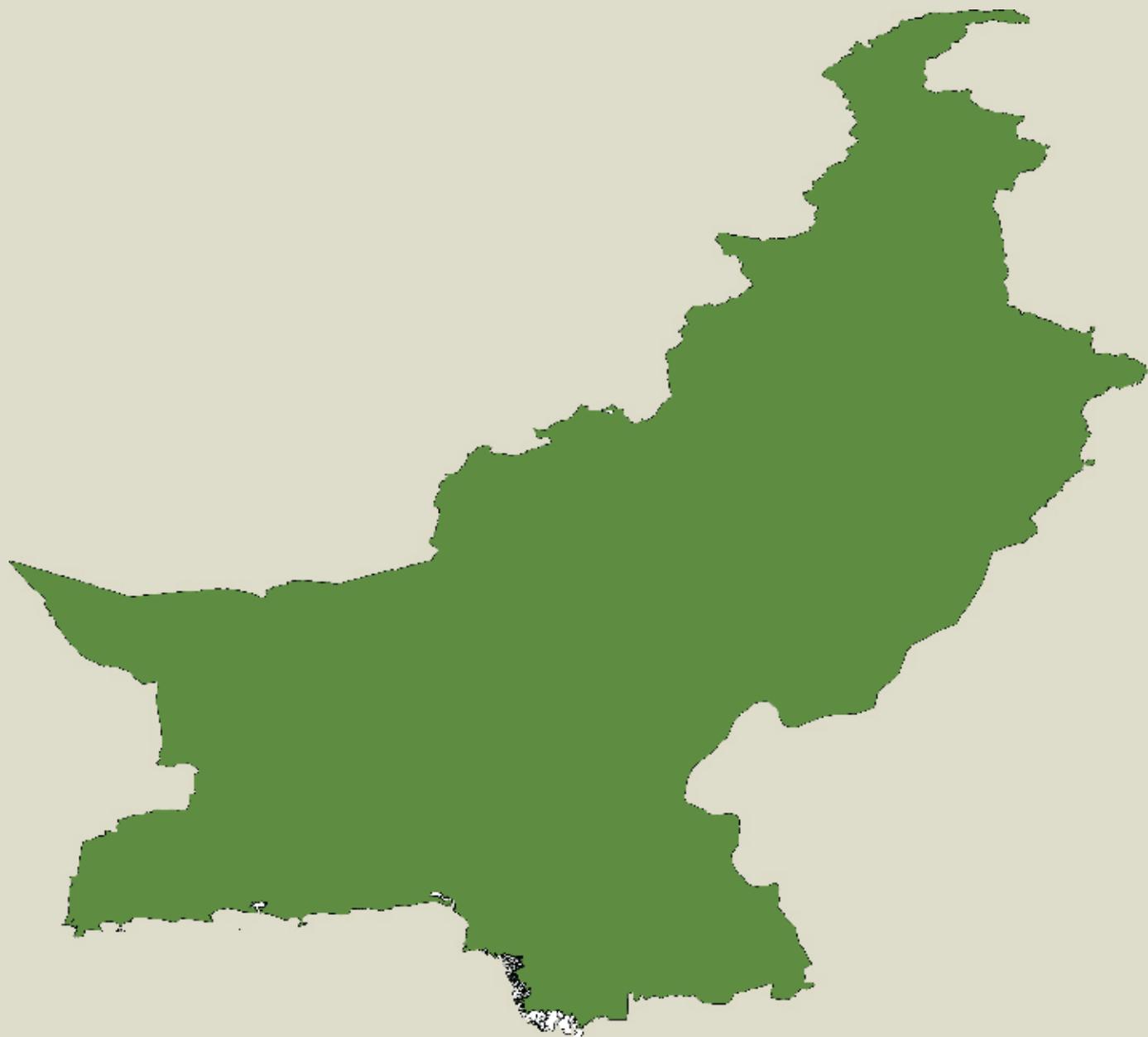


January 2016

PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST

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



*Prepared by
Ashish Shukla &
Manzoor Ahmed Bhat
(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 2016

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADB: Asian Development 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
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
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
PML-N: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz
PPP: Pakistan People's Party
PTI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
QWP: Qaumi Watan Party
TTP: Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

NATIONAL POLITICS

PM may not perhaps complete tenure: Ahsan, *The News*, January 4¹

PPP senior leader Aitzaz Ahsan has said that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif may not perhaps complete his tenure due to his mistakes. ***“PM Nawaz Sharif always commits some major mistakes. Perhaps PM may not complete his tenure due to his mistakes. Now we have to see when he makes a rod for his own back (when he hits his leg with axe),” he said*** this while talking to media men here Monday (January 4).

1,000 arrested for running banned outfits, *Daily Times*, January 7²

A legislative body of the Upper House of parliament was informed on Wednesday (January 6) that the Punjab government has arrested about 1,000 members of banned organisations that run them under changed names. In terrorism-related cases, the provincial government has registered 6,000 cases, said Punjab Home Department Additional Secretary Ikhtisham, who briefed the Senate Functional Committee on Human Rights.

PML-N wants revision of Charter of Democracy, *The Nation*, January 22³

While one-third of the Charter of Democracy (CoD) signed between the PPP and the PML-N way back in 2006 is yet to be implemented, the ruling party wants revision of the document to suit the present conditions. The PML-N leadership thinks that some of the clauses of the CoD cannot be implemented under the present circumstances. ***“It is not necessary that all the provisions should be implemented,” said PML-N Secretary General Iqbal Zafar Jhagra*** while talking to *The Nation* yesterday. [...] Though the PML-N leader did not identify those provisions, but looking at the text of the CoD and its implementation status, it is quite obvious that they pertain to the two main institutions, the army and the judiciary.

Nisar breaks silence by shelling PPP, *The Nation*, January 29⁴

Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan yesterday hit out at his political opponents for criticism on implementation of National Action Plan (NAP), saying the country was losing war on terrorism at psychological front due to their unnecessary criticism. [...] Coming down hard on his political opponent, ***Nisar said, “It is astonishing those criticising NAP have never read it”.*** War

¹ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/86318-PM-may-not-perhaps-complete-tenure-for-his-mistakes>

² <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/07-Jan-2016/1-000-arrested-for-running-banned-outfits-under-new-names>

³ <http://nation.com.pk/national/22-Jan-2016/pml-n-wants-revision-of-charter-of-democracy>

⁴ <http://nation.com.pk/national/29-Jan-2016/nisar-breaks-silence-by-shelling-ppp>

is not only fought with guns (at battlegrounds) but also at psychological front, he said, adding the country was winning the war of guns but losing psychologically due to unnecessary criticism of opposition leaders.

Willing to review blasphemy law, *The Nation*, January 29⁵

The head of a powerful religious body said on Thursday (January 28) he is willing to review blasphemy laws that critics say are regularly misused and have led to the deaths of hundreds, to decide if they are Islamic. [...] Maulana Muhammad Khan Sherani, chairman of a body that advises the government on the compatibility of laws with Islam, told Reuters he was willing to reopen the debate and see whether sentences as harsh as the death penalty were fair.

“The government of Pakistan should officially, at the government level, refer the law on committing blasphemy to the Council of Islamic Ideology. There is a lot of difference of opinion among the clergy on this issue,” Sherani said in an interview at his office close to parliament.

PROVINCIAL POLITICS

Nisar behaves like a Viceroy: Chandio, *The Pashtun Times*, January 10⁶

Maula Bux Chandio has said the federal minister for interior Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan behaves like a viceroy towards the province. The prime minister had asked him to visit Sindh but he did not condescend to see the Sindh chief minister, neither did he take the trouble to attend the senate session even though he was ordered by the premier, he said. [...] He complained that the federal government did not appear serious about Sindh’s concerns with regards to Rangers powers and said it would hasten to blame the provincial government again whenever the issue emerged again.

Qaim blasts Centre, *The Dawn*, January 11⁷

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah said the federal government had “behaved democratically” during the first year and a half of its tenure but later “unleashed a policy of confrontation and political victimisation” against its opponents. “They [have] started harassing our ministers, officers and elected representatives without solid or tangible evidence,” he said.

⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/29-Jan-2016/willing-to-review-blasphemy-law-says-cii-chief>

⁶ <http://thepashtuntimes.com/chaudhry-nisar-behaves-like-a-viceoy-towards-sindh-says-chandio/>

⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1232130/qaim-blasts-centre-for-adopting-policy-of-confrontation-with-sindh>

NAP being implemented effectively, *The Express Tribune*, January 28⁸

The National Action Plan against terrorism is being effectively implemented in the Punjab, Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif said on Wednesday (January 27). He was talking to British National Security, Foreign and Commonwealth Office Director Jonathan Allen. The chief minister welcomed the cooperation of the British government in the Safe Cities Project. **“Necessary amendments have been made to laws for making sentences more stringent. A special counter terrorism force has also been set up. The government is determined to implement the action plan against terrorism,” he said.**

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Democratic consolidation in 2015, Umair Javed, *The Dawn*, January 4⁹

[...]Pakistan’s trajectory from procedural democracy — where regular elections and some freedoms are the only measure — to substantive democracy has been mixed at best. **On the basic issue of balance of power between elected and unelected institutions, the system’s stagnation is apparent.** The military’s consolidated its hold over specific areas of security and foreign policy, reshaped the narrative to cast itself as the arbiter of Pakistan’s fate vis-à-vis the fight against terrorism, and has expanded its PR profile to engage in what it says is a ‘recalibration’ of governance, nationalism and religion.

Sharifs flying solo in deciding major issues, Sajid Zia, *The Nation*, January 6¹⁰

Decision making on most of the matters of national significance is being carried out through a handful of persons in the ruling party, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz. This impression is strongly growing among the party men after the opposition grilled the rulers on this score many times. [...]The PML-N legislators and the relevant members, when asked in private gatherings about their involvement in decision making, they prefer to maintain silence. However, some other dare to say that **decision making on projects for the national development is limited to a few leaders of the top ranks** and even a division of high and low in position is observed to value their say in the final count. The rest of the party men have to follow those decisions and justify them before the people through statements and talk shows.

⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1035373/fighting-terrorism-national-action-plan-being-implemented-effectively/>

⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1230547/democratic-consolidation-in-2015>

¹⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/06-Jan-2016/sharifs-flying-solo-in-deciding-major-issues>

FOREIGN POLICY

Blast near Indian consulate in Jalalabad, *The Nation*, January 6¹¹

A small bomb exploded near the Indian consulate in the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad on Tuesday (January 5), authorities said, after a series of attacks on Indian installations in the region. The blast, which happened the morning after a gun and bomb siege near the Indian consulate in a northern Afghan city, was some 200 metres from the consulate in Jalalabad, an Indian diplomatic source there told AFP.

Stay the course, US asks Pakistan, India, *The Nation*, January 6¹²

The United States has said it 'expects' Pakistan, which has itself suffered from terrorism, to act against perpetrators of a deadly attack on an Indian air force base in Pathankot. "The government of Pakistan has spoken very powerfully on this and it's our expectation that they'll treat this exactly the way they've said they would. We have been clear with the highest levels of the government of Pakistan that it must continue to target all militant groups," State Department Spokesman John Kirby told reporters at the daily press briefing. [...] Kirby described terrorism as a shared challenge that "all countries in the region" must fight together, saying the US "strongly encouraged the governments of both India and Pakistan to remain steadfast in their commitment to a more secure and prosperous future for both their countries and for the region."

Pakistan expels Bangladeshi diplomat, *Daily Times*, January 7¹³

Pakistan has asked Bangladesh to withdraw one of its diplomats from Islamabad, in an apparent retaliation after the expulsion of a Pakistani envoy from Dhaka who allegedly funded a suspected extremist on trial for espionage. Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque said Islamabad had on Tuesday (January 5) asked Dhaka to recall senior diplomat Moushumi Rahman from its high commission in Islamabad within 48 hours. [...] Diplomatic sources in Islamabad said that Rahman indulged in 'anti-state activities in Pakistan' and that concerned security agencies continued to monitor her. This is the first time that Pakistan has expelled a Bangladeshi diplomat.

¹¹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/06-Jan-2016/blast-near-indian-consulate-in-jalalabad>

¹² <http://nation.com.pk/national/06-Jan-2016/stay-the-course-us-asks-pakistan-india>

¹³ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/07-Jan-2016/pakistan-expels-bangladeshi-diplomat-as-spy-row-worsens>

S. Arabia assured of support, *The Dawn*, January 8¹⁴

Pakistan reaffirmed on Thursday (January 7) its support to Saudi Arabia, which is embroiled in a tense standoff with Iran, and the counter-terrorism coalition that it (Riyadh) was setting up. The reiteration of support for the Saudi government was made during a shortened visit by Saudi Foreign Minister Dr Adel Al-Jubeir to Islamabad for discussions on his country's diplomatic row with Iran and the multinational coalition against terrorism it (Saudi Arabia) had announced. ***"People of Pakistan held the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in high esteem and also had deep respect for the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. ... (they) will always stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Saudi Arabia against any threat to its territorial integrity and sovereignty," PM Sharif told*** FM Jubeir, while assuring him of Pakistan's unconditional support.

Pakistan welcomes Saudi-Led Alliance: PM, *The Pashtun Times*, January 11¹⁵

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in his meeting with Saudi Arabia's Deputy Crown Prince and Defence Minister Muhammad Bin Salman assured him of Pakistan's support if any threat arises to Saudi Arabia's territorial integrity. [...]It was agreed that the two countries would cooperate in developing an effective counter narrative to defeat the extremist mindset.

Threat to S. Arabia will evoke strong response, *The Dawn*, January 11¹⁶

[...]In his meeting with the Saudi minister Mohammad bin Salman on Sunday (January 10) at the General Headquarters, the army chief delivered a stronger message — probably offering the visiting leader the sound bite that he came looking for. ***Gen Sharif, according to ISPR, "re-asserted that any threat to Saudi Arabia's territorial integrity would evoke a strong response from Pakistan".***

Pak offers to defuse Saudi-Iran tensions, *The Express Tribune*, January 11¹⁷

Pakistan on Sunday (January 10) offered its 'good offices' to defuse tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran even as it supported the Saudi initiative to establish a coalition of likeminded Islamic states to counter terrorism and extremism. The offer came from Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif during his meeting with Saudi Deputy Crown Prince and Defence Minister Prince Mohammad bin Salman, who visited Islamabad as part of the kingdom's efforts to seek Pakistan's backing for the recently formed Saudi-led coalition.

¹⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1231519/s-arabia-assured-of-support>

¹⁵ <http://thepashtuntimes.com/pakistan-welcomes-saudi-led-anti-terror-alliance-pm/>

¹⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1232221/threat-to-s-arabia-will-evoke-strong-response-says-army>

¹⁷ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1025381/diplomatic-row-pakistan-offers-to-defuse-saudi-iran-tensions/>

Aziz opposes preconditions for peace talks, *The Express Tribune*, January 11¹⁸
Prime minister's senior aide Sartaj Aziz told the opening session of the quadrilateral group on Monday (January 11) that no precondition should be attached for peace talks with Taliban. ***"It is important that no preconditions are attached to the reconciliation process, as it will create difficulties in bringing Taliban to the negotiating table," Aziz said***, as he penned down four elements essential in the reconciliation process with Afghanistan. [...]Inaugurating the first meeting of the Quadrilateral Coordination Committee on Afghan peace process, where attendees included Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Khalil Hekmat Karzai and the special representatives of the United States and China for Afghanistan, Aziz said Pakistan gives importance to its neighbours and wants peace in Afghanistan. ***"The primary objective of the reconciliation process is to create conditions to bring Taliban to the negotiating table and offer them incentives that can persuade them to move away from using violence as a tool for pursuing political goals," he said.***

Olson discusses security situation with Gen Raheel, *The Nation*, January 12¹⁹
During the meeting held at the GHQ in Rawalpindi, Olson appreciated Pakistan's efforts in the fight against terrorism, the ISPR said. Earlier on December 9, General Raheel assured Afghan President Ashraf Ghani full support for peace and stability in Afghanistan. The meeting comes as top officials from Pakistan, Afghanistan, China and the United States met in Islamabad to finalise a roadmap for resurrecting a stalled peace process in Afghanistan.

Pak troops 'won't fight' in Saudi alliance, *The Nation*, January 12²⁰
Pakistan will not be sending its troops to fight in the Saudi-led anti-terror alliance but confining its cooperation to counter-terrorism only, Senate Defence Committee Chairman Mushahid Hussain Syed said yesterday. He said that government has agreed to take parliamentarians into confidence over high-level contacts that have taken place recently between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia following a diplomatic row between Iran and Saudi Arabia. "A joint meeting of the Senate and the National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs has been summoned tomorrow at Parliament House," Senator Mushahid told the media.

¹⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1025489/quadrilateral-meeting-sartaj-aziz-opposes-preconditions-for-afghan-peace-talks/>

¹⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/12-Jan-2016/olson-discusses-security-situation-with-gen-raheel>

²⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/12-Jan-2016/pak-troops-won-t-fight-in-saudi-alliance>

Taliban 'to join' peace talks next month, *The Nation*, January 12²¹

A senior Pakistani intelligence official said yesterday that Taliban are expected to resume talks with the Afghan government next month. The expected timeframe was offered separately, though, coinciding with the quadrilateral meeting yesterday in Islamabad when diplomats from four countries met to draw a roadmap for Afghanistan peace talks. **Taliban were not part of the quadrilateral meeting, which was held at Pakistani ministry of foreign affairs.** After a day-long deliberation by representatives of the four nations, it was decided that that next round of quadrilateral talks will be held on Jan 18 in Kabul, the Afghan capital. [...] **Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour's faction and the Haqqani network are considered to be more amenable to the pressure by Pakistan to come on the negotiating table.** [...] The window of opportunity for the peace talks is only within the next two months, the official said. "Fighting season commences after April and prior to it, the Taliban might see some use in agreeing to revive peace talks," he said. [...] **"We want less and less influence of India in Afghanistan," the official said. "As long as Kabul and India try to undermine Pakistan, the talks will not succeed."**

US urges AfPak focus on peace process, *The Nation*, January 22²²

The United States on Thursday (January 21) urged the leaders of Pakistan and Afghanistan to support a credible peace process with the Afghan Taliban. US Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of State John Kerry made the case to Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos. [...] Biden "reaffirmed US support for reconciliation and improved bilateral ties between Afghanistan and Pakistan and called them important pillars of regional stability (and) encouraged both leaders to remain committed to a credible peace process reinforced by tangible steps to reduce violence, eliminate militant safe havens, and promote bilateral cooperation," the White House said in a statement.

Premature to say who's behind BKU attack: FO, *The Nation*, January 22²³

Foreign Office spokesperson yesterday said it was too early to draw conclusions regarding who was behind the deadly attack on Bacha Khan University in Charsadda. "Investigations into the incident are underway. We should wait for completion of the investigations, before reaching any conclusion," said Qazi Khalilullah during the weekly press briefing on Thursday (January 21).

²¹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/12-Jan-2016/taliban-to-join-peace-talks-next-month>

²² <http://nation.com.pk/national/22-Jan-2016/us-urges-afpak-focus-on-peace-process>

²³ <http://nation.com.pk/national/22-Jan-2016/premature-to-say-who-s-behind-bku-attack-fo>

US will meet Pak needs for anti-terror war: FO, *The Nation*, January 29²⁴

Pakistan yesterday expressed the hope that the United States would meet Islamabad's requirements in the fight against terrorism without any further delay. "While Pakistan remains determined to continue the Operation Zarb-e-Azb against terrorism, we hope our friends, who are fully cognizant of our requirements in this fight, would also enhance efforts at their end to meet them expeditiously", Foreign Office spokesperson Qazi Fazlullah said at his weekly news briefing on Thursday (January 28). [...] "**While our resources are overstretched, we remain determined to root out the menace of terrorism from the soil of Pakistan, as well as from the region through a cooperative approach**", he added. The United States has been dilly dallying to fulfil its commitment in providing score of F-16s jet combat aircraft as well as some essential spare parts to Pakistan to fight terrorism.

EDITORIALS AND OPINION

Diplomacy at its finest, Editorial, *The Nation*, January 12²⁵

Despite efforts to remain diplomatically neutral in the Saudi – Iran rift that has gripped the entire of Middle East, Pakistan succumbed to the interests of its long-standing ally and declared its stance in the conflict. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif tried to be subtle during the talks with the Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir on Sunday (January 10), calling for resolving its crisis with Iran through diplomacy and offering Pakistan's good offices to 'brotherly' Muslim countries for resolution of their differences. Pakistani army chief Gen. Raheel Sharif reiterated that any threat to Saudi Arabia's territorial integrity would evoke a 'strong response' from Islamabad, leaving no room for confusion in the nature of the commitment offered. [...] We would like to see Iran prosper as a neighbor, and have good relations, but not at the cost of alienating the Kingdom.

Our regional security imperatives, *Aslam Beg*, January 29²⁶

Despite the Saudi snub, that they don't need Pakistani mediation, Pakistan has taken a bold initiative to defuse the Saudi-Iranian tension. It is a step in the right direction, because Pakistan in its own right enjoys perfect sectarian harmony, despite so many induced sectarian riots and dastardly terrorists' attacks. [...] Saudi Arabia has become very apprehensive of Iranian growing influence from Iran to Iraq, to Bahrain to Yemen and the Saudi eastern provinces, which contain nearly eighty percent of Saudi oil. **Internally there is a brewing dissent by the Wahhabi extremists, who form the third group of**

²⁴ <http://nation.com.pk/national/29-Jan-2016/us-will-meet-pak-needs-for-anti-terror-war-fo>

²⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/12-Jan-2016/diplomacy-at-its-finest>

²⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/columns/29-Jan-2016/our-regional-security-imperatives>

Daesh, along with the Iraqi and Syrian groups. Thus Riyadh appears defensive, with a sense of siege.

MILITARY AFFAIRS

Six suspected militants arrested, *The Dawn*, January 4²⁷

A special unit of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police claimed to have foiled a terror plan in an intelligence-based operation in Bannu on Monday (January 4). At least six suspected militants were arrested in the raid, security sources said. [...]During the raid, police arrested six alleged militants and recovered weapons from them. [...]The arrested militants were named as Shamsur Rehman, Abidullah, Anwar Kamal, Safdar Iqbal, Mansoor and Qudratullah.

Raheel confirms death sentence of 9 terrorists, *The News*, January 1²⁸

The Chief of Army Staff, General Raheel Sharif has confirmed death sentences, awarded to another nine hardcore terrorists, Inter Services Public Relations said on Friday (January 1). [...]These convicts were tried by military courts. The convicted militants included: Muhammad Ghauri s/o Javed Iqbal, Abdul Qayyum s/o Ameer Muhammad, Muhammad Imran s/o Abdul Manan, Aksan Mehboob s/o Asghar Ali, Adbul Rauf Gujjar s/o Rehmat Ali, Muhammad Hashim s/o Muhammad Abdullah, Sulaman s/o Boneer, Shafqat Farooqi s/o Malik Liaqat Ali, and Muhammad Farhan s/o Muhammad Rafique.

2016 will be year of elimination of terrorism: Raheel, *The News*, January 1²⁹

Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif has expressed confidence that 2016 will be the year of elimination of terrorism. According to Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), Army Chief arrived in Gwadar after visiting Talar and Turbat where he held meeting with Baloch tribal elders. General Raheel while talking to Baloch elders said, ***"I am fully confident that 2016 will be year of elimination of terrorism. This will also be year of national solidarity."*** He went on to say that nexus of terrorism, crime and corruption would be broken and an atmosphere of peace and justice would be created with the support of nation.

²⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1230709/six-suspected-militants-arrested-terror-bid-foiled-in-bannu-police>

²⁸ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/85705-Army-Chief-confirms-death-sentence-of-9-hardcore-terrorists>

²⁹ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/85715-2016-will-be-year-of-elimination-of-terrorism-Gen-Raheel>

Close aide of Baitullah Mehsud arrested, Daily Times, January 7³⁰

The Counter Terrorism Department and Sindh Rangers arrested a suspected terrorist who is said to be a financier and weapons supplier as well as a close aide of slain TTP leader Baitullah Mehsud. At a press conference in the office of CTD Hyderabad on Wednesday (January 6), CTD Karachi SSP Amir Farooq said that terrorist Meharban was arrested in a joint raid by CTD Karachi, CTD Hyderabad and Rangers from Kotri town, Jamshoro district.

Commanders pledge to bring peace to country, Daily Times, January 7³¹

[...]Presiding over the corps commander's conference held at the General Headquarters, the COAS lauded recent phenomenal successes of the security and intelligence agencies in the intelligence-based operations (IBOs) that have broken the terror nexus across country. Gen Raheel reiterated zero-tolerance for terrorist organisations and directed all those concerned to continue focused efforts "till we achieve sustainable peace and security". Speaking to the forum, the COAS expressed his satisfaction over progress in operation Zarb-e-Azb as well as operational preparedness of the Pakistan Army.

Navy developing second homeport, Daily Times, January 7³²

Jinnah Naval Base (JNB) Commander Commodore Sardar Amjad Mehmood said on Wednesday (January 6) that the base was being equipped with modern facilities and gadgets to meet all the future needs of the country. In a media briefing at the base, he said JNB was the second homeport after Karachi where all logistic and technical support for berthing Pakistan Navy (PN) ships and even submarines was available. **"PN is building JNB as an alternative arrangement to the Karachi base keeping in view all defence requirements," he said** while highlighting strategic location of the Jinnah base, which is situated 350 kilometers west of Karachi and 285 kilometers east of Gwadar Port which is being connected with China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

³⁰ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/07-Jan-2016/close-aide-of-baitullah-mehsud-arrested>

³¹ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/07-Jan-2016/commanders-pledge-to-bring-peace-to-country>

³² <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/07-Jan-2016/navy-developing-second-homeport>

Four TTP terrorists held in Karachi, *The News*, January 7³³

Police claimed to have apprehended four terrorists affiliated to Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) after a gunfight in Defence House Authority (DHA) Phase-1. Police officials said on information of the presence of the suspected terrorists, a raid was carried out and exchange of fire took place with the terrorists. Police arrested the suspected terrorists and seized explosives after gunfight. The accused are identified as Hanif alias Nadeem Kala, Ashraf Ali alias Bholu, Rehmat Shah, and Zahid Hussain.

CM praises army for restoring peace in Balochistan, *The Dawn*, January 7³⁴

Balochistan Chief Minister Sanaullah Zehri said on Wednesday (January 6) that the army and other security forces had played a remarkable role in defeating terrorists and restoring peace in the province. [...] ***“We are thankful to the army and the Commander Southern Command for providing professional training to the Balochistan police personnel to combat terrorism. Army and other security forces have been playing a vital role in restoration of peace in Balochistan,” the chief minister said.*** He said that professionally trained police were required to curb terrorism and maintain order. “The army is a symbol of national solidarity. It has been serving people of Balochistan in different sectors, including health and education.”

Rangers operation in Punjab on the cards, *The Dawn*, January 14³⁵

[...]The military establishment, in its assessment, sources in the provincial capital Lahore as well as the federal capital say, has recommended a Rangers-led operation in Punjab. [...]The security establishment thinks that Punjab police lack the training and the equipment to face terrorists, sources say, which was why the assignment must be handed over to Rangers. However, the Shahbaz Sharif-led provincial government is of the view that it can handle the task through its Counter-Terrorism Department and the Elite Force, but this would require special weaponry and support from the military.

Raheel urges self-reliance in defence, *The Express Tribune*, January 15³⁶

Army chief General Raheel Sharif has emphasised the need to maintain international quality standards in defence production that would ultimately reduce the country’s import bill through self-reliance. The Chief of Army Staff

³³ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/86832-One-killed-30-injured-in-Gujranwala-cylinder-blast>

³⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1231329/cm-praises-army-for-restoring-peace-in-balochistan>

³⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1232883/rangers-operation-in-punjab-on-the-cards>

³⁶ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1027790/visit-to-hit-gen-raheel-urges-self-reliance-in-defence-needs/>

(COAS) visited the Heavy Industries Taxila (HIT) on Thursday (January 14) to review the preparedness of the military's armed warfare production line. HIT is considered the home of army's armour production, especially tanks, armoured personnel carriers and other mechanised vehicles.

Musharraf acquitted in Bugti murder case, *The Express Tribune*, January 18³⁷
An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Quetta acquitted on Monday (January 18) former military ruler General (ret'd) Pervez Musharraf in the case of the murder of Jamhoori Watan Party (JWP) leader Nawab Akbar Bugti who was killed in a military operation in 2006. The court also acquitted former federal home minister Aftab Khan Sherpao, and former provincial home minister Shoaib Noshervani. During the hearing, the court also rejected the request by Nawabzada Jamil Akbar Bugti, son of Akbar Bugti, to order exhumation of his father's body to ensure the body buried in Dera Bugti was that of his late father.

COAS seeks Afghan, US help in tracing culprits, *The Nation*, January 22³⁸
General Raheel Sharif on Thursday (January 21) reached out to the Afghan leaders and the US Commander in Afghanistan General John Campbell for action against the perpetrators of Charsadda massacre as the law enforcement agencies arrested four facilitators of the attackers. Army chief made separate telephone calls to Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, Chief Executive Dr Abdullah Abdullah and Commander Resolute Special Mission in Afghanistan General John Campbell and shared with them details of the attack controlled from a location in Afghanistan through Afghan mobile phone by a TTP operative.

I don't believe in extension: Raheel, *The Dawn*, January 25³⁹

Director-General Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Lieutenant-General Asim Bajwa on Monday (January 25) has rubbished reports regarding extension of General Raheel Sharif's tenure as Chief of Army Staff, quoting Gen Raheel Sharif as saying he will "retire on the due date". In a series of tweets by the director general of the military's media wing, Army Chief General Raheel was quoted as saying, ***"Pakistan Army is a great institution. I don't believe in extension and will retire on the due date."*** The post of Army chief is inarguably the most powerful in Pakistan and speculation had recently been rife regarding the extension in Gen Raheel Sharif's tenure.

³⁷ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1029740/musharraf-acquitted-in-akbar-bugti-case/>

³⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/national/22-Jan-2016/coas-seeks-afghan-us-help-in-tracing-culprits>

³⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1235293/i-dont-believe-in-extension-will-retire-on-due-date-gen-raheel-sharif>

NLC should formulate 5-year plan: minister, *Daily Times*, January 25⁴⁰

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Ahsan Iqbal said on Monday (January 25) that the National Logistic Cell (NLC) should formulate a five-year business plan by setting clear objectives of the organisation for transforming it into a leading transportation company of the region. Chairing a meeting of National Logistic Board, he said that Pakistan was poised to become trade and commerce hub in the region and NLC should prepare to take advantage of future opportunities.

Top-level posting, transfers in Army, *The Express Tribune*, January 28⁴¹

The Pakistan Army on Wednesday (January 27) made a reshuffle at key positions and ordered posting and transfers of 11 major generals. Major General Azhar Saleh has been appointed as vice chief of general staff while Major General Shaheen and Major General Tariq Javed have been posted respectively as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Frontier Corps inspector general and Strategic Plans Division's (SPD) director general. Major General Irshad has been posted as PPA director general while Major General Khalid has been transferred to the PMO as director general. Major General Rehan Baqi has been posted as Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers' DG, Major General Akhtar Satti has been posted as General Officer Commanding (GOC) 26 Mechanised Division, Major General Saeed Nagra has been posted as GOC 114 Division Okara while Major General Amjad Ali Khan has been posted as GOC 35 Division Bahawalpur.

COAS for terror-free Karachi, *The Express Tribune*, January 28⁴²

Army chief General Raheel Sharif vowed on Wednesday (January 27) to go to any length to make Karachi terrorism-free as it was decided to accelerate the ongoing operation in the megalopolis against criminals, including target killers and extortionists. The decision came as Gen Raheel visited the Corps Headquarters in Karachi and chaired a special security meeting to review progress achieved in the targeted operation in the city.

⁴⁰ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/25-Jan-2016/nlc-should-formulate-5-year-business-plan-minister>

⁴¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1035393/reshuffle-top-level-posting-transfers-in-pakistan-army/>

⁴² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1035422/security-review-army-chief-vows-to-go-to-any-length-for-terror-free-karachi/>

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

COAS's resolve, Editorial, *Daily Times*, January 29⁴³

[...]No doubt, the Rangers operation has made a considerable impact on the overall law and order situation in Karachi compared to the lawlessness that was a hallmark of the city before the launch of the operation. [...] **Militants are still hiding and can let hell loose any time. There is no room for complacency.** The law enforcement agencies must be prepared for the long haul as Karachi is a big city and a mess has been accumulated over a long period of time that cannot be sorted out very quickly or without pain. [...] We can only welcome the COAS's resolve to continue the fight till its logical end. However, there must be a defined policy that should be implemented to exterminate terrorists. **The Rangers need to take politicians on board regarding the operation and need to address their genuine concerns along with the continuation of the operation.** [...] At the same time, there is a need to improve the police structure in the city. No military operation can go on forever. Rather, a strong civilian set-up is needed that could maintain law and order on its own.

ECONOMIC ISSUES

PM seeks preferential US market access, *The Express Tribune*, January 15⁴⁴

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has asked US investors to play their role in informing the American lawmakers about the importance of providing preferential market access to Pakistani goods. Speaking with a delegation of the US-Pakistan Business Council (USPBC) at the PM House on Thursday (January 14), the premier hoped the council would continue to play an active role in sharing with the larger US business community their positive experience of investing in Pakistan.

Pak needs 3% GDP increase for survival: PIAF, *Daily Times*, January 27⁴⁵

Three percent increase in the GDP is imperative to ensure the survival of the country facing internal and external economic challenges, said Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) acting Chairman Tanveer Ahmed Sufi. During the meeting with with local traders and industrialists in Quaid-e-Azam Industrial estate the other day, he said the population in the job market is increasing by three percent per annum that can be accommodated only if growth rate is at 7.5 percent. The economic situation is

⁴³ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/editorial/29-Jan-2016/coas-s-resolve>

⁴⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1027739/pm-seeks-preferential-us-market-access/>

⁴⁵ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/27-Jan-2016/pak-needs-3-gdp-increase-for-survival-piaf>

not improving as it was told for the last few years by the government quarters while international lenders have predicted that it may have improved in the next five years depending upon Iranian and Chinese investment and improvement in law and orders situation, argued Tanveer.

CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

Khattak Threatens 'Extreme Step' Over CPEC, *The Pashtun Times*, January 1⁴⁶

The political fraternity of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has warned the federal government through Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed against any 'deception' on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project. "I warn if the federal government does not address the reservations of KP about the (CPEC) project, then we will take an extreme step. And you (centre) will see what we are going to do," Chief Minister Pervez Khattak told a news conference with Mr Mushahid after attending the briefing of the parliamentary party leaders here (Peshawar) on Thursday (December 31). "The KP demand is very simple: implement the decisions of the 'All-Party Conference' held in Islamabad on May 28 and build complete corridor. **We don't need a highway**," said Mr Khattak flanked by parliamentary leaders in the KP Assembly. The chief minister said if the federal government wanted to build a highway only, then the province had sufficient resources to do so on its own.

CPEC questions, Uzair M. Yuonus, *The Dawn*, January 3⁴⁷

IF there was one achievement of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government this year, it was the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Counter-insurgency, relative macroeconomic stability, and the survival of the democratic set-up alongside a buoyant military establishment pale in comparison to CPEC. [...] **The problem with the CPEC agreement is that much of it is secret and undisclosed.** The State Bank governor recently bemoaned this fact, arguing that it is important for the bank to know the structure of CPEC deals. That the man responsible for ensuring the long-term macroeconomic stability of the country is unaware of the details, and is forced to argue his case in the press, is evidence of how secret this deal is. [...] **While sufficient details about CPEC are not available, the experience of African and Latin American countries can inform policymakers of the advantages and pitfalls of increased Chinese investment in the economy.** In both regions, China has increased investment in large-scale infrastructure projects. The focus of trade, however, has been on extractives. This has exposed the economies in both regions to the slowdown in China, causing dramatic declines in investment and currency levels. The Brazilian real has declined almost 30pc this year, as the slowdown in China

⁴⁶ <http://thepashtuntimes.com/cm-khattak-threatens-extreme-step-over-cpec-project/>

⁴⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1230347/cpec-questions>

coupled with domestic political upheaval has caused economic stagnation. [...]Why is it that a top policymaker, the man in charge of keeping the economic system in order, is not aware of the dynamics of this deal? Why is the equity and debt component of the corridor a secret? Why are details around potential preferential treatment for Chinese construction companies and employees not being made public?

Govt continues to face criticism over CPEC, *The Nation*, January 6⁴⁸

[...]Inside the National Assembly, the government faced strong criticism from some backbenchers about the growing tension between Iran and Saudi Arabia, urging the PML-N government to stay neutral in the row between the two countries instead of siding with the Saudi monarchs. And, outside the parliament, the nationalist forces lambasted the government for allegedly keeping the smaller provinces blind about the multi-billion dollars corridor project by diverting all the benefits to Punjab province. Interestingly, the political parties that stood in defense of the ruling government against the PTI's sit-in have now aimed their guns at the federal government. Syed Khurshid Shah, leader of the opposition in National Assembly, yesterday met leader of nationalist forces regarding the changes made in the corridor projects. A seven-member delegation of Awami National Party (ANP), led by former Senator Afrasiab Khattak, met Mr Shah in his chamber to take him on board regarding their agitation plans over the CPEC.

Stirring the CPEC pot, Editorial, *The Dawn*, January 7⁴⁹

ONCE again KP Chief Minister Pervez Khattak and his high command are up in arms against the manner in which the government is seen to be implementing the CPEC projects. Less than two months ago, he was already threatening "massive agitations" against these as well as a halt to all land acquisition under way in his province for CPEC projects. The reasons given were that the centre had not allocated the promised funds for those projects that lie in the province, and that changes were being made in the allocations and routes without consulting his government. [...] ***What is clear is that the whole controversy ultimately grows out of the lack of transparency shrouding CPEC projects, to the point where even the State Bank governor has made public comments that he is not aware of the foreign exchange requirements of the financing arrangements under which the projects are being executed.*** [...]The resolution of the KP Assembly further demands that the "[m]onographic study on highways of CPEC should be made a public document. Similarly, the agreements between Pakistan and China should also be made public". It is high time to bring transparency to CPEC, or perhaps

⁴⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/national/06-Jan-2016/govt-continues-to-face-criticism-over-cpec>

⁴⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1231254/stirring-the-cpec-pot>

call another multiparty conference to hammer out a new consensus behind it all over again.

Govt says CPEC will benefit whole country, Daily Times, January 7⁵⁰

Ahsan Iqbal denied on Wednesday (January 6) that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is for a particular region, saying it is for the whole country. He briefed the governor, chief minister and members of the KP Assembly on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on Wednesday (January 6). Briefing media persons after inaugurating the new academic block and a multi-purpose hall at Khyber Medical University in Hayatabad, he said Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government aims to initiate the Knowledge Corridor with the United States after CPEC. [...] Talking to media at Peshawar Press Club, Ahsan Iqbal said the federal government stood by the promise made by the prime minister at the All-Parties Conference on May 28. **“CPEC is not a Pakistani project. It is a Chinese project of \$46 billion, out of which \$35 billion are reserved for energy sector only. The Chinese will invest that amount through IPPs,” he said.** Ahsan Iqbal added that the federal government did not alter the CPEC route and the work on the western, eastern and central routes of the project started after the 2013 agreement. **“This project is not a game changer, it is a fate changer. The project is not for a particular region, it is for the whole country. There is no discrimination,” he said.**

K-P and the CPEC, Editorial, The Express Tribune, January 8⁵¹

The criticism directed at the way the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project is being handled by the federal government has mostly revolved around its design that has tilted towards favouring Punjab and Sindh while putting Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) on the backburner of development. [...] **Citing security reasons and the importance of completing the eastern route first, the PML-N government at the centre has alienated the provincial arm of the project, and has done little in terms of handling the situation diplomatically.** [...] So far, little seems to have been done to allay K-P's fears and satisfy it adequately. This will hurt the prospects of the various projects linked to the CPEC being completed on time. **If work timelines are not met and there are inordinate delays, the Chinese will eventually cut Pakistan out of its long-term strategic framework.**

⁵⁰ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/07-Jan-2016/govt-says-cpec-will-benefit-whole-country>

⁵¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1023658/k-p-and-the-cpec/>

China urges Pak to resolve CPEC issues, *The Pashtun Times*, January 10⁵²

China on Saturday (January 9) took notice of the recent political divide among local leaders over China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and urged the political parties to address their difference in order to create favourable conditions for the completion of CPEC project. The People's Republic hoped that the relevant political parties in Pakistan could strengthen communication and coordination on CPEC to create favorable conditions for the development projects. A spokesman for the Chinese embassy in Islamabad expressed the hope that "relevant parties should strengthen their communication and coordination on the matter". "We are ready to work with Pakistanis, to actively promote construction of CPEC projects, and bring tangible benefits to the people of the two countries," the spokesman added.

Mengal accuses Govt of hiding facts, *The Pashtun Times*, January 11⁵³

Leader of Balochistan National Party, Sardar Akhtar Mengal while claiming that agreements and MoUs under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are being concealed said without Gwadar there will be no CPEC and Chinese investment. Talking to media persons at the residence of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) leader Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman, the BNP leader his party is sensing the lack of transparency in CPEC. "Maps and agreements (under CPEC) are being hidden," he added. ***He said 'what is the province, with Gwadar its port city, getting out of the CPEC?' Akhtar Mengal said necessities should be given preference over facilities.***

No space for GB on CPEC table, Afzal A. Shigri, *The Dawn*, January 11⁵⁴

[...]Because GB does not have any representation in parliament and is not part of Pakistan constitutionally, it does not figure in state structures where decisions regarding the federating units are taken. Resultantly, they have no say in CPEC projects. They are not even represented in any consultative and planning committees of the projects. [...]CPEC projects according to the Planning Division are designed for the economic development of each province. For GB, except for the KKH upgradation that will result in scattered ribbon development of services along the roadside, no CPEC projects have been included in the overall plan. [...]Since GB has no say in CPEC projects, there is no one to safeguard its people's rights. The only way to give them a voice to ensure protection of their claim for economic development through CPEC is to resolve their constitutional status with representation in parliament and all government structures.

⁵² <http://thepashtuntimes.com/china-urges-pakistani-leaders-to-resolve-issues-over-cpec-project/>

⁵³ <http://thepashtuntimes.com/akhtar-mengal-accuses-govt-of-hiding-cpec-agreements-mous/>

⁵⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1232094/no-space-for-gb-on-cpec-table>

Whither CPEC?, Pervez Tahir, *The Express Tribune*, January 15⁵⁵

[...]The truth, instead of the promise at the level of the prime minister to build the western route first, would have made the smaller provinces more understanding of the problems the government may have been facing. **What happened instead was the prime minister taking the entire political flock to Zhob to inaugurate, in the name of the western route, what essentially was a project that has been ongoing since the 1990s, which only added insult to injury.** The argument about investors' preferences strictly applies only to the energy projects, which are in the (now kosher) IPP mould, not to the road projects that are to be financed by loans given to the state of Pakistan. It is for the federal government to decide where to utilise these loans. And it did exercise that choice. While keeping the smaller provinces guessing, it went ahead with fulfilling its dream of building motorways in Punjab to link it with Gwadar and Karachi. Intriguingly, while there is a list of 24 energy projects on the website along with their respective costs and locations, the so-called domain of the investor, only four road projects have been identified. The two related to the western route have no allocation. The third, common to all routes, is KKH-II with a cost of \$3.5 billion. The next big project, the Multan-Sukkur section of the motorway, is for the eastern route that has a cost of \$2.6 billion.

De-politicising the CPEC, Hussain Nadim, *The Express Tribune*, January 16⁵⁶

We are our own worst enemies, it appears, given the way the discourse on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has unfolded. [...]The foremost controversy was over its alleged change of route. The K-P government and nationalist parties in Balochistan have blamed the PML-N government for making the CPEC a Punjab-centric project by changing the original route of the economic corridor. [...]The second controversy is that the western route that goes through K-P and Balochistan only comprises a single road that lacks the perks of energy projects or industrial zones. [...]The third controversy is that the PML-N is undertaking the CPEC project to fill its pockets. [...]The fourth and only plausible controversy that makes any sense and has escalated the situation is that the PML-N is conducting the project without taking other provinces and political parties on-board in the decision-making process. **But the reasons behind the PML-N doing what it is doing may centre less around stripping Balochistan or K-P of their rights, and more about its management style.** [...]Nevertheless, the sooner the PML-N realises the need for it to change its decision-making and operational strategy, the stronger it will be at

⁵⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1027518/whither-cpec/>

⁵⁶ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1028177/de-politicising-the-cpec/>

the federal level and in a better position to deliver on mega projects like the CPEC.

Pak, China agree on e-corridor, *Daily Times*, January 27⁵⁷

Keeping in view the importance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in terms of regional connectivity, Pakistan and China on Tuesday (January 26) agreed to enable development of a range of initiatives to create an e-corridor to supplement the CPEC. A high level Chinese delegation led by Yan Lijin, chairman of the China Investment Promotion Centre, called on Minister of State for Information Technology Anusha Rehman here in Islamabad. The two sides discussed matters relating to collaboration between Pakistani and Chinese public and corporate sectors in the areas of innovation, information technology parks, electronic payments, information and communications technology services and infrastructure.

The CPEC and maritime security, Khurram Minhas, *Daily Times*, January 29⁵⁸

[...]There is the view that the construction of the CPEC will place Gwadar on the matrix of intense geo-strategic competition at the regional level. Gwadar will also put China and Pakistan in a strategically advantageous position along the Arabian Sea compounding already existing Indian concerns that stem from China's involvement in nearby ports such as Hambantota in Sri Lanka, Sittwe in Myanmar and Chittagong in Bangladesh. [...]Due to Pakistan's geography and the geo-political location in the region, Pakistan is depending heavily on the sea for its existence. Therefore, a strong navy equipped with modern technology is required to sustain the flow of trading activities in peace and war times. ***Though the Pakistan navy is capable of handling any security challenge in the Arabian Sea the government needs to convince China to harbour a fleet at Gwadar Port in order to cope with any kind of piracy activity in the sea.*** Drug trafficking, human smuggling and other related criminal activities are also expected other than trade activities. Therefore, the government should establish appropriate security and intelligence infrastructure along with other development activities.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Free Trade with Iran, Editorial, *The Nation*, January 21⁵⁹

The Premier and Army Chief's diplomatic trip can be dubbed a success considering Pakistan's apparent haste to initiate a free trade agreement (FTA) with Iran in the wake of lifting of sanctions on Tehran. All the fears of having to pick a side and turning down opportunities of bilateral trade with our

⁵⁷ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/27-Jan-2016/pak-china-agree-on-e-corridor>

⁵⁸ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/opinion/29-Jan-2016/the-cpec-and-maritime-security>

⁵⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/21-Jan-2016/free-trade-with-iran>

neighbour are suppressed for now as the belligerent sides seemed to welcome Pakistan's "sincere efforts". [...]Pakistan wants more predictability in tariffs on Iranian products and hopes that Iran will be as forthcoming as it is being right now. It has also unveiled plans to construct three border posts along the Pakistan-Iran border on modern lines to facilitate the land trade. It is a positive development overall to remove the red tape surrounding trade and commerce and building a relationship both countries could benefit greatly from. With Pakistan's increasing dependence on China to fulfil all its needs and requirements, it is necessary that all our eggs not be in one basket.

SECURITY SITUATION

TERRORISM

CM for continued action against banned groups, *The Dawn*, January 3⁶⁰

Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif has directed provincial law-enforcement agencies to continue their action against banned organisations. Presiding over a meeting on law and order under the National Action Plan here (Lahore) on Saturday (January 2), the chief minister said indiscriminate action should be taken against those involved in spreading hatred and other sectarian activities. "To win the war against terror, there is a need to end a particular mindset," he added.

Daesh (ISIS) Supporters Arrested, *The Pashtun Times*, January 4⁶¹

Officials arrested 42 suspected militants with alleged links to the militant Islamic State (IS) group. "The arrests were the result of raids in four Punjab cities over the weekend," said Punjab Law Minister Rana Sanaullah. ***The minister said those arrested had been tasked with setting up sleeper cells for IS, and that those arrested include the purported IS Islamabad chief Amir Mansoor, his deputy Abdullah Mansoori and the group's chief for Sindh province, Umer Kathio.*** The minister said the raids also yielded IS literature and weapons. Sanaullah said the operation against alleged IS militants was launched after a raid last week in Daska district, when 13 other IS suspects were arrested.

100 Punjabi Taliban Left for Syria and Iraq, *The Pashtun Times*, January 5⁶²

Punjab Law Minister Rana Sanaullah has said that the number of those Punjabi who had left Pakistan for Syria and Iraq to join Daesh is not more than 100. Talking to media persons here (Lahore), he said this does not mean

⁶⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1230445/cm-for-continued-action-against-banned-groups>

⁶¹ <http://thepashtuntimes.com/42-daesh-isis-supporters-arrested-in-punjab-rana-sanaullah/>

⁶² <http://thepashtuntimes.com/pakistan-100-punjabi-taliban-left-for-syria-and-iraq-to-join-daesh/>

the militants group exists in Pakistan, adding, Daesh will not be allowed to establish roots in Pakistan. The provincial law minister said that law enforcement agencies are playing a vital role in elimination of terrorism in the country. He said law and order has significantly improved in the country.

War against terror entered in final phase: PM, *The News*, January 7⁶³

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said that Pakistan has dismantled terrorists' network and its war against terror has entered in the final phase. Speaking to the Sri Lankan businessman and journalists on Wednesday (January 6), Nawaz Sharif once again expressed resolve to end energy crisis in the country by 2017. Inviting the Sri Lankan business community to invest in Pakistan, PM Nawaz said, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and TAPI projects would change the fate of the region. Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan offers attractive investment regime to the investors and Sri Lanka could take full benefit from it. He said, "We will also encourage our investors to invest in Sri Lanka." The Premier went on to say that Pakistan desires good economic relations with Sri Lanka.

TTP chief 'killed in air strike', *Daily Times*, January 26⁶⁴

Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) chief Mullah Fazlullah, who masterminded the massacre of 144 schoolchildren in Peshawar, was reportedly killed in an air strike in Afghanistan on Saturday (January 23), Gulf News has learnt. Calling it a 'big blow' that will break the back of TTP terrorists, Pakistani officials said that Fazlullah was killed during a joint operation carried out by the Pakistan Army and the US-led forces in Afghanistan. However, no official statement confirmed Fazlullah's death on Saturday (January 23). A highly placed source in Islamabad told Gulf News that the news about Fazlullah's death would soon be made public and his body would be shown to the public.

Editor's Note: TTP termed the news as rumour.⁶⁵

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND FATA

Charsadda attack: Breakthrough achieved, *The Express Tribune*, January 20⁶⁶

At least 21 people died when gunmen armed with grenades and Kalashnikovs attacked a university in Charsadda Wednesday (January 20), as security forces moved in under thick fog to halt the bloodshed. [...]The

⁶³ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/86822-Pakistans-war-against-terror-entered-in-final-phase-PM>

⁶⁴ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/26-Jan-2016/ttp-chief-mullah-fazlullah-killed-in-air-strike>

⁶⁵ <https://umarmedia.wordpress.com/2016/01/26/the-news-driven-by-electronic-media-and-social-media-as-will-about-ameer-mohtaram-talib-e-haq-fazlullah-khurasani-is-just-a-rumor/>

⁶⁶ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1030820/gunfire-heard-at-bacha-khan-university-in-charsadda/>

gunmen attacked as the university prepared to host a poetry to commemorate the death anniversary of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, a popular ethnic Pashtun independence activist after whom the university is named. [...]DG ISPR Lt Gen Asim Bajwa says security forces have gathered satisfactory information about the attackers on Bacha Khan University. **"We have gathered all relevant data about where these terrorists came from and who sent them," he said while addressing the media. "The terrorists were continuously conversing on their mobile phones, two of which we have recovered and collected data from," he added.**

APS mastermind claims attack, *The Dawn*, January 21⁶⁷

Unidentified gunmen entered Bacha Khan University in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Charsadda town on Wednesday (January 20) and opened fire on students and faculty members as they gathered at the school for a poetry recital to commemorate the death anniversary of the activist and leader whom the school is named after. ***The mastermind of the APS Peshawar attack, Umar Mansoor, of the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) Geedar group has claimed the attack through a post on his Facebook page, adding that four attackers were sent to the university. However, a spokesperson from the TTP, Mohammad Khorasani, issued a conflicting statement shortly after Mansoor's claim, in which Khorasani condemned the attack, terming it "against Shariah". Khorasani also warned that those "using the naming of TTP will be brought to justice".***

Charsadda attack was Zarb-e-Azb blowback: PM, *The Nation*, December 22⁶⁸

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif yesterday said his country was determined to fight extremism after a university attack by militants that killed 21 people. Sharif, speaking in the Swiss resort of Davos, said the country's resolve to fight these elements was getting stronger every day. He said the attack was the result of blowback after their efforts to dismantle extremists' infrastructure and hideouts. ***Sharif insisted the extremists' ability to strike back had been considerably destroyed. "The terrorists are on the run," he insisted.***

BALUCHISTAN

Two security personnel killed in Gwadar, *The Dawn*, January 10⁶⁹

Two security personnel were killed and three wounded in an explosion in Balochistan's Gwadar district on Saturday (January 9). Police sources said that

⁶⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1234200>

⁶⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/national/22-Jan-2016/charsadda-attack-was-zarb-e-azb-blowback-pm>

⁶⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1231843/two-security-personnel-killed-in-gwadar-landmine-explosion>

Coast Guard personnel were on routine patrolling when their vehicle hit a landmine in Kaldan area of Jewni Tehsil in Gwadar. They said two personnel were killed on the spot whereas three sustained serious wounds.

Blast near Quetta polio centre kills 14, *The Dawn*, January 13⁷⁰

At least 14 people were killed and over 10 injured in an explosion near a polio centre in Quetta's Satellite Town on Wednesday (January 13), Balochistan Home Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti said. The Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed the attack on Facebook and in an email sent to journalists. "The blast was apparently carried out by a suicide bomber," Bugti said, speaking to media after the blast. Thirteen of the dead are policemen while one of them is an FC official, he said.

Five security personnel killed in Quetta, *The Express Tribune*, January 18⁷¹

At least five security personnel were killed and two others sustained injuries in a roadside bomb targeting a convoy of security forces in Marget area of Quetta on Monday (January 18). The bodies and the injured were shifted to a nearby medical facility while a search operation was launched in the area to arrest the suspected terrorists. The deceased personnel were identified as Awais Muhammad, Muhammad Qaseem, Fareed, Muhammad Saleem, Mubashir Nadeem while Aqeel and Gulab received injuries, sources said.

Two militants killed in search operation, *Daily Times*, January 26⁷²

Frontier Corps (FC) shot dead two alleged militants during exchange of firing in Pasni area of Gwadar district on Tuesday (January 26). According to FC spokesman, acting on a tip off, FC personnel carried out a search operation in the word number 7 when they opened fire at them. FC personnel gunned down two alleged militant in retaliation. Arms were also were recovered from their possession. Further investigation was underway.

Four policemen shot dead, *Daily Times*, January 29⁷³

Gunmen shot four policemen dead and injured three others in Satellite Town on Thursday (January 28). According to police sources, a police van was patrolling the area when armed assailants riding a motorbike opened fire at

⁷⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1232683/blast-near-quetta-polio-centre-kills-14-ttp-claims-responsibility>

⁷¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1029724/five-killed-two-injured-in-blast-targeting-security-forces-convoy-in-quetta/>

⁷² <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/26-Jan-2016/two-militants-killed-in-search-operation>

⁷³ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/29-Jan-2016/four-policemen-shot-dead-in-quetta-blast-damages-jaffar-express-in-sibi>

the policemen and fled. As a result, four policemen died at the scene and three others were injured. [...]TTP claimed the responsibility.

SINDH

Police arrest suspected TTP terrorist, *Daily Times*, January 26⁷⁴

The Jamshoro police claimed to have arrested a suspected terrorist of Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in a raid at an under construction petrol pump on the Super Highway near Nooriabad. SSP Tariq Wilayat during a press conference in Kotri Town of Jamshoro district on Monday (January 25) said that the suspected terrorist was identified as Qamar Zaman Mehsud who hails from North Waziristan. He informed that Mehsud was arrested in a raid of Kotri police.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

The IS threat, Huma Yusuf, *The Dawn*, January 4⁷⁵

The year began with heady rhetoric from Gen Raheel Sharif. Speaking in Quetta on New Year's Day he stated that this would be the year that terrorism would be eradicated from Pakistan. [...]The country is likely to have to confront a variety of IS-linked militants over the coming year. Some of these will be defectors from other militant groups that have been weakened by counterterrorism operations and are seeking to regroup and rebrand under the IS banner in the hopes of winning new recruits. Others will adopt the affiliation in Afghanistan, as seems to be the case with the 13 militants recently detained in Sialkot who were operating a recruiting and training facility for IS. [...]The greatest danger from IS in Pakistan is likely to come in the form of self-radicalised militants intent on carrying out 'lone wolf' attacks. These might include middle class and educated youth who will be exposed to IS's messaging on social media, as foreshadowed by the arrests in recent years of university students — and even professors — suspected of links with militant groups. [...] ***Despite launching numerous counterterrorism operations over the past year, Pakistan has not yet succeeded in introducing new narratives to compete with those of movements like IS. If anything, attempts to replace the appeal of violent extremism with patriotism have led to reiteration of nationalist narratives that themselves have been used to fuel militancy in a regional context.***

The militant discourse, Ayesha Siddiqa, *The Express Tribune*, January 14⁷⁶

The Chinese want foolproof security to protect the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The primary reason being, the protection of their citizens.

⁷⁴ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/26-Jan-2016/police-arrest-suspected-ttp-terrorist>

⁷⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1230548/the-is-threat>

⁷⁶ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1026947/the-militant-discourse/>

Since Beijing tends to use its own manpower for all the projects it is involved in with hardly any share in employment for Pakistan, security is of prime importance. But **China has less to worry about as the militant and religious right wing in Pakistan views it far more kindly than it does the West.** In fact, it is rare to come across any mention of China in right-wing publications despite the knowledge that Muslims in Xinjiang are not the happiest in the world and face tough conditions.

Fostering Hate Speech, Editorial, *The Nation*, January 20⁷⁷

It seems that the protests of civil society members have finally reached the ears of parliamentarians as the issue of Maulana Abdul Aziz's arrest was finally discussed in the National Assembly on Tuesday. [...]Never Forget Pakistan, the organization that sent documentary evidence to parliamentarians, has put the Interior Minister in a tricky position; to do nothing at this point will have far-reaching consequences in both the domestic and the international stage. Pakistan's commitments made to the international community about having a no-tolerance policy for extremism are under threat, as are its promises to its people. [...]The state has maintained time and again that no acts of terror will be tolerated, **but here is a cleric, in the heart of the capital spewing hatred for all to hear, publicly declaring support for the Islamic State and being declared a wanted man by Islamabad, roaming free without a care.** [...]The Interior Ministry, with Chaudhry Nisar at its head, is supposedly spearheading the National Action Plan (NAP). If NAP cannot be implemented in the capital, what hope does the rest of the country have?

Lessons not learnt, Editorial, *Daily Times*, January 22⁷⁸

[...]The message is clear. Bacha Khan's non-violent inclusive politics is anathema to the fanatics, as is education per se. [...] **The terrorism problem has been displaced to safe havens across the Afghan border or driven underground, from where the terrorists can strike at will with a surfeit of riches as far as targets are concerned.** Afghanistan has asked for reciprocal cooperation in reply to Pakistan's repeated requests for action against the TTP elements ensconced in the wild and poorly policed border area on the Afghan-Pakistan boundary. While Pakistan is pushing the Afghan Taliban towards the negotiation table with Kabul, a process fraught with difficulties and uncertainty, the safe havens on Afghan soil and 'sleeper' cells throughout Pakistan allow our home grown terrorists to strike at a time and place of their choosing. [...]NAP remains in the twilight zone of not having an organisational structure suited to its challenges. [...]Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif must himself now step forward and reorganise the counter-terrorism

⁷⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/20-Jan-2016/fostering-hate-speech>

⁷⁸ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/editorial/22-Jan-2016/lessons-not-learnt>

campaign if he does not want his government snowed under the weight of expectation and the tragic failures so far of NAP.

Post-Charsadda, Editorial, *Daily Times*, January 23⁷⁹

[...]While Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Pervez Khattak has labelled the attack as inspired by India's RAW intelligence agency, unnamed security officials have spoken to the media about the identities of two of the four attackers. One is from the Sararogha area of South Waziristan and another from Swat. The other two are under age and there is no record for them. This suggests that they either came from across the border or were underground within the country after their home bases in Swat and South Waziristan were cleared of terrorists in military offensives during the previous government's tenure.

Who wants peace in Pakistan?, Munir Akram, *The Dawn*, January 24⁸⁰

[...]Unfortunately, as illustrated by the assault on the Charsadda University, it is premature to celebrate. To break the back of terrorism in Pakistan, the kinetic campaign will need to be continued for a considerable period and the social, economic and other components of the National Action Plan fully implemented. [...] ***The major threat arises from the infiltration of TTP terrorists from their safe havens in Afghanistan. While Pakistan has offered to help in promoting reconciliation between Kabul and the Afghan Taliban, there is little evidence of reciprocal action by Kabul to eliminate the TTP safe havens or to control cross-border infiltration.*** [...] Islamabad must reassert its demand for action against the TTP by Kabul and its international patrons. If such cooperation is not forthcoming, ***Pakistan will need to consider unilateral actions to eliminate the TTP safe havens in Afghanistan.*** Peace and security within Pakistan is also influenced by the policies and actions of several other external powers. [...] ***India's policies are more predictable. It has openly opposed the CPEC enterprise and is chary of China's growing role in the region. Notwithstanding the Lahore embrace and the likely resumption of the Comprehensive Dialogue, India remains the godfather of anti-Pakistan elements in Afghanistan and can be expected to continue to encourage and support them in their use of the TTP and Baloch dissidents to spread mischief and turmoil in Pakistan.***

Lal Masjid threat, Editorial, *Daily Times*, January 26⁸¹

There is no end to the recalcitrance of Maulana Abdul Aziz and the crisis Lal Masjid poses for the state of Pakistan. The latest exhibition of this

⁷⁹ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/editorial/23-Jan-2016/post-charsadda>

⁸⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1234994/who-wants-peace-in-pakistan>

⁸¹ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/editorial/26-Jan-2016/lal-masjid-threat>

recalcitrance comes in the form of a blatantly rebellious threat from the Lal Masjid leadership: **be prepared for aggressive action should Maulana Aziz be taken into detention.** [...] **This is a bold display of contempt for the writ of the state, a state that seems either reprehensibly complicit or utterly helpless.** Let us not forget that the Interior Minister happens to be the point person for the successful implementation of the National Action Plan, and has disgracefully granted political cover to Maulana Abdul Aziz, the embodiment of the radical bellicosity that continues to function with startling impunity.

Uniting to prevent extremism, Ban Ki Moon, *The Express Tribune*, January 26⁸²
Violent extremism is a direct assault on the United Nations Charter and a grave threat to international peace and security. [...] **The threat of violent extremism is not limited to any one religion, nationality or ethnic group. Today, the vast majority of victims worldwide are Muslims.** [...] This month, I presented to the United Nations General Assembly a “Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism”, which takes a practical and comprehensive approach to address the drivers of this menace. [...] **Number one, we must put prevention first.** [...] There is no single pathway to violent extremism. But we know that it flourishes when human rights are violated, political space is shrunk, aspirations for inclusion are ignored, and too many people — especially young people — lack prospects and meaning in their lives. [...] **Second, we need principled leadership and effective institutions. Poisonous ideologies do not emerge from thin air. Oppression, corruption and injustice are greenhouses for resentment.** [...] **Third, we must remember that preventing extremism and promoting human rights go hand-in-hand.** All too often, national counter-terrorism strategies have lacked basic elements of due process and respect for the rule of law. [...] **Fourth, an all-out approach is needed. The Plan proposes an ‘all of government’ approach. We must break down the silos between peace and security, sustainable development, human rights and humanitarian actors at the national, regional and global levels — including at the United Nations.** [...] **Fifth, UN engagement is necessary. I intend to strengthen a UN system-wide approach to supporting member states’ efforts to address the drivers of violent extremism.**

Textbooks and militancy, Fawad Ali Shah, *The Express Tribune*, January 27⁸³
[...] Under the NAP, the government resolved to curb militancy, protect minorities and undertake madrasa reforms. Since then, there has been much public debate on the role of the military and the civilian government when it comes to the NAP’s implementation. It seems that it has been limited to military actions and a few attempts to curb sectarian violence and hate

⁸² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1034039/uniting-to-prevent-violent-extremism/>

⁸³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1034668/textbooks-and-militancy/>

speech. [...] **The government is in a state of denial about the subjectivities and cultural identities produced by the textbooks of Pakistan. This is the reason why it has not made any firm resolve to reform public sector education.** A critical analysis of the discourse narrated in the Pakistan Studies textbook makes one realise that such **books create subjectivities and ideologies that are aligned with the narrative peddled by the TTP rather than that of the government. In effect, Pakistani schools are working as much as madrassas as breeding grounds of militancy.** [...] There are hardly any chapters on sectarian harmony and the textbooks are silent about the contribution of various sects and communities in the country's development. [...] Our textbooks are playing as much of a role as madrassas in the creation of monsters. Unless the government realises this, we will continue to witness tragedies like the ones that occurred at APS and Charsadda.

Obama's prediction, Talat Masood, *The Express Tribune*, January 27⁸⁴

During his recent State of the Union speech, President Barack Obama made a significant remark that "even without ISIL, instability will continue for decades in many parts of the world". Apart from naming other regions and countries, he specifically included Afghanistan and Pakistan. [...] **The over-publicised claim by both the civilian and military leaderships that all militant groups are being targeted without distinction is not entirely correct.** We see Jaish-e-Mohammed's Masood Azhar and Jamatud Dawa's Hafiz Saeed continue to preach jihad in broad daylight and the Lal Masjid cleric Abdul Aziz proudly claiming support for the IS. [...] Militant organisations and many of their leaders, who have been proscribed under the UNSC Resolution 1267, operate freely. **In addition, the government's effort at blocking terrorist funding has been only partially successful.** [...] It is troubling to find the heavy reliance on the military and the use of force to counter terrorism. It was expected that there would be equal emphasis on improved governance, and strengthening of the justice system and civilian institutions. The civilian leadership, due to its poor performance and disinterest in these areas, has yielded additional space to the military, which continues to expand its influence. [...] Proving President Obama wrong would be a huge challenge but by strengthening institutions and pursuing the right national policies, there is no reason why we as a nation cannot succeed.

The Opposition gets it right, Editorial, *The Dawn*, January 28⁸⁵

[...] It must be noted that the prime minister, speaking in London this week, has acknowledged that the implementation of the NAP has in part been "slow". We add our own voice to that of the Leader of the Opposition in

⁸⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1034688/taking-president-obamas-prediction-as-a-challenge/>

⁸⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1035282/the-opposition-gets-it-right/>

calling for the prime minister to come to parliament and explain himself. He and his party were elected on a ticket that included greater transparency and accountability, both of which have been notably absent as the life of the government has gone on. **Mr Shah banged another nail on the head when he said that the support structures of the terrorists remained intact, and he pointed to the instance of south Punjab.** [...]In short, there is a chorus of voices, parliamentary and otherwise, saying that the government needs to work harder at eliminating terrorism, and moreover display greater accountability to the nation's premier forum of governance — the federal parliament.

The Charsada attack, Syed Kamran Hashmi, *Daily Times*, January 29⁸⁶

[...]Quite frankly, the questions we should be asking ourselves after an incident like this are: why do the intelligence agencies fail to provide specific information about such attacks in time? Are we fighting an effective war on terror? Have we done enough to improve the performance of the police? **Do we still divide the radicals as a matter of state policy as the 'good' Taliban and 'bad' Taliban?** Are we taking enough action to reduce extremism in society? But we do not ask any of them. We are too frightened because if we did it could put our patriotism at stake and throw us behind bars too. So, to cover up, we ensure that we erect a number of theories that somehow hint towards foreign involvement, knowing fully well we can do better. It does not matter how unbelievable, these conspiracy theories look we just have to create them and spread them like a plague epidemic.

RELATIONS WITH INDIA

PATHANKOT ATTACK

Foreign secretary level talks likely to be postponed, *The News*, January 4⁸⁷

The negotiations scheduled to be held later this month between the foreign secretaries of Pakistan and India are likely to be postponed following the attack on India's Pathankot air base. Now a meeting of the National Security Advisors (NSAs) of the two countries will take place first in which issues relating to terrorism will be discussed.

⁸⁶ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/opinion/29-Jan-2016/the-charsada-attack>

⁸⁷ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/86323-Pak-India-foreign-secretaries-talks-likely-to-be-postponed>

Nawaz assures support after Modi's call for action, *The Nation*, January 6⁸⁸

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, currently in Sri Lanka on an official visit, yesterday approached his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi and assured him all-out cooperation in hunting down the perpetrators of Pathankot airbase attack, hours after their national security advisers spoke to each other.

Acknowledging the urgency of the situation, Nawaz Sharif placed the call from Colombo and the conversation indicated that both prime ministers were in favour of continuing the recently renewed diplomatic engagement.

According to a Foreign Office statement in Islamabad, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif telephoned Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the two leaders showed resolve to fight terrorism together through mutual cooperation. The prime minister who conveyed his sorrow and grief to the Indian counterpart over the losses in Pathankot attack and said terrorists always try to derail the process of peace between the two countries.

Anti Pak-India elements won't succeed: Asif, *The Nation*, January 6⁸⁹

Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said Indian leadership has not levelled any allegation on Pakistan, regarding the Pathankot airbase terror attack. In an interview, he said some elements want to sabotage the talk's process between the two neighbouring countries, through such terror acts but they would not succeed in their nefarious designs.

Pak, India must secure peace process: Mirwaiz, *Daily Times*, January 7⁹⁰

Hurriyat Conference Chairman Mirwaiz Umer Farooq on Wednesday (January 6) welcomed efforts by Pakistan and India to cooperate in the aftermath of the Pathankot attack which, he said, was aimed at derailing the peace process. [...] "We appreciate the efforts by the Indian and Pakistani prime ministers to cooperate to ensure the creation of a positive atmosphere for dialogue. They must resolve to carry forward and work together to try and rid the region of conflict and violence," he said while adding noting that **"whenever there is a serious effort by India and Pakistan to resolve issues, incidents like this have taken place with the aim to derail the dialogue process"**.

⁸⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/national/06-Jan-2016/nawaz-assures-support-after-modi-s-call-for-action>

⁸⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/06-Jan-2016/anti-pak-india-elements-won-t-succeed-in-nefarious-designs-asif>

⁹⁰ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/07-Jan-2016/pak-india-must-secure-peace-process-mirwaiz>

Attack on Pathankot air force base, Editorial, *The Dawn*, January 4⁹¹

[...] It is too early to know the facts about what transpired at an Indian air force base in Pathankot but already some challenges — and opportunities for broadening and deepening anti-terrorism efforts — can be identified. **Firstly, the Pakistani government has done the right thing in quickly and unequivocally condemning the terror attack and offering its cooperation to India.** [...] **Courageously, however, the Indian government has appeared to resist media and hawkish pressure and declined to go into attack mode against Pakistan.** It is all too easy to reap political capital in the midst of a major terrorist attack by targeting perceived external enemies. [...] There is still too much defensiveness about the terrorism threat on the Pakistani side — perhaps less so in the political government, but certainly in the military-led security establishment. There is no conceivable gain that Pakistan can make through terrorism when it comes to key disputes and issues with India. Not only is that abundantly clear outside the state apparatus, a generation of senior officials, both military and civilian, have publicly and privately acknowledged and accepted that.

The Real Enemy, Editorial, *The Nation*, January 6⁹²

Confusion surrounds the attack on the Indian Pathankot airbase, as the operation enters the fourth day, with Indian security officials claiming that combing the airbase and the surrounding areas will continue until they are absolutely certain that none of the attackers are left. Added to this, the 25-hour siege laid at the Indian Consulate in Mazar-e-Sharif in Afghanistan finally came to an end late Monday night. **Two attacks, one right next to the Pakistani border, and the other in Afghanistan where Pakistan has long been accused of using militants to further its strategic depth policy, could potentially put a dent in the talks process unless both countries proceed very cautiously.** [...] Fortunately, it seems that this is the case after all as Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif called PM Modi to express his condolences and offered assistance in anyway required. Pakistan has been very wise with the way its relationship with India has been handled of late. Sparing the hawks on both sides, it seems that the Indian government too has no plans to scrap the talk's process for now as those at the top have refrained from partaking in the usual hysteria. [...] It is time that both countries turn the guns they have been pointing at each other towards the real enemy and act as one towards bringing stability to South Asia.

⁹¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1230545/attack-on-pathankot-air-force-base>

⁹² <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/06-Jan-2016/the-real-enemy>

Pathankot aftermath, Editorial, *Daily Times*, January 7⁹³

[...]The Pathankot attack seems to have caught the Indian forces napping and glaringly revealed the gaps in their security architecture. Following this, in keeping with the recently growing friendliness between the two premiers, Prime Minister (PM) Nawaz Sharif contacted his Indian counterpart to express his grief and discuss the incident, which is widely suspected to be an attempt to derail the efforts for the establishment of diplomatic harmony between India and Pakistan. These efforts are manifested in recently announced plans to hold foreign secretary-level talks, which are only likely to advance if it is demonstrated to India that Pakistan is fully ready to cooperate in the investigations. [...] In response to India, perhaps for the first time in the history of Pakistan-India bilateral relations, PM Nawaz Sharif has responded positively, offering full support by investigating all the leads given by India and in doing so has reiterated his commitment to the peace process.

Ball in Pakistan's court?, Imtiaz Alam, *The News*, January 7⁹⁴

The ball is now in our court. After quiet exchanges on certain 'leads' provided by India, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has assured his counterpart help in investigating the deadly assault on the airbase in Pathankot. Is the Subcontinent ready for a change for the good of its people? ***What has happened over the last few days is quite exceptional – the way an otherwise most hawkish Modi government responded in a most resilient manner.*** [...]Breaking with its tradition of rejecting out of hand any Indian complaint, the Pakistan Foreign Office was very candid and assured Pakistan's cooperation in fighting the scourge of terrorism at the regional level. [...]If there is sincerity of purpose then it should not be difficult to catch the perpetrators and put an end to terrorists' capacity to make the Indo-Pak dialogue process a hostage to their ulterior designs.

India awaits Pak response before resuming talks, *The Dawn*, January 8⁹⁵

India on Thursday (January 7) said it is awaiting Pakistan's response on the information provided related to the Pathankot incident, following which it will decide on the resumption of bilateral peace talks scheduled for later this month. India's foreign ministry said Islamabad has been given actionable intelligence that those who planned the assault came from Pakistan. "As far as we are concerned the ball is now in Pakistan's court," spokesman Vikas Swarup told reporters when asked if the talks were on. "The immediate issue in front of us is Pakistan's response to the terrorist attack."

⁹³ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/editorial/07-Jan-2016/pathankot-aftermath>

⁹⁴ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/print/86874-Ball-in-Pakistans-court>

⁹⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1231399/india-awaits-pakistans-response-before-resuming-peace-talks>

After the Pathankot affair, I. A. Rehman, *The Dawn*, January 7⁹⁶

The terrorist attack on the large Indian Air Force base at Pathankot threatens to undermine the prospects for the India-Pakistan understanding that had improved somewhat following the Indian prime minister's decision to invite himself to his Pakistani counterpart's birthday party. [...]The challenge Pakistan faces is not confined to defending itself against any Indian allegations of exporting terrorism or convincing the world of its innocence; much more real is the need to prevent the cancer of extremism from destroying Pakistan. **While the bills for our folly of preferring the good Taliban to the bad ones are still coming in we are now required to stop, for our own survival, dividing terrorists operating within our boundaries into benevolent jihadists and the malevolent ones.** This calls for a fresh look at the National Action Plan in order to ensure that the enemies of the state and the people are not able to escape under any garb or pretence.

Hurriyat's condemnation, Editorial, *The Dawn*, January 8⁹⁷

THE condemnation by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference of the Pathankot air force base attack is a welcome addition to the chorus of criticism that all right-thinking and sensible people in India, Pakistan and the disputed Kashmir region have added their voice too. Dialogue alone can resolve the Kashmir dispute and the other outstanding issues between India and Pakistan. That is a reality that the militant groups are in denial of. [...]The Hurriyat's condemnation could be seen as a response to the claim by the United Jihad Council that some of its members carried out the Pathankot attack. In the complex world of intra-Kashmir politics, the fortunes of both the Hurriyat and the militant groups have waxed and waned over the years.

Curse of non-state actors, Babar Sattar, *The News*, January 9⁹⁸

[...]The ball is in our court. [...]The question is: will we dismiss offhand that the attack could have been executed by non-state actors from Pakistan, find glitches in the information shared and why it isn't actionable, or act such that it is for all to see that we are serious about helping India find the perpetrators? [...] **The ball is in our court because it is for us to decide how we wish to act on the information provided by India. And our actions will be guided by how our security establishment feels about acting against all non-state actors without discrimination in the immediate term and peace with India in the medium term.** [...]If we believe that peace with India is in our long-term national interest and terror the foremost threat to our national

⁹⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1231250/after-the-pathankot-affair>

⁹⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1231480/hurriyats-condemnation>

⁹⁸ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/print/88982-Curse-of-non-state-actors>

security, even the Machiavellian motivation to keep some non-state actors alive (even if comatose) should die down.

Engaging India, Munir Akram, *The Dawn*, January 10⁹⁹

AFTER an initially 'mature' response to the attack on the Pathankot air force base, the Indian government has reverted to its familiar stance and made the foreign secretary talks contingent on Pakistan's 'action' against the Kashmiri groups who have claimed responsibility for the attack. This is a no-win situation for Islamabad. If the dialogue is aborted, India will blame Pakistan for inaction and complicity. If the talks go ahead, the Pakistan leadership will be viewed, domestically, as having given in to Indian bullying. ***Under the circumstances, it may be best to delay the dialogue until the dust has settled over Pathankot.***

Evidence not enough, Pakistan tells India, *The Nation*, January 12¹⁰⁰

Pakistan yesterday told India their leads were not enough to unmask the perpetrators of the Pathankot attack as authorities arrested a few suspects linked with proscribed Jaish-e-Mohammed outfit. [...]Senior government officials said some arrest had already been made but to move forward Pakistan would need more evidence. ***"An initial report has been sent to India. We have asked for more information so that we can get to the bottom of it. We are moving forward," said a senior government official.*** He said raids were carried out in Gujranwala, Jhelum and Bahawalpur districts and an unspecified number of people were arrested. [...]It believes Pathankot attackers used the numbers - 03000597212 and 03017775253 - before storming the air base. The official said the investigation into the cell phone numbers was complete and the investigators could not find any registration record. "These numbers are not registered in Pakistan. We are keeping these numbers with us but will be moving on for other clues too. We will be waiting for more details from India," he added.

Three held over Pathankot phone calls, *The Dawn*, January 14¹⁰¹

Three suspects, including a student of a private university, were picked up by law-enforcement agencies on Wednesday (January 13) in connection with the recent attack on an airbase in India. Quoting intelligence agencies, some television news channels reported that a student of the Lahore University of Management Sciences, Usman Sarwar of Arifwala, and Saad Mughal of Sahiwal and Kashif of Karachi were arrested in connection with the Pathankot

⁹⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1231999/engaging-india>

¹⁰⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/12-Jan-2016/evidence-not-enough-pakistan-tells-india>

¹⁰¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1232885/govt-tightens-the-screws-on-jaish-three-held-over-pathankot-phone-calls>

incident. [...]However, counter-terrorism department officials and cantonment division police denied any arrest in connection with the Pathankot attack.

LUMS denies arrest of student, *Express Tribune*, January 14¹⁰²

The Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) on Thursday (January 14) denied reports that a student from the educational institution was arrested for involvement in the Pathankot air base attack. "No arrest was made," Director General Administration Amir Khan said in a statement on the Facebook page of LUMS Students and Alumni Action Committee (LSAAC).

Masood Azhar reportedly taken into custody, *The Dawn*, January 14¹⁰³

The investigation into the Jan 2 airbase attack in India apparently entered a critical phase amid reports of the arrest of Maulana Masood Azhar of the Jaish-e-Mohammad. New Delhi had named Maulana Azhar as the mastermind of the Pathankot airbase attack. Police and security agencies refused to confirm the arrests. Officials in Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, Rahimyar Khan and Multan, where these arrests were initially believed to have taken place, were totally unaware of any such development in their areas. [...]Some reports suggested that Masood Azhar's brother Rauf and his brother-in-law had also been taken into "protective custody". Over a dozen other Jaish activists have been arrested.

Crackdown on JeM, Editorial, *The Dawn*, January 14¹⁰⁴

Having pledged to investigate and act on any evidence found or shared on the involvement of Pakistani individuals in the Pathankot attack, the government claims to have detained alleged members of Jaish-e-Mohammad and sealed so-called offices of the banned militant group. The emphatic language in the statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office following a meeting of senior civilian and military leaders suggests that the government is attempting to ensure that the foreign secretary talks meant to kick off the Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue can take place as soon as possible. [...] **For the state here, the challenge will be to ensure that the initial actions against JeM are converted into sustained and meaningful measures that ensure the long-term dismantling of militant groups. Too often steps taken in haste have unravelled over time.** To permanently seal offices and successfully prosecute those involved in the Pathankot attack, a great deal of evidence will need to be gathered. Past experience suggests that JeM, like some other banned

¹⁰² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1027354/lums-denies-arrest-of-student-over-pathankot-attack/>

¹⁰³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1232884/jaishs-masood-azhar-reportedly-taken-into-custody>

¹⁰⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1232812/crackdown-on-jem>

organisations, has access to sophisticated legal counsel which can help protect its operations and its leaders' freedom. This time JeM, and others like it, must be fully and permanently dismantled.

Not aware of Azhar's arrest: FO, *The Express Tribune*, January 15¹⁰⁵

The Foreign Office said on Thursday (January 14) it is not aware of the arrest of Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar. The statement came following media reports that Azhar had been arrested on suspicion his outfit masterminded an attack this month on an air base in Pathankot. Maulana Masood Azhar, a hardliner who was blamed for a 2001 attack on India's parliament, was detained two days ago along with his brother and brother-in-law and will remain in protective custody for at least 30 days, a senior intelligence official told Reuters.

Talks after Pathankot, Editorial, *The Dawn*, January 24¹⁰⁶

AFTER days of official comment and frenzied speculation, the India-Pakistan relationship appears to have gone quiet once again, at least officially and publicly. That is an unwelcome lapse into old habits. There are two things that the two countries need immediately: one, an expedited investigation into the full contours of the Pathankot air force base attack; and two, the initiation of the Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue. [...] ***In Pakistan, the symbolic closure of some centres and madressahs affiliated with the outlawed Jaish-e-Mohammad is simply not enough.*** [...] Just as it is necessary to carry the Pathankot investigations to a swift conclusion and initiate the CBD, inside Pakistan there should be urgent attention paid to spoilers who have emerged in recent days. Syed Salahuddin, the head of the United Jihad Council, for example, appears determined to make a comeback in the public eye. This week, he condemned the partial crackdown on JeM — a condemnation that followed the UJC's claim of responsibility for the Pathankot attack. ***What is the state doing to address the trouble that Syed Salahuddin is seeking to stir up?*** Surely, the time has come when public assertions of responsibility for terrorist attacks in another country can no longer be tolerated.

Talks only way to resolve issues: Aiyar, *The Express Tribune*, January 28¹⁰⁷

Lawmaker from Indian National Congress and former consul general in Pakistan, Mani Shankar Aiyar, has said India and Pakistan can never find solutions to their longstanding problems until they sit across a table and engage in talks. "India has no better partner to talk than Pakistan. We need

¹⁰⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1027362/not-aware-of-jaish-e-mohammad-chiefs-arrest-fo/>

¹⁰⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1234997/talks-after-pathankot>

¹⁰⁷ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1035410/regional-peace-talks-only-way-to-resolve-indo-pak-issues-says-aiyar/>

uninterrupted talks and acceptance of terrorism in both countries," Ayar said on Wednesday (January 28), while speaking at a seminar on, 'India's foreign policy: continuity and change' organised by the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs (PIIA).

Pakistan won't treat Azhar like Lakhvi: Basit, *The Nation*, January 29¹⁰⁸

Pakistan High Commissioner to India Abdul Basit in an interview aired on Thursday (January 28) said that both Pakistan and India made mistakes after the 26/11 Mumbai attacks and his country was keen to avoid those mistakes with the Pathankot attack investigation. **"If the Pakistani team gets proper evidence, I'm confident Masood Azhar will not meet same fate as Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi," he told CNN-IBN** in an exclusive interview. He added "Pakistan will probe the Pathankot attack after India completes the probe." The decision of the two countries to not discontinue talks after the Pathankot attack was a positive decision, he said.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Modi's 'achambha', Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, *The Dawn*, January 4¹⁰⁹

Modi's 'surprise' Dec 25 stopover in Lahore has led to numerous questions, explanations and speculations. The significance of the stopover is already being tested by Pathankot. Nevertheless, it was an unanticipated development and apparently provided the bilateral relationship another opportunity. There is, however, the dead hand of the past and there are many spoilers. [...] ***The agenda of the Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue (CBD) should include understandings with regard to assisting the Afghan peace process, cooperation regarding climate change and water issues, and the role of the media.*** Currently, the CBD appears to be aimed at the September 2016 Saarc summit in Islamabad when the prime ministers will be expected to take the dialogue to a new level of credibility. Preparatory ground work will be needed to ensure the success of future summit encounters, maybe as soon as the nuclear summit in New York next March/April. The prime ministers will need to be in regular touch with each other to ensure negotiating briefs are conducive to productive dialogue. [...] How can the CBD be saved from the sterility of past negotiations? It will require substantial revision to Indian and Pakistani narratives and perceptions regarding each other. This will require credible actions from both sides to build mutual confidence and trust which are non-existent today. All this will entail inevitable political risk. If the leaders are unimaginative, risk-averse, or unable to restrain hawkish institutions the CBD will be doomed.

¹⁰⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/national/29-Jan-2016/pakistan-won-t-treat-azhar-like-lakhvi-envoy>

¹⁰⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1230546/modis-achambha>

**EXCERPTS FROM URDU MEDIA &
SELECT JIHADI LITERATURE**

PATHANKOT ATTACK

Pathankot Attack: Handiwork of Indians, *Daily Ummat*, January 4, 2016.¹¹⁰

The former chief of Pakistan army, Aslam Beg, has said that the Pathankot attack was planned well by Indian extremists to derail the peace process between India and Pakistan. He said that **the RSS and Shiv Sena cadres within the Indian army have done this because they were not happy with Narendra Modi's decision to normalize relations with Pakistan**[...]He further said that hostility against Muslims was at its peak in India. Muslims are not allowed to eat beef and Ram Mandir is being built at the site of Babri Masjid.

Muzakrat say farar hone ki koushishein, *Daily Ummat*, January 4, 2016.¹¹¹

Immediately after the attack on the air base, Narendra Modi called a meeting of high ranking ministers wherein it was decided that within few days they would take the decision whether to continue talks with Pakistan or not. [...]Secretary of Bharatiya Janata Party, Shrikant Sharma, has stated that "the process of dialogue will not be stopped because of one attack. India will reply to such attacks at a time of its choosing." [**While the report does not say anything about Indian effort to withdraw from the process of dialogue, the title in bold emphasizes this. One can clearly decipher that such bold headlines has been splashed deliberately to sway emotions against India.**]

Pathankot attack, Editorial, *Daily Jasarat*, January 4.¹¹²

[...]It is a strange coincidence that whenever Pakistan finds proof of Indian interference in its internal matters and submits them to United Nations, the European Union, America then India tries to collect proofs like this to put the blame on Pakistan. Although they would not get any proof on this count, such incidents are used effectively by their media to malign Pakistan. [...] [**According to reports from Pathankot] the security officials of the air base had asked people to close their shops by 8 pm and the very next day there were reports of this attack. It seems that the attack was very well planned to blame Pakistan.**

¹¹⁰<http://ummat.net/2016/01/04/news.php?p=news-15.gif>

¹¹¹<http://ummat.net/2016/01/04/news.php?p=news-08.gif>

¹¹²<http://jasarat.com/news.php?date=04-01-2016&news=01&category=editorial>

Pathankot attack: A planned conspiracy, Editorial, *Daily Dunya*, January 4.¹¹³
[...]Immediately after the incident, Indian extremist elements as well as its leaders, media persons and T.V anchors, in a very irresponsible manner, started spewing venom against Pakistan. [...]The manner in which Indian politicians and its media community started blaming Pakistan was very unfortunate. [...]As we know, Pakistan is firm in its resolve to terminate all the terrorist elements in the country. [...]It is also correct that there are some disgruntled elements in Pakistan who are not in favour of having dialogue with India. But there are more such disgruntled elements in India as well who are more powerful. [They could have played a role in such an incident to avert talks.]

Indian presence in Afghanistan, Editorial, *Daily Nawai Waqt*, January 5.¹¹⁴
High-level meeting will be held in Islamabad on January 16, to chalk out the strategy for Afghan Peace process including Afghanistan, China and America. Pakistan has already sent letters to the representatives of these countries. The decision to hold this meeting was taken after Raheel Sharif's Kabul visit. Had Americans trained Afghan forces well they would have fought effectively against Taliban. In Afghan peace process, the Taliban cannot be ignored. Pakistan has already tried to bring them on board. It has succeeded to some extent, but there are some regional countries who do not wish to see peace in Afghanistan. **China and Pakistan want an end to India's negative policy in Afghanistan while America and Afghanistan favour Indian presence.**

India-Pakistan dialogue in doldrums, Editorial, *Daily Jasarat*, January 8.¹¹⁵
As usual, we are getting some hints from India that talks may be cancelled once again. If it happens, the terrorists who attacked Pathankot airbase will succeed in their aim. Does India want that? After the visits of Sushma Swaraj and Narendra Modi, there was significant improvement in the relationship between India and Pakistan. India has blamed Pakistan for the attack and said that all evidence point to Pakistan and that the ball is in Pakistan's court. Now let us see how Pakistan will respond. **Pakistan should do what India did with the perpetrators of Samjhauta Express attack where dozens of Pakistani were burned alive. The criminals of that attack have already been identified but so far no action has been taken against them.** India is holding Pakistan or Pakistan- based organizations responsible for the attack, but the chief of their National investigative Agency (NIA) has made it clear that without solid evidence Pakistan cannot be held responsible.

No evidence against Pakistan, Says India, *Daily Ummat*, January 7.¹¹⁶

¹¹³ http://e.duyacom.pk/detail.php?date+2016-01-04&edition+LHR&id=2087478_9658504

¹¹⁴ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2016-01-05/page-14/detail-9>

¹¹⁵ <http://jasarat.com/news.php?date=08-01-2016&news=01&category=editorial>

India has accepted that there was no direct evidence of Pakistan's involvement in the Pathankot attack. They have stated, "**We cannot unnecessarily blame our neighboring country.**" **On the other hand, Indian analysts have said that the delay in the operation proved how incapable and incompetent Indian forces are.**

Pathankot attack: The contradiction, Editorial, *Daily Nai Baat*, January 7.¹¹⁷

On the one hand, the Indian security agencies are not ready to accept that the attack reflects their failure, while on the other they claim that 40-50 Kg ammunition was recovered from the terrorists. **The question is how were they able to enter with such huge quantity of ammunition into an airbase where security remains always on high alert.** [...] It is ridiculous that after four days, the attackers have not been identified and Indian media has gone on making false rants that the terrorists came from Pakistan's Bahawalpur.

India has made dialogue process conditional, *Daily Jang*, January 8.¹¹⁸

India has finally linked talks to Pathankot attack. Indian authorities have made it clear that until strong action is taken against the perpetrators of Pathankot attack, no foreign secretary level talks will be held. **Our foreign ministry sources have revealed that India has sent a message through diplomatic channels that foreign secretary level talks on January 15 will be possible only after investigation of Pathankot begins.**... If India suspects that attackers came from across the borders or were assisted by Pakistan, then India should provide all the evidences related to this incident.

Terrorism in Pathankot, Col Z I Farukh, *Daily Nawai Waqt*, January 8¹¹⁹.

[...] Pathankot is an operational Indian airbase and is 340 km away from Delhi. **The airbase is spread on 20,000 acre land where MIG 29 and MI-35 helicopters are kept. Besides forces there are about 13,000 people living inside the airbase. According to reports they had a prior information about such an attack that is why the number of National Security Guards (NSG) was increased.** [...] Whatever has happened in the last ten days is meant to derail the peace process and push the region towards instability. [...] Usually in such attacks suicide bombers are used which was not the case here. After taking the car of the SP they could have either killed him or at least taken him as hostage till the operation was over. **These benevolent and soft terrorists may be their own people from India, associated with dozens of separatist**

¹¹⁶ <http://ummat.net/2016/01/07/news.php?p=news-02.gif>

¹¹⁷ http://naibaat.com.pk/ePaper/Lahore/07-01-2016/details.aspx?id=p12_02.jpg

¹¹⁸ <http://e.jang.com.pk/01-08-2016/Lahore/pic.asp?picname=161718.gif>

¹¹⁹ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2016-01-08/page-14/detail-1>

organizations. They might also be linked to RSS and Shiv Sena who have been forcing Narendra Modi to destroy Pakistan.

India's Pathankot drama, Nusrat Mirza, *Daily Jang*, January 11.¹²⁰

[...]This drama was meant to spoil the environment which remained positive for a very brief period. **There are many views on who were the people used in this drama. One is that hundreds of Pakistani prisoners are missing from Indian jails. Secondly, in year 2000 the Northern Alliance of Afghanistan provided India with many Jihadis who were kept in jail somewhere in Lukhnow. This was confirmed in a seminar in Chandigadh where Nenta Mehkar, the daughter of former bureaucrat, P.N Haksar, asked a question at the end of inaugural session seeking information about the Jihadis, brought in aeroplane from Afghanistan.** The director of RAW or IB used some of them in Parliament attack, some were used in Mumbai attack and some recently in Pathankot. Rest could be used in future.

The reality of Pathankot, Asgar Ali Shad, *Daily Nawai Waqt*, January 11.¹²¹

[...]In India some impartial analysts believe that Delhi should not take decisions in haste because there were many voices against Narendra Modi's Lahore visit. Even those who are part of the government had criticized Modi. **Remember that the chief of Shiv Sena, Uddhav Thakrey and its spokesperson Sanjay Rawat had openly announced that they would not let the dialogue process succeed. Shiv Sena newspaper Saamna wrote in an editorial that everything possible will be done to scuttle this process. The others like Praveen Togadia and Kamlesh Tiwari used very rude language in their criticism against the dialogue process.** Similarly the senior journalist, Manoj Joshi, said openly on Indian television channel that some extremist organizations of India might be behind Pathankot attack because the role of SP in all this is very interesting.

Pathankot Drama, Muneer Ahmad Baloch, *Daily Dunya*, January 12.¹²²

During Mumbai attack one terrorist, Ajmal Qasab, was caught alive but why did not they nab a single terrorist alive in Pathankot so that they could show him to the whole world. **Had they caught an injured terrorist it would have been easy for them to establish a link of this attack with Pakistan.** It was not impossible for an army which is the third largest in the world. Till now they have not divulged any information about those six terrorists who were killed in Pathankot. However according to one report they are done with their DNA

¹²⁰ http://e.jang.com.pk/01-11-2016/karachi/pic.asp?picname=15_02.gif

¹²¹ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2016-01-11/page-6/detail-0>

¹²² http://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2016-01-12&edition=LHR&id=2105096_53177838

tests. It is not possible that any incident happens in India and Pakistan is blamed.

CHARASADDA ATTACK

Charsadda Attack: Indian funding used, *Daily Ummat*, January 21.¹²³

The conspiracy to attack Bacha Khan University was hatched in Afghanistan with the help of India and the decision to raise the issue with Afghan government has been taken. The threats given by Indian Defence Minister, Manohar Parrikar, after Pathankot attack are being analyzed. [...]The enemies of peace planned this attack in Afghanistan to sabotage the Pakistani efforts for peace in the region. The call of Taliban commander has been traced according to which the attackers belonged to the Tariq Geedar group of banned TTP. ***The Umar Narey of this group received 30 lakh Indian Rupees from the Indian Consulate in Jalal Abad to attack Bacha Khan University. The Mobile numbers used by terrorists were 0093774022167, 0093782552489 and 0093774262593.***

The tweet of Ajit Doval before Charsadda attack, *Daily Ummat*, January 21.¹²⁴

About 10 hours before Charsadda attack, the National Security Advisor of India, Ajit Doval tweeted something very meaningful. ***He wrote, "Peshawar is the capital of the Northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province". He tweeted this on Tuesday night at 10:37. An attack in Charsadda happened the next day around 9 am. Surprisingly Ajit Doval tweeted this without any reason like nobody had asked him about this province.*** More surprisingly, after the attack on Bacha University Ajit Doval deleted the tweet about Peshawar and other tweets as well. But after deleting the tweet it remains on Google search engine for about five hours.... The people associated with security establishment have suspected the tweet and believe that it could have been a code word. Although there is no mention of Charsadda in the tweet but the other city of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Threats of Indian Ministers, Badshah Khan, *Daily Ausaf*, January 22.¹²⁵

[...]Numerous operations have been conducted and National Action Plan is being acted upon but blasts and terrorist activities have not stopped yet. ***Now all the evidence and proof should be made public so that the internal and external enemies are exposed and fight against them becomes easy. According to the news circulating in media, three foreign agencies were monitoring the Charsadda attack. There are some countries who are bewildered by the***

¹²³ <http://ummat.net/2016/01/21/news.php?p=news-01.gif>

¹²⁴ <http://ummat.net/2016/01/21/news.php?p=story3a.gif>

¹²⁵ http://www.ausaf.pk/wp-content/uploads/2016-01-22/news/detail15_04.php

progress made by Pakistan and the time has come to expose them all. Before some days Indian Defence Minister, Manohar Parrikar, had said that the Pakistani team investigating Pathankot attack would not be allowed to enter the air base. Pakistan has practically done nothing regarding Mumbai and Pathankot attacks which can't be tolerated anymore. He had further said that world will see the result within one year and just after four days the Charsadda incident happened. [...] This is a fact that India does not want to see Pakistan happy in any case and they always want to see Pakistan in bad shape for which unfortunately they are getting help from within Pakistan as well. The important thing is the security and stability of Pakistan and we want to permanently get rid of Charsadda type of attacks. We have sacrificed a lot now and the need of the hour is to take tough stand against all those who are involved. **It is very clear that in such terrorist incidents the role of India is very dangerous.**

Ex Afghan intelligence chief was involved, Daily Ummat, January 22.¹²⁶

Pakistan has collected information and evidences related to Charsadda attack which prove the involvement of former Afghan intelligence chief, Rehmatullah Nabil. The evidence will be handed over to Afghan authorities in couple of days. **From the on-going investigations it has been revealed that former Afghan intelligence chief not only helped in the execution of the task given by Indian Consulate but also helped them find the attackers for this task. For this task the former intelligence chief met the commander Umar Mansoor and asked for attackers.** Before this attack the TTP chief, Mullah Fazlullah was informed and told that this is being done for our friends. Rehmatullah Nabil was in touch with Mullah Fazlullah as well as he has very good relations with him. [...] **Rehmatullah Nabil developed contacts with RAW when he was working with an organization of United Nations. He is the one who shifted the TTP leadership to the safe places of Afghanistan before the operation Zarb-i-Azb started.**

Pakistan' role in Afghan Peace process, Editorial, Daily Jang, January 13.¹²⁷

Today began the quadripartite meeting which seek Peace Accord for Afghanistan. During the session, emphasis was laid to immediately initiate dialogue with representatives of separate groups of Taliban. During this meeting Pakistan suggested that there should be no pre-condition for initiating talks with Afghanistan. **Let us not forget that Afghanistan problem could not be resolved without convening dialogue with Taliban groups. Past history bears witness that even United States and NATO forces with all their**

¹²⁶ <http://ummat.net/2016/01/22/news.php?p=news-07.gif>

¹²⁷ [Http://edunya.com.pk/detail.php?Date=2016-01-13&edition=LHR&id-2107935_60401541](http://edunya.com.pk/detail.php?Date=2016-01-13&edition=LHR&id-2107935_60401541)

military might fought for 13 long years and made continuous bombardment - where mountains were razed to ground like sand dunes, but they could not mitigate Afghan opposition, their determination and their strong will. Afghanistan's past history suggests that no outside power could dominate Afghanistan.

Shrewd diplomacy of Modi, Shamshad Ahmed, *Daily Dunya*, January 13.¹²⁸

[...]After becoming Prime Minister, Modi has not only controlled the political barometer (climate) of two countries, he has proved successful in containing the high temperature in diplomatic parlance. He has thus persuaded Pakistan to have a realistic view of the conditions. Besides this, Modi has been meticulously controlling everything at every stage, every move, which India has to take. He is the hero in this game. No doubt, he seems to be a shrewd player of chess and knows which pawn should be moved and also understands rival's move. **Media community of both countries have really failed to fathom the depth of Narendra Modi's diplomacy. Even New York Times have been quizzical about his sudden Lahore visit. Meanwhile we could not deny that his Lahore yatra was a memorable incident. We also know that such sudden diplomatic moves has been a regular practice by India.** [...]When Modi left Lahore, he was quite enthusiastic about his trip. [...]During the meeting Modi told Sharif - why can't we play our role as leaders of different European countries do.

Charsadda attack: Investigation Report, *Daily Jang*, January 25.¹²⁹

[...]The Chief of Information dept. of Pakistan disclosed that the total number of facilitators were eight, out of which four have already been arrested, while the hunt continues for one facilitator-his wife and niece. **According to Lt.Gen. Asim Bajwa the terrorists were facilitated to cross the border by Zakir from Torkhum border-wherefrom they moved forward like other local citizens and reached Mardan by local transport. On reaching Mardan - 2 facilitators Adil and Riyaz managed their stay in some house located in Charsadda Road. Adil is actually a mechanic, who few days back was carrying out minor repair work at Bacha Khan University.** He presented the map of Bacha Khan University to the terrorists while Zakir and his accomplice purchased one 'rickshaw' from local market. Adil along with two terrorists made reiki of the University complex and minutely noticed all the entrances to get inside the main gate of the campus. **Chief of ISPR further disclosed that the ammunition for the attack was purchased from Adam Khel area and this job was performed by wife and niece of the militant. During the duration of**

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<http://edunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2016-01013&ediion=LHR&id=2107941+35412738>

¹²⁹ http://e.jung.co.pk/01-25-2016/Lahore/pic.asp?picname=09_01.gif

attack on Bacha Khan University, 10 calls were made and those were recorded too. During his media briefing - we have also heard some talk between one journalist (in Pakistan) and master-mind of the attack located in Afghanistan. **Lt.Gen. Bajwa further explained this incident saying that Pakistan government has, at no stage, accused or alleged Afghanistan government's involvement in this barbaric incident. But it is obviously irrefutable fact that Afghan soil was used for carrying out this brutal operation.**

STATISTICS

BOMBINGS, SHOOTINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES

(Select incidents culled out from the Pakistan media)

Place	Date	Description	Killed	Injured
Balochistan				
Gwadar ¹³⁰	10/1/2016	Two security personnel killed	2	3
Quetta ¹³¹	13/1/2016	Blast near polio centre	14	10
Quetta ¹³²	18/1/2016	Five security personnel killed	5	2
Pasni ¹³³	26/1/2016	Two militants killed	2	0
Quetta ¹³⁴	29/1/2016	Four policemen shot dead	4	3
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa				
Peshawar ¹³⁵	21/1/2016	Bacha Khan University Attack	20	24

¹³⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1231843/two-security-personnel-killed-in-gwadar-landmine-explosion>

¹³¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1232683/blast-near-quetta-polio-centre-kills-14-ttp-claims-responsibility>

¹³² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1029724/five-killed-two-injured-in-blast-targeting-security-forces-convoy-in-quetta/>

¹³³ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/26-Jan-2016/two-militants-killed-in-search-operation>

¹³⁴ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/29-Jan-2016/four-policemen-shot-dead-in-quetta-blast-damages-jaffar-express-in-sibi>

¹³⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1031445/bacha-khan-university-attack-frantic-relatives-gather-at-hospital-looking-for-loved-ones/>