

August 16-31, 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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PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST, AUGUST (16-31) 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

All the Baloch activists living in and out of Pakistan including the top separatists like Hyrbyair Marri, Brahmdagh Bugti, Karima Baloch welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement on PoK and Balochistan and hailed him for mentioning the issue during his Independence Day speech. These developments resulted in the deterioration of an already tensed India-Pakistan relations. Pakistan termed all those Baloch hailing Modi as "traitors" and registered FIRs against them under sections 120, 121, 123, and 353 of Pakistan Penal Code. It organized anti-India protest in PoK and Balochistan on the one hand and accused India of meddling in Pakistan's internal affairs on the other.

The deadlock between the government and opposition over the Panama Papers probe is continuing. Neither the government, nor the opposition is ready to back down. PPP Co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari emphasized that the issue must be investigated thoroughly and argued that ToRs proposed by the opposition were effective and constitutional.

Altaf Hussain is known for his hard hitting speeches and the support he gets from mohajir community based in urban Sindh, especially Karachi. Recently, in a speech Altaf asked his supporters to attack ARY news office to which the supporters responded. MQM's leaders in Pakistan were taken aback with this development in which they found themselves cornered. The deputy convener Farooq Sattar and other leaders not only denounced the "anti-Pakistan" slogans and attack on media houses but also decided to distance themselves from the party chief and London leadership.

The government has been under severe criticism for quite some time over the non-implementation of many points of the NAP. Right wing elements, right since the beginning, have had problems with some of the points of the NAP. Recently, JUI-F leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman warned the Sindh provincial government to refrain from making any law that discriminates madressahs and other religious bodies. He threatened to take direct action, if the government proceeded with such laws and argued that those trying to target the Madressahs were actually serving the agenda of foreign masters.

Dr Ashish Shukla

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

NATIONAL POLITICS

29 wings of civil forces to enforce NAP, *The Nation*, August 16¹

A high-level meeting yesterday decided to form a special committee under PM's National Security Adviser Lt Gen(r) Nasser Khan Janjua and raise 29 wings of civil armed forces to expedite implementation of National Action Plan. The meeting, which was chaired by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, took up internal security matters against the backdrop of Quetta carnage that claimed more than 70 lives. [...] *The PM's national security adviser would be head while interior secretary, National Counter Terrorism Authority DG, provincial secretaries, IGPs, home secretaries and an additional secretary of PM office would be the members of the implementation committee.* The committee will also be assisted by a representative from each of the intelligence agencies while the military will be represented by Director General Military Operations (DGMO).

PPP demands explanation from govt over NAP, *The Nation*, August 16²

Pakistan Peoples Party has demanded an explanation from the Government on the slow pace of Nation Action Plan, reported Waqt news. *PPP in the statement asked, why NAP had not been giving results as it was earlier expected.* [...] They further asked the Minister of Defence to address the parliament and explain the status of NAP.

PAT to hold rallies in 140 cities, *The Nation*, August 16³

Pakistan Awami Tehreek (PAT) has issued schedule for rallies in as many as 140 cities until August 30. According to details, the protest rallies, sit-ins and demonstrations will take place in 140 cities from August 20 until 30. Reportedly, the emergency session of PAT Core Committee presided over by its chief Dr Tahirul Qadri took place at party's central secretariat in Lahore. In the meeting, the *party decided to lead rallies, demonstrations and sit-in protests in 140 cities for their "Qisas-o-Salmiat-e-Pakistan Tehreek", literally, movement for retribution and integrity of Pakistan.* [...] As per the schedule, demonstrations and sit-ins will take place in Lahore, Peshawar, Hyderabad, Larkana, Faisalabad, Sibi among 77 other cities on August 20.

¹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/16-Aug-2016/29-wings-of-civil-forces-to-enforce-nap>

² <http://nation.com.pk/national/16-Aug-2016/ppp-demands-explanation-from-govt-over-nap-s-slow-pace>

³ <http://nation.com.pk/national/16-Aug-2016/pat-to-hold-rallies-in-140-cities-until-august-30>

Some arrests made in Quetta blast case, *The Nation*, August 17⁴

Interior Minister Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan yesterday told the National Assembly that law enforcement agencies have arrested some persons in connection with the Quetta tragedy. *"This incident is a challenge for the government. Some biometric evidences have been found to reach perpetrators," said the minister* while responding to a point of order raised by opposition lawmakers.

New law to replace Inquiry Act 1956, *The Nation*, August 17⁵

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Syed Khurshed Shah agreed on Tuesday (August 16) to bring a new law to replace the Pakistan Commissions of Inquiry Act 1956, declared obsolete and ineffective by the Supreme Court of Pakistan as well. Finance Minister Dar said that the 60 years old act became ineffective and could not meet the ever changing complexities of financial and white-collar crimes and that is why the apex court of the country had termed it obsolete and ineffective.

Govt fails to 'resolve' Gwadar water, power issues, *The Nation*, August 20⁶

A Parliamentary Committee yesterday observed that despite the haughty claims about the development of Gwadar the government has failed to resolve the water and electricity issues of the area. *The documents of the Ministry regarding power generation is presenting a rosy picture but the condition on the ground is very different, and people of the country are facing severe loadshedding, Senator Tahir Mashhadi said* while presiding over the meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Planning Development and Reforms here. [...] The Federal Minister for Planning Development and Reforms, while expressing his views about delay in projects in Balochistan, said that no project in the province can be completed unless the capacity of the Local Governments and provincial departments were enhanced. [...] "Besides facing the capacity problem, the provincial departments have shortage of good people," he added. He said that *they have requested Chinese to incorporate Bhasha Dam in CPEC umbrella projects.*

NAP: Funding of banned outfits disrupted, *The Express Tribune*, August 22⁷

Inspector General of Police Mushtaq Ahmed Sukhera said on Sunday (August 21) that the Police Department was implementing the National Action Plan (NAP) in letter and spirit. He said police teams had led scores of successful

⁴ <http://nation.com.pk/national/17-Aug-2016/some-arrests-made-in-quetta-blast-case-na-told>

⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/17-Aug-2016/new-law-to-replace-inquiry-act-1956>

⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/national/20-Aug-2016/govt-fails-to-resolve-gwadar-water-power-issues>

⁷ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1167292/national-action-plan-funding-banned-outfits-disrupted-says-ig/>

operations against members of banned outfits, their facilitators and financiers across the province. Talking to APP, the IG said action had been initiated against all those suspected of terrorism and religious extremism. *“Over the course of two years, police have worked on disrupting financial channels of banned outfits,” he said.* “Formation of new groups and activities of such groups are being closely monitored,” he said.

Brahamdagh wants talks with govt, *The Dawn*, August 29⁸

Baloch separatist leader Brahamdagh Khan Bugti has said that he is not against political dialogue with the Pakistani government but those talks should focus on Baloch demands. Mr Bugti was among half a dozen speakers, including former ambassador Husain Haqqani, who attended an event held to mark the death anniversary of Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti here (Washington) at the National Press Club. *“We are political people, we will talk. We are prepared for dialogue on the rights of the Baloch people,” said Mr Bugti,* speaking via Skype from Geneva.

THE PANAMA PAPERS

PTI to move SC against PM, *The Nation*, August 17⁹

PTI yesterday announced to go to the Supreme Court against Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif over charges of money laundering and his offshore wealth revealed by Panama Papers. *“We have proofs of money laundering against Nawaz Sharif and have prepared a petition against him to file before the apex court,” PTI Chairman Imran Khan told a press conference* soon after chairing a core committee meeting of the party. *“We will raise the issue of money laundering committed by the PM in the Supreme Court,” he added.* The PTI decision came a day after it submitted a disqualification reference to the National Assembly speaker against Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif as a member of the National Assembly, containing many allegations, including money laundering, tax evasion and concealment of assets in the nomination papers filed by him to contest the election. *The PTI chief also announced to start “Pakistan March” on September 3 from Gujranwala towards to Lahore as part of the party’s accountability movement against the government if it does not respond to the ToRs over Panama Papers.*

‘What does the PM have to hide?’, *The Express Tribune*, August 19¹⁰

“The impasse over terms of reference for investigations into the Panama Papers Leaks suggests that the prime minister’s family has something to hide,”

⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1280501/brahamdagh-wants-talks-with-govt-to-focus-on-baloch-demands>

⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/17-Aug-2016/pti-to-move-sc-against-pm-over-panama-leaks>

¹⁰ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1165511/panama-leaks-pm-hide/>

said Pakistan Peoples Party Senator Aitezaz Ahsan. Talking to newsmen at Lahore High Court, Ahsan said, "If their conscience was clear, there would have been no deadlock on the TORs." [...]Ahsan denied reports of a meeting with a ruling party leader on the matter of TORs. "I have not met anyone on the matter, except the National Assembly speaker who is not a representative of the government," he said. He said the government had been trying to divide opposition over this issue.

PML-N opts to fight legal battle, *The Express Tribune*, August 19¹¹

The ruling party has decided to fight out the Panamagate battle on the legal front and not to be blackmailed by the opposition's onslaught against the prime minister. The decision was taken at a cabinet meeting on Thursday (August 18) chaired by PM Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad. Called after a long hiatus, the cabinet meeting also discussed a strategy to deal with potential street protest movements that some political parties are planning to launch in the coming weeks. [...] "*We will not be blackmailed by the opposition and will fight them on all legal fronts,*" a minister, who attended the cabinet meeting, told *The Express Tribune*. "*The government will not accept the dictation of opposition on the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for Panama leaks investigations. We are ready for talks but investigations should be broad-based,*" another associate of the premier said.

Panama circus, Editorial, *The Dawn*, August 20¹²

[...] *To be sure, the PTI and the PPP both appear to have separate motives in keeping the Panama Papers issue alive. For the PPP, the central issue appears to be national relevance: a continuing slide towards electoral oblivion in Punjab means the party will be reduced to a Sindh rump if it does not find a way to counter and erode the PML-N's dominance in Punjab. For the PTI, the only issue that appears to agitate the party is the ouster of the PML-N in any possible way in order for PTI supremo Imran Khan to become a prime ministerial candidate.* [...] Imran Khan may be wrong in his anti-democratic agitation, but is the PML-N right in its defiance against democratic norms? Nothing the PTI, PPP or any political opposition party in parliament has done since the Panama Papers revelations has undermined the democratic project in the country.

'Panama Papers issue must be investigated', *The Nation*, August 22¹³

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari stated on Sunday (August 21) that the Terms of Reference (TORs) proposed by the opposition

¹¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1165614/panamagate-scandal-pml-n-opts-fight-legal-battle/>

¹² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1278617/panama-circus>

¹³ <http://nation.com.pk/national/22-Aug-2016/panama-papers-issue-must-be-investigated>

regarding investigation of the Panama Papers issue were effective and constitutional and investigation of the matter needed to be done at all costs. [...] *Zardari stated that opposition's ToRs were not only effective but were constitutional as well.* [...] On the other hand, PPP leader Aitzaz Ahsan has advised Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) not to take the Panama Papers issue to the Supreme Court (SC) if the party had decided that it shall hit the roads against the investigation of the matter and will initiate a movement.

Qadri warns of 'neck or nothing', *The Dawn*, August 29¹⁴

Dr Tahirul Qadri has predicted that the Sept 3 'Qisas march' in Rawalpindi will be decisive and "neck or nothing" phase against the government. "The Sept 3 Qisas and solidarity of Pakistan march to be held in Rawalpindi will be decisive and neck or nothing phase, which will not be prolonged much," the Pakistan Awami Tehreek chairman told a press conference here on Sunday (August 28). Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf chief Imran Khan will be holding a show in Lahore the same day.

PROVINCIAL POLITICS

Ex-diplomat Masood Khan new AJK president, *The Nation*, August 17¹⁵

Masood Khan, a retired diplomat, was on Tuesday (August 16) elected as new president of Azad Jammu & Kashmir for next five-year constitutional term. Election to the top slot was held at the lodging hall of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly in Muzaffarabad.

Mamnoon for tapping GB's hydel potential, *The Dawn*, August 22¹⁶

President Mamnoon Hussain on Sunday (August 21) called for deriving maximum benefits from hydropower potential of Gilgit-Baltistan. He was speaking at a briefing on the power generation projects in Skardu. He said development would pick up in Gilgit-Baltistan once it was linked with the national grid. He underlined the need to increase electricity generation to pass on the benefits of economic progress to the local people. *Mr Hussain said the region could greatly benefit from the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.*

Fazl warns Sindh govt over 'anti-madressah laws', *The Dawn*, August 22¹⁷

Head of his own faction of the Jamiat-i-Ulema Islam (JUI-F) Maulana Fazlur Rehman warned the Sindh government on Sunday (August 21) to refrain from making laws 'discriminatory against madressahs' and other religious bodies,

¹⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1280651/qadri-warns-of-neck-or-nothing-in-pindi-march>

¹⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/17-Aug-2016/ex-diplomat-masood-khan-new-ajk-president>

¹⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1279158/mamnoon-for-tapping-gbs-hydel-potential>

¹⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1279057/fazl-warns-sindh-govt-against-making-anti-madressah-laws>

otherwise religious leaders, scholars and cadres would have no other option but to take 'direct action'. *"Those who are targeting madressahs are serving the agenda of their foreign masters," said Maulana Rehman* while addressing a workers' convention organised by the party's Karachi organisation at the Jamia Anwaarul Uloom, Mehran Town in Korangi. [...] *"I warn you," he said loudly, "don't impose dictatorship on madressahs in the garb of democracy. We'll smash all such attempts to smithereens." "You'll have to keep us happy if you want to continue your rule, otherwise, your government can never last longer,"* he claimed.

MQM Pakistan distances itself from Altaf Hussain, *The News*, August 23¹⁸

Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) deputy convener Farooq Sattar and other party leaders have denounced anti-Pakistan slogans and attack on media houses. Addressing a press conference along with Nasreen Jalil and Khawaja Izharul Hassan, Farooq Sattar vowed such action would not be repeated in future. *MQM leaders distanced themselves from party chief and London leadership. Sattar said if such statements are a result of mental stress, then that mental stress needs to be resolved first. "Torture is not MQM's policy. Our policy is to strengthen and make Pakistan prosperous. We were not expecting situation emerged Monday (August 22)," he said.*

Decisions will be taken in Pakistan: Sattar, *The News*, August 24¹⁹

MQM's senior leader Dr Farooq Sattar said on Wednesday (August 24) that the party's London chapter had also accepted his decision and now, all decisions would be made from Pakistan. Speaking to media personnel outside the old KMC building, Farooq Sattar said that after the statement that had been issued from London, there was no confusion or chaos. All decisions are being taken from Pakistan, with regard to the MQM and that no problem existed now.

MQM urged to seek fresh mandate, *The Dawn*, August 29²⁰

The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) has urged MQM lawmakers to resign from assemblies and seek fresh mandate from the people. The demand was made by PTI information secretary Naeemul Haq in a statement here on Sunday (August 28), a day after deputy convener of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) Dr Farooq Sattar announced for the second time that his party had nothing to do with Altaf Hussain.

¹⁸ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/144663-Farooq-Sattar-MQM-leaders-denounce-anti-Pakistan-slogans-attack-on-media>

¹⁹ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/144921-All-decisions-are-now-being-taken-from-Pakistan-Farooq-Sattar>

²⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1280682/mqm-urged-to-seek-fresh-mandate>

EDITORIALS AND OPINION

Energising NAP, Talat Masood, *The Express Tribune*, August 16²¹

[...]Nothing short of a national effort with the highest level of sustained commitment on the part of all state institutions would counter the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism. This would only be possible if the prime minister is willing to exercise his powers and take the lead. *It seems that he has relegated this authority to the military and is distracted by his other priorities at home.* [...]At the same time, the establishment also needs to deal more firmly with the Jamatud Dawa and other militant outfits that under the cover of supporting the Kashmir cause, are spreading their own brand of militancy. *To add to our woes, India and Afghanistan are aiding and abetting militant groups in Fata and dissident elements in Balochistan.* [...]Pakistan is still struggling from the ill-effects of the Afghan jihad and from the activities of militant groups focused on Kashmir. Prolonged periods of military rule in Pakistan has weakened democracy and retarded institution-building. This vacuum was filled with various groups promoting different ideologies. It is crucial that the government focuses on a comprehensive disengagement plan to transform the militant mindset.

FOREIGN POLICY

Flag meeting ends in stalemate, *The Dawn*, August 22²²

A flag meeting between security officials of Pakistan and Afghanistan to reopen the Friendship Gate at Chaman border ended without any result on Saturday afternoon, a well-placed para-military officer who declined to be named told Dawn.com as the gate remained closed for the third consecutive day. [...]Pakistan closed its border with Afghanistan in the aftermath of an attack on the Friendship Gate by Afghan nationals on Friday (August 18). *"The Afghans humiliated the Pakistani national flag and pelted stones at the Friendship gate," said the official. The gate's closure suspended traffic between the two neighbours, a move which also hampered Nato's supply to Afghanistan.*

Fresh campaign launched for NSG membership, *The Dawn*, August 29²³

Pakistan has re-launched its campaign to join the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), as its envoy in the US capital approached the White House this week with a request to support its bid. In a statement issued to the media, the Pakistan Embassy in Washington said Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani had also approached the US State Department and Congressional leaders, calling upon

²¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1164056/energising-national-action-plan/>

²² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1278827/flag-meeting-between-pak-afghan-border-officials-ends-in-stalemate>

²³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1280639/fresh-campaign-launched-for-nsg-membership>

them to support Pakistan's membership to the 48-nation NSG. [...]The ambassador has assured the US leadership that Pakistan shares the international concerns against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and their means of delivery. "Pakistan's inclusion in the NSG would be the right decision to enhance international security," he said.

EDITORIALS AND OPINION

Pakistan's paranoid politics, Pervez Hoodbhoy, *The Dawn*, August 20²⁴

No proof has not yet been offered that a foreign hand [read RAW] was responsible for this grisly act of terror. Nor did the ISPR spokesperson present evidence of what he alleged — that the attack had actually targeted the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project. *Sadly, it is not just the government and military which presents conclusions without evidence, and which allows personal or institutional interests to override good judgment. A paranoid style has come to dominate politics in Pakistan.* [...]All you have to do is turn on the TV and watch political talk shows where anchors and guests compete for the highest levels of heated exaggeration, suspiciousness, and conspiratorial fantasy. [...]If foreign countries are involved in fomenting violence in Pakistan, expose them — with proof. However, government officials and media pundits should not loosely wag their tongues unless they actually know. [...]Imagined conspiracies serve only to distract us from the enemy within

MILITARY AFFAIRS

Two terrorists apprehended, *The Nation*, August 17²⁵

The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) on Tuesday (August 16) foiled a terror bid by arresting an alleged suicide bomber near Radio Pakistan Peshawar. According to police, the terrorist Rehmanuddin, son of Wazir Khan, resident of Bando Khwar district Upper Dir was arrested from outside Radio Pakistan Peshawar on Bach Khan Road. *The terrorist Rehmanuddin is an active operator of a banned group Jamaat-ul-Ahraar, a splinter faction of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), police said.*

No field marshal's post to Gen Raheel, *The Nation*, August 17²⁶

Spokesman to the Prime Minister Dr. Musadik Malik on Tuesday (August 16) rejected the claims of political leaders about offering of Field Marshal's post to General Raheel Sharif by the government and termed such assertions as baseless. *"Such assertions are ridiculous. This issue was not discussed in any*

²⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1278618/pakistans-paranoid-politics>

²⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/17-Aug-2016/two-terrorists-apprehended>

²⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/national/17-Aug-2016/musadik-rejects-claims-about-offering-field-marshall-s-post-to-gen-raheel>

meeting," he said speaking in a private news channel program in response to a question relating to the statement of a political leader. *"Raheel Sharif is man of integrity and he has manifested it. The statements about offering him a new post were ridiculous," he added.* He said General Raheel Sharif had himself stated far before his retirement date that he was not interested in extension and his integrity was known to everybody.

Third military operation launched in Khyber, *The Nation*, August 17²⁷

The military on Tuesday (August 16) launched another operation in the Khyber Agency in which at least 14 militants were killed in air strikes and ground assault. *The army action took place in the mountainous terrain of Rajgal in Khyber Agency. The operation was aimed at limiting the movement of the militants in the all-weather mountainous passes.* According to ISPR, the number of Pakistani forces deployed along the Pak-Afghan border will also be raised. "The operation was conducted in areas close to Afghan border in which 11 terrorists were also injured," the military said in a statement. *It may be mentioned here that after Khyber I and II this is the third military operation in the Khyber Agency.*

Imran demands Rangers operation in Lahore, *The Nation*, August 22²⁸

Condemning the recent killing of a PTI worker, Mirza Tanveer in Lahore, PTI Chairman Imran Khan on Sunday (August 21) demanded that the Rangers' action be extended to Lahore where political target killings are increasing at an alarming rate. He alleged that the Punjab Police have been limited to the role of a militant wing of the PML-N which intimidate and even kill ruling party's opponents.

Civil, military leadership to uphold national security, *The News*, August 24²⁹

The high-level meeting presided by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif ended on Tuesday (August 23) with both the civil and military leadership condemning the recent anti-Pakistan statements. *The civil and military leadership both denounced the recent anti-Pakistan statements made by MQM chief Altaf Hussain a couple of days ago, which led to his supporters attacking and vandalizing the office of a private news channel.* The civil and military leadership also vowed to uphold national integrity and security at ever level.

²⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/national/17-Aug-2016/third-military-operation-launched-in-khyber>

²⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/national/22-Aug-2016/imran-demands-rangers-operation-in-lahore>

²⁹ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/144924-Civil-military-leadership-vow-to-uphold-national-integrity-and-security>

Three suspected terrorists arrested in Chilas, *The Dawn*, August 29³⁰

Police on Sunday (August 28) arrested three suspected terrorists and recovered a sizeable cache of arms and ammunition from their vehicle. "A team of Diamer police stopped a white Toyota Corolla at a post in Chilas and recovered one SMG, one shotgun, a M-16 assault rifle and around 850 bullets," said a security official. The official added that a tip of regarding the vehicle had been received. "The arrested individuals are the brother and close relatives of wanted terrorist Mujib ur Rehman, and the government has announced head money of Rs2 million for his arrest," said SSP Diamer Shoaib Khurram Janbaz.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

The Next COAS, Editorial, *The Natio*, August 16³¹

[...]If the logical pattern is to be followed, Chief of General Staff Lt. General Zubair Hayat is on the top of the seniority list, and could take the slot of Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJSC). Theoretically, the CJSC is a senior of the army chief, which is why it cannot be a junior in the seniority ranking. But it can be from someone from the navy or the air force, which would make Lt. Gen. Hayat an option for COAS as well. The problem with his appointment though, is that he would retire in January the following year, which, not counting an extension, is too short a time period to make it count. Following him is Lt. Gen. Ishfaq Ahmed, who is known to be the man without whom the successes in Zarb-e-Azb and the fight against militancy would not be possible. [...]Whoever the choice is, the soon-to-be vacant office of COAS will have some big shoes that need filling, because the outgoing general has served his country well, not only by taking the war against extremism to the militants, but also by displaying exemplary self-control in ignoring all calls for him to accumulate more power than his office bestows.

Operation in Tirah, Editorial, *The Dawn*, August 22³²

MORE than a year since Operation Khyber-II was concluded, Operation Khyber-III has begun. Relatively small in scale but focused on harsh terrain in the Tirah region, the operation once completed should help deny militants movement between the Khyber and Kurram agencies. Moreover, it will take the military directly to the border with Afghanistan. Small-scale in this case makes for significant gains. The Tirah region's recent association with militant groups is well known: from the TTP to sundry foreign militants and from the Mangal Bagh-led Lashkar-i-Islam to the TTP splinter Jamaatul Ahrar, some of the toughest and most tenacious militant groups have operated in the region.

³⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1280557/three-suspected-terrorists-arrested-in-chilas>

³¹ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/16-Aug-2016/the-next-coas>

³² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1279069/operation-in-tirah>

Operation Khyber-III then is not just a logical follow-up to Khyber-II; its impact should be felt in Peshawar too, which remains vulnerable to militancy in Khyber because of its proximity to the tribal areas.

ECONOMIC ISSUES

Increased trend of Chinese visiting Pakistan, *The Nation*, August 1³³

The number of tourism visa application to Pakistan submitted by Chinese in the first half year of 2016 jumped by 37 folds, says a official reports released here. "Driven by strong relations between the two countries, many Chinese tourists put Pakistan on the top list of their outbound travel plans. [...]The visits paid by Chinese outbound tourists would keep growing in the following years, mainly because China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the report added. According to another report, Pakistan has turned into a favorite destination for Chinese people for doing their business and making investment in the projects, being executed under CPEC or 'One belt one road'. [...]According to a survey, there has been around 100 percent increase in the traveling index on both sides last year. The rapid upward trend of traveling of Chinese workers and businessmen to Pakistan began following the recent visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Pakistan which led the Sino-Pak economic partnership to a new height.

CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

Government to conduct aerial surveillance of CPEC, *Daily Times*, August 22³⁴

Federal government has decided to strictly monitor China- Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) project. According to media reports, Minister for Planning Commission Ahsan Iqbal has completed consultation process with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in connection with security arrangements of CPEC project. It was decided during the consultations that security of the project would be ensured through drone aerial surveillance. Surveillance of roads, railway tracks and gas pipelines would be carried out persistently and immediate response would be given in the event of any terror act. Drone would continue to conduct surveillance of the entire project round the clock.

³³ <http://nation.com.pk/national/01-Aug-2016/increased-trend-of-chinese-people-visiting-pakistan-report>

³⁴ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/22-Aug-16/govt-decides-to-conduct-aerial-surveillance-of-cpec-through-drone>

SECURITY SITUATION

TERRORISM

TTP faction denies links to IS, *The Nation*, August 17³⁵

A Pakistani Taliban breakaway faction that claimed responsibility for the bombing of a hospital last week said on Tuesday (August 16) it had no links with Islamic State, whose leadership also said it was behind the attack. *Jamaat-ur-Ahrar, which briefly declared allegiance to Islamic State in 2014, said in an audio statement that its fight was solely against the Pakistani state and that linking it to trans-national militant networks was wrong.* "We want to make it clear that our movement has no connection to Daesh or Al-Qaeda," the group's leader, Omar Khalid Khorasani said, using the Arabic acronym "Daesh" to refer to Islamic State. "Those in Daesh or Al-Qaeda or any other mujahideen movement are our Muslim brothers. But we do not have any organisational link with any of them. With Daesh and Al-Qaeda we have never had an organisational link before, and even today we have no organisational link with them," Khorasani said.

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND FATA

SHO killed, three police personnel injured, *The Nation*, August 16³⁶

One SHO was killed and three police personnel were injured in an exchange of fire, with criminals near Machli Chok Zaidan today. Sources said that on a tip off, police conducted raid on the hideout of proclaimed offenders in Machli Chok. An exchange of fire took place between the police raiding party and the criminals resulting into martyrdom of SHO Zaida police station Asghar Khan. ASI Muhammad Naem, Constable Zulfikar and Murtaza were injured.

Five militants killed, 15 hideouts destroyed, *The Nation*, August 16³⁷

Armed forces conducted counter-terrorism operations in Khyber Agency, killing five militants and destroying 15 hideouts in the process, Waqt News reported Tuesday (August 16). According to defence sources, the anti-terrorist offensives were carried out in Tirah valley of Khyber Agency. Sources said several militants were killed and key hideouts were destroyed in the process. Army says Zarb-e-Azb military offensive is in its final phase.

³⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/17-Aug-2016/ttp-faction-denies-links-to-is>

³⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/national/16-Aug-2016/sho-killed-three-police-personnel-injured-in-exchange-of-fire>

³⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/national/16-Aug-2016/five-militants-killed-15-hideouts-destroyed-in-khyber-agency-sources>

11 killed in Rajgal valley air raids, *The Express Tribune*, August 19³⁸

At least 11 terrorists were killed and four others were wounded when fighter jets pounded their hideouts in Rajgal Valley of Khyber Agency on Thursday (August 18) where the military launched an air and ground offensive. According to the military's media wing, eight terrorist hideouts located near the border with Afghanistan were decimated in the precision strikes. [...] "Eleven terrorists were killed and four others injured when eight terrorist hideouts close to the Afghan border were destroyed in precision air strikes and synchronised ground operations," the Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement issued on Thursday (August 18). The army offensive took place in the mountainous terrain of Babar Kachkol, Naray Nao and Tor Sapar areas of Khyber.

9 terrorists killed in Rajgal airstrikes: ISPR, *The Nation*, August 20³⁹

Nine terrorists have been killed in fresh air and ground operations in the Khyber tribal region today morning, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) reported. Six militant hideouts and an ammo depot inside a cave were also destroyed during the raids.

Councillor among four shot dead in Kohat, *The Dawn*, August 22⁴⁰

Chairman of a village council and three other people were killed as motorcyclists opened fire on a car in Shakardarra here on Saturday (August 20). The deceased also included a man and his two young sons, while four people, including two girls, were injured. *The Shakardarra police said the car was ambushed in Nandraka area by motorcyclists identified as Mohammad Faheem, Mohammad Naeem, Vaqas Ahmed of the same area and Meenay, resident of Darpa Lachi tehsil, with automatic weapons.* As a result, Rafique ur Rehman, his two sons, Safique ur Rehman and Atique ur Rehman, and village council chairman, Munir, were seriously injured.

BALUCHISTAN

Four Bullet-ridden bodies found in Balochistan, *The Dawn*, August 20⁴¹

Levies recovered four bullet-riddled bodies in Balochistan's Kalat district on Friday (19 August) evening. Levies sources said the bodies were found in the Nimargh area of Kalat district. All the victims had received bullet injuries. [...] In a separate incident, unknown miscreants blew up an eight-inch gas

³⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1165613/11-killed-rajgal-valley-air-raids/>

³⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/20-Aug-2016/9-terrorists-killed-in-latest-airstrikes-ispr>

⁴⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1278976/councillor-among-four-shot-dead-in-kohat>

⁴¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1278810/four-bullet-ridden-bodies-found-in-baluchistans-kalat-district>

pipeline in Balochistan's Dera Bugti. Levies sources said gas supply from well number 7 was suspended following the incident.

Three 'militants' killed in Awaran gun battle, *The Dawn*, August 21⁴²

Three suspected militants were killed in a gunbattle with security forces in Awaran district, official sources said on Saturday (August 20). *They said 40 suspected militants belonging to banned outfits had been taken into custody in combing operations launched in Quetta, Mastung and Awaran districts on Friday night (August 19).* The operations were jointly launched by the Frontier Corps, police and an intelligence agency on information about the presence of militants. In the Tartej area of Awaran, a search operation was under way when militants hiding in the mountains opened fire on security personnel. The personnel returned fire and an exchange of fire between them continued for about two hours. The three militants killed in the gunbattle were identified as Noor Bakhsh, Shah Murad and Dildar.

SINDH

Four alleged terrorists arrested in Karachi, *The Nation*, August 16⁴³

At least four terrorists of banned outfit were arrested in a raid by Special Investigation Unit (SIU) and intelligence agencies in Karachi's Gulshan-e-Iqbal on Tuesday (August 16). While holding a press conference, SIU Senior Superintendent of Police Farooq Awan, said that an action was launched against the terrorists near Disco Bakery in which as many as four militants were detained. He said that the suspects, identified as Azhar Hussain, Abdul Adeel, Kashif Ali and Syed Alim, allegedly have contacts with Abu Sufyan group who attacked Punjab Home Minister, Shuja Khanzada.

RELATIONS WITH INDIA

India invited for talks, *The Nation*, August 16⁴⁴

Pakistan yesterday formally invited India for talks over the Kashmir dispute as the occupant forces in the held territory have crossed all limits of human rights violations. [...]Pakistan yesterday said that the Kashmir issue was the root of the conflicts present between the two neighbours and emphasised upon seeking the solution of the issue through meaningful and purposeful dialogue. Foreign Affairs Secretary Aizaz Chaudhry invited his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar to Islamabad for a 'meaningful dialogue over the Kashmir issue' at a meeting with Indian High Commissioner in Pakistan Gautam Bambawale here.

⁴² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1278988/three-militants-killed-in-awaran-gun-battle>

⁴³ <http://nation.com.pk/national/16-Aug-2016/four-terrorists-of-banned-outfit-arrested-in-karachi>

⁴⁴ <http://nation.com.pk/national/16-Aug-2016/india-invited-for-talks-amid-kashmir-flare-up>

PIA flight leaves for Malaysia after 'Indian glitch', *The Nation*, August 17⁴⁵

A Kuala Lumpur-bound PIA flight yesterday landed at the Lahore airport after being denied overflight rights by Indian authorities. The PK-894 flight had left Peshawar airport for Malaysia. A PIA's spokesman late yesterday night said that the flight left for Kuala Lumpur after refuelling. He also clarified that the flight did not face any kind of resistance. The spokesman claimed that the flight was called back because of weight conditions. *Earlier, aviation sources said the pilots diverted the flight back to Pakistan after being denied air-space by New Delhi. When a pilot asked the reason, the Indian air traffic control did not mention any justification for denying air space to the Pakistani flight. Reportedly, this PIA's flight uses the Indian air space as usual but yesterday it was denied the airspace without any prior warning.* Pakistani officials immediately contacted their Indian counterparts by using Hot-Line but the Indian authorities did not respond to their calls.

Pakistan again offers India ban on N-tests, *The Nation*, August 17⁴⁶

Pakistan yesterday again offered India a bilateral agreement to ban nuclear testing, a day after inviting New Delhi for talks over the red-hot Kashmir issue. This week Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry invited his Indian counterpart S. Jaishankar to visit Islamabad for a dialogue on Kashmir, which New Delhi had rejected outright last week. *The invitation letter was handed to High Commissioner Gautam Bambawale, two days after Sartaj Aziz, said that Pakistan had planned to invite the Indian Foreign Secretary for peace talks on Kashmir.* [...] Last week, New Delhi had rejected the Pakistani talks plan, stating a dialogue can be had only on "contemporary and relevant issues in India-Pakistan relations," especially cross-border terrorism. The letter came hours after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi ridiculed Pakistan on Balochistan and terrorism while laying claim on Azad Jammu Kashmir during his 94-minute Independence Day speech. But Pakistan returned with another offer for the broader peace in South Asia suggesting a nuclear test ban.

Pakistan again invites India for talks, *The Nation*, August 20⁴⁷

Pakistan yesterday sent another letter to India inviting foreign secretary S. Jaishankar to visit Islamabad this month and hold talks over the Kashmir issue. The development came days after India rejected Pakistan's earlier offer for talks on the decades-old dispute and insisted the dialogue should only be restricted to terrorism and security matters. Foreign Office Spokesman Nafees Zakaria said Indian High Commissioner Gautam Bambawale was handed a

⁴⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/17-Aug-2016/pia-flight-leaves-for-malaysia-after-indian-glitch>

⁴⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/national/17-Aug-2016/pakistan-again-offers-india-ban-on-n-tests>

⁴⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/national/20-Aug-2016/pakistan-again-invites-india-for-kashmir-talks>

letter by Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry – a reply to his Indian counterpart's correspondence where New Delhi out-rightly rejected the proposal to discuss the Kashmir violence. [...]He said Pakistan called for putting an immediate end to the human rights violations against the innocent people of Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir. "Pakistan also called for providing medical facilities to the injured... (and) permission for doctors and paramedics to travel (to IHK)," he added.

THE BALOCHISTAN-POK-GB REFERENCE

Modi chides Pakistan in I-Day speech, *The Nation*, August 16⁴⁸

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi took aim at supporters of "terrorism" in his Independence Day speech on Monday (August 15), ratcheting up criticism of Pakistan while avoiding direct mention of month-long protests in Indian-ruled Kashmir.

Modi's rhetoric termed war declaration, *The Nation*, August 17⁴⁹

Indian Prime Minister Modi's statement regarding Balochistan is tantamount to declaration of war against Pakistan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif should give matching response to India on this issue. Talking to media on Tuesday (August 16), Jamaatud Dawa (JuD) Multan district Ameer Mian Sohail Ahmad said that Modi's statement is a public confession to Indian intervention in Kashmir, adding that India wants to repeat the history of 1971. "***But we'll not let India succeed in her conspiracies against Pakistan. Balochistan is not a controversial area like Kashmir,***" he declared. [...]He said that Indian intelligence agencies are involved in terrorism in Balochistan while Modi has also admitted that India had disintegrated Pakistan. *He said that Modi has no right to discuss Balochistan. "If he talks about Balochistan, we'll talk about Delhi," he declared.*

Brahamdagh Bugti is a traitor: Zehri, *The Express Tribune*, August 18⁵⁰

Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Sanaullah Khan Zehri on Thursday (August 18) declared Brahamdagh Bugti a traitor to the nation. "***By saluting Modi, Bugti has proved that he is a traitor,***" Zehri told the media. The self-exiled Baloch Republican Army (BRA) leader had hailed Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for mentioning Balochistan in his Independence Day speech on Monday." Bugti saluted the man who is responsible for bloodshed in Balochistan," the Balochistan CM said. [...]Reiterating his stance on Modi's

⁴⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/national/16-Aug-2016/modi-chides-pakistan-in-i-day-speech>

⁴⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/17-Aug-2016/modi-s-rhetoric-termed-war-declaration-against-pakistanv>

⁵⁰ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1165231/brahamdagh-bugti-traitor-sanaullah-zehri/>

statement, Zehri said that there was a huge difference between the situation in Indian-occupied Kashmir and Balochistan.

Modi 'crossed the red line', *The Express Tribune*, August 19⁵¹

Foreign Office spokesperson Nafees Zakaria on Thursday (August 18) said an Independence Day speech by the Indian prime minister berating Islamabad – especially at a time when tempers were already frayed over the escalating violence in Indian-held Kashmir – has further strained ties between the two countries. [...] Zakaria said special assistant to PM on Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatemi had said Modi's comments "could set back relations in a far more serious manner than anything that's gone before," because *the Indian PM had "crossed a red line"* by discussing Pakistan's internal issues.

Anti-India protests erupt in Balochistan, *The Express Tribune*, August 19⁵²

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent statement on Balochistan has sparked furious protests across the province with Chief Minister Sanaullah Zehri accusing New Delhi of stoking terrorism in the volatile region. On Thursday (August 18), civil society activists and different political organisations staged rallies in Dera Bugti, Lasbela, Naushki, Chaghai, Khuzdar, Naseerabad, Jaffarabad, Kohlu, Dera Allahyar, Dadhar, Sibi and Bolan among other cities of Balochistan.

A maddening spiral, Abbas Nasir, *The Dawn*, August 20⁵³

Indian news service ANI showed a public gathering and slogans being raised [in Gilgit Baltistan]. A closer look showed the footage from an election rally organised by the Awami Workers' Party in support of its candidate Baba Jan from the last elections of the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly. [...] The Awami Workers' Party, which is fast earning a name for itself as a fighter for the rights of the oppressed, issued a rejoinder setting the record straight about the footage. While it said it would continue to struggle for the rights of all oppressed, it categorically denied its rally was, in any way, anti-Pakistan as suggested by the Indian media. [...] *One likely consequence would be a renewed reliance on brute force by the Pakistan authorities [in Balochistan] as Mr Modi's remarks will have provided a justification for a no holds-barred policy in the province.* [...] *One earnestly hopes the Indian prime minister's remarks do not spur our security establishment into a situation where it lives up to its reputation of journeying out of the pan and into the fire.*

⁵¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1165341/modi-crossed-red-line-mentioned-balochistan-foreign-office/>

⁵² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1165601/anti-india-protests-erupt-balochistan/>

⁵³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1278619/a-maddening-spiral>

Karzai backs Modi's Balochistan comments, *The Dawn*, August 20⁵⁴

Afghanistan's former president Hamid Karzai "appreciated" Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement on the human rights situation in Balochistan on Friday (August 19), saying that India had every right to respond to Pakistan's "provocations". [...] *Talking to Hindu he said: "Pakistani authorities have spoken freely on Afghanistan and India, but this is the first time that the PM of India has spoken about Balochistan. However, I don't think India intends to go to any proxy wars in the region as it has a tradition of peaceful coexistence.* The region should not go to proxy wars. [...] In Balochistan there is extreme suffering at the hands of extremists promoted by state structures in Pakistan. Therefore the people's concerns need to be addressed and aired", Mr Karzai said during a visit to Delhi.

Karzai appreciates Modi on Balochistan, *The Express Tribune*, August 21⁵⁵

Former Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Saturday (August 20) expressed appreciation for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his remarks on 'freedom' for Balochistan in his Independence Day speech. [...] While addressing a press conference in New Delhi, Karzai expressed empathy with the people of Balochistan and said Modi's remarks are understandable. *"The issue of Balochis and their rights and need for them to have peace is something that we commiserate, we understand the remarks of the Prime Minister of India. We wish Balochistan and its people very well. We wish all other regions in Pakistan very very well. We wish security and prosperity for that region and for all other regions in this part of the world. In other words, we understand the remarks of Prime Minister Modi and I appreciate it,"* said Karzai.

Baloch leaders booked supporting Modi's comments, *Daily Times*, August 22⁵⁶

Five cases were registered against three Baloch leaders for allegedly supporting Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statements on Balochistan, police said. *The cases were registered against Brahamdagh Bugti, Harbiyar Marri and Banuk Karima Baloch* on the complaints of petitioners Munir Ahmed, Maulana Muhammad Aslam, Muhammad Hussain, Ghulam Yaseen Jatak and Muhammad Rahim at five police stations in Balochistan's Khuzdar area.

Modi's bloated arrogance, Mohammad Jamil, *Daily Times*, August 23⁵⁷

⁵⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1278717/karzai-backs-modis-balochistan-comments>

⁵⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1166919/former-afghan-president-appreciates-modi-highlighting-balochistan-issue/>

⁵⁶ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/22-Aug-16/baloch-leaders-booked-for-allegedly-supporting-modis-comments>

⁵⁷ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/opinion/23-Aug-16/narendra-modis-bloated-arrogance>

The recent bloodshed in the Indian-occupied Kashmir has received wide coverage in international as well as domestic Indian media, and condemned by a cross section of people. Even the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and the US have advised India to stop violence and resolve the issue through dialogue. It means they recognise the Kashmir dispute as an issue that has to be resolved, or otherwise they would not have made such a suggestion. ***But Prime Minister Narendra Modi continues with his bloated arrogance when the situation in Kashmir is volatile after Burhan Wani's killing.***

Modi, Balochistan and GB, Yaqoob Bangash, *The Express Tribune*, August 25⁵⁸ [...]Modi's mention of Gilgit was not surprising; India claims not only the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir, but also Hunza and Nagar, and even Chitral. India has had this maximalist position since independence as it gives it leverage whenever Pakistan raises the issue of human rights abuses in the Indian-held Kashmir valley. So this is nothing new. [...] ***The mention of Balochistan is more significant.*** [...]In the case of Balochistan, where about 80 per cent of the now province was the state of Kalat, the accession to Pakistan in March 1948 was legally done and the insurgency led by Prince Abdul Karim did not begin till June 1948. Hence it was never in dispute that the Khan of Kalat, Mir Ahmad Yar Khan, legally and in his own right, signed the Instrument of Accession.

Balochistan Assembly adopts resolution against Modi, *The Dawn*, August 28⁵⁹ Balochistan Assembly on Saturday (August 27) adopted an unanimous resolution condemning the India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi in regard to his statement about the province during his Independence Day speech, earlier this month. The resolution, tabled by PML-N lawmaker Muhammad Khan Lehri, was supported by all political parties including National Party, Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam and other political groups. Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Sanaullah Zehri along with other legislators also signed the condemnation resolution. ***"The Indian prime minister's statement about Balochistan has proved that terrorism in the province was clearly sponsored by India," the resolution said.***

UNREST IN KASHMIR

Modi trying to divert world attention: Aziz, *The Nation*, August 16⁶⁰ ***Adviser to PM Sartaj Aziz said yesterday Prime Minister Narendra Modi was only trying to divert world attention from the grim tragedy that has been***

⁵⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1169354/modi-balochistan-gilgit/>

⁵⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1280362/balochistan-assembly-adopts-resolution-against-indias-pm-narendra-modi>

⁶⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/16-Aug-2016/modi-trying-to-divert-world-attention-aziz>

*unfolding in Kashmir over the past five weeks. [...]He added: "These events have nothing to do with terrorism. It is an indigenous movement for self-determination, a right promised to the Kashmiris by the UNSC." At this time, he said the contrast between IHK and AJK could not be more stark. **The adviser said PM Modi's reference to Balochistan only proved Pakistan's contention that India through its main intelligence agency – RAW - has been fomenting terrorism in Pakistan, which was also confirmed by the public confession RAW officer Kulbhushan Yadav.** Aziz said India should recognise that the core issue of Kashmir cannot be resolved by bullets. "It requires a political solution, through serious negotiations between India and Pakistan."*

US says no change in policy on Kashmir, *The Nation*, August 17⁶¹

Despite massive human rights violations being committed by Indian security forces in clamping down the uprising in Occupied Kashmir, the United States has let it be known that it will maintain its hand-off policy on the conflict in the disputed region. *"Our position on Kashmir has not changed," State Department Spokesperson Elizabeth Trudeau told reporters in the daily Press briefing on Monday (August 15). She said that it is for India and Pakistan to determine the pace, scope and character of any discussions on Kashmir. [...]Responding to a question about the situation in Kashmir, Trudeau said, "We support any and all positive steps that India and Pakistan can take to forge closer relations. "We're aware of the clashes. We remain concerned about the violence and we encourage to all sides to make efforts for finding a peaceful resolution."* The State Department spokesperson, however, did not respond to questions on the remarks by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Independence Day address.

PM Nawaz vows to stimulate UN, *Daily Times*, August 18⁶²

Foreign Office's spokesperson Nafees Zakaria, during his weekly news briefing in Islamabad today stated that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif would lead Pakistan's delegation to the UN General Assembly next month, highlighting Kashmir issue. He says *"Prime Minister strongly pleaded the cause of Kashmir during General Assembly session last year and he would raise the issue again."* He further adds that the *"UN Secretary General and most of the UN members have already been informed about the precarious situation in occupied Kashmir"*. The spokesperson further urged UN and international community to take a firm stance against Indian violence in Kashmir since the issue has been lingering above Security Council's agenda for six decades.

⁶¹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/17-Aug-2016/us-says-no-change-in-policy-on-kashmir>

⁶² <http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/18-Aug-16/pm-nawaz-vows-to-stimulate-un-into-focusing-on-kashmir-issue>

Situation in IOK is not internal issue of India: OIC, *The Nation*, August 20⁶³
Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Ayad Ameen Madani has urged the international community to be more vocal, on the deteriorating human rights situation in Indian Held Kashmir. He was addressing a joint news conference with Adviser on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz in Islamabad today. The OIC Secretary General said situation in the valley is not an internal issue of India and greater effort should be made for exposing human rights violations there. Ayad Ameen Madani renewed the OIC's support for the resolution of Kashmir dispute in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people and the UN Security Council Resolutions.

Kashmir: why talk to India?, Munir Akram, *The Dawn*, August 21⁶⁴
[...]*It would have been unseemly to hold talks with India when it has just killed over 70 Kashmiris like Burhan Wani and blinded hundreds, including small children, and is continuing with its campaign of oppression. A 'separate' dialogue on Kashmir will not stop India's repression.* On the contrary, talks would have enabled India to deflect world attention from its atrocities by focusing on 'terrorism' and could have defused this latest Kashmiri revolt. [...]There is a substantial body of international law and precedent to establish the legitimacy of the Kashmiri freedom struggle. [...]With moral and material support from Pakistan, the Kashmiris can sustain this resistance. Ultimately, like so many other peoples under colonial and alien domination, the Kashmiris will succeed in winning their freedom. What Pakistan can do is to create the best conditions for the success of their struggle. This requires, for the present, active and bold diplomatic action by Pakistan; not talks with India. A Pakistan-India dialogue will be meaningful only when India comes to the conclusion that it cannot sustain its occupation of Kashmir — politically, militarily and morally.

Modi's insult upon Kashmir's injuries, Lal Khan, *Daily Times*, August 21⁶⁵
Narendra Modi's speech at Delhi's Red Fort on the 70th anniversary of India's independence and the bloodied partition has amounted to nothing but rubbing salt in the wounds of the Kashmir youth and workers who have again and again risen to fight Indian occupation and tyranny. [...]The ordinary people of Balochistan, Gilgit and PoK as elsewhere in the region are fighting for their emancipation from tyranny of class and state oppression. Modi represents an ideology and system that is the cause of the plight of the masses. The struggles going on in different parts of this South Asian region have to support and encourage their class brothers in other parts to overthrow and annihilate this

⁶³ <http://nation.com.pk/national/20-Aug-2016/situation-in-iok-is-not-internal-issue-of-india-oic>

⁶⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1278902/kashmir-why-talk-to-india>

⁶⁵ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/opinion/21-Aug-16/modis-insult-upon-kashmirs-injuries>

system. The people of Pakistan and India cannot get a respite within the confines of the existent capitalism in both countries. To put an end to poverty, misery, disease, terrorism, wars, bloodshed and deprivation the oppressed classes of the South Asian subcontinent have a collective battle to fight and the class war to win.

PM to nominate more envoys to highlight Kashmir, *The Dawn*, August 29⁶⁶

After facing criticism from the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) and some political circles over the prime minister's act of ignoring opposition parties in the nomination of parliamentarians as special envoys on the Kashmir cause, the government has now decided to nominate more envoys, giving representation to other parties as well. [...] *"It must be noted that the list issued to the media is not exhaustive and the speaker's office was supposed to be sending more names of parliamentarians, who will be subsequently added to the list," the spokesman said in a reference to the list of 20 parliamentarians issued by the PM Office on Saturday (August 28).* [...] Interestingly, of the 18 lawmakers from the ruling coalition, seven belong to southern Punjab. Nawab Ali Wassan, a PPP member of the National Assembly, and the PML-Q's Mushahid Hussain are the only two men from the opposition in the list of the envoys. [...] *PTI vice chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi had expressed his disappointment over the nominations, saying the list showed the "government's seriousness" towards the Kashmir cause. He expressed surprise over his exclusion, saying the rulers could not see a man sitting in parliament who had served as a foreign minister and raised the Kashmir issue at the UN, the Organisation of Islamic Cooper-a-tion and the Arab League.*

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Sharing Problems, Editorial, *The Nation*, August 17⁶⁷

[...] Indus Waters Treaty only delineates how much water should pass through to the lower-riparian state (Pakistan), and India's decision to store 7.5 million cubic metres (mcm) water in the form of pondage (the reservoir, in case of shortage of water) for run-of-the-river hydroelectric systems is the bone of contention in this issue. Pakistan's stance on this has already been venerated by the decision of the arbitration tribunal in 2013, which ordered India to continue work on the Kishanganga project only if it provided Pakistan with at least 9 mcm. If India goes ahead with its plan of storing 7.5 mcm, as little as ten percent to as much as 33 percent of the water could be lost from Chenab, even though control of the waters of the Western rivers was handed to Pakistan, while India got the Eastern rivers; Ravi, and Sutlej.

⁶⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1280680/pm-to-nominate-more-envoys-to-highlight-kashmir-issue>

⁶⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/17-Aug-2016/sharing-problems>

EXCERPTS FROM URDU MEDIA & SELECT JIHADI LITERATURE

Kashmir Issue Ignored, Editorial, *Daily Ummat*, August 17⁶⁸

[...]In his independence speech Modi talked about Gilgit and Azad Kashmir but he did not utter a single word on Kashmir. Since the recent uprising in Kashmir more than 60 people were killed and thousands have been injured. *During his speech, Modi didn't dare to talk about occupied Kashmir and its resistance.* Kashmiri's celebrated 14th August by raising Pakistani flags and chanted slogans in favour of Pakistan. They also marked 15th August as black day. *Khalistam Movement is going on in Indian Punjab. Modi did not want to touch Sikhs. Sikh's are of the view that if Kashmiri's support them they will breakup India into many pieces.* When India is facing pressure from within and outside then it makes no sense to rush to talks with India on Kashmir right now. *One gets puzzled that why Nawaz Sharif is in so awe of talks that he feels helpless without talking to India. It seems that for the government the trade of onions and Potato is very important than Kashmir issue.* [...]PEMRA banned Shahid Masood's show because he raised Kashmir issue and also alleged that Sharif Family is more interested in onions and potatoes business with Indian than talking about Kashmir.

Azad Kashmir's new President, Editorial, *Nawa-i-Waqt*, August 17⁶⁹

Out of 48 votes polled, 42 were in favour of Masood Khan. He was elected a new president of Azad Kashmir. PPP's Lateef Akbar got 6 votes. In recently held elections PMLN won by huge margins. PMLN formed government and for that it did not require support from any other party. It nominated its prime minister and president with ease. *Now PMLN has its government both at centre and in Azad Kashmir. So it must be not facing any problem in raising Kashmir issue.* Both Prime Minister Haider and President Masood have five years to work together for Kashmir cause. Both have a great experience in their fields. Masood Khan being a Kashmiri can understand importance of Kashmir issue. He has to set example for occupied Kashmiri people. India is suppressing Kashmiris and asking them that Delhi is providing them ration and electricity on subsidy. The Azad Kashmir has to do well to set example for occupied Kashmiris regarding the benefits of being Pakistani.

⁶⁸ <http://ummat.net/2016/08/17/news.php?p=idr1.gif>

⁶⁹ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/editorials/17-Aug-2016/499479>

Why Action against Terrorists is Failing, Editorial, *Daily Ummat*, August 18⁷⁰
[...]*Peace and stability of Karachi is very important. Unfortunately this city has become hub of MQM terrorists. Other religious and sectarian outfits have also played a drastic role in eroding the image of Karachi. Before Rangers operation killings, curfew and fear was a daily routine in Karachi. After military operation led by Rangers in Karachi, there has been 70 percent decline in target killings, 50 percent in terrorist incidents, 30 percent in criminal incidents. There is a possibility of further reduction if both provincial and federal government do not create hurdles in Ranger's work. Many political leaders are deliberately not giving permission of extending Karachi operation to the other areas of Sindh. It is because they want to protect terrorists, criminals and target killers. [...]Security establishment is trying its best to implement NAP in its true spirit and they also want to extend Operation Zarb-e-Azb to other areas of Pakistan. But politicians are not allowing it.* But questions are also being raised that even after a successful military operation against terrorists why is it that terrorists are still feeling powerful and defiant. Why are terrorist incidents still happening?

Modi's Statement on Balochistan, Editorial, *Nawa-e-Waqt*, August 20⁷¹
The special assistant to the Prime Minister on foreign affairs, Tariq Fatemi has said that with his remarks on Balochistan, Modi had crossed the redline. It is an interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan. Against Indian interference and Modi's statement, protest rallies were organised in different cities of Balochistan. Angry Baloch protesters burnt the effigies of Modi and Brahmdagh Bugti. Balochistan's Chief Minister Sanaullah Zehri stated that RAW was involved in the Quetta terror attack. *He also chanted the slogan "Modi ka jo yaar hai, Gaddhar hai"* [Modi's friend is a traitor]. There were severe criticisms against Modi's statements in Balochistan, Gilgit and Azad Kashmir. Every small and big cities of Balochistan witnessed rallies against Modi and his friends. Their effigies were also burnt. Brahmadagh Bugti had earlier praised Modi for his statement and saluted him for that. Such traitors, who claim to represent Balochistan, couldn't dare enter into the province. Modi's statement and Indian conspiracies has once again united the nation. Modi, with his statement, has crossed the redline. Now, Pakistani Prime Minister should respond to this development. It is better, Nawaz should ring him.

⁷⁰ <http://ummat.net/2016/08/18/news.php?p=idr1.gif>

⁷¹ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/editorials/20-Aug-2016/500483>

Modi's Statement is a sign of his madness, *Nawa-e-Waqt*, August 20⁷²

The Gilgit Assembly passed a resolution on August 19, 2016 denouncing Indian PM's statement on Gilgit, which was introduced by deputy speaker Zafarullah Khan and Aurangzaeb Advocate. The resolution said that Narendra Modi's statements indicated his madness and it was an attempt to divert attention from the atrocities in Kashmir. The people of G-B were patriotic. They were Pakistani yesterday and Pakistani today and every child G-B was ready to fight for the defence and security of Pakistan. In different areas of G-B, there were meetings criticising Modi' statement and Indian flags and Modi's effigies were burnt.

⁷² <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/national/20-Aug-2016/500680>

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

Place	Date	Description	Killed	Injured
Balochistan				
Kalat ⁷³	20/8/2016	Four bodies found	4	0
Awaran ⁷⁴	21/8/2016	Three militants killed	3	0
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa				
Swabi ⁷⁵	16/8/2017	SHO killed	1	3
Tirah ⁷⁶	16/8/2016	Five militants killed	5	0
Rajgal ⁷⁷	17/8/2016	Khyber-III launched	14	12*
Rajgal ⁷⁸	19/8/2016	11 terrorists killed	11	0
Rajgal ⁷⁹	20/8/2016	9 terrorists killed	9	0
Shakardara ⁸⁰	22/8/2016	Four shot dead	4	0

⁷³ Palatino Linotype

⁷⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1278988/three-militants-killed-in-awaran-gun-battle>

⁷⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/16-Aug-2016/sho-killed-three-police-personnel-injured-in-exchange-of-fire>

⁷⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/national/16-Aug-2016/five-militants-killed-15-hideouts-destroyed-in-khyber-agency-sources>

⁷⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/national/17-Aug-2016/third-mily-operation-launched-in-khyber>

⁷⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1165613/11-killed-rajgal-valley-air-raids/>

⁷⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/20-Aug-2016/9-terrorists-killed-in-latest-airstrikes-ispr>

⁸⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1278976/councillor-among-four-shot-dead-in-kohat>