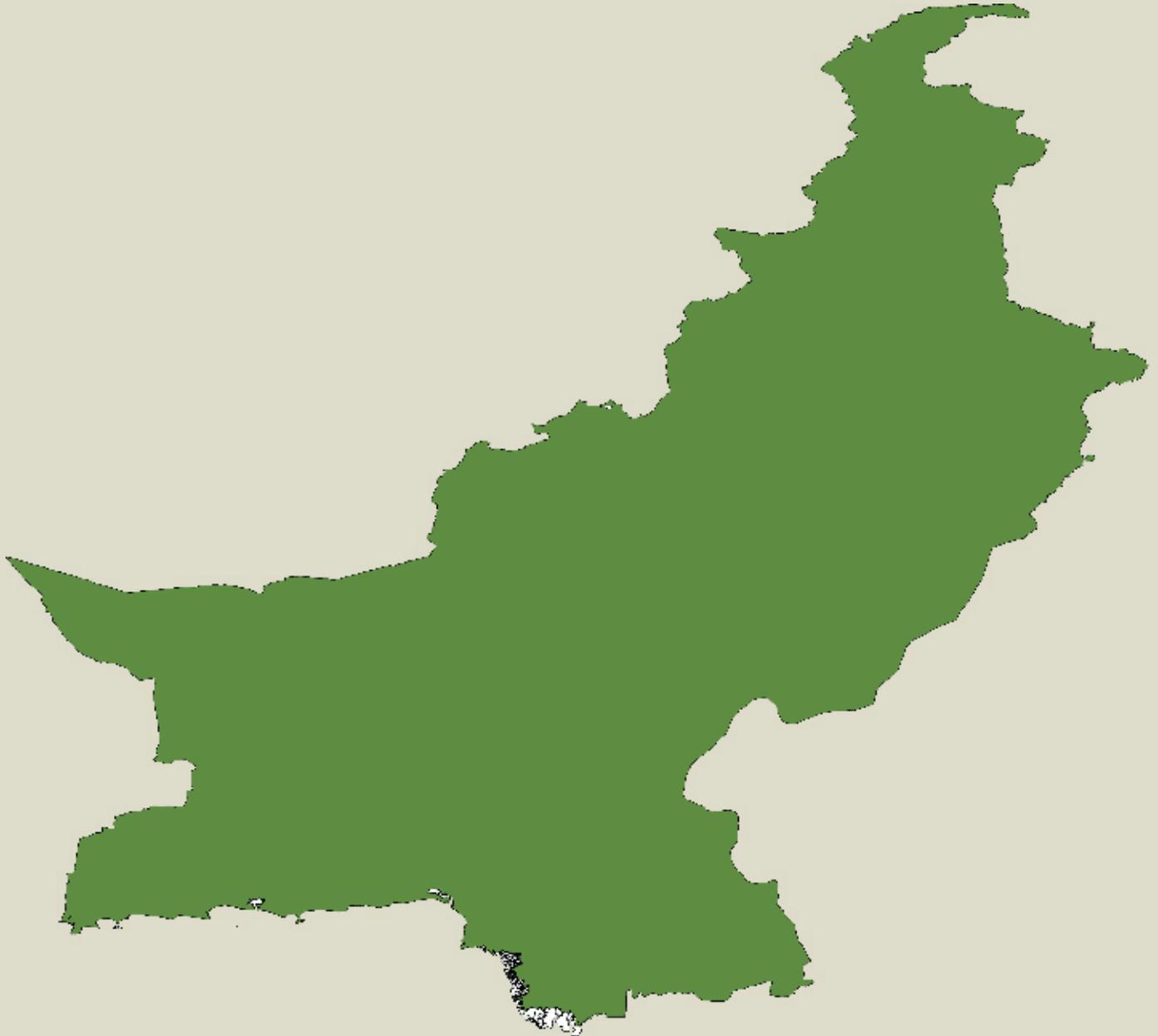


DECEMBER 2019

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

idsa
INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE
STUDIES & ANALYSES
रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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1-Development Enclave, Near USI
Delhi Cantonment, New Delhi-110010

PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST, December 2019

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POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Student awakening, Zahid Hussain, Dawn, 04 December¹

When campuses are devoid of student activism it spells the decline of a nation. This observation, attributed to Nelson Mandela, is so true for Pakistan. The legacy of a military dictator, the curbs on student unions has turned campuses into vast intellectual deserts where the space for rational thinking has shrunk. The presence of security agencies makes campuses look more like prisons than centres of learning, demonstrating a sharp regression in the academic atmosphere. Thousands of people including members of civil society, teachers and political workers came out recently in a show of solidarity with students who were demanding the restoration of their fundamental right to form unions and for better education facilities. The demands also included the removal of security agencies from campuses. It was the most significant student protest in recent years, with huge political implications. Nothing could be more shortsighted for a rudderless administration than taking action against peaceful protesters. *Surely, there is nothing new about such a reaction from ruling establishments afraid of the voices of reason.* It may be a long-drawn struggle but the student solidarity march has already made a strong impact, forcing the main political parties to endorse their demands. That in itself is a victory for the movement.

Pakistan needs a new social contract, Nazeer Ahmed Arijjo, Daily Times, 05 December²

The government has already been directionless and will be in more crises in the coming days as the present government's whole narrative revolves around so-called one-sided accountability and political witch-hunting of the opposition. Security and foreign policies of the state have never been in the domain of the civilian governments with exception to Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's tenure. *The PTI-led government's economic policies put in place by the blue-eyed boys of International Monetary Fund, have miserably failed. There seems no sign of economic recovery in the near future and no immediate relief is expected from IMF dictated policies for the poverty-stricken in foreseeable*

¹ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1520347/student-awakening>

² <https://dailytimes.com.pk/513564/pakistan-needs-a-new-social-contract-part-ii/>

future. Some macroeconomic gains made so far, their sustainability depends on the political stability in the country. Political cohesion is not in the making due to the politics of vendetta and politically-motivated accountability, hence prosperity promised by the PTI during its electioneering will remain a pipedream. The constitution of a committee comprising ministers for effectively presenting a government narrative speaks volumes about the regime's inefficiency. *Will effective feeding of a government narrative bring an end to economic starvation the majority in the country?* The country needs a new social contract – inclusive, democratic and fair – containing humanitarian considerations for all and sundry.

In-house change? Editorial, *Daily Times*, 06 December³

The idea floated by Pakistan Muslim League-N President Shahbaz Sharif about an in-house change – changing the government through a no-confidence move – is very much along the constitutional lines, but it is fraught with perils for both the people and the country. Calling Prime Minister Imran Khan a burden on the country, Sharif said that getting rid of the government was a better choice for “national interests”. The new stance of Sharif is a deviation from the earlier stand of the opposition which was calling for fresh elections. Any attempt to topple the government through a no-confidence move or street agitation will push the country towards uncertainty and economic misery. Moreover, the no-confidence move is likely to open the floodgates of horse trading and forward blocs, reminiscent of the 1990s'. In the era of swing majority, fair-weather parliamentarians make the most of the situation, and it is very unfortunate to note our political parties have still a good number of ready-to-ditch people for the sake money and lucrative slots. *Earlier, PML-N was blamed for taking a mild stance against the government in the wake of an alleged deal. The party also did not openly support the Maulana Fazl-led Azadi March. The opposition needs to keep pressure on the government for public's rights.*

The game is on, Najam Sethi, *The Friday Times*, 06 December⁴

Despite the Supreme Court's instruction to the federal government to amend the laws relating to the extension in tenure of the army chief, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, the matter is still hanging fire because it's not clear how this is to be done. *The bitter rift between the government and the opposition is also likely to cast a shadow on Gen Bajwa's fate.....*How is it conceivable that the government messed up a simple routine procedure relating to the extension

³ <https://dailytimes.com.pk/514040/in-house-change/>

⁴ <https://www.thefridaytimes.com/the-game-is-on/>

in service of the army chief when there were several precedents on record? Why is the government's explanation replete with lies and inconsistencies? *Why did Gen Bajwa deem it necessary to personally oversee cabinet proceedings to ensure that the case was suitably presented by the government in the Supreme Court on 28th November?* On the other side, too, no less than the prime minister, Imran Khan, has stridently voiced his suspicions about how and why Nawaz Sharif was able to get relief from the courts and go to London, an obvious allusion to some sort of collusion between the courts and the powerful Miltabishment. All this is happening in a political environment rife with talk of the imminent end of the line for Imran Khan through some secret alliance between the Miltabishment and Opposition. *The stage is clearly being set for renewed conflict between government and opposition and tension between government and Miltabishment.*

Minus-3 Formula? Najam Sethi, *The Friday Times*, 13 December⁵

It is hard for the Miltabishment to admit that its great strategists and tacticians have failed in their attempts to establish "Naya Pakistan", and that the option of reverting to "Purana Pakistan" makes them anxious. The Miltabishment is having to shoulder the blame and burden of the PTI's dismal performance. Lay folks are flaying the Miltabishment openly and unabashedly in its home province of Punjab, compelling it to question the wisdom of its political engineering. Indeed, it is in the Punjab that the PTI's performance is most pathetic since the PM's handpicked chief minister, Usman Buzdar, is a shambolic shadow of Shahbaz Sharif, the dynamic PMLN chief minister renowned for his meritorious achievements. *A fresh source of tension has now erupted. A simple matter of documenting the correct procedure for notifying the extension of the army chief, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, has been blown into a full-fledged crisis that has hugely embarrassed him and simultaneously created uncertainty about his fate.* This is the very stuff of conspiracy theories. In this case, it's a moot point now whether Mr Khan wants to give the extension or not, and how he intends to proceed in this matter. From General Bajwa's point of view, the matter should not have arisen in the first place but since it has cropped up it should be resolved ASAP and with the support of the Opposition so that it is committed to a national consensus. *Predictably, the PTI government has compelled the*

⁵ <https://www.thefridaytimes.com/minus-3-formula/>

Opposition to refuse such support and appears to be dragging its feet on resolving the issue quickly and efficiently.

Musharraf verdict, Editorial, *Dawn*, 19 December⁶

However, whether one agrees or not with a verdict that has at the very least huge symbolic significance for all concerned, some of the more excessive sentiments on display are troubling. After all, the bench that arrived at the decision was no inconsequential forum. It comprised three superior court judges who are part of the same judiciary often lauded for its resurgent independence, such as when it disqualified a sitting prime minister not too long ago. *Some might see this as the wheel having come full circle. Judicial independence cuts both ways, depending on where one is standing; therein lies its majesty. And while Dawn has always opposed the death penalty under any circumstances, this is hardly the end of the road for the former military dictator.* There are legal remedies available to him as part of his constitutionally protected right to due process. His lawyers, and the PTI government, have already announced they will appeal the special court's decision. We may be in uncharted territory in terms of specifics, but this is yet another critical juncture for the one-step-forward-two-steps-back democratic process in this country.

Powerful deterrence, Najam Sethi, *The Friday Times*, 20 December⁷

The conviction of General (retd) Pervez Musharraf, ex-COAS, for High Treason, by a Special Court set up by the Supreme Court of Pakistan, is an unprecedented and extraordinary act with far reaching consequences for the continuing struggle for supremacy between military dictatorship and constitutional democracy in Pakistan. No one expects Gen (retd) Musharraf to return to Pakistan or this "same page" PTI government to seek his extradition. Indeed, the law will likely be bent to enable the absconder to lodge a robust appeal in absentia in the SC. Indeed, if the Special Court judgment is a political miracle, it would be the Mother of All Miracles if the SC were to uphold it in its entirety, given the unfettered power and reach of the Miltabishment. Will the new CJP, J Gulzar Ahmed, pick up the gauntlet or will he consign the case to the same freezer like the ISI Election Rigging Case of 1990? Notwithstanding the misplaced D-Chowk remark, the Special Court's brave judgment is destined to become a landmark in the power struggle between the Miltabishment and civil society institutions. Despite countervailing pressure from three army chiefs to drop or freeze the case, the judiciary, media, PMLN and PPP have trudged on wearily to make sure that Gen (retd) Pervez *Musharraf does not have a moment of mental peace even in*

⁶ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1523149/musharraf-verdict>

⁷ <https://www.thefridaytimes.com/powerful-deterrence/>

exile. A powerful deterrence has been lodged against any wannabe coup-maker of the future.

Diplomatic debacle, Zahid Hussain, Dawn, 25 December⁸

The latest foreign policy debacle in the shape of Pakistan's last-minute decision to pull out of the Kuala Lumpur Summit illustrates Imran Khan's Trumpian-style of dealing with highly sensitive policy issues. It is decision-making driven by whims rather than reason. While it was unwise to take the decision to attend the summit without deliberating the pros and cons, even worse was backing out of the commitment under pressure from another country. The entire episode reflects a new low in our diplomacy. It happens when institutional processes are set aside to accommodate the quirks of an individual. It is a voodoo foreign policy that has caused us loss of credibility among friendly countries. Yet we are blind to this. *No precedent in recent history comes to mind where Pakistan has allowed some other country to take a decision on its foreign policy imperatives and how to conduct its relations with other states.* While Saudi support for Pakistan's cash-strapped economy is important, the latest event underscores the risk of the country being pushed into a regional power game. *True, Pakistan had done well by balancing its relations with Iran and Qatar despite its closeness with the kingdom but the latest diplomatic blunder has shaken this balance.*

Why only General Musharraf?, Sarmad Ali, The Daily Times, 27 December⁹

In the writer's view, all death sentence inmates should be treated as special as General Musharraf because the right to life is a precious natural right that cannot be taken away by the state, even in the rarest of rare circumstances. The death penalty is a barbaric medieval time punishment that has no value in the modern age where non-penal social engineering scheme is worthwhile to reform the social and criminal justice system. *Generically, the writer submits that General Musharraf should not have received a death sentence at all even if strong evidence had been adduced against him by the prosecution team.* The death sentence is not the right method to evolve a democratic system and democratic norms. No doubt, it has never been in the history of Pakistan that a military dictator has faced trial or been sentenced to death. Despite this, the death sentence ought to be condemned. *If the incumbent*

⁸ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1524289/diplomatic-debacle>

⁹ <https://dailytimes.com.pk/527235/why-only-general-musharraf/>

government plans for a presidential pardon, all death row inmates shall be treated alike and their clemency pleas should be decided on humanitarian grounds.

Development in the tribal districts, Editorial, Dawn, 30 December¹⁰

If the Punjab government is struggling with governance issues, it appears the KP administration is not far behind. *The breakdown of the funds spent on development projects, and more importantly, funds not spent at all, paints a dismal picture of the performance of yet another provincial government headed by the PTI.* However, the situation as illustrated by the overwhelmingly unspent amount of the allocated budget puts this steep cost in even sharper focus. After all, it is not because of any shortage of funds that the provincial government has been unable to address the districts' need for functioning schools, colleges, hospitals, roads, clean drinking water and many other essential services. What is sadly missing are the will, capacity and the correct list of priorities to get this work done for the people. In the final analysis, this lack of performance shows the entire government in a bad light. *This should be of concern to Prime Minister Imran Khan because these districts have been politically integrated after a long and arduous process.* They, in fact, present a challenge to the centre as well as to the province: fulfil all the promises made and bring the fruits of development into the region or risk losing credibility and face. *There is much riding on the project to mainstream the tribal districts, and it would be a shame if the PTI leadership fell short of the task at hand.*

ECONOMIC ISSUES

Moody's rating and the common man, Editorial, Daily Times, 05 December¹¹

Moody's Investor Services' raising Pakistan's economic outlook from negative to stable is a sign of the country's economic stability and, without any doubt, the credit goes to the government's reform process. The rating is likely to improve Pakistan's standing internationally, while on the domestic front, economic reforms have improved exports, declined expensive imports, giving an edge to domestic industries to compete. *It is, however, not out of place to remind the economic policymakers that once celebrations over international and national economic successes are over, they should turn to*

¹⁰ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1525230/development-in-the-tribal-districts>

¹¹ <https://dailytimes.com.pk/513602/moodys-rating-and-the-common-man/>

*translating these gains into relief for middle and lower income classes. Economic reforms were, of course, the much needed course of the hour, but several businesses coming under the knife of reforms have passed on their burden to the commoners. **The benefits of reforms have not been able to defeat higher indirect taxes and higher inflation. It is weird to link inflation to suspended trade with India or lack of administrative control over supply systems.** Prime Minister's Adviser on Finance and Revenue Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh and Revenue Minister Hammad Azhar have predicted a decline in inflation by February. The common man wants sustainable growth that can make a turnaround in his life as well.*

The \$5bn question, Editorial, Dawn, 17 December¹²

The IMF demanded that the government get guarantees from all those who extended these reserve extension facilities, as they are referred to, so that they would agree to a rollover upon maturity. *That included the Chinese who had similarly been approached for such support. Now that the time has come to start those rollovers, and for the new government to undertake its diplomatic outreach efforts, we learn that important linkages might exist between the loans and the diplomacy.* There could scarcely be a better illustration of how the economy's inability to pay its bills — whether on the external or fiscal side — ends up entangling the country in the geopolitical priorities of its lenders. This has been Pakistan's story for decades. It is one of the biggest reasons why we found ourselves on the front lines of a superpower's war, not once but twice. It is the reason why we keep returning to the IMF for a bailout every four of five years. *And it is the reason why our country has never really had an independent foreign policy, because those who stand on crutches cannot walk their own path; they must be led by others. The real cost of that borrowing binge from last year is now coming into sharper relief.*

¹² <https://www.dawn.com/news/1522690/the-5bn-question>

SECURITY SITUATION

Media Curbs, Editorial, Dawn, 12 December¹³

In a disturbing move, the federal cabinet has decided to impose curbs on the media coverage of convicts and absconders. *On the face of it, the reasoning behind this suggested law does not have much to do with the rights of the citizens, or benefits to them, but rather to target selected individuals in order to derive political benefit from such actions.* Let it be said that the government is treading down the wrong path. There is now a clear pattern to its hostile attitude towards the media, and this is reflecting time and again in its actions. This latest decision also amounts to gagging the media and undermining its prerogative to cover what it wants, when it wants and who it wants. This in itself is wrong, but what makes it doubly so is undermining the media while persecuting the opposition. *Here's what the PTI government is repeatedly failing to understand: it cannot browbeat a media that has faced such pressures for decades under all regimes including military ones.* The PTI may be new to power but the media is not new to persecution. By taking such ill-thought-out decisions, the PTI government is only exposing its mal-intent and amateurish understanding of the role of media in a democratic society. The prime minister should heed some sane counsel before his government stumbles down a slippery slope. *When personal vengeance becomes official policy, prepare for long-lasting damage to society. That is one kind of preparation that Pakistan should be spared.*

Rao Anwar's listing, Editorial, Dawn, 12 December¹⁴

Rao Anwar is a man whose reputation precedes him. The former police officer, known infamously as an 'encounter specialist', is accused of involvement in nearly 200 phoney encounters, in which around 400 people have reportedly died. *However now the ex-police officer earned another dubious badge of honour; Rao Anwar has been listed by the US treasury department as a 'global violator of rights' for reportedly being "responsible for staging numerous fake encounters".* If this listing is endorsed by the UN, Pakistan will need to seize Rao Anwar's assets. The listing can only be welcomed as the former policeman appears to be untouchable in this country. Linked to some of the most powerful players in Pakistan, he has been granted special treatment, given VIP protocol and has had his house declared a sub-jail, despite being accused in a high-profile murder case. *Rogue cops such as*

¹³ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1521774/media-curbs>

¹⁴ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1521773/rao-anwars-listing>

Rao Anwar are far too common in Pakistan, with fake encounters being the 'easy' way out in a broken criminal justice system. Along with reform of the justice system, it is essential that those who perpetuate the culture of extrajudicial killings in this country are brought to justice to ensure that these dreadful tactics are abandoned by law enforcers, and the rule of law reigns supreme.

Curbs on media, Editorial, Daily Times, 13 December¹⁵

Since its inception, the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government has never tried to hide its desire to clip the wings of the opposition as well the media. It has made many botched attempts to gag dissenting voices on the media; earlier, it planned to enact a Pakistan Print Media Regulatory Authority to control the media in December. *Facing huge backlash from both the media and civil society, it stepped back but only for a while. In September, the government again unveiled its set of wishes to pin the media by establishing media tribunals for speedy disposal of media-related cases.* The idea also backfired as no stakeholders such as media unions, journalists, media houses and media bodies supported it. The Pakistan Telecommunications Authority has also put up its wish list asking for more powers and technological tools to monitor social media and other sites on the internet. If all these attempts were not enough to learn the right lessons, *the government has unveiled its latest media related move to make laws barring media from covering convicts and absconders (read opposition).* In fact, the government has already enforced ban on airing interviews of opposition leaders, and on occasions, interviews of under-trial prisoner like Asif Zardari and Maryam Nawaz were abruptly stopped.

Extension Verdict, Editorial, Dawn, 18 December¹⁶

The PTI government and parliament must consider the situation carefully. After all, the outcome will have profound implications, not only for civilian supremacy, but for the military itself. Tenure extensions sanctioned by parliament would acquire a legitimacy that could upend a promotion process that should be marked by transparency and predictability. Perhaps Mr Khan should consider the views of the other principal character in this saga, the army chief himself — or at least, his views as articulated by the military's public relations arm. *The ISPR has more than once asserted that the COAS was reluctant to accept an extension.* Even after the spectacle that the government made of itself in its handling of the issue, the ISPR assured the

¹⁵ <https://dailytimes.com.pk/518638/curbs-on-media/>

¹⁶ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1522884/extension-verdict>

public that it was not Gen Bajwa but the government that was hell-bent on having him continue to head the army. *That may well be the case: one would hope that every military official considers the interests of his country and his institution above those of his own.*

PROVINCES & REGIONS

Kashmir

'Lifting of ban on the sale of J&K state property' would hurt Kashmir case, Dr Syed Nazir Gilani, Daily Times, 18 December¹⁷

A series of rumours are making rounds in Azad Kashmir, Pakistan and most importantly on the social media around the world. It started with a statement by the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir during an oath taking ceremony of lawyers at Muzaffarabad. He is alleged to have said that he has been told by people who merit on Kashmir that 'he will be the last Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir'. The control and management of these properties has never been transparent and continue to remain a mystery. There have been cries of corruption, fraudulent sales and abuse of proceeds. *Therefore, AJK Government has to act in respect of the "Sovereign Status" of these properties and ensure that the Prime Minister is not ill advised in any summary of KA & GB Division.* In Pakistan the Status of Kashmir properties could not be disturbed until the Resolution of Kashmiris right of self-determination, envisaged under UNCIP Resolutions. Pakistan is performing duties under UNCIP Resolutions in AJK. Prime Minister of Pakistan has remained very vocal in the representation of the cause of the people of Kashmir. In addition to his obligations as Prime Minister of Pakistan, chairman AJ&K Council, he has volunteered to be the Ambassador of Kashmir. *It is therefore, important that he is advised correctly on the 'sovereign statuses of these 'trust properties' and the proposal to lift ban on the sale of these properties should be taken off the agenda.* These properties are duly protected under article 257 of the Constitution of Pakistan. "Lifting of ban on the sale of J & K State property" would hurt Kashmir Case.

¹⁷<https://dailytimes.com.pk/521942/lifting-of-ban-on-the-sale-of-jk-state-property-would-hurt-kashmir-case/>

Pakistan fulfils FATF conditions, Editorial, *Nawa-i-Waqt*, 08 December¹⁸

Pakistan has submitted its report to the FATF so that it can be removed from the 'grey list'. *The report was prepared by the Foreign Ministry, Finance Ministry, SECP, and Financial Monitoring Unit. It has been supported by the State Bank, CTD, NECTA, FIA and the Pakistan Army.* Pakistan was put in the grey list because of the pressure and lobbying of the US, India and some other countries. They wanted to punish Pakistan for its support to the Kashmiris and for starting the joint project CPEC with China. Otherwise Pakistan has sacrificed the most in the war against terrorism. *Minorities in Pakistan are at least better than they are in India. As far as international institutions are concerned. Pakistan has never ignored tier recommendations.* Despite all these factors, putting Pakistan in the grey list has no argument to support. India hates Pakistan. America, for which we have fought and paid high prices, has disappointed Islamabad. It is because of China, turkey, Saudi Arabia and Malaysia that Pakistan was not put in the blacklist. *However, despite all this, Pakistan will not stop supporting the Kashmiris diplomatically, politically and morally.* Now after the report was submitted, FATF should be unbiased and remove Pakistan's name from the grey list.

Pak-Russia to sign USD 9 billion defence deal, Editorial, *Nawa-i-Waqt*, 10 December¹⁹

Russia is ready to expand and do business with Pakistan. *A Russian delegation led by the Russian minister for trade and industry is on a visit to Pakistan. During the visit, there is a possibility of signing a \$9 billion defence agreements. Pakistan will buy heavy and light fighter jets, medium and short range air defence system, war-helicopter and ships.* Russia is going to give \$1billion for the Steel Mills Project restoration and upgradation. Russia and Pakistan have had not good relations during the Cold War. Russia was close to India. Though after the fragmentation, Russia is not as big power as it was. But it still is an economic and defence power. *Now when America has started getting close to India, Pakistan started looking for alternatives. Russia also needed to counter increasing Washington's influence in Asia. The common concern brought Russia and Pakistan together.* Russia had to pay Pakistan

¹⁸ <https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2019-12-08/page-13/detail-3>

¹⁹ <https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2019-12-10/page-10/detail-4>

\$93 million for the promises and financial claims made during the Cold War and it was creating problems in improving the relations and doing business. Now the hurdle have been removed. *In recent years, the relations have improved. Gen. Bajwa has played an important role in bringing the two countries close.* By signing \$9 billion defence agreements, defense system of Pakistan will improve. Also, the Steel Mills Project will be resuscitated. Pakistan and Russia can emerge as a strong block.

Whole country may become BRT? Saleem Safi, Jang, 11 December²⁰

Mian Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif were in support of metro, motorways and orange train kind of big projects. The opposition would accuse them of getting involved in corruption while undertaking such big projects. The Sharifs would say that building such projects would create infrastructure for economic growth. *Imran Khan would trash such arguments and would say that if Pervez Khattak decided to build metro bus project, he would be put in jail.* Then Imran has taken a U-turn and suddenly announced BRT Project for Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP). *According to my information, the meeting with the theekadar of the project took place at the Bani Gala.* It was surprising because Peshawar is small city and there was no need for such a huge project. But when we raised question that you were against metros, we were told Shahbaz Sharif's metros were bad or the loans would be paid back in few years after the projects is completed or for feasibility foreign consultants were contacted, etc. Finally, BRT was started with lot of fanfare. The Peshawar main JT Road was dug from the both sides and left as such for months and now years. The project is not completed even after a year. *A neutral investigation team revealed that kickbacks of crores of rupees have been taken. Now the Peshawar High Court has raised questions on the project. The Provincial Government is trying to stop the High Court from investigating the discrepancies in the project.* What has happen to Peshawar has happened now. *Now it should be matter of concern that the entire Pakistan may have same fait accompli ahead. We know that PTI has no plan.* The party does not even have its own finance and foreign ministers. Many sensible and serious people have started to say that PTI may do same to Pakistan what it did to Peshawar!

These black-coats, Saleem Safi, Jang, 14 December²¹

The Taliban that were fighting against the Pakistani state were illiterate and did not prefer talks over violence. *In contrast, lawyers are educated and considered not only guardians of law and order but also they interpret the law.* The lawyers are respected because of this and they earn their livelihood

²⁰ https://e.jang.com.pk/12-11-2019/lahore/pic.asp?picname=06_004.png

²¹ https://e.jang.com.pk/12-14-2019/lahore/pic.asp?picname=08_004.png

from this. People go to them to resolve or find solutions to their issues. *The state has never instigated the lawyers to take law in their hands. But with the Taliban, the Pakistani state did this when they were used in Afghanistan against the Soviets.* When the Taliban is asked why they do not approach to the court for justice, they say that their tribal areas do not fall in the court's jurisdiction. This is not to compare or put the Taliban and the lawyers in same bracket. *This is to say by applying the Taliban approach to seek justice the lawyers need to be more condemned.* Because it is like a doctor killing his patient. What happened in Lahore may be because of one lawyer's emotions or anger. But the sad part is that other lawyer's community supported that guy. *They say that attack on a lawyer is attack on whole lawyers' community. It is like saying that whole army should stand up against persecuting Gen. Musharraf or a teacher would stand for a member who would be subjected to law for some misdeed.* In such situation, people should support judges like Justice Athar Minallah, barristers like Aitzaz Ahsan or Babar Sattar that stand by the Constitution. We need to do away with fears of blackmailing and boycott by some people.

Extraordinary judgement, Editorial, Roznama Express, 18 December²²

The editorial in *Express* argued that Pakistan is at an important phase of history, politically and constitutionally. *It said that in recent times two big and significant judgements were made which have left the experts worried. It seems some bad has happened and people are caught off guard. The editorial argued that though the court has given important judgements but it needs to aware about the ground realities.* The country, according to the editorial, is facing fifth generation of war from its enemies. They want to target the institutions of Pakistan and set one institution against the other. *The editorial was of the view that the reaction from the army after the judgment in which the former army chief was sentenced to death was genuine.* All institutions have some weakness and all are equally responsible for the damage that was done to the country. But they are equally important for the nation and national security. *It said that it was Pervez Musharraf led army that had fought war against the groups like Al-Qaeda. And it was at a time when the judges would not even dare to hear the cases of these terrorists because of fear.* The editorial was of the view that the parliament should resolve the issues like the clarity on the extension of the army. The institutions should stand against each other. That is dangerous for the country and is what enemies of Pakistan want. *The editorial said that the army is important for the national security and the very existence of Pakistan. If the institution of*

²² https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107018789&Issue=NP_KHI&Date=20191218

the army is weakened, there would be no one to defend the country. It needs not to be told that we need to be aware about the ground reality. The editorial concluded with that though justice remains important but while delivering justice the issue of national security and the concept of nation need to be kept in mind.

New social-contract, now or never, Saleem Safi, Jang, 25 December²³

We are told that Pakistan is facing severe threats on the Eastern and Western borders; we are told that powers like the US have an eye on our nuclear weapons; we are told that despite being a friend, America along with India wants to destabilize Pakistani; we are told that fifth generation of war is being waged against us; we are told that efforts are being made to create conflict between the institutions in the country. *Question is who is destabilizing Pakistan? Why are citizens of Pakistan unhappy from the state and the state institutions?* We were told to hate and call Wali Khan, Ataulah Mengal, G.M. Saeed, Abdul Samad Khan and Bhutto traitors, we did. We are asked to call fight against the Soviets Jihad: we did. We were told to call the Taliban anti-Islam: we did. We were told to call Benazir an agent and Nawaz Sharif friend of Modi: we did. We were told to accept Imran Khan a savior: we did. *Despite all this, the situation in the country is worsening than improving. Our friends are becoming our enemies. Every institution in the country rather than fighting for the state, is fighting for itself.* Every institution is unhappy about the other and keep complaining about each other. In fact, one institution is happy if other one is facing a tirade. Every institution is important for the state. Rather than fighting with each other, they need hold dialogue to draw boundaries between their work and jurisdiction. *They need address each other's apprehensions and reservations. By dialogue a truth and reconciliation commission should be set up that look into blunders committed in the past.* Otherwise the time is not far when every institutions will be fighting against each other.

Moeed Yusuf appointment in SPCC supported by US, Report, Ummat, 27December²⁴

The appointment of American-grown Moeed Yusuf in the institutions that is concerned with the nuclear weapons' security in Pakistan, is a matter of concern. *Political commentator Orya Maqbool said recently that Moeed's appointment came about because of pressure from the US. He said appointing*

²³ https://e.jang.com.pk/12-25-2019/lahore/pic.asp?picname=06_004.png

²⁴ <http://ummat.net/2019/12/27/news.php?p=story3.gif>

of Moeed who is pro-America in the National Security Division and Strategic Planning is dangerous. Moeed should answer all questions satisfactorily. Prime Minister Imran Khan appointed Moeed his political advisor. Oriya Maqbool has criticized the move and said it is against our national interest. Maulana Fazl-ur Rehman has accused Imran Khan of being a Zionist agent. He was also at the receiving end for appointing Qadianis to important positions. Moeed Yusuf was brought up and educated in the US. At very young age, he became an expert on the South Asian affairs and nuclear issues. He was appointed vice president of the USIP which was criticized. But the US said that he was 'American man'. Now this American man has become political advisor to Prime Minister Imran Khan. *We have seen such people earlier also, like Hussain Haqqani. Why are pro-America or pro-west people appointed for senior and important positions in Imran Khan's government? Oriya Maqbool said the question can be answered only by Imran Khan.* He said Moeed was brought from outside. Why he came or why was he brought?

Expectations! Editorial, Ummat, 29 December²⁵

The Federal Government of Pakistan restricted the jurisdiction of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to the politicians and has excluded government officers, other employees and businessmen from its actions. *The new ordinances says that the NAB has the authority to take action only against politicians. It implies that is possibility that the opposition leaders may face more actions in coming days.* No meeting or a session of the cabinet was held for passing the amendment. Though the NAB has been always a controversial institution, in recent times is seen that most of its activities have been driven against the opposition leaders. This is happening despite that the fact that many corrupt leaders and politicians are present in the government, against whom no action is being taken. *Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that businessmen need not to fear now from the NAB. He said many friends will be happy now who were afraid of the NAB.* How in reality (apart from his businessmen friends), in general businessmen and small businessmen have been facing difficulties of lack of gas, taxes, tax returns, among others. *... Instead of saying that "many friends" would be happy after the amendment in the ordinance, Imran Khan should have said that "only" his friends would be happy.* Like the previous governments, Imran led government is also bringing in laws that are beneficial to his government only. No one thinks about the country. The new amendment in the NAB Ordinance keeps out government employees or corruption cases of less than Rs. 500 million of the NAB's jurisdiction. *Experts who have studied the*

²⁵ <http://ummat.net/2019/12/29/news.php?p=idr1.gif>

amendment say that there is some hidden intention behind the move. It is discriminatory and should be challenged in the court.

ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Capital Talk with Hamid Mir, Debate with PTI MNS's on government's performance and Issues, Geo News, 02 December²⁶

The PTI government has crossed one and half years in power and not only opposition and common man, even the MNS's (Member National Assembly) and leaders within the party fold have started asking questions on the performance of the government, especially in respect to the increasing cost of living. *On this episode of Capital Talk Hamid Mir invites MNS's of the PTI party from Karachi, KPK and Lahore to debate on the government's performance and Issues.* The main points of the discussion are as follows are, *first* all the three MNS's agree that in the PTI government nobody talks about the issues of the common people. Atta Ullah from Karachi argues that the ministers sitting in the front rows of assembly do not bother to raise voice of common people and put their self-interest first before national interest. These ministers he argues are sitting in the front rows from thirty years and change their party according to their convenience. *Second, giving* the example of Mashal Khan (Killed by lynching) and Naqeebullah Mehsud (killed in fake encounter), the MNS from KPK Nurul Alam Khan Points out that this government has not been able to give justice to both of them. Instead of giving justice an FIR was registered against Mashal's father Iqbal Kala and Naqubullah's father passed away a few days back fighting for justice for his son, without any result. *(It has to be noted that before coming to power Imran Khan stood for the justice of the two people and gave speeches from the stage to arrest the people responsible).* Third, they all agree that the democratic thinking people in the PTI have reduced. Alam Khan adds that the trend of labeling everyone talking against the government as Indian or Afghani agent is really problematic within the government. The MNS's underline that they do not raise voice against the government but against the increasing prices (*hum hukumat ke Kilaf nahi, mehangi ke kilaf awaz ute ge*). If the government does not like our voice, we are ready to resign. Fourth, the Ministers in the government does not know the ground reality and it's the MNS who work for the people.

²⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQvB9wyDKnk>

Instead of cooperating with the MNS's a few ministers complain against the MNS's to the PM. The Prime Minister is fed with wrong information's.

Debate with opposition leaders on the performance of PTI government, Capital Talk with Hamid Mir, Geo News, 03 December²⁷

On this episode of Capital Talk Hamid Mir invites the opposition leaders to discuss and debate the performance of the PTI government and the strategy of the opposition to tackle this issue. The main points from the discussion are *first*, the opposition leaders argue that the 2018 elections were not fair and after one and half years it looks like the government is not working. Ehsan Iqbal of the PML-N argues that the country Pakistan is bigger than Prime Minister Imran Khan's ego. *Second*, in the one and half years they argue that the PTI government have not tried to connect with the opposition or establish a working relationship. *Third*, their own members have started pointing the fingers at the government and have begun to openly criticise their performance. There is a high chance that a no motion against the government can be moved in house when the PTI starts losing support of their party members. *Fourth*, also the change in the public opinion due to the PTI's non performance, mainly increasing cost of life can force the government to step down. The opposition is looking forward to a free and fair election.

Sethi Sey Sawal, Q and A on Bajwa's Extension issue, Najam Sethi Official, 3rd December²⁸

Q: Will there be any consensus between the PTI government and opposition on the issue of making changes in the army act?

A: The PTI government has already formed a *rabatta committee* to talk with the opposition on this issue but the catch is that it was formed by the blessings and pressure of the army. *This committee of the government constitute of Asad Umer, Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Parvez Khatak. The first two are very close to the establishment and Parvaz Khatak is close to PM.* This time the establishment want to take the opposition on board so that it can be said that the extension and change in army act is a unanimous decision of all political parties that represent the public of the country. But on the other hand Imran Khan is hell bent on attacking the opposition leaders and nabbing them under the pretext of NAB for corruption. The ball is now in the court of the opposition if they want to cooperate with the government on this issue or not.

²⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WbND4Kvn48>

²⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GTtWYTEF5JQ>

So this is both a legal as well as political battle and it needs to be seen if the opposition parties go for negotiations with the government or stick to their guns to oppose the government.

Q: Will the opposition parties give a joint resistance or go their own paths?

A: Currently most of the mainstream opposition parties are playing it alone and safe. The PML-N is still formulating a strategy and has passed on the buck to Nawaz Sharif in London and said we will follow what he will decide on the topic. Bilawal Bhutto is also playing a bit safe and asked how the PTI will pass the army *act but towards the end he surprisingly changed his stance and underlined that PPP will support the army act and extension issue only when Imran Khan resigns from this government.* Zardari's bail application can be a step towards negotiation with the government. Maulana Fazl Ur Rahman has kept his stand clear and said that only when Imran Khan resigns, and Pakistan have free and fair elections, then only we will talk about extension. Surprisingly ANP (Awami National Party) has taken a strong anti establishment stand and questioned Bajwa's extension openly underlining he should resign immediately.

Q: What will change in Pakistan politics in the coming four months?

A: As of now there is no order from the supreme court to pursue the case yet. The opposition will try to drag it for longer time and will not cooperate so as to put pressure on the government. Imran Khan will also not stop attacking the opposition which will further state the establishment and the issue will get complicated. *Imran Khan will be lucky if he survives this opposition on the issue in the coming months and the opposition will be stupid if they do not use the opportunity to question the government on this issue and topple it.* The most urgent matter Imran Khan needs to resolve is the governance in Punjab because they say Punjab is Pakistan but every two months he makes some silly changes in Punjab and praises Usman Buzdar as Chief Minister. It seems like somehow Imran Khan thinks that if Buzdar is removed his position will be weakened. Also he knows that the Prime Ministership is due to the blessings of the army and tomorrow if they remove their support he is finished. That is why he will not stop attacking the opposition parties, mainly PML-N and PPP and make it his mission to weaken them. Due to this when the army tells him to take opposition together on the extension matter he does not do it wholeheartedly. *Imran Khan thinks that he will take care of domestic politics and army of the national security but the establishment knows that domestic situation is getting worse and that the opposition will exploit this void.*

Jirga with Saleem Safi, Pakistan's current Economy, Geo News, 8th December²⁹

On today's episode of Jirga, Saleem Safi invites Farooq Salim, Mehtab Haider and Shahbaz Raina to discuss on the current economic situation of Pakistan. The main points from this discussion are, *first*, the latest Moody's report on Pakistan and the state of current account deficit are not the real indicators of the country's economy. The real indicators are inflation and unemployment. The price inflation is sky rocketing in the country while on the other hand income is flat. *Second*, there is a void between the government and the ground realities faced by the people. The prime minister get overwhelmed by the briefings of his economic team and announce the same to the people. The GDP growth during PML-N government was 5.7% while now its 2.2%. *Third*, the food inflation is result of the problem of governance structure of the PTI government. They have removed the review of essential food prices from the agenda altogether. *Fourth*, One year has passed and the government does not know what to do. May be the beginning three months they could blame the previous government but it cannot go on blaming them for the degrading economic situation. Moody's report has given B3-ve for credit rating to Pakistan which is not a good news. The government has taken 11 thousand Arab loan in within one year. *Fifth*, food inflation in Pakistan right now is 16 and a half while in other south Asian countries it's under one digit. The demand pull is low and the cost push inflation is really high and the cost push cannot be pulled down forcefully but need change in policy. *Sixth*, the common people of Pakistan spend almost 60% of their income on food and the food inflation has hit them hard as their earnings remain the same. While the government employees does not have to worry as their cost is taken care by the government subsidies.

Capital Talk with Hamid Mir, Bajwa will retire if Law not formed within six Months, Geo News, 16 December³⁰

The Supreme Court of Pakistan has ordered the PTI government to form a law related to the extension for the post of army chief failing which after the six month extension of General Qamar Bajwa, he will be declared retired from the post. The two main questions asked in this to the panel, Faisal Wada, PTI, Khurram Dastgir, PML-N and Justice retired Usmani are: will the government take six months to form the law? Or they will take the opposition on board and do it before the stipulated six months? The main points are:

²⁹ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGU_p6kFF1Y

³⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxAnFtDvXaI>

First, Khurram Dastgir is of the view that there are two solutions, one temporary and one permanent. The temporary solution is to bring change in the army act with a simple majority in the parliament and it will suit only if it's individual or in this case Bajwa specific. Permanent solution is to bring constitutional amendment by an act of parliament. This is a long term solution and need majority support and this is the only permanent solution for the issue at hand. *Second*, The Supreme Court has said that the army act is deficient under article 243, clause 3 and does not mention term and tenure for extension. It has thus directed the government to come up with a law that will provide certainty and predictability to the post of Chief of Army Staff (COAS). *Third*, Usmani is of the view that if the government is looking for giving more than three year extension to Bajwa, then army act will not work. Army act is just to run the affairs of the army but there is no law of regulation for extension of any chief, be it naval or army chief. The extension of army chiefs in the part like Musharraf and Kiyani were all traditional and tradition has no relation to law. *Fourth*, Faisal Wada of the PTI made it clear that they will not talk to the opposition for the extension issue as the option is corrupt. He says that they have all the options to solve the issue and choose accordingly. Also he declared that the opposition will come to board on this issue when time comes. The PML-N leader blames that the government has not come up with any text on this issue to talk to them so how they can expect opposition to cooperate.

Aaj Shahzeb Khanzada Kay Sath, The Pervez Musharraf Judgment, Geo News, 17th December³¹

After 12 years, the special court in Pakistan has given a historic judgment related to Pervez Musharraf's case, who in 2007 declared emergency in the country, made changes in the constitution of Pakistan to appoint himself as the President of Pakistan. He has been found guilty and sentenced to death. In this episode the host debates over the verdict of the court with guests ranging from attorneys general to political leaders from the government as well as opposition. The main points are: *First*, this judgment has changed the political atmosphere of the country. The opposition is happy with the judgment whereas the PTI government and the establishment are not happy and thinks that the judiciary is taking the judgment against army in a hurry thus pushing them to the wall. *Second*, in its press release, the ISPR has criticised the decision and has underlined that "the decision given by the special court about General Pervez Musharraf, retired has been received with lot of pain

³¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOu-RhJVL4o>

and anguish by the rank and file of Pakistan armed force". It further stresses that he has served the country for 40 years and have fought many wars. *Third*, in the latest joint press conference on the issue by Attorney General Anwar Mansoor and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Information Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan, the government defending the self-exiled, ailing ex-president and termed the high treason trial "unfair". Attorney general stressed that Pervez Musharraf is ill and hospitalized in Dubai, what was the rush to give this judgment. *Fourth*, on this episode the Lieutenant General Naeem Khalid Lodhi stressed that Pervez Musharraf has not got a fair chance to record his statement and has not got a fair judgment. The critics of this judgment are pointing out that it is a selective judgment and that Pervez Musharraf has been single outed while leaving out the collaborators and aiders from any punishment. *Fifth*, On the other hand the court is arguing that the punishment is for suspending the constitution and for electing himself President and not about the wars he fought. How can it be a selective application of judgment? If he has done six rights and one wrong, that too a high treason case, it does not mean he will not be punished. Akhtar Ausaf the present attorney on this show underlined that that if any one has an issue they can file a compalin but the principla accused does not have the right to say that first punish the facilitators and then come to me.

Capital Talk with Hamid Mir, Discussion with legal and constitutional experts on Mush raff verdict & para 6, 19th December³²

On this episode of Capital talk the legal and constitutional experts discuss the detailed judgment of Musharraf case and the relevance of para 6. The main points from the discussions are, *First*, the constitution of Pakistan talks about protection and para 6 is an addition by one judge and it is not applicable in practice. Rest of the detailed judgment is fine but para 6 is an unnecessary addition to the judgment and looks like it has been added grudgingly. Para 6 is not the order of court and its imaginary to think that a body can be dragged and hanged at D-chowk. *Second*, In order to appeal in the Supreme Court Musharraf has to be present and his surrender is necessary. He was given many chances in the part but he left the country. But if he says that on basis of complications in his health he cannot travel to Pakistan, then the Supreme Court can guide him or show a road map. *Third*, the government is talking about filing a reference in the supreme judicial council against Justice Seth Waqar who used para 6. But the experts on this show are of the view that

³² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iT7r4mLIGbU>

such a thing is not possible. Para 6 is to its best a mistake in the procedure by the judge and is not a misconduct and government cannot go to the judicial council on the basis of one mistake by Seth Waqar. Although they can debate and argue about the addition of the para. *Fourth*, the government's motive to prove the Judge as mentally ill is a direct slap to the dignity and grace of the judiciary. Only a doctor can say if one is mentally ill, not a government. The term mentally unfit should be treated as contempt of court and in fact Justice Seth can challenge this in the court against the government. Also the federal government has said it will stop the Judge Waqar Seth from performing his duty. By saying these malign things, the government has opened the gate for a new controversy.

Jirga with Saleem Safi, Q & A with Senator Siraj-ul-Haq, Chairman Jamait Islami, *Geo News*, 03 January³³

Q: *You gave the opening remarks for the march. What do you want to achieve through the recent Islamabad solidarity march for Kashmir? How will it affect Modi's propaganda in Kashmir and what is in there for the Kashmiris?* **A:** If Islamabad and its people go on the right track then the Kashmir cause will also go in the right direction. Through this march, we are trying to give one message that for Pakistan the first issue will always remain and should remain the Kashmir cause. At the same time we are here to give a wake-up call to the government to consult all stakeholders and come up with a road map for Kashmir. Three months and 13 Fridays later, India is trying to change Kashmir and its stadium is also renamed. Imran Khan has not done enough for the Kashmir cause while Modi was out there convincing the world to be on their side, Imran Khan just sat and gave a wake-up call. The two Kashmir protests were also organised on the behest of the establishment. Kashmir is not an issue of a particular party but of the whole country and its Kashmir that can unite both the government and opposition as well as people of Pakistan.

Q: *How do you see Imran Khan's decision to give a skip to the Kuala Lumpur Summit at the last moment? And why the go Imran slogan in the march?* **A:** It is one of his U-turn policy. If you remember in the last OIC the representative from India was sitting at a higher seat than Shah Mehmood Qureshi. But now after skipping the Summit Pakistan has isolated itself from the Muslim Ummah and will lose their trust in the future. Although no one from the government participated our party was a part of the Summit. Imran Khan

³³ <https://www.geo.tv/shows/jirga/263375-jirga-saleem-safi-22nd-december-2019>

should have attended the Summit and then should have convinced the others to make Saudi also part of the Summit. Imran Khan first gives us 100 days to fix everything but its more than 15 months nothing is done. In fact, it has made life more difficult for people. By now he should have known in which direction he has to lead. In house change is also not a solution, we are demanding fresh elections.

Q: In the march there were slogans of Kashmir ka ek ilaj-al Jihad-al Jihad (there is only one solution to Kashmir-Jihad), why? A: The chief Minister of Azad Kashmir was not consulted by the Prime Minister for the Kashmir cause. The Sadar of Azad Kashmir, Sardar Masood has clearly said that the UNO and other institutions cannot do anything for Kashmir and we should use our own hands to bring independence to Kashmir (*humaie apne bazo ke baal par Kashmir ko Azad karna hai*). We would have a clear road map for Kashmir until it becomes a permanent part of India, Pakistan should make it its part.

Capital Talk with Hamid Mir, Media Mafia: PTI's Scathing attack on Media, Geo News, 26th December³⁴

The PTI government has strongly started criticising the media and **has underlined that there is a Media Mafia who use to benefit from previous governments**, they are now writing against the government. It has further added that the media influences the decisions of the judiciary. Today's episode has guests from the media who discuss on the state of media in Pakistan and governments increasing attack on the media in general. The name of guests are Javid Chaudary, Rehimullah Yusufzai, Mazar Abbas and Benazir Shah. **The main points are: First**, Javid Chaudary is of the view that whenever a government is about to collapse it start criticising the media. In the last government of the PML-N, during the 2014 protests the government use to say that Imran Khan is paying the media and that the media content are paid. The same is happening now, albeit PTI is in the government now. **Second**, this year has been very stressful for the Imran Khan government. Rehimullah underlines that Imran Khan has made lots of promise but is not able to fulfill them **and the media mafia is a figment of his imagination and shows how frustrated he is at this stage**. If there is a mafia he should identify them, arrest and punish them. **Third**, Mazhar Abbas is of the view that if there is a media mafia the government should bring witness and he underlines that right now it's not Imran Khan but the frustrations of the PM that is getting exposed. They should form a media commission and start an

³⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0RaoWcT4vo>

inquiry. **Hamid Mir adds that there is already a case for media commission that was made to expose secret funds transferred to some media persons in the previous government.** The funds were finally frozen and the names of media persons were exposed. He argues that the PTI government should expose the media mafias in the same manner. *Fourth*, Rehimullah adds that the PTI government in KPK is getting exposed for its incomplete projects, especially the BRT Peshawar and Swat motorway. The NAB is likely to make some arrests in case of BRT Peshawar in order to counter the perception that they only target opposition leaders. *Fifth*, The PTI government has filed a review petition related to the Bajwa case. They are scared to bring the case in the parliament for debate as it will need the support of the opposition if it wants to bring a law for extension. The opposition parties are in favour to bring it in parliament while it's the government that is reluctant. If the PTI do not take a suitable call in this case, then the 6 months extension of Bajwa will expire and he will be declared retired. *Sixth*, Media is a public opinion and the judiciary is the law and if the government tries to suppress them, it will be detrimental for the PTI government.

Naya Pakistan with Shahzad Iqbal, PTI's new NAB Amendment Ordinance 2019, Geo News, 29th December³⁵

The PTI government recently introduced a national accountability amendment ordinance 2019 through a presidential ordinance to make changes in the accountability laws of NAB (National Accountability Bureau). **It has been criticised by the opposition as they say its result of Niyazi-NAB association and the change in NAB laws will be beneficial for leaders in the government (including PM) and selected businessmen associated with the PTI.** Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Accountability Mirza Shahzad Akbar answers questions on the new amendment on this episode. **Some important points from the discussion are:** *First*, the opposition is criticising the amendment saying it is to make the grip of NAB stronger on opposition and bring the government out of alleged cases. The PPP has called it mother of all NRO's. *Second*, Shahzad Akbar on this episode defending the change argued that it was the opposition who was asking for changes in the NAB laws and now when it's done, it makes noises against it. *Third*, when asked why the change is brought through an ordinance and not through a parliamentary committee, Akbar replied that the opposition is not in favour of a principled amendment. He added it's a self-serving amendment and will make things better. *Fourth*, Akbar further explained that under 9A the misuse of authority clause is explained further. If there is some procedural lapse in a case then it

³⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7ZRY0zff10>

will not come under the NAB. Only when there is monetary benefits taken by people, the cases will go to the NAB. *Fifth*, talking about the benefits to business community he said that certain business enterprises feel scared of working with the government, the new change will benefit public-private partnerships and also restore confidence of the bureaucracy who are scared that their work will be cut short due to NAB.

STATISTICS

BOMBINGS, SHOOTINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES

(Select incidents culled out from the Pakistan media)

Place	Date	Description	Killed	Injured
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa				
North Waziristan (Panjgur district) ³⁶	01/12/2019	1 FC personnel martyred, 2 injured in exchange of fire with terrorists in North Waziristan: ISPR	01	02
Charkhel village ³⁷	06/12/2019	Two soldiers martyred in Waziristan	04	01

³⁶<https://www.dawn.com/news/1519865/1-fc-personnel-martyred-2-injured-in-exchange-of-fire-with-terrorists-in-north-waziristan-ispr>

³⁷ <https://dailytimes.com.pk/514335/two-soldiers-martyred-in-waziristan-daily-times/>

