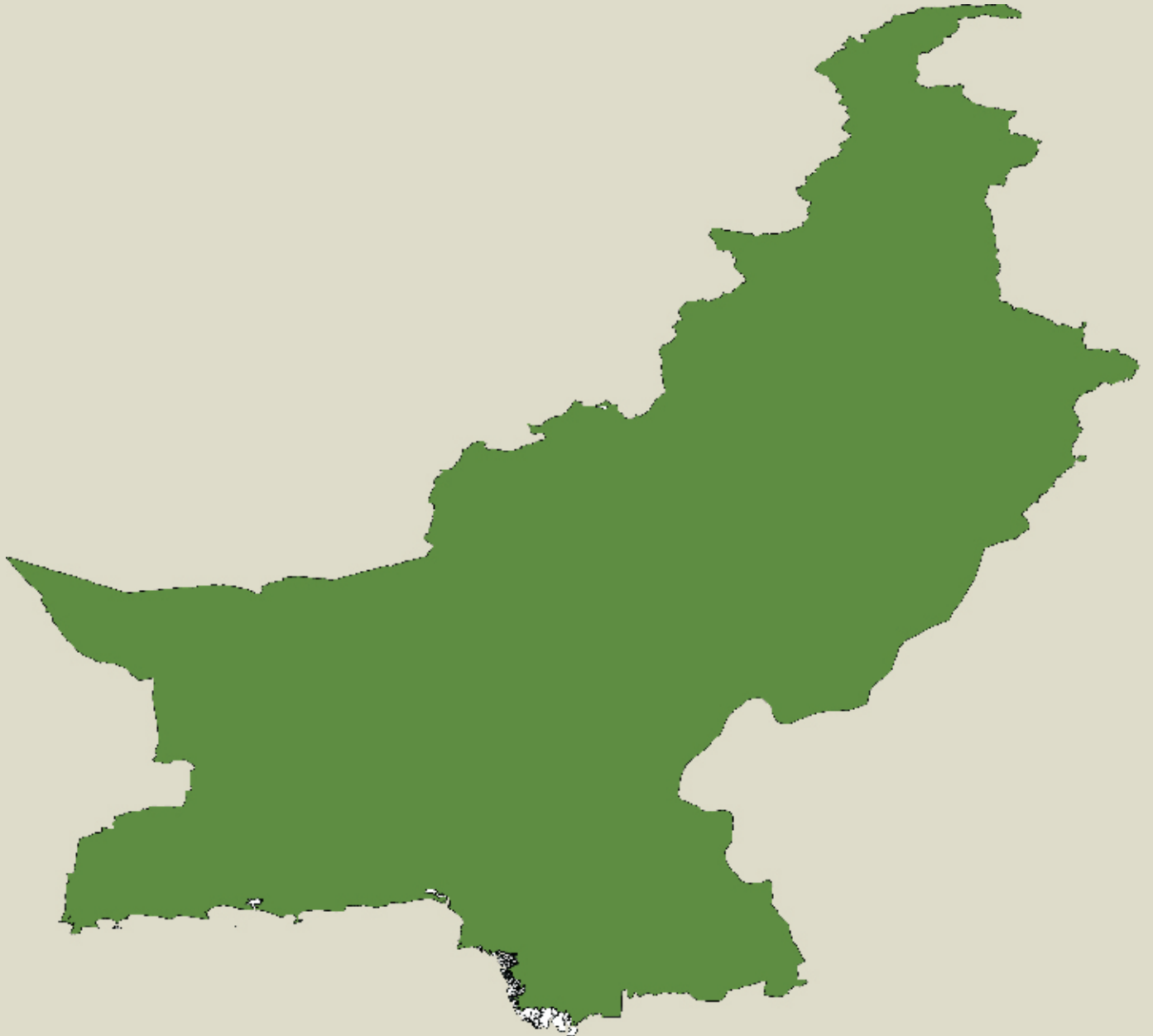


JANUARY 2018

PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST

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



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

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PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST, JANUARY 2018

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Editorial

The year started with an unexpected political crisis in Balochistan termed as the biggest setback for the ruling PML-N government. More than fourteen provisional assembly lawmakers including the Chief Minister's most trusted aide Home Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti submitted a no-confidence motion against the government of Sanaullah Zehri. Nawaz Sharif termed it a politically motivated move meant to postpone the upcoming Senate elections. Analysts believe that the ruling PML-N with two-third majority in the parliament was expected to secure a majority and had a chance to win more than half of the seats in the Senate elections scheduled to be held in March. But the no-confidence motion shattered the dreams of the PML-N and the political crisis in the province is termed as the beginning of the end for the Nawaz League by experts in both print and electronic media.

The brutal rape and murder of an eight-year old girl, Zainab, raised questions about child safety in the wake of such a heinous crime. Incidentally, this case coincided with the worldwide social media movement “#metoo”, (focusing on widespread sexual assault and harassment in work around the world). The attention of the world was drawn towards the small town of Kasur in Pakistan, where this incident took place. As a result, the floodgates of protests and agitations against the inaction of the authorities opened across the country demanding justice for Zainab. This case turned out to be only the tip of the iceberg exposing the rampant child abuse across the country. Zainab's case triggered a debate on child abuse in Pakistan in all forms of media, especially social media, in a huge way.

On the security front, the government unveiled a religious fatwa, ‘*Paigham-e-Pakistan*’ fatwa (religious edict) in order to combat the increasing challenges of terrorism, extremism and sectarianism in Pakistan. With increasing pressure from the US to act on the terrorism front, the fatwa issued by various religious scholars belonging to different schools of thought was seen as an attempt to imply that action was being taken in the right direction to crack the terror structures. Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal, while addressing the unveiling ceremony, underlined “the urgent need for Muslim nations to progress and have something positive to show over the next 400 years, and touted the fatwa as a means to obtain national unity”. Analysts in the Pakistan media termed it as an attempt to improve the soft image of the country as well as to promote Islam as a peaceful religion and highlighted it as a collective effort by “state

institutions, within the ambit of the Constitution, to cleanse society of the menaces of extremism and terrorism”.

The fake encounter of Naqeebullah Mehsud in Karachi by SSP Sind Rao Anwar opened the lid of the numerous extra judicial killings by the Pakistan police to climb the ladder of success. Another interesting fact that emerged was that Mehsud, a resident of the militancy-hit North Waziristan, was an easy target for the police as no questions were asked about encounters from the area in the past. The encounter has hurt the sentiments of the Pashtuns who are now protesting in the open for justice for Mehsud and the arrest of the absconding officer. Experts underline that the people of these tribal areas will use the protests to highlight the negligence and isolation faced by the region at the hands of the government and it would become a deciding factor, as to which side the Pashtun votes would swing, in the upcoming general elections.

Dr. Zainab Akhter

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

A critical year for democracy, Umair Javed, Dawn, 01 January¹

.....events from 2017 in particular have introduced new complications for the 2018 polls that go well beyond procedural disagreements. What matters more now are the stakes involved and the level of personalized bitterness between the PML-N and the PTI in Punjab, which raise the threat of election-related violence and subsequent de-legitimisation of results at a scale not seen since 1977. *However, despite all that has transpired, the system stumbles on and offers another chance in the shape of an on-schedule general election to move a few steps in the direction of normalcy and stability.*

Asleep at the wheel, Editorial, The Express Tribune, 02 January²

Advancing into 2018 it would be all too easy to imagine that the overall security environment in the country is steadily improving. *That it has improved in the last two years is undeniable. ... And yet it would be both naive and foolish to imagine that the threat presented by anti-state elements is in any way defeated. They have not gone anywhere despite taking a drubbing, and the climate and social environment in which they live and thrive is unchanged. ...* The IM carries the corpse of the National Action Plan (NAP) that sprung to life in the wake of the Army Public School massacre. It looked good on paper but quickly got caught in the reefs of irresolution, diverging political interests and priorities and plain old political inertia that has grown as the date of the next election comes ever closer. ...

Spill the beans, Editorial, The Nation, 04 January³

Public pressure is a strategy which may partially work well for politicians; however, we wonder if they ever look at the reaction to such threats. *Nawaz Sharif's threat that he will "spill the beans" of what took place in Islamabad for the last four years, may ring well in the ears of his supporters, but comes up as contradictory to those who critically analyze it.* Nawaz's statement clearly implied that there were external factors which were and had been getting in the way of fair and free elections; which were harming democracy and inducing artificial support for their favorable political parties. Nawaz

¹ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1379980/a-critical-year-for-democracy>

² <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1598147/6-asleep-at-the-wheel-2/>

³ <https://nation.com.pk/04-Jan-2018/spill-the-beans>

Sharif also indicates that such interference had been occurring for some time, as he threatened to spill the happening of the last four years. ...

Coquihalla in Afghanistan, Samson Simon Sharaf, *The Nation*, 06 January⁴

... For the past three decades, Afghanistan, located on this geo strategic highway, is America's Coquihalla wreck that USA is in no hurry to clear. *Attempts at bringing stability by Pakistan in 1977, 1996 and 2002 were all dashed. Plucking OBL from Sudan and creating Al Qaida in Afghanistan were never Pakistan's creations.* Yet it can never be denied that Pakistan is the only Rotator that can help change dynamics in Afghanistan to Peace. ... [Therefore], *instability in Afghanistan is the only constant and would remain for many reasons. It provides ingress to Russia's underbelly, keeps China in check, double contains Iran and Pakistan and keeps the unstable Southern Front of Middle East in US Control.* In nutshell, this instability is a crucial plank of US policy that stalls development in Central Asia, Iran and Pakistan. ... *A point has reached where floating threats from terrorism have been strangulated in Pakistan while, narcotics and gun running intrinsically linked to terrorism thrive in Afghanistan.* ISIS is relocating and rebranding in Afghanistan not because of Pakistan but against it. ...

Pakistan cautions US about consequences of anti-Taliban offensive, Anwar Iqbal, *Dawn*, 08 January⁵

While Pakistanis reject the US charge that they have allowed the Haqqani Network to maintain safe havens, they appear more eager to understand the US plan to defeat the Taliban. But they fear that a major military offensive, without engaging some Taliban factions in direct talks first, could be counter-productive. The Taliban might outlive this offensive too, and deal with it "lying low in their mountain fastness, as they did with previous offensives," And in the process Pakistan will lose whatever influence it has. With all lines of communication closed, the Taliban will become even more dangerous, particularly for Pakistan, which has always faced the blowback of previous adventures in Afghanistan, whether launched by the Russians or Americans.

⁴ <https://nation.com.pk/06-Jan-2018/coquihalla-in-afghanistan>

⁵ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1381550/pakistan-cautions-us-about-consequences-of-anti-taliban-offensive>

Jilted lover syndrome, Zahid Hussain, Dawn, 10 January⁶

Pakistan has survived the 1990s when it was the most sanctioned country with all US aid having been stopped, and it can do so now as well. What is most dangerous, however, is the revival of the retrogressive discourse that fighting terrorism and militancy is America's war. Nothing could be more nonsensical. *Thousands of our soldiers have not been killed fighting for the American cause; they gave their lives fighting the terrorists responsible for the death of thousands of Pakistanis.* Pakistan faced an existential threat with our northwest tribal regions and part of KP once being under the control of the Pakistani Taliban. We have to continue fighting them irrespective of our future relationship with the US.

Stop intimidating dissenters, Editorial, Daily Times, 11 January⁷

It is about has been stated time and again that the government of Pakistan needs to ensure protection for journalists and progressive activists who are currently on the receiving end of violence, but the state has so far done little to bring an end to these incidents. It's time the Parliament took a tough stance against the practice of intimidation of dissenting voices under the garb of national security. If such incidents continue to take place, it would be a collective failure of all democratic forces. *Politicians who claim to be the champion of democratic values are shamelessly silent over the current threat to journalists and activists.* It is time for the authorities to move beyond lip-service and act against those trying to threaten and intimidate dissenting voices.

Walking a tightrope, Moonis Ahmar, Daily Times, 12 January⁸

Under the prevailing situation Pakistan is facing regional isolation following the hostile posture of Afghanistan, Bangladesh and India. Following the overt US threats of facing serious consequences if Islamabad fails to take action against what it calls 'safe heavens' of terrorist groups, Pakistan is walking on a tight rope. *But what is alarming is the manner in which Pakistan is being coerced by the US, India and Afghanistan. First, it will not be easy for Pakistan to detach itself from the United States because of its age old economic and military dependence on Washington.* It is not only the question of coalition

⁶ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1381973/jilted-lover-syndrome>

⁷ <https://dailytimes.com.pk/178335/stop-intimidating-dissenters/>

⁸ <https://dailytimes.com.pk/179078/walking-a-tightrope/>

support fund and 1.5 billion dollars of economic and military aid which has been suspended but American clout on major international lending agencies like the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and International Monetary Fund. It is estimated that if there is total rupture in Pak-US relations, an amount of 10 \$ billion dollars will be at stake which is around 25 percent of Pakistan's federal budget.

Why US will fail in Afghanistan, Javid Husain, *The Nation*, 16 January⁹

Washington has ratcheted up its pressure on Islamabad. President Trump's highly offensive tweet of 1 January, accusing Pakistan of "lies and deceit" and for having provided haven to the terrorists in Afghanistan, was soon followed by the suspension of the US security assistance to Pakistan. ... *The fact of the matter is that even apart from Afghanistan, Pakistan and the US are on a different strategic course. As the US gets closer to India strategically to counterbalance the expansion of China's power and influence in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region, Pakistan and China would have no choice but to seek closer strategic partnership with each other to safeguard their vital security interests.* Pakistan's foreign policy and security planners must prepare the country for the consequences of this inexorable and irreversible course of strategic divergence on which the US and Pakistan are currently embarked. ... *Afghanistan has turned into an area of serious policy differences between Pakistan and the US. These differences, if not handled properly, will have extremely negative repercussions on Pakistan-US relations as should be evident by now. ...*

The leadership crisis, Rasul Bakhsh Rais, *The Express Tribune*, 17 January¹⁰

Political leadership at the national level emerges as a result of the democratic political process. ... *The major political parties of Pakistan that have been in and out of power for the past half century or so are undisputedly dynastic. The leadership transition, if any, has taken place within the dynastic political family in control of the party.* Consider the PPP, the PML-N, the ANP and the JUI: common among all of them is the dynastic factor. Beyond the political parties, we see the same dynastic political forces at play at the level of each constituency that elects members of the assemblies. ... *The class structure of the political base of the parties and electoral politics of Pakistan has not changed. The problem is that it is not open to a fair competition for*

⁹ <https://nation.com.pk/16-Jan-2018/why-us-will-fail-in-afghanistan>

¹⁰ <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1610352/6-the-leadership-crisis/>

the new political aspirants. One has to be a member of a political family with a solid social base in land, tribe, cast and clan to run for elections. ... *There are two ways that will end political stagnation and create space for new leaders. First urbanisation and second democracy within the political parties.* Until that happens, we must endure the dynastic leaders.

The President, the Cleric and the Captain, Hassan Javid, *The Nation*, 21 January¹¹

It sounds like the setup to a bad joke. A former president, a Canadian-Pakistani cleric, and a legendary cricket captain walk on to a stage. *Except, this actually happened earlier this week, when long-time political frenemies Asif Zardari, Tahir-ul-Qadri, and Imran Khan descended upon Lahore's Charing Cross to protest against the government.* Ostensibly brought together by a common thirst for justice and accountability in the Model Town Incident (when 14 PAT workers were killed by the police in 2014), the three leaders took the opportunity to lambast the PML-N for a variety of reasons, ranging from the party's alleged corruption and incompetence to its inability to find and punish the perpetrator of the rape and murder of seven-year-old Zainab in Kasur last week. *However, all the rousing rhetoric and spittle-flecked invective that was hurled on stage by the leaders and their supporters could not mask what was presumably an uncomfortable truth; despite the fallout from the Panama Case and months of relentless campaigning against the PML-N, the combined forces of the PAT, PPP, and PTI could muster a crowd that, by Pakistan's standards, was of marginal significance at best.* ... What, then, underpins this unlikeliest of political alliances? Simply put, the electoral logic behind it is arguably sound. As matters currently stand, there are some facts that must inevitably be factoring into the decisions being taken by all of Pakistan's major parties. ...

The election quagmire, Aitzaz A Chaudhary, *Daily Times*, 23 January¹²

Despite the overhyped ruckus, the Balochistan Assembly's dissolution will not affect the Senate elections, let alone the 2018 general elections. While it seemed plausible that the dissolution of Balochistan assembly will have devastating impact on the upcoming Senate Elections, the frazzled PML-N leadership and its allies, however, believed that the crisis would not only effect the Senate elections, but also destabilize the current set-up and general elections, in case other provincial assemblies like Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa decided to follow suit. The Balochistan crisis can only transform into a real national crisis if the PPP and PTI decide to dissolve the Sindh and KP assemblies a few months

¹¹ <https://nation.com.pk/21-Jan-2018/the-president-the-cleric-and-the-captain>

¹² <https://dailytimes.com.pk/186532/the-election-quagmire/>

before the completion of their government's respective tenure, for an early general election.

Making peace with Israel, Hussain Nadim, *The Express Tribune*, 24 January¹³

There are bad policies, and then there are senseless policies. The good thing about bad policies is that they can be changed. The problem with senseless policies is that they are path dependent and nobody knows why they are there to begin with. Changing them, hence, is a challenge nobody is willing to take. *Pakistan's position on Israel is one of those senseless policies that have been in practice for over seven decades handicapped by inertia, propaganda and misplaced emotions that no one dares to even question the need to revise the policy. As a foreign policy realist, I have long been a strong proponent for a major disruption in Pakistan's foreign policy that includes opening up of ties with Israel as a necessary step to balance Pakistan's Middle East equation, win favorable position in Washington, DC, and most importantly have one enemy less in a seemingly hostile neighbourhood.* One could understand Pakistan's position on Israel back in 1950s and 1960s; the need to be part of the Ummah, reap the benefits of growing Islamic bloc, etc. despite the fact that the Ummah provided little support to Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. But 1970s onwards Pakistan's policy not to recognize Israel is plain ridiculous. ...

Theological battle, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, 28 January¹⁴

In the run-up to the election it was becoming clear that the province of Khyber Pakhtunwa (KP) is going to witness a rivalry between several religious groupings, each trying to outdo each other in religious fervour. This scenario was apparent after Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) made an alliance with JUI-S and also when the MMA was restored. The first clash between the two alliances is over the KP government's decision to allow a monthly stipend for prayer leaders of the province. PTI government went ahead with the decision which was criticised widely for being a thinly disguised bribe to the religious vote bank. Now MMA is using the same premise for criticising the move, but has added a few embellishments as well. Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazal (JUI-F) claimed that *"the K-P government is implementing the Western agenda by proposing appointment of paid imams in*

¹³ <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1616257/6-making-peace-israel/>

¹⁴ <https://nation.com.pk/28-Jan-2018/theological-battle>

mosques," and that such moves were "un-Islamic". ... Countering such criticism will require a very effective agenda setting by PTI. Ultimately however, this is only a futile clash as theological debates are never won by any party, but the alliances are ready to fight these battles because this is safest ground to battle on.

Limits of American power, Javid Husian, *The Express Tribune*, 30 January¹⁵

The Trump administration has got into the dangerous habit of issuing unilateral demands and ultimatums to governments around the world that do not see eye to eye with it on different issues. Unilateral demands on Pakistan relating to the Afghanistan situation are an example of this tendency. ... The global political scene and the security environment have undergone a dramatic change since then, mainly because of the phenomenal growth of China's economic power followed by the rapid build-up of its military muscle. In 1980, China's GDP was less than \$300 billion. *By 2017, it had risen to \$11.9 trillion making it the world's second-largest economy at market exchange rates. ...* Nevertheless, the present geopolitical reality is that the US unipolar moment is behind us in historical terms because of China's phenomenal rise and a re-assertive Russia. The US is no longer in a position to dictate to the rest of the world with the same ease as it used to do in 1990's. ...

Preparing for polls, Editorial, *Dawn*, 30 January¹⁶

The quality of democracy in the country will ultimately only be as good as the quality of democratic institutions. Few, if any, of the mainstream political parties have given priority to the strengthening of democratic institutions. *The persistent uncertainty and doubt that has hovered over the democratic process has many reasons, an anti-democratic lobby in the country being one of the foremost.* Moreover, as Pakistan's population grows, the need for robust democratic institutions will also increase. Doing better is both necessary and possible.

SECURITY SITUATION

¹⁵ <https://nation.com.pk/30-Jan-2018/limits-of-american-power>

¹⁶ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1386028/preparing-for-polls>

Rise in extremism, Arsla Jawaaid, Dawn, 02 January¹⁷

That is no surprise in a country that cedes space to the extremist ideology of radical clerics and allows them to bring the capital on lockdown for weeks. While Pakistan's security dimension has improved, extremism has been on the rise, despite tremendous chatter on the subject. Rise in extremism cannot be quantified. The greatest impediment in investing in counter-extremism programming is the inability to measure and evaluate progress. *In Pakistan, alienation, exclusive politics and oppression are structural problems that extremists are trained and adept at exploiting and cultivating.*

Why is China Building a Military Base in Pakistan, America's Newest Enemy? Cristina Maza, News Week, 05 January¹⁸

As the Trump administration announced plans this week to cut all security funding to Pakistan, Beijing revealed it would build an offshore naval base near a strategic Pakistani port. The announcement comes as regional experts warn that China is replacing the U.S. as Pakistan's most important security partner and is using Pakistan to gain additional access to the Indian Ocean. *China's increased investments in Pakistan, combined with President Donald Trump's recent decision to cut all funding to the country, is driving Pakistan into Beijing's arms, experts warned.*

Pakistan's evolving nuclear doctrine, Hasan Ehtisham, The Express Tribune, 09 January¹⁹

If Pakistan has not released a nuclear doctrine, it does not mean that it has not got one. *It is understandable that a small nuclear power that espouses a limited aim of deterring coercion from a larger neighbor, maintaining calculated ambiguity would be a rational choice.* Clear articulation would limit Pakistani options. That said Pakistan's nuclear doctrine can be ascertained if, for instance, statements by its National Command Authority are read closely. *In September 2013, the NCA signalled that Pakistan would follow Full Spectrum Deterrence which surfaced during NCA meetings in 2015-16. Recently, the 23rd meeting of the NCA has reaffirmed its commitment to FSD. NCA's adviser for development Lt Gen (ret'd) Khalid Kidwai has shed*

¹⁷ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1380278/rise-in-extremism>

¹⁸ <http://www.newsweek.com/china-building-military-base-pakistan-america-balochistan-772092>

¹⁹ <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1603554/6-pakistans-evolving-nuclear-doctrine/>

rare light on FSD and articulated that by this policy every Indian target is now in Pakistan's striking range. ...

Paigham-i-Pakistan, Editorial, *Dawn*, 18 January²⁰

To bring all shades of religious opinion together to commit to a unified stance against extremism in Pakistan is a much-needed and symbolically significant first step. Religious differences have for too long been exploited by various groups to acquire influence over society and in the political arena. *The latest document, however, not only encapsulates a wider range of crimes committed in the name of faith but is also a far more comprehensive representation of the diverse strains of religious thought in the country.* At the same time, let us not deceive ourselves: Paigham-i-Pakistan will remain a declaration of intent alone unless followed by substantive steps.

Ethnic bias against Pashtuns, Jaffer Abbas Mirza, *Daily Times*, 20 January²¹

It's not just about Rao Anwar's transgression, it's about all those Nagebullahs who will continue to be victimized and stigmatised by the state because of its ethnic bias against the Pashtun community. Moreover, it is not the first time that Pashtuns have become victim of state oppression. My emphasis is, this killing is a result of a specific discourse against Pashtuns which Pakistan, first, had adopted from its British coloniser, and then advanced it during US-led war on terror (WoT). Pakistan (state) and especially people have not raised voice (exceptions are always there) because there is a perception that drones only kill terrorists. Similarly, the Pakistani military has been launching different military operations against 'terrorists' and during those operations, it has killed hundreds of its own civilians. But there is little challenge to military actions because of the prevailing narrative of 'evil' which is encapsulated in the discourse of terrorism. We started seeing all Pashtuns as suspects. As a result of systematic framing of evil, Pashtuns were discriminated and became victim of racial profiling which was seen last year when Punjab police issued instructions to keep an eye on Pashtun/Afghan street vendors.

Fighting extremism, Editorial, *Dawn*, 25 January²²

²⁰ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1383642/paigham-i-pakistan>

²¹ <https://dailytimes.com.pk/184570/ethnic-bias-pashtuns/>

²² <https://www.dawn.com/news/1384866/fighting-extremism>

The obstacle here is that while the LeT, its avatar the Jamaatud Dawa and its charity wing the Falah-i-Insaniyat Foundation are on the UNSC sanctions list, Pakistan has banned only the LeT. This action must also be applied to the other two entities, currently under watch, in order to comply with UN stipulations. Despite attempts to create legally tenuous separations between banned militant networks and their various wings, there is little doubt that the FIF, JuD and LeT are closely connected. *The fight against extremism cannot begin to be fought if militant networks are allowed to operate under the guise of social work or legitimate political activity.*

Iran can set a post-ISIS security policy for the region, Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, *The Nation*, 28 January²³

The defeat of Isis has not just heralded the return of stability to large swaths of territory. It is also fanning fresh conflict and tension including a concerted effort to revive the hysteria which has long obscured the reality of Iranian foreign policy. ... *To move from the current turmoil to a more stable environment, we must first and foremost turn to dialogue and other confidence-building measures.* At all levels we are facing a dialogue deficit in West Asia: Aspects of this are visible between the ruling and the ruled, between governments, and between peoples. Dialogue should aim to make clear that we all have similar concerns, fears, aspirations and hopes. Such dialogue can and must replace rhetoric and propaganda. Dialogue must be coupled with confidence building measures: promoting tourism; joint task forces on issues ranging from nuclear safety to pollution to disaster management; joint military visits; pre-notification of military exercises; transparency measures in armament; reducing military expenditures; and all leading eventually to a non-aggression pact. As a first step, the Islamic Republic proposes establishing a Regional Dialogue Forum in the Persian Gulf. Our longstanding invitation to dialogue remains open, and we look forward to the day our neighbours will accept it, and their allies in Europe and west will encourage it.

PROVINCES & REGIONS

Balochistan

²³ <https://nation.com.pk/28-Jan-2018/iran-can-set-a-post-isis-security-policy-for-the-region>

Balochistan Roundup 2017, Adnan Aamir, Daily Times, 03 January²⁴

Major political issue in Balochistan has always been negotiations with the Baloch insurgent leaders. This year again there was no headway on this matter and in fact the situation in terms of a possible patch-up with insurgent leader's further deteriorated. However, Gazzain Marri, son of Late Nawab Khair Baksh Marri returned to Balochistan after ending a 17 year self-imposed exile. Although, He was not directly involved in insurgent leadership but he still belongs to the family which allegedly founded the current wave of insurgency in the province. Now he is making desperate attempts to rejoin mainstream politics before 2018 elections. Politicians of Balochistan throughout the year bashed federal government for ignoring Balochistan in CPEC projects. *More than 20 press clubs are still closed in Balochistan. That was perhaps the saddest way to see the end of 2017 in Balochistan.*

A Political Crisis Brews in Balochistan, Muhammad Akbar, Dawn, 06 January²⁵

It appears that at the heart of this political development lies Mr. Sharif's ongoing estrangement with the military establishment, with the vote of no confidence against the Balochistan CM being viewed as a tit-for-tat move aimed at penalizing the former prime minister. *Mr. Zehri, however, is caught between the devil and the deep blue sea. He cannot afford to anger the establishment, neither does he want to face the ire of Mr. Sharif.* Commenting on the motion of no confidence, even PkMAP chief Mahmood Khan Achakzai said: "Sanaullah Zehri is being punished for being loyal to Nawaz Sharif."

Balochistan crisis: Lessons for PML N, Rafiullah Kakar, The Express Tribune, 11 January²⁶

Balochistan is once again in the headlines for all the wrong reasons. Opposition benches filed a no-confidence motion against the provincial chief minister, Nawab Sanaullah Zehri. Zehri needed a simple majority (33 votes) to continue as the Leader of the House. ... *Zehri failed to muster the required support due to a revolt from within his party and resigned, instead, to avert a political crisis.* Although Zehri's resignation has ostensibly calmed down

²⁴ <https://dailytimes.com.pk/172692/balochistan-roundup-2017/>

²⁵ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1381137>

²⁶ <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1605338/6-balochistan-crisis-lessons-pml-n/>

things, the crisis is far from subsiding. *If the theory of a plot against Senate elections is to be believed, then the threat persists because the candidates who are likely to replace Zehri — Saleh Bhootani, Jan Jamali, Changaiz Marri and Sarfaraz Bugti — are all considered to be close to the establishment and less likely to defy pressure for dissolving the assembly. ...*

Conspiracy theories on CPEC, Balochistan, Waqar Ahmed, *The News*, 17 January²⁷

Lawrence Sellin, Ph.D, is a retired US colonel with 29 years of service in the US Army Reserve and a veteran of Afghanistan and Iraq believes that Taliban, madrassas and Iran-Saudi factor may trigger a Shia-Sunni war in Balochistan, which will bring a Syria like situation in Balochistan. Iran is also fueling the Baloch insurgents and there are serious differences between Iran and Pakistan. He says China will use CPEC to acquire strategic advantage and completion of CPEC will seriously hurt the US interests. In view of the above, he says the US must stop focusing on Afghanistan's insurgency and instead focus on separating Balochistan from Pakistan. He opines Balochistan is likely to be center of next Shia-Sunni turf war. *He says that an independent and secular Balochistan would drive a stake into the heart of Pakistan's Islamization policy and its reliance on Islamic terrorism as an instrument of its foreign policy.*

State of affairs in Balochistan, Masood Hameed, *Daily Times*, 20 January²⁸

In our disorganized political system especially in Balochistan, no matter if a political party holds weak political prospects the leaders can be conferred a portfolio at the behests of their loyalty to the status quo. In the meantime, political observers also fear that in the coming few weeks the Balochistan Assembly will be dissolved if the CM of Balochistan Mr. Quddus Bizenjo writes to the governor to do so. The purpose of this seems to be to sabotage the next Senate elections. The people of Balochistan also express dismay over the terms of the federal government's agreement on Gwadar port with China. They

²⁷ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/269409-conspiracy-theories-on-cpec-balochistan>

²⁸ <https://dailytimes.com.pk/184514/state-affairs-balochistan/>

will be getting nothing out of the billion dollars project. *China is set to get 91 percent of the revenue generated from the port while 9 percent will go to the port a federally controlled authority. The irony, the local people of Gwadar even in this 21st Century are pathetically suffering from the problem of clean drinking water.*

Balochistan: Present & Future, Editorial, *The Nation*, 31 January²⁹

The information given to the Senate Functional Committee on Problems of Less Developed Areas show that the status of social services in the province is worse than in Somalia and Sudan. Balochistan, which makes one-third of Pakistan's land, is facing multiple problems. All these issues are proof of government's negligence. *All public sectors are in bad conditions, from health to education, from law and order to provision of clean drinking water. For instance, female mortality rate during childbirth in the province is four times higher than in the rest of the country.* The water crisis has escalated to such a level that even Quetta hardly manages water for its population.

'Gift' for Balochistan, Editorial, *Dawn*, 31 January³⁰

Ultimately, there will be a need for a hard-nosed analysis of the underlying challenges in Balochistan that have relegated the province to the bottom of the political, social and economic development ladder according to most independent measurements. Certainly, as in Fata, without adequate and well-spent economic resources, Balochistan would not be able to catch up with the rest of Pakistan. *At the same time, allowing political and security challenges to go unaddressed will only ensure that Balochistan remains in the grip of insecurity, no matter what the value of any financial or development package may.*

GB

The Kalash decline, Editorial, *Dawn*, 01 January³¹

Younger generation, already deprived of adequate educational facilities, has no choice but to study from textbooks meant for adherents of the majority faith,

²⁹ <https://nation.com.pk/31-Jan-2018/balochistan-present-future>

³⁰ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1386259/gift-for-balochistan>

³¹ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1379983/kalash-decline>

which amounts to what he described as “conversion through subtle indoctrination”. *The fact there is no written Kalasha script has further endangered the preservation of their heritage.* However, illegal logging has increased the frequency of flash floods in the valleys, and the mushrooming of hotels in the scenic location violates the Kalash’s customary property rights.

Taxation without representation, Afzal Ali Shigri, Dawn, 02 January³²

The tax is not accepted by the people of GB as the constitutional status of this region remains unsettled despite repeated demands of residents and the elected local legislative assembly, leading to the rejection of the newly imposed taxation by a non-representative body. The government of Pakistan has persistently refused to address this vital issue because this region is theoretically part of Jammu & Kashmir and its status has to be determined through a plebiscite according to a UN resolution. The GB Council is a typical creation of a colonized mindset imposing imperialist solutions on the natives. *To make matters worse, this body has no interest in the affairs of the region as the prime minister has no time and the other members lack interest, thereby leading to practically making it dysfunctional with rare meetings and rubber-stamping of agendas prepared by the babus of the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and GB.*

Taxation and politics in Gilgit-Baltistan, Mudabbir Akhund, Daily Times, 22 January³³

The political orphanage of GB is undeniably linked to the Kashmir dispute, and it is understood that Pakistan can never see GB detached from it, which in other words mean that people of GB will be able to exercise their fundamental rights only once the Kashmir dispute is resolved. But there has been zero progress on that front even after 70 years of Partition. GB has remained a political enigma with respect to its status as a polity since the day it was affiliated with Pakistan. *To come out from this perpetual politically volatile situation, the region has hitherto failed to create an all-inclusive and collective social movement around the issue of basic rights.*

³² <https://www.dawn.com/news/1380271/taxation-without-representation>

³³ <https://dailytimes.com.pk/186162/taxation-politics-gilgit-baltistan/>

FATA

Why can't FATA be a province? Ayaz Wazir, Daily Times, 10 January³⁴

The fact of the matter is that those who governed FATA for the last 70 years did nothing for its development. *The people there have lost their trust and confidence in them; which is why they want to take things into their own hands, like others in the four provinces, to achieve speedy development.* Those denying them this opportunity are bent upon raising trivial issue like how can a narrow strip of land be made a province which borders with Afghanistan and has no capital of its own in addition to no link road from end to end (Bajaur to South Waziristan). Last but not the least it is being said that if FATA is made a province that would open flood gates for others to follow. This is unfair. How can FATA be equated with others which are already part of province. FATA has always been a separate entity never been a part of any province. It is the first time that its fate will be decided to become a province or be merged with KP. If merger was that lucrative an option then why would Hazara, Southern Punjab and Karachi demand to be made of provinces.

Kalabagh Dam, Muhammad Zahid Rifat, The Nation, 30 January³⁵

If Pakistan dumps as much as about 21 billion dollars' worth of water into the Arabian Sea every year because we do not have sufficient water conservation system. This amounts to more than half of the total water the country receives in a year. According to the experts, the problem is that our current dam storage facility can only store a total of 30 days of water. ... Opposition to the construction of Kalabagh dam is to such an extent that the Provincial Assemblies of Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have adopted resolutions against it more than once during last couple of decades but apprehensions against the construction of Kalabagh dam that it would cause great losses to the two provinces are far from realities and facts and regretfully are merely based more on political and provincial biases and prejudices than facts. These prejudices and biases as well as apprehensions against the construction of Kalabagh dam being gravely harmful for the two provinces are being discussed briefly in this article to prove that all apprehensions and suppositions are simply wrong and nothing else. ...

³⁴ <https://dailytimes.com.pk/177609/cant-fata-province>

³⁵ <https://nation.com.pk/30-Jan-2018/kalabagh-dam>

RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIA

Beware Trump's Clumsy Tilt against Pakistan toward Modi's India, Charles Tiefer, *Forbes*, 02 January³⁶

What is the downside of Trump's clumsy tilt? First, we are driving Pakistan into China's arms. The Chinese want, and are getting, important ports for their expanding navy to use in the Indian Ocean, as well as economic ties. And, Pakistan can make it difficult logistically to support the American mission in Afghanistan. More important, Pakistan has a massive nuclear arsenal. *In the coming years, it may have the third largest nuclear arsenal in the world. Too much Trump tilting against Pakistan and toward Modi's BJP India feeds the potential onset of paranoia that tinges Pakistani nationalist elements in the population, the military, and the ISI (the intelligence apparatus).* A central tenet of American policy until now was to shore up the weak civilian government in Pakistan of Nawaz Sharif, and to focus on keeping Pakistan stable. There is no limit to the danger of undermining that civilian government. Yet Trump's clumsiness might potentially weaken the civilians.

Pak-India hope?, Editorial, *Dawn*, 02 January³⁷

Yet, the inconsistency of India's policy towards Pakistan is striking. *The Modi government has veered from aggressively maligning Pakistan and deploying anti-Pakistan rhetoric for domestic political purposes to occasionally permitting unexpected and somewhat positive gestures.* For Pakistan, the challenge remains the same: managing what is likely to remain a hostile relationship with India while reassessing a national security strategy for the long-term benefit of Pakistan itself. The dangerous outcome for Pakistan would be if it allowed hostility emanating from India to distort the fight against militancy and extremism domestically.

³⁶<https://www.forbes.com/sites/charlestiefer/2018/01/02/beware-trumps-clumsy-tilt-against-pakistan-toward-modis-bjp-india/#33c9571311e0>

³⁷ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1380268>

Nuclear signaling between India and Pakistan, Dr. Rizwan Zeb, *The Nation*, 03 January³⁸

There is an old Punjabi adage “Kehna Tei Noh tay sunana Noh Nou”. This adage best describes Indo-Pak nuclear signaling in a nutshell. Other important points to keep in mind are the timing and the target audience. *Keep these points in mind when analysing Indian Air Force Chief, Air Chief Marshal B.S. Dhanoa’s statement that the Indian Air Force has the ability to locate, fix and strike nuclear targets inside Pakistan*, The timing of the statement indicates that the Indian Air Chief was aiming at multiple audiences. *For Islamabad, it was a clear nuclear signal.* ... Pakistani Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif responding to this stated, in case of an Indian strike on Pakistan’s nuclear installations, nobody should expect restraint from us. ... *All in all, Dhanoa’s statement was aimed at the domestic audience and for boosting the morale of the IAF and the Indian public.* That is not surprising to any one privy to the political culture of the wider Indian subcontinent. ...

Aggressive remarks from India, Editorial, *Dawn*, January 15³⁹

With the army chief appearing to suggest that the Cold Start doctrine has become a core part of Indian military strategy against Pakistan, the danger of a general conflict between Pakistan and India is growing. *Crossing the international border is an act of war, and Pakistan would simply have no option but to respond.* There is no scenario in which Pakistan can treat an Indian incursion on its soil as a temporary or acceptable move that does not merit a forceful and immediate response.

Bipin’s bluff? Syeda Mamoona Rubab, *The Friday Times*, 19 January⁴⁰

The threat was met with a measured and comprehensive response from both the civilian and military leadership in Pakistan. The Indians were reminded not only of the existence of a credible nuclear deterrent, but also the immaturity of their top commander, who has been hurling threats in this manner. But then such threats cannot be ignored. The escalating rhetoric may be mere saber-rattling, but it is at the same time indicative of what the enemy could be thinking. There are few messages hidden in Gen Bipin’s words. *He was, in reality, asserting the existence and relevance of the Cold Start Doctrine, a pro-*

³⁸ <https://nation.com.pk/03-Jan-2018/nuclear-signaling-between-india-and-pakistan>

³⁹ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1383055/aggressive-remarks-from-india>

⁴⁰ <http://www.thefridaytimes.com/tft/bipins-bluff/>

active war fighting strategy, in which India has over the years invested heavily and undertaken the relevant logistical infrastructure development and force development to make it operational. There was an opinion that Pakistan had checkmated the Cold Start Doctrine by developing theater nuclear weapons, which can be used on the battlefield, the NASR missiles in our inventory.

Modi's comments, Editorial, Dawn, 23 January⁴¹

Mr. Modi's call for joining forces in a seemingly worthy effort to improve the lives of over a billion people who live in the subcontinent is a welcome change in tone compared to the bellicose statements that have been emanating from New Delhi of late. Indeed, the way forward could well be through 'soft' issues such as poverty alleviation and common healthcare initiatives. *If Mr. Modi is earnest in his desire to work with Pakistan, he must back up his rhetoric with practical steps.*

Were the guests impressed? Jawed Naqvi, Dawn, 30 January⁴²

But what was the point of assembling the 10 leaders en masse to watch a parade replete with nuclear-capable missiles? *If Mr Modi was sending a signal to China, as is commonly believed, he is ignoring the fact that China and South East Asia bond better as trade partners than India does with anyone.* In fact, the Asean-China FTA (ACFTA) has played a major role in regional economic integration for both sides. It may be useful for gung-ho Indian analysts to understand Singapore's close ties in particular with China's pantheon of leaders. Indeed, Lee Kuan Yew was the only global leader who met all five Chinese Communist Party leaders, from Mao Zedong to Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao and Xi Jinping, the latter in his avatar as an up-and-coming party leader.

URDU & ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Urdu

Pak-India NSAs' talks, Editorial, Jang, 02 January⁴³

Though no reports are available about the NSA-level secret talks between India and Pakistan in Bangkok, but despite the unprovocative firing along the LoC

⁴¹ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1384576>

⁴² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1386024/were-the-guests-impressed?preview>

⁴³ https://e.jang.com.pk/01-02-2018/lahore/pic.asp?picname=08_003.png

by India, talks should continue to maintain peace in the region. *Pakistan NSA Lt. Gen. (R) Nasser Khan Janjua has said to his Indian counterpart, while protesting against the civilians killing on the Pakistan side, that war is not a solution. Issues between the two can be resolved by negotiations. It is not a first meeting of this kind. According to Indian media, this was the third meeting, held in a third neutral country.* Talks were going on at the commander level as well. As in the past, New Delhi's arrogance blocked any fruitful outcome and sabotaged Islamabad's wish to achieve peace between the two countries. ... *It should be clear that our policy for peace is not our weakness. It was made clear to India at the NSA level talks, also on other occasions. We are a responsible nuclear power. ... We are far ahead than India in nuclear capability and missile technology.* The opponent should be careful of any proactive aggression.

External threats and internal grievances, Editorial, Jang, 05 January⁴⁴

Pakistan's reaction to the uncivilized language and baseless allegations of President Trump was natural. *In contrast to the US, statements from countries like China, Turkey and Iran appear to acknowledge Pakistan's sacrifices in war against terrorism. They support the position that the Afghans should be allowed to decide their fate.* Apart from the neighbouring countries, many countries of the world think that the CPEC will benefit them. *Only India is an exception. Its history is replete with exploiting regional instability for pursuing its vested interests. While Pakistan has been always in favour of peace and stability.* ... As far as the Donald Trump's threats are concerned, the civilian and military leaderships along with other political parties are aware about that. *Differences in democracy are natural but on national security issues, the nation is united. In this regard former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday (3 December) strongly advocated the state's position on Trump's statement. However Nawaz hinted towards some conspiracies which is a matter of concern for democracy and newly elected government in Pakistan.* ... Things that create problems for national security need to be removed.

Pak-US relations on a decisive mode, Gen. (R) Mirza Aslam Beg, Nawa-i-Waqt, 07 January⁴⁵

Since the 1950s, Pakistan has been a reliable ally of the US. During this Pakistan went through system-change crisis four times. In 2001 Gen. (R) Musharraf immorally led us in a war which has embarrassed us and given nothing but sorrows. *Since 2001 to 2008, Pakistan has compromised on its national interests for a paltry price, \$33 billion. While it has cost Pakistan \$120 billion. We lost over 60,000 people and almost 6,000 army men.* ... Whatever Trump is

⁴⁴ https://e.jang.com.pk/01-05-2018/lahore/pic.asp?picname=08_001.png

⁴⁵ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2018-01-07/page-14/detail-8>

doing, these are signs of a declining power. *American analyst Harlam Ullman said that American army which has a defence budget of \$700 billion, cannot defend its country. Surprisingly, it expects Pakistan army with budget of \$7 billion can pull it out from the mess.* ... Trump is facing tough challenges. He is trying to hit under-belly like a weakening boxer to look strong. ... While the reality is that he is stupidest person. *Till now, Pakistan's reaction has been up to the mark. Our military and the civilian government need to keep themselves ready for facing a complex situation.* ... *We need to have well thought-out strategy to face Trump.* For that we need to ally with Iran, Turkey and Afghanistan. To help in pursuing that goal, China and Russia are ready to help us.

International community take note of India's anti-Muslim policies, Editorial, Nawa-i-Waqt, 09 January⁴⁶

America is closing its eyes to mass-killings of the Muslim minority and their economic discrimination by the Indian extremist Hindutva Narendra Modi Government. *Indian newspapers have started to stand against the Muslim-genocide. Anti-Muslim activities have increased by 100 per cent. It has had no impact on the Indian government however.* In fact the accused persons are released by Indian courts. *Indian brutalities are at peak in Kashmir. Indian forces have launched crackdowns, are arresting Kashmiris and damaging their properties. Every harsh tactic is used to crush Kashmiri freedom movement.* Still Indian Home Minister blames Pakistan for instigating Kashmiris against India. Pakistan needs to restore its diplomatic skills so that it can expose India's real face to the world.

Hafiz Saeed: India's new poster boy! Mohammad Aslam Khan, Nawa-i-Waqt, 11 January⁴⁷

Hafiz Saeed is new 'poster-boy' in India. Whole India is in mourning. *Hafiz Saeed's attractive and coloured posters on calendars in Pakistan have as if dropped bombs on Indian media.* ... Hafiz Saeed's decision to enter politics has left India in mourning. ... *Talk shows in Indian media turn into 'abusive shows' (ga'al-galooch shows) when they discuss Kashmir or Pakistan. American and Indian media are targeting Hafiz Saeed in a strategic move. The 'poster-boy-2018' enterprise by Indian media is an attempt to stop Hafiz Saeed from entering in politics.* ... *'Chanakyian policy' that 'the enemy of enemy is friend' is brought into practice.* A self-made list of world terrorists is issued, rewards announced and bullying has become a new normal. How come these Modi's friends in Pakistan (*Modi ke yaar*), other Kulbushans get off scot free? These so-called liberals are singing Modi's tone so that they can silence any pro-Kashmir and anti-American and independent voice in Pakistan. *India has*

⁴⁶ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2018-01-09/page-14/detail-2>

⁴⁷ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2018-01-11/page-14/detail-10>

become restless since Hafiz Saeed has decided to participate in politics. ... Appearing of Hafiz Saeed's picture on calendar, otherwise a normal act, is important for India and the US. ... Picture of a man who talks about Sharia, rights of Kashmiris, and threatens enemies of Pakistan, creates problem for some. ... Hafiz Saeed said recently in a meeting that our biggest motive is to defend Pakistan and we all will have to do that. Pakistan has become a problem for anti-Pakistan forces who cannot tolerate a nuclear Pakistan.

RAW and BDS' conspiracies, Editorial, *Nawa-i-Waqt*, 12 January⁴⁸

In a briefing to ambassadors of foreign countries at the Foreign Office in Islamabad, foreign minister has said that RAW and NDS are together destabilising Pakistan. ... *If there was a doubt about the RAW and NDS' role in destabilising Pakistan, that has been cleared by Kulbhusahn Jadhav's confessions. To foil CPEC is India's and Afghanistan's a joint venture. Now they are joined by the US.* CIA chief Mike Pompeo has threatened Pakistan that the US will defend its interests at any cost. *Mr. Pompeo unexpectedly reached New Delhi few days back and along with the RAW chief went to Kabul where he held long secret talks with the NDS officials. All these activities point towards a severe conspiracy against Pakistan.* ... There are going to be some fake stories to be told about Haqqani Network and Taliban whose script is with the CIA chief who is active between New Delhi and Kabul.

Indian civil and military leaderships in 'devil's trap', Editorial, *Ummat*, 15 January⁴⁹ (A larger editorial on same topic appeared in *Nawa-i-Waqt* on same day⁵⁰)

Pakistan Army spokesperson Maj. Gen. Asif Gafoor, while reacting to Indian Army Chief Bipin Rawat's statement (in which he called Pakistan's nuclear 'bluff'), has said that the statement was childish and irresponsible. *He warned India that if it wants to test our resolve and capability, it should go ahead and see the consequences. Mar. Gen. Asif said that Pakistan's nuclear weapons are for India.* ... It was a warning from Pakistan military to India. ... *Pakistan does not have any enemy, but India that does not accept Pakistan. It has imposed two wars on us. ... The acceptance of superiority of Pakistan's nuclear weapons by the international community and nuclear weapon experts' in 1998 was enough to unsettle India.* It is the reason that though it keeps threatening us with the US on its side, India has not dared to attack Pakistan. *India is aware that if it plays does so, all its big cities fall under the range of Pakistan's missiles and nuclear weapons. Pakistan army's clear-cut message that our nukes are meant to deal with India is enough to give the war-monger Indian rulers and military leadership sleepless nights* (*Baharat ke jangju aur fauji*

⁴⁸ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2018-01-12/page-14/detail-2>

⁴⁹ <http://ummat.net/2018/01/15/news.php?p=idr1.gif>

⁵⁰ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2018-01-15/page-14/detail-0>

qayadut ki neend udane ke liye kafi hai). ... Pakistan's internal political crisis is again and again instigating India to do something adventurous. India's intelligence agencies however, are aware and tell its rulers and military leadership that in case of any such act, the civilian and military leaderships, religious and social and political parties will unite to fight war with India. ... It should be remembered that in case of India-Pakistan war, India will invite irreparable losses.

Modi aur Yahudi, Aijaz Mutaqi, Ummat, 17 January⁵¹

India and Israel were desperate that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to India should get a wide coverage in international media, like an important historical event. ... *However the visit could not attract regional media's attention, let alone international media. India's friends and Israeli's enemies, both see the visit as unimportant.* It is disappointing for the Indian government and its guest that the people of India were not enthusiastic about the visit. *Netanyahu got only 'Modi's hug' (Modi ki jhupi). Even this was mocked by the Congress party.* ... The points of Modi that were covered by Indian media are childish without any significance. ... *The Israeli prime minister called Modi a 'revolutionary leader'. If the customary part is removed from the statement, then it is a taunt. World is aware about that what position a leader has among his/her subjects? It is clear that Narendra Modi has turned out an extremely unpopular prime minister. Because of his anti-Muslim thinking, Modi is disliked in secular and democratic circles in India.* ... The help that Israel will tender to India in agriculture is known to everyone. *World knows that Israel has given India only one help: It has helped India to crush the freedom movement in Kashmir.* ... *Since Israel has come close to India, the latter has adopted aggressive policy in Kashmir.* ... The alliance between India and Israel is neither on agriculture nor science. It is on anti-Muslim strategy. That Indian thinking becomes prominent during the BJP's rule. That is why it is during the BJP's reign that Israeli prime ministers visit India. ... However, the diplomacy of the Indian and Israeli prime ministers does not have a strong base; it is on a melting glacier. It is a showoff of an uncertain friendship which has no fan-following. It has no future.

Doklam and Israeli Premier's visit to India, Waqar Masood Khan, Nawa-i-Waqt, 21 January⁵²

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is on a six day visit to India. Both the countries claim to be democratic and friendly. *Netanyahu tells India that he believes in strong power without which one cannot defend itself.* ... *India should make alliance with powerful because the powerful will prevail.* ... While all this was going on, a special report on NDTV claimed that China has

⁵¹ <http://ummat.net/2018/01/17/news.php?p=idr2.gif>

⁵² <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2018-01-21/page-14/detail-8>

again been constructing a military complex at Doklam, including barracks, bankers, garages, helipad and important roads. ... *Doklam is a disputed territory between China and Bhutan.* ... India and China had a ten-week long standoff on Doklam last year. *It was only when India threatened not to attend BRICS Conference in Beijing and the Communist Party Congress was coming that China withdrew because Xi Jinping did not want these to get affected.* New pictures show that China has completed the complex to a good extent. ... *This is a disappointing news for India. One the one hand Netanyahu and Narendra Modi are alliancing to make both India and Israel invincible; on the other hand China has so easily put a question mark on India's defence capability. World is surprised that two consecutive army chiefs of India claimed that the country is capable of fighting two-front war. India's alliance with Israel is met for Pakistan because Israel cannot help in case of China.* ... Doklam is important for Pakistan. Israel is supplying weapons and technology to India so that to imbalance the region. It has done so in past. ... *Doklam has two significances. One, India-China standoff in Doklam is not only comparable but related to Kashmir. The Chinese foreign ministry had once said that if China interferes in same way in Kashmir as India did in Doklam, what would be India's reaction? ... Second, the situation demands that China-Pakistan ties need to be stronger.* Iran, Turkey and Russia also need to be roped in. The US needs to be told that it cannot have its way without the support of regional actors.

Terror and brutal acts: one question, Editorial, Ummat, 30 January⁵³

Supreme Court has appointed a Joint Investigation Team (JIT), headed by Federal Investigative Agency (FIA) Director Gen. Bashir Ahmed to look into the matter of allegation thrown by senior journalist Dr. Shahid Masood. *The court asked Dr. Masood to appear before the team and to provide proofs to prove his allegations. In case he failed to do so, he would get a severe punishment.* ... The matter is not of a TV anchor and his allegations. *The JIT should carry out a thorough investigation on the killing and abduction of Zainab. It is duty of the team to find out who local and foreign people are behind 'child pornography' scandal. ... The number of such incidents imply that there are many such groups who operate under patronage of 'influential and powerful' people.* They have links in foreign countries. ... *One more journalist Zia Shahid said that if impartial investigation is done, Dr. Masood's claims will be proven.* ... The parents of Zainab are demanding public hanging for accused Imran which the Chief Justice Saqib Nisar has refused by saying there is no constitutional space for that. On this Amin Ansari rightly said that when the parliament can make a law to allow a disqualified

⁵³ <http://ummat.net/2018/01/30/news.php?p=idr1.gif>

prime minister to become party president, why cannot a law on public hanging be passed?

Electronic

Kal Tak with Javid Chaudery, 02 January⁵⁴

In the latest Programme of *Kal tak* in a telephonic interview with the Minister of foreign affairs Khawaja Muhammad Asif, the anchor Javid Chaudery makes an attempt to take reaction of the current government on the *latest controversial trump tweet in which he reiterates that US has foolishly given Pakistan 33 billion dollars in aid over last fifteen years while in return it got nothing but lies and deceit*. The Minister responds by saying that the US policy towards Afghanistan has backfired and therefore trying to shift the blame to Pakistan by continuously making statements about safe havens. He adds that the aids US is talking about are in reality reimbursement of the services Pakistan has rendered to the US and is well in accordance to the pact Pakistan made with US fifteen years ago. When asked if Pakistan will stop taking funding from US in the future, the minister says that Pakistan has always been at the losing end in this partnership and therefore in future Pakistan should not be partners with US in any joint war missions. He strongly believes that the Military dictatorship of General Musharraf made secret agreements with US for his selfish political motives and pity gains.

Cross Check with Owais Tawheed, 07 January⁵⁵

In the post aid-cut, Owais Tawheed discusses on the topic *What options Pakistan has at the diplomatic level?*, with his guest on the latest episode of Cross-Check. Mubashir Zaidi, Senior Journalist underlines the fact that the belligerence of Trump and his latest policy towards Pakistan was for the first time faced by the country in a dignified manner. The coming together of the civil and military with a cooperative reaction on the Trump rhetoric displays the right attitude of Pakistan. Ahmad Sheikh, the other guest brings out the fact that America is not serious in bringing peace in Afghanistan and this is pointed by other regional countries in South Asia too like Iran, Russia and China. There is a need to form regional alliance with these other three countries so that they can force the US to exit from Afghanistan. Abrar Hussain argues (Hinting towards India) that there is a strong lobby in Afghanistan that supports violence and terrorism in Afghanistan so that it continue to use the Afghan soil to destabilize Pakistan. Therefore there is a strong need to review the Afghanistan policy and make it relevant in today's time.

⁵⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9R85npD216Y>

⁵⁵<http://dailycapital.pk/program/cross-check-with-ot/nO2t1X8nwd0/What-options-Pakistan-have-on-diplomatic-level-Cr>

Jirga with Salim Safi, 16 January⁵⁶

Salim Safi in Jirga invited the current PM Shahid Khaqan Abbasi to discuss the nature of politics of the PML-N party and his role in decision Making. When asked about his loyalty to the party, PM underlined that he has being in active politics for now thirty years and all these while never changed party and has associated himself to the PML-N. Adding that, “I am a loyalist and do not wished to leave the party any time, come what may”. When asked about his role in decision making as reports say that all the terms are dictated by Nawaz Sharif, he replies there is no doubt that he is the supreme leader and I will always consider him one but he has minimum interference in the decision making and as PM the last call is always mine. We have special committee to look into issues and reach to consensus in decision making. It can also not be denied that Nawaz Sharif has his views on issues as he the tallest leader in our party. There is campaign by the opposition and enemies to malign his image and also individuals who have not worked with him will never understand the charisma of the supreme leader. I have played a big role in picking and choosing the cabinet, he added. When asked about why Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan was kept out of the cabinet, he informed that Nisar decided to support the government from outside. Although I went up to him and tried to convince him to be a part of the ruling government, he refused and decided to step out. I am still friends with him and seek his advice whenever required and we are on good terms.

Cross Check with Owais Tohid, 19 January⁵⁷

In Cross Check, Owais Tawheed discusses on the relevance and impact of Paigham-e-Pakistan (P-e-P) with his guests. In wake of the increasing pressure to address the issue of terrorism, this document has been released as a counter narrative which directs fatwa to Jihad in the name of religion and is backed by the religious community (Ulemma’s) of Pakistan. Dr. Mohammad Zia-ul-haq, Director General Islamic Research Institute brings to light that P-e-P is the result of an effort to bring a counter voice in the wake of the increasing terror activates in Pakistan, especially the misinterpretation and misuse of religion to wage carry out their extremist propaganda. The religious leaders have denounced Jihad in this document and warned the terrorist groups against using distorted interpretation of religious texts. Aamir Rana, columnist and Journalist explains that the religious literature and speeches of the Qaeda

⁵⁶<http://www.unewstv.com/121580/jirga-with-saleem-safi-pm-shahid-khaqan-abbasi-interview-16th-january-2018>

⁵⁷ <http://dailycapital.pk/program/cross-check-with-ot/WHJKt5u5UJc/CapitalTV-What-will-be-the-impact-of-Paigham-E-Pa>

had a deep impact on many religious leaders of Pakistan but the turning point of fight against terrorism was the gruesome attack on the Army Public School where a school was targeted. This incident helped changing the mind and narrative of the religious pirs and leaders and hence their involvement in P-e-P says volumes about this change of thought process. The other guest, Journalist Marvi Sirmed reveals that this document has not been discussed in the Parliament and it's very important to debate and discuss it so that it can further be improved. Also, this is a moral document which is not obligatory for everyone to obey and is not a part of the constitution. Hence flawed in so many ways.

Cross Check with Owais Tohid, 27 January⁵⁸

In Cross check Owais Tawheed discusses the discussion on the topic, "*Are police officials helping Judiciary by doing fake encounters?*" It has to be noted that after the fake encounter of Naqeebullah Mehsud by former SSP Sindh, there has been widespread protest against Rao Anwar for extra judicial killing of Mehsud. Mahim Mehar, News editor Friday times underlines the point that the media has subconsciously made a hero of police officers and in a way justified their act by writing and giving them media coverage. Although the officers like Rao Anwar take these extreme steps to move up fast in the ladder of success but it is the fault of media who tend to glorify the act thereby not looking at the fact that innocent people also get killed in the process, she added. Jibran Nissar was of the view that the officers get away with such gruesome acts because there's no one to file FIR against them and people rarely speak as witness of fake encounters. Tahir Allam adds that the fake encounters mostly take place in the undocumented areas and mostly they are justified to be shot in self-defense. Another point highlighted by Mehar was that slowly encounter is becoming a part of policy in Pakistan and is engraining in the psyche of the people. Owais Tawheed concludes that police might be used as a proxy by other powerful forces and it's the link with political connections that police officers like Rao Anwar are still looming large even after the call for surrender. It was only after public outrage of the killing of Mehsud that his case came into limelight otherwise he will have continued with the extra judicial killings. Jibran added that if things continue like this in Pakistan, the time is not far when people will lose faith in judiciary.

⁵⁸ http://dailycapital.pk/program/cross-check-with-ot/KPUHLs_H7eQ/CapitalTV-Are-Police-officials-helping-judiciary-

STATISTICS

BOMBINGS, SHOOTINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES

(Select incidents culled out from the Pakistan media)

Place	Date	Description	Killed	Injured
Sindh				
Karachi ⁵⁹	13/01/2018	4 militants linked with high-profile terror cases killed in Karachi police 'encounter'	04	0
Karachi ⁶⁰	23/01/2018	Naqeebullah Mehsud was innocent, was killed in a fake encounter,' says inquiry team.	01	0
FATA				
Gilgit ⁶¹	01/01/2018	Funeral of 3 martyred army Jawans offered in Gilgit	03	0
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa				
North Waziristan ⁶²	24/01/2018	Haqqani Network commander, two others killed in N Waziristan drone strike	03	0
Balochistan				

⁵⁹ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1382684>

⁶⁰ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1384767>

⁶¹ <https://pamirtimes.net/2018/01/01/funeral-of-3-martyred-army-jawans-offered-in-gilgit/>

⁶² <https://defence.pk/pdf/threads/haqqani-network-commander-two-others-killed-in-n-waziristan-drone-strike.540777/>

Chaman ⁶³	01/01/2018	3 security officials among 8 injured in twin Chaman blasts.	03	08
Quetta ⁶⁴	17/12/2017	Two Balochistan Constabulary personnel martyred in Quetta	02	0

⁶³<https://www.dawn.com/news/1380118/3-security-officials-among-8-injured-in-twin-chaman-blasts>

⁶⁴<https://www.geo.tv/latest/177417-two-balochistan-constabulary-personnel-shot-dead-in-quetta>