Indian desire to isolate or single out Pakistan by referring to terrorism.

How 2017 will be for Pakistan?, Hasan Shahjehan, *Daily Times*, January 2³³

[...]Amidst the Panama crisis, lock down threats of PTI, and civil-military issues, the government has successfully managed to keep their governance train from any serious accidents. Now, the Panama issue would not be a problem for the government, at least for the continuation of the democratic process in this year. [...]On terrorism, there seems to be the continuation of the counter-terror framework as mentioned in NAP. Despite the changes in the command structures of the military, the operation policies will remain the same; Karachi operation will enter its conclusion phase; and counter-terror

³¹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/05-Jan-2017/china-to-provide-loan-for-rail-up-gradation>

³² <http://dailytimes.com.pk/opinion/01-Jan-17/harnessing-regional-security-challenges>

³³ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/opinion/02-Jan-17/how-2017-will-be-for-pakistan>

operations will continue in the Northern belt. [...] *Like all businessman, Trump would prefer economic relations over "no-relations." And Pakistan, under Nawaz Sharif, can be a good destination for American investments, particularly after the connectivity and regional linkages, and availability of energy. Secondly, Trump will have a strong influence over India. Given India's closeness with the US, particularly after 2008, Trump can influence the Modi's policy of hostility with Pakistan. In the case of India, it is going into the elections in 2019. And given the dwindling popularity of Modi, particularly after the currency reforms, he would adopt a more belligerent posture towards Pakistan to keep his constituencies united behind him for the next elections.* In this respect, there seems to be a repetition in the nature of Pak-India relations, unless Trump interferes. Lastly, Russia-Pakistan-China-Turkey Nexus would have the further impetus, with the changing scenarios in the US policy under Trump. Russia and Turkey established their leadership in the Middle East through successfully managing the Syrian crisis. Pakistan and China are working to make CPEC a success at any cost. The commonalities of interests, linkages of economic interests, and a unity of narratives on international issues will bring these countries more closely. *The future of Asia will be determined by Russia, China and Turkey. And India would ultimately have no options but to inter-link itself with the economic initiatives under CPEC to expand its economic base.*

Russia getting into Afghan act, Zahid Hussain, *The Dawn*, January 4³⁴

The gathering in Moscow last week — the third in the series of consultations between Russia, China and Pakistan — underlines growing concern about the spillover effect of the Afghan crisis in the region. The initiative is the latest example of Russian assertion of its diplomatic power amidst growing frustration over the American failure to deliver peace in Afghanistan. [...] It remains to be seen whether the Kabul government accepts the invitation to join the forum and whether it is willing to show some flexibility in its approach on the peace talks. The Moscow trilateral meeting has called for lifting of the travel ban on the insurgent leaders, one of the major demands that the Taliban had presented as a precondition for talks with the Kabul government. *The Taliban are obviously pleased by the Moscow meeting endorsing its demand. But lifting of the ban requires US consent.* [...] Interestingly, the meeting on Afghanistan followed another set of trilateral talks in Moscow that included Turkey and Iran on the settlement of Syrian crisis. The US was excluded from that meeting too, indicating that Moscow is taking a lead in settling the Syrian and Afghan crises, thereby considerably altering the balance of power in the international arena.

³⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1306197/russia-getting-into-afghan-act>

MILITARY AFFAIRS

Quality edu only weapon to rule Balochistan: Bajwa, *The Nation*, January 5³⁵
Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa yesterday reiterated Pak Army's pledge to continue its unflinching role for the prosperity of Balochistan. Addressing a one-day seminar organised by Economic Development Department at Balochistan University of Engineering and Technology, Khuzdar, he said the era of prosperity has dawned folding the age of despondencies in Balochistan and the youth now must come forward to play a constructive role in nation-building. *He asserted the people of Balochistan were patriotic and no effort would be spared for keeping the process of their safety and wellbeing intact. He affirmed Pak Army was making all-out efforts jointly with the provincial regime to take on challenges of Balochistan people's welfare.*

Raheel Sharif made head of Islamic Military Alliance, *The News*, January 6³⁶
Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Friday (January 6) confirmed that former Army Chief General (retd) Raheel Sharif has been appointed to a Saudi-led 39-nation military alliance of Islamic countries to combat terrorism. Speaking to senior journalist Talat Hussain during Geo News program Naya Pakistan, Asif said the decision was finalised in the past two or three days. "Raheel Sharif has been made the captain of the Saudi alliance. Did he do this after asking the government?" asked Hussain, to which Asif replied: "I do not know the details. This was finalised only two or three days ago, so I will not comment much on this." The minister said the decision to appoint the retired general was taken with the consent of both the Army's General Headquarters and the government of Pakistan. "No, definitely our government's consent must have been part of this," he replied when asked if the decision was taken in Riyadh or Islamabad. The defence minister further said that "all proper clearances are taken" in such decisions.

Four handlers of park bomber identified, *The Dawn*, January 9³⁷
The six suspected terrorists who were killed in an alleged encounter with police late on Friday night (January 6) were involved in carrying out Gulshan-i-Iqbal Park attack, claimed the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of police on Sunday (January 8). [...]The CTD spokesman said that a team was taking two suspects involved in the park attack, who were identified as Shahidullah and Khanzaib, for recovery of weapons and other paraphernalia, when around

³⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/06-Jan-2017/quality-edu-youth-s-only-weapon-to-rule-balochistan-coas>

³⁶ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/177240-Raheel-Sharif-made-head-of-Islamic-Military-alliance-Defence-Minister>

³⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1307329/four-handlers-of-park-bomber-identified>

eight suspects attacked the personnel around 10pm near Factory Area, Sheikhpura. He said the attackers managed to free the suspects and fled the scene. He said the fleeing suspects reportedly entered an under-construction vegetable market that was raided by CTD Sheikhpura team after midnight. An exchange of fire with the suspects took place, following which six suspects were found dead, including Shahidullah and Khanzaib. The CTD seized a Kalashnikov, a rifle, two pistols and two motorcycles from the scene. A CTD police officer on condition of anonymity told Dawn that four of the attackers who were killed in encounter were identified as Hukam Khan, Muzammil Khan, Abdul Khanan and Tawakkal Jaan.

PM congratulates on successful test of Babur-3, Daily Times, January 9³⁸

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Monday (January 9) congratulated the nation and the Armed Forces of Pakistan on the first successful test-launch of the Submarine Launched Cruise Missile (SLCM) Babur-3, which has a range of 50 kilometres. The prime minister in a statement said that the successful test of Babur-3 was a manifestation of Pakistan's technological prowess and self-reliance. He further said Pakistan had always maintained the policy of peaceful coexistence, but this test was a step towards reinforcing its policy of credible minimum deterrence.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Military courts, Editorial, The News, January 4³⁹

[...]Speculation by well-informed sources has centred on reports that the government may not renew the military courts and instead replace them with special speedy trial courts. As yet the government has not announced a future course of action. According to reports, the Sindh government has decided against referring nine terrorism cases to the military courts since it is unsure if those courts will even exist a few days from now. *If the government does end up replacing military courts with speedy trial courts that would be both a step forwards and a step backwards.* Military courts have lower standards of evidence than regular courts, hold their trials in camera and thus cannot be assessed for fairness, and also take power away from civilian judges. If they are allowed to lapse that would indeed be welcome. Still, speedy trial courts are likely not the replacement we need. Although there are no details yet on the remit of these courts, they will only add to the already convoluted judicial system. It is also unclear why speedy trial courts are needed when the existing Anti-Terrorism Courts already play that role.

³⁸ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/09-Jan-17/pm-congratulates-nation-and-armed-forces-on-successful-test-of-babur-3>

³⁹ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/176555-Military-courts>

Will Gen Bajwa walk the talk?, Abbas Nasir, *The Dawn*, January 7⁴⁰

IN one of the most noticeable statements from the country's military leadership, Chief of Army Staff Gen Qamar Bajwa has proposed that a "people-centric approach based on local ownership" should be adopted as far as securing the "ongoing developmental activity and future trade" in Balochistan under CPEC is concerned. [...] If the army chief is prepared to walk the talk and if the government, with a new dispensation at the helm of the army and its intelligence set-up which isn't hostile to it, feels empowered now to seize the initiative and roll out policy measures aimed at assuaging the pain of the Baloch, a new beginning can be made. [...] If a foreign hand is indeed actually involved in fanning unrest, an iron-fisted security policy on its own won't be enough. It rarely ever is. While those who remain hell-bent on breaking the law need to have the book thrown at them (not snatched, shot and dumped), the rest need to see a sincere hand extended to them. This is not rocket science.

Raheel Sharif's new job, Editorial, *The Dawn*, January 9⁴¹

A QUIET retirement it has not been. In the weeks since former army chief Gen Raheel Sharif retired from the military, barely a day has gone by without Gen Sharif or events connected to him being in the news. Now has come perhaps the biggest surprise: the recently retired army chief is rumoured to have been selected to lead a so-called Islamic Military Alliance to Fight Terrorism created by the ambitious, young Saudi Defence Minister Mohammad bin Salman. To the extent that the IMAFT is a large bloc of Muslim-majority countries — 39 at the latest count, according to Saudi authorities — focused on combating international terrorists, the retired general with his vast counter-insurgency and counterterrorism leadership skills could be an excellent choice as leader. [...] While Gen Sharif is no longer a serving army chief and his decision to join the IMAFT is somewhat independent of the Pakistani state, the fact remains that his high-profile leadership of the alliance will be associated with Pakistan. The government and current military leadership, therefore, must publicly restate or clarify important foreign policy and national security parameters. Specifically, it must be publicly assured that the April 2015 decision taken by parliament will not be contravened and that any Pakistani contribution to the IMAFT will be for specific and clearly identifiable reasons. Clarity and honesty are needed if the alliance is to succeed.

⁴⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1306805/will-gen-bajwa-walk-the-talk>

⁴¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1307030/raheel-sharifs-new-job>

Don't kidnap me, Shehzad Ghias, *The Express Tribune*, January 11⁴²

I was corrupted by liberal values such as free speech and basic human dignity but I have realised that my desire to not be abducted is much stronger than my desire to speak my mind. I have finally seen the light and I now realise that there is no state in Pakistan but the 'one true state'. [...] I would like to issue a full public apology for espousing liberal values. I fully realise that these apologies only work when they are issued by political leaders but it is still worth a shot. Maybe I should grow out my beard first before issuing this apology to give my words more meaning but then again Imran Khan is still alive so maybe it is not the beard that matters. [...] Forget about civil liberties, I do not even want to protect Lahore's Liberty Roundabout anymore.

ECONOMIC ISSUES

Business community urged to benefit from CPEC, *Daily Times*, January 10⁴³

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Iqbal Zafar Jhagra has urged the business community to avail the courtesy for economic improvement under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to strengthen the provincial economic sector. Addressing to the businessmen and traders at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Peshawar on Monday (January 9), he said CPEC is a vital project for development of the country. The share of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province was paid so the Trader communities need to invest in the market for making it suitable and available for national and international investors. He said there were less foreign investments in KP due to several reason but efforts will be made for coordination between provincial and federal government to set on table for achieving, mutual beneficial goals.

Pak to be the fastest Muslim economy, *The Express Tribune*, January 10⁴⁴

Pakistan has been forecasted to be the world's fastest-growing Muslim economy in 2017 ahead of Indonesia, Malaysia, Turkey and Egypt, according to London's The Economist magazine. Pakistan's estimated GDP growth – 5.3% – is also ahead of 4% GDP growth of Israel. This makes Pakistan world's fifth fastest-growing economy in the world, only behind India and China and two other countries.

⁴² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1291325/dont-kidnap-im-not-liberal/>

⁴³ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/khyber-pakhtunkhwa/10-Jan-17/business-community-urged-to-benefit-from-cpec-project>

⁴⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1290084/pakistan-predicted-worlds-fastest-growing-muslim-economy-2017/>

CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

Khattak asked to resign, *Daily Times*, January 3⁴⁵

Corridor Front (CF), a group of various political parties and civil society organizations has asked Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Pervez Khattak to tender resignation as he had badly failed to achieve a single scheme in the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) during his participation in the Joint Coordination Council (JCC) meeting in Beijing. Addressing a press conference at Peshawar Press Club on Monday (January 2) the Corridor Front Convener Dr Said Alam Mehsud said that the JCC meeting at Beijing was extremely important and people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa expected the CM to plead their case properly and get due share of the province from multi-billion mega project. But he badly failed to come upto expectations of people. [...]He said the CM has failed to raise even the resolutions adopted by the KP Assembly for due share in nine sectors including motorways, power, fiber optic cable, railways, new plan for power generation, replacement of electric system, LNG, trade centers, industrial zones, oil and gas pipelines and entire projects went to rest of provinces.

Seven projects in KP to be part of CPEC: CM, *The Dawn*, January 2⁴⁶

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Pervez Khattak has said that seven projects will be completed in the province under the umbrella of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He was talking to reporters in Nowshera after his return from the sixth Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting on CPEC in Beijing, China. Khattak said the approved projects include laying of a double rail track between Peshawar and Karachi, construction of the Diamer-Bhasha Dam, a double road, laying of a railway track, and an optic fibre network between Gilgit and Abbottabad. Construction of an industrial estate at Hattar, conversion of the Peshawar-Dera Ismail Khan road into a double carriage way and construction of a railway line between the two cities are among the seven projects approved, he added.

The economics of CPEC, Ishrat Husain, *The Dawn*, January 3⁴⁷

[...]There are three types of reservations against CPEC. First, those who believe that this whole endeavour is designed to benefit Punjab to the neglect of the three smaller provinces. Fanning parochial and ethnic prejudices, doubts are created about the narrow impact of these projects. Second, that the country would be saddled with costly external loans and outflows forcing Pakistan to go for another bailout. Frightening numbers such as totals of \$110 billion are

⁴⁵ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/khyber-pakhtunkhwa/03-Jan-17/khattak-asked-to-resign-over-failure-to-cash-in-on-cpec>

⁴⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1305788/seven-projects-in-kp-to-be-part-of-cpec-cm>

⁴⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1305992/the-economics-of-cpec>

floating around. Third, some Baloch youth believe that they would become a minority in their own province. Mistrust and not perceived economic gains underlies such anxiety. *The government has not helped matters as it has not placed all the data and information about capital structure, detailed sources of financing, project sponsors etc pertaining to CPEC, in the public domain.* [...] If the Chinese managers, skilled and technical staff continue to be deployed throughout the duration of the project, the unit cost of labour after taking into account the expatriate wage premium, security, housing and mobility expenses would be relatively much higher compared to a situation where preponderantly Pakistanis were employed. *If the government makes advance plans for these positions to be transferred to Pakistanis over a staggered period through training, on the job apprenticeship, attachments and under study assignments supervised by Chinese trainers, cost savings would be substantial and net benefits much larger.* [...] Similarly, it is guesstimated that at least 100,000 additional trucks would be needed to transport construction materials, movement of export-import trade and increased volume of goods. If investment in the sub sector is not carried out well ahead of the CPEC projects' peak load demand, the prices of trucking would escalate, putting Pakistani exports at a competitive disadvantage. The cost matrix of CPEC projects would also move upwards thus increasing the indirect costs.

SECURITY SITUATION

TERRORISM

Violence in Pakistan drops 45 percent in 2016, *The News*, January 3⁴⁸

Deaths linked to violence in Pakistan decreased significantly in 2016, dropping 45 percent compared with the previous year, a report released Tuesday (January 3) said. Some 2,610 people lost their lives due to violence during the period compared with 4,647 in 2015, according to research by the Islamabad-based think tank, the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS). "There was nearly a 45 percent reduction in the number of violence-related fatalities in 2016, which continued the trend of reduction from 2014," the report said. "In fact, since 2014, there has been an overall reduction of nearly 66 percent. It added that December was the least violent month for the country during the year.

Military courts played crucial role: Marriyum, *Daily Times*, January 9⁴⁹

Minister of State for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday (January 9) said that military courts had

⁴⁸ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/176485-Violence-in-Pakistan-drops-45-percent-in-2016>

⁴⁹ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/09-Jan-17/military-courts-played-crucial-role-in-elimination-of-terrorism-information-minister>

played an important role in the elimination of terrorism from the country. The minister in a statement said that Rana Sanaullah's views about being dissatisfied with the military courts were based on his lack of knowledge regarding their establishment. She said the military courts had performed their responsibilities under the constitution in the prescribed period in an effective manner.

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND FATA

Wanted terrorist arrested in Swat, *The Nation*, January 5⁵⁰

The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Malakand division on Wednesday (January 4) arrested suspected terrorist during a search operation in Shamoza Market. The suspect was identified as Zeir Hakeem s/o Noor Hakeem, a resident of Haryankot Dargi, Malakand Agency. Hakeem was wanted to security agencies in various cases and a case under section 427, 120b, 124a, and 7ATA was registered against him in 2008.

BALUCHISTAN

Pakistani forces suffered heavy loss, January 1⁵¹

Pakistani Frontier Corps (FC) and their local collaborators (death squads) ambushed three Baloch freedom fighters in Nemargh area of Kalat on Thursday afternoon (December 29) as result a Baloch fighter was killed and Pakistani forces also suffered heavy losses. According to details, three fighters of the Baloch Liberation Army were on a routine patrol when the Pakistani military death squad and FC jointly ambushed them. The gun battle continued for two hours. The Baloch fighters succeeded in breaking the death squad and FC's siege, even though one of BLA fighter was wounded. In a brief statement to media a Jiand Baloch the spokesperson of the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) confirmed the gun battle and said that their wounded friend later succumbed to his injuries due to intensive bleeding. He said the Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF) fighters also came to the aid of BLA fighters and together they forced the FC and their death squad to retreat. He said, "Several personnel of the enemy [Pakistani forces] were killed and injured during the gun battle."

HRCP calls for protection of people's interests, *The Dawn*, January 2⁵²

The secretary general of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), I.A. Rehman, has said the federal and provincial governments should remove reservations of the people of Balochistan regarding the China-Pakistan

⁵⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/05-Jan-2017/wanted-terrorist-arrested-in-swat>

⁵¹ <http://balochwarna.com/2016/12/31/balochistan-pakistani-forces-suffered-heavy-loss-in-fierce-gun-battle-against-baloch-fighters/>

⁵² <https://www.dawn.com/news/1305932/hrpc-calls-for-protection-of-gwadar-peoples-interests>

Economic Corridor (CPEC) and ensure protection of interests of the people of Gwadar who were associated with fishing since centuries.

Bomb blast injures six, January 2⁵³

At least six persons, including four security personnel, were injured on Monday (January 2) when a roadside bomb exploded in Pakistan's Balochistan province. The Frontier Corps (FC) personnel were on a routine patrol when their vehicle was targeted. Four security personnel and two civilians were injured in the blast in Quetta's Western Bypass area, police said.

Need stressed for political solution, The Dawn, January 2⁵⁴

The chairman of the Voice for Baloch Missing Persons (VBMP), Nasa-rul-lah Baloch, underlined the need on Sunday (January 1) for a political solution to the issue of Balochistan and said the use of force would only aggravate the problems in the province. [...]Referring to the issue of the missing people, Mr Baloch said that 667 people had gone missing last year and bodies of 116 people had been found later in different areas. He said the people of Sumalani tribes had complained to him that some women and children of their tribe had gone missing in Bolan. Mr Baloch said that pending cases of the missing people had been heard only twice by the Supreme Court last year and that 70 people had been recovered.

Six FC officials injured in Quetta bombing, Daily Times, January 3⁵⁵

As many as six Frontier Constabulary (FC) officials were injured after their vehicle came under attack near Western Bypass on Monday (January 2). The personnel were en route to firing range of the training camp when terrorists attacked the van with a remote-controlled bomb. The injured officials have been shifted to Bolan Medical Complex in a critical condition. They are Subedar Muhammad Shafi, Hawaldar Awalur Rehman, Naik Latif, Sepoys Saif, Raza Rehman and Qaim Khan. According to the Bomb Disposal Squad, eight to ten Kg explosives were used in the bombing.

Tax breaks for domestic investors, The Express Tribune, January 3⁵⁶

The government of Balochistan has, in principle, agreed to offer similar tax breaks to domestic investors at the Chinese-run Gwadar industrial estate that are being enjoyed by foreign investors for up to 40 years. "Balochistan's chief

⁵³ <http://www.firstpost.com/world/bomb-blast-in-pakistans-balochistan-province-injures-six-3183798.html>

⁵⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1305934/need-stressed-for-political-solution-to-balochistan-issue>

⁵⁵ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/balochistan/03-Jan-17/six-fc-officials-injured-in-quetta-bombing>

⁵⁶ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1282225/gwadar-industrial-estate-balochistan-agrees-tax-breaks-domestic-investors/>

minister has assured us that he will declare it (the industrial estate) a free zone," Waqas A Lasi, GM Finance of the Gwadar Industrial Estate Development Authority (GIEDA), said while briefing a group of journalists from Karachi.

Over 110 bodies found last year: rights group, *The Dawn*, January 4⁵⁷

The chairperson of the Baloch Human Rights Organisation (BHRO), Bibi Gul Baloch, has claimed that 113 mutilated bodies were found dumped across Balochistan last year. Speaking at a press conference at the Karachi Press Club on Tuesday (January 3), she revealed details of the annual report compiled by the BHRO. It included data about the people who went missing, those whose bodies were found in Karachi and south-west Balochistan, and those killed during military raids and operations. Ms Baloch said that during 2016 scores of military operations were carried out in the province's insurgency-hit southwestern parts and that 32 people had gone missing after being "arrested by the law enforcement agencies".

17 injured in DI Khan roadside blast, *The Express Tribune*, January 4⁵⁸

At least 17 people, including five policemen, were injured in a roadside blast targeting a police vehicle in Dera Ismail Khan on Wednesday (January 4). According to police officials, the van was on routine patrolling when it was targeted. Two women and a child were also among those injured. The bomb which had been planted near the circular road, General Bus stand, weighed between five to seven kilogrammes, according to police officials.

Violence-related fatalities increased in 2016, *The Dawn*, January 4⁵⁹

Balochistan and Punjab saw a marginal increase in violence in 2016, with Balochistan seeing an almost 10pc rise in fatalities caused by violence since 2015, and Punjab seeing the highest number of fatalities in the province in four years, the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) has found. Fatalities in Balochistan rose from 719 in 2015 to 798 in 2016, while Punjab lost 424 people to violence last year. Both provinces were the targets of suicide attacks that increased the casualty count. The findings are among others in the annual CRSS security report which was released on Tuesday (January 3). The report also said that the overall situation in the country has improved, and Pakistan may see prominent success with regards to curbing violence this year, as things have improved not only here but in the region. 2016 saw an almost 45pc fall in violence-related fatalities, continuing the trend of reductions since 2014.

⁵⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1306343>

⁵⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1284118/17-including-five-policemen-injured-di-khan-roadside-blast/>

⁵⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1306301/violence-related-fatalities-in-balochistan-punjab-increased-in-2016>

Defence analyst and head of the CRSS, Imtiaz Gul told Dawn the general situation has changed significantly.

Cop, educationist gunned down in Quetta, *The Nation*, January 5⁶⁰

Armed men gunned down a police sub-inspector and a director of a private school here (Quetta) on Wednesday (January 4). Police sources said unidentified assailants opened fire on a vehicle in Jinnah Town killing the cop and his friend on board. The victims succumbed to their injuries on the spot. Police reached the scene and shifted the bodies to Sandemand Civil Hospital Quetta for medico-legal formalities, besides registering a case against assailants and starting investigation into the killings. Meanwhile, Governor Balochistan Muhammad Khan Achakzai and Chief Minister Nawab Sanaullah Zehri have strongly condemned the killing of police sub-inspector and director of a private school.

Five Hazara men injured, *The Dawn*, January 6⁶¹

Unidentified assailants injured five members of Quetta's Hazara community in a targeted attack on Friday (January 6), police said. The assailants shot and injured the individuals on Spini Road in the Qila Mubarak area, Deputy Inspector General Police Quetta Razzak Cheema said, terming the incident a targeted attack. Two of the wounded are in critical condition, and all those injured in the shooting have been shifted to Bolan Medical Complex. The five individuals were targeted while they were travelling in a taxi, the DIG said. Police have launched an investigation into the attack.

Four suspected militants killed, *The Dawn*, January 6⁶²

At least four suspected militants were killed during an exchange of fire with security forces in Balochistan's Naseerabad district on Friday (January 6). A security officer told DawnNews that security forces conducted a search operation in Uch and other areas of Naseerabad district. He said five miscreants were also arrested during exchange of fire by security personnel. Moreover, nine sanctuaries of militants were demolished by security personnel.

BLA social media head succumbs to amnesty bill, *Daily Times*, January 9⁶³

During a ceremony arranged by the Frontier Corps, former social media supervisor for the banned Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) surrendered to the state. The social media supervisor Balakh Sher Badeni had joined BLA as

⁶⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/05-Jan-2017/cop-educationist-gunned-down-in-quetta>

⁶¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1306790/five-hazara-men-injured-in-quetta-gun-attack>

⁶² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1306790/five-hazara-men-injured-in-quetta-gun-attack>

⁶³ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/09-Jan-17/bla-social-media-head-succumbs-to-amnesty-bill>

a young boy. The ceremony took place on Monday (January 9) at FC Madadgar Centre. The Baloch Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti and the Balochistan government's spokesperson were among the attendees. Addressing the ceremony, Bugti said, "Balochistan is an integral part of Pakistan, law and order in the province has improved. But it needs further improvement."

Journalist killed by masked gunmen, *Daily Times*, January 13⁶⁴

Unidentified attackers shot dead a journalist in Balochistan, close to Afghan and Iranian border, police said Friday (January 13). Muhammad Jan, 37, who worked for local Urdu language daily newspaper Qudrat, was shot late Thursday (January 12) while on his way home on a motorcycle in Qalat district, some 160 kilometres south of Quetta, the provincial capital. "Two attackers on motorcycle opened fire on him, using a pistol and killing him on the spot," senior police officer Muhammad Ali told AFP. The attackers fled the scene, he said.

Villagers attacked convoy of Qatari royal: officials, *The Nation*, January 15⁶⁵

A group of villagers brandishing guns and knives attacked the convoy of a Qatar royal family member on an expedition to hunt the houbara bustard, a rare bird whose meat is prized by Arab sheikhs, officials said on Monday (January 14). The hunting party was unhurt, but three security guards were wounded during the attack on Sunday evening (January 13) in Balochistan's Musakhel district, deputy commissioner Muhammad Yasar said.

PUNJAB

Human rights activist Salman Haider missing, *The News*, January 7⁶⁶

Salman Haider, a professor at the Fatima Jinnah University and human rights activist was reported missing from the federal capital. According the Geo News, Salman Haider went missing from Bani Gala on Friday night (January 6) and his car was recovered by the police from Koral Chowk. "A text message sent from Salman Haider's phone to his wife said the car should be taken from Koral Chowk", reported Geo News. An FIR of the incident has been lodged.

Nisar directs police to recover Salman Haider, *The News*, January 8⁶⁷

Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan on Saturday (January 7) directed the Islamabad Police to speed up its efforts and utilize all resources for the recovery of human rights activist Salman Haider.

⁶⁴ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/13-Jan-17/journalist-killed-by-masked-gunmen-in-balochistan>

⁶⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/15-Jan-2017/qatari-prince-escapes-life-attempt-in-balochistan>

⁶⁶ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/177468-Human-rights-activist-Salman-Haider-missing-Islamabad>

⁶⁷ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/177571-Nisar-directs-police-to-recover-Salman-Haider>

According to an interior ministry press release, the minister asked the police authorities to trace Salman Haider by utilizing the network of Safe City project. "Salman Haider should be recovered as soon as possible with the help of all relevant institutions" Chaudhry Nisar added.

SINDH

Police arrest three terrorists, *The News*, January 2⁶⁸

Police claimed to have arrested at least three terrorists and seized explosives from their custody during an action in Site area of the metropolis. SSP West Nasir Aftab said in a joint action, launched by police and personnel of an intelligence agency, three terrorists affiliated to a banned outfit were apprehended.

Rangers arrest 21 outlaws, *The News*, January 7⁶⁹

At least 21 people were arrested during a combing operation carried out by Police and Rangers in different areas of the city. Carrying out targeted operation in Mehmoodabad and Kemari, Rangers arrested four persons with three being associated with the Lyari gang war, said a Rangers spokesman. In a combing operation, 15 people were arrested from North Nazimabad. The Rangers spokesman said the arrested individuals who were involved in terrorist activity had been handed over to the police. According to the Rangers spokesman, weapons have been recovered during the operation.

RELATIONS WITH INDIA

India, Pakistan exchange list of nuclear installations, *The News*, January 2⁷⁰

India and Pakistan exchanged a list of their nuclear installations on Sunday (January 1), a measure which is a part of the treaty signed between the two countries since 26 years. As part of the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations between India and Pakistan, the two nuclear-armed neighbours exchanged a list of each other's nuclear installations on Sunday (January 1). The exchange was done through proper diplomatic channels in New Delhi and Islamabad.

⁶⁸ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/176016-Police-arrest-three-terrorists-of-banned-outfit-in-Karachi>

⁶⁹ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/177469-Rangers-arrest-21-outlaws-combing-operation-Karachi>

⁷⁰ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/176217-India-Pakistan-exchange-list-of-nuclear-installations>

Indian hand in subversive acts evident: Zehri, *The Nation*, January 2⁷¹

Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Sanaullah Zehri has said that the United Nations discarding Indian resolution actually is an acknowledgment of Pakistan sacrifices in war against terrorism. Commenting on Indian resolution against Pakistan in UN reflected the nefarious designs of Indian government which met a disgraceful fate in guise of rejection by the world, said the chief minister in a press statement issued on Sunday (January 1). *The UN admitted Pakistan's unrivalled sacrifices in war on terror by rejecting Indian baseless resolution against Pakistan, noted the CM. The Indian resolution was aimed at diverting world focus from brutalities and tortures being inflicted upon the innocent people in occupied Kashmir and part of his decades-long negative propaganda against Pakistan, asserted the chief minister.*

US initiates process to resolve water dispute, *The Dawn*, January 3⁷²

The US administration has initiated the process for peacefully resolving the current water dispute between India and Pakistan without waiting for an invitation to do so, official sources told Dawn. The latest dispute concerns two hydroelectric power plants — Kishanganga and Ratle — that India is building on the Indus rivers system. Pakistan believes that the projects violate the design parameters of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), which provides specific criteria for such plants. Earlier this week, US Secretary of State John Kerry called Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and discussed with him different options for an amicable settlement of the dispute. After the call, US Ambassador to Pakistan David Hale also met Mr Dar in Islamabad at the finance ministry for further talks. [...]The initiative stems from the fear the US administration shares with the World Bank that the dispute, if dragged, may harm the treaty that has effectively resolved water disputes between India and Pakistan for more than half a century.

Civ-mil huddle to reach out to Neighbours, *The Express Tribune*, January 4⁷³

Pakistan will make fresh peace overtures to its estranged neighbours — Afghanistan and India — in a new initiative by the government to mend ties with the two countries, officials said on Tuesday (January 3). The decision to reach out to both Kabul and New Delhi with fresh proposals for resolving differences through dialogue was taken at a high-level civil-military huddle. [...]Sources familiar with the high-level huddle at the prime minister's office told *The Express Tribune* that Gen Qamar briefed the meeting about his telephone conversation with Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani and Chief

⁷¹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/02-Jan-2017/indian-hand-in-subversive-acts-evident-zehri>

⁷² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1306011/us-initiates-process-for-resolving-pakistan-india-water-dispute>

⁷³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1283850/civil-military-huddle-decides-reach-new-delhi-kabul/>

Executive Abdullah Abdullah as well as chief of the neighbouring country's army. Gen Qamar, who was invited by President Ghani to visit Kabul, will soon travel to the Afghan capital in a bid to convince the administration there to take a fresh start for the moribund Afghan peace process.

World must pressure India on Kashmir, *The Nation*, January 5⁷⁴

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Thursday (January 5) urged world leaders to tell India "enough is enough" for its intransigent attitude in resolving the longstanding Kashmir dispute. The premier vowed to continue moral, political and diplomatic support to the people of Kashmir in their struggle for the self-determination. Addressing an international parliamentary seminar on Kashmir here (Islamabad), the prime minister said that Pakistan will always take steps to keep the world updated about happenings in Kashmir.

Engagement with Pakistan needs to continue: India, *The Nation*, January 5⁷⁵

After a year of hostilities, India has finally realised that engagement with Pakistan needs to continue even as talks have come to a standstill. Invoking former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, MJ Akbar, Indian Minister of State for External Affairs, Wednesday said that while one cannot change one's neighbours, "we have to deal with them eyes open, and not deal with them with closed minds". Akbar was speaking to the media on his ministry's mid-term review. "Let there be peace and there will be a dialogue," he said, reminding Islamabad that terror and talks cannot go together. His colleague VK Singh was even more stern, saying India would not accept 'continuance of terrorism as the new normal'. "The aim of the surgical strike was to convey to Pakistan that we will not accept continuance of terrorism as the new normal. Our own good faith has been amply demonstrated time and again through repeated initiatives to normalise the relationship," he said. "However, as we have often stated, talks and terror cannot go together."

India's water terror hits farmers hard, *The Nation*, January 5⁷⁶

The dried-up bed of the River Chenab speaks volumes about the shortage of water at Head Marala here, thereby increasing the problems of farmers regarding irrigation. The Irrigation Department said that the water level has dropped to great extent in River Chenab. The department officials said that both the main canals namely Marala-Ravi-Link (MR Link) Canal and Bambaanwala-Ravi-Baidian (BRB) Canal have been closed due to shortage of water in River Chenab. Due to the non-availability of the canal water for

⁷⁴ <http://nation.com.pk/national/06-Jan-2017/world-must-pressure-india-on-kashmir>

⁷⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/05-Jan-2017/engagement-with-pakistan-needs-to-continue-india>

⁷⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/national/06-Jan-2017/india-s-water-terror-hits-farmers-hard>

irrigation, the farmers along the banks of the River Chenab are suffering great difficulties. They further said that the water level is 4,300 cusecs in River Chenab at Head Marala while there is 500 cusecs water in River Tavi and 650 cusecs in River Jammu at Head Marala. *The officials said the main reason behind the shortage of water is stoppage of water by India in River Chenab towards Pakistan.*

India insists on neutral expert in talks with WB, *The Nation*, January 6⁷⁷

India on Thursday (January 4) asked the World Bank to allow a neutral expert to look into a dispute with Pakistan over sharing of river waters under the 1960 Indus Water Treaty as well plans by India to construct two hydel power projects. India's position was conveyed at a meeting in New Delhi between World Bank representative Ian H Solomon and senior officials of external affairs and water resources ministries. Solomon was in New Delhi as part of the World Bank's efforts to break a deadlock between the two neighbours on the Kishenganga and Ratle projects that India plans to proceed with in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. In the meeting, the Indian delegation led by joint secretary in charge of Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan in the foreign ministry, Gopal Baglay, gave a presentation on the two projects and said that a neutral expert look into the issues as objections raised by Pakistan on technical issues.

Bajwa rejects Indian surgical strike claim, *The Nation*, January 6⁷⁸

Reacting to a recent statement of his Indian counterpart Gen Bipin Rawat, Chief of Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa on Thursday (January 4) said that Pakistan armed forces were fully geared to respond to any aggression by India. "Chief of Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa rejects self-defeating claims by the Indian army chief about the "so-called surgical strikes" and its possible recurrence," Inter-Services Public Relations Director-General Maj-Gen Asif Ghafoor said in a statement.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Continued 'Engagement', Editorial, *The Nation*, January 6⁷⁹

[...]After every hand that Pakistan has held out to India to engage it in peaceful dialogue, India has slapped it back. The attack in the base camp at Uri in India held Kashmir, India's fake surgical strikes and the resultant tension along the border eradicated any progress at engagement. In the aftermath of the attacks Pakistan made repeated efforts to resolve standing issues. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif repeatedly stressed peace with India and

⁷⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/national/06-Jan-2017/india-insists-on-neutral-expert-in-talks-with-wb>

⁷⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/national/06-Jan-2017/bajwa-rejects-indian-surgical-strike-claim>

⁷⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/06-Jan-2017/continued-engagement>

the resolution of the Kashmir Issue in UNGA but was slammed by Indian Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj in an acid rejoinder that quashed any process of dialogues. Similarly, India's continued violation of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) harbours the same disdain of dialogue, countering any effort at arbitration with threats of choking the water flow. India also openly opposes the CPEC, displaying its growing alarm at Pak-China ties as well as Pakistan's improving relationship with Russia. *As the Russia-China-Pakistan trilateral talks work towards building a new axis in Afghanistan with Pakistan at the forefront, Modi went the extra mile to strengthen relations with the US, a move that culminated in the India-US-Afghanistan trilateral dialogue that seeks to isolate and counter Pakistan's role in Afghanistan. Dialogue is held out only to be granted as a favour and has itself become leverage for India over Pakistan. It is best that Pakistan becomes equally stoic.*

EXCERPTS FROM URDU MEDIA & SELECT JIHADI LITERATURE

India defeated, Editorial, *Daily Ausaf*, January 3⁸⁰ 81

India is trying hard to defame Pakistan at the international level by accusing it of spreading terrorism. India had to swallow a bitter pill when China vetoed India's Resolution against the *Jaish-e-Muhammad* Chief Maulana Masood Azhar. India had yet to recover from this shock, the UN rejected its Resolution accusing Pakistan of spreading terrorism. The rejection of the Resolution at the UN implies that the civilised countries of the world are not ready to accept India's false allegation and shrewdness. ... *Reality is that India is ruled by the radical Hindus, extremist and beastly leaders (kater Hindu, inteha pasand aur insaani khoon key paase derinde sifat rehnoma). India is the world's only unfortunate country which is ruled by terrorists because of whom the whole South Asian region is put under threat.* ... This vandal country (*shar pasand mulk*) wants to destabilise Pakistan internally and to sabotage the CPEC project.

Indian Conspiracy...be Careful, Sami-Ullah Malik, *Daily Ausaf*, January 5⁸²
More than three strong separatist movements are going on in India. In few places, these separatist are strong enough to run day to day affairs. They have issued a taxing system of their own. To pass through these areas, Indian forces have to pay hefty amounts to the separatists. The Kashmir issue has been keeping the Brahamn Samaraj and its cruel security forces on their toes....Given

⁸⁰<http://epaper.dailyausaf.com/popup.php?newssrc=issues/2017-01-03/3360/1001.gif>

⁸¹<http://ummat.net/2017/01/03/news.php?p=idr1.gif> (a longer version of the same editorial with personal attack on the Prime Minister Modi appeared in *Ummat*)

⁸²<http://epaper.dailyausaf.com/popup.php?newssrc=issues/2017-01-05/3515/p1008.gif>

that current turmoil in the state, it has invoked international concerns. Some have suggested that the issue may result in the third world war, entailing the use of nuclear weapons. This is the reason that Government of India is trying hard to make Muslims of the state a minority through the puppet Government of the state. The Indian Government is inhibiting the Hindus, who flee from Pakistan, in the state and is changing its demography....*More than one lakh Hindus and Sikhs, who have fled from Bajwa (Pakistan), Afghanistan and Bangladesh, are in India at the moment. Five thousand Hindus leave their homes every year because of the Indian propaganda. They go to India where they are treated as second class citizens.* Certificates of citizenship to these people are issued in occupied Kashmir. The Kashmiri leadership has upped the ante to protest against this move.

Save Kashmir from becoming Palestine, Editorial, *Jang*, January 6⁸³

President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Masood Khan has asked the visiting British Parliamentarians to help in stopping the Indian policy aimed at demographic change in the occupied Kashmir. He said that the Israeli way of settling illegal colonies should be put to an immediate halt; human rights violations in Kashmir must be stopped....For many years, India has been exacerbating the Kashmir issue by its arrogant policies. To crush the ongoing peaceful freedom movement, India is using state terrorism, killing the Kashmiris by showering bullets on them, using pellet guns to blind the protestors and has increased the number of Indian military in occupied Kashmir. *Violating the special provision for Kashmir in the Constitution of India, the Indian Government is building Hindu colonies in Kashmir, like Israel has been doing in occupied Palestine.*

Modi Government's atrocities in Kashmir

Editorial, *Nawa-i-Waqt*, January 10⁸⁴

The delegation headed by the former Foreign Minister of India Yashwant Sinha has emphasised that the overwhelming use of force has made the Kashmiris fearless. If New Delhi were not to take cognizance of this fact, the conditions in Kashmir could have detrimental effects on India very soon. These consequences can hurt India in 2018....The report says that the continuous discriminatory policies of the Indian state towards Kashmiris have crossed all the limits. These members had a strange apprehension that something was going to happen in the coming summer. Whatever happens after April 2017, its intensity would be unprecedented....Modi Government (*Modi Sarkar*) is implementing the BJP's anti-Pakistan agenda by deploying new ways of committing atrocities in Kashmir....On the other hand, the Sikh group *Dal*

⁸³<http://e.jang.com.pk/01-06-2017/karachi/pic.asp?picname=244908>

⁸⁴<http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2017-01-10/page-14/detail-6>

Khalsa's President Manmohan Singh Khalsa has started opposing the Modi Sarkar's anti-minority policies. He has said that because of the policies of the Modi Sarkar India will soon fall apart....If the Modi Sarkar continues to pursue the Hindutva extremist policies (Hinidu inteha pasandi), the prediction by the head of the Dal Khalsa will be soon true ... In this way, Modi will turn out to be India's Gorbachev.

CPEC and S (Saudi)-I (Islamic)-Pakistan Unity

Amjad Chowdhury, *Ummat*, January 10⁸⁵

[...]Many foreign-agencies have established their supporters in media, NGOs, and political parties in Pakistan for the purpose of pursuing their agenda. They supply them with hefty amounts of money for opposing any policy that may help Pakistan....These forces are able to succeed only when the leadership is visionless and weak....Latest issue that is being debated on the media rooms and streets is the General Raheel Sharif's appointed as the chief of the IMAFT. It is a watershed for Pakistan that it's former army chief was appointed to head the 39 countries: a moment of pride for the Pakistan Army....But on the other hand, India's and its allies' worry is natural, given their perception that Pakistan is a threat to them (jo Pakistan se khayef rehte hain). Iran has also opposed it. How could the enemies of Pakistan digest this development? Like the way they had run a propaganda campaign against the CPEC, they have fielded their supporters to oppose Raheel's appointment and are providing them huge funds. They know that if this decision is implemented, the "S-I-Pak" (Saudi-Islamic-Pakistan) can be more effective than the CPEC....Raheel Sharif's appointment will make Pakistan a strong defence power and he will set it on the invincible tract. Those who could not digest the Gwadar, they have been having nightmares of Pakistan being present at every Arab country's Islamic port. They will die every moment just by thinking about it (inki tu yeh sooch kar hi jan nikal ja rahi hogi).

Our messy thinking, Mirza Aslam Beigh, *Nawa-i-Waqt*, January 12⁸⁶

We are apparently at war with ourselves. Our messy thinking has been responsible for divisions in our society. When in 1958 the then Khan of Kalat protested for its political rights, we dubbed it as a rebellion and attacked him. This has been repeated five times. From 2005, the issues in Swat, FATA and other regions have been tried to resolve by military power. We do not understand that if same kind of protests were carried out by the people of Punjab and Sindh, they would not have met same fate. The tribes' way of protesting is that they pick up arms and hide in the mountains after which they

⁸⁵<http://ummat.net/2017/01/10/news.php?p=idr2.gif>

⁸⁶<http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2017-01-12/page-14/detail-8>

are dubbed as rebellions....This puzzle is not unpacked. Such groups are brandished as terrorist and then they do terrorism in the real sense of the word. [...] *The All-Mighty has authorised us to appoint the administrator which would act according to the Quran and the principles of Sunnah....Unfortunately we have ignored the principles of Quran and Sunnah and preferred democracy only. Nobody has taken seriously the issue of protecting the ideological identity of the nation....The NAP labels the religious groups as terrorists but because of our political and ideological differences, our ruling section has divided our society into liberal, secular, enlightened and nationalist groups.*

[...] We will have to be ready to face tough challenges because Pakistan is not an island. Our neighbors are Iran and Afghanistan like revolutionary countries, which will not remain silent. They will try to benefit from the situation of our religious groups and create havoc in the country. Unfortunately, we are ourselves part of the Washington-2010 conspiracy, according to which "\$1 to 4 billion were kept for changing the ideology of Pakistan". This has created liberal, secular and enlightened sections in Pakistan.... *Our Parliament will have to pass a law in which "it would be mandatory for all Urdu and English medium schools to teach Quran and Sunnah to all Muslim students".*

Our neighboring country Iran has the concept of *Wilyat-e-Fiqhi*, which is based on Quran and Sunnah and because of which Iranians have not been only able to face international sanctions but have brought the Islamic revolution in Iran. Similarly, Afghanistan has been determined to make Afghanistan an Islamic state and have been fighting world's super power for last thirty years. They say that they do not accept the agenda of the occupiers because this is against their national pride, tradition and ideology. Ideological power is the success story. *Inshallah*, this power will make the future of Pakistan bright.

STATISTICS

BOMBINGS, SHOOTINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES

(Select incidents culled out from the Pakistan media)

Place	Date	Description	Killed	Injured
Balochistan				
Quetta ⁸⁷	2/1/2017	Bomb blast injures 6	0	6
DI Khan ⁸⁸	4/1/2017	17 Injured in DI Khan	0	17
Quetta ⁸⁹	5/1/2017	Two gunned down	2	0
Qalat ⁹⁰	13/1/2017	Journalist shot dead	1	0

⁸⁷ <http://www.firstpost.com/world/bomb-blast-in-pakistans-balochistan-province-injures-six-3183798.html>

⁸⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1284118/17-including-five-policemen-injured-di-khan-roadside-blast/>

⁸⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/05-Jan-2017/cop-educationist-gunned-down-in-quetta>

⁹⁰ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/13-Jan-17/journalist-killed-by-masked-gunmen-in-balochistan>