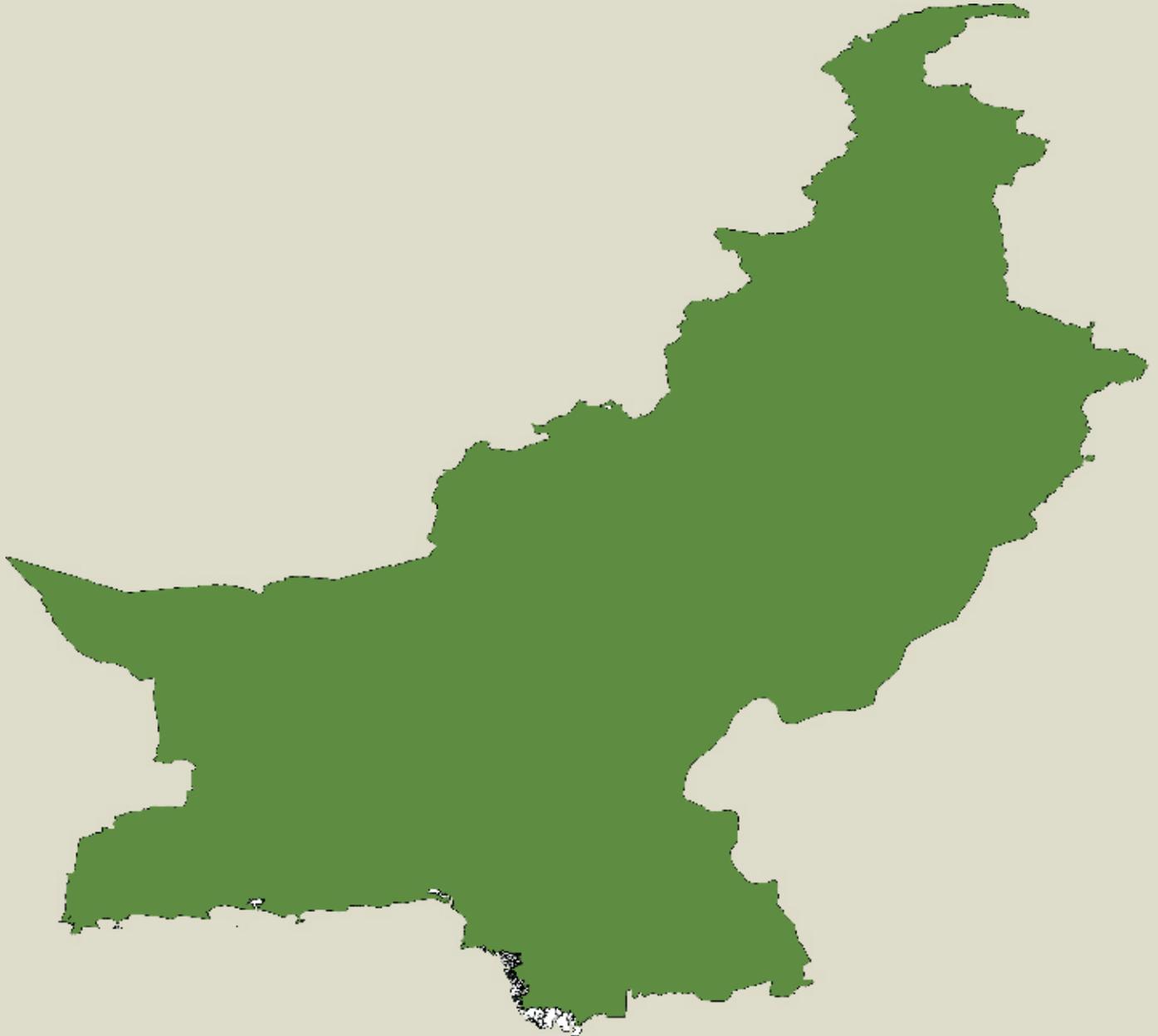


August 2019

PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST

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



Prepared by
Dr. Zainab Akhter
Dr. Nazir Ahmad Mir
Dr. Mohammad Eisa
Dr. Ashok Behuria

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INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE
STUDIES & ANALYSES
रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST, August 2019

CONTENTS

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS	04
ECONOMIC ISSUES	06
SECURITY SITUATION	08
PROVINCES &REGIONS	
GB.....	11
URDU & ELECTRONIC MEDIA	
Electronic	13
Urdu.....	19
STATISTICS	
BOMBINGS, SHOOTINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES.....	24

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Understanding the Pak-US view of peace in Afghanistan, Hannan R Hussain, *Daily Times*, 01 August¹

In order to limit future objection, and ensure that the intent of both powers is aligned with the expectations of Kabul, Imran Khan's meeting with Donald Trump is of great strategic value. The encounter also reiterates the gravity of "respecting Afghan sovereignty" a core value to which the Afghan government and the Taliban, both agree. In fact, it offers a potential basis for future convergence. *But the absence of direct intergovernmental cooperation between Washington and Islamabad has complicated prospects of reaching a September "peace deal", and evoked periodic skepticism from Kabul.* Islamabad's intent comes in wake of Washington's desire to achieve trust surplus with the Taliban – a move construed warmly by Taliban officials last week. *The group's tendency to steer towards stakeholders other than the U.S. – in a bid to welcome facilitation – gives Pakistan important space to exercise its diplomatic leverage over the Taliban, and underline the merits of a ceasefire.* Given Islamabad's decade-long familiarity with Taliban's modus operandi, Washington may find itself in a slightly better position to chalk-out counter-terrorism assurances, troop withdrawals, intra-Afghan dialogue, and a comprehensive ceasefire. *Should Pakistan succeed in getting the Taliban to talk directly with the Afghan government, promising ties seem likely? But the moment a U.S. military withdrawal begins to materialize, it may be difficult to determine what value Washington sees in bolstering cooperation with Pakistan.*

Minority question, Editorial, *Dawn*, 01 August²

Most places of worship of non-Muslim minorities are pre-Partition structures, and many are under constant vigilance due to threats of vandalism and extremist attacks. Then there is the issue of land grabbing, which also uses religion as a cover for material greed. *So while on one hand, correct steps are being taken to ensure protection for some minority groups, the climate of fear persists for many others. Minorities are targeted disproportionately in false blasphemy charges and continue to be subjected to forced conversions.* Again and again, the prime minister has reiterated his belief that all citizens of the

¹ <https://dailytimes.com.pk/440657/understanding-the-pak-us-view-of-peace-in-afghanistan/>

² <https://www.dawn.com/news/1497429/minority-question>

state must be treated equally. One can only hope he is sincere in ensuring that they are, including that “one element” he mentioned. Only then, can we truly celebrate a progressive Pakistan.

Cracks in the opposition, Editorial, Daily Times, 05 August³

The failure of a sure-to-succeed no-confidence move against the Senate chairman by the joint opposition has revealed cracks in the alliance, another big success of the government. The defection of 14 senators in the secret ballot has driven a wedge between two main parties – the Pakistan People’s Party and the Pakistan Muslim League-N – as either side is accusing the other of foul play. *Accusations of playing dirty first appeared in private discussions before hitting the airwaves and print spaces leaving an irreparable breach between the two parties.* The ruling party of the day, which itself has lost a couple of Senate seats in the past in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, should also support the move. Intriguingly, not even one of the senators that sold out has come out in the open so far to explain the reason for favoring the incumbent Senate Chairman Sadiq Sinjrani. A divided opposition suits the government both inside and outside parliament. It is up to opposition parties how they facilitate or frustrate the government’s plans.

PTI’s first year in power, Editorial, Daily Times, 18 August⁴

While taking stock of the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government after one year, one comes across many key words both positive and negative. In its two-decade struggle for power the PTI made endless promises, most of them unrealistic, to woo the voters. Once in power, in the first year, the party was required to float a team of ministers whose integrity and skills were above any doubt, shun foreign loans, create two million jobs, build 200,000 houses, bring corruption to zero, retrieve \$200 billion stashed in foreign banks, hang corrupt politicians, resolve outstanding issues with neighbours, abolish cruel taxes, promote free speech and put the country on the track of development and prosperity. *Corruption is still rampant in the government sector. The slogan of retrieval of \$200 billion stashed in foreign banks has largely been forgotten. Accountability is fast becoming just a tool to victimise opponents.* Most of the faces of the party and the government are habitual party switchers. There has been no headway in resolution of outstanding issues with neighbours. Taxes have reached new heights. On free speech, the less said the better.

³ <https://dailytimes.com.pk/442845/cracks-in-the-opposition/>

⁴ <https://dailytimes.com.pk/449763/ptis-first-year-in-power/>

Another term for the army chief, Editorial, Dawn, 21 August⁵

The extension of tenure given to army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa had been predicted by many observers. The move, when it came, was justified by a reference to the 'extraordinary circumstances' that apparently could not allow another general to be elevated to the position of chief at this juncture. However, even though it was an expected decision, the move was certain to draw criticism over a couple of important points that have long been a hot topic of debate in the country. The first of these involves the absolute necessity of establishing a tradition of uninterrupted succession in an institution which is widely hailed as probably the finest in the country. *The principle of a smooth change of command merits utmost respect, otherwise there would have been no room in the rulebook for the provision of succession.* But it seems that instances of a routine transition are hard to come by in our case. The Americans may be planning to withdraw from Afghanistan, but we now have a very tense situation with India, especially with the Kashmir crisis exacerbated by the Modi government.

Are Riyasat-e-Medina and Asian Tiger mutually exclusive? Yasser Latif Hamdani, Daily Times, 26 August⁶

Prime Minister Imran Khan recently made a statement that Pakistan was not meant to be an Asian Tiger but only to recreate the state of Medina. Ironically the only other person who has claimed Medina as the raison d'être for Pakistan is the incorrigible Jinnah-basher and anti-Pakistan polemicist Venkat Dhulipala and he too was at least honest enough to admit that Jinnah never referred to Medina in any of his speeches. The reason why Jinnah never referred to Medina was because he understood more than others that any such invocation would be subject to interpretation of not just progressive and modernist Muslims but also the reactionary and orthodox. While the former might see in the holy state of Medina a proto-republic, the latter's conception of the state of Medina may not have the same aspiration. Pakistan's economy is in a downward spiral. Other than a few people at the very top who have managed to ingratiate themselves with the current regime, the entire country is suffering. *Imran Khan's statement once again shows the wisdom of why Jinnah refrained from using such religious concepts so blatantly even at the height of the Pakistan Movement.* The only plausible explanation for Imran Khan's statement positing a binary between Riyasat-e-Medina and the idea of

⁵ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1500743/another-term-for-the-army-chief>

⁶ <https://dailytimes.com.pk/453991/are-riyasat-e-medina-and-asian-tiger-mutually-exclusive/>

an Asian tiger is that Imran Khan has thrown up his hands and realized that he can do nothing for the people of Pakistan.

ECONOMIC ISSUES

The IMF decision, Sakib Sherani, Editorial, Dawn, 02 August⁷

While the government grappled with the complex issue of approaching the IMF, and reached out to friendly countries for assistance, the resultant delay was increasing the uncertainty and adding to a sense of panic. It was clear from early on unfortunately that the PTI government had not done its homework before taking over the reins of power and was woefully ill-prepared. Prior spadework had not been done, the severity of the crisis appeared to have been completely misread and underestimated, and there was no stabilisation plan to put into effect from day one. In addition, a most critical element in providing confidence to markets, strategic communication, was completely absent. *Now that the IMF deal is done, and Pakistan has embarked on a robust stabilisation programme, what more can be done to ensure a quick transition to jobs-creating growth?* The ridiculous and disruptive anti-encroachment drive should be halted. Thousands of small businesses have been needlessly demolished in a harsh economic environment.

Economic illusion, Aasim Sajjad Akhtar, Dawn, 23 August⁸

Remarkable, isn't it, how major crises in Pakistan are forgotten when supposedly bigger crises displace them, whether by design or otherwise? So it is with the economy, which was and still is in dire straits. In short, private and state elites have institutionalised their class interests within a largely informal economic structure. Despite the government's claims of doing away with corruption, the propertied classes are least interested in mainstreaming economic activities because this would eliminate the myriad opportunities for resource capture at the expense of the poor and voiceless. Arguably, the biggest beneficiaries of this economic structure are functionaries in the permanent state apparatus, which is perhaps why they are most likely to give cover to their rent-seeking through selective accountability drives. *But then again, the economy is no longer big news. Convenient, no?*

⁷ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1497614/the-imf-decision>

⁸ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1501179/economic-illusion>

CPEC authority, Editorial, Dawn, 28 August⁹

It is a little puzzling to hear repeated mentions from government officials about their intention to create what they have termed a “CPEC authority”. Presumably, this means some sort of body to oversee all CPEC-related work for the government, but it is hard to understand how this can be done without creating a massive parallel bureaucracy that significantly usurps powers from the provincial governments as well as the regulators. For one, greater transparency remains a pressing priority, with the latest discussions on a CPEC authority being the best example of how decisions are being deliberated upon in private, with very little idea of what exactly is in the works. More disclosure is now critical before the government decides to advance this idea further. Long before any such proposal is finalized — should it come to that — it should be discussed in parliament and given an adequate public airing before it is sent to the federal cabinet. There is a long history in this country of decision-making with short-term horizons in mind, and this risks becoming the latest example on that timeline.

Deep, deep in the debt trap, Editorial, Daily Times, 29 August¹⁰

The record high fiscal deficit (Rs3.45t, 8.9pc of GDP) would have – should have, at least – set off serious alarm bells in Islamabad. *It means not just that the economy has not responded despite record spending as well as record borrowing but, far more importantly, also that the IMF program might already be in danger.* The deficit overshoot the projected target of Rs1.9t by 82pc, seriously questioning the government’s ability to deliver on key targets and already making the federal budget document irrelevant. Let’s not forget that the bailout comes with serious conditions, failure to meet which could well jeopardize future tranches. *It is particularly alarming that total revenue collection, year-on-year, is down 6.3pc in absolute terms, which shows how much the people appreciated the PTI government’s tax policy novelty.* For years, rather decades, Imran Khan claimed that people would automatically start paying taxes once he ascended the throne, simply because of his personal honesty. If numbers are to be trusted, though, it seems people placed more faith in the previous government, in its last year, to the tune of Rs230b (Rs5.33t against Rs4.9t). Since the deficit bloated, especially in the last quarter, despite a 45pc cut in the development budget, there’s already concern that the government might now be forced to present yet another mini-budget with yet more taxes to raise revenue even if just to keep the IMF money flowing.

⁹ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1502078/cpec-authority>

¹⁰ <https://dailytimes.com.pk/455955/deep-deep-in-the-debt-trap/>

Unless the deficit is handled, there can be no hope of stabilisation. That is why the way forward is particularly tricky; because even if the government is able to somehow enhance earnings in the ongoing fiscal, it can only be on the back of exploitative taxation instead of improved production and growth.

SECURITY SITUATION

The fate of Pakistani Ahmadis: Implications of Anti-Ahmadiyya Ordinance 1984, Busharat Elahi Jamil, *Daily Times*, 08 August¹¹

Regrettably, since the very creation of Pakistan in August 1947, the so-called defeated religious assemblages like Ihraris, Jamat-i-Islami and Jamayat-i-Ulma-i-Islam played the religion card as a face-saving act to regain their influence in the “Islamic Republic of Pakistan.” All these religious entities had failed badly in their anti-Pakistan political agenda; leaving them with only the religion card. For that reason, they started invoking the differences within various Islamic factions and sects, exploiting the nation of Pakistan. The Shia-Sunni issues and particularly Anti-Ahmadiyya campaigns enormously distressed the social fabric of the country. *The state supported laws and hatred against Ahmadis, impairing their lives and the status of independent citizens of an Islamic Republic. Under section 298-B, Ahmadis cannot use Islamic epithets.* Moreover, many Ahmadis also have been convicted under sections 295, 295-A, 295-B and 295-C of PPC. The misuse of blasphemy laws in Pakistan is a common practice, creating a sense of uncertainty and disruption in minorities because of the death penalty and life imprisonment with fine. Fanatics and extremist Mullahs are frequently using blasphemy laws to impend the minorities and tiny communities in the country. Ahmadis are denied from shops either verbally or by exhibiting stickers with discriminatory public notices; rebuking Ahmadis particularly to push them away from their shops.

Restraining NAB, Editorial, *Dawn*, 22 August¹²

As the economy gasps for fresh air, the anti-corruption agency hogs the headlines with its feats — mostly the sheer humiliation it heaps on opposition politicians or those businessmen and bureaucrats linked with them. It seems anyone even remotely connected with these decided villains risks a probe by

¹¹<https://dailytimes.com.pk/444750/the-fate-of-pakistani-ahmadis-implications-of-anti-ahmadiyya-ordinance-1984/>

¹² <https://www.dawn.com/news/1500975/restraining-nab>

NAB. There are also allegations that intense pressure was exerted on certain businessmen and bureaucrats to turn approver in corruption cases against opposition leaders. The frequency of these allegations has led to calls for restraint, despite the large support for the anti-corruption drive in the country. *The bureau's work in recent times has smacked of a selective campaign and political vendetta, jeopardizing the fairness of the entire accountability process.* Steps such as the constitution of a debt commission comprising officials of the military intelligence agencies and NAB to investigate the projects and agreements that are believed to have *led to the rapid accumulation of public debt since 2008 are being viewed suspiciously as a tool to be used against the government's opponents.*

Airspace closure, Editorial, Dawn, 29 August¹³

However, the response to India's provocations must be mature and calculated; emotionalism must be eschewed in favour of effective diplomacy. Yet some of the suggestions coming from the government may add to Pakistan's isolation instead of holding India to account before the world. The proposed airspace ban is similar to other actions already taken in this country, such as the severing of rail and bus links with India. There has also been a proposal floated in official circles to ban the import of Indian medicine and raw material. *These moves, rather than censuring Delhi for its belligerence in Kashmir, will only cause suffering to ordinary people in the subcontinent.* While a fresh airspace closure will irk international airlines using routes that cross over both India and Pakistan. *Moreover, India will definitely institute reciprocal closure of its own for Pakistani aircraft. Also, can Pakistan afford the considerable losses it will suffer due to the closure?* The sensible thing at this point in time is not to overreact and instead handle the situation with foresight.

¹³ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1502346/airspace-closure>

GB

Attack on civil liberty in GB, Editorial, Daily Times, 01 August¹⁴

It is a matter of concern that the Ghizer district administration in the scenic Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) region has started a crackdown on civil society activists by serving notices on several political leaders, and a journalist, for 'delivering anti-state speeches' and 'disturbing the public peace'. *The region of Gilgit-Baltistan is by and large a peaceful area and safe tourism has been its hallmark for decades.* Rallies over ugly incidents such as kidnapping, illegal actions of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police and so on may impact the public order as well as the tourism sector. More important, however, is civil liberty, which should not be suppressed by misusing state laws. Rally participants have video footage of speeches where speaker after speaker only criticised the district administration. The activists say that their allegiance to the state of Pakistan is beyond any question as the integrity of Pakistan comes first to them. *The region has been nameless and without any rights for decades. Since partition, the area has seen eras of deprivation but it never expressed any sign of dissent against the state. The state must learn to tolerate dissenting voices and order the administration to withdraw the notices.*

What should be Pakistan's future Kashmir strategy? Col (R) Muhammad Hanif, Daily Times, 18 August¹⁵

The most important question now is that how Pakistan should handle the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in future. In this context following are suggested. *Pakistan should believe with no doubt that after abrogation of Article 370, Modi led BJP Government in India will never resolve the Kashmir dispute through talks unless Kashmiris' freedom struggle becomes so strong that it compels India to sit on the table with Pakistan.* Also, the permanent members of the UNSC may not be very decisive on Jammu and Kashmir dispute in view of their geopolitical interests equally linked with both Pakistan and India, but it would be necessary for Pakistan to keep all UNSC members on board on the issue to act as a pressure on India. Hence, while Pakistan should remain ever ready to blunt any Indian military move across the LoC, it should extend full political, moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiris' for their freedom struggle on a continuous basis. *The NC and PDP leaders should also combine with the Hurriyat leader and join the*

¹⁴ <https://dailytimes.com.pk/441246/attack-on-civil-liberty-in-gb/>

¹⁵ <https://dailytimes.com.pk/449718/what-should-be-pakistans-future-kashmir-strategy/>

freedom struggle by rejecting any future olive branch by India for power. At the same time Pakistan's diplomacy and media and communication channels should continue to project the peaceful freedom struggle, the imposition of curfews, black out of media and communication channels, and the atrocities being committed in Jammu and Kashmir by the Indian forces, to convince the world leaders and media on India's highhanded ness in the state.

The unspoken reality, Arifa Noor, Dawn, 20 August¹⁶

It seems as if in recent times in Pakistan, the debate has become limited to two aspects: first, accusing the government (whichever one it is) of having sold Kashmir (if Nawaz Sharif was said to be guilty of this once upon a time, now it is Imran Khan who seems to have committed the same sin), and second, to accuse the state of not doing anything to 'answer' or 'counter' India. We saw this need of a 'reaction' at the time of Pulwama and it is apparent even now. *But lost in the din of this debate, which obsesses with a 'ghairatmand' or 'mun tor jawab' to India as well as doing something to miraculously push forward our claim on Kashmir, is the reality of international politics.* And this reality is the unspoken discomfort of the international community with the success of sub-nationalist movements. In other words, while the international community may speak in favour of freedom and the self-determination of people, it silently prefers the status quo. And the status quo, in this case, means maintaining the world map as it is; and this can only be done if all the peoples tend to stick to borders they were 'given' and not redraw them.

ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Jirga with Salim Safi, Geo News, 17 August¹⁷

In this episode Salim Safi travels to PoK to interact with selected representatives from PoK over the recent change in the status quo of the issue of Jammu and Kashmir after India abrogated article 370. The participants of the debate are Chaudhary Latif Akbar, senior parliamentarian of the PPP party, Abdul Khan, member legislative assembly, PTI party, Dr. Mustufa Bashir of the PML-N , Sardar Atiq Ahmad of the Muslim Conference and Abdul Rashid Turabi of the Jamati

¹⁶ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1500541/the-unspoken-reality>

¹⁷ <https://www.geo.tv/shows/jirga/245121-jirga-17th-august-2019>

Islami faction. All the participants on the onset agrees to the point that at this moment Kashmir *Tawaja Chahata hai*, meaning Kashmir needs attention of the World community and it's the duty of the people of PoK and Pakistan government to internationalize the issue. In this regard Chaudhary Latif underlines that *Pakistan should stick to its narrative of resolving the issue according to UNSC wherein it's mentioned article 122 of 57 that the demography of Kashmir can't be changed*. Asked if today the people of PoK and Indian Kashmir are on the same page and want one solution? Abdul Khan of the PTI replies that earlier there was a certain section of political class in Indian Kashmir who believed in the Indian government and elections but today as the mainstream politicians are also under arrest, the whole of Kashmir are on one page and in this regard they look upto Pakistan government for help. *The Indian government is replicating the Palestine solution of Israel in Kashmir and making it another Palestine, he adds*. Adding to the discussion Abdul Rashid Turabi is of the view that the Indian government has in fact helped to bring the people of Kashmir on both sides together by taking this foolish step. *He believes that this has recharged the Kashmir movement for Azadi bringing the mainstream politicians and separatists of the valley on one page*. Sardar Atiq Ahmad argues that after the abrogation of article 370, the *LoC has changed into ceasefire line* and we are back to where it started. He says that it is a crisis situation and the UNSC should send humanitarian aid to Kashmir and that the P5 countries should send force to restore peace in Kashmir. Mr Turabi when asked if war is the only solution, replies that war can be one of the solution as we have taken PoK by fighting in the past. *He is of the opinion that it's important to create a threat perception at this point of time* and Pakistan government should call upon OIC countries to convince an emergency meeting over this issue.

Capital Talk with Hamid Mir, Geo News, 20 August¹⁸

On this episode Hamid Mir invites the members of newly formed Special Kashmir Committee Mushed Hussain Syed and Naved Qamar and also Nadeem Afzal Chand who is the official translator for PM Imran Khan to discuss Pakistan's strategy over the issue of Kashmir in future. When asked about the role of US and Donald Trump in resolving the issue, Mushed Hussain emphasized that US has no option but to support Pakistan on the issue of Kashmir and put Pressure on India to resolve the issue peacefully because his future political career depends on the success of the Afghan peace process. *In order to have a peaceful solution to Afghanistan, Trump Knows Pakistan is the only ally which can help them in this pursuit*. Therefore

¹⁸ <https://www.geo.tv/shows/capital-talk/245358-capital-talk-20th-august-2019>

Trump who earlier used to say Modi is my friend has now recently talked to both Imran Khan and Modi and emphasized on the part my two good friends thus trying to create a balance between the two. When asked if there is a danger of war between India and Pakistan? Nadeem Afzal answered that *possibilities of a war are less but the step towards genocide has already been taken by India when it scraped article 35 A and clamped down the people under strict curfew and restrictions*. By removing article 370 India has taken away the protection of the people of Kashmir and are preparing to make Kashmiris minority in their own land, he added. Another question that was raised was about UAE's decision to give the highest civilian award, Sheikh Zayed award to Modi, how Pakistan should deal with this? Nadeem Afzal Chand replies by saying that Pakistan's first priority right now is Kashmir but as a Muslim country if any OIC country support us on this they are welcome and on this note due to pressure from other Muslim countries if UAE want to review its decision that will be a great step towards highlighting the Kashmir issue. Also he informs that Pakistan government is working on the possibility to take this issue to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) based on India's violation of international laws, UN Charters and resolutions.

Jirga with Saleem Safi, Guest Federal Interior Minister Ajaz Ahmad Shah, Geo News, 24 August¹⁹

Given the guests Military and ISI background the main issue discussed in this episode is Kashmir. Saleem Safi first asks in which direction the Kashmir issue is going? Mr. Shah replies that as a student of history, military and politics my analysis is that it is going to *be a big miscalculation for the Indian government and it is going to prove a lost case for India*. He underlined that the Indian government themselves violated the concept of liberal and secular India shaped by Nehru, Patel and Abdul Kalam. By scraping article 370 it has not only violated the Indian constitution but the UN resolutions and Shimla Agreement. It has to be noted that during the signing of Shimla agreement it was the Indian side who stressed the Kashmir issue to be made bilateral, Pakistan was open to mediation by a third country, he added. When asked what is Pakistan doing in this matter? He replies that war is not a solution and at the end of the day we have to come to the table for negotiations. *Nevertheless Pakistan has gone on a diplomatic offense by dismissing any sort of engagement with India at this stage to put pressure on India*. Interestingly when asked about involving the Jihad aspect for the cause of Kashmir the Minister very cautiously answered that we cannot stretch the concept of Jihad to this new world order where the World has become a global village. *The Warlord concept can no more in Pakistan and we have to*

¹⁹<https://www.geo.tv/shows/jirga/245740-jirga-ijaz-shah-federal-interior-minister-24th-august-2019>

look for nuanced and balanced approach to solve the issue at hand, he clarified. But lastly, he assure that Pakistan will never disappoint the people of Kashmir.

URDU MEDIA

Terrorism begins to re-surface, Editorial, *Nawa-i-Waqt*, 01 August²⁰

In a bomb blast near Quetta, five people including a policeman were killed and 32 people were injured. Meanwhile army chief Gen. Qamar Bajwa met Chairman Security Services of Uzbekistan Gen. Uzair Abdus Salam and they talked about cooperation between the two armies in training and fighting terrorism. *Terrorism is an ideology. Some people because of poverty become target of terrorists' propaganda. Terrorist groups woo them with hefty amounts of money. Some people are crazy who are moved by the wrong interpretation of religion and rewards in the world hereafter.* Security institutions need to keep a watch on such possible targets. The government will have to provide employment so that unemployed youth do not become targets of enemies. For that there needs to be national unity. *If the people with terrorist-mind set are ready to abandon the ideology peacefully, fine. But if they are not willing to, then there should be strict policy against them.* Help can be taken to eliminate the menace from the countries that have fought against terrorism. Though the Pakistan army has eliminated terrorism by launching operations like 'Zarb-e-azb' and 'Radd-ul Fasad', some terrorist were able to save their lives and hide here and there. Now they are re-emerging. The army has played its role well. Now it is the responsibility of common people to not allow these forces re-emerge.

Diplomatic initiative! Editorial, *Jang*, 07 August²¹

India has violated all UN Resolutions on Kashmir by abolishing the Article 370 and Article 35a of the Indian Constitution. *New Delhi wants to convert 82 percent (?) population of Muslims into minority by settling Hindus.* Pakistan has started to update the international community about the possible consequences of the decision. *Prime Minister Imran Khan called the heads of Turkey and Malaysia, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi wrote a letter to the UN General Secretary, special session of the National Assembly was convened, Corps Commanders meeting was held about how to deal with any aggression from India, Senate members will be sent to different countries,*

²⁰ <https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2019-08-01/page-10/detail-1>

²¹ https://e.jang.com.pk/08-07-2019/lahore/pic.asp?picname=06_001.png

OIC's statement on Kashmir, briefing to the missions of the US, France, Britain, UK and China in Islamabad are part of whole strategy. There is some opposition to Narendra Modi government's decision within India as well. The leaders in Kashmir who were in support of India and whose forefathers had chosen India at the time of partition are regretting. Mehbooba Mufti said that support to India and opposition to the two nation theory turned out to be wrong. There is no government in 'occupied' Kashmir at the moment. America has said that it is following the situation in Kashmir and is concerned about human rights violations there. Amnesty International has said that India's illegal move will destroy peace in the region. India has been saying that Kashmir is a bilateral issue. Then how can it grab it unilaterally? Reality is the situation is dangerous. Pakistan needs to be united to fight it. Jinnah had called Kashmir jugular vein. The government, army and people must defend it.

Trump card did not work, Editorial, Ummat, 08 August²²

China has condemned India's move to abrogate the constitutional special status of Jammu and Kashmir and the division of the state into two union territories. *Beijing said that India should respect bilateral agreements otherwise it will face strong reaction.* Modi's decision to integrate Ladakh into India is direct challenge to China. Aksai Chin is a disputed area between India and China and they have fought a war on it. ... *In past China has always supported Pakistan. But this time China has not shown that enthusiasm.* The statement from the Chinese foreign ministry was clear that it was more concerned about Ladakh. *One reason for that is the political and military leaderships of Pakistan do not seem taking strong position themselves. In the joint session of the parliament, there was exchange of words between the prime minister and the leader of the opposition rather than display of strong unity.* In such a situation, why should other countries support Pakistan? Also, relations with China are not that strong at the moment. Reason for that is Imran Khan's *dharnas* had forced Chinese President Xi Jinping to cancel his visit to Pakistan in 2014. India does not want third party arbitration and says Kashmir is a bilateral issue. But it does not want to talk either. It has now trammled rights of the Kashmiris by violating its own constitution. *Prime Minister Imran Khan will have to answer to the nation what transpired between him and President Trump in Washington that as soon as Imran reached Islamabad Modi took these big steps to 'occupy' Kashmir and violate rights of the Kashmiris!* Why did not Trump card work!

²² <http://ummat.net/2019/08/08/news.php?p=idr1.gif>

Pakistan's next step for Kashmir-cause, Assadullah Ghalib, *Nawa-i-Waqt*, 19 August²³

The UNSC has held meeting on Kashmir. It has rejected India's claim that Kashmir is an internal matter and has internationalize it. *It has also brought this to light that the Kashmir can be resolved only through the UN Resolutions.* The UN also expressed concerns over human rights violations and asked India to lift the blackout on Kashmir. Is Pakistan's job done? No. *Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said that we need to highlight the Kashmir cause and Indian 'brutal' policies on Kashmir at every international forum. Pakistan is keeping watch on Kashmir.* New Delhi has said that it can re-visit its first-strike nuclear policy, thus implying it wants a nuclear war. Pakistan has been warning the international community that India's policies on Kashmir can lead to a nuclear war. *Since Pakistan will have to respond to India's aggression and also against Israel that is helping India to carry out such policies, any war can spread beyond South Asia. ...* To establish Kashmir desk at the foreign office and embassies abroad is a welcome step. The government has also decided to send delegations to foreign countries to muster support on Kashmir issue. Pakistan has one volunteer force: Overseas Pakistanis. In London Pakistanis held a strong protest. Similar protests were held in New York, France among other countries. *In a press briefing it was said that Indian media criticizes the government on its internal policies but supports it on foreign policy. While in Pakistan some people are used to some controversial statements. They should follow statements of higher officials and defense experts in critical issues.*

What are Kashmiris thinking in AJK? Saleem Safi, *Jang*, 21 August²⁴

To assess the situation of Jammu and Kashmir aftermath of the recent aggressive policy of India, I along with my team decided take a visit to the region. ... *After my interactions with the youth, old and young, I found that though Pakistanis in general are sad about the situation in 'occupied; Kashmiri but youth in 'Azad' Jammu and Kashmir are really restless and in pain.* They want to fight and die for their brothers and sisters in 'occupied' Kashmir. But they not able to figure out what to do? I also felt that the political leadership of 'AJK' is not happy with the behavior of political leadership in Pakistan. *The youth are unhappy with local as well as Pakistan's political leadership. They fear that some deal has taken place about which they being kept in the dark. This perception is dangerous and Islamabad should take AJK and Gilgit Baltistan in confidence in this regard.*

²³ <https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2019-08-19/page-5/detail-0>

²⁴ https://e.jang.com.pk/08-21-2019/lahore/pic.asp?picname=06_004.png

They think that Kashmir is being divided which is unacceptable to them. The situation along the LoC is like hell because of the firing from the Indian side. But neither the international community and nor Pakistan is paying any attention towards that. Residents to Neelan Valley told us that due to the persistent firing, they are unemployed. One grievance of the Kashmiris was that since Kashmir belongs to them, they should be talking about it and they should represent the case nationally and internationally. In this way the issue will gain more attention. Journalists, scholars and youth were sad about the political affairs of Pakistan. They say when there will be crisis in the country, how can Pakistan support Kashmir issue strongly?

A test for patriotism and vision of foreign minister, Editorial, Ummat, 22 August²⁵

Reliable news agency of France, Agence France Presse (AFP) has reported that America has said the current situation in Kashmir is internal matter of India. *It just added that the issue can have implications outside India as well.* America has again advised India and Pakistan should be patient and reduce the tension. Besides one senior leader of American Foreign Office has accused Pakistan of terrorism and said that it should take steps in this regard. On the other hand, it has asked India to release prisoners in Kashmir and restore human rights there. It is surprising that just sometime time ago President Trump had offered mediation on the Kashmir issue. But both Trump and Imran Khan are good U-turners. After listening the latest statement of the US, Pakistan should have given a befitting reply to Washington by saying that you should face the Afghans in Afghanistan, Pakistan will not help you. ... *Calling Kashmir an internal matter of India is hypocrisy. America does not have this much sympathy with its 70 year ally Pakistan to say that it is also affect by Kashmir issue.* Rather it asked that India and Pakistan should talk bilaterally to resolve the matter. It is like asking victim to talk the goon upon which the goon gets encouraged and becomes more arrogant. That is what India has been doing. It never wants to talk. It is strange that the US is asking Kashmiris who are under 'suppression' and surrounded by massive security deployment to realize the importance of normalcy. It shows how insensitive the US is. Pakistan is accused of being patron of terrorism. *Imran Khan may not be able to raise the issue with the US. It is the test of patriotism and vision of Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi: how well he be able to raise the issue (will decide its future). America is responsible for terrorism in Pakistan: Had it not attacked Afghanistan, there would have been no terrorism in the region. America has not asked India to stop its brutalities in Kashmir but only demanded to*

²⁵ <http://ummat.net/2019/08/22/news.php?p=idr1.gif>

release Kashmiris and respect human rights there. Can Pakistan still expect something good from the current US administration? If yes, that is slavery!

Extension to army chief a right decision, Imran Yaqoob Khan, *Nawa-i-Waqt*, 22 August²⁶

Gen. Qamar Bajwa has been given three years' of extension as the army chief of Pakistan. Generally, the decision has been welcomed but there are some voices that are not happy with. Comparing the decision with Caliph Umar's decision when he called back his army commander Khalid bin Walid is not a fair. *Modern wars and security situations are very different than those times. We are living in fifth generation of war.* While speaking to some journalists on being appointed as the army chief in 2016, Gen. Bajwa's views were named by some as 'Bajwa doctrine'. *While being the chief for last three years, Gen. Bajwa's policies did reflect some of the aspects of 'Bajwa doctrine'. Important policy was to support peace process in Afghanistan.* The Afghan Taliban and Afghan politicians were brought together at Murree. Afghan-President Ashraf Ghani also changed his confrontational mood with Pakistan. *Second, Gen. Bajwa made it clear to India that Pakistan wants peace. However any misadventure would get a befitting reply. Third, despite stopping the coalition fund, there was not much change in the relations with the US. Fourth, to fight extremist groups within the country, many charity works carried out such groups were stopped.* In this regard people like Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar were arrested. This helped to counter the allegations that Pakistan was supporting terrorism in Afghanistan and Kashmir. In fact it helped Kashmir as the current situation in Kashmir is not associated with Pakistan at the international level. ... Furthermore, India has decided to have Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), as announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15th August. CDS will bring the three wings of Indian military under one command. Though New Delhi has yet to decide who will be the CDS: whether it will four-star general or five-star? Still Modi announced implies that the current army chief is likely going get it. *In Pakistan some people are raising issues about law and norms which may not appropriate sometimes. National interest come first.* Given the current circumstances, the extension to Gen. Bajwa is in country's interest, please do not make it controversial.

²⁶ <https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2019-08-22/page-10/detail-8>

Walkover, Editorial, Ummat, 23 August²⁷

Senate Committee for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan has expressed its unhappiness about the current government's weak diplomacy on Kashmir issue. *The members of the committee have demanded that it is the time for throwing out the fence.* Chairman of the committee Sajid Mir criticized the role of 58-Muslim member OIC on Kashmir issue. He said that Pakistan has stood with them through thick and thin but today no one is our friend. *Senator Siraj-ul haq said that when Indian army can enter in 'occupied' Kashmir violating all laws and rules why cannot Pakistan?* Siraj-ul Haq said that IMA should play its role which is headed by Gen. Raheel Sharif. The statement of the committee needs to be taken seriously. Like the previous governments, the current dispensation has limited itself issuing statements. PTI neither took serious diplomatic steps nor did it threaten India. Imran Khan asks international community to come up with some strategy on Kashmir while he himself has no strategy. *There needs to be some initiative. Otherwise Kashmir will be 'occupied' till the doomsday. It is shameful that instead of Pakistan or the Muslim world, a better reaction came from Canada which did not issue visas to Indian army officers saying they were involved in 'terrorism' in 'occupied' Kashmir.* New Delhi has strongly protested against accusing its intelligence bureau chief of terrorism. We on the one hand have former army chief heading the IMA and on the other hand the current army chief just received three years' extension. Despite that Imran could not raise the Kashmir issue aptly. If he cannot do it then he should think is he giving India a walkover?

UNPKF needs to be sent, Editorial, Jang, 23 August²⁸

There are reports coming from different sources that possibility of ethnic cleansing in 'occupied' Kashmir is increasing. *To stop it UN Peacekeeping Force needs to be deployed in Kashmir. An alert from the international committee, Genocide Watch has made it clear that there is genocide going to happen in 'occupied' Kashmir.* ... Modi-Government in its unilateral decision has allowed the people outside state to buy and own property in Kashmir so that demography of the state can be changed. The move is being criticized across the world and within India as well. It is being said that BJP is leading the country towards war. *There are reports from 'occupied' Kashmir about confrontations between protestors, ten thousand arrests and many killings. The Hurriyat leaders have given a call for protests for Friday by posting posters on walls during previous nights.* ... Prime Minister Imran Khan has asked the UN for immediate deployment of UNPKF in 'occupied' Kashmir to

²⁷ <http://ummat.net/2019/08/23/news.php?p=idr1.gif>

²⁸ https://e.jang.com.pk/08-23-2019/lahore/pic.asp?picname=06_001.png

prevent any genocide. *It is appreciating that the sensitivity of the situation in Kashmir is being felt in whole world.* The UN General Assembly is going to meet in September 2019. Prime Minister Imran Khan will raise Kashmir in his address. He bears the responsibility to warn the international community and ask to take steps to stop a historical genocide from happening in Kashmir.

Pakistan need to think and do something new, Saleem Safi, Jang, 28 August²⁹

It is unfortunate that our insensitive rulers have made mockery of it but first time in last 71-years Kashmir issue has become so sensitive. Here are few incidents. *First, Kashmir is issue of death and life for Pakistan. To counter that India tried to make Afghanistan issue of death and life for itself.* President Trump lays out strategy for Afghanistan, completely sidelining India. Is it possible that Washington has assured India that do not protest on Western border, its Eastern border would get a favorable solution? *Second, Imran Khan did not ask for arbitration from President Trump. Whatever Trump said it was already in his mind. Third, Saudi Arabia and UAE played active role in restoring Pakistan and American relations. Both these countries have not said a single word on Kashmir so far.* Is not it sign that America is playing according to some script for the region. *Fourth, Imran Khan has not come up with any plausible argument why he said that Modi's win would pave way for resolution of Kashmir issue.* Imran Khan's visit to Washington was about Afghanistan, why was then Hafiz Saeed arrested before the visit? *Fifth, when Trump talked about arbitration, our government and its spokespersons started dancing while we have been told for years now that the US is strategic partner of New Delhi.* Also we are told that India and Israel are united against Pakistan. All the same, whatever misunderstanding, it was cleared in France when Trump met Modi. It showed that America may not have asked for it but it was not a concern for Modi when it comes to Kashmir. *I cannot say with surety but on Kashmir there is something fishy. It is silly to expect anything on Kashmir from the US, sillier from the UN and silliest to expect from the Arab countries.* But it is wrong also to criticize these countries and add to our enemies as they never said they would stand with us on Kashmir. It was our mistake that for some riyals we brought war between the Arabs and Iranians in our country. Now we should retrospect and come up with and do something new about Kashmir.

²⁹ https://e.jang.com.pk/08-28-2019/lahore/pic.asp?picname=06_007.png

STATISTICS

BOMBINGS, SHOOTINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES

(Select incidents culled out from the Pakistan media)

Place	Date	Description	Killed	Injured
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa				
Upper Dir ³⁰	19/08/2019	Six killed in Upper Dir blast	06	17
Balochistan				

³⁰ <https://dailytimes.com.pk/450032/six-killed-in-upper-dir-blast/>

Quetta ³¹	07/08//2019	One dead, 13 hurt as Hazaras' businesses targeted in Quetta	01	13
Quetta ³²	17/08/2019	Quetta mosque blast kills four, injures 25	02	00
Quetta ³³	18/08/2019	Another prayer leader killed near Quetta	04	25
Punjab				

³¹<https://dailytimes.com.pk/444335/one-dead-13-hurt-as-hazaras-businesses-targeted-in-quetta/>

³²<https://www.dawn.com/news/1499947/quetta-mosque-blast-kills-four-injures-25>

³³<https://www.dawn.com/news/1500155/another-prayer-leader-killed-near-quetta>

Lahore ³⁴	08/05/2019	5 dead, 24 injured in explosion near Data Darbar in Lahore	10	24
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³⁴ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1481009>