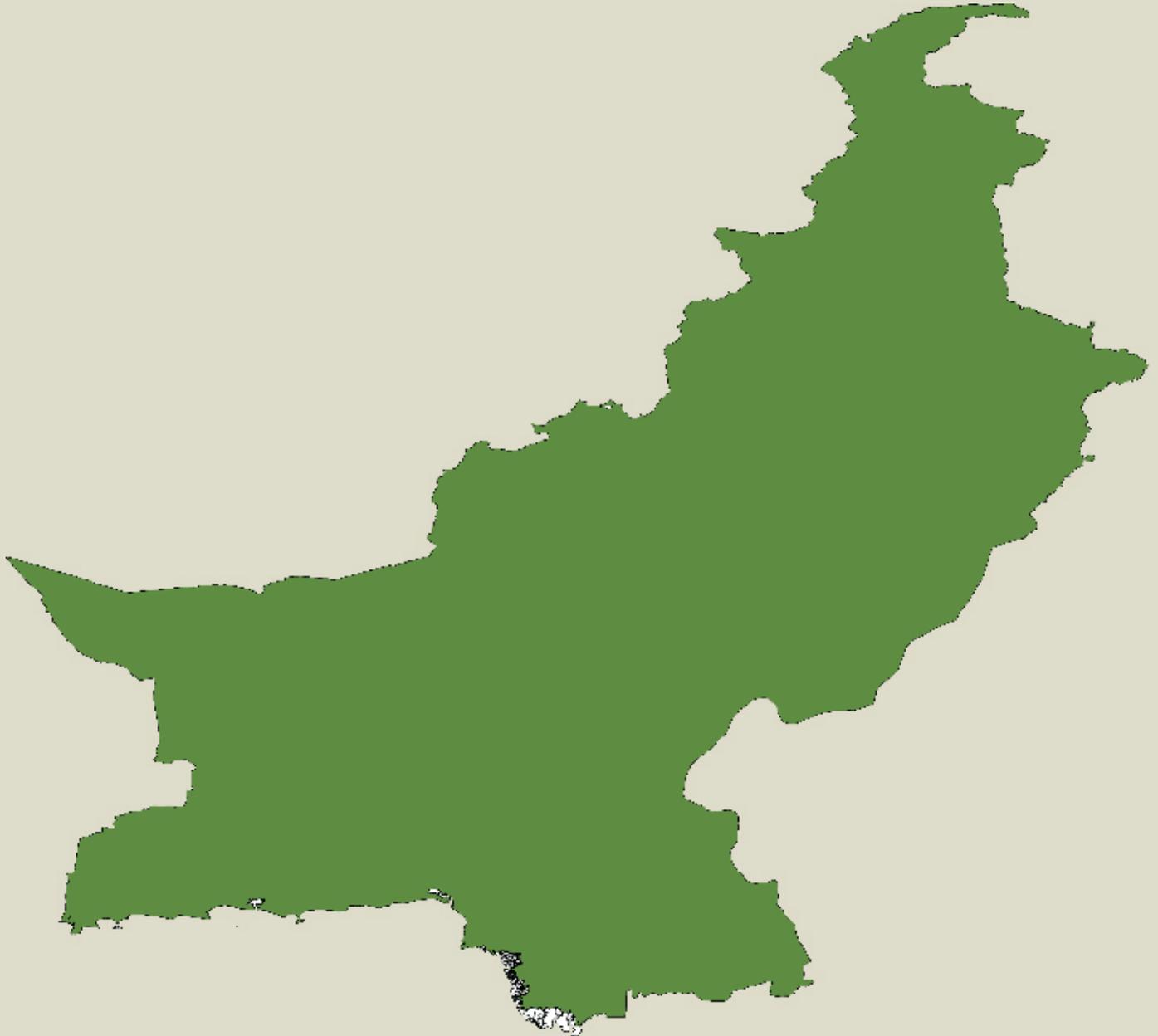


*November 2015*

# 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  
STUDIES & ANALYSES  
रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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## PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST, NOVEMBER 2015

### CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS.....	2
<b>POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS.....</b>	<b>3</b>
NATIONAL POLITICS.....	3
PROVINCIAL POLITICS.....	4
EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS.....	7
<b>FOREIGN POLICY.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>ECONOMIC ISSUES.....</b>	<b>21</b>
FISCAL ISSUES.....	21
INVESTMENT.....	21
<b>SECURITY SITUATION.....</b>	<b>25</b>
TERRORISM.....	25
KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND FATA.....	26
BALOCHISTAN.....	27
SINDH.....	27
<b>EXCERPTS FROM URDU MEDIA &amp; SELECT JIHADI LITERATURE.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>STATISTICS.....</b>	<b>41</b>
BOMBINGS, SHOOTINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES.....	41

**ABBREVIATIONS**

ANP: Awami National Party  
APC: All Parties Conference  
ATC: Anti-Terrorism Court  
CPEC: China- Pakistan Economic Corridor  
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  
JUI-F Jamiat-Ulema-e-Islam (Fazal)  
KP: Khyber Pakhthunkhwa  
LHC: Lahore High Court  
MQM: Muttahida Qaumi Movement  
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  
TTP: Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan

## POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

### NATIONAL POLITICS

**PPP 'alive and kicking', claims Zardari**, *The Dawn*, November 2<sup>1</sup>

PPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari said on Sunday (November 1) that the results of the first phase of local government elections in Sindh and Punjab were proof that the party was very much alive and had the support of the people. Brushing aside claims by rivals and political analysts that the PPP was in decline and had lost popular support, he said: "I wish to felicitate the PPP candidates who won the LG polls and [demonstrated] yet again that contrary to the predictions of gloom and doom by some self-styled analysts, the party, far from down and out, is buoyant and resilient."

**MQM members return to Senate**, *The Dawn*, November 3<sup>2</sup>

On the opening day of its winter session on Monday (November 2), Senate, the upper house of parliament, unanimously adopted four resolutions, including the one calling upon the government to include Keti Bunder Port a part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). **Earlier, the Senate welcomed the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) senators who returned to the house after 11 weeks and participated in the proceedings** after withdrawing their resignations which they had submitted in August as a mark of protest against alleged victimisation of the party by Rangers in Karachi.

**CJ to address Senate**, *The Dawn*, November 3<sup>3</sup>

For the first time in the country's history, a serving chief justice will be addressing the Senate on Tuesday (November 3), for which the upper house will be transforming itself into a committee of the whole house. This was announced by Senate Chairman Raza Rabbani during a Senate meeting on Monday (November 2). He told members that Chief Justice Anwar Zaheer Jamali had accepted an invitation to visit and present his views on judicial reforms. Mr Rabbani said he had been invited by Supreme Court judges earlier to speak at a ceremony and had extended an invitation to the chief justice as part of his initiative of 'intra-institutional dialogue'. Asking members to make sure they are present when the chief justice visits, Mr Rabbani said: "The chief justice will present his views before a committee of the whole house at 3:30pm on Tuesday when it will meet to discuss measures to provide inexpensive and speedy justice to people."

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1216974/ppp-alive-and-kicking-claims-zardari>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1217144/mqm-members-return-to-senate>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1217119/cj-to-address-senate>

**Dictatorship destroys image: Iqbal**, *The Express Tribune*, November 23<sup>4</sup>

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Professor **Ahsan Iqbal** has said **dictatorship always destroy the country's image and after the murder of Baloch nationalist leader Nawab Akaber Bugti Balochistan country was literary cut off from rest of Pakistan, but the democratic culture brought it back again into the main stream.** [...]He underlined the need of political stability in the country for sustainable development and bringing the country into at par with the developed nations.

**Prevent misuse of 'religion-based' laws: Zardari**, *The Dawn*, November 30<sup>5</sup>

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari has stressed the need for stopping misuse of "religion-based laws" and vowed that his party will continue its struggle to build a progressive, egalitarian and democratic Pakistan, despite all odds. **"We will continue our struggle to ensure that religion-based laws are not misapplied to stifle dissent, haunt minorities or hound vulnerable and weak sections of Muslims in the name of faith,"** he said in a message on the eve of the 49th founding day of the PPP falling on Monday (today). "The party wants to make Pakistan a welfare state where the motivating force and rationale for state policies is welfare of people and nothing else," he said. The former president said that "Bhuttoism" was the name of an ideology and the founding day of the Pakistan People's Party was an occasion to celebrate it. "It is also an occasion to renew our pledge to empower people, emancipate women, integrate minorities in the national mainstream and strengthen democratic institutions."

## PROVINCIAL POLITICS

**JUI-F suspends Maulana Wasey's membership**, *The Dawn*, November 3<sup>6</sup>

Serious differences have emerged in the ranks of Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (JUI-F) in Balochistan on the issue of joining the proposed provincial set-up under the Murree accord. The party's provincial leadership has suspended the basic membership of Maulana Abdul Wasey, who is leader of the opposition in the Balochistan Assembly. "The basic membership of Maulana Wasey has been suspended for violating party discipline," JUI-F sources said. The party's provincial chapter, headed by Maulana Faiz Mohammad, announced two days ago that JUI-F would not join the government led by the PML-N to be formed under the Murree accord reached between the N-League, National Party and Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party in June 2013. It also barred JUI-F leaders from holding talks or joining alliance with any party regarding the

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<sup>4</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/23-Nov-2015/dictatorship-always-destroys-country-s-image-ahsan-iqbal>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1223244/zardari-calls-for-preventing-misuse-of-religion-based-laws>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1217118/jui-f-suspends-maulana-waseys-membership>

proposed set-up. A party insider said that despite the leadership's decision, Maulana Wasey was issuing statements indicating that JUI-F would be part of the PML-N government.

**PPP celebrates LG poll victory, *The Dawn*, November 3<sup>7</sup>**

Pakistan Peoples Party leaders MNA Faryal Talpur, Home Minister Suhail Anwar Siyal and several other lawmakers led several rallies taken out in various areas of Larkana district on Monday (November 2) to celebrate the party's victory in the first phase of the local government election amid continued protest by the opposition parties over what they described as massive rigging. [...]The anti-PPP electoral alliance, the Larkana Awami Ittehad (LAI), on the other hand rejected the LG election [unofficial] results saying that it was massively rigged.

**PTI rejects local poll results, *The Dawn*, November 3<sup>8</sup>**

The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) set the tone for some more bitter and confrontational politics when it rejected the results of the first phase of the local government elections in Punjab and Sindh. ***"The election was a fraud," said PTI chairman's political adviser Ejaz Chaudhry, dispelling expectations of some calm returning to national politics.*** The PTI has been at loggerheads with the government alleging that the general election in 2013 was massively rigged. And Mr Imran Khan's party trailed the PML-N in Punjab and the PPP in Sindh by some distance in the first phase of the local government elections held on Saturday (October 31) last.

**Pro-administration elders change stance on FCR, *The Dawn*, November 16<sup>9</sup>**

Fata Grand Alliance, an amalgamation of pro-administration tribal elders, has changed its stance about Frontier Crimes Regulation and demanded, for the first time, its complete repeal. The alliance has also announced to support the six-member committee, which was formed to determine the future status of tribal areas in consultations with all the stakeholders of Fata. During a jirga, held in Jamrud on Sunday (November 15), the FGA leadership, however, rejected the proposed 22nd amendment bill, which was presented by Fata parliamentarians for merger of tribal areas with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1217054/ppp-celebrates-lg-poll-victory-amid-charges-of-massive-rigging>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1217106/pti-rejects-local-poll-results>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1220019/pro-administration-elders-change-stance-on-fcr>

## OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

**Veteran nationalist Afzal Khan Lala dies**, *The Dawn*, November 2<sup>10</sup>

Afzal Khan Lala, veteran nationalist leader, who refused to leave Swat to Taliban in 2007 after surviving several attacks on his life, was laid to rest in his ancestral village Durushkhela on Sunday (November 1). [...] "I will die but will not leave the ground to militants," he had said when his well-wishers and government requested him to shift to a safer place as militancy was on its peak in Swat at that time and almost all political leaders and most of the residents of the district had shifted from the area. His bravery in the face of terrorism, earned him the highest civilian award of bravery, Hilal-i-Shujaat in 2009, awarded to him by the President of Pakistan.

**Pemra bans media coverage of JuD, FIF**, *The Dawn*, November 3<sup>11</sup>

The electronic media watchdog has banned media coverage of proscribed organisations, including the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jamaatud Dawa (JuD) and the Falah-i-Insaniat Foundation (FIF). Following the Dec 2001 attack on the Indian parliament, the government of Pakistan banned LeT on January 14, 2002. After the proscription, the organisation continued to operate, first under the banner of JuD and then the FIF. However, under pressure from the United Nations, the government placed both JuD and FIF on its watch-list in Dec 2008 and March 2012, respectively. According to a circular issued by Pemra on Monday (November 2), the "Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Interior, under National Action Plan (NAP), have banned all kind of coverage of banned JuD, LeT and FIF under UN resolution 1267." Pemra also attached a list of 60 banned organisations and 12 organisations which were on the watch-list. **However, the list seemed to be an outdated one as it did not include the self-styled Islamic State — or Daesh as it is popularly known — in the list.**

The government had added Daesh to the list of banned outfits in July, raising the number of such organisations to 61. **The Pemra notification said that JuD and FIF are also incarnations of the banned LeT.** [...] "All satellite television channels/FM licensees are therefore strictly directed not to give any kind of coverage to any proscribed organisation including JuD, FIF and LeT. Moreover, any advertisement or fund collection by proscribed organisations in electronic media shall also constitute a breach of these obligations," the notification said. Later, the interior ministry clarified that it had not given Pemra any instructions regarding the JuD.

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<sup>10</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1216963/veteran-nationalist-afzal-khan-lala-dies>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1217122/pemra-bans-media-coverage-of-jud-fif>

## EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

### **First phase of LG polls**, Editorial, *The Dawn*, November 3<sup>12</sup>

THE first round of local government elections in Punjab and Sindh has continued the trend of recent elections: the overall result appeared to reflect voter preferences while the voting process has seen some improvements but also multiple failures. [...]As for the voting itself, the ECP still does not appear to have full control over the process and independent observers found a familiar plethora of discrepancies and irregularities. The answer to those problems remains the same: meaningful and deep electoral reforms while simultaneously strengthening and deepening the ECP's administrative structures. Unhappily, neither of those fundamentals appears to be a priority for parliament. The results themselves also appear to reflect overall expectations. The PPP swept interior Sindh — though perhaps the reasons for that sweep will be contested. [...]In Punjab, the PML-N dominated, seemingly pulling further away from the PTI in both urban and rural areas and now in competition with a new political force in Punjab, the so-called independents. Once again, the reasons will be disputed.

### **No culture of democracy**, I. A. Rehman, *The Dawn*, November 5<sup>13</sup>

Like any other electoral exercise, the local government election in parts of Punjab and Sindh raised quite a few issues that should be on the agenda of any promoter of democratic institutions. The bloodbath in Khairpur diverted attention from the structural obstacles to democratic politics in Sindh, and the reality that the provincial government faces serious challenges to its authority from a wadera-bureaucracy (mainly police) axis in parts of the territory. This alliance decides law and order cases and matters related to elections. The mainstream parties' success in elections depends on their ability to absorb these wadera-police combines. This situation has two serious implications. First, attempts to deal with dissident waderas/tribal chiefs through extra-political means will be fraught with the risk of bloody conflict. And, secondly, the democratic-minded political parties will continue to face heavy odds while trying to promote peaceful and fair electoral procedures. In Punjab the position is somewhat different. Here the bureaucracy by and large does not operate independently of the government and those who challenge the incumbents have to do without bureaucratic support. Thus the main problem faced by political parties was their own incapacity to understand the dynamics of local elections.

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<sup>12</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1217066/first-phase-of-lg-polls>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1217551/no-culture-of-democracy>

**Implementation of NAP**, Malik Md. Ashraf, *The Nation*, November 20<sup>14</sup>

[...]Operation Zarb-e-Azb has achieved tremendous success. Almost the entire infrastructure of the terrorist outfits in North Waziristan has been dismantled and more than ninety per cent of the area cleared of the terrorists. This has created space for successful implementation of NAP and action against the terrorist elements, their supporters and abettors and their sleeping cells throughout the country. [...]There is no dearth of commitment and sincerity on the part of the government. Yes in certain areas due to the religious, cultural and social sensitivities as well as some legal impediments the progress has not been as rapid as one would have liked it to be. What is needed to be understood is that terrorism and religious extremism is a well-entrenched phenomenon which has widely penetrated into our social fiber with all its complexities. It cannot be eliminated with the push of a button. Apart from the military and law enforcing aspects we are also confronted with the ideological challenges which take time to be tackled.

## FOREIGN POLICY

**Mortar shells from Afghanistan land in Kurram**, *The Dawn*, November 2<sup>15</sup>

Three mortar shells fired from Afghanistan landed in Pakistan's Kurram agency early Monday (November 2) morning. According to security sources, the shells were fired from Afghanistan's Paktika province and landed in Kurram agency, the tribal agency bordering Afghanistan. However no loss of life or property was reported in today's incident.

**No compromise on security of Chinese workforce**, *The Dawn*, November 2<sup>16</sup>

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Monday (November 2) directed the interior ministry to beef up the security for the Chinese workforce busy working on numerous development projects in Pakistan including the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Chairing a meeting to review the progress on the development of projects under CPEC at Prime Minister House, Nawaz Sharif directed the interior ministry to take all possible measures to ensure safety of Chinese workforce adding that no laxity shall be tolerated in this regard.

**Time not right for revival of Afghan talks: Aziz**, *The Dawn*, November 3<sup>17</sup>

Adviser on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz believes that it is not the right time for Pakistan to work for the revival of Afghan reconciliation process. "Right now I don't think the time is opportune," Mr Aziz said on Monday (November 3)

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<sup>14</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/columns/20-Nov-2015/implementation-of-nap>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1216988/mortar-shells-from-afghanistan-land-in-kurram-agency>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1216992/no-compromise-on-security-of-chinese-workforce-pm>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1217116/time-not-right-to-work-for-revival-of-afghan-talks-aziz>

while speaking to journalists at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI). He was replying to a question about prospects of the Afghan government agreeing to restart the process which got derailed after the disclosure of Mullah Omar's death in July.

**Pakistan donates wheat to Afghanistan, *Daily Times*, November 3<sup>18</sup>**

Pakistan has donated a planeload of wheat to Afghanistan to help mitigate the food shortage in Afghanistan. Pakistan's Ambassador to Kabul Syed Abrar Hussain handed over the donation to Afghan National Disaster Management Authority Deputy Minister Aslam Sayas at Kabul Airport in the presence of other Afghan officials. The Afghan officials thanked the government of Pakistan for the generous donation.

**Pak-Afghan leaders pledge to enhance ties, *Daily Times*, November 4<sup>19</sup>**

Top leaderships of both Pakistan and Afghanistan are fully committed to take the bilateral relationship to new heights by making the region cradle of peace and stability. These views were expressed during a meeting between Afghanistan Ambassador in Pakistan Janan Mosazai, who called on Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday (November 3). Both discussed the bilateral cooperation in economy and education and agreed to redouble the efforts for greater economic integration and cooperation between the two countries. [...] **Ahsan Iqbal said that Pakistan is biggest beneficiary of complete peace and harmony in Afghanistan and is supportive of all efforts being taken to achieve this goal.** He said that now the time has come that both countries should take the bilateral relationship to geo-economic orbit from geo-strategic cooperation. About greater economic integration between Pakistan and Afghanistan, Ahsan Iqbal stated, "Vision-2025 lays strong emphasis on regional connectivity. Pakistan wants greater regional cooperation because it would benefit the entire region." **He said that Peshawar-Kabul Motorway would enhance regional connectivity and assured Afghan envoy that the pace of work on it would be accelerated.** This motorway would trigger socioeconomic revolution in the bordering areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan, he remarked.

**Pakistan lodges protest with Iran, *The Dawn*, November 16<sup>20</sup>**

Pakistani officials lodged a protest with Iranian border authorities on Sunday (November 15) over firing of mortar shells into Pakistani territory reportedly

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<sup>18</sup> <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/04-Nov-2015/pakistan-donates-planeload-of-wheat-to-afghanistan>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/04-Nov-2015/pak-afghan-leaders-pledge-to-enhance-bilateral-ties>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1220029/pakistan-lodges-protest-with-iran-after-border-violation>

from across the Iranian border. Several mortar shells fired from the Iranian side landed and exploded in Kachao, a small town along the border in the Chagai district, on Saturday evening (November 14). Gunshots were heard soon afterwards, officials said.

**Islamabad, Dhaka to revive trade ties, *The Nation*, November 17<sup>21</sup>**

Pakistan and Bangladesh have stepped up efforts to boost economic and trade relations with renewed resolve of fighting poverty in the two south Asian Muslim nations. Both Islamabad and Dhaka have stepped up efforts to boost their relations which soared in 2013 after Lower House of Pakistan parliament adopted a resolution condemning the execution of Abdul Quader Molla as a political victimisation. [...] Former Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh Farooq Sobhan on Monday (November 16) called on the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Syed Tariq Fatemi and discussed bilateral relations between the two countries. According to official sources, Fatemi told Farooq Sobhan while emphasising the need for enhanced relations between the two countries said that improved relations among the countries of the region will enhance economic development and prosperity.

**Peace in Afghanistan inevitable for stability, *Daily Times*, November 18<sup>22</sup>**

**Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif Tuesday (November 17) said that establishment of peace in Afghanistan was inevitable for peace and stability in the region.** Addressing at a banquet hosted by Uzbek President Islam Karimov in his honour at Kuksaroy Presidential Palace, the prime minister said his government desired to maintain good ties with all countries, including India and Afghanistan. Referring to various steps taken by his government against extremism and terrorism, he said Pakistan had initiated operation Zarb-e-Azb against the menace that was bearing fruit as law and order situation was improving due to the efforts of the law enforcement agencies. He said during the meeting with the Uzbek president, the matters of mutual interest, including cooperation in economy, energy and other sectors, were discussed.

**Pakistan, US vow to fight terrorism together, *Daily Times*, November 18<sup>23</sup>**

Pakistan and the United States on Tuesday (November 17) renewed their pledges to counter the growing threat of terrorism as Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif met US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter at the

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<sup>21</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/17-Nov-2015/islamabad-dhaka-step-up-efforts-to-revive-trade-ties>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/18-Nov-2015/peace-in-afghanistan-inevitable-for-stability-in-the-region-nawaz>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/17-Nov-2015/pakistan-us-vow-to-fight-terrorism-together>

Pentagon. [...]According to the military media wing, Carter underlined the strategic importance of Pakistan-US relations with shared values. He also acknowledged Pakistan's contributions and sacrifices in the war against terrorism.

**Afghanistan summons Pakistan envoy**, *The Express Tribune*, November 18<sup>24</sup>

Afghanistan has summoned the Pakistani charge d'affaires to lodge a protest over a recent alleged cross-border shelling, the foreign ministry said on Tuesday (November 17). Earlier, the Afghan authorities claimed that "Pakistani shelling in Paktika province killed at least one border policeman and injured three others". Meanwhile, the Afghan interior ministry claimed that two civilians were killed and one police soldier injured in firing in a border area of Paktika province. An Interior Ministry spokesman, Najib Danish, was quoted as saying that eight rockets had been fired in Barmal district of Paktika. Afghan foreign ministry spokesman Ahmad Shakib Mustaghni told the media in Kabul that Pakistani envoy Muzam Ali was summoned on Monday and sought "explanation about the rockets fired from Pakistan side" of the border. "We conveyed our serious concerns and Pakistan was warned to immediately stop these attacks," he added. Mutaghni said that the cross-border selling could pose threat to relations between the two countries. On 15 November, five rockets were fired from Afghanistan at Angoor Adda check post in South Waziristan.

**Pak-China ties not against any country: Aziz**, *The Dawn*, November 18<sup>25</sup>

Adviser on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz said on Wednesday (November 19) that growing China-Pakistan ties were not against any other country and Pakistan was simultaneously promoting relations with all major regional and world powers. ***"Cooperation between Pakistan and China is focused on economic development through connectivity and is not against any other country. Pakistan seeks to establish and sustain long-lasting and mutually beneficial relationships with global and regional players in Asia,"*** Mr Aziz said at a seminar. [...] "Pakistan has the distinction of forging and maintaining Strategic Dialogue with both the US and China. We have vibrant and robust relations with another power in the region, i.e. Russia. From Pakistan's perspective, China together with the United States and Russia, are important pillars in the newly emerging economic and security order of the region," Mr Aziz said. He regretted that "some countries" were trying to cause a distraction in the implementation of CPEC. "India's loud objections to CPEC and its attempts to gain support of elements hostile to Pakistan in the region are ill-advised," he observed. About normalisation of ties with India, he said

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<sup>24</sup> <http://tribune.com.pk/story/993569/afghanistan-summons-pakistan-envoy/>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1220751/growing-pak-china-ties-not-against-any-country-aziz>

Pakistan continued to support normalisation, but such a thing should be done with “respect and dignity”. He also asked India to reciprocate Pakistan’s peace gestures.

**PM invites Putin to inaugurate gas pipeline, *The Nation*, November 20<sup>26</sup>**

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif yesterday formally invited Russian President Vladimir Putin to visit Pakistan as the two countries draw closer, brushing aside the bitter past of the cold war. [...] **Experts suggest an increasingly anxious Russia wants very much to engage with Pakistan and sees it as an indispensable regional player in dealing with whatever emerges in Afghanistan following Nato’s complete pullout.** [...] Prime Minister Sharif has now extended an invitation to Russian President Putin to inaugurate North South Gas Pipeline which is the largest investment by Russia in Pakistan.

**Visit of Pakhtun leaders to Kabul eased tension, *The Dawn*, November 30<sup>27</sup>**

Awami National Party central general secretary Mian Iftikhar Hussain has said that visit of Pakhtun nationalist leaders to Kabul eased the tension between Pakistan and Afghanistan. “No one can blame Pakhtun nationalist leaders for not playing their role for peace. They did their bit now the governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan have to take it forward from here,” said Mr Hussain. [...] A delegation comprising Asfandyar Wali Khan, Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao, Mehmood Khan Achakzai, Afrasiab Khattak and Saleem Khan had visited Kabul and held meetings with President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Dr Abdullah. [...] **Mr Hussain said that the trip of the leaders to Kabul was an icebreaking move and would bring leadership of the two countries to negotiation table.** Terming the visit good omen for the region, he said that Afghan leadership had hinted at resuming talks with Islamabad which was a major breakthrough.

## **EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS**

**In quest of the nuclear deal, Sabina Khan, *The Express Tribune*, November 16<sup>28</sup>**

[...] Pakistan’s nuclear programme until recently has largely been ignored barring the printing of an occasional speculative doomsday-scenario article. Perhaps, since Pakistan’s economic situation is so heavily reliant on foreign aid, this is seen as an opportune time to exert pressure. **However, it should be understood that Pakistan’s nuclear programme cannot be reined in without addressing territorial disputes which necessitate the existence of these**

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<sup>26</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/20-Nov-2015/pm-invites-putin-to-jointly-inaugurate-gas-pipeline>

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1223220/visit-of-pakhtun-leaders-to-kabul-eased-tension-in-region-anp>

<sup>28</sup> <http://tribune.com.pk/story/992019/in-quest-of-the-nuclear-deal/>

**weapons in the first place.** [...]Recently, the US made some unclear mention of recognising Pakistan as a recipient of nuclear technology in exchange for restrictions on the nuclear programme. However, China is already providing nuclear technology to Pakistan. That leaves little incentive for Pakistan to accept limits on its nuclear weapons, especially since acquiring these weapons has proven to be effective thus far at preventing another all-out war with India.

## MILITARY AFFAIRS

### **COAS in Saudi Arabia, Daily Times, November 4<sup>29</sup>**

Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif arrived in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday (November 3) on a two-day official visit, days after a contingent of Special Forces of Saudi Arabia left for home after completing Pak–Saudi Joint Training Exercise, Al – Shihab. Al – Shihab focused on counter-terrorism training of the special operation forces of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia which included cordon and search operations, airdropping and heli lifting of Special Forces for operations against terrorists and their hideouts. Deputy Defence Minister and Commander Saudi Land Forces received the army chief at Riyadh airport. Later, General Raheel held an important meeting with Chief of General Staff of Saudi Forces Gen A Rehman Bin Saleh Al-Bunyan. Both the leaders discussed defence cooperation and military-to-military relations between two countries besides regional security situation.

### **Tension between institutions, The Dawn, November 16<sup>30</sup>**

A lack of progress on the National Action Plan (NAP) to counter terrorism in the wake of the Army Public School massacre was just one of many reasons behind the civil-military tensions that boiled over last week. In background conversations with Dawn, military officials and civilian leaders offered their own interpretations for the reasons behind a public spat between the government and the army. Sources say that there have been a number of recent developments that have strained the ever-sensitive balance of power between the two institutions. **After the corps commanders' meeting on Nov 10, the military leadership expressed its dissatisfaction with the government's performance on NAP.** This prompted an uncharacteristic response from the PM Office the following day, which emphasised that effective implementation of NAP was the shared responsibility of all national institutions working within the ambit of the constitution. A senior government functionary close to the PML-N leadership told Dawn that the prime minister had never been very

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<sup>29</sup> <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/04-Nov-2015/coas-discusses-defence-cooperation-with-saudi-arabia>

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1220034/nap-progress-not-only-reason-of-tension-between-institutions>

comfortable with the army chief's trips to international capitals. He was particularly unhappy, the functionary said, with Gen Raheel Sharif's visits to Saudi Arabia in the first week of November, and now the US. [...]With the GHQ's omnipresence in the formulation of foreign and defence policies, one may well wonder what is the background of the army chief's current visit to the US if both sides (military and civilian) are on the same page," remarked a ruling party lawmaker. [...]But a senior security official told Dawn that there was more to the tensions between the two institutions than just NAP and the slow progress on that front.

**Karachi operation in higher gear**, *The Express Tribune*, November 3<sup>31</sup>

Two years after the Rangers launched a surgical operation to rid Karachi of terrorists and other criminals, the paramilitary force has announced that the campaign has entered the next phase. In this phase, the Rangers will go after terrorists, contract killers and their facilitators, particularly those involved in attacks on law enforcers, security personnel, lawyers and witnesses, read a statement issued on Monday. The force has appealed to Karachiites to call, SMS or email the Rangers if they have any information on such criminals.

**Two suspected terrorists arrested**, *Daily Times*, November 4<sup>32</sup>

The law enforcement agencies foiled a terror bid as they arrested two terrorists with arms and explosives on Tuesday. Sources said that police and intelligence agencies personnel conducted operation at Church Road, near Kohati Gate in provincial capital, Peshawar. During operation, officials arrested two terrorists, besides recovering two pistols and explosive material from them. The nabbed suspects stated to be hailing from FATA were shifted to undisclosed location for further investigation and important revelations were expected.

**Army urges Kabul to plug escape route**, *The Nation*, November 16<sup>33</sup>

The military on Sunday (November 15) called on the government in Kabul to implement "strict surveillance" along the Pak-Afghan border to prevent terrorists from "escaping". "We had pre-empted that terrorists could flee to Afghanistan to avoid operation Zarb-e-Azb," said Maj-Gen Asim Bajwa, Inter-Services Public Relations Director General. He stressed that Pakistan has always extended full support for peace in Afghanistan, and will continue to do so "with utmost sincerity".

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<sup>31</sup> <http://tribune.com.pk/story/984094/karachi-operation-moves-into-higher-gear/>

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/04-Nov-2015/two-suspected-terrorists-arrested-arms-recovered>

<sup>33</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/16-Nov-2015/army-urges-kabul-to-plug-terrorists-escape-route>

**Army chief's extension in govt's hands: Gilani**, *The Nation*, November 17<sup>34</sup>

Former Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani has said that we were in a state of war, during the Pakistan People's Party tenure and the extension of army chief was according to the country's situation, but now the authority is in the hands of incumbent government. [...]He further said that the present government is pursuing previous government's policies, adding that the operation in South Waziristan is being conducted under the policies of PPP's government. Former prime minister said that they restored the 1973 constitution and strengthened all the institutions including Supreme Court.

**Raheel highlights Pak anti-terror feats**, *The Nation*, November 17<sup>35</sup>

Army Chief General Raheel Sharif told his US counterpart Gen Mark A Milley about Pakistan's feats in the fight against terrorism. Peace in South Asia also came under discussion during the meeting between the two big at Pentagon, where Gen Raheel was accorded warm welcome, reported a private TV. Nawa-i-Waqt Reporter quoted sources as saying that Gen Raheel also held meetings with US Secretary of Defence Ashton Carter and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Joseph Dunford. During the meetings, intelligence sharing, spying, Afghanistan peace and other defence-related issues were discussed. [...]Besides bilateral military and defence matters of mutual interest, Afghanistan situation, Indian interference in Pakistan's internal affairs and Islamabad's own fight against terrorism are expected to figure high in the army chief's meetings with top US military and civil officials.

**Don't take army's statement negatively: Imran**, *The Dawn*, November 19<sup>36</sup>

PTI chairman Imran Khan on Wednesday (November 18) said the army's statement regarding good governance should not be taken negatively. **"A democratic government should not consider itself a kingdom as it is answerable to the people," he said** while speaking at the Public Liaison Council inaugural function at the Malik Saad Shaheed Police Lines Peshawar. The PTI chief criticised the political parties' reaction on the ISPR statement regarding good governance, saying good governance was the demand of every Pakistani.

**Major NAP issues prompted military's reaction**, *The Dawn*, November 19<sup>37</sup>

While progress on nearly half of the 20-point National Action Plan is showing a downward trend, reforms in Fata, the return of Afghan refugees and issues

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<sup>34</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/17-Nov-2015/army-chief-s-extension-in-govt-s-hands-yousaf-raza-gilani>

<sup>35</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/17-Nov-2015/raheel-highlights-pak-anti-terror-feats>

<sup>36</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1220767>

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1220715/analysis-major-nap-issues-prompted-militarys-reaction>

associated with the operation in Karachi were the factors that prompted the last week's call from military commanders for "matching governance initiatives", officials say. One issue flagged high was the reforms in Fata, a senior security official said. With the military in the last leg of Zarb-i-Azb operation in North Waziristan, the federal government, officials say, did not appear too keen to introduce reforms in the tribal region. "There is just no sense of urgency. They are not bothered," one official said. [...]The other major issue that has caused concern is the federal government's lack of interest in the return of over three million Afghan refugees to their homeland. The third extension of the stay of Afghan refugees in Pakistan expires on Dec 31. [...]The third major issue that was flagged was the ongoing operation in Karachi, the official said. There is a feeling in the military establishment that the Rangers-led operation has not been matched by "matching/complementary governance initiatives", the official said. [...]While there has been some progress in the reconciliation process in Balochistan, it is seen as slow, the official said. [...]Among the other major issues where progress is reported to have shown a downward trend was efforts to block financing for terrorists and terrorist organisations, the official said. [...]The official said that progress had also been slow in preventing the re-emergence of banned organisations and individuals, religious persecution, ending sectarian terrorism, reversing trend of militancy, measures to curb use of internet and social media in terrorism and extremism, revamping of the judicial system and madressah reforms.

**Army Chief's tours need no sanctioning: Asif, *The News*, November 19<sup>38</sup>**

Defence Minister, Khawaja Asif on Wednesday (November 18) said no permission of any sort is required to Army Chief's visits abroad and that his current trip to the US had been scheduled a couple of weeks in advance. Talking to media persons here, Khawaja Asif explained that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit to US was focused on Pak-US bilateral ties and the overall situation of the region while Army Chief's trip pertained to Pak-US defence ties and security matters of the region. ***"No prior permission is required to Army Chief's foreign tours and that a procedure already exists for his trips to other countries," he said.***

**JUI-F pledges full support to army, *The Dawn*, November 30<sup>39</sup>**

Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, addressing what appeared to be one of the biggest gatherings organised by the party in Sindh, on Sunday (November 29) threw his party's weight behind the army

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<sup>38</sup> <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-204596-Army-Chiefs-foreign-tours-need-no-sanctioning:-Khawaja-Asif>

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1223187/jui-f-pledges-full-support-to-army-against-any-external-aggression>

chief “in defending every inch of the country’s territory” in the face of a threat from the US and its allies. Besides him, a host of leaders including Senate Deputy Chairman Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haidery, Maulana Saeed Yousuf, Maulana Mohammed Amjad Khan, Syed Salman Gillani, Nayab Sarkash Sindhi (of the Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz), Qari Mohammed Usman, Malik Sikandar (from Balochistan), Rashid Mehmood Soomro and Nasir Mehmood Soomro spoke to the participants at the gathering titled ‘Shaheed-i-Islam conference’ held to pay tribute to JUI-F leader Dr Khalid Mehmood Soomro on his first death anniversary.

## EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

**Taking A ‘NAP’**, Editorial, *The Nation*, November 12<sup>40</sup>

[...]The list of areas where lies the true test of the efficiency of NAP is terror financing, madrassah reform, moving against proscribed organisations and hate speech, and these areas are where the state has failed to produce tangible results. ***The military and civilian discord must be resolved once and for all if militancy is to be addressed. It is clear from the patchy performance of the NAP policies, that the Pakistan army is playing its role effectively by carrying out the operation Zarb-e-Azb and the Rangers operation in Karachi, but this effort will become futile if the government does not step up its efforts to control terror financing and regulate madrassah reforms.*** It is extremely pertinent for the government to regulate finances entering the country and improve the accountability of the flow of funds. [...]While an all out blame game is the last thing this delicate situation needs, the military leadership is discreetly sending a message to the civilian leadership to take more responsibility and address the areas of weakness in the implementation of the NAP. Policies need to be readdressed and a new action plan must call for more political will.

**Army Act Amendment**, Editorial, *The Nation*, November 13<sup>41</sup>

The amendment to the Army Act 1952 has been in the works for a while now, and on Wednesday (November 11) the National assembly gave assent to it. The amendment has made its way through all the legislative formalities, yet that does not automatically mean it has been analysed or that it is beneficial to the nation. ***The bill has been bundled through both houses of parliament without adequate debate, ignoring the safeguards recommended by the Supreme Court, and without allowing any changes to the clauses.*** The military’s prerogative as visible throughout the proceedings, and the Pakistan Muslim League – N (PML-N) dutifully rubber-stamped the orders from

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<sup>40</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/12-Nov-2015/taking-a-nap>

<sup>41</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/13-Nov-2015/army-act-amendment>

Rawalpindi. [...]The military was already protected from legal challenge under a presidential ordinance since February; the passing of this bill makes that protection permanent. Herein lies the fault. The military courts by definition are meant to exist for only a certain amount of time, an ordinance, which also needs to be renewed periodically, would have provided the required cover to the military courts to operate. Amending the Army Act 1952 entrenches these protections, allowing the army to use them to safeguard its officials and authorise its arrests in matters completely unrelated to the war on terror. [...]Even if this law needed to be amended, the government should have incorporated the safeguards suggested by the Supreme Court, which allowed an appeal procedure. Yet the government seems to have lost all bearing of right and wrong in the sickening rush to be pliant to the men in boots.

**The complexities of civil-military relations**, Hasan Askari Rizvi, *The Express Tribune*, November 16<sup>42</sup>

[...]This equation is so important that top leaders of the civilian federal government often talk of the military and the civilian government being on the same page. **The reality is that the so-called 'page' is controlled by the military and the civilian leadership places itself on that page.** This 'on-the-same-page' narrative runs into trouble from time to time. The civilian federal government was perturbed by the statement issued at the conclusion of the Corps Commanders' meeting on November 10 that called upon the government to fill the gaps in the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP). [...]There was uproar in the two houses of parliament. [...]**PPP leaders professed support for the government. The PTI was the only party left in the opposition that underlined the need to improve governance and properly implement the NAP.** [...]The leadership role in coping with the terrorism challenge passed on to the military in the aftermath of the terrorist attack on the Army Public School, Peshawar, the setting up of the Apex Committees and the establishment of military courts. The first signs of strains in civil-military relations emerged in Karachi, when the absence of requisite political support led the military to unilaterally step up the security operation there. The PPP-led provincial government and the MQM expressed strong reservations on the stepping up of the operation. [...]**The military's recent frustrations are mainly due to the non-availability of the required civilian support in Sindh, Punjab and at the federal level for a consistent implementation of the NAP and the control of corruption in the government, funding of terrorist groups and madrassa reforms.** [...]Pakistan faces acute internal and external security challenges. Neither the civilians nor the military alone can deal with them. They will have to work together, showing restraint

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<sup>42</sup> <http://tribune.com.pk/story/992018/the-complexities-of-civil-military-relations/>

towards the peculiar behaviour patterns of each side. However, if the civilian leadership engages in political adventurism or continues to neglect the imperatives of controlling terrorism and extremism, its survival in power will become doubtful. Similarly, if the military ends up assuming all responsibilities, it may find it difficult to manage the increasingly unmanageable politics of the country. A functional civilian order is required for ensuring internal and external security.

**Duelling statements**, Cyril Almeida, *The Dawn*, November 15<sup>43</sup>

[...]Yet, here we were this week, squabbling again. And, for once, it's the boys who looked weak. The Council of Elders met this week and told us that the boys are better at their job than the civilians and that the civilians need to get their anti-terror act together. A year ago that would have been a cue for national pandemonium. But something funny happened this time: there was no real crisis. [...]This version of Nawaz showing some life, and even defiance? How badly had the boys miscalculated? [...]Speak softly and carry a big stick — it's good advice, especially if your victim has already felt the stick. But the boys decided to turn that advice on its head and yelled loudly — with no obvious stick to use. [...]A lot of the speculation you've heard already — the behind-the-scenes tussles over what's going on in Karachi or the annoyance over the India dossiers or some such. Since those are things that can't be publicly expressed, the boys decided to attack on what they thought was firmer ground. But that's also a little too weaselly and dharna-ish. It doesn't quite gel with the reputation Raheel has cultivated since. Now, when he's annoyed, he lets it be known. Directly and himself. Like when that Mushahidullah business happened. The anger was fierce and the effect was immediate. In double-quick time, Nawaz publicly contradicted his minister and Mushahidullah's head was presented. Raheel is also experienced enough now. He knows that you can't just order things to be fixed. That's not how things work here. And yet we have a churlish ISPR statement and a bristling response from the PM Office.

**A trip to forget**, Cyril Almeida, *The Dawn*, November 22<sup>44</sup>

DID the extension just become a little less likely? All week, you could sense something wasn't quite right. Last year, DC was in love with Raheel. They grabbed his hand, they had their photo taken with him, they pinned a medal to his chest. [...] ***The Americans don't seem to be very impressed by the Cult of Raheel. Before he went, there was that business about him inviting himself. After he wrapped up his last meeting, the White House readout pointedly mentioned the other Sharif.*** And there was no medal or toys for him to bring

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<sup>43</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1219734/duelling-statements>

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1221367/a-trip-to-forget>

back home. It's like the Americans are trying to say, look, we have business to do and we'll do that business with you, but we prefer Pakistan as a democracy. So, let's not fiddle around with that. [...] **The two Sharifs in DC three weeks apart has teased out at least one thing: the post-9/11 relationship is truly over.** .....The problem is, you can't really see Pakistan thinking about the next phase. Anywhere generally. Specifically with the US. [...] Two Sharifs in DC in three weeks — and there's not a single thing you can point to that is new or original from the Pakistani side in the bilateral relationship. A scaled-down, security-centric, transactional relationship with the US still means it's one of the fundamental pillars of our foreign policy. But we only seem to leverage the relationship to complain about India. Like this business with the dossiers.

**Religious extremism in Jhelum**, Editorial, *The Dawn*, November 24<sup>45</sup>

The modus operandi was a distressingly familiar one — an allegation of blasphemy, incitement by local mosques, and a frenzied mob venting its rage on the impugned individuals/community. However, the government's response to events in Jhelum last week could well determine whether this country is indeed making a break from a past replete with condemnable instances of violence in the name of faith. The incident in question began to unfold on Friday evening (November 20) when workers at an Ahmadi-owned factory in the city alleged that pages from the Quran were being desecrated on its premises. Announcements made from area mosques further inflamed passions, and a mob — including people from surrounding villages — stormed the factory, setting it on fire. The next day, an Ahmadi place of worship in nearby Kala Gojran was ransacked by crowds who, after throwing its contents out in the street and torching them, proceeded to occupy the building in the name of converting it into a mosque. [...] **In post-National Action Plan Pakistan, with its avowals of dismantling the infrastructure of religious extremism that is the recruiting ground for ideologically inspired militancy against which the country is at war, Jhelum is no less than a test case.** It is a test case because it pushes the boundaries of what many Pakistanis consider religious intolerance: the target is a community against which religious discrimination in this country is not just socially entrenched, but also deeply institutionalised — and even celebrated as a virtue in certain quarters. [...] A majority community must use its strength not to oppress minorities — for that is only evidence of its own moral frailty — but to guarantee their inalienable right to live with dignity as equal citizens.

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<sup>45</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1221818/religious-extremism-in-jhelum>

## **ECONOMIC ISSUES**

### **FISCAL ISSUES**

**Wapda signs RS4.8 billion contract**, *Daily Times*, November 18<sup>46</sup>

The Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) has signed a contract worth Rs4.8 billion with China Railway First Group (CRFG) for the construction of a project colony and allied infrastructure for Dasu Hydropower project. The contract includes construction of project offices, residential houses, hostels, rest house, hospital, community centre, parks, and playground and is expected to be completed in about two years.

### **ENERGY**

**Kabul offers help in import of power**, *The Dawn*, November 24<sup>47</sup>

Amid concerns over slow implementation of decisions taken in the past, Pakistan and Afghanistan discussed on Monday (November 23) concepts of two major projects — import of 2,000MW electricity from Turkmenistan and development of Gwadar-Helmand road link. These were the main issues taken up at the 10th session of the Joint Economic Commission which concluded here (Islamabad) on Monday (November 23). Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and his Afghan counterpart Eklil Ahmad Hakimi led their delegations. [...]Mr Dar said the two sides had also discussed the road link between Gwadar and Helmand that would be an extension of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. [...]Mr Dar said the two sides had decided to hold the 6th round of finance ministers' talks under the Afghanistan-Pakistan Trade Coordination Committee in March next year in Kabul. Talks on a preferential trade agreement will be held around the same time. The next JEC meeting will be held by the end of next year in Kabul. The two sides also discussed the Chaman-Kandahar railway line project and progress on Torkham-Jalalabad road.

### **INVESTMENT**

**CPEC Western route to be built**, *The Nation*, November 17<sup>48</sup>

The government has finally decided to construct the Western route as dual carriageway and finance it from the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) infrastructure development fund, it is learnt reliably here yesterday. In the meeting of the 5th Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) of CPEC, held in Karachi last week, Federal Minister Planning, Development & Reforms

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<sup>46</sup> <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/18-Nov-2015/wapda-signs-rs4-8-billion-contract-for-development-projects>

<sup>47</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1221846/kabul-offers-help-in-import-of-power-from-central-asia>

<sup>48</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/17-Nov-2015/cpec-western-route-to-be-built-as-dual-carriageway>

Ahsan Iqbal pursued the Chinese delegation to include the Western route in the infrastructure/road development project of the CPEC, official sources told The Nation here on Monday (November 16). The source informed that now the project has been included in the infrastructure development projects of CPEC. ***“It has been decided that the roads on Western route will be constructed as a dual carriageway and the funds will be provided from the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) infrastructure development fund,” the source added.***

**CPEC to transform region’s destiny: Pervaiz**, *Daily Times*, November 18<sup>49</sup>

Minister for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage Senator Pervaiz Rashid on Tuesday (November 17) said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a game changer as it would not only transform the destiny of the people of Pakistan but that of the entire region. Talking to reporters after attending the opening session of the CPEC Media Forum - comprising journalists from Pakistan and China - he said that this forum would help to create awareness among the people and help to make the CPEC a success story. ***He said that no part of the country would be ignored and all baseless propaganda against the project would die down soon.*** He said that there was no ambiguity on the corridor’s western route as work on it was in full swing. He said that the armed forces had given sacrifices in protecting the staff working on the construction of the CPEC’s western route. [...]The minister said that all national institutions were on the same page as far as national agenda was concerned, and that was why Pakistan had gained unprecedented achievements during the last two and a half years and the CPEC was one of them. [...]The minister said that the economic corridor was not only reflective of the deep-rooted and strategic relations between Pakistan and China, but also desire of the two sides to cement their relationship for the benefit of people.

**US investors pull out as FDI drops 24%**, *The Express Tribune*, November 18<sup>50</sup>

***Foreign direct investment (FDI) dropped by almost one-quarter in the first four months of 2015-16, statistics released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Tuesday (November 17) showed.*** Pakistan received FDI of \$350.8 million in July-October, which is 24.1% less than the FDI received in the same four-month period of the preceding fiscal year. FDI decreased \$111.7 million year on year in July-October, as it amounted to \$462.5 million in the corresponding months of 2014-15. Despite being one of the principal foreign investors in Pakistan historically, the United States is now pulling out its

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<sup>49</sup> <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/17-Nov-2015/cpec-to-transform-region-s-destiny-pervaiz>

<sup>50</sup> <http://tribune.com.pk/story/993402/july-october-us-investors-pull-out-as-fdi-drops-24/>

investments at a massive level. **US investors have pulled out \$104.5 million from Pakistan in the first four months of 2015-16, although net inflows from the world's largest economy amounted to \$84.3 million in the same period of the last fiscal year.** Direct investment pulled out by American investors in the four months constitutes over 93% of the total outflow of FDI from Pakistan registered over the same period. [...] Other major outflows of FDI were from Saudi Arabian (-\$42.5 million), Egyptian (-\$15.5 million) and German (-\$3.6 million) investors in July-October, SBP data shows.

## EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

**CPEC faltering?**, Mozzam Husain, *The Dawn*, November 1<sup>51</sup>

[...] So the western route is being built and hopefully will be completed by the end of 2016. Trucks laden with shipping containers will be able to ply up and down. But does the government have any estimate or study that can quantify the economic benefits that will accrue from this? Nato containers also plied our roads for over a decade but what then? [...] But to be sure, CPEC is a north-south trunk that meets the Chinese objective of accessing markets for its manufactured goods. Do we have any ideas, apart from the usual platitudes, on leveraging it to create substantial economic benefits? To be fair, China has suggested for Pakistan to establish industrial parks and special economic zones where raw materials and other factors of production are available. Industrial parks can be considered for sectors such as steel, cement, automobiles, construction materials, gems and stones, household appliances, agricultural implements, textiles and garments. With some savvy business structuring, it may even be possible to relocate certain low technology industries from China.

**CPEC transparency**, Editorial, *The Dawn*, November 18<sup>52</sup>

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor may be a genuine, transformational moment in the country's history, but, as with so much else under the present government, **there is far too much secrecy and far too little transparency when it comes to the execution of colossal infrastructure and energy projects.** The sense that the PML-N government appears to be treating the economic corridor projects as some kind of gift to the nation — from the Chinese via the PML-N government to the Pakistani people — has been re-emphasised by a special bicameral parliamentary committee on CPEC. [...] As ever, the crux of the matter remains whether or not the supposedly national CPEC will be used to disproportionately, and unfairly, benefit Punjab at the expense of the other provinces. **It is a potentially explosive inter-provincial issue that refuses to go away — and the PML-N must largely be blamed for the continuing**

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<sup>51</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1216723/cpec-faltering>

<sup>52</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1220396/cpec-transparency>

**political controversy.** [...]In addition to political speculation about a Punjab bias, there are very real concerns about the costs that CPEC projects will impose on the state. As a report in this newspaper on Monday (November 16) emphasised, many of the projects are to be financed by Chinese loans to the federal government that will impose significant and long-lasting costs on the state. For every dollar that is received as aid or a grant from the Chinese, there appear to be many, many more dollars that will have to be repaid over many years, indeed decades. Why are the accounting and the long-term costs not being made public by the federal government? [...]While the political and military leadership have rightly pledged absolute support for the safety and security of Chinese personnel working inside Pakistan, there appears to be very little consideration given to employment opportunities for Pakistani or encouraging private-sector investment. Local employment and investment should be a central objective of the CPEC projects.

**Time to say goodbye to IMF?**, Rashid Amjad, *The Dawn*, November 19<sup>53</sup>

[...]The IMF forecasts that all we can look forward to till 2019/20 is a growth rate of just over 5pc. With our labour force growing at around 3pc, the economy must grow at over 7pc just to absorb eager and restless new entrants into the labour market. [...]The key question then is why things have gone so wrong. Those looking for easy answers put the blame on the IMF as the current downturn (that started in the 1990s) coincides with Pakistan's heavy reliance on IMF assistance and prescriptions. Between 1989 and 2015, the Pakistan economy has been run under IMF tutelage for most of this period. So is the IMF to blame for our current predicament? Certainly not to the extent that its critics allege. ***Pakistan's economic problems are fundamentally structural and can be traced to recurring balance-of-payments crisis and unsustainable fiscal deficits leaving at times little option but to resort to the IMF to bail us out of an impending debt default situation.*** [...]It was under IMF advice in the mid-1990s that Pakistan opened up its capital account. This has led to the massive flight of illegal capital to the Gulf and beyond and continues to do so. The disappointing results of this long partnership with the IMF and its continuing mantra to 'do more' makes a strong case of moving away from the IMF. There are even more pressing reasons for doing so at this juncture. [...]That said, moving away from an IMF programme does not mean abandoning economic reforms. This is especially true for ensuring higher tax revenues, reducing government controls, removing the anti-export bias in our trade policy, following a realistic exchange rate policy to be competitive in export markets and ensuring better governance. But the reform programme should be 'home-grown' — free from the underlying market-driven orthodoxy ('market fundamentalism') that drives an IMF programme. This

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<sup>53</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1220636/time-to-say-goodbye-to-imf>

will provide the economy's managers enough flexibility to properly sequence its implementation (the IMF sets in most cases a rigid and unrealistic time frame).

## **SECURITY SITUATION**

### **TERRORISM**

**ATC orders arrest of 17 accused in PTV attack case**, *The Dawn*, November 2<sup>54</sup>

An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) here on Monday (November 2) ordered the arrest of 17 accused who were absent from the hearing of Pakistan Television (PTV) headquarters attack case. At least 103 people were booked after a mob of protesters belonging to the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) and Pakistan Awami Tehreek's (PAT) stormed PTV headquarters and forced its staff to take two of the state broadcaster's flagship channels — PTV News and PTV World — off the air on Sept 1 last year. [...]The challan of FIR No 182 which was registered against the marchers following the attack — and includes a section of murder — was not presented before the court. The court ordered the police to arrest the 17 accused who were absent in the hearing and present them in the next hearing. The hearing was adjourned to Dec 1.

**Militant attack across Afghan border repulsed**, *The Dawn*, November 5<sup>55</sup>

Security forces claimed on Tuesday (November 3) to have repulsed an attack on their checkpoint in the border area of Mamond tehsil in Bajaur Agency by militants from Afghanistan's Kunar province. **Security officials said that a group of heavily armed militants attacked the check-post in Ghakhi area. They fired several rounds of mortars. Soldiers deployed at the post fired back and forced the militants to retreat.** Later, security forces, along with local people and members of a peace committee, took action to trace the attackers but they had escaped by that time. It was the fourth cross-border attack on Pakistani posts in the agency over the past five weeks.

**Sources of terror financing are in Af-Pak**, *The Dawn*, November 24<sup>56</sup>

Unidentified elements in Pakistan and Afghanistan are major sources of terrorist financing, says a report by the US Treasury Department. **"There is evidence that recently some funding via donations has been diverted from Afghanistan and Pakistan to terrorist groups operating in Syria," claims a similar report by the British government.** Terrorist financing was the focus of discussions at a White House meeting last week between US security officials and Pakistani defence team headed by Army Chief Gen Raheel Sharif. [...] **The**

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<sup>54</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1216997/atc-orders-arrest-of-17-accused-in-ptv-attack-case>

<sup>55</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1217568/militant-attack-from-across-afghan-border-repulsed>

<sup>56</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1221855/elements-in-pakistan-afghanistan-major-sources-of-terrorist-financing-us-report>

**report — “Terrorist Financing Risk Assessment, 2015, — notes that the Haqqani Network generates funds by a wide range of sources including businesses and proceeds derived from criminal activities such as smuggling, extortion, and kidnapping for ransom in Afghanistan and Pakistan.** The report claims that Lashkar-e-Taiba receives the majority of its funds from within Pakistan, including by using its charitable front organisations, Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JUD) and Falah-i-Insaniyat Foundation (FIF), to solicit donations. LeT generates additional funds from private donations and commercial ventures. The report notes that the group’s two largest financial hauls come from private donations during Ramazan and profits associated with the collection and sale of animal hides during the Eid-ul-Azha, each of which nets the group millions of dollars.

### **KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND FATA**

**Gunmen shoot dead journalist in Tank district, *Daily Times*, November 4<sup>57</sup>**

A local journalist, Dr Zaman Mehsud, was killed when unidentified gunmen opened fire on his vehicle in Tank district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on Tuesday (November 3). Police said that Zaman was travelling from Gomal Bazar to Tank when his car came under attack on North Waziristan Road. Two motorcycle-riding armed men opened fire on his car, leaving him seriously injured. Area residents took Zaman to District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) Dera Ismail Khan where the doctors pronounced him dead. Zaman Mehsud was a senior journalist who also served as the president and secretary-general of the Tribal Union of Journalists’ South Waziristan chapter.

**Two pro-govt. tribal elders killed in Bajaur, *Daily Times*, November 4<sup>58</sup>**

Two pro-government tribal elders were killed in improvised explosive device (IED) blasts in Bajaur Agency on Tuesday (November 3). According to Bajaur Assistant Political Agent Muhammad Ali Khar, a tribal elder Malik Younus was killed while three of his companions were injured in the roadside blast in Gulu Shah Area in Salarzai Tehsil of Bajaur Agency. Security forces reached the spot and cordoned off the area. The injured were shifted to a nearby hospital.

**JuD is not banned yet, *The Nation*, November 20<sup>59</sup>**

***The government has put Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD) under observation but not banned its welfare wing, Filah-i-Insaniyat Foundation (FIF), Foreign Secretary Aizaz Chaudhry informed the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee on Thursday***

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<sup>57</sup> <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/04-Nov-2015/gunmen-shoot-dead-journalist-in-tank-district>

<sup>58</sup> <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/04-Nov-2015/two-pro-government-tribal-elders-killed-in-bajaur>

<sup>59</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/20-Nov-2015/jud-is-not-banned-yet>

**(November 19).** The committee, which met under the chairmanship of Senator Nuzhat Sadiq, was also informed that Lashkar-e-Taiba (LET), the predecessor of JuD, has been declared a proscribed organisation in Pakistan and will not be allowed to operate. **Aizaz also said dossiers given by Pakistan to the UN and the US regarding Indian involvement in Pakistan are only part of the narrative and hard evidence has not been provided as yet.** Pakistan is still ready for talks with India without preconditions, he added. [...]The foreign secretary told the committee that Indian forces this year had committed 246 violations at the Line of Control (LoC) and the working boundary which resulted in 39 deaths and 130 injured civilians. Aizaz Chaudhry claimed that the US has been taken into confidence over China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and it has no reservations over the CPEC project.

## BALUCHISTAN

**Three dead in IED in Mastung, *The Dawn*, November 2<sup>60</sup>**

At least three people were killed and at least 10 others injured as an improvised explosives device (IED) was detonated near a stretch of railway track in the Dasht area of Balochistan's Mastung district. Rescue sources say three passengers are dead, while at least 10 others are injured. [...]The explosion took place as the Quetta-Rawalpindi Jaffar Express, a passenger train, was passing. According to the Bomb Disposal Squad, 8 kilograms of explosives were used in the blast.

**Security forces kill six suspected militants in Kalat, *The Dawn*, November 2<sup>61</sup>**

The security forces on Sunday (November 2) claimed to have killed six suspected militants in Balochistan's Kalat district, said a statement issued by Frontier Corps. The militants belonged to a banned militant organisation, the spokesman for Frontier Corps, a paramilitary force, was quoted as saying. The spokesman apprised that the militants were killed during an exchange of fire with the security forces in Kalat. A cache of weapons was also recovered from their possession, he added.

## SINDH

**Four decomposed bodies found in Gadap, *The Dawn*, November 2<sup>62</sup>**

Four bodies decomposed beyond recognition were found in an abandoned building off the Superhighway in Gadap City on Sunday (November 1), according to police. The corpses, which had turned into skeletons, were found in the dried-up water tank of the building near Edhi Village. The structure

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<sup>60</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1216800/at-least-three-dead-as-ied-blast-hits-passenger-train-in-mastung>

<sup>61</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1216811/security-forces-kill-six-suspected-militants-in-kalat>

<sup>62</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1216879/four-decomposed-bodies-found-in-gadap>

belonged to the National Highway Authority, said Gadap City SHO Abdul Khaliq Marvat.

## EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

**Denying publicity, Editorial, *Daily Times*, November 4<sup>63</sup>**

In a rare laudable step in the history of the institution, Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) has sent out a directive to satellite television broadcasters and radio stations barring them from given airtime and coverage to 72 proscribed organizations, which include the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and its latter day incarnations Jamat-ud-Dawa (JuD) and the ostensibly charity organization Falah-i-Insaniat Foundation (FIF). This directive is under the precepts of the National Action Plan (NAP) and indicates a new and thoroughly welcome turn in Pakistan's year old fight against the scourge of home grown terrorism and militancy.

**National Thorn, Editorial, *The Nation*, November 15<sup>64</sup>**

Controversial and radical cleric Abdul Aziz of Islamabad's Lal Masjid has resurged with calls for imposition of Sharia in Pakistan, as he led the Friday prayers at Lal Masjid —after almost a year— and announced to reinstate his campaign to enforce a system based on the Holy Quran and Sunnah. [...] ***The Lal Masjid continues to challenge and provoke the government, banking on the government's preference for peace to avoid confrontation.*** Each time the government looks for a negotiated way out, Maulana Abdul Aziz emerges a little bit stronger and the government weaker. The message is clear; any cleric can defy the state if he can gather around him enough followers so that he can promise retribution. The fact that the mosque is in central Islamabad – few kilometers away from the seat of government and the GHQ of the armed forces only adds to his mystique. His every defiance undercuts the narrative on the war on terrorism. ***The Chief of Army Staff and the Prime Minister's fierce words mean nothing if they cannot implement the NAP in their own territory. Maulana Abdul Aziz has become a great thorn in the side of the Pakistani society that needs to be removed.***

**It's good to be the Taliban, Cyril Almeida, *The Dawn*, November 29<sup>65</sup>**

Afghanistan is back in the news and you've heard the boys' version. They want to make peace happen, but there's only so much they can do. The Taliban aren't our puppets. We can't just tell them what to do. And the Afghan government won't listen to us. .... ***We gave them sanctuary to survive the onslaught of the superpower surge. Mullah O — the fabled Mullah O who***

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<sup>63</sup> <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/editorial/04-Nov-2015/denying-publicity>

<sup>64</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/15-Nov-2015/national-thorn>

<sup>65</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1223072/its-good-to-be-the-taliban>

**would rather die than leave his beloved Afghanistan — died in the best hospital in the biggest city we have. Then, when he died getting the best medical care Pakistani rupees can buy, we helped maintain the lie about his death. Because, y'know, it could hurt T morale just when they really needed it in Afghanistan. And all of that before the real kick to the head. When news of Mullah O's death is leaked to the world, we dive deep into the Taliban rabbit hole to keep the T united. Because a broken Taliban would be easier to fight militarily and manipulate politically.** .... So months, weeks, days after we help Mansour get his dream job, it's already gone to his head and he won't listen to us. Though he was listening to us when he was No 2, though really No 1 because we and he knew Mullah O was dead. And now we can't just go over to his place and make him listen — because, well, we can't. Not unless the Afghan government plays nice first. Man, it's good to be the Taliban.

## **RELATIONS WITH INDIA**

**Non-implementation of UN resolutions, *The Express Tribune*, November 3<sup>66</sup>**  
Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN) Maleeha Lodhi said on Monday (November 2) the non-implementation of UN Security Council resolutions pertaining to the Kashmir issue is a travesty of law. "Fulfillment of the long-held promise of self-determination to the people of Kashmir is urgent as well as indispensable in establishing lasting peace and stability in South Asia," Lodhi said, while addressing the General Assembly's Third Committee which deals with social, humanitarian and cultural questions.

**Pakistan again offers dialogue, *Daily Times*, November 4<sup>67</sup>**  
Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Syed Tariq Fatemi Tuesday (November 3) said that Pakistan was ready to hold dialogue with India on all outstanding issues. He called upon the members of civil society to continue to push the leadership of both the countries to hold talks. In his address to a seminar on "Pakistan India Relations - Emerging Relatives" organised by the Karachi Council of Foreign Relations (KCFR), Fatemi recalled that it was Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif who took the initiative when, after taking the charge of the premier's office, Nawaz met his Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh on the sidelines of UN General Assembly at New York. It is a reality that Nawaz desires cordial relations with India, he said. Speaking on the occasion, former foreign minister Khurshid Mehmood

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<sup>66</sup> <http://tribune.com.pk/story/984278/non-implementation-of-unsc-resolutions-on-kashmir-issue-is-travesty-of-law-maleeha-lodhi/>

<sup>67</sup> <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/04-Nov-2015/pakistan-again-offers-dialogue-to-india-on-all-outstanding-issues>

Kasuri said he has not lost faith in the common sense of the people of both the sides and things will hopefully move in the positive direction.

## EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

**Blind faiths**, F. S. Aijazuddin, *The Dawn*, November 5<sup>68</sup>

BOTH India and Pakistan have yet to decide to which century they wish to belong. ***Does India seriously want to return to the Vedic age? Or Pakistan to an Arabia that predated Wahabi-ism?*** Never have these two neighbours stood so far apart: politically, culturally, linguistically, and ideologically. Their governments under Shri Narendra Modi and Mian Nawaz Sharif, taking a cue from the range of their nuclear-tipped missiles, prefer different focal lengths, differing horizons. It is no secret that their armed forces glare at each other with sinister concentration. Official spokespersons hurl snowball epithets at each other that sting for a moment, then melt without trace. Their civilians ache for the human contact that dissolves barriers. Peaceable voices continue to be shouted down by the louder cacophony of extremists, then drowned out by the deafening silence of political leaders. [...]Over the past few days, the definition of courage has been amplified by such noted Indian public figures as the historian Romila Thapar, IT entrepreneur Narayana Murthy, and the poet-lyricist Javed Akhtar. Each has spoken out against the rising levels of intolerance that threatens the very persona of India.

**Nuclear deterrence in South Asia**, Qaisar Rashid, *Daily Times*, November 18<sup>69</sup>

[...]There are three tiers of nuclear deterrence practised by South Asia's two nuclear powers, India and Pakistan. The first tier is that under the umbrella of nuclear deterrence have grown the adjectives, minimum and credible, one after another, to offer an excuse to both India and Pakistan to initiate and continue their nuclear programmes. [...]India has been saying that it aims to achieve credible minimum (nuclear) deterrence to counter China's military prowess whereas Pakistan has been saying that it aims to achieve minimum credible (nuclear) deterrence to counter India's military competence. In this way, the overwhelming (or asymmetric) conventional war capability of one country is being balanced by a rival weak country through nuclear deterrence, though China is external to South Asia.

**Keep the back-channels open**, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, November 18<sup>70</sup>

Whilst it is possible to criticise this or any other government for its performance, the performance of the Nawaz Sharif government regarding India since it came to power has been consistent and, mostly, positive. There

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<sup>68</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1217547/blind-faiths>

<sup>69</sup> <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/opinion/18-Nov-2015/nuclear-deterrence-in-south-asia>

<sup>70</sup> <http://tribune.com.pk/story/993305/keep-the-back-channels-open/>

really does appear to have been an attempt to engage with India in a constructive manner, and although there was little to show by way of results, there was a sense that all was not lost and there was much to play for on both sides. The game changed when Narendra Modi came to power and there has been a steady erosion of the quality of interaction between India and Pakistan ever since. [...] That said, there are always back-channel communications that still function even in the worst of times and it is these that we look to in order to keep dialogue, however minimal, alive. Indo-Pakistan relations are too important to have the narrative dictated by a small group of extremists — on either side. The Modi government does not seem inclined to rein in the Shiv Sena, with Pakistan seeking a United Nations (UN)-backed international ban on the group. It is unlikely that the UN will declare the Shiv Sena a global terrorist organisation, but within India its agenda of intimidation, division and toxic polarity has now poisoned the trickling waters of conciliation. Whatever else, keep the backchannels open.

**Dossier diplomacy**, Editorial, *The Dawn*, November 23<sup>71</sup>

[...] Last week, the adviser to the prime minister on foreign affairs, Sartaj Aziz, caused a stir in parliament and outside by suggesting that the three dossiers prepared for the yet to be held NSA meeting between Pakistan and India did not contain any “material evidence”. A day later, Mr Aziz tried to clarify his comments while replying to a question in the National Assembly, but the damage was done — clearly, the federal government is not on the same page as the military leadership when it comes to dossier diplomacy. [...] Yet, when the dossiers were compiled to take to the NSA meeting, and then when that meeting was postponed they were shared with the UN secretary general’s office and US secretary of state, what was it meant to achieve? Surely, the Indian state – its national security adviser no less — is aware of its intelligence apparatus in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Can the state here realistically hope to deter Indian interference inside Pakistan through dossiers? It is unlikely in the extreme. [...] The civilian government needs to rethink its dealings with the military particularly when it comes to India. By reluctantly going along with security establishment demands and later showing its disinterest, the PML-N government is unwittingly sending the wrong signal to India too, making it even easier for New Delhi to reject meaningful talks with a lame-duck government in Pakistan. Internal coherence is a prerequisite for strong external projection. The military leadership needs to absorb that lesson too.

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<sup>71</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1221554/dossier-diplomacy>

**Assume there's a can opener**, Javed Naqvi, *The Dawn*, November 24<sup>72</sup>

"Indira hatao. Desh bachao." Remove Indira Gandhi. Save India. The lines were among frantic slogans Narendra Modi's forebears coined to remove Indira Gandhi from power. She used democracy to become powerful and then subverted it. Gandhi cited Hindutva as a right-wing threat to India, a challenge she believed had the support of the West. She was prescient in her observation but her method of redress became her undoing. [...]The ding-dong battle between power and people keeping an eye out for its fair use is life-giving. If the battle stops, democracy ceases to be worthy of trust. [...]In this regard, a growing brouhaha is threatening to overshadow parliament's winter session. Mani Shankar Aiyar's acid views on Prime Minister Modi are all too well known. As a passionate critic of Hindutva, Aiyar is withering with Modi. On this occasion, so the charge goes, the Congress party's outspoken lefty has expressed his sharp excoriations to a Pakistani TV channel. One has to remove Modi from the equation before India-Pakistan talks can resume, Aiyar apparently said. And since Modi is not likely to exit to please us, we have to wait patiently for the time when India can do a Bihar or a Delhi on him. This is the gist of what Mani said.

## EXCERPTS FROM URDU MEDIA & SELECT JIHADI LITERATURE

### BALUCHISTAN

**Negotiations with Brahmdagh Bugti, a welcome step**, Asrar Bukhari, *Daily Nawai Waqt*, November 18.<sup>73</sup>

[...]A delegation under the leadership of Chief Minister Dr. Abdul Malik will soon meet Mir Suleman Dauood and Brahmdagh Bugti in London. The members of the delegation have the authority to take any decision and are also backed by Army. Although Chief Minister of Balochistan, Dr. Abdul Malik, PML(N) leader Nawab Sanaullah Zahri and sardar Chengezi have laid the ground work for talks but the central role was played by Zafar Iqbal Jigda who held meetings with Mir Suleman Dauood and Brahmdagh Bugti in Britain. **For better representation in talks, military leadership made Gen. Nasir Khan Janjoa as National Security Advisor who not only understands Balochistan better but has good contacts as well. This is a welcome step but there are some difficulties too. There are reports that some Sardars are not in favour of giving all credit to Dr. Abdul Malik because he is not a Sardar.** If talks are successful then *Sardars* and *Nawabs* will find it difficult to maintain their position in Balochistan.

<sup>72</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1221822/assume-theres-a-can-opener>

<sup>73</sup> <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2015-11-18/page-14/detail-9>

**Bugti is not serious about unity, Daily Tawar, November 16.**

Reacting to Brahmdagh Bugti's statement on unity, the spokesperson of Baloch National Front said that issuing statements on unity after meeting Dr. Malik and other Pakistani officials is very surprising. **He further said that holding BSO and BNM responsible for past failures is against the political traditions. He said that the leadership of BSO and BNM not only remained in touch with all other parties but also held meetings with them.** We have always strived hard for unity but response from Brahmdagh Bugti was never positive.

**Chief Minister has no authority to talk: Bugti, Daily Tawar, November 12.**

The leader of the Baloch Republican party, Brahmdagh Bugti has said that he is ready for talks. **"My grandfather never closed the door for talks but only those who have authority should come to talk", he added.** In London Dr. Abdul Malik and Abdul Qadir met Brahmdagh Bugti and conveyed to him that if Pakistan army and establishment have changed their mind and want a political solution, instead of military one, to Balochistan problem then we are also in favor of talks. **Brahmdagh Bugti expressed disappointment and said that Army may not be interested in talking to Baloch. Pakistan army didn't contact me till now. After announcing the talks they are caught in the web.** He said there won't be peace in Balochistan till environment is made favorable for talks for which operation needs to be halted. How can talks proceed when on other side operation against Baloch people continues?

**Refinery and petro chemical complex in Gadani, Daily Tawar, November 6.**

The Chinese ambassador in Pakistan, Sun Weidong, said that Pakistan and Balochistan will get a lot of benefits from the 46 billion dollars investment. He said that Chinese investors are heavily investing on many projects. **There is a project of Oil Refining and Petro Chemical Complex in Gadani. He further said that China National Petroleum Corporation will be upgraded. The possible expenditure for the project in Balochistan will be 1 billion 47 Crore.**

**We are in touch with Baloch leaders: Gen. Reyaz, Daily Tawar, November 6.**

The commander Southern Command, Gen. Aamir Reyaz, said there is no insurgency in Balochistan. There are some minor issues which will be resolved very soon. He further said that, "we are in touch with angry Balochs in London and after two months it will be clear where do we stand."

**Balochistan and the politics**, Akhonzada Jalal Noor Zaie, *Daily Jasarat (Friday Special)*, November 6.<sup>74</sup>

[...]There is very little work going under peaceful Balochistan package. According to Nawab Changez Marri there are many separatists who have been waiting for last six months to surrender and want to be part of mainstream politics. However, there are some problems with the peaceful Balochistan package which acts as an impediment. ***If these impediments are removed then 90% separatists would give up arms.***

**Recorded message released**, Saifullah Khalid, *Daily Ummat*, November 30.<sup>75</sup>

According to sources, the banned Balochistan Liberation Front released an old message of Dr. Allah Nazar where he says that, "***Government is spreading rumours of my death. This is nothing but propaganda. I also want to tell that by killing one individual movements do not die down.***" This message has been released to raise the morale of all those *ferraries* who are putting down their arms. ***The spokesperson of BLF, Gehram Baloch, has said that this message was recorded in Balochistan in November. In the message Allah Nazar does not mention anything about the incidents that happened after August and neither does he talk about his three brothers who were killed.*** He has not even mentioned the name of Brahmadagh Bugti who has shown willingness to talk to the government.

**Bugti for conditional talks with govt.**, *Daily Intekhab*, November 21.<sup>76</sup>

The leader of Baloch Republican Party, Brahmdayh Bugti has put forward some conditions and wants them to be fulfilled before any negotiation could take place. ***The conditions include withdrawal of forces from Balochistan, and end of forced disappearances.*** In his interview he said that government is not serious in negotiations and they only want to test our resolve. ***He said when operation in Balochistan is going on, women are molested and youths are subjected to enforced disappearance nobody would talk.*** He said Baloch were always cheated. Every new government called the previous government perpetrator of crimes and apologized...He said that referendum should be held in Balochistan and everything will be clear.

**Army is not interested in dialogue: Bugti**, *Daily Intekhab*, November 12.<sup>77</sup>

Brahmdagh Bugti has said that he does not have any plan to return to Balochistan as of now. He met Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch and Gen. Abdul Qadir Baloch in Geneva but said that the military establishment had not made any

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<sup>74</sup> <http://fridayspecial.com.pk/epaper/index.php?page=20&date=2015-11-06>

<sup>75</sup> <http://ummat.net/2015/11/30/news.php?p=story5.gif>

<sup>76</sup> <http://www.dailyintekhab.com.pk/news/news7.gif>

<sup>77</sup> <http://www.dailyintekhab.com.pk/news/news2.gif>

contacts with him. ***It appears that Pakistan army is not interested in resuming dialogue. By making an announcement for talks they find themselves trapped.*** He further said that if Pakistan army and civilian government have changed their minds then we are also ready for holding talks. But before that happens they have to stop military operation and kidnapping of Baloch people persons otherwise atmosphere for talks will not be conducive.

**Bugti agreed to give up demand for Azadi**, *Daily Nawai Waqt*, November 13.<sup>78</sup> The Baloch leader Brahmdagh Bugti met Pakistan National Security Advisor Lt. Gen. Nasir Khan Janjoa where he agreed to give up his demand for separate Balochistan. ***He expressed his intention to enter into 'Peace Agreement' with National Security Advisor instead of Balochistan Chief Minister.*** [...]He also complained about Balochistan not getting its due share in revenues from the natural resources of the province. Ironically no serious efforts have been made by federal leadership to address the genuine grievances and alleviate the down-trodden sections of Baloch society, said Bugti. [...]Let us not forget that even during the regime of civilian governments, Frontier Corps always had the upper hand in Balochistan.

## **AFGHANISTAN AND TALIBAN**

**International support needed for Afghan peace process**, Editorial, *Daily Dunya*, November 12.<sup>79</sup>

Pakistan wants support of all international powers including America for peace in Afghanistan. ***According to the foreign ministry sources Pakistan has devised its policy for Afghanistan. Its implementation next month would be very crucial because in the month of December foreign Ministers from 29 countries shall meet in Pakistan.*** The new policy has been devised keeping in view the fast changing political scenario of the region. [...]Pakistan has always strived for peaceful Afghanistan and in the last two efforts gained pace as we wanted to ensure peace after the withdrawal of foreign forces.

**Taliban infighting: More than 80 killed**, *Daily Jasarat*, November 9.<sup>80</sup>

In a fight between two groups of Taliban in South-Eastern province Zabul, more than 80 have been killed. The fight started in Khak Afghan and Argan Dhan districts of Zabul. ***The governor of the province, Mohammad Nostrayar, has said that the faction of Mullah Mohammad Rasool is backed by Daesh.***

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<sup>78</sup> <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2015-11-13/page-14/detail-2>

<sup>79</sup> [http://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2015-11-12&edition=LHR&id=1983819\\_54126876](http://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2015-11-12&edition=LHR&id=1983819_54126876)

<sup>80</sup> <http://jasarat.com/news.php?date=09-11-2015&news=01&category=nation>

**The splinter group of Taliban chose new leader, *Daily Jang*, November 3.<sup>81</sup>**

The splinter group of Taliban which opposed Mullah Akhtar Mansoor chose Mullah Mohammad rasool Akhund as their *Ameer* (leader). ***One Taliban commander of this group said that instead of fighting with Mullah Akhtar Mansoor we will continue fighting our old enemy.*** On the condition of anonymity he said that they had selected new leader to keep fighting against NATO and Afghan forces. Another Taliban commander said that Mullah Akhund was a senior Taliban Leader and had worked for ten years with Mullah Omar.

**Mullah Dadullah might be dead, *Daily Ummat*, November 13.<sup>82</sup>**

The news is coming that an important leaders of Taliban group, opposed to Akhtar Mansoor, has been killed. ***Afghan police has confirmed that Mullah Dadullah has been killed in fight with Daesh while the foreign media believe that he got killed in fight with the group of Akhter Mansoor.***

**Gen. Raheel stressed on restoration of talks, *Daily Ummat*, November 18.<sup>83</sup>**

During his meeting with American Defence Minister Eashton Carter, Gen. Raheel Sharif said that the revival of talks between Taliban and Afghan government was necessary for regional peace. ***The CIA director showered praises on Pakistan for successful operation Zarb-i-Azb. The defence minister of America said that the relationship with Pakistan has nothing to do with other countries.*** According to ISPR in this meeting both talked in detail about defence cooperation and regional security and pledged to fight against terrorism.

## INDIA AND PAKISTAN

**India-Pakistan hostility not good for the region, *Daily Ausaf*, November 19.<sup>84</sup>**

The Pakistan Army Chief Gen. Raheel Sharif met American secretary of state John Kerry and ***discussed about the bilateral relations, counter insurgency, Afghanistan and regional security. They agreed that India-Pakistan rivalry was not in favour of the region and they also stressed on Afghan Peace process saying that sincere efforts were needed.*** John Kerry praised Pakistan for operation Zarb-i-Azb and assured Raheel Sharif of help in tribal areas.

**Kashmir will not be liberated without Jihad: Syed Salahudin, *Daily Jasarat*.**

The Jama'at-e-Islami Chief in AJK and Syed Salauhudin in a joint statement said that to jihad is the only way out to free Jammu and Kashmir from

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<sup>81</sup> <http://e.jang.com.pk/11-03-2015/lahore/pic.asp?picname=1139.gif>

<sup>82</sup> <http://ummat.net/2015/11/13/news.php?p=news-16.gif>

<sup>83</sup> <http://ummat.net/2015/11/18/news.php?p=news-11.gif>

<sup>84</sup> [http://www.ausaf.pk/wp-content/uploads/2015-11-19/news/detail\\_24.php](http://www.ausaf.pk/wp-content/uploads/2015-11-19/news/detail_24.php)

Narendra Modi. They also said that by rejecting the package of Narendra Modi Kashmiris have made it more clear that the real package is self-determination. The 150 rounds of talks by India was a weapon which India used to quell the movement.

**New anti-Pakistan policies of India**, Sikender Khan Baloch, *Daily Nawai Waqt*, November 13.<sup>85</sup>

When operation zarb-e-Azb has almost succeeded in breaking the backbone of TTP, the Indian spy agency – RAW- has begun to develop contacts with other terrorist organizations. ***The senior Afghan Intelligence Officer, Abdul Razak Achakzie is also involved. Under his leadership, Baloch people are trained in various terrorist camps. After realizing that TTP has lost ground in Pakistan, India has shifted focus towards Daesh and Al-Qaeda. This is being done by RAW agents based in Indian consulate in Afghanistan. Last year Indian National Security Advisor, Ajit Doval, himself went to Syria and Iraq. Impression was given that he went to rescue Indian citizens there but reality was something else. He had actually gone there to meet senior Daesh leadership there so that they could be used against Pakistan.***

**India's dream of regional dominance**, Mohammad Akram Zaki, *Hilal*, October, 2015, Vol.52, No. 4.

[...]The hostility between India and Pakistan has much to do with the priorities of the leaders of both the countries. The leaders of Pakistan want peace in the region and Indian leaders want dominance in the region. ***Pakistan's wish for peace in the region is taken as weakness by India and under Narendra Modi they have adopted the policy of pressuring Pakistan militarily and diplomatically. [...]Narendra Modi has deliberately awarded top posts to those who are known for their enmity towards Pakistan. Ajit Doval who for long time was in-charge of sleeper cells of terrorists in Pakistan, has been appointed as National Security Advisor. Vijay Kumar Singh has been appointed as Minister of State. He has on the record accepted that they have a special organization working against Pakistan. The consequences of India's policy of 'offensive defence' are obvious. Because of this policy our places from Army school of Peshawar to Karachi, from Gilgit-Baltistan to FATA and to Balochistan are bleeding.*** To make Pakistan unstable, India has waged undeclared war against Pakistan army and people in general.

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<sup>85</sup> <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2015-11-13/page-14/detail-7>

## INTERNAL SECURITY OF PAKISTAN

**Ishaq had joined Daesh**, Saifullah Khalid, *Daily Ummat*, November 3.<sup>86</sup>

[...]Malik Ishaq was associated with Daesh in Pakistan. **According to sources the first meeting of Malik Ishaq and the leaders of daesh was made possible by Usman Kurd in Balochistan in October 2014. In February 2015 they met again where Malik Ishaq responded positively to the proposals of the first meeting.** After Usman Kurd's killing they could not meet for some time but later Malik Ishaq handed over this task to the Lashkar-i-Jangvi group in United Arab Emirates (UAE) who were successful in arranging the next meeting. **Out of those UAE members, five have been arrested by Punjab police with the help of Inter-Pol from Dubai.** Those arrested members have confirmed the reports of Malik Ishaq's association with Daesh. **After becoming the head of Daesh in Pakistan, he started recruiting former members of Sipah-e-sahaba and Lashkar-i-Jangvi into daesh.** His close associate and his son were actively doing this in six districts of Punjab – Bahawalpur, Sargodah, Multan, Lodhran, Bakr and Mianwali.

**CPEC: A better formula**, Saleem safi, *Daily Jang*, November 30.<sup>87</sup>

[...]During India Pakistan war, when India tried to cut south of Pakistan from its North buy blocking the G T Road, a need was felt to have a road on west side which could always keep South of Pakistan connected with North but till now that did not materialize. The CPEC has given Pakistan an opportunity to do this but unfortunately our leaders have made Lahore the center of CPEC. [...] **When planning commission was exposed and voices were raised from Balochistan, Sindh and NWFP then, under pressure, All Party Conference was convened where Prime Minister of Pakistan promised to the nation that priority will be given to Western route. But now the members of the standing committee of Senate, special committee of parliament and APC are up in arms and are arguing that false promises were made to them. On one side Hawelian is connected with Lahore through motorway and Ratodero is connected to Gwadar. On both these projects work is going on but no work is being done on the route from Hasan Abdal to Gwadar.** Leaders are not even talking about the feasibility of this route and no budget has been specified for it till now.

**Possibility of defence agreement with Saudi Arabia**, Saifullah Khalid, *Daily Ummat*, November 6.<sup>88</sup>

Gen. Raheel Sharif met Saudi Prince, Salman Ibn Abdul Aziz in Saudi Arabia and both pledged to defend each other's country. There is a possibility of

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<sup>86</sup> <http://ummat.net/2015/11/03/news.php?p=story3.gif>

<sup>87</sup> [http://e.jang.com.pk/11-28-2015/karachi/pic.asp?picname=06\\_07.gif](http://e.jang.com.pk/11-28-2015/karachi/pic.asp?picname=06_07.gif)

<sup>88</sup> <http://ummat.net/2015/11/06/news.php?p=story4.gif>

defence agreement between the two countries. For last six months the relationship between the two countries receded to the new low after parliament of Pakistan voted against intervention in Yemen. **After Yemen crisis, Gen. Raheel Sharif held the first high level meeting with Saudi leadership. He was warmly welcomed by Saudi deputy defence Minister and Army Chief.**

The visit of Raheel Sharif was a planned visit and a lot of home work was already done. **Before his visit headquarters of both the countries were in touch and talks were going on at the intelligence level too.** According to sources, Saudi Arabia still wants Pakistan's support in Yemen and also the support for counter insurgency.

On the first day of his visit, he met Saudi Chief of Army staff, Gen. Abdul Raheem bin Saleh, where he received the invitation to meet Salman. **Army Chief's statement is important in which he said that, "we are ready to help Saudi Arabia against any danger. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are significant for regional peace and both are aware of their responsibilities with regard to Ummat."**

**Interestingly, after rejecting the India offer of help in Yemen Abdul Aziz gave a statement that any attack on Pakistan is an attack on Saudi Arabia.** This statement is very significant and it shows that both are moving towards a possible security agreement.

**BLA network active in nine areas of Karachi, Daily Ummat, November 2.<sup>89</sup>**

The intelligence Agency revealed that Balochistan Liberation Army network is active at nine different locations of commercial city of Karachi. **Sources revealed that the BLA members have been directed to sabotage the prevailing military operation by carrying out attacks on military personnel and targeting the strategic installations. This information was revealed by one arrested BLA terrorist named Adil Gorkun. During interrogation he confirmed that, he had killed 27 persons including some police officers.**

**Army Chief's America tour, Nusrat Mirza, Daily Jang, November 23.<sup>90</sup>**

[...]Since July this year Gen. Raheel Sharif's visit to America was planned as after the successful operation in Waziristan and Karachi Pakistan was facing some problem from Afghan territory. It was deemed necessary to convey to America that the areas where American forces are stationed should not be used by anti-Pakistan elements otherwise Pakistan would be forced to act. [...] **Raheel Shaif wanted to tell Americans that only Afghans sabotaged the**

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<sup>89</sup> <http://ummat.net/2015/11/02/news.php?p=story5.gif>

<sup>90</sup> [http://e.jang.com.pk/11-23-2015/lahore/pic.asp?picname=11\\_02.gif](http://e.jang.com.pk/11-23-2015/lahore/pic.asp?picname=11_02.gif)

**peace talks between Taliban and Afghan government by leaking the news of death of Mullah Omar. Secondly the American assistance to India was to be discussed and informed the Americans about the consequences if they continued to do so. Thirdly, Raheel Sharif asked for the release of coalition support fund and finally the membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group which means Pakistan wants that America should recognize Pakistan as a Nuclear Weapon state.**

**Army Chief's America tour and Media Propaganda**, S Anjum Aasif, *Daily Ummat*, November 23.<sup>91</sup>

[...]If America is scared of Pakistan's growing nuclear Arsenal it is just because of media propaganda. **If Pakistan does so then again no one but America is responsible for that because even after knowing very well the ill intentions of India, America signed a nuclear deal which allows India to get material for nuclear reactors.** India used its own nuclear material in those nuclear reactors which are not under the purview of the IAEA. The uranium and plutonium produced from these hidden nuclear reactors is used to make nuclear weapons.

**Debate on Army Chief's next term**, Editorial, *Daily Jasarat*, November 23.<sup>92</sup>

The relationship between Army and the civilian government is a bit cold after the statement on governance was made. It is believed that everything will settle down but there are some who don't want this chapter to be closed. [...]There should have been discussion on the issue of Army Chief's retirement in public. **Let us not forget that extension of term of Army Chief raises doubt about the credibility and efficiency of other Generals, who are waiting to be promoted. We know that there are seasoned generals in Pakistan army and the void after the retirement of anyone can be easily filled.**

**GB Council and CM are powerless: Senate Chairman**, *Daily Bang-e-Sahar*, November 13.<sup>93</sup>

The Chairman of the Senate, Raza Rabbani, has said that to give the constitutional rights to the people of FATA all stakeholders should be listened and suggestions be taken from experts. Only after taking suggestions and analyzing all considerations, recommendations should be made. **He said that Gilgit-Baltistan Council was formed but after some time there was nothing left with that council and even Chief Minister has far less powers.**

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<sup>91</sup> <http://ummat.net/2015/11/23/news.php?p=idr5.gif>

<sup>92</sup> <http://jasarat.com/news.php?date=23-11-2015&news=02&category=editorial>

<sup>93</sup> [http://www.bangesahar.net/popup.php?r\\_date=11-13-2015&img=11-13-2015page-1-](http://www.bangesahar.net/popup.php?r_date=11-13-2015&img=11-13-2015page-1-)

**STATISTICS****BOMBINGS, SHOOTINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES***(Select incidents culled out from the Pakistan media)*

Place	Date	Description	Killed	Injured
<b>Balochistan</b>				
Mastung <sup>94</sup>	2/11/2015	Three dead in IED blast	3	10
Kalat <sup>95</sup>	2/11/2015	Six suspect militants killed	6	0
<b>FATA</b>				
<b>Punjab</b>				
<b>Khyber Pakhtunkhwa</b>				
Tank <sup>96</sup>	4/11/2015	Journalist killed	1	0
<b>Sindh</b>				
Gadap <sup>97</sup>	2/11/2015	Four decomposed bodies found	4	0

<sup>94</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1216800/at-least-three-dead-as-ied-blast-hits-passenger-train-in-mastung>

<sup>95</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1216811/security-forces-kill-six-suspected-militants-in-kalat>

<sup>96</sup> <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/04-Nov-2015/gunmen-shoot-dead-journalist-in-tank-district>

<sup>97</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1216879/four-decomposed-bodies-found-in-gadap>