

November 2020

PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST

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



Prepared by
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Dr. Nazir Ahmad Mir
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POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Pakistan's Gulbuddin Hekmatyar conundrum, Muhammad Ashar Khan, *The Express Tribune*, 02 November¹

As the withdrawal of the American forces from Afghanistan appears imminent, Afghan politicians are forging new alliances to climb up the power ladder. *In this regard, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's recent high-level visit to Pakistan was a major development. The former premier of Afghanistan acknowledged Islamabad's role in the Afghan peace process and condemned India for politically meddling in Afghan politics.* Hekmatyar, however, is widely remembered as a warlord and the vivid memories of his actions in Kabul during the Afghan conflict raise questions about his political integrity. Apparently, his visit reflects the notion that he is looking for political favours in the neighboring capital. Therefore, should Islamabad consider extending a diplomatic hand to Hekmatyar to contain India's rising influence in Kabul or should the state avoid risking relations with the incumbent Afghan government? *Thus, while advocating for a peaceful end to the Afghan conundrum through dialogue, Islamabad should also try to maintain a diplomatic balance between the US-backed Ghani government and the opposing Hekmatyar and his allies.* Tilting more towards the latter can potentially alienate many regional and international powers, which is a risk Pakistan should avoid. In the past couple of years, not only have we been successful in maintaining such a balance, but our stance has also been widely lauded by global powers like America and China. Sustaining such diplomacy, therefore, is imperative to avoid conflicts with already hostile neighbours.

Five takeaways for Pakistan under Biden's presidency, Kamran Yusuf, *The Express Tribune*, 09 November²

First, as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, he has visited the region quite often, knowing Pakistan and geostrategic complexities quite well. This can work both as an advantage and disadvantage to Pakistan. Democrats traditionally have been strong advocates of democracy, human rights and freedom of expression. *Second*, President Trump and Biden may not have much difference in terms of their policy on Afghanistan. But if we go into details, Biden will – unlike Trump – seek an orderly withdrawal from Afghanistan. He will not hasten the troop pullout, something Pakistan and other regional players have advised against *Third*, since his deputy

¹ <https://tribune.com.pk/article/97208/pakistans-gulbuddin-hekmatyar-conundrum>

² <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2271539/five-takeaways-for-pakistan-under-bidens-presidency>

Kamala Harris has already spoken against Modi government's anti-Muslim policies and human rights violations in Kashmir, the US under Biden will be more critical of Indian policies on Kashmir. However, it will not go to the extent of antagonizing New Delhi as it will need Indian support to contain China. Biden, knowing the dynamics of Indo-Pak ties well, may encourage both sides from behind the scenes to re-engage. Fourth, there is a bipartisan consensus in the US on China. However, Biden may lower the rhetoric and be more predictable. He will rally around the US allies against China. Pakistan is a strategic partner of China and hence has to deal with the fallout of Biden's China policy. Fifth, Biden is keen to revive the Iranian nuclear deal, which Trump scrapped after coming into power. The revival of the deal makes matters easier for Pakistan as increased tensions between Iran and the US only compounded Pakistan's regional problems. Similarly, Biden will likely reset ties with Gulf countries including Saudi Arabia.

The Iran nuclear deal & what it may bring for Pakistan: After the vote, Arifa Noor, Dawn, 10 November³

It is hard to believe that the relationship with Pakistan will change much due to the new incumbent in the White House. It may not do to pin too much hope on Biden because of his role in the Kerry-Lugar aid bill. Those were different times, and the US back then believed that the war in Afghanistan could somehow still be won. Now the priorities are different in Afghanistan, as well as the understanding of what is possible in Pakistan. Chances are that the efforts to talk peace in Afghanistan will continue, as will the pressure on Pakistan to deliver. Neither will there be any change to the rivalry with China, which too has its impact on US-Pakistan relations. The biggest change in the region may be the Iran nuclear deal and what it may bring for us.

PM at the SCO, Editorial, Daily Times, 11 November⁴

PM Imran Khan's more recent online address at the 20th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Council of Heads of State (SCO-CHS) was impressive and kept everyone mesmerized as in past. This time he enlightened everybody about the dangers of terrorism, especially from the point of view of Pakistan as a frontline state in terms of suffering from the phenomenon and the wars it inspired. The PM is right that there is no better time than the present to take up this matter. The Afghan peace process ought to gather pace soon enough and usher in an era of peace and tranquility

³ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1589603/after-the-vote>

⁴ <https://dailytimes.com.pk/687716/pm-at-the-sco/>

hopefully, but success is by no means guaranteed and it is actually very easy for the new bad guys on the scene, ISIS, and their masters to bring the whole thing down like a house of cards. The bit about tolerance was also spot on. PM Khan is always among the first heads of state to condemn all sorts of hate crimes and anti-religion activity, especially Islamophobia. That is why he was very right to bring up the issue of tolerance.

Uncertain pathways ahead, Faisal Bari, *Dawn*, 13 November⁵

'Deep state', 'establishment', 'agencies', 'namaaloom afraad' whatever they are called, there is little doubt military-controlled personnel and agencies do interfere in all sort of processes and spaces in Pakistan. This much is just fact. Journalists and media outlets have been talking of this presence/ interference in their area for a long time. The recent push to suppress freedom of expression in both traditional and social media has just made this awareness keener. *There is hardly any facet of life in Pakistan that does not, at one level or another, involve the presence of sections of the establishment and is not open to interventions — by law, or by hook or by crook — by the 'deep state'.* This much is established. So what Mian Nawaz Sharif has said in his speeches has not come as a surprise to anyone. Pakistan's military and Intel agencies meddle in nearly every facet of life, despite civilian rule. But only now is it being talked about openly, and perhaps fruitlessly.

Pak-Afghan ties, Editorial, *Daily Times*, 19 November⁶

Prime Minister Imran Khan's maiden visit to *Kabul comes in the backdrop of a visibly mutual desire to move past all the hostility of the past and start a new chapter of beneficial ties between the two countries. It's a good thing that Pakistan's sincerity finally became known to everybody as it was Islamabad, at the end of the day, that was able to finally get all Afghan factions to agree to talk.* Otherwise nobody, not even the Americans, was able to get the Taliban on board despite trying everything in and out of the book. It was the militia, after all, that was still making gains on the ground since at least the 2006 Spring Offensive. *Pakistan is clearly eager to get off the mark on as positive a note as possible, and since it is also the more advanced of the two struggling countries, it must play the role of the bigger party and offer more concessions.* That is exactly what Prime Minister Imran Khan's plan seems to be. Kabul will also have to reciprocate, of course, and no doubt *President Ghani is well aware of what our PM is going to ask first up, therefore it is hoped that he would have done some homework about the little*

⁵ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1590146/uncertain-pathways-ahead>

⁶ <https://dailytimes.com.pk/690776/pak-afghan-ties-2/>

matter of Pakistani terrorists finding sanctuary on the Afghan side of the long border.

Losers All, Najam Sethi, *The Friday Times*, 20 November⁷

The result of the elections in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) are a forerunner of what to expect from the PTI-Miltablishment regime going forward on the fate of democratic and constitutional rights. *Contrary to election rules, the “prime minister”, Imran Khan, was allowed to enter the fray and sway voters with promises of delivering a separate province for them, a long agitated popular demand, despite the fact that no such constitutional amendment is on the cards, and all the political parties are on record as having pledged in the presence of no less than the most powerful man in Pakistan that any discussion on the complex subject will only take place after the GB elections are over.* Elsewhere, the PTI-Miltablishment is preparing the ground to stamp out any possibility of opposition rallies and long marches to Islamabad in the next two months. The media campaign against Shahbaz Sharif is in full flow and it is only a matter of **time before the biggest crowd puller of them all, Maryam Nawaz Sharif, is restricted in one way or another, leaving only Maulana Fazal Ur Rahman to bear the brunt of the challenge.** 'The government's latest move is to spread the fear of a gathering covid-19 (or covid-18) storm, leading it to suddenly impose bans on rallies and Jalsa's while leaving most other economic activity in bazaars and markets with throngs of shoppers unchanged.'

PDM Peshawar rally, Editorial, *Daily Times*, 24 November⁸

Despite the COVID-19 *and terrorism threats and ensuing ban on public rallies*, the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) went ahead with its scheduled rally in Peshawar and renewed attack on the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government, *calling the establishment to “withdraw its support for the illegitimate” government of PTI and publicly disown it”*. The tone and tenor put up by the opposition alliance and the reaction from the government camp shows that there is no ceasefire in sight and neither camp is ready for reconciliation. *The turnout was massive, which is indicative of the acceptance of opposition's stance among the public.* We can see the statements from the Pakistan Muslim League-Q and the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan leaders which show their grievances. As the government has lots of resources to win back their allies, the opposition may not succeed in a no-confidence move. The government will be the first to reject the idea of sitting with the opposition. *The PDM is also determined to “end the puppet rule, standing on*

⁷ <https://www.thefridaytimes.com/losers-all/>

⁸ <https://dailytimes.com.pk/692848/pdm-peshawar-rally/>

a stolen mandate". The PDM is an alliance of diverse political ideologies. This is good for democracy but the PDM rallies may not be good for public health at this time.

Recognizing Israel, Zahid Hussain, Dawn, 25 November⁹

The shifting sands of the Middle East have also opened a discussion on whether Pakistan should revisit its policy towards Israel. In a recent interview, Prime Minister Imran Khan mentioned pressure from some unspecified foreign leaders to normalize relations with the Jewish state. But the foreign ministry denied there was any suggestion to review Pakistan's policy. While the stated policy is that there is no question of changing the country's stance without Palestinians getting their rights, there have been reports of Pakistan maintaining covert contacts with Israel as in the case of the latter's country's military help during the 1980s' Afghan resistance against the Soviets. A major demonstration of Israel's desire to improve relations with Pakistan was seen when Gen Musharraf was invited to address the American Jewish Congress during his visit to New York in September 2005. Musharraf spoke about Pakistan-Israel relations, and said there was no natural enmity between the two countries. But it was not possible for him to normalize relations with the Jewish state without risking his survival in power. Any move to recognise Israel will be seen as a betrayal to the Palestinian cause.

Joe Biden's election and Pakistan, Syed Akhtar Ali Shah, The Express Tribune, 25 November¹⁰

Joe Biden would look at things from the prism of US's own security and vital interests appertained thereto. *In a scenario where Biden feels that the threat to the national interests of the US emanate from Afghanistan, focus will again be on Pakistan to facilitate the resolution of conflict in Afghanistan to the satisfaction of the US.* Moreover, Biden will not give an easy walk to China and will be tougher than Trump. Therefore, the strategic presence of the US in Afghanistan and her counter terrorism role over there cannot be ruled out. *The discussions and expressed opinion of Biden towards Pakistan and Afghanistan during his incumbency as chairman Foreign Relations Committee and as vice-president highlighted in different writings are quite helpful in comprehending the US strategic thinking.* Therefore, we have to carefully play our cards, while dealing with Afghanistan in particular. In this context principles of balance of power have to be maintained to prevent or at least mitigate the conflict. This can be done

⁹ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1592222/recognising-israel>

¹⁰ <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2273434/joe-bidens-election-and-pakistan>

by systematically ensuring equilibrium via alignment of countervailing coalitions.

Halting UAE visas, Editorial, Dawn, 27 November¹¹

It appears that the Pakistani workforce in the UAE, along with labour from some other, mostly Muslim, countries, *has become an unfortunate casualty of the Middle East's changing geopolitics. While the actual reasons for halting employment and visit visas by the UAE are not clear at the moment, the move coincides with the advent of diplomatic relations between the Emirates and Israel, with the pressure on other Muslim states to similarly engage with Tel Aviv.* The truth is that there will continue to be a great deal of insecurity and speculation unless the UAE and subsequently Pakistan make clear, officially, the actual reasons behind the move. The approach of the UAE has been disappointing and discriminatory. *That a country which is home to 1.2m Pakistanis making up a huge bulk of its population is arbitrarily taking such a harsh position on the entry of Pakistani citizens is deeply troubling and can have serious implications for long-term ties.*

Internal divisions, Editorial, Dawn, 30 November¹²

Even as the Islamic world's top diplomats met recently in Niamey, Niger, under the umbrella of the OIC's Council of Foreign Ministers, to present a united face to the world, it was obvious that narratives were changing within the Muslim bloc. *Many quarters have also linked the UAE's recent decision to stop issuing new visas to citizens of a number of Muslim countries, including Pakistan, to the Emirates' efforts to come closer to Israel.* Not least among those concerned have been the Palestinians who see no hope for their future at a time when even their Arab brethren are leaving them at the mercy of an Israeli state that is expanding Jewish settlements on occupied Palestinian land besides resorting to brutal tactics against the Arab population. Muslim states talk of unity and rightly denounce Islamophobia which is gaining ground as right-wing forces leave no stone unturned to persecute Muslims and denigrate their religious and cultural beliefs.

¹¹ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1592657/halting-uae-visas>

¹² <https://www.dawn.com/news/1593185/internal-divisions>

Losing the inflation fight, Sakib Sherani, Dawn, 06 November¹³

Inflation has been rearing its menacing head since last year, and has taken centre stage of late with the launch of the opposition's anti-government protests. *The government's bungled reaction, signified by inaction for a protracted period combined with an ineffectual policy response eventually, has compounded economic misery as well as its own political predicament.* The unchecked increase in prices of food staples such as wheat flour, sugar and vegetables places a punishing burden on lower-income households who spend a larger portion of their limited income on these items. More than low growth and sluggish employment opportunities, unchecked food inflation fuels discontent, as well as anti-government sentiment, faster because its pernicious impact on households is more immediate and visible. It also plays more easily into the narrative of government incompetence and inaction. In both cases, its ultimate effect is to erode the political capital of an incumbent government and weaken its impulse for carrying out meaningful reform. *On the economic front, this could be the most significant collateral damage of the government's inept response to food inflation. Inflation over the past two years is a complex interplay of external, fiscal/monetary, structural, and institutional and policy factors; hence, the response needs to be multipronged.*

IMF program on hold, Editorial, The Daily Times, 15 November¹⁴

As feared, the government is struggling to get the IMF Extended Fund Facility (EFF) back on track and has, for the first time, indicated that it might not be revived till the end of the year at the very least. *It is also very important to note that sooner or later the government would have to revive the IMF program because it will find survival impossible without it for long.* Clearly it is counting on some friends in the Gulf and China to agree to roll over some of our multi-billion dollar loans to provide some sort of cushion, but even if they get the answer they are looking for it will only buy them very limited time. *There was a reason for the country to rush to the Fund in the first place, and that was a lurking Balance of Payments (BoP) disaster. The news just the other day that Pakistan's external debt has now reached historic levels ought to be enough to tell everybody just what position our reserves are in.* The government should do what it can to get the Fund to dilute some of its harsher conditions so the program can get back on track.

¹³ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1588899/losing-the-inflation-fight>

¹⁴ <https://dailytimes.com.pk/688902/imf-program-on-hold/>

SECURITY SITUATION

Politicising terrorism, Muhammad Amir Rana, Dawn, 02 November¹⁵

A significant upsurge during the last couple of weeks saw several incidents of terrorism being reported from different parts of the country. The Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan, Baloch insurgents, and violent sectarian groups were reportedly involved in these attacks. *Unfortunately, the treasury and opposition exploit such attacks for political purposes. Some believe the government uses 'security alerts' as a tool to create fear among the political workers of the opposition parties.* Many in the Pakistan Democratic Movement built conspiracy theories around these attacks. *At the same time, once again, the externalization factor, or involvement of a foreign hand, in these attacks was exploited out of proportion.* The militant landscape of the country is complex. For one, the TTP's operational strength has increased manifold after its former splinter groups and several other small militant groups and commanders recently merged with it. It is evident that the militants have been increasing their presence and activities in the tribal districts for several months now. While our counterterrorism focus was waning, militants wasted no time in exploiting this mistake. *In recent times, TTP militants taking shelter in Afghanistan have regularly carried out attacks in the Waziristan districts, either by crossing the border or through their operatives present in parts of the tribal districts.* Interestingly, the TTP has refuted the security alerts issued by the National Counter Terrorism Authority about the possible targeting of the opposition parties' leadership and their rallies. This could be seen as a political gimmick played by the TTP to exacerbate the ongoing political crisis in the country. Terrorist groups thrive in times of political crises, when their narrative becomes more attractive to frustrated and marginalized segments of society. *A unified TTP would not only concentrate on the revival of its operational capabilities but also try and regain the political legitimacy of its narrative.*

Forced conversion, Editorial, Dawn, 04 November¹⁶

An important case is being heard at the Sindh High Court, one that has a critical bearing on the rights of minorities, particularly the thorny question of religious conversion when it goes hand in hand with underage marriage. *A Christian girl named Arzoo recently sought a court injunction to prevent the*

¹⁵ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1587959/politicising-terrorism>

¹⁶ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1588524/forced-conversion>

registration of a kidnapping case against a man with whom she had undergone a nikah ceremony, and his family. She had claimed in an affidavit that she was 18 years of age and was 'marrying' him after converting to Islam of her own free will. The problem seems to arise, however, when religious conversion is involved. At present there is no law providing for a minimum age of conversion. In 2016, a bill was introduced in the Sindh Assembly stipulating 18 years as the minimum age for such a profound, life-changing decision. *But when the religious lobby created a furore, the PPP government shamefully capitulated and the law was never enacted, leaving this critical issue concerning the minorities' fundamental rights far from settled, and dependent on a case-by-case interpretation.* Almost always thus far, despite the law on underage marriage, the courts have been inclined to look the other way if the girl claims her conversion was according to her will, and allowed her to go with her purported spouse. *The inequality of social and political power between the two parties is an important factor in this pattern, as is the pressure exerted in an atmosphere of growing religiosity, where true free will in matters of faith scarcely exists.*

Karachi incident, Editorial, Dawn, 11 November¹⁷

Unlike most 'midnight knocks' in this country of late, this one has at least had some consequences for the perpetrators. A statement by the ISPR yesterday said the ISI and Rangers officials involved in the "Karachi incident" have been removed pending further departmental proceedings for having acted "overzealously". *That Mr. Bhutto-Zardari looked to Gen Bajwa to order an inquiry, and this was undertaken, also indicates that the perpetrators were taking instructions from individuals in the security establishment.* Both the ISI and Rangers, whose top cadres comprise serving military officials on deputation, technically report to the prime minister and the interior minister, respectively. However, the near calamitous fallout of this episode indicates the perils of this chain of command being disturbed. *The military has unnecessarily been dragged into an ugly political fracas, one that its reputation could well have done without. Security institutions must disengage from civilian affairs; therein lays the path of least controversy.*

Draconian internet rules, Usama Khilji, Dawn, 22 November¹⁸

A set of rules to censor content on the internet have been notified by the government and are likely to fundamentally alter the internet as we know it in Pakistan. Titled 'Removal and Blocking of Unlawful Online Content (Procedure, Oversight and Safeguards) Rules 2020', these are meant to guide the implementation of Section 37 (unlawful online content) of the Prevention

¹⁷ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1589718/karachi-incident>

¹⁸ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1591732/draconian-internet-rules>

of Electronic Crimes Act (Peca) 2016. It is important to note that these rules presumably replace the 'Citizen Protection Against Online Harm Rules 2020' which were notified in February by *the federal cabinet but never denotified after promises to change them were announced in the face of local and international criticism against their draconian nature. There has been no clarification regarding their status by the government.* The lack of meaningful consultation with stakeholders has been pointed out several times, and the change in the name of the rules and content make the mala fide intent of the state clear: they are nothing but yet another attempt to control narratives and silence citizens in a way that is unconstitutional, disproportionate, impractical, and detrimental to Pakistan's development.

PROVINCES & REGIONS

GB

Gilgit Baltistan elections, Khalid Mahmood Rasool, *The Nation*, 13 November¹⁹

This is an election of Gilgit Baltistan but nobody is talking about its issues, pains and miseries emanating from a disputed identity. *Political parties are having a series of election rallies only to amplify their rhetoric as if rallies are being held in the rest of Pakistan. Crowds are chanting to voice party slogans but, believe me sir, people and issues of GB remain voiceless!* GB has been a victim of its own history. The people of GB have been waiting and demanding for the integration of Gilgit-Baltistan as a province of Pakistan ever since its accession to Pakistan. "Their demand is based on the original offer of unconditional accession to Pakistan after the liberation of the region as a result of an armed revolt led by the locals against the occupiers of Jammu & Kashmir. This offer was never accepted by Pakistan which oddly continued to consider it a disputed area."

Protests in GB, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, 25 November²⁰

The PTI faces allegations as well as the wrath of the losing parties not just over the 2018 general elections but also the recent ones in Gilgit-Baltistan. *A violent post-poll protest in an otherwise crime-free zone of G-B is a serious cause for concern. A large number of protesters, belonging to PPP, gathered outside the G-B Election Commissioner's Office and chanted slogans against the government and the election commissioner for "not carrying out*

¹⁹ <https://nation.com.pk/13-Nov-2020/gilgit-baltistan-elections>

²⁰ <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2273436/protests-in-g-b>

a promised forensic audit" concerning one of the 24 election constituencies. They also set ablaze a government office and three government vehicles and blocked a major road by lighting a bonfire. The PPP information secretary though said it was the police shelling that forced peaceful protesters to turn violent. Regardless of the protest being justified or not, the debate here is: what stops us from having an election whose results are acceptable to all contesting parties? Why can't we carry out meaningful election reform, enabling us to put the rigging allegations to rest? Why in neighbouring India, are election results accepted with open heart by all, and why not here? If he is really serious, a truly autonomous election commission could be the starting point.

URDU MEDIA

Anti-blasphemy rally of TLP attracts large crowd, Azmat Khan, Ummat, 08 November²¹

A rally in support of protection of the last Prophethood of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) attracted a huge crowd in Karachi. *In his address to the people, the head of TLP Syed Khadim Hussain Rizvi warned the government of country-wide protests if the French ambassador was not sent back and French products not boycotted.* People in general were angry with the French President Emmanuel Macron. They were asked to pledge to boycott the French products. *Syed Khadim Rizvi said that by publishing blasphemous images of the Prophet Muhammad the French government has indulged in world He said that the Pakistan government should declare jihad against France.* We have given enough time to the government. Now it is the time for action. Lovers of the Prophet would not be fooled by words. He said that it is not possible to leave any blasphemer alive. He said that Pakistan needs to lead the movement against blasphemy in the world.

PML-N pays for its anti-Army stand, Editorial, Daily Dunya, 08 November²²

The decision of the PML-N leaders in Balochistan to leave the party was not unexpected. *The grievances of Lt Gen (R) Abdul Qadir Baloch and Nawab Sanaullah Khan Zehri were far too many. The development is interesting because apart from Punjab, PML-N had a strong leadership presence in Balochistan.* The decision by these leaders would pave the way for others to follow the suit. Many PML-N leaders do not agree with the negative (read

²¹ <http://ummat.net/2020/11/08/news.php?p=story2.gif>

²² https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-11-08&edition=LHR&id=5392459_83635916

anti-Army) statements of Nawaz Sharif. *In fact the statement of Bilawal Bhutto in an interview with BBC Urdu needs to be seen in this context. Bhutto had expressed surprise over the selection of words and mentioning of the army chief by Nawaz in his speech. Bilawal also said that it was not PDM's making it clear that the national politics has nothing to do with statements issued by Nawaz Sharif.* How can that be anyways when we know the role of the Pakistan Army in fighting terrorism and protecting the country? Nawaz could not gather any support for his position. *Nawaz's statements have caused damage to him and his party. If anyone has benefited from them it is the Indian media and Modi-Sarkar who have exaggerated these statements to use them in their anti-Pakistan propaganda.* The statements have cost the PML-N heavily. Any such attempt meant to create fissures in the national unity needs to be fought back strongly. Even President Trump paid for his negative and divisive politics in the US presidential elections (in his loss). It is clear that people do not approve divisive politics anymore.

New Plan in Karachi politics, Report, Ummat, 13 November²³

MQM-Pakistan and Pak Sarzameen Party (PSP) have failed to gather support in Karachi and in other parts of Sindh. *A "Greater Muhajir Alliance" is being planned in Karachi to bring different factions of Muhajirs together. The experiment would start from the block level elections in Sindh. Former governor of Sindh Eshratul Ebaad would be the head of the new alliance.* According to sources, once the plan unfolded, fugitive and wanted leaders of MQM would start returning to Pakistan. *Haider Abbas Rizvi and Adil Siddiqui have returned after getting green signal. Rizvi had no anticipatory bail after the 2015 provocative speech of Altaf Hussain. Now is moving freely in Karachi. NAB has issued unbailable warrant against Adil Siddiqui. But he is also moving freely after returning to Pakistan.* According to the source, senior MQM leader Babar Ghauri has also started preparations to return to Pakistan. After getting the green signal, he would return from America. *One source said that the most important return would be Ishrat-ul-Ebad from Dubai. Though Ishrat-ul-Ebad has denied the reports of forming a new party, if the efforts of merging MQM and PSP bear fruit, Ishrat-ul-Ebad would be the head of the new party, a reliable source said.* While in Dubai, Ishrat-ul-Ebad has been in contact with the MQM leaders. *One interesting development is the green signal for the return given to two confidantes of Altaf Hussain, Nadeem Nusrat and Wasay Jalil. According to the plan, Nadeem and Wasay would have an important role in the Muhajir greater alliance. Both the leaders have cordial relations with the MQM leaders. According to the*

²³ <https://ummat.net/2020/11/13/news.php?p=story1.gif>

source, paper work is behind done to remove cases against the MQM Leaders. The demand was raised by the MQM leaders in a meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan in the last month. The alliance party in the PTI led government Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) has expressed serious reservations over giving concessions to MQM and Muhajir greater Alliance leaders. One leader of GDA told Ummat that we sacrificed over lives to clean Karachi (from MQM “criminal” leaders). Now they are being brought back by giving clean chit.

The tension over the political rallies, Editorial, Jang, 23 November²⁴

Like the rest of the world, Pakistan is also facing the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic with an increasing number of cases every day. *PDM continues to hold its anti-government rallies across the country. Now Jamaat-i-Islami has also started to launch its own anti-government movement.* Despite not getting permission from the local administration, PDM is preparing to hold a rally in Peshawar.. Prime Minister Imran Khan has launched an attack on the opposition saying that these were the people asking for a strong lockdown. Now they violate SOPs at their will. *PDM head Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said that these illegitimate rulers are themselves a coronavirus. He said that a historical rally would be held in Peshawar at any cost. The Maulana said that the opposition would never let the thieves of the people’s vote to rest comfortably.* The other PDM leaders said that the government has asked for NRO which was denied by PDM. Spokespersons of the government have targeted the opposition leaders for spreading the virus. They called the PNL-N government’s decision in “Azad” Kashmir to impose two-week long lockdown a hypocrisy.

Saudi Arabia may establish relations with Tel Aviv, Editorial, Ummat, 24 November²⁵

A report about a meeting between Benjamin Netanyahu and Muhammad Bin Salman is talk of the town. Though the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) has denied any such meeting took place, but a debate on recognizing Israel by the Muslim countries has been started after the recognition of the Zionist state by some Arab states, like UAE and Bahrain. Israeli and American rulers hope that many other Arab/Muslim countries would follow the suit and establish relations with Israel. *Because President Trump is close to the Saudi Royal family, it is believed that KSA would recognize Israel soon. Earlier, KSA had said that Riyadh would not recognize Israel until Tel Aviv does not sign a*

²⁴https://jang.com.pk/news/848229?_ga=2.47112487.1884157707.1606111749-835994399.1598849708

²⁵ <https://ummat.net/2020/11/24/news.php?p=idr1.gif>

peace agreement with Palestinians. The new report of the Israeli Prime Minister's visit along with Mossad chief to Saudi says that the flight of Benjamin Netanyahu was located in Neom city of Saudi Arabia. Both the countries have denied any such meeting. *However, a Palestinian journalist Waleed Salem Alameri has said that the report is true. He said that the daily in which the report was published is considered close to the Israeli state. According to the education minister of Israel, the issue of discussion between Netanyahu and MBS was Iran. In the meeting of five hours, the situation of Palestinians was not discussed at all. If the report is true, then it would not take much time to the spiritual center for the Muslims across the world, KSA to establish relations with Israel. The process of brainwashing in Saudi Arabia has started long back. MBS wants to make the kingdom a secular state. Everyday new cinema halls are opened and music concerts organized. Saudi Arabia is facing increasing threats from the Houthi rebels. Riyadh is accusing that Iran supports the Houthis. It wants nuclear weapons and Israel is the only hurdle in achieving them. In the past as well, Saudi has tried to establish relations with Israel. Despite the fact that Iran is Muslim countries, Riyadh-Tehran rivalry has been exploited by others. This has almost ended all hopes of resolving the Palestine issue.* It would have been better were the two countries resolve their issues by talks and end the rivalry.

Imran Khan's visit to Afghanistan, Rasheed Ahmad, Daily Dunya, 26 November²⁶

The presence of the adviser to the Prime Minister on Commerce to the Prime Minister showed that Imran Khan wanted to promote trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Till a few years back, the trade between the two countries was USD \$2 billion. It has come down to USD \$1 billion in recent time. The trade between the two can go upto USD \$5billion, according to experts. Any improvement in the relations would be good for the trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Importantly, Pakistan cannot find a safer market for its exports than Afghanistan. Over 90 percent of the trade is based on Pakistan's exports to Afghanistan. The reportage and the welcome received by the Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit showed that the visit was a significant one. *President Ashraf Ghani thanked Pakistan for its role in facilitating the Doha talks. President Ghani released a document of "shared vision" according to which the two countries would promote cooperation, secure borders and would fight the enemies together.* There is no doubt that the visit came at an appropriate timing. *After the President elect Joe Biden assumes the office in the US, the Afghanistan conflict would enter a new phase in which Pakistan would be having an important role.* The role would

²⁶ https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-11-26&edition=LHR&id=5414056_44866311

not be effective unless and until Pakistan and Afghanistan improve their bilateral relations. They need to come up with a common strategy on common interests. There has been no development in intra-Afghan talks after nine months of the signing of the Doha agreement.

Corona preventive measure as well as economic measure, Editorial, Jang, 27 November²⁷

In his address to the World Economic Forum and while meeting the Punjab Chief Minister, Imran Khan talked about the challenges that Pakistan was facing because of the Coronavirus pandemic. Many countries have re-imposed lockdown to curb the spread of the virus. Many countries are asking their citizens to take measures to help in curbing the spread of the virus. *For Pakistan the situation is worse because it neither has the developed technology nor the financial resources which could have been used during a lockdown.* Prime Minister Imran Khan has appealed to the people of the country to follow SOPs strictly like in the early phase of the virus. *Despite the fact that the number of the Coronavirus cases is increasing, we cannot afford a lockdown like the European countries. Many people would die because of hunger if factories and markets are closed.* People should follow the decisions taken by the government. And the government should also decide the timings for opening markets. The Prime Minister said in his speech that the image of Pakistan has improved at the international level. He said that CPEC is a means of connecting between the member countries. He assured that Pakistan's economy was improving and was going in the right direction. *All said, it would have been better were the government and the opposition address their problems through dialogue. The government can take initiative in that direction.* In this way, the two sides can cooperate in the parliament and other important affairs.

The need for aggressive diplomacy, Editorial, Jasarat, 27 November²⁸

Pakistan has submitted a dossier containing undeniable shreds of evidence and proof of Indian state terrorism to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. *The Pakistani envoy further said that the security situation in the region has deteriorated since India's move on 05 August 2019. UN Secretary-General and members of the Security Council are aware of this fact.* This news confirms that the process of informing the international community and leadership has begun on the basis of the documents and evidence announced by the Government of Pakistan. Following the evidence provided to the international community regarding India's intentions, there is a need for

²⁷https://jang.com.pk/news/850057?_ga=2.179005028.1901339159.1606369689-835994399.1598849708

²⁸ <https://www.jasarat.com/2020/11/27/201127-04-4/>

Pakistan to pursue aggressive diplomacy. There is almost consensus on this and former diplomats confirm that many of our external problems are due to weak diplomacy. The Indian move on August 5 and the change in civil law provoked a strong reaction in India itself, but nothing was done except a "good speech" at the UN summit. *Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations is a capable and experienced diplomat. He can meet the requirements of aggressive diplomacy. It is necessary to show India's intentions to the world and to show foresightedness to remove the obstacles in the process of unity of the Muslim Ummah.*

ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Program Breaking Point with Malick, Cannot be part of a group that speaks against army: Abdul Qadir Baloch, Hum News, 08 November²⁹

Estranged PML-N leaders General (Retired) Abdul Qadir Baloch and Sanaullah Zehri announced their decision to part ways with PML-N party saying *that cannot be part of a group that is antiestablishment and speaks against Pakistan Army*. In this episode Mohammad Malick interviews Abdul Qadir Baloch, the main points from Q and A are as follows: **Q: You gave your reason of leaving the party because of Nawaz Sharif's verbal attacks on the army chief, Qamar Bajwa and D ISIS. Didn't you knew that he had also expressed his displeasure in the past and consider this before joining PML-N?** **A:** Abdul Qadir Baloch explained that during the Quetta Jalsa Sanaullah Zehri was asked to keep away from the stage during Jalsa because of the pressure by Akhtar Mengal. Zehri is an important figure of PML-N in Balochistan and he came from Dubai from the meeting. This was the reason I also refused to come in the *Jalsa*. This humiliation was not bearable. Also he informed that the attitude of Maryam Nawaz during her trip to Quetta towards him was not good and she was not happy with the arrangements. **Q: Did you leave because of Nawaz Sharif's attack on army? Are you joining PPP? If yes it is also part of PDM?** **A:** He argued that I was also in army and verbally attacking the army can create division in the rank of the army which is not good for the country. On one side Nawaz Sharif was portraying if army was rebellion and portraying them as anti-Pakistan, and I could not sit and watch all these been part of the army in the past. Who told you that I am joining PPP, although they approached but it has to be seen and then you can ask me. Even Bilawal has said that army chief's name should not have taken like this. He informed that in 14 days no one from PML-N has tried to contact

²⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmsclTi8c3s>

me from the PML-N and I have only seen in the TV PML-N leaders saying that even if Qadir Baloch leaves it will not affect the party.

Capital Talk with Hamid Mir, Army Headquarters comes out with report on Sindh IG Kidnapping incident: PPP welcomes it & Nawaz Sharif rejects it, Geo News, 10 November³⁰

The inquiry into the kidnapping of IG Sindh infamously known as the 'Karachi incident' is now complete and a statement from GHQ on behalf of army chief Qamar Bajwa announced that the officers (rangers and ISI) involved in the incident are found guilty and hence removed officers from their current assignments for further departmental proceedings and disposal at GHQ. *This development has been welcomed by Bilawal Bhutto (who requested the army chief for the inquiry) but the report is rejected by Nawaz Sharif saying it is an attempt to cover up.* It has to be noted that in an interview with the reporters, *Imran Khan said this is comedy for me, the kidnapping and all and I feel like laughing.* Hamid Mir asked, does this means that there will be issues between PPP and PML-N in the future specially vis-à-vis PDM?

Guests: Nasir Hussain Shah-Information Minister: Sindh, Rana Tanveer Hussain-PML-N & Nadeem Afzal Chan-PTI

Rana Tanveer Hussain pointed out that PDM is a platform where opposition parties with different views have come together against the PTI government's nonperformance, this report and the reaction of different leaders of the PPP and PML-N will not affect the unity of the PDM. He also underlined that Bilawal requested the army chief to intervene and he did thus came out with this report which is a positive thing. **Nadeem Afzal Chan** argued that the Sindh police who arrested Capt. Retired Safdar of the PML-N from Karachi hotel were acting on the directions of the IG Sindh and if they say the IG was forced to sign then he has no right to stay the commander. **Hamid Mir pointed out that Imran Khan said it is all comedy but the army chief took it seriously and came out with this report.** The minister underlined that now that army chief has come out with the report no party should interfere in this and politicize it. **Nasir Hussain Shah** informed that Sindh government is happy with the report by the army chief and appreciate the actions he took to bring out this report on the request of Bilawal Bhutto. He argued that the IG Sindh acted very wisely in all these and tried to diffuse the tension and that is he asked for leave from work. *He claimed that the issue escalated due to the attitude and wrong narrative building of few federal ministers and also PM who thinks it is comedy.*

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

Senator Shibli Faraz of PTI *tweeted* today on this issue/report and wrote *Bilawal's agreement on the inquiry report and Nawaz Sharif's disagreement is proof of PDM's hypocrisy. Now they will need a third charter after another. A movement that has no direction and no ideology has no future.*

View Point with Imran Yaqub Khan & Zafar Hilaly, PML-N rejected in GB because of its anti-establishment narrative, GNN, 15 November³¹

In this episode the host discuss the GB elections with the two analysts. It has to be noted that GB went to vote on 15 November and counting of votes is ongoing. *The main points are as below: First*, some important questions were raised in the programme, *first will the opposition parties (PDM) accept the results of the GB elections? Has the people of GB rejected the narrative of the PML-N? Second*, The PML-N is lagging behind in the elections. Most of its electables were taken/snatched away by the PTI and fighting elections on PTI ticket. The people are mostly loyal to the person and not the party and hence PTI getting maximum votes. PML-N has rejected the election results, *Hafiz Ur Rehman, ex CM of GB and PML-N leaders has given this statement underling there was rigging in the elections. Third*, the analysts pointed out that if the PTI would have done rigorous campaigning like the PPP, it would have won by majority (13 seats). *Bilawal Bhutto tried to connect with the people and therefore has a lead of 5 to 6 seats. Fourth*, Also when it comes to GB elections, *which ever party rules in the center have traditionally won the GB elections* as they know that their issues will be solved by the center. *Fifth*, the analyst Imran Ayub underlined that it was a peaceful election and the large number of voter turnout *is an answer to the Indian elements. Sixth*, Zafar Hilaly pointed out that there will be a psychological impact of the GB results on Pakistan. If PTI loses it will mean that PDM has an impact and vice versa. He underlined that the people of *GB are most patriotic and have rejected PML-N and JUI because of their anti-establishment narrative.*

Kal Tak with Javed Chaudhry, PDM rejects GB election results, Express News, 17 November³²

After the GB election results, keeping in mind the *upcoming Senate and elections in PoK*, PM Imran Khan *announced electoral reforms that his government* will bring in the coming months. He listed the need to bring three important changes, **first** electronic voting, **second** a system for overseas Pakistani's to vote and **third** show of hands in senate voting so to reduce corruption, he underlined for this a constitutional amendment is needed. **Peoples**

³¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Hpbpn6KiFs>

³² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apG-IUR7yKc>

Democratic Movement (PDM) held meeting on 17 November in Islamabad *under the leadership of Maulana Fazlur Rehman*. Maryam Nawaz, Mahmood Khan Achakzai, Amir Haider Khan Hoti, Mohsin Dawar Aftab Sherpao, Abdul Malik Baloch participated. Nawaz Sharif and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari participated through video link. Also *the opposition through the PDM platform has rejected the results of GB terming it as the reply of rigging of 2018 elections and also the electrical reforms. Maulana Fazl Ur Rehamn announced that there Jalsa's will continue as per schedule*. In this episode the host asks in a situation where both opposition and government is not ready to budge from their positions, **how will it shape the politics in the coming days?** **Guests:** Tariq Fazal Chaudary, PML-N, Dr. Romesh Kumar, PTI & Naz Baloch, PPP. **Dr. Romesh Kumar** argued that the opposition should sit with the government to talk about terms of reference to bring change in the electoral reforms and cancel the PDM protests in view of the new wave of corona virus spreading in the country. *He pointed out that the PDM has till now arranged three Jalsa's in the country but could not bring down the government*. He added that we should look at the system of other countries like India to bring reforms in our electoral reforms. **Tariq Fazal Chaudary** pointed that the PTI government has closed the door of dialogue. He argued that the government has kept some leaders in the Parliament and Special Assistants to PM (SAPM) just to criticize and bad mouth about the opposition. *He said that electronic voting is the biggest fraud and the PML-N were never in favour of this kind of electoral reform*. The main reason of PTI government is its team selection and the appointment of SAPM's. **Naz Baloch** questioned if the PTI wanted to bring electoral reforms why they waited for two years? Parliament under PTI has performed the worst in these two years and the economy has hit a new low, *she asked what happened to the charter of economy the government talked about in the beginning?* In GB the fact that the PTI government did not get a simple majority is a message that the people do not trust them.

Program Breaking Point with Malick, PDM's Peshawar Jalsa: From soft line to hardline approach, Hum News, 22 November³³

The host pointed out that during the *Peshawar Jalsa of the PDM, not only the mainstream leaders of PML-N and PPP but the leaders from other parties also made their voices high against the establishment and criticised them left, right and center*. Leader from Balochistan Akhtar Mengal, Bilawal Bhutto and Maulana Fazl Ur Rehamn all spoke in one tone against the establishment. Malick underlined that the gloves are off and it looks like the hardliner stand

³³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5RSAHJPj6to>

of Nawaz Sharif is overtaking the PDM rallies especially after the GB elections, initially most leaders took a soft-liner approach in their criticism of the army. *Till when the army will stay silent on the narrative of the PDM against them? Who will break the peace between PDM & government? Will Nawaz Sharif come back?* **Guests:** Musharraf Zaidi, Kashif Abbasi & General Amjeed Shoaib (Retired). **Kashif Abbasi** argued that the sudden increase in the criticism of the army in the PDM rally is planned to bring out two results, first under pressure the army will be forced to give a reaction against the PDM or second, they can choose to talk to the PDM to avoid further clash. Point is that the PDM has made it clear that they will not talk with the PTI government and senior opposition leaders have given indications to the army for opening channels of dialogue. The PDM is banking on political give and take by putting pressure on the army and making it unpopular among masses. **Musharraf Zaidi** argued that two factors have pushed the PDM to take the hardline stand and increase the criticism of the army, one the increasing popularity of the TLP the last rite of Khadim Hussain Rizvi in Lahore and the mammoth crowd was example of his popularity in Punjab. Also he added Peshawar is PTI strong base, so the PDM was targeting the support base of the PTM and the Pashtuns of the FATA region. **Amjeed Shoaib** argued *that naming and shaming the army openly will demoralize the troops and build pressure on the high commands like army chief but he pointed out that the army should absorb these criticisms, not react irrationally and should not mediate in talks.* It should in fact push the political class to deal with the issue at hand and counter the narratives of the PDM. It is the role of the government to unmask the leaders like Akhtar Mengal who themselves are involved in terrorism but are attacking the army through the platform of PMD. But they are waiting for army to react, but he pointed out that I don't see that the army will react to these criticisms. *He underlined that the biggest issue with Imran Khan Government is that it has not formed a working relationship with the opposition.*

Faisla Aap Ka, Opposition Vs Government: Ali Muza Gillani arrested from Multan, Aaj News, 25, November³⁴

PM Imran Khan has made it clear during his visit to Lahore that the government will not allow any political rallies and Jalsa's and there will be consequences if the PDM go ahead with their rallies. He underlined that there will be arrest of corrupt mafia's and land grabbers who are supported by the opposition. During a pre-rally in Multan (main PDM Jalsa on 30 November), Ali Muza Geelani son of former PM Raza Gillani was arrested. *On this*

³⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xgPPz2tyJvs>

episode the host Asma Sherazi asks can it be an attempt by the government to stop the main rally on coming Sunday. Will there be more arrests? Is there a threat to the government from the PDM rallies, if not why the arrest?

Guests: Hafiz Hamidullah, JUI; Qamar Zaman Kira, PML-N; Abid Sher Ali, PML-N & Senator Mohsin Aziz, PTI. **Hafiz Hamidullah** pointed out that the PTI government tried to hide its flaws first by using the slogan corruption, then NRO, then ghadar-ghadar (anti-national) and now with corona-corona. Imran Khan promised to bring Naya Pakistan in six months and promised 2020 will be year of development, so what happened to those promises. **He argued that the PTI leaders from Sheikh Rashid to Fawad Chaudary instead of handling their ministry are busy targeting and abusing the opposition. The main issue is not corona, the main issue is PDM for the government.** He pointed out despite of people knowing the side effects of corona why people join PDM Jalsa's because for them death is better than this government. Questions should be raised about SAPM's especially the special assistant on security Moeed Yusuf, if you look at his history he has said so many things against Pakistan in the past. **Qamar Zaman Kira** argued in the last two and half years what the PTI government did was verbal attacks and cases against the opposition leaders and completely closed the door for dialogue with the opposition. He pointed out that the government keeps on repeating there will be no NRO, but who needs NRO? PM himself is organising press conferences and gatherings, why pin pointing PDM. **Abid Sher Ali** argued that Imran Khan keeps saying NRO, he has given the real NRO to his friend Jahangir Tareen who is the sugar cartel and robbed the people of Pakistan. Imran Khan himself said that the opposition can march and he himself will give container for them, now he has taken another U-turn and resorted to arresting the leaders from the rallies. He argued that PM has kept all the criminals in his cabinet and then say he has no idea. **Mohsin Aziz** pointed out that the main aim of the PDM is to delay the senate elections where they have majority now but in 2021 tables will turn and they will no more be in majority. **They have constitutional ways to show their dissatisfaction, why they do not resign from the assembly?**

Sethi Sey Sawal, Najam Sethi Official, Is Pakistan Ready to Recognise Israel? 26 November³⁵

The host of the show Tamkinet Karim informs that despite of the official denial of the PTI government to recognise Israel, the whispering about a possibility of Pakistan recognizing Israel is making the rounds in the political corridors of Pakistan. **The host asks Najam Sethi about the Middle East**

³⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0azNyNwJVo>

*politics & will Pakistan recognise Israel? Q: Why are the Muslim countries including Saudi Arabia are suddenly recognizing Israel? A: Most Muslim countries have recognized Israel from a long time (Jordan, Egypt etc), including Turkey (although now they share a conflicting relationship) and only few Muslim countries are left that have so far not recognised Israel, this include Pakistan and Iran. Saudi is trying to bridge the gap with Israel and trying to develop a working relation due to fear of Iran. Saudi too have a major Shia and the regime fear Iran might influence them. population It has to be noted that Iran and Saudi has totally different interests in Middle east, therefore now Saudi under the new regime of Mohammad Bin Salman (MBS) want to undermine Iran by joining hands with Israel. He argued that Pakistan always followed Saudi's footsteps and has always sided with OIC. Najam Sethi pointed out an interesting observation, the election of Joe Biden as new president of USA has also forced the Muslim countries including Saudi to change their equation with Israel. The reason is Joe Biden will have a different policy approach towards Iran and might remove sanctions that will strengthen the nuclear programme of Iran. Therefore Saudi will try to form an anti-Iran collation in the middle-east. **Q: Why Saudi is changing its approach towards Pakistan? A: It is due to Saudi's revised policy towards Iran and Israel that is bringing change in the equation between Pakistan and Saudi. Pakistan is not criticizing Iran's action. Evidences of the secret meeting between MBS & PM Israel have started coming out and US is leaking them. Under such a scenario, there is immense pressure on Pakistan to join this new anti-Iran bloc/collation. Debates about Pakistan having a working relationship with Israel have always existed within the establishment and during Musharraf's time in 2005 speculations were at highest that Pakistan will recognise Israel (purely in terms of defence) . In Pakistan the civilian government cannot talk openly on sensitive issues be it on Israel or India because they get criticism but when the army talks about it, people think twice before criticising (consider it part of national security). Pakistan's biggest issue is sale of technology by Israel to India that can be issued against Pakistan. Najam Sethi argued that Imran Khan has said Pakistan will not recognise Israel but did not mention that they will also not have working relation (so there is a change for relations without diplomatic recognition like trade etc). The Muslim Countries are slowly giving up the pure cause of Palestine and sticking to a compromised cause. **Pakistan although do not have a direct stake in middle east or problem with Israel but the Kashmir cause is pushing it back as it is also about the right of people.*****

BOMBINGS, SHOOTINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES

(Select incidents culled out from the Pakistan media)

Place	Date	Description	Killed	Injured
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)				
Naurang ³⁶	04/11/2020	Three killed as car attacked near Naurang.	03	00
Peshawar ³⁷	09/11/2020	Minority community member killed in Peshawar.	01	00
Kohat ³⁸	09/11/2020	Five killed in wedding party clash in Kohat	05	03
Bajaur ³⁹	24/11/2020	Two 'militant' leaders killed, several captured in Bajaur.	02	00
Punjab				
Khushab ⁴⁰	05/11/2020	Bank manager shot dead by security guard allegedly over blasphemy	01	00

³⁶ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1588493/three-killed-as-car-attacked-near-naurang>

³⁷ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1589422>

³⁸ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1589383/five-killed-in-wedding-party-clash-in-kohat>

³⁹ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1592033/two-militant-leaders-killed-several-captured-in-bajaur>

⁴⁰ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1588614/bank-manager-shot-dead-by-security-guard-allegedly-over-blasphemy-in-punjab-khushab>

Gujranwala	13/11/2020	in Punjab's Khushab 12 killed, 30 injured in bus, truck collision.	12	30
Sindh				
Karachi ⁴¹	06/11/2020	Suspect shot dead in 'encounter'	01	00

⁴¹ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1588826>