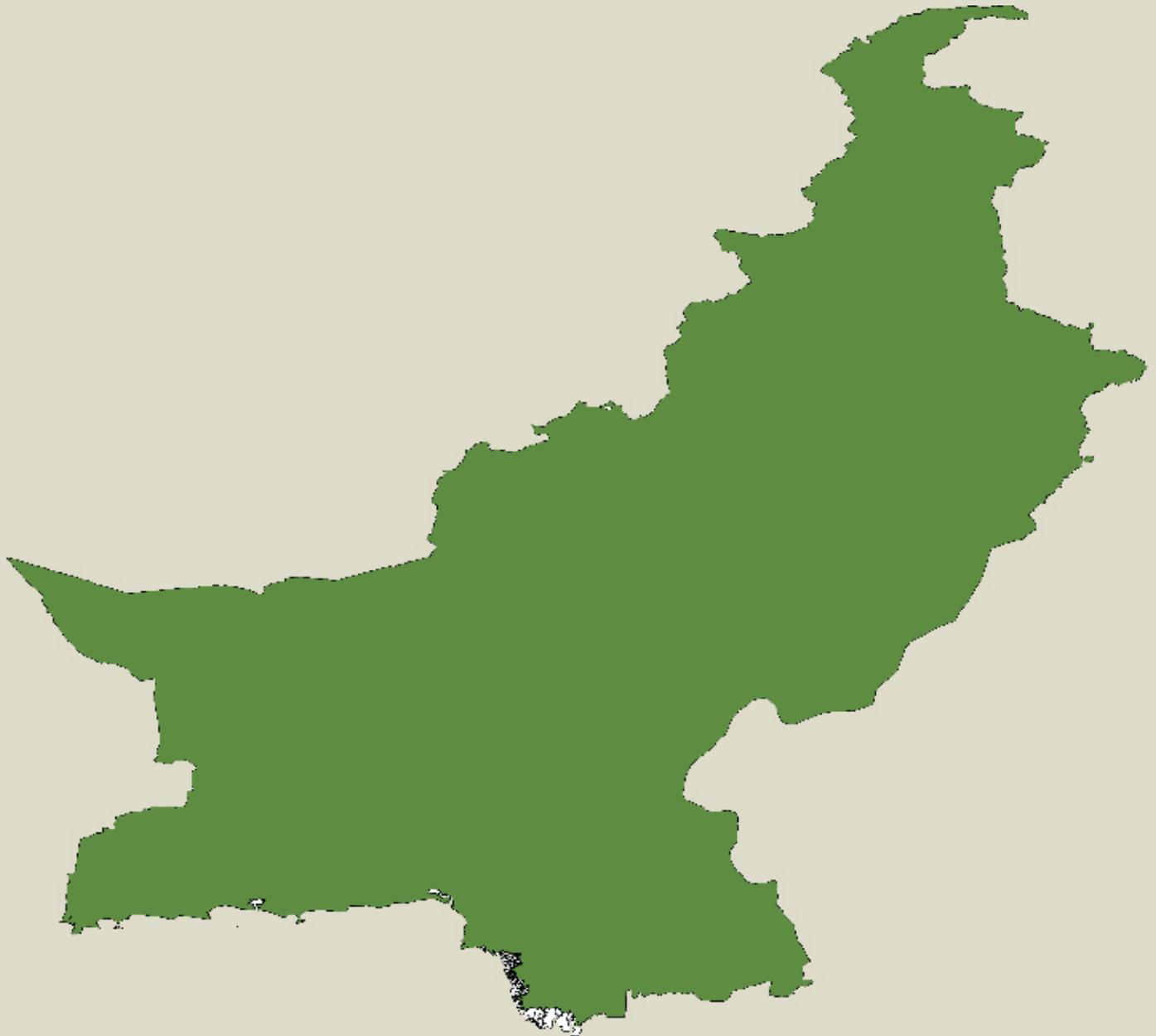


*June 16-30, 2016*

# 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  
STUDIES & ANALYSES  
रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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## PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST, JUNE (16-30) 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-Islaami  
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**

### **Relations with India**

Despite all the rhetoric and public pronouncements, over the years, Pakistan has come to realise that the only way to move forward is dialogue and diplomacy. This was reflected in Hina Rabbani Khar's recent interview to Geo News in which she conceded that Pakistan cannot "conquer Kashmir through war" and the only way left is the dialogue and normalisation of relations with India.

Sartaj Aziz, Prime Minister's advisor on Foreign Policy, has gone on record saying that "the role of security establishment is vital in framing the foreign policy." This underlines New Delhi's dilemma to deal with Islamabad. The uneasiness was recently highlighted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi who argued that civil-military leaders were not on the same page. His comments did not go down well in Pakistan which blamed him for not being serious on the issue.

### **Internal Security Situation**

It has been over two years since the military launched operation Zarb-e-Azb to get rid of terrorism. The operation undoubtedly has brought down the number of terror incidents and casualties, however, it could not destroy/dismantle the terror infrastructure in the country. The military is well aware of the fact and that's the reason it did not announce the end of the operation. Instead, it decided to continue the intelligence-based and combing operations.

Contrary to the claims, the security situation in Karachi, the economic hub of the country, is also not very encouraging. Recently, the abduction of Sindh High Court Chief Justice's son and assassination of popular Qawwali singer Amjad Sabri puts a big question mark on the military's claim regarding improved security situation in Karachi. Gen. Raheel Sharif, instead of reviewing the performance of the Rangers in Sindh—especially its failure—lauded the efforts of the paramilitary forces as "exemplary" in the face of heavy odds.

### **KP Government's Grant to Darul Uloom Haqqania**

The PPP has strongly criticised the KP provincial government for giving \$300 million aid to the infamous seminary which is also known as the University of Jihad. Imran Khan has tried to defend the decision under the garb of National

Action Plan (NAP) and madrassa children's right to education. However, the move simply seems to be an attempt to win over the religious right for political purpose.

### **The Economic Situation**

There was some good news for the country in economic arena. The international economic institutions have agreed to help Pakistan in a big way by giving loans for various projects. These included the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), World Bank (WB), and European Union (EU). Chinese businessmen have started showing especial interests to invest in Pakistan's economy under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). These developments suggest that the international community, particularly China, is willing to work with Pakistan to improve the economic environment in the country.

### **The Panam Papers Controversy**

The stalemate on Terms of References (ToRs) to probe the Panama Papers Leak is continuing. The government and opposition have locked horns over the issue. Whereas the government wants an open-ended enquiry, the opposition is insisting that the probe should focus especially on Prime Minister and his family members. Most of the opposition parties including PPP and PTI seem to be united on the issue. Lately, they have also approached the Election Commission to push for the disqualification of the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

The PML-N government is under pressure and Nawaz Sharif is facing one of the most critical crisis in his third tenure. Earlier, when he was cornered by Imran Khan and Tahir-ul-Qadri, the PPP and other parties stood with him. But this time, the situation is different.

### **Dr Ashish Shukla**

## POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

### NATIONAL POLITICS

**Nawaz has forgotten Charter of Democracy: Bilawal**, *Daily Times*, June 22<sup>1</sup>

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said on Tuesday (June 21) that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had forgotten the Charter of Democracy (CoD) and the parliament was being given no importance. [...]He said the country needed a prime minister who could challenge the world. *He stated that Pakistan would not take lectures on peace from the "butcher of Gujarat"*. If the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) succeeds in the elections in Azad Kashmir, he said, it would be considered Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's victory in the region.

### THE PANAMA PAPERS

**Govt, opposition stalemate persists**, *The Dawn*, June 20<sup>2</sup>

Government and opposition are no way near reaching a consensus on the Terms of References (ToRs) for inquiry on Panama Papers data leak, Senator Aitzaz Ahsan said on Monday (June 20). *"Government did not accept opposition's ToRs and gave their own which were not different to what the Supreme Court had already rejected,"* Ahsan told a news conference in Islamabad. [...] *"The basic difference between the government and the opposition on the ToRs was that the government wanted an open-ended inquiry which would have enabled investigations on the Abbotabad commission report and Hamood-ur-Rehman commission etcetera,"* he said. [...] *"Therefore, we want an inquiry specifically on Panama Papers, which should be empowered by a special law with some key points,"* Ahsan said.

**No forward movement on Panama probe**, *The Nation*, June 21<sup>3</sup>

Reiterating its demand of initiation of probe from Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his family, the *Joint Opposition announced continuing boycott of Parliamentary Committee on Panama Papers until the government shows flexibility*. Addressing a press conference the opposition members of the parliamentary panel charged that government actually seemed not serious in the probe into the matter.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/22-Jun-16/nawaz-has-forgotten-charter-of-democracy-says-bilawal>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1266075/govt-opposition-stalemate-on-panama-tors-persists>

<sup>3</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/21-Jun-2016/no-forward-movement-on-panama-probe>

**Corruption: Imran hints at joining hands with PPP, *The News*, June 22<sup>4</sup>**

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan has said that he could stand at a container along with Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in drive against the corruption. In an interview with Geo News program 'Capital Talk', Imran Khan said, *"I will stand by anyone including Bilawal Bhutto Zardari who comes out against corruption."*

**Opp giants to move ECP for PM disqualification, *The Nation*, June 23<sup>5</sup>**

The two biggest opposition parties, PPP and PTI, have decided to approach separately the Election Commission for disqualification of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif over hiding assets, apparently amassed through corruption.

**PPP files reference in ECP for disqualification of PM, *The Nation*, June 27<sup>6</sup>**

*Pakistan People's Party (PPP) today filed a reference in the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for disqualification of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif*, for concealing assets of his wife and children. The reference was filed by Sardar Latif Khosa, Secretary General of PPP, alleging that the premier concealed assets of his wife and children, lied about his income in his tax returns and sent money abroad through illegal channels. He also filed references against Punjab Chief Minister Shehbaz Sharif, lawmakers Captain (Retd) Muhammad Safdar, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and Hamza Shehbaz. The reference says "Keeping in view the above facts, Nawaz Sharif does not qualify for prime minister's office under Articles 62 and 63 of the Constitution; therefore, he may be disqualified."

## PROVINCIAL POLITICS

**AJK polls to be held under Army: PM, *The Nation*, June 21<sup>7</sup>**

*AJK Prime Minister Abdul Majeed said on Monday that July 21 Legislative Assembly general elections will be held under the supervision of the Army.* Addressing a news conference at the Prime Minister House in Mirpur, Majeed said that the forthcoming AJK Legislative Assembly are of exceptional importance in the backdrop of the Kashmir freedom struggle. He said that these elections should be held in absolutely free, fair and transparent manner.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/129864-Imran-hints-at-joining-hands-with-PPP-in-drive-against-corruption>

<sup>5</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/24-Jun-2016/opp-giants-to-move-ecp-for-pm-disqualification>

<sup>6</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/27-Jun-2016/ppp-files-reference-in-ecp-for-disqualification-of-pm-nawaz-sharif>

<sup>7</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/21-Jun-2016/ajk-polls-to-be-held-under-army-pm>

**Zardari criticises KP govt over 300 mn grant, *The News*, June 26<sup>8</sup>**

[...] *"This is nothing but legitimization of militancy and militant Taliban that will undermine the nation's resolve to fight militants to the finish," said Zardari in a statement that was released on Sunday (June 26).* The statement from Zardari also stated that the amount should have been spent on human development instead of on ' a seminary whose claim to fame lies in its promotion of militant Islam and the world view of Islamic militants', read the statement. [...] *Zardari also said that the head of the Darul Uloom Haqqania in Nowshera was an undeclared spokesperson of the Taliban.* "During the government-TTP talks in 2014, the Taliban actually named the head of the seminary to negotiate on their behalf. It is also widely known that a number of militant Taliban leaders have been students of this seminary," read the statement.

**Madrassa children also have rights: Imran Khan, *The News*, June 26<sup>9</sup>**

*PTI chief Imran Khan said on Sunday (June 26) that the 2.2 million children in Pakistan's madrassa system also had rights on the government.* The former cricketer-turned-politician made the statement while addressing a press conference in Peshawar. Khan said that the process of taking corrective actions had begun with Darul Uloom Haqqania.

**Rs300m grant to seminary as per NAP, *The Nation*, June 27<sup>10</sup>**

*PTI Chairman Imran Khan yesterday said the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government had approved Rs 300 million for Darul Uloom Haqqania in its fiscal budget for the year 2016-17 only to bring it into the mainstream.* Speaking at a news conference here at the CM House on Sunday (June 26), he said bringing religious seminaries into the mainstream was part of the National Action Plan (NAP) and Madrassa Haqqania was one of the biggest seminaries in Pakistan where thousands of students were getting religious education. Backing the KP government's decision, he said this step had been welcomed by many religious figures and seminaries.

**Blasphemy: Death sentences given, *The Express Tribune*, June 29<sup>11</sup>**

An anti-terrorism court sentenced on Tuesday (June 28) a Muslim and two Christians to death on charges of blasphemy. Two of them were also awarded 35-year imprisonment terms. According to the BBC, the judgment was

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/130830-Zardari-speaks-out-against-KP-govts-grant-to-Darul-Uloom-Haqqania>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/130833-22-mn-madrassa-children-also-have-rights-Imran-Khan>

<sup>10</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/27-Jun-2016/rs300m-grant-to-seminary-as-per-nap>

<sup>11</sup> <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1132544/blasphemy-case-muslim-two-christians-awarded-death-sentences/>

announced by ATC Judge Bushra Zaman on Monday (June 27). The case was registered in Satellite Town police station of Gujranwala on May 15 last year under sections 295C and 386 of Pakistan Penal Code.

## EDITORIALS AND OPINION

**Jogindranath Mandal and our ideology**, Editorial, *Daily Times*, June 20<sup>12</sup>

A few years ago, the City District Government Lahore had taken the decision to name one of the underpasses on the Canal Bank Road after Jogindranath Mandal, the country's first law minister. Tragically, that promise was never fulfilled. I have no doubt that it was not fulfilled because if Mandal's story became widely known it would sound the death knell to the entirely contrived ideology of Pakistan that has been rammed down our throats particularly since General Zia-ul-Haq's 11 years of misrule, but more generally since 1949 when the Objectives Resolution was first passed in the country putting it on the road to theocracy.

**Return of 'Taliban Khan'**, Editorial, *The Nation*, June 24<sup>13</sup>

*Just as it seemed like Imran Khan was set to lose the title of "Taliban Khan" for his ideological support of the militant group, the captain swooped down to reclaim his moniker in style.* The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government allocated Rs300 million to religious seminary Darul Uloom Haqqania in its budget – the seminary that is colloquially known as the "University of Jihad" in the west. Why would the KP government, which is affected most by religious extremism, give such large sums to an institute whose graduates include Mohammad Omar, the founder of the Taliban, and Jalaluddin Haqqani - who named his militant group after the seminary – along with several other notable terrorists, is beyond reason. [...]Everybody does one thing or the other for their vote bank, it is politically necessary. Yet giving Rs 300 million to the most notorious extremist seminary in Pakistan, and indeed the world, while bombs and bullets continue to rip through minorities is irresponsible.

**FATA: the forgotten land**, Rafi-ud-din Mehsud, *Daily Times*, June 29<sup>14</sup>

*[...]There is not a single university and medical college in the whole of FATA, and the literacy rate is decreasing day by day. [...]The most important thing regarding FATA is the need to mainstream the tribal areas with the rest of the country. In this regard the 12th point of the National Action Plan also deals with the issue of reforms in FATA. Nonetheless, it seems that this point has been totally forgotten.* FATA, ruled by the old British law FCR, is in dire straits, and there is a dire need to have local body elections so that the power is

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<sup>12</sup> <http://dailytimes.com.pk/opinion/20-Jun-16/jogindranath-mandal-and-our-ideology>

<sup>13</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/24-Jun-2016/return-of-taliban-khan>

<sup>14</sup> <http://dailytimes.com.pk/opinion/29-Jun-16/fata-the-forgotten-land>

transferred to the common man. One wonders if government can conduct elections for the National Assembly why it cannot have an election for local government in FATA.

**Mainstreaming what?** Editorial, *The News*, June 29<sup>15</sup>

Now that more than a week has passed and the PTI has had an opportunity to defend its Rs300 million handout to Maulana Samiul Haq's Darul Uloom Haqqania in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa budget, its decision is looking more unjustified than ever. [...] Imran and his party claim the grant is meant to mainstream madressahs and bring in reforms. The idea of mainstreaming and reform is welcome but one needs to be sceptical and ask if this aim figures at all into the PTI's thinking. [...] *Imran should have been able to explain what reforms needed to be introduced to mainstream madressahs and how the government would audit the use of these funds. What changes will there be in madressah management, curriculum, and the ideology taught to the students? If none and nothing, then what kind of mainstreaming is this? Why should it not suggest instead a handsome handout to a favoured figure?*

## FOREIGN POLICY

**Afghan envoy holds talks at GHQ**, *The Nation*, June 16<sup>16</sup>

Pakistan and Afghanistan yesterday agreed to consider peace after the US intervention, official sources said, as unprovoked firing from across Afghan border continued on Wednesday (June 15) while Islamabad again summoned Afghan envoy to register its protest. *Officials in Foreign Office said Afghan Ambassador Hazrat Omar Zakhilwal telephoned Foreign Affairs Adviser Sartaj Aziz and sought help to resolve the dispute through diplomatic means.* The Afghan envoy had returned from Afghanistan the other day after attending the National Security Council meeting in Kabul convened by President Ashraf Ghani this week. Ghani's office alleged Pakistani forces of "violations" at Torkham and called the move by Pakistan against the international norms.

**Pakistan had informed Afghanistan: Sartaj**, *Daily Times*, June 16<sup>17</sup>

*Sartaj Aziz on Thursday (June 15) said that Pakistan had informed Afghan authorities regarding the new policy to strictly follow documentation procedures.* Outlining three dimensions where Afghanistan and Pakistan need to indulge in joint collaboration, he reiterated the importance to curb terrorism, infiltration, smugglers and traffickers. He said these protocols would serve the interests of both sides. This program of alignment was planned to be

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<sup>15</sup> <http://www.thenews.com.pk/print/131373-Mainstreaming-what>

<sup>16</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/16-Jun-2016/afghan-envoy-holds-talks-at-ghq>

<sup>17</sup> <http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/16-Jun-16/pakistan-had-informed-afghanistan-about-border-protocols-sartaj>

implemented along the whole border, he told the National Assembly. Islamabad had addressed Kabul's concerns over Torkham and maintained that the operations did not pose infringements on any bilateral treaty between the two countries nor did it violate any international law.

**Pak-Afghan delegations meet in Islamabad**, *The Dawn*, June 20<sup>18</sup>

Pakistani and Afghan delegations met on Monday (June 20) in the first senior-level talks aimed at reducing tensions at the Torkham border crossing along the Pak-Afghan border. *"A six-member Afghan delegation is being led by Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Hekmat Khalil Karzai," Foreign Office Spokesman Nafees Zakaria said, adding that the Pakistani side was being led by Foreign Secretary Aizaz Chaudhry.* "Afghan delegation warmly received. Talks started in a cordial atmosphere," Zakaria said. Both sides are to review all aspects of border issues and will evolve a mechanism for better border management.

**Govt pursuing suitable foreign policy**, *The Nation*, June 21<sup>19</sup>

Sartaj Aziz yesterday said as new alignments were emerging in the regional and global arenas, the present government was pursuing a suitable foreign policy with futuristic approach. *Non-interference, balanced approach, ensuring its security, protecting sovereignty and growth of trade and economy were among the main objectives of the government's foreign policy and its positive results would be seen in future, he said* in an interview with a private television channel aired on Monday night. Sartaj said with the launching of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), enhanced cooperation with China, Central Asian Republics (CARs), the Russian Federation and other countries in diverse fields, progress on regional projects like Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline and Central-Asia South-Asia (CASA)-1000, Pakistan had gained special importance in the region. [...] To a question, he said India wanted its hegemony in the South Asian region, but Pakistan never accepted its hegemony and continued to protect its sovereignty without compromising its just stance of having a nuclear deterrence.

**'Ex- envoy to US lobbying against his own country'**, *Daily Times*, June 21<sup>20</sup>

A former Pakistani ambassador to the United States (US) is 'lobbying against his own country' and 'creating hurdles for the government', Sartaj Aziz told the National Assembly. *"A former Pakistani ambassador is working against*

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<sup>18</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1266051/pak-afghan-delegations-meet-in-islamabad-to-discuss-border-tensions>

<sup>19</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/21-Jun-2016/govt-pursuing-suitable-foreign-policy-with-futuristic-approach-sartaj>

<sup>20</sup> <http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/21-Jun-16/ex-pakistani-envoy-to-us-lobbying-against-his-own-country>

*his own country in the US," Aziz said, adding that Pakistan's diplomatic mission in the US is facing challenges due to the former ambassador's campaign. "This person is trying to tackle all our diplomatic efforts in boosting the bilateral ties between Pakistan and the United States," Aziz said without revealing the identity of the person.*

**Border talks yield nothing concrete, *The Nation*, June 21<sup>21</sup>**

Pakistan and Afghanistan yesterday failed to strike a deal on the border dispute but vowed to continue talks to find a solution, officials said. [...]The two sides agreed on a ceasefire last week, and it was decided that an Afghan delegation led by deputy foreign minister Hekmat Khalil Karzai would visit Pakistan for talks on June 20. The Afghan delegation held talks with the Pakistani team led by Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry here who told them Pakistan was planning to build at least four more gates along the border. An official who attended the meeting told *The Nation*, the Afghan side was perturbed by the announcement and raised objections. *"The two sides failed to agree on the Torkham gate and the planned gates but there will be more talks so hopefully there could be an acceptable solution," the official said.* He said despite the protest by Afghanistan, they were told the new gates were important for Pakistan's security and Islamabad was not ready to compromise on this issue.

**Hussain Haqqani slams Pakistan officials, *The News*, June 22<sup>22</sup>**

Pakistan's former ambassador to the United States, Husain Haqqani, said on Tuesday (June 21) that officials in Islamabad should take responsibility for their failed policies instead of looking for scapegoats. [...]Haqqani said he knew Aziz was speaking about him because another minister had attacked him by name with similar claims. *"I am now a scholar in the US, not a lobbyist," Haqqani said, adding, "If my opinions as a scholar carry so much weight that US policy is being affected by them then the Pakistan Foreign Ministry should try to influence my opinions rather than treating me like a pariah and making false allegations against me in the Pakistani media."*

**Aziz-Haqqani row depicts 'divisions', *The Nation*, June 24<sup>23</sup>**

The recent row between Sartaj Aziz, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, and Husain Haqqani, the former ambassador to Washington, has yet again triggered a debate about Pakistan's foreign policy making process and the growing impressions about the country's regional and international

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<sup>21</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/21-Jun-2016/border-talks-yield-nothing-concrete>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/129614-Hussain-Haqqani-slams-Pakistan-officials-for-failed-policies>

<sup>23</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/24-Jun-2016/aziz-haqqani-row-depicts-divisions-in-foreign-policy-formulation>

isolation. [...]“*Sartaj Aziz is trying to defend the government but actually we are alone in the corner due to the result of confusing foreign policy,*” said defence and political analyst Lt Gen (r) Talat Masood.” “Indo-US ties on strategic and economic front are a reality and have sidelined Islamabad. To seek China and Saudi Arabia help can never be an alternative to powerful US,” said Gen. Masood. “We have to rethink our policy.”

**Pakistan, India to make SCO more influential: Putin, *The Nation*, June 24<sup>24</sup>**

Russian President Vladimir Putin said the admission of Pakistan and India to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) will make the SCO a more powerful, influential and popular association in the region and worldwide. “*Indeed, as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation expands its areas of operation and its membership through the participation of the powerful countries I have just mentioned [Pakistan and India], it turns into a very powerful international association that commands respect and is relevant both in the region and worldwide,*” Putin said in an interview with China’s Xinhua news agency prior to his visit to China.

**Pakistan looks for US lobbyist, *The Dawn*, June 27<sup>25</sup>**

Two recent diplomatic disasters — the US refusal to subsidise an F-16 deal and the Obama administration’s campaign to induct India into the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) — have forced Pakistan to look for a paid lobbyist in the US capital. *Pakistan Embassy spokesman Nadeem Hotiana confirmed to Dawn that the country was now looking for a lobbyist “but has not yet taken any decision”.*

**Military vital in framing foreign policy: Sartaj, *The News*, June 27<sup>26</sup>**

Prime Minister’s Adviser on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz said the Government has chalked out a comprehensive policy against terrorism and foreign policy would be framed based on of our security needs like United States did. “*The role of security establishment is vital in framing the foreign policy,*” he said. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad on Monday (June 27), Sartaj Aziz said Pakistan has achieved significant successes in War against terror as a result of Operation Zarb-e-Azb and Pakistan’s image has been improved in the world.

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<sup>24</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/24-Jun-2016/pakistan-india-to-make-sco-more-influential-putin>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1267486/pakistan-looks-for-us-lobbyist-amid-diplomatic-challenges>

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/131046-Security-establishment-vital-framing-foreign-policy-Sartaj-Aziz>

## EDITORIALS AND OPINION

**A quagmire of mutual treachery, Imtiaz Alam, *The News*, June 16<sup>27</sup>**

[...]The bloody legacy of Afghanistan and the Indian subcontinent's history, the Afghan-British-India rivalry-cum-appeasement and Afghan-Pakistan treacherous relations carry a burden of distrust and reversal of roles for major actors at various turning points of the changing geo-politics. [...] *If the Afghans failed to create Pakhtunistan and greater Balochistan, Pakistan too did not succeed in retaining the loyalty of the dozens of proxies it had propped up to secure strategic depth while faced with the principal threat on its eastern border.* [...] At this decisive juncture, by picking a fight with the 'opportunistic Americans', pushing Afghanistan once again into India's lap and alienating Iran, we will be jeopardising our existential war against terrorism.

**Pakistan's strategy vis-à-vis NSG, Editorial, *The Dawn*, June 21<sup>28</sup>**

[...]Pakistan, which argues that Indian membership without a similar entry pass to Pakistan would exacerbate military nuclear competition between the two countries, appears to be one of the two basic reasons why China has withheld its support thus far for India's membership. [...] Perhaps the security establishment here is confident that Chinese assent will be withheld. But China's blocking effort could have been bolstered by separate efforts on Pakistan's part to lobby potentially sympathetic countries in the NSG. Yet, those efforts have only been apparent in recent days, after the extraordinary meeting at GHQ attended by the three joint custodians of the Foreign Office. *It is possible to lament the civil-military divide in the country. It is also possible to condemn the increasing dysfunction in the Foreign Office and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's bizarre insistence on not appointing a full-time foreign minister.*

**NSG Compromise?, Editorial, *The Nation*, June 21<sup>29</sup>**

[...]The NSG stood divided – with Turkey, Ireland and New Zealand opposed to India's bid – and key member, such as the USA and China stood on opposite sides of the issue. With sides picked, there was little potential for consensus. India's direct approach to China through the visit of Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar to Beijing on June 16 has changed that equation. There has been no stated change in policy nor has there been any consensus, but the statement by Indian Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj on Sunday, hints at an amicable solution to the disagreement. [...] The implication seems to be that India may support Pakistan joining the NSG if gets India in it too.

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<sup>27</sup> <http://www.thenews.com.pk/print/128143-A-quagmire-of-mutual-treachery>

<sup>28</sup> [http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailImage.php?StoryImage=21\\_06\\_2016\\_008\\_001](http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailImage.php?StoryImage=21_06_2016_008_001)

<sup>29</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/21-Jun-2016/nsg-compromise>

**On the foreign front**, Editorial, *The News*, June 29<sup>30</sup>

The state of our foreign policy today can be judged by our recent interactions with some of the most important regional and global actors. *India has directly blamed Pakistan for a recent attack on paramilitary troops in Occupied Kashmir* which was linked to Jaish-e-Muhammad and Narendra Modi has ruled out talks, saying he doesn't know which actor to talk to in Pakistan – an obvious reference to the power of the military. *The US supported India's bid for membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and cancelled funding for our purchase of F-16 fighter jets while continuing to launch drone attacks on our territory.* With Afghanistan, our decision to build a border gate at Torkham resulted in a massive exchange of fire. *Iran, India and Afghanistan have inked an agreement on the development of the Chabahar Port – excluding Pakistan from the final deal.* Not all of these issues can be blamed on Pakistan; Modi has made demagoguery against Pakistan a central plank of his agenda and we have every right to construct a gate. But the impression created is of a country that is isolated and adrift. Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz gave a briefing to journalists seeking to dispel this impression but only ended up enforcing the narrative of our isolation.

**Pakistan's chance**, Imtiaz Gul, *The Express Tribune*, June 30<sup>31</sup>

Battle lines in the Asia Pivot have probably never been more pronounced. The Obama Administration went out of its way to in its bid to get India's entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) confirmed. China and several other countries, on the other hand, stood in the way, urging a merit-based approach. Similarly, Beijing and Moscow facilitated the entry of both India and Pakistan into the security-focused Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). [...] *The controversy around India's NSG membership illustrates the new geo-political battle lines drawn by the US and the China-Russia duo. The former fully behind India, and the latter trying to keep a balance, much more empathetic to Pakistan than many others.* [...] The quest for influence and territory in southwest Asia and the Indian Ocean region marks the lines between Indo-Afghan-US axis on the one hand and Pakistan-China-Russia on the other. This represents a formidable challenge for Pakistan's diplomacy. [...] Herein lies a priceless chance for Pakistan. *Through a proactive, candid conversation with Moscow and Beijing on its current limitations and difficulties, Islamabad can build on the support of these two countries.* [...] The SCO membership offers Pakistan a fantastic opportunity to demonstrate that it is undergoing a foreign policy shift and is casting it in an economic development and regional cooperation paradigm. Both Moscow and Beijing understand the challenges that Pakistan faces because of its geo-politics. Through this forum, Islamabad

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<sup>30</sup> <http://www.thenews.com.pk/print/131372-On-the-foreign-front>

<sup>31</sup> <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1133042/pakistans-chance/>

can certainly at least attempt to refocus the global conversation on Pakistan away from the security-only paradigm. The CPEC provides the entry point for such a dialogue with other nations.

## MILITARY AFFAIRS

**Zarb-e-Azb to continue: Army, *The Nation*, June 16<sup>32</sup>**

*Giving a two-year review of the major military operation, Zarb-e-Azb, the army on Wednesday (June 15) said it would continue with primary focus on intelligence-based and combing operations.* ISPR Director General Lt-Gen Asim Bajwa told a media briefing that Pakistan and Afghanistan should resolve issues through dialogue. "Border management is aimed at addressing the common concern of infiltration and enhancing mutual security of both the countries and their peoples," he added. *He dismissed the notions that Pakistan had any tacit understanding with the US on a recent drone hit which targeted and killed Afghan Taliban chief Mullah Akhtar Mansour.* "Pakistan has forcefully condemned the US drone attack that derailed the Afghan peace process," Lt-Gen Bajwa added.

**Key militant commander nabbed, *The News*, June 16<sup>33</sup>**

The Counter Terrorism Department with the assistance of intelligence agencies arrested key commander of a banned outfit in Quetta. *Militant commander Khaliq Dad was arrested during an action in Nawakali.* He is said to be the mastermind of several terror activities. The authorities concerned had placed Rs1 million head money for Khaliq Dad. Weapons were also seized from the possession of arrested militant.

**Operation Zarb-e-Azb completes two years, *Daily Times*, June 16<sup>34</sup>**

Operation Zarb-e-Azb on Tuesday successfully completed its two years. The Pakistan Army in mid-2014 launched the operation in a bid to wipe out militant bases in North Waziristan and bring an end to a decade-long insurgency that had cost Pakistan thousands of lives. Pakistan Army says it has killed more than 3,500 terrorists while over 400 soldiers embrace martyrdom.

**NAB set to file case against ex-Army, PR officials, *The Nation*, June 21<sup>35</sup>**

*The National Accountability Bureau is ready to file a reference against four former Army officials, including three retired Generals and one Brigadier, and officials of Pakistan Railways in the case of lease of prime land for Railway Golf Club Royal Palm, The Nation learnt reliably.* According to the documents

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<sup>32</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/16-Jun-2016/zarb-e-azb-to-continue-army>

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/128122-Key-militant-commander-nabbed-in-Quetta>

<sup>34</sup> <http://dailytimes.com.pk/khyber-pakhtunkhwa/16-Jun-16/operation-zarb-e-azb-successfully-completes-two-years>

<sup>35</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/21-Jun-2016/nab-set-to-file-case-against-ex-army-pr-officials>

available with The Nation, the NAB has completed its investigation against Lt Gen (Retd) Javed Ashraf Qazi, ex-Secretary/Chairman Railways, General (Retd) Saeeduz Zafar, ex-Secretary/Chairman Railways Board, Major General (Retd) Hamid Hassan Butt, ex-General Manager Railways, Brig (Retd) Akhtar Ali Baig, Director Pakistan Railways, Iqbal Samad, ex-GM Pak Railways and Khurshid Ahmad Khan, ex-member Finance Pakistan Railways in Railway Golf Club case.

**Global response needed to check terror: COAS, Daily Times, June 22<sup>36</sup>**

Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif Tuesday (June 21) said terrorism warrants a global response as it has morphed in to a global phenomenon, according to a tweet by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). *“Synergy by all will be required to effectively win,” said the army chief, who is on an official visit to Germany.*

**Pakistan left alone to fight terrorists: Army, The Nation, June 24<sup>37</sup>**

Army spokesman Lt-Gen Asim Saleem Bajwa has said that the international community had left Pakistan alone to fight terrorists. *“I would say that the international community has not done enough for us,” said the Director-General of the Inter-Service Public Relations (ISPR), during an interview with Germany’s Deutsche Welle. To a question, he said Pakistan army was conducting Operation Zarb-e-Azb without preference to any militant organisation. According to him, the Haqqani network was also being targeted in the operation.*

## EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

**Zarb-e-Azb – what next?, Editorial, The Express Tribune, June 18<sup>38</sup>**

Pakistan is relatively a safer place today than it was before the launch of Operation Zarb-e-Azb on June 15, 2014. The number of terror incidents has gone down considerably in the country. Karachi is relatively more peaceful. [...] *The residual challenge, however, does not appear to be any less arduous. That is perhaps why no announcement has been made so far as to how long would it take for the kinetic aspect of the operation to conclude. [...]* Punjab needs to be cleansed of sectarian as well as jihadi groups that are well-entrenched in the province with deep political roots. Some of these groups are running so-called shariat courts with extraordinary impunity perhaps because

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<sup>36</sup> <http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/22-Jun-16/global-response-needed-to-check-terror-coas>

<sup>37</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/24-Jun-2016/pakistan-left-alone-to-fight-terrorists-army>

<sup>38</sup> <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1125372/two-years-zarb-e-azb-next/>

the political forces in Punjab either ideologically identify with these groups or are mortally afraid to take them on.

**Operation Zarb-e-Azb in retrospect**, Shamsa Ashfaq, *The News*, June 20<sup>39</sup>

[...]So far overall improved situation of law and order speak volumes for successful competition of two years of Zarb-e-Azb. [...]“*We are now in final phase of operation Zarb-e-Azb and it is hoped that soon we would get rid of terrorism which would help in further increase of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the country,*” said Minister for Finance Ishaq Dar. Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif has reaffirmed Pakistan's strong determination to confront global phenomenon of terrorism and extremism. He said, “*It's a matter of great privilege and honour to be commanding such an accomplished and battle hardened Army, We will not stop unless we achieve our end objective of a terror-free Pakistan.*”

**Regional proxies**, Editorial, *The Dawn*, June 26<sup>40</sup>

*GEN Raheel Sharif has warned that the “contours of future wars” in the region are changing, presumably referring to the potential for both state-sponsored and non-state terrorism to demoralise nations and destabilise states. [...]In the regional context, there is no proxy fight with greater potential for disaster than the sectarian one between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Pakistan with its multi-ethnic, multi-sect population effectively became a giant battleground between Saudi-inspired intolerance and Iran-inspired pushback. Even today, the scale of interference in the social fabric of Pakistan by Saudi Arabia and Iran can only be guessed at — there having been no attempt to either map or control external influences. India, too, has played a significant role in Afghanistan and, as alleged by the security establishment, inside Pakistan, particularly in Balochistan but also in Fata and other parts. So Gen Sharif is timely and correct in stating that “Pakistan is opposed to using proxies against other countries and will also not allow any other country to use proxies against Pakistan”. [...]Gen Sharif has established himself as an important figure who can both promise and deliver and who has a few legacy-creating months left in office.*

## **ECONOMIC ISSUES**

**ADB signs \$100m loan agreement**, *The Dawn*, June 20<sup>41</sup>

*The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Pakistani government signed an agreement for a \$100 million loan for construction of the remaining 64-*

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<sup>39</sup> <http://www.thenews.com.pk/print/129219-Operation-Zarb-e-Azb-in-retrospect>

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1267268/regional-proxies>

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1266076/adb-signs-100m-loan-agreement-for-shorkot-khanewal-section-of-m4-motorway>

*kilometre Shorkot-Khanewal section of the M4 motorway.* Secretary for Economic Affairs Division Tariq Bajwa and ADB Country Director for Pakistan Werner E. Liepach signed a loan agreement during a ceremony also attended by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and ADB Vice President Wencai Zhang. *"Pakistan must grasp the opportunities presented by its strategic location. Investments in transport and connectivity under the framework of Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) programmes, as well as other regional cooperation initiatives, can put Pakistan's economic development on an upward trajectory," said ADB Vice President Wencai Zhang.* The project marked ADB's first co-financing with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). AIIB will provide a \$100m loan subject to its board approval later this month. The United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) has also committed a \$34m grant for the project. ADB will administer both the AIIB loan and the DFID grant.

**Pakistan, WB sign financing agreement,** *The Nation*, June 23<sup>42</sup>

*Pakistan and World Bank signed Financing Agreement of US\$ 500 million IDA Development Policy Credit for "Competitiveness and Growth" here on Thursday (June 23).* Mr. Tariq Bajwa, Secretary Economic Affairs Division signed the agreement on behalf of Government of Pakistan while Mr. Anthony Cholst, Acting Country Director, signed on behalf of the World Bank. Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar who witnessed the ceremony, welcomed signing of the agreement and said that the Government had embarked upon the much needed economic structural reforms three years ago and had made substantial progress in this regard.

**WB to fund \$200m water project,** *The Express Tribune*, June 30<sup>43</sup>

*The World Bank on Wednesday (June 29) approved a \$200 million loan for a water resources management project in Pakistan, raising to \$5.5 billion the amount of net additional loans that the PML-N government has obtained from the Washington-based lender over the last three years. Separately, the European Union also signed two financing agreements worth €59 million for Pakistan.* The \$200 million credit has been approved to strengthen Balochistan government's initiative for a community-based water management project for irrigation purposes, according to a handout issued by the lending agency on Wednesday (June 29).

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<sup>42</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/23-Jun-2016/pakistan-wb-sign-financing-agreement-for-us-500-million-ida-development-policy-credit-dpc>

<sup>43</sup> <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1133189/building-balochistan-wb-fund-200m-water-project/>

## CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

**Senate body suggests new panel to oversee CPEC**, *The Dawn*, June 20<sup>44</sup>

A special committee of the Senate is set to propose legislation to create a separate authority, working directly under parliament, to supervise the much-touted China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project. Until that happens, the Senate Special Committee on CPEC recommends that the project be overseen by the Council of Common Interests (CCI) that is already mandated to ensure equitable distribution of resources among provinces. Senator Farhatullah Babar, who is a member of the committee, told Dawn that the report would soon be laid before the Senate — the third report presented to the upper house on the project.

**Xi, Mamnoon renew pledge for regional prosperity**, *The Nation*, June 24<sup>45</sup>

*President Mamnoon Hussain and Chinese President Xi Jinping yesterday expressed their resolve to maintain close collaboration for the region's security and prosperity and to jointly fight against terrorism and separatism.* The two leaders expressed these views in a delegation-level meeting held on the sidelines of 16th summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). President Mamnoon Hussain thanked President Xi for China's unequivocal support to Pakistan's admission in the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and said China's stance was based on the policy of non-discrimination.

**Pakistan: Favorite destination for Chinese**, *The Nation*, June 27<sup>46</sup>

*Pakistan has turned into a favorite destination for Chinese people for doing their business and making investment in the projects, being executed under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) or 'One belt one road'.* Eventually, it enhanced 'People-to-people' contacts between the two countries, said here a senior official. There has been considerable increase in number of Chinese people traveled to Pakistan in the recent year. Mainly, they are engaged in the CPEC-related projects. According to a survey, there has been around 100 percent increase in the traveling index on both sides last year.

**China eyes Pakistan as potential market**, *The Express Tribune*, June 29<sup>47</sup>

A delegation of Chinese investors representing various companies visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Tuesday (June 28) and showed interest in exploring Pakistan's steel, energy, cement and other

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<sup>44</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1266035/senate-body-suggests-new-panel-to-oversee-cpec>

<sup>45</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/24-Jun-2016/xi-mamnoon-renew-pledge-for-regional-prosperity>

<sup>46</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/27-Jun-2016/pakistan-turns-into-favorite-destination-for-chinese-businessmen-officials>

<sup>47</sup> <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1132446/china-eyes-pakistan-potential-market/>

sectors for investment and joint ventures. Members of the delegation, comprising representatives of Zonergy Company Limited, Hebei Weilang Import and Export Group Co. Limited, said the *China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) had generated a lot of interest among Chinese investors and the purpose of their visit was to study the potential of the Pakistani market for investment and collaboration.* [...]Speaking at the occasion, ICCI Acting President Sheikh Pervez Ahmed said China had good expertise and advanced technology and the Chinese companies should take benefit from incentives offered by the government. He also urged the Chinese investors to harvest investment-friendly policies of the current regime by enhancing investment and joint ventures in Pakistan.

## EDITORIALS AND OPINION

**Review of the economy**, Editorial, *The Dawn*, June 3<sup>48</sup>

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?

**Coping with an uncertain future**, Ishrat Hussain, *The Express Tribune*, June 28<sup>49</sup>

[...]The decision of the UK public to exit the European Union (EU) is not an isolated event but part of a larger growing trend against globalisation and integration in the West. [...]The fact that the markets would remain jittery, the economic conditions would get worse and the lives of ordinary citizens, particularly the poor, and the unemployed would become unbearable because of prolonged recession does not cut any ice with them. [...]The looming recession in the UK and the EU followed by the US would further damage Pakistan's prospects as these are the traditional markets to which Pakistan ships its goods and sells services. Our welcome entry in the Emerging Market Index of the MSCI would not, for the time being, result in the flow of expected portfolio investment from institutional investors as they opt for flight to safety i.e., the US market.

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<sup>48</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1262327/review-of-the-economy>

<sup>49</sup> <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1132306/coping-uncertain-future/>

## SECURITY SITUATION

### TERRORISM

**Nacta to frame counter extremism policy**, *The Nation*, June 21<sup>50</sup>

*National Counter Terrorism Authority (Nacta), the country's premier counter terrorism body, has initiated a consultation process for the formulation of first ever National Counter Extremism Policy.* Nacta held the second round of consultative meeting of stakeholders here yesterday while the authority is also preparing to hold the first ever National Counter Extremism Conference.

**Six indicted in Sri Lankan cricket team attack case**, *The Dawn*, June 23<sup>51</sup>

An anti-terrorism court indicted on Wednesday (June 22) six members of a banned outfit in a case of an attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team in 2009. All the suspects pleaded not guilty and decided to contest the case during an in-camera hearing in Kot Lakhpat jail. The suspects included Obaidullah, Javed Anwar, Ibrahim Khalil, Abdul Wahab, Zubair and Adnan Arshad. The first three suspects are on bail, while others are behind bars. The court has already declared two suspects — Mohsin Rasheed and Abdul Rehman — proclaimed offenders in the case.

### KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND FATA

**Three policemen injured in Peshawar**, *The Nation*, June 21<sup>52</sup>

*At least three policemen were injured in bomb blast here on Monday evening (June 20).* Rescue sources said unidentified miscreants target the police personnel with improvised explosive device (IED) in Shakardara locality of Dawoodzai, Peshawar. Three cops were injured in the explosion who were shifted to hospital for treatment. The rescue personnel reached the scene of blast, collected the evidences and started the investigation.

**No peace without border management: Aziz**, *The News*, June 21<sup>53</sup>

*[...]Sartaj Aziz stated on Tuesday (June 21) that peace would not prevail in FATA till border management was not done.* Sartaj Aziz also said that border management with Afghanistan was necessary. He went on to say that Pakistan had no favourites in Afghanistan and that it strictly followed a policy of non-interference with regard to its neighbour.

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<sup>50</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/21-Jun-2016/nacta-to-frame-counter-extremism-policy>

<sup>51</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1266661/six-indicted-in-sri-lankan-cricket-team-attack-case>

<sup>52</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/21-Jun-2016/three-policemen-injured-in-peshawar-blast>

<sup>53</sup> <http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/129585-Without-border-management-there-wont-be-peace-in-FATA-Sartaj-Aziz>

**Two shops destroyed in Bajaur blast, *The Nation*, June 27<sup>54</sup>**

*At least two shops were destroyed and six others were damaged in a bomb blast here on Sunday (June 26).* Another bomb was recovered near the site of the blast which was defused by Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS). Political administration sources said that unknown miscreants had planted bomb in a cloth market located in Kamar Sar Bazaar of tehsil Mamoon in Bajaur Agency which went off with big bang.

**Two militants killed, *The Nation*, June 27<sup>55</sup>**

*According to security sources, two terrorists were killed in an operation carried out by the security forces at Malam Jabba area of Swat.* Weapons and explosive materials were recovered from the slain terrorists. It is being said that both terrorists had reached Malam Jabba from Afghanistan to carry out terrorist activities. A security official was also injured in the exchange of fire. He was shifted to a combined military hospital for treatment of his wounds.

## **BALUCHISTAN**

**Five suspected militants killed, *The Dawn*, June 20<sup>56</sup>**

*Five suspected militants were killed in Balochistan's Awaran district on Sunday evening (June 20).* A security official, not authorised to speak publicly, said security forces conducted an operation against the militants in the Mashkay area of Awaran.

**Security forces kill 8 terrorists in Balochistan, *The Nation*, June 21<sup>57</sup>**

*Security forces killed eight terrorists of banned BLF outfit and recovered arms cache from their possession during search operation in district Mashkay of Awaran in Balochistan province.*

**Bomb blast in Quetta, *The Nation*, June 23<sup>58</sup>**

*A bomb mine-blast occurred in the Dera Murad Jamali area near the city of Quetta.* A SHO has succumbed to the incurred injuries and four police officers have been injured, who have been transferred to the Dera Murad Jamali Civil Hospital. Death of a civilian has been confirmed.

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<sup>54</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/27-Jun-2016/two-shops-destroyed-in-bajaur-blast>

<sup>55</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/27-Jun-2016/two-militants-killed-during-operation-in-malam-jabba>

<sup>56</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1265877/five-suspected-militants-killed-in-balochistans-awaran>

<sup>57</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/21-Jun-2016/security-forces-kill-8-terrorists-in-balochistan>

<sup>58</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/23-Jun-2016/bomb-blast-in-quetta-claims-life-of-sho-injurs-4-others>

**Three killed, 32 injured in Quetta blast, Daily Times, June 25<sup>59</sup>**

*A bomb blast killed at least three people and wounded 32 others in Quetta on Friday (June 24), police said. The improvised explosive device was fitted in a bicycle parked in a shopping area on the city's airport road. "The device weighing six kilogrammes blew off with a big bang killing at least three people and wounding 32 others, including two women and four children," senior police official Chaudhry Manzoor said. Several nearby vehicles and shops were also damaged in the incident.*

**Four policemen shot dead, The News, June 28<sup>60</sup>**

*At least four policemen were martyred in two separate incidents of firing in short span of two hours in Quetta on Tuesday evening (June 28). According to rescue sources, at least two policemen were killed when unidentified gunmen opened fire on their car at Saryab road area of the provincial capital. Two more police personnel were martyred in firing on police van in Shalkot area, police said.*

## SINDH

**Life is back to Karachi: ISPR, The News, June 16<sup>61</sup>**

*Director General ISPR Lt General Asim Bajwa has stated that law and order situation has been improved and life is back to Karachi after targeted operation in the city and it will be continue till the complete stability. DG, ISPR while briefing the media on Wednesday (June 15) has said 19000 intelligence based operations have been carried out across the country and 1200 terrorists have been eliminated in Karachi alone. He said that target killings and crime rate have been reduced in Karachi because of the ongoing operation in the city and it will be continue till the logical end.*

**Doctor from minority community target killed, The Nation, June 21<sup>62</sup>**

*A 50-year-old homeopathic doctor, belonging to the Ahmadi community, was target killed in his clinic in the Abul Hasan Isphani area of the metropolis on Monday evening (June 20), a TV channel reported. It is the second such attack in the same vicinity within a month, police and a community spokesman said.*

**Son of SHC Chief Justice goes missing, The Nation, June 21<sup>63</sup>**

*The son of Sindh High Court's Chief Justice, Sajjad Ali Shah, has gone missing since Monday afternoon (june 20), confirmed DIG South Muneer Ahmad Shiekh. Owais Sajjad Shah, left the Sindh High Court in the afternoon to visit a*

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<sup>59</sup> <http://dailytimes.com.pk/balochistan/25-Jun-16/three-killed-32-injured-in-quetta-blast>

<sup>60</sup> <http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/131321-Two-policemen-shot-dead-in-Quetta>

<sup>61</sup> <http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/128099-Pakistan-Life-back-Karachi-targeted-operationDG-ISPR-Zarb-e-Azb>

<sup>62</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/21-Jun-2016/doctor-from-minority-community-target-killed>

<sup>63</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/21-Jun-2016/son-of-shc-chief-justice-goes-missing>

friend in Clifton, and has not been heard from since and his phone has been switched off since the afternoon. The family informed law enforcement authorities in the evening regarding Owais's disappearance. Sindh CM Qaim Ali Shah has ordered strict checking across the metropolis and setting up of check points to control movement.

**Police kill 3 suspects in alleged encounter**, *The News*, June 21<sup>64</sup>

*Police killed three suspects in the city's different areas in alleged encounters on Monday night (June 20).* According to details, police killed two suspects in an alleged encounter at Karachi's Gulshan-e-Maymar area. The Counter Terrorism Department had raided a farm house in Karachi after receiving information of the presence of militants. [...] *In a separate encounter, police killed a suspect in Lyari as well.* According to details, the encounter commenced when police began a search operation in the area and suspect Allah Bakhsh alias Chachu opened fire at them.

**Amjad Sabri shot dead in Karachi**, *The Express Tribune*, June 22<sup>65</sup>

*Acclaimed Sufi singer and qawwali maestro Amjad Sabri was shot dead by motorcycle-borne gunmen in a central Karachi neighbourhood on Wednesday (June 21), triggering an outpouring of grief nationwide.* The targeted killing came two days after masked men kidnapped the son of Sindh's top judge from outside a supermarket in broad daylight in an upscale locality of the city. Amjad Sabri, aged around 45, was travelling from his home to a television studio to attend an iftar transmission, when a motorcycle pulled up alongside his white coloured Honda Civic and the two riders opened fire, according to police.

**Two more hate speech cases lodged against Altaf**, *The Dawn*, June 27<sup>66</sup>

*Two hate speech cases against Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) supremo Altaf Hussain were registered late on Saturday evening (June 26)* following his telephonic address to party workers over phone from London. [...] The complainant stated in his plea that he was going for shopping to Shahi Bazaar from Pucca Qila Chowk when he heard Altaf Hussain, speaking over phone to his party workers. The complainant stated that Mr Hussain was telling his workers that law-enforcement agencies had attacked and looted Mohajirs on June 19, 1992 and that the army did not play any role in the creation of the country. He said Mr Hussain also criticised the army and police.

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<sup>64</sup> <http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/129563-Karachi-Police-kill-3-suspects-in-alleged-encounter>

<sup>65</sup> <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1128177/two-injured-amjad-sabris-car-comes-attack-karachi/>

<sup>66</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1267454/two-more-hate-speech-cases-lodged-against-alfaf>

**Won't let anyone reverse gains in Karachi: COAS, *The Nation*, June 27<sup>67</sup>**

*On a morale-boosting visit, Army Chief General Raheel Sharif yesterday assured the people of Karachi that they won't be left at the mercy of terrorists and criminals.* Karachi witnessed two major incidents last week: kidnapping of barrister Awais Ali Shah, the son of Sindh Chief Justice Sajjad Ali Shah, and the assassination of internationally famed Sufi singer Amjad Sabri. *The army chief chaired a meeting on the security of the port city at Rangers headquarters where he patted on the shoulders of the paramilitary force which is leading a cleansing operation in the city since 2003. Lauding them for their exemplary performance in the face of heavy odds and their sacrifices, General Raheel told Rangers they will be provided all assistance to complete the mission of restoring peace to the all parts of the commercial hub of the country.*

**Rangers kill 2 alleged terrorists in Karachi, *The News*, June 28<sup>68</sup>**

*Rangers killed two alleged militants near the Northern Bypass on Sunday night (June 26) as police took into custody five suspects from various areas of the city.* According to details, Rangers conducted a search operation at Khairabad near the Northern Bypass when the alleged militants opened fire on them. The slain terrorists allegedly belonged to banned outfit Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan.

## **RELATIONS WITH INDIA**

**Indian entry to break Pak-India balance: Chinese Media, *The News*, June 16<sup>69</sup>**

*Chinese official media on Thursday (June 16) reported if New Delhi is admitted into the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) nuclear balance between India and Pakistan will be broken.* Stating that India's entry into Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) will shake strategic balance in South Asia and even cast a cloud over peace and stability in the entire Asia Pacific region an article in the Global Times however said China could support India's inclusion in the 48 member nuclear club if it played by rules.

**Pakistan wins Hyderabad funds case against India, *The News*, June 21<sup>70</sup>**

*Pakistan beat India at the Hyderabad Funds case on Tuesday (June 21), which meant that it was entitled to the one million pounds that had been promised to it by the Nizam of Hyderabad.* According to details provided by the Foreign Office, the Nizam of Hyderabad had promised Pakistan an aid of one million

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<sup>67</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/27-Jun-2016/won-t-let-anyone-reverse-gains-in-karachi-coas>

<sup>68</sup> <http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/131275-Rangers-kill-2-alleged-terrorists-in-Karachi>

<sup>69</sup> <http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/128325-Indian-entry-NSG-break-Pak-India-nuclear-balanceChinese-Media>

<sup>70</sup> <http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/129596-Pakistan-wins-case-pertaining-to-Hyderabad-funds-against-India>

pounds. The amount is deposited in London's Westminster bank and is worth currently thirty-five million pounds.

**Any NSG exception to disturb regional stability: FO, *The Nation*, June 24<sup>71</sup>**

*The Foreign Office yesterday asked the Nuclear Suppliers Group member countries not to prefer India over Pakistan and alleged the nuclear-armed neighbour was sponsoring terror.* Foreign Office spokesman Nafees Zakaria said Pakistan and India's applications should be considered simultaneously and in an even-handed manner keeping in view the region's strategic stability. *Any exception will certainly disturb the stability in the South Asian region.* [...] When asked to comment on US Envoy Richard Olson's remarks that Indian role in Afghanistan was overestimated in Pakistan, the spokesman said: *"Our concerns on the matter are very much genuine and based on facts. They are supporting terrorism in Pakistan."*

**RAW, its agents active again, says Liaquat Baloch, *The Nation*, June 23<sup>72</sup>**

*Acting Ameer of the Jamaat e Islami, Liaquat Baloch, has said that the murder of renowned Qawwali star Amjad Sabri and the abduction of the Sindh High Court Chief Justice's son in Karachi clearly indicated that RAW and its agents have become active once again.* In a statement here on Thursday (June 23), he said that the target killers wanted to sabotage the efforts for the restoration of peace in the port city. He said this was a big challenge for the security institutions of the country.

**Nisar and Rajnath may meet in August, *The Dawn*, June 27<sup>73</sup>**

The interior ministers of Pakistan and India are expected to meet on the sidelines of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) conference scheduled to be held in the federal capital in the first week of August. [...] The conference will be attended by interior ministers and other delegates from Saarc member states. A meeting between the interior secretaries of the two countries is also likely during the three-day event.

**'We cannot conquer Kashmir through war', *The Dawn*, June 27<sup>74</sup>**

Former foreign minister Hina Rabbani Khar on Sunday (June 26) said Pakistan cannot "conquer Kashmir through war" and progress on the issue can only be made in an environment of mutual trust with India. *"I believe that Pakistan cannot conquer Kashmir through war and if we cannot do that, the option we*

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<sup>71</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/24-Jun-2016/any-nsg-exception-to-disturb-regional-stability-fo>

<sup>72</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/23-Jun-2016/raw-its-agents-active-again-says-liaquat-baloch>

<sup>73</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1267495/nisar-and-rajnath-may-meet-in-august>

<sup>74</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1267384/we-cannot-conquer-kashmir-through-war>

*are left with is dialogue, and dialogue can only proceed with a partner with which we have normal relations and a certain level of mutual trust,"* Khar said in an interview with Geo News. She claimed that the PPP government, despite being a coalition government, had tried its best to normalise ties with India through relaxation of visa rules and by normalising trade ties. "The issues between the two countries cannot be resolved in a hostile environment." [...] *The former foreign minister also termed Pakistan's entry into Afghan Jihad a 'mistake' and maintained that Pakistan's dependence on US is more in "our minds than on the ground". [...] "In 60 years, we have taught our children that our national identity is to hate someone, and we are doing it with those who are physically the nearest. Hostile with India and now hostile with Afghanistan,"* said the former foreign minister.

**Aziz hits back at Modi,** *The Express Tribune*, June 30<sup>75</sup>

Pakistan on Wednesday (June 29) hit back at a statement of India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi in which he said it was hard to decide who to speak to about peace in Islamabad implying that the civil and military leadership was not on the same page vis-à-vis relationship with New Delhi. *"This old narrative is not a very good excuse to avoid meaningful engagement," said Sartaj Aziz while talking exclusively to The Express Tribune.* [...] He pointed out that Kashmir, Siachen and Sir Creek were issues where the government would always get input from the military. "Same goes in India," Aziz said recalling that it was the Indian military which vetoed a deal on Siachen in 1989. He said Pakistan was ready for dialogue at any time but added that "we are not desperate."

## EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

**How serious is India?,** Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, June 29<sup>76</sup>

[...] The peace initiative with Afghanistan has run into the sand yet again, domestic terrorism management is patchy at best and faltering in Karachi, foreign policy appears to be made up on the hoof and the messages that are coming from the prime minister's adviser Sartaj Aziz are far from positive, saying that he was sceptical about any normalisation in relations in the foreseeable future, citing Indian demands that "normalisation" be on their terms only. [...] As things stand neither side appears to have the capacity or the will to break out of the sterile positions they have occupied for decades, notwithstanding the encouraging noises made by Mr Modi at various points in his tenure. Our own Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is not in play and his proxies are running a holding operation. The relative dynamism of India across a

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<sup>75</sup> <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1133216/islamabads-rejoinder-aziz-hits-back-modi-parroting-old-narrative/>

<sup>76</sup> <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1132208/how-serious-is-india/>

number of fronts (not just the peace process) compared to a breathless and stumbling Pakistan is unedifying. Is India serious about the peace process? Probably not, it has other fish to fry. Is Pakistan serious about it? The most likely answer to that is that it simply does not know.

**EXCERPTS FROM URDU MEDIA & SELECT JIHADI LITERATURE**

**Neither Politics nor Democracy**, Editorial, *Daily Ummat*, June 20<sup>77</sup>

Recent statements by Interior minister Chauhdry Nisar is a clear indication that government at the centre is deliberately weakening the Karachi operation. *Nawaz Sharif led government is under pressure. Because of dwindling economy, Panama Leaks, and growing inflation the government is losing popularity.* Therefore, it needs support from other political parties to complete its tenure that is the reason it is trying to reach out to PPP and MQM in the Sindh. The bonhomie between PMLN and PPP is not a new thing; it is going on since 2008. Thus the recent statements of the Interior Minister should be seen in that perspective. [...]In Sindh both PPP and MQM have links with criminals and terrorists. Therefore, in order to garner support from PPP and MQM, Interior Minister is taking the side of these two parties. There is no harm in taking support of any political parties but it is sheer injustice with common people if PPP and MQM are not forced to shun their nexus with terrorists and criminals. [...]In a beloved country where laws are made by the elite to safeguard big terrorists and leaders but be harsh on the poor people. It is a place where politicians and other criminals have snatched basic rights of the peoples for the decades. They are only after their interests. They don't give a damn to the poor. This is not democracy it is anarchism.

**Our aim and national interests are one**, Mirza Aslam Beg, *Ummat*, June 21<sup>78</sup>

When US attacked Afghanistan in 2001, Mullah Omar sent a message to Pakistan which said that *"In war, you have helped my enemy [US]. Despite that, we consider Pakistan as our friend because our national interests and aim are one."* There is a deeper meaning of these words which we need to understand minutely. [...]The first questions which comes to mind is that why US turned its back towards Afghanistan despite the fact that Afghans had it had fully supported the war against the Soviet Union. These are the reasons:

1. CIA and ISA had made the plan of Gurrella War which was fought with the help of Jihadis from seventy countries which resulted in the

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<sup>77</sup> <http://ummat.net/2016/06/20/news.php?p=idr1.gif>

<sup>78</sup> <http://ummat.net/2016/06/21/news.php?p=idr4.gif>

establishment of a forceful institution which defeated the superpower Soviet Union. US had this fear that if such a forceful institution remains intact, it will prove to be dangerous for its interests.

2. Thus, the West, considering the Jihadi force in Afghanistan as a hurdle in the way of their interests, thought necessary to finish it.
3. ISI had established good relations with the Jihadis of the whole world. That's why they thought it necessary to finish the power and prestige of this jihadi force so that it couldn't become a threat to US interests.

[...]When US attacked Afghanistan in 2001, these Jihadi forces became united and badly defeated the American and NATO forces (badtareen shikasht se do char kiya). Now only with twelve thousand personnels, US is conspiring to keep Taliban out of power (Iktadar me shirkat se mahroom karne ki sajjish). [...]Taliban are united have started a dedicated war against the Americans.

**Politicians Should Mend Their Ways**, Editorial, *Daily Ummat*, June 25<sup>79</sup>

*Lt. Gen Asim Bajwa, while interacting with media in Germany, has said that the Pakistani military is helping in strengthening democracy in Pakistan. He further said that both civil and military leaders do exchange their views on internal security of the country. He reminded to the world that Pakistan has given huge sacrifices in fighting terrorism. But the world has left Pakistan alone in fighting terrorism. Pakistan has indiscriminately targeted terrorist groups including the Haqqani Network. But still Pakistan is being asked to do more. [...]The basic objective of strengthening of our defence system is to counter Indian aggression. Killing of Mullah Mansoor has derailed the peace process with Taliban. Instead of appreciating Pakistan's fight against terrorism and the sacrifices it gave, the world community is busy in taking care of India whose contribution is nothing in fighting terrorism. If the American puppet government in Afghanistan keep good relations with Pakistan then there was no need to spend much on defence. [...]After military operation peace and stability has returned to Pakistan. But rulers and politicians still abhor terrorists and their facilitators. The terrorist sympathisers are sitting in the parliament houses. The civilian leaders have to understand that providing shelter to the terrorists is not a good idea. They don't have much time left. Time does not wait. They have to bear the consequences.*

**China will support at every forum**, Editorial, *Nawa-e-Waqt*, June 25<sup>80</sup>

*China has again assured Pakistan that it will support Pakistan at every forum. It also made it clear to the world community that India alone cannot*

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<sup>79</sup> <http://ummat.net/2016/06/25/news.php?p=idr1.gif>

<sup>80</sup> <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/editorials/25-jun-2016/486489>

*get the NSG membership.* This will create power imbalance in the region. This was announced at the Tashkent meeting between President Mamnoon Hussain and his Chinese counterpart. Pakistan and India should be inducted into NSG at the same time. Pakistan's atomic export control and nuclear safety safeguarding procedures make it eligible for the NSG. *Pakistan and China are strategic partners, their enemies and friends are common.* [...]Pakistan's policy makers have to devise the policies by working with other states in the region so that a strategic balance could be maintained. *It can also end US-India hegemony in the region. If India is allowed to enter in the NSG club it will further destabilise the South Asia region.*

**A Scene of Shattered Dreams**, Saifullah Khalid, *Daily Ausaf*, June 26<sup>81</sup>

*I don't know whether it is a matter of joy for Pakistan or not but for India it is a time to mourn. Modi till last hour begged to the Chinese President at Shanghai conference to support India's bid of joining NSG group. One could have easily grasped it from his body language.* Not only China but other countries such as Mexico, Switzerland, and Brazil also objected India's entry into the club. Now Modi is being criticized for not following a proper approach. Indian media instead of criticising their leadership are disparaging the US for not doing enough. *According to India media George Bush did it single-handedly in the past but Obama couldn't do enough. But the reality is that the US president tried best. His Secretary for State wrote to 48 countries in order to persuade them to support India's membership.* The reason why couldn't India get entry is that India does not have the capacity. It dreams big without knowing its shortcomings. Fact is that dreams only come true when a nation strives for them. Friends will only support you but they can't do everything for you. Second issue is American friendship is more dangerous than being its enmity. India was 100 percent relying on the US. The result was the US adversary Russia couldn't come to India's rescue. *Not getting membership is the first gift for India of being ally of the US.*

**Pakistan's Responsible Posture**, Editorial, *Nawa-e-Waqt*, June 28<sup>82</sup>

Pakistan's permanent representative to UN, Maleeha Lodhi, while speaking at UN Security Council Resolution 1540, has, said that the resolution had made a useful contribution to the advancement of non-proliferation goals but it was unfortunate that other aspects of the non-proliferation landscape do not present an optimistic picture. [...]Ambassador Lodhi voiced Pakistan's full support for the globally agreed objectives of promoting nuclear non-nuclear

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<sup>81</sup> <http://www.dailyausaf.com/story/114196>

<sup>82</sup> <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/editorials/28-Jun-2016/487342>

*proliferation and disarmament.* Pakistan also shares the concerns about proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) and their means of delivery by the non-state actors, she added. *Pakistan's weapons are in safe hands. But its arch enemy India's weapons are in danger. This can be understood from the recent accident of its atomic plants.* On the one side when the world community is stressing on stopping weapons of mass destruction but on the other hand US and other powerful countries are striking deals with India on nuclear energy. US is trying its best to get India in NSG club. America has to revisit its nuclear policy towards India.

**Two Years of Zarb-e-Azb, Malik Fidaur Rehman, Daily Ausaf, June 29<sup>83</sup>**

On June 15, 2014, a full-fledged military operation code named Zarb-e-Azb was launched to get rid of terrorism. Peace and stability has returned only because of the successful military operation. At the time when the present government came into power, the security situation was terrible. Mosques, Churches, houses and markets were targeted. The government and the military are on the same page regarding terrorism. People of Karachi are now feeling secure. They are doing business without any intimidation. Fight against extremism and terrorism is a long process. *The early success of operation Zarb-e-Azb has given us a hope. Fight against terrorism will continue and will be extended to other areas also. The success of Zarb-e-Azb also goes to the civilian government for taking other parties on the page.* Other institutions are played a good role in taking care of internally displaced people and their needs.

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<sup>83</sup> <http://www.dailyausaf.com/story/1414190>

**STATISTICS****BOMBINGS, SHOOTINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES***(Select incidents culled out from the Pakistan media)*

Place	Date	Description	Killed	Injured
<b>Balochistan</b>				
Awaran <sup>84</sup>	20/6/2016	Five militants killed	5	0
Mashkay <sup>85</sup>	21/6/2016	Eight terrorists killed	8	0
Dera Murad Ali <sup>86</sup>	23/6/2016	SHO killed	1	4
Quetta <sup>87</sup>	25/6/2016	Three killed in blast	3	32
Quetta <sup>88</sup>	28/6/2016	Four policemen killed	4	0
<b>FATA</b>				
<b>Punjab</b>				
<b>Khyber Pakhtunkhwa</b>				
Peshawar <sup>89</sup>	21/6/2016	Three policemen injured	3	0
Swat <sup>90</sup>	27/6/2016	Two terrorists killed	2	0
<b>Sindh</b>				
Karachi <sup>91</sup>	21/6/2016	Ahmadi Doctor killed	1	0
Karachi <sup>92</sup>	21/6/2016	Police kill 3 suspects	3	0
Karachi <sup>93</sup>	22/6/2016	Suf singer killed	1	0
Karachi <sup>94</sup>	28/6/2016	Two terrorists killed	2	0

<sup>84</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1265877/five-suspected-militants-killed-in-balochistans-awaran>

<sup>85</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/21-Jun-2016/security-forces-kill-8-terrorists-in-balochistan>

<sup>86</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/23-Jun-2016/bomb-blast-in-quetta-claims-life-of-sho-injurs-4-others>

<sup>87</sup> <http://dailytimes.com.pk/balochistan/25-Jun-16/three-killed-32-injured-in-quetta-blast>

<sup>88</sup> <http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/131321-Two-policemen-shot-dead-in-Quetta>

<sup>89</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/21-Jun-2016/three-policemen-injured-in-peshawar-blast>

<sup>90</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/27-Jun-2016/two-militants-killed-during-operation-in-malam-jabba>

<sup>91</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/21-Jun-2016/doctor-from-minority-community-target-killed>

<sup>92</sup> <http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/129563-Karachi-Police-kill-3-suspects-in-alleged-encounter>

<sup>93</sup> <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1128177/two-injured-amjad-sabris-car-comes-attack-karachi/>

<sup>94</sup> <http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/131275-Rangers-kill-2-alleged-terrorists-in-Karachi>