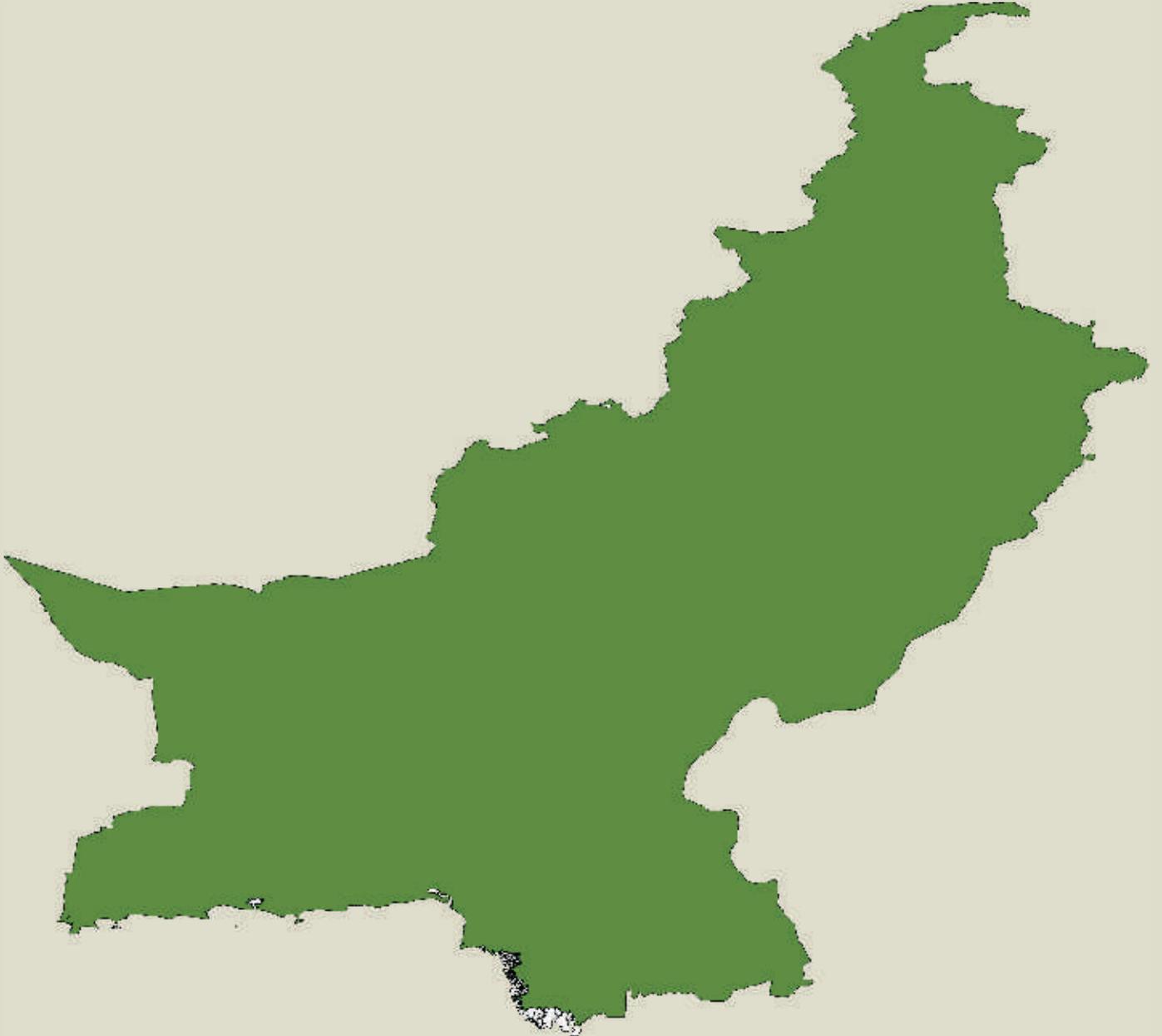


June 1-15, 2016

PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST

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



*Prepared by
Dr Ashish Shukla &
Dr Yaqoob-ul-Hassan
(Research Assistants, Pakistan Project, IDSA)*

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INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE
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रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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

PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST, JUNE (1-15) 2016

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADB: Asian Development Bank
AIIB: Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
ANP: Awami National Party
APC: All Parties Conference
ATC: Anti-Terrorism Court
CPEC: China- Pakistan Economic Corridor
CTD: Counter Terrorism Department
ECP: Election Commission of Pakistan
IED: Improvised Explosive Device
IHC: Islamabad High Court
IMF: International Monetary Fund
ISI: Inter-Services Intelligence
ISPR: Inter Services Public Relations
JI: Jamaat-i-Islami
JuD: Jamat-ul- Dawa
JUI-F Jamiat-Ulema-e-Islam (Fazal)
KP: Khyber Pakhthunkhwa
LHC: Lahore High Court
MQM: Muttahida Qaumi Movement
NAB: National Accountability Bureau
NADRA- National Database and Registration Authority
NAP: National Action Plan
PAT: Pakistan Awami Tehreek
PML-N: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz
PPP: Pakistan People's Party
PTI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
QCG: Quadrilateral Coordination Group
QWP: Qaumi Watan Party
RRG: Rapid Response Group
TTP: Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan

EDITOR'S NOTE

Pak-US Relations

The downward trajectory of Pakistan-US relationship continues. The strain in relations is palpable from the way the Pakistani media is covering the issue. There is a view that the US is turning away from Pakistan after using it to the hilt in the Afghan theatre. This view was expressed by none other than Sartaj Aziz, the advisor to the Pakistani PM on foreign affairs. This view gained ground in Pakistan especially in the wake of the disapproval of the subsidised sale of F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan by the US Congress. The drone strikes in Balochistan that killed Taliban Chief Mullah Akhtar Mansoor, and US Administration's support to India for its membership in the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) during India PM Modi's visit strengthened such view further. There was a perceptible hardening of stance in the Capitol Hill on Pakistan with the US Congress making the military assistance to the country conditional to taking action against Pakistan's favourite Haqqani network.

While the military looked less critical than the civilian leadership over the issue of Mullah Mansoor's killing, by the second week of June, there was an overall sense of frustration among both regarding the US behavior. The military leadership also started openly showing its displeasure about the US approach towards Pakistan.

Army Chief Raheel Sharif, who had earlier expressed his displeasure in a rather ritual manner over the drone attack, now demanded a similar strike against Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) Chief Mullah Fazlullah who is believed to be operating out of Afghanistan. During his discussion with an American delegation at General Headquarters (GHQ), Raheel also made it clear that he would not allow foreign intelligence agencies (a reference to Indian RAW and Afghan NDS) to operate in Pakistan. The religious hardline groups were not far behind. Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) chief Mohammad Hafiz Saeed, on whom US has declared a \$10 million bounty, was seen leading Friday prayers at a mosque in Islamabad where he called on Pakistan Army to shoot down any American drone that entered Pakistan's air space. The timing of Hafiz Saeed's public appearance and his call for shooting down drones clearly suggested that he was deliberately let loose by none other than the Pakistani establishment to demonstrate its angst against the US. Apart from Pakistan's politico-security establishment and religious extremists, its all-weather friend China also asked the international community to respect the sovereignty of Pakistan. All in all, Pakistan has been in a petitioning mode vis-à-vis the US and avoided open confrontation with it.

Pak-Afghan Theater

The direct impact of US-Pak tension was visible along the Pak-Afghan border. Afghan and Pakistani forces exchanged fire over the contentious issue of fencing at the Torkham crossing in which both sides received casualties. Pakistani media reports suggested that Afghan forces resorted to unprovoked firing that led to the killing of a Pakistani Major and injured about 20 others including security personnel, Khasdar, and civilians. If that be true, then the Afghan forces are no longer hesitating to fire upon the much stronger Pakistan Army. However, the overall situation was soon brought under control and an uneasy calm now prevails there. Pakistan continues to pledge to resolve any issue with Afghanistan peacefully.

In all its public pronouncements, Pakistan has been arguing in favour of an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process. The reality, however, is that it continues to look at Afghanistan as a strategic backyard and it is overly worried about Afghanistan's relationship with India. Irrespective of what its leaders state publicly, privately, the establishment wants to have a friendly Afghanistan where its strategic tool, the Afghan Taliban, enjoys a substantial control over the war-torn nation. The Quadrilateral approach has so far failed to produce the desired results primarily because those who matter in Pakistan have had no intention to deliver. Given the background and initial statements of Afghan Taliban, it is believed that the Taliban have no intention to come to the negotiation table. However, recently, Sirajuddin Haqqani, the deputy chief of the Taliban, in a rare audio message, has said that the insurgent group is open to negotiations under the Islamic Sharia. Only time will tell what sort of plan Taliban have in mind as far as talks under Islamic Sharia is concerned.

Economy

As per the latest Economic Survey, released by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, despite the steep fall in agricultural output, the country's economic growth rate was 4.7 per cent for the current fiscal year. The survey suggested that government had somehow managed to stabilise the economy but it was struggling to grow at a faster pace. The Finance Ministry came out with an estimate suggesting that due to the ongoing war on terrorism, since 9/11, the cumulative loss to the national economy has reached a whopping \$118.32 billion. This included both direct and indirect losses to the economy. The loss for current financial year was estimated to be around \$5.5 billion which is comparatively quite less than the previous year's \$9.24 billion. It is a good sign for the economy, as the cost of the war is receding.

China Pakistan Economic Corridor

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) received a fair amount of attention of all Pakistani stakeholders, as they all expected that successful implementation of this project would lead to a strong and stable Pakistan. The National Accountability Bureau, the top anti-corruption body, is expected to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Chinese anti-corruption organisation to jointly monitor the \$46 billion CPEC and its related projects to ensure transparency. Corruption, for CPEC, is a less important issue. The bigger issue is the security of the corridor for which Pakistani institutions, especially the Army, seems to be quite committed. Every now and then, one hears the statement of military leadership that it was taking all necessary steps to secure the corridor. The Latest among these was the statement by Gen. Raheel Sharif who went on to state that the army was ready to pay any price to turn the long cherished dream of CPEC into a reality. The political establishment too followed suit. Recently, the civilian government informed the Senate that Pakistan would soon raise 22 additional wings of Civil Armed Forces (CAFs) to provide foolproof security to the economic projects under CPEC.

The Domestic Milieu

The opposition political parties have become increasingly vocal and they do not miss any opportunity to target the ruling PML-N leadership, particularly the Prime Minister. There is an interesting convergence of views on the issue of Panama Leaks and they have launched a no-holds-barred attack against Nawaz Sharif. The deadlock seemed to ease a little when the government agreed to jointly frame the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the commission to probe the Panama issue. The joint parliamentary committee, composed of the members of government as well as opposition, is yet to come out with an agreed ToR in this context. Given the delay in finalising the ToR, former President Asif Ali Zardari suggested his party men to keep pressing the government for a transparent probe into the Panama leaks. Imran Khan, on the other hand, accused the government of deliberately delaying the probe and threatened to bring people into the streets if the committee fails to finalise the ToR.

India-Pakistan and NSG

Pakistan's desire for parity with India came to the fore in the wake of India applying for and actively seeking the support of all major powers for its NSG membership. Despite its dubious record on nuclear issues, Pakistan has also formally applied for NSG membership and is intensely lobbying for it at one level and seeking to stop India's entry through China at another. There is more effort in the Pakistani media to run down India and argue out the negative consequence of any such membership on the regional strategic balance than to advocate and justify Pakistan's entry into NSG. Perhaps there is a realisation

that the time is not yet ripe for it to get the membership, but still, it cannot resist the temptation to apply merely because India has gained the NSG waiver and applied for NSG membership.

Quite upset with US backing India's bid for NSG, Pakistan wants to ensure that India does not become a member. This was reflected in Sartaj Aziz's assurance to the Senate that due to the effective diplomacy of Pakistan, India will not get NSG membership. Pakistan continues to labour under its own contradictions.

Dr Ashish Shukla

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

NATIONAL POLITICS

Haj Corruption Case: Kazmi sentenced to 16 years, *The Dawn*, June 3¹

Former federal minister for religious affairs, Hamid Saeed Kazmi, was on Friday (June 3) sentenced to 16 years in jail in the Haj corruption case. Judge Malik Nazir Ahmad from special court central, a lower court, also sentenced Director General (DG) Haj Rao Shakeel to 40 years in prison. Joint secretary for religious affairs Aftab Aslam was also sentenced to 16 years.

Ceding more space may harm democracy: opposition, *The Dawn*, June 12²

The opposition in the National Assembly continued to remind the government that ceding decision-making power on national issues could only lead to a democratic disaster in the country. But after two days of browbeating from the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), it was the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf's (PTI) turn on Saturday (June 11) to criticise the government for taking a backseat in matters that should be dealt with by elected officials. "Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah was not a soldier; he was a politician. ***It is a matter of pride that this country was founded by a politician, not by a military general on horseback,***" said PTI's Ali Mohammad in a short but impassioned speech. "We respect our army, but all policy decisions should be made here," he said.

THE PANAMA PAPERS

Political temperature on Panama leaks again rising, *The Nation*, June 3³

The PPP, the PTI, and the JI, the main components which vehemently seek inquiry into the offshore companies of the prime minister's kids have raised the probe demand at full force with the threat to launch movement otherwise. There is a serious deadlock on finalising the ToRs acceptable to the ruling and the opposition parties while only five days are left to meet the deadline for a mutual agreement between the two sides.

Zardari presses for probe, *The Express Tribune*, June 10⁴

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) should keep pressing for initiating a transparent probe into Panama Leaks and all decisions in this regard should be taken in consultation with other opposition parties, Co-Chairperson of PPP and former

¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1262506/haj-corruption-case-former-federal-minister-sentenced-to-16-years-in-prison>

² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1264291/ceding-more-space-may-harm-democracy-opposition?preview>

³ <http://nation.com.pk/national/03-Jun-2016/political-temperature-on-panama-leaks-again-rising>

⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1119843/transparent-inquiry-zardari-presses-panama-leaks-probe/>

president Asif Ali Zardari told Khursheed Shah, who met him in Dubai on Thursday (June 9). [...] He reportedly said that PPP would not step back on the issue of Panama Leaks. **“Investigations will begin from the prime minister and his family.”**

Imran Khan warns of protest over ToRs, *The News*, June 11⁵

Imran Khan on Saturday (June 11) said the government was deliberately delaying probe into Panama Papers fearing that it might expose its corruption. Speaking to media, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman said he would bring the people into streets if ToRS for inquiry commission were not finalized. “N-League wants to avoid accountability and to isolate the PTI,” he said. He said four election commissioners were involved in fraud in the general election of 2013 and the PTI would invoke article 6 to put them on trial. Imran Khan said he also owned a flat in London and an offshore company but was not afraid of accountability.

Panama impasse, Editorial, *The Dawn*, June 12⁶

Seven rounds of negotiations between the government and the combined opposition over the terms of reference for the Panama Papers judicial commission have yielded an impasse. While another meeting is scheduled, members of both sides in the parliamentary committee appear to be pessimistic about finding common ground. [...] While the opposition is wrong to the extent that it appears to be uninterested in any systemic change or investigation beyond the first family, the government has been wrong to suggest that the prime minister should be held to the same standard of conduct as everyone else.

Deadlock on ToRs to jeopardise democracy, *The Nation*, June 14⁷

Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Secretary General Liaqat Baloch warned on Monday (June 13) that any deadlock between the government and opposition on ToRs for investigation of Panama Leaks will jeopardise the democracy. Talking to media here (Multan) at local JI office, he said that the nation has risen against corruption and the day of accountability for the corrupt rulers is around the corner.

⁵ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/127133-Imran-Khan-warns-of-protest-over-ToRs>

⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1264241/panama-impasse>

⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/national/14-Jun-2016/deadlock-on-tors-to-jeopardise-democracy>

PROVINCIAL POLITICS

MQM stages walkout from NA to protest use of force, *Daily Times*, June 9⁸

Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) staged a walkout from the Lower House of the Parliament on Wednesday (June 8) to protest alleged use of force against their party in Karachi. Khalid Maqbool Siddique announced the walkout when speaker asked him to participate in the budget debate.

Gilgit-Baltistan court upholds life sentence for Baba Jan, *The News*, June 10⁹

Gilgit-Baltistan Court has upheld the life sentence of Baba Jan—a political activist from the Pakistan's semi-autonomous north. Baba Jan, a left wing political activist from the Hunza Valley in Gilgit-Baltistan, was convicted by an anti-terrorism court for participating in political riots in 2011 and lost an appeal against his life sentence on Thursday (June 9).

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Bilawal on the road, Editorial, *The Dawn*, June 2¹⁰

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has just taken a rally into Azad Kashmir, stirring up yet one more time the debate about the likelihood of his PPP recapturing some lost ground in Pakistani politics. [...] ***The images of the PPP rally from Punjab to Kashmir have been hailed as a sign of change. Reading too much into them can prove disastrously counterproductive for those who are desirous of some kind of a PPP return.*** The more real and relevant trend is where the well-known PPP names in Kashmir continue to ditch the party for timely inclusion in PML-N or PTI.

A Nationalist Nuclear Policy, Editorial, *The Nation*, June 3¹¹

Pakistan's nuclear program has always polarised opinion, yet two recent reports by 'impartial' think tanks perfectly depict how even these objective research based institutes are swayed by national political leanings. The Islamabad based Strategic Vision Institute (SVI) and Washington based American Enterprise Institute (AEI), both analysed the build-up of nuclear weapons in South Asia and presented reports that were perhaps tailored for their respective audiences.

The SVI report: Their prognosis is simple; the Pakistani military – supported by the nuclear deterrent – has the capacity to match its Indian counterpart, but

⁸ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/08-Jun-16/mqm-stages-walkout-from-na-to-protest-use-of-force>

⁹ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/126846-Gilgit-Baltistan-court-upholds-life-sentence-Baba-Jan>

¹⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1262094/bilawal-on-the-road>

¹¹ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/03-Jun-2016/a-nationalist-nuclear-policy>

poor governance in non-military spheres threatens this parity. According to the President of the institute ***“India is trying to contain and squeeze Pakistan in terms of its foreign relations, economy and security,”*** referring to its increasing strategic cooperation with Pakistan’s western neighbours, Iran and Afghanistan. The implication – which is echoed in military circles – is that unless India stops this aggressive manoeuvring, Pakistan has little choice but to follow suit.

[...] **The AEI Report:** The premise is the same; they agree that in the last 20 years India has rapidly increased its economic and military strength while Pakistan has not, and that Pakistan was now using its nuclear programme to bridge this gap. Yet the conclusion is different. The nuclear programme, especially the development of tactical nuclear weapons that will be in control of battlefield military commanders, is viewed as a dangerous development for which Pakistan is to blame. The Indian nuclear programme is a “defensive” one.

FOREIGN POLICY

F-16 deal no longer a viable offer: US, *The Dawn*, June 3¹²

The F-16 deal was no longer a viable offer, a US State Department official told a Capitol Hill meeting on Thursday (June 2), as other speakers urged the United States to help improve Afghanistan-Pakistan ties. [...] The Capitol Hill meeting was organised by the Pakistani American Congress, which holds this annual event to present Pakistan’s case before US lawmakers. **“Forever is a long time but the term of the offer has expired. So for now it is not a viable offer,”** said **State Department official David Ranz**, when asked if the US offer to sell eight F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan was dead. [...] Besides preventing the sale, Congress made “a significant portion” of the military assistance to Pakistan “conditional to taking action against the Haqqani network”, he added.

No 'blow back' from Pakistan: US, *The Nation*, June 3¹³

The United States is focusing on maintaining “a good, positive, healthy military-to-military relationship with the Pakistani army”, a top Pentagon official based in Afghanistan has said, while noting that there was no “blow back” from Pakistan after a US drone strike killed Taliban chief Mullah Mansour last month. At the same time, Army Brigadier General Charles Cleveland, deputy chief of staff for communications, Resolute Support Mission, Afghanistan, did admit “some tension” in the ties. Asked if there has been a “visible blow back” from Pakistan after Mansour’s killing, Gen Cleveland said: “In this case, we haven’t yet. And we certainly hope not,” Cleveland told Pentagon reporters in Washington during a video conference from Kabul.

¹² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1262432/f-16-deal-no-longer-a-viable-offer-says-us>

¹³ <http://nation.com.pk/national/03-Jun-2016/no-blow-back-from-pakistan-us>

Peace in Afghanistan imperative: Fatemi, Daily Times, June 9¹⁴

Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Foreign Affairs Syed Tariq Fatemi has said that peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan has been affected due to drone attack by the United States, which claimed the life of Taliban's ex-chief Mullah Akhtar Mansour. ***In a special interview, Fatemi described the attack as illegal and violation of Pakistan's sovereignty. Tariq Fatemi said the drone strike has also put a question mark on the United States' intentions about peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan.***

Pakistan seeks support for NSG berth, The Express Tribune, June 9¹⁵

Pakistan launched a concerted diplomatic push for a membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) after the United States backed India's bid to join the 48-nation informal but exclusive club of nuclear trading countries. Last month, Islamabad formally applied for a NSG membership, setting the stage for a possible showdown with New Delhi when preliminary negotiations start on the issue in Vienna next week. [...] On Wednesday (June 8), Prime Minister's Adviser on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz spoke by the phone with foreign ministers of Russia, South Korea and New Zealand as part of Pakistan's continuing diplomatic efforts towards mobilising support for the country's application for NSG membership.

Pakistani HC in India barred from diplomatic meeting, Daily Times, June 9¹⁶

In an undiplomatic move, Pakistani High Commissioner in India Abdul Basit was barred from entering a diplomatic gathering in Nagpur, Indian media reported on Wednesday (June 8). The diplomatic gathering was arranged by United Nations and the Pakistani high commissioner was invited to attend the meeting. The justification given by the authorities was that the Hindu extremist organisation RSS had threatened against allowing the Pakistani high commissioner into the gathering. Officials at Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi said that this was the fourth time the invitation had been canceled.

Pakistan hints at reassessing US ties, The Express Tribune, June 10¹⁷

Pakistan has signalled that it may reassess its ties with the United States in the wake of recent developments, including closer defence ties between Washington and New Delhi. "Relations between Pakistan and the US need to

¹⁴ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/08-Jun-16/peace-in-afghanistan-imperative-for-regional-stability-fatemi>

¹⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1119230/us-backing-india-pakistan-mounts-diplomatic-push-nsg-berth/>

¹⁶ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/09-Jun-16/pakistani-hc-in-india-barred-from-entering-a-diplomatic-meeting>

¹⁷ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1119807/strained-relationship-sartaj-hints-reassessing-us-ties/>

be reassessed," said Prime Minister's Adviser on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz at a news conference on Thursday (June 9). Speaking against the backdrop of apparent strains in ties between the US and Pakistan as a result of the recent drone strike in Balochistan, the adviser conceded that **Washington "abandons us when it doesn't need our help." "This has been happening for the last 60 years. The US approaches Pakistan whenever it needs our help but abandons us when its objectives are achieved," he said.**

India involved in terrorism, *The News*, June 10¹⁸

The Pakistani delegation expressed its reservations over the United States' support for India to join the Nuclear Suppliers Group and other issues on Friday (June 10). According to details, the American delegation led by Peter Lavoy met Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz and his team at the Foreign Affairs office. During the meeting, the Pakistani leadership expressed its reservations over the United States' support for India to join the Nuclear Suppliers Group. The Pakistani side also stated that the sole inclusion of India in the NSG would promote instability in the region. [...] During the meeting, the Pakistani team showed the American delegation proof of Indian involvement in terrorist activities. Statement from the alleged RAW agent Kalbhushan Yadav was also shown to the American delegation led by Peter Lavoy.

Respect Pakistan's sovereignty: China, *The Express Tribune*, June 10¹⁹

China on Thursday (June 9) asked the international community to respect Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity nearly three weeks after an American drone strike killed Afghan Taliban chief in Balochistan. **"The international community should fully recognise that and respect Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity,"** Hong Lei, China's foreign ministry spokesperson, said on Thursday (June 9).

Hafiz Saeed asks Army to shoot down drones, *The News*, June 11²⁰

Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) chief Mohammad Hafiz Saeed, led prayers at a mosque in Islamabad on Friday (June 10) and called on Pakistan Army to shoot down any American drones entering Pakistani territory. [...] "The U.S. stands with India in their enmity towards Pakistan," Saeed told a crowd of hundreds of people after leading Friday prayers at the Islamabad mosque. **"We want to**

¹⁸ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/126826-India-involved-in-terrorism-in-Karachi-Balochistan-and-FATA-American-delegation-told>

¹⁹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1119845/naushki-drone-strike-china-tells-world-respect-pakistans-sovereignty/>

²⁰ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/127108-Hafiz-Saeed-asks-Pak-Army-shoot-down-American-drones>

request the army chief and make the air chief realize that it is their duty to shoot down any drone that comes into Pakistan and respond to it in kind."

South Asia faces spectre of nuclear conflict: US, *The Dawn*, June 13²¹

The United States warned against the risk of a nuclear conflict in South Asia, as China on Sunday (June 12) called for more talks on India's application seeking membership of an exclusive club of nuclear suppliers. A senior US official, however, disagreed with the suggestion that India's entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) would affect strategic stability in South Asia. But the official did acknowledge the risk of a nuclear conflict in South Asia. [...] In a statement issued in Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman **Hong Lei said, "Large differences remain over the issue of non-NPT countries joining the NSG."** "With regard to what to do on the issue of non-NPT signatories joining (the NSG), China consistently supports having ample discussion on this to seek consensus and agreement and come to a unanimous decision," Mr Hong said.

Pak-Afghan forces exchange fire at Torkham, *The Dawn*, June 13²²

Situation was again tense on Sunday (June 12) at Torkham border crossing as Pakistani and Afghan forces exchanged fire over the contentious fencing issue. "Afghan Security forces resorted to unprovoked firing on Pakistani side at Torkham Gate. A Pakistani soldier was injured due to Afghan firing," said the statement issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

No compromise on nuclear programme: Aizaz, *Daily Times*, June 13²³

Pakistan has categorically stated no compromise will be made on nuclear programme. This was stated by Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry while briefing the Senate Standing Committee on defence and foreign affairs in Islamabad Monday (June 13). He said Angoor Adda has not been handed over to Afghanistan; however, Pakistan Army constructed a gate for the Kabul government in Afghan area as a gift.

Pakistan's credentials stronger than India, *The Dawn*, June 13²⁴

Adviser to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz on Sunday (June 12) said Pakistan's credentials for the membership of Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) are stronger than India's if the 48-nation cartel agrees to form a uniform criteria for non-NPT states. In an exclusive interview with Dawn News, Aziz said Pakistan has diplomatically engaged numerous countries over the criteria-

²¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1264490/south-asia-faces-spectre-of-nuclear-conflict-warns-us>

²² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1264371/pak-afghan-forces-exchange-fire-at-torkham>

²³ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/13-Jun-16/no-compromise-on-countrys-nuclear-programme-aizaz>

²⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1264368/pakistans-credentials-stronger-than-india-for-nsg-membership-sartaj-aziz>

based approach for non-NPT countries. "If the group forms such a uniform criteria, then Pakistan has stronger credentials for NSG membership than India." "Our strategy was to apply after India did, after which we would have immediately followed.

Pakistan won't press for F-16, *The Nation*, June 14²⁵

US has been told that drone strike killing Afghan Taliban leader Mullah Akhter Mansour was a hasty move, Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry said yesterday. Briefing a joint meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Foreign Affairs at Parliament House, Aizaz said in discussions with US representatives Pakistan took up the agenda of withdrawal of proposed subsidy on sale of F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan by the US and the situation arising out of the May 22 drone strike in Balochistan. Chaudhry said the United States was oblivious of Pakistan's security concerns, adding that drone strikes were on priority of the government's agenda. He said with the United States, "there could be no compromise on certain issues," adding, Islamabad will not press Washington anymore for the F-16s.

India not to get NSG membership, *The Nation*, June 14²⁶

The government yesterday assured the Senate that India would not succeed in getting membership of Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) due to the effective diplomacy of Pakistan. Brushing aside the criticism of lawmakers that incumbent government was pursuing a flawed foreign policy, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz told the upper house that India would not be succeeded in getting exemptions from NSG, it was looking for, and the entry into the Group due to effective lobbying and the active policy being pursued by Pakistan.

Major Jawad martyred in Torkham, *Daily Times*, June 14²⁷

Pakistan Army's Major Jawad Changezy, who had been injured during Monday's (June 13) clash with Afghanistan's border security forces, succumbed to his wounds and passed away on Tuesday (June 14). [...] "Meanwhile a day after clash between Pakistani and Afghan security forces at Torkham border the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) released an image showing that the under construction gate at Torkham border is 37 meters inside Pakistan. This gate is considered essential to check and verify documentation of all border crossers. Will check move of terrorists the ISPR stated."

²⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/14-Jun-2016/angoor-adda-not-handed-over-to-kabul-aizaz>

²⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/national/14-Jun-2016/india-not-to-get-nsg-membership-aziz-assures-senate>

²⁷ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/14-Jun-16/major-jawad-martyred-in-torkham-border-shelling>

Uneasy calm prevails at Torkham border, *The Nation*, June 14²⁸

The situation remained tense at Torkham border following new clashes between security forces of Pakistan and Afghanistan after a short-lived ceasefire on Monday (June 13). Overnight skirmishes killed at least one person wounded 18 others, forcing around 200 Pakistani families to relocate to safer areas. At least seven security personnel, including one Frontier Corps (FC) trooper and three Khasadars, and 10 civilians sustained injuries in the clashes over installation of a gate by Pakistani officials. Both the forces used heavy artillery, targeting each other's positions.

Taliban open to talks 'under Sharia', *The Express Tribune*, June 15²⁹

The deputy chief of the Afghan Taliban has said that the insurgent group is open to negotiations if held according to the Islamic Sharia. ***"The Islamic Emirate [of Afghanistan] is not opposed to talks if they are held in line with Sharia and if the international community agrees to this,"*** Sirajuddin Haqqani, the No. 2 in the Taliban hierarchy, said in a rare audio message. [...]The Taliban released the 45-minute audio with a brief statement that says Sirajuddin has talked about important issues.

Ghani to try diplomatic channels, *The Nation*, June 15³⁰

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on Tuesday (June 14) chaired the National Security Council (NSC) meeting in Kabul amid tense situation at Torkham, Afghan media reported. The Office of the President said the issue of violations by Pakistani forces in Torkham was discussed during the meeting and called the move by Pakistan against the international norms. Calling the move as a matter of concern, the National Security Council insisted that the issue should be resolved through diplomatic ways while praising the Afghan forces for their high level of readiness to protect the country and national interests of Afghanistan.

EDITORIALS AND OPINION

Chabahar — another game changer?, Haider Shah, *Daily Times*, June 11³¹

[...]Chabahar in Iran is less than 100 kilometres from Gawadar and is closer to the Strait of Hormuz. Both China and India can now use ports to keep an eye on maritime activity on the busy maritime route. If India was uncomfortable with Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean by acquiring Gawadar port, now Pakistani security analysts are not very happy about Indian presence in the Gulf area. If colonial India and Russia were engaged in the Great Game in the

²⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/national/14-Jun-2016/uneasy-calm-prevails-at-torkham-border>

²⁹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1123156/rare-audio-message-taliban-open-talks-sharia/>

³⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/15-Jun-2016/ghani-to-try-diplomatic-channels>

³¹ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/opinion/11-Jun-16/chabahar-another-game-changer>

19th century to enhance their influence in the Central Asian region, now the same game is being replayed between India and China. **Chabahar project, on a smaller scale, is like CPEC.** [...] And as Gawadar is to be connected with the Silk Road project of China, Chabahar will be integrated with the North-South Transport Corridor (NSTC). Russia, Iran and India are the founding member states of the NSTC project when in 2002 they signed an agreement. Central Asian countries are also part of this project. **Chabahar, therefore, provides the necessary hub for this intercontinental trade route.** The Chabahar port will give India direct physical access to Afghanistan. While Pakistan has relied heavily on its strategic assets like the Haqqani network to remain a key player in the Afghan game, India has been enhancing its influence by forging stronger economic ties with the war-battered country.

The China basket, Cyril Almeida, *The Dawn*, June 12³²

[...] If we don't have the advantage that India has with the US, we may as well make as much noise as we can to try and prevent ourselves from being further disadvantaged. And there's everything right in Pakistan turning to China for support — in the world out there, you use what you have to try and achieve what you want. But there's a smart way to go about things and then there's the Pakistani way. Even from a security-state prism. [...] **The US still wants to engage us, both militarily and otherwise. As long as we have nuclear weapons, terrorists and 200 million Muslims, the Americans can't afford not to.** [...] Run with the American hare, hunt with the Chinese hound and keep both eyes on India — it should not only be possible, but the goal itself. But the security state seems to have other ideas.

Fraying Relations, *The Nation*, June 12³³

Army Chief General Raheel delivered an unequivocal message to the US high officials who arrived for damage control at the GHQ Rawalpindi yesterday; Pakistan would no longer tolerate drone strikes on its soil, and any such attacks in future would endanger bilateral cooperation between the two countries. However, it was also made clear that the US could go ahead and target Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militants finding refuge on Afghanistan soil as they are threatening the war on terror that has the neighbours fighting on the same side. [...] **The impromptu meeting held at the GHQ Headquarters saw the military leadership summoning the federal ministers to "discuss" the security situation in the country and examine foreign policy agenda in the face of souring relationship with the US.** The relationship has been strained since the drone attack on Balochistan and the US blaming Pakistan for failing to bring the Taliban on the negotiating table.

³² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1264244/the-china-basket>

³³ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/12-Jun-2016/fraying-relations>

The new Great Game, Munir Akram, *The Dawn*, June 13³⁴

[...]The power contest in Asia is now mainly between China and America, and, to a lesser extent, between America and Russia — with India, Pakistan, Iran and others in subsidiary roles. In this context, the strategic and economic implications of the tripartite agreement are likely to be limited. [...]The new Great Game will increasingly revolve around China's One Belt, One Road vision of land and sea connections between Asia, Europe and beyond. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the first component of this ambitious project. ***In comparison to the Chabahar route, the strategic and economic implications of CPEC are enormous. [...]New Delhi will continue to utilise Afghanistan as a base to destabilise Pakistan and undermine CPEC. The recent spate of attacks on Chinese workers in Pakistan is no accident. Pakistan will have to further enhance security for them and consider direct action to remove the Afghan-based threat from the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan.***

Flip-flops of surround syndrome, K. Iqbal, *The Nation*, June 13³⁵

The obsession with the surround-and-contain syndrome in Asia has overwhelmed India-US axis (not yet nexus), since the end of the cold war. The US wants to surround and contain China and India is a clandestine partner in this venture while articulating denial. India wants to contain/surround Pakistan and the only (conditional) partner it has been able to enlist is the United States. [...] ***India thinks that after the recent tripartite agreement over Chabahar port, it has surrounded Pakistan and neutralised China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).*** [...] Americans have their way of asserting oblique pressures and arm-twisting. For countries like Pakistan and India they give with one hand and take back with the other—Pakistan has learnt this the hard way, but India is still in the honeymoon mind-set. ***The Chinese follow a cool and calm strategy to pursue their objectives.*** [...] Notwithstanding, in their game of surround and contain, both America and India have limitations. India wants to side with the US in its anti-China ventures but without radiating a deep impression of “Hostile India” towards China. [...] In its quest to contain China, America does not want to prop up an unmanageable India. ***And on its part, China is keeping India engaged to the extent that India does not find an excuse to out rightly become hostile and become totally aligned with American objectives in Asia-pacific.***

³⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1264242/the-new-great-game>

³⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/columns/13-Jun-2016/flip-flops-of-surround-syndrome>

MILITARY AFFAIRS

Army Chief urges US to target Mullah Fazlullah, *The News*, June 10³⁶

Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif while talking to US delegation has demanded the American authorities to target Taliban leader Mullah Fazlullah and other terrorists in Afghanistan. A high level American delegation led by General John Nicholson of the United States Army met the Army Chief on Friday (June 10) at GHQ. Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif told the members of the delegation that **"we will not allow intelligence agencies of other countries to operate in Pakistan."** He said action needs to be taken against Indian intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), Afghan intelligence agency National Directorate of Security (NDS) and members of other terrorist organisations.

Will take revenge over Major's martyrdom: Asif, *The Nation*, June 15³⁷

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Tuesday (June 14) stated that revenge shall be taken over the martyrdom of Major Ali Jawad Changezi, who embraced martyrdom after hit by Afghan firing. **Asif tweeted that Major Ali's blood will not go in vain, adding that the enemies of the country want Pakistan to lose the gains it has scored in Operation Zarb-e-Azb.**

Focus now is on border management: COAS, *The Nation*, June 15³⁸

Army Chief General Raheel Sharif on Tuesday (June 14) visited forward locations in North and South Waziristan and spent whole day with the tribes and troops busy in consolidation phase of Operation Zarb-e Azb. According to ISPR, COAS was given detailed briefing on ongoing operation. **COAS said Zarb-e-Azb was launched against terrorists of all hues and colour and sanctuaries of terrorists have been dismantled without discrimination.** COAS said operation Zarb-e-Azb is in its final stage in the fewer left out pockets. Army with support of the entire nation has achieved unparalleled successes in fight against terrorism, he said.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Military march, Owen Bennett Jones, *The Dawn*, June 2³⁹

[...]Having taken that lesson on board, the post-Musharraf military adopted a new, subtler tactic. **It decided to exercise power in all crucial areas while simultaneously allowing civilian rulers to hold office.** Traditionally, the policy

³⁶ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/126848-Army-Chief-General-Raheel-Sharif-US-target-Mullah-Fazlullah-Afghanistan>

³⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/national/15-Jun-2016/will-take-revenge-over-major-s-martyrdom-asif>

³⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/national/15-Jun-2016/focus-now-is-on-border-management-coas>

³⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1262101/military-march>

areas reserved for the army included the nuclear weapons programme and relations with the key foreign powers: India, Afghanistan and the United States. In the last few years, the list has expanded considerably. ***The establishment of apex committees, military courts and the military's use of coercion to force the media onto the back foot means there is scarcely an area of public policy that the army is not seeking to influence or control.***

Zarb-e-Azb: clear policies needed, *The Express Tribune*, June 8⁴⁰

Although Operation Zarb-e Azb and other actions against terrorists from Khyber to Karachi have delivered much, their complete success and total elimination of terrorism remain a dream, which require clarity in our internal and external policies. The country's policies in this regard, however, remain shrouded in confusion. [...]The government states that Islamabad wants friendly ties with all neighbours, including India, but the poor state of relations with that country as well as with Iran, Afghanistan and Bangladesh is a reflection of our contradictions. [...]Since June 2014, when Operation Zarb-e-Azb was launched, a steady decline in terrorism and fatalities due to violence has been observed. Observers maintain that incidents of terrorism have shrunk by 65 per cent in the last two years. This year, fatalities due to violence dropped by 36.8 per cent as compared to the first quarter of the last year. Suicide attacks do not occur as a matter of routine anymore, militants do not occupy any territory, and though we still witness isolated incidents of terrorism, the situation is certainly not as bad as before.

ECONOMIC ISSUES

Court seeks details of Chinese bank's loan, *The Dawn*, June 3⁴¹

The Lahore High Court on Thursday (June 2) directed the Punjab government to furnish details of loans it obtained from a Chinese bank for multi-billion Orange Line Metro Train project. As a division bench resumed hearing several identical petitions against the project on multiple grounds, counsel for civil society, one of the petitioners, argued that the government obtained loans from a Chinese bank on a higher mark-up and without proper study. Advocate Azhar Siddique further said the government ignored an option of getting loan on 0.75 percent mark-up from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and opted for the one with 6pc mark-up from EXIM Bank of China. The lawyer alleged the government had not even bothered to conduct an analysis of the international market for the purpose.

⁴⁰ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1119135/zarb-e-azb-clear-policies-needed-final-victory/>

⁴¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1262449/court-seeks-details-of-chinese-banks-loan-for-orange-line>

Budget 2016-17: War costs receding, The Dawn, June 3⁴²

With Pakistan expected to face a loss of around \$5.55 billion during the outgoing financial year, the Ministry of Finance has estimated that **the cumulative loss to the national economy has reached \$118.32bn since 9/11 due to the impact of war in Afghanistan.** "Pakistan continues to be a serious victim of terrorism, including foreign-sponsored terrorism from our immediate neighbourhood," says the Economic Survey 2015-16 in its dollar estimates of the losses suffered by the economy due to the fighting. [...] "During the last 14 years, the direct and indirect cost incurred by Pak-istan due to incidents of terrorism amounted to \$118.31bn equivalent to Rs9.86 trillion," the survey said. However, the expected loss of around \$5.55bn for the outgoing fiscal year is significantly less, compared to \$9.24bn in the fiscal year 2014-15. Both direct and indirect losses to the economy resulting from terrorism are on the decline.

Finance minister defends non-utilisation of ADP funds, The Dawn, June 13⁴³

Sindh Finance Minister Murad Ali Shah said on Sunday (June 12) that the allocation of Rs225 billion in the head of the annual development programme in the provincial budget 2016-17 was a record and the government would release funds from July so that local bodies could implement the projects. Speaking at a post-budget press conference here, the minister, however, defended the non-utilisation of the last financial year's ADP resources and said that the Supreme Court had imposed a ban on initiating of any new project because of the local government elections.

CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

Joint Monitoring for CPEC projects: NAB chief, The Dawn, June 3⁴⁴

Anti-corruption organisations of Pakistan and China will jointly monitor the \$46 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and its related projects to ensure transparency and avoid chances of corruption. Both countries will soon sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for anti-corruption cooperation and the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Chairman, Qamar Zaman Chaudhry, will fly to China this month to sign the document.

⁴² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1262431>

⁴³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1264388/finance-minister-defends-non-utilisation-of-adp-funds>

⁴⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1262428/china-pakistan-to-jointly-monitor-46bn-cpec-projects-to-check-corruption-nab-chief>

Ready to pay any price: COAS, *The Nation*, June 3⁴⁵

Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif yesterday vowed to foil nefarious designs of all hostile forces against China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), saying the project promises to transform the lives of people of Pakistan. ***“We are aware of all hostility being perpetrated against the CPEC and we are ready to pay any price to turn this long-cherished dream into reality,”*** the army chief said yesterday, while chairing a formation commanders’ conference at GHQ, Rawalpindi. The conference was attended by the corps commanders, principal staff officers and all formation commanders.

22 more CAFs wings to be raised for guarding CPEC, *The Nation*, June 14⁴⁶

The government yesterday informed the Senate that 22 additional wings of civil armed forces (CAFs) would be raised to provide foolproof security of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Project (CPEC). Minister of State for Interior Baleeghur Rehman while responding to a calling attention notice moved by PML-N Senator Abdul Qayyum said that the government decided to recruit more than 17,000 security personnel for this purpose while over 3,000 personnel had already been hired. He said funds have also been released in this connection and the task would be completed till the end of this year. The state minister said that six more wings of civil armed forces would be formed for the Special Security Division that has also been established for the security of CPEC.

EDITORIALS AND OPINION

Review of the economy, Editorial, *The Dawn*, June 3⁴⁷

IF ever the devil was in the detail, it was at the point when the finance minister announced, as he presented the Economic Survey yesterday, that Pakistan was back on the growth track. The economy grew by 4.7pc for the current fiscal, despite a steep fall in agricultural output totalling 0.5pc of GDP. The external sector “has become more stable” as reserves have risen and the current account deficit has shrunk. [...] ***The government has managed to stabilise the economy. But it appears to be struggling to grow beyond this firefighting role.*** Where are the big ideas to spur growth in agriculture, or open up sustainable inflows of foreign exchange? Where are the big ideas on revenue generation and documentation, now that we have had our fill of withholding taxes and have seen banking transaction tax lead to little more than an increase in cash holding in the economy?

⁴⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/03-Jun-2016/ready-to-pay-any-price-for-turning-46b-cpec-into-reality-coas>

⁴⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/national/14-Jun-2016/22-more-cafs-wings-to-be-raised-for-guarding-cpec-senate-told>

⁴⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1262327/review-of-the-economy>

SECURITY SITUATION

TERRORISM

Bajaur tribesmen to support forces, *The Nation*, June 14⁴⁸

The tribesmen of Bajaur agency have pledged to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with security forces against the anti-state elements. They stated this while addressing a protest rally against the drone strikes in Pakistan held here at Khar, the headquarters of Agency. The rally was jointly organized by several political and religious parties and local traders. [...]The speakers strongly condemned the US drone attacks in Balochistan on May 21, adding that the US drone strike had not only violated the sovereignty of Pakistan, but it was also a clear violation of the international laws. They termed the attack in Balochistan a part of US conspiracy to defame Pakistan in international community.

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND FATA

Two guards killed in IED blast, *The Dawn*, June 8⁴⁹

A pro-government tribal elder narrowly escaped while his two security guards were killed and another was injured after an improvised explosives device (IED), planted by suspected Taliban terrorists, exploded at the Ziarat area of Safi tehsil in Mohmand Agency on Tuesday morning (June 7). Officials said that Malik Ayaz Khan, along with his three security guards, was on his way to Ziarat Masood area at Safi tehsil from his home.

Beheaded body of a soldier found, *The Nation*, June 14⁵⁰

Beheaded body of a kidnapped army recruit was recovered from Darwazgai area of Ekkaghund tehsil in Mohmand Agency on early Monday morning (June 13), officials said. Militants had kidnapped a soldier Hayat Khan from Punjab Regiment Centre Mardan in Shanow Ghundi area of tehsil Ekkaghund on Sunday night (June 12).

BALUCHISTAN

Militant blows himself up, *The Dawn*, June 12⁵¹

A militant blew himself up and two others were arrested during a search operation carried out by security personnel near Zhob on Saturday (June 11). According to official sources, personnel of the Frontier Corps (FC) launched the operation in the Kakhao area after getting a tip-off about the presence of militants there. Men hiding in a house opened fire on FC personnel when they

⁴⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/national/14-Jun-2016/bajaur-tribesmen-to-support-forces>

⁴⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1263518/pro-govt-elder-escapes-unhurt-two-guards-killed-in-ied-blast>

⁵⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/14-Jun-2016/beheaded-body-of-a-soldier-found-in-mohmand>

⁵¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1264295/militant-blows-himself-up-two-others-held-near-zhob>

cordoned it off. This led to a heavy exchange of fire between the two sides. Towards the end of the gunfight, one of the militants blew himself up. Security personnel arrested two militants and recovered a huge quantity of arms and ammunition from the house.

Anti-terror cop shot dead in Quetta, *The Nation*, June 14⁵²

A police official was killed in firing by armed assailants in Quetta's Sariab Road area, on Monday (June 13). The police sources said that unidentified armed men riding a motorcycle opened fire on CTD officer Shabbir Ahmed, leaving him critically injured. The attackers managed to escape from the scene. "Shabbir Ahmed suffered gunshot wounds in firing by armed men in Shafi Colony, Sariab Road area of the provincial capital," they said. The rescue team rushed to the site and was shifting the injured to hospital when he succumbed to his bullet injuries.

Six facilitators of militants surrender, *Daily Times*, June 14⁵³

At least six facilitators of militants have surrendered to Frontier Corps Balochistan in a ceremony held in Noshki, on Monday (June 13). A spokesman for FC said here that the facilitators were involved in facilitating militant organization in committing militancy and anti-peace activities. "These six facilitators, however, gave themselves up to FC Balochistan," he said, adding that a ceremony was held in Noshki area where the surrender took place.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

JuD's Violent Extremism, Editorial, *The Nation*, June 2⁵⁴

When critics equate the Jammāt-ud-Dawā (JuD) with terrorist organisations like the Taliban, its defenders – usually found sitting in the parliament or wearing stars and stripes on their shoulders – claim that even if it is propagating an extremist ideology, at least it refrains from using violence. ***The fact that it peacefully 'orders' the forfeiture of animal skins across Punjab on Eid and that it calmly offers funeral prayers for a mass murderer in Mullah Mansour does nothing to contradict the establishment's narrow view of the word 'peaceful'.*** [...] The property dealer who had been pursuing litigation in the Lahore High Court against the religious organisation's self-styled 'Shariat Court' was briefly kidnapped, intoxicated and threatened by two unidentified men on his way to the court on Tuesday – who told him to drop the case against JuD or face consequences. Is it still the benevolent charity organisation that the establishment fawns over? [...] The illegal activities of JuD keep piling up and

⁵² <http://nation.com.pk/national/14-Jun-2016/anti-terror-cop-shot-dead-in-quetta>

⁵³ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/balochistan/14-Jun-16/six-facilitators-of-militants-surrender-in-balochistan>

⁵⁴ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/02-Jun-2016/jud-s-violent-extremism>

the government keeps ignoring them, perhaps in sympathy to their cause, perhaps out of fear.

Frankenstein's monsters, Madiha Afzal, *The Express Tribune*, June 8⁵⁵

A troublemaker that causes its neighbours harm, a country being attacked by monsters of its own creation: this is how the world sees Pakistan. [...]Of course, Pakistan disagrees. It sees itself as a victim — of the jihadists created to fight America's war against the Soviets in Afghanistan, of American abandonment in the 1990s, of the jihadist blowback in allying with America post-2001, of its painful birth, of Indian aggression and connivance. ***It irks Pakistan that the world defines it in terms of terror. [...]Who gave the thumbs-up to Pakistan to continue to cultivate ties with the Afghan Taliban? Not our public, which deeply dislikes the group.*** Only 12 per cent of respondents surveyed by Pew in 2013 had a favourable view of the Afghan Taliban; 47 per cent had an unfavourable view (42 per cent did not respond). But public opinion informs policy in the best democracies: it is not to be expected in Pakistan where historically defence and security policies have not been in the hands of its elected leaders.

RELATIONS WITH INDIA

UN chief supports direct Pak-India talks, *The Nation*, June 3⁵⁶

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has "always been supportive" of any direct dialogue between India and Pakistan, his spokesman has said. Spokesman Stephane Dujarric was responding to a question at the regular whether the UN chief would be willing to persuade India to have talks with Pakistan over Kashmir in the remaining months of his tenure. ***"I think, throughout his tenure, the Secretary-General has always been supportive of any direct dialogue between Pakistan and India," he said.***

No evidence of Pak hand in Pathankot attack: India, *The Nation*, June 3⁵⁷

Pakistan was yesterday overwhelmed with joy as chief Indian investigator Sharad Kumar gave it a clean chit in the Pathankot airbase attack case. ***Kumar, the Director General of National Investigative Agency, confirmed that no evidence was found about Pakistan's involvement in Pathankot attack.*** Foreign Ministry spokesman Nafees Zakaria said that the statement of the NIA chief had vindicated Pakistan's long-standing stance. "We knew we were not involved and now they know it too. Pakistan is for peace in the region. We are against terrorism in any form," he said.

⁵⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1118160/frankensteins-monsters/>

⁵⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/national/03-Jun-2016/un-chief-supports-direct-pak-india-talks>

⁵⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/national/03-Jun-2016/no-evidence-of-pak-hand-in-pathankot-attack-india>

Senators for countering India's 'aggressive foreign policy', *The Dawn*, June 8⁵⁸

Upset over India's aggressive foreign policy moves, the senators on Tuesday (June 8) asked the government to immediately rectify its "diplomatic failings". Taking part in a discussion on an adjournment motion moved by PML-N's Javed Abbasi on the "**recent test of an intercept missile by India contributing to an unhealthy arms race in the region**", the senators also expressed their concerns over India's growing relations with Afghanistan, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. In their speeches, they highlighted the recent visits of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to various countries which were considered to be friends of Pakistan. [...] Calling for an honest review of the security and defence policies, PPP's Farhatullah Babar said the policy of supporting non-state actors for advancement of certain security objectives had also spurred arms race in the region. "**There will be no arms race in the region if foreign and security policies are formulated by civilians,**" he added.

Protest to continue till India gives up, *Daily Times*, June 9⁵⁹

Top Hurriyet leaders Syed Ali Gilani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Muhammad Yasin Malik have said that peaceful protests would continue till India gives up its anti-Kashmir plans in the territory. The leaders in their joint statement issued in Srinagar gave a joint call for protests against the construction of separate colonies for Kashmiri Pandits and Indian soldiers and Delhi's so-called Industrial Policy in the territory, Kashmir Media Service reported. The leaders termed the statements by PDP-BJP regime over these serious issues as vague, ambiguous and confusing. They urged Imams of all Masajid to inform people about the serious consequences of the Indian moves in their sermons on Friday (tomorrow).

Making terror an excuse is not a solution, *The News*, June 10⁶⁰

Pakistan's foreign adviser Sartaj Aziz has explained to India that making terrorism an excuse for not talking is not justified. During an exclusive interview to Indian newspaper Hindustan Times in Islamabad Sartaj Aziz said we have had good cooperation on Pathankot and even sent a team to India. Blaming us for not doing enough is not justified. "**It is for India to decide whether they want to break the logjam or not. We don't deny the need for a discussion on terrorism and it is one of the eight topics under the**

⁵⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1263507/senators-call-for-steps-to-counter-indias-aggressive-foreign-policy>

⁵⁹ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/09-Jun-16/protest-to-continue-till-india-gives-up-its-anti-kashmir-plans>

⁶⁰ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/126824-Making-terror-an-excuse-not-a-solution-Pakistan-India-Sartaj-Aziz>

comprehensive dialogue,” he said. He said that India alleges the groups and individuals are sponsored by our agencies but its own National investigation Agency has said Pakistan’s agencies are not involved in Phathankot.

EXCERPTS FROM URDU MEDIA & SELECT JIHADI LITERATURE

Why are Chinese Engineers under Attack? Editorial Daily Jung, June 1⁶¹

Yesterday a Chinese engineer was targeted by a remote controlled bomb in Karachi. According to the preliminary investigation it is believed that **it was done to destabilise Pakistan particularly and not let CPEC succeed**. A pamphlet written in Sindhi and bearing the name of a group called Sindhudesh Revolutionary Party was recovered from the site of the blast. The fact is that there is no Sindhudesh Revolutionary Party in Sindh. In province people elect their representatives. The greater participation of the people in polls prove it that they believe in democracy and constitution of the country. Therefore it is unrealistic to believe that this attack was done by Sindhudesh Revolutionary Party. They have no presence in the province. **According to one police officer there is solid evidence that RAW has done this. India government should not hide their plans of sabotaging CPEC**. A special funding has also been released to attack CPEC projects. This was disclosed by a RAW agent Kulbushan Yadev, apprehended by Pakistan last month.

Peace not Possible in Afghanistan, Editorial, Nawa-i-Waqt, June 13⁶²

The spokesperson of Defence Minister of Afghanistan has welcomed the US decision of extending their military role in fighting against Taliban. On the one hand Afghan government, through the backchannel, is reaching out to the Taliban and on the other it is appreciating the presence of the US forces. This duplicity will not bring stability in Afghanistan. **Peace cannot return to Afghanistan in presence of the US troops**. If we want peace and stability in the region, that is not possible in presence of the US troops in Afghanistan. Afghan duplicity of reaching out to Taliban and the same time appreciating growing role of US military cannot go anywhere. Peace and stability is impossible in Afghanistan even in the presence of single US military personnel.

Gen. Raheel: A Blessings, Asadullah Ghalib, Nawa-i-Waqt, June 15⁶³

At first let me salute Major Changazi, may God endow him with highest rank in Heaven. The time Pakistan is going through is very tough one. But good news is that at the days of dooms we have Gen. Raheel Sharif. The geographical location of Pakistan has always seen wars, attacks from every side of the border. Only difference is that in the past attackers were individuals. **But in recent times the world powers are contemplating these attacks**. We had never

⁶¹ http://e.jang.com.pk/06-01-2016/karachi/pic.asp?picname=06_02.gif

⁶² <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/editorials/13-Jun-2016/483292>

⁶³ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/columns/15-Jun-2016/483867>

expected that Pakistani army posts will come under attack from Afghan counterparts. **India has never dared to attack Pakistan like that.** [...] Gen. Raheel has to go after three years but he had made his name in the history of excellence. **After the world war second America and Europe could not produce great army generals not even Asia but Pakistan has created the one by the name of Gen. Raheel Sharif.** Pakistan has gifted the world a hero. [...] When he is planning to retire, Afghan army is thrusting a new war on him. **If this attack has come from India on Wagha ,Pakistan would have retaliated with full power.** Gen Raheel has a very short time. In this short period he has to prove it that he was not general for the three years but for three centuries.

STATISTICS

BOMBINGS, SHOOTINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES

(Select incidents culled out from the Pakistan media)

Place	Date	Description	Killed	Injured
Balochistan				
Zhob ⁶⁴	12/6/2016	Militant blows up	1	0
FATA				
Ghalanai ⁶⁵	8/6/2016	Two guards killed	2	1
Mohmand ⁶⁶	14/6/2016	Headless body found	1	0
Punjab				
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Khyber Pakhtunkhwa				
Peshawar ⁶⁷	2/6/2016	Retired army man shot dead	1	0
Sindh				
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⁶⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1264295/militant-blows-himself-up-two-others-held-near-zhob>

⁶⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1263518/pro-govt-elder-escapes-unhurt-two-guards-killed-in-ied-blast>

⁶⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/national/14-Jun-2016/beheaded-body-of-a-soldier-found-in-mohmand>

⁶⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1262212/retired-army-man-shot-dead-in-peshawar>