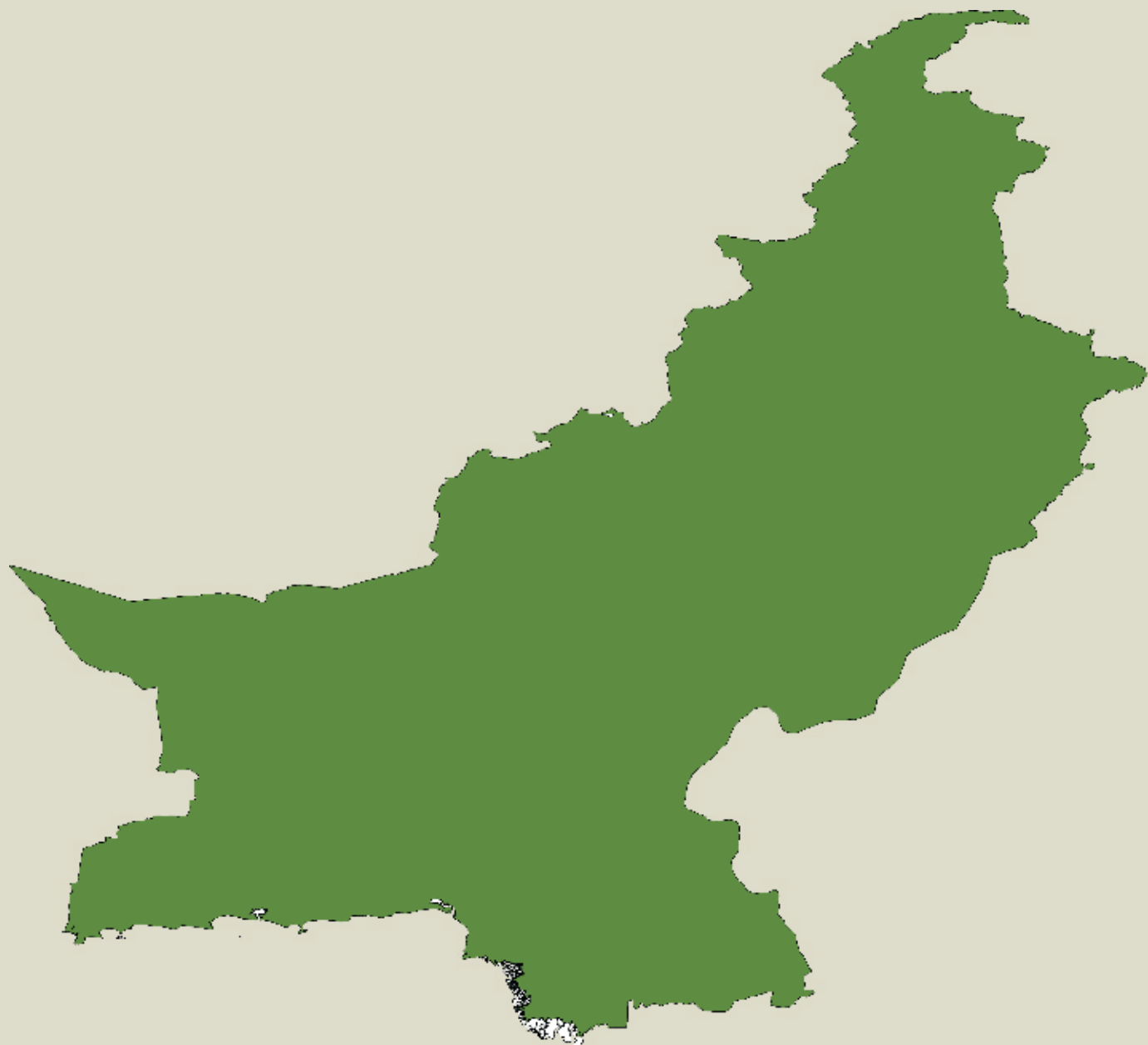


April 2015

PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST

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



*Prepared by
YaqoobulHassan
and Shreyas Deshmukh
(Interns, Pakistan Project, IDSA)*

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INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE
STUDIES & ANALYSES
रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST, APRIL 2015

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ABBREVATIONS

ANP: Awami National Party
APC: All Parties Conference
ATC: Anti-Terrorism Court
BIT: Bilateral Investment Treaty
BNP: Baluchistan National Party
CDWP: Central Development Working Party
CPEC: China- Pakistan Economic Corridor
ECP: Election Commission of Pakistan
GIDC: Gas Infrastructure Development Cess
ICBC: Industrial and Commercial Bank of China
IMF: International Monetary Fund
ISI: Inter-Services Intelligence
ISPR: Inter Services Public Relations
JI: Jamaat-i-Islaami
JuD: Jamat-ul- Dawa
KKH: Karakoram Highway
KP: Khyber Pakhthunkhwa
KPCCI: K-P Chamber of Commerce and Industry
KSA: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
LHC: Lahore High Court's
MQM: Muttahida Qaumi Movement
MTBs: Market Treasury Bills
NAB: National Accountability Bureau
Nacta: National Anti-Terrorism Act
NADRA- National Database and Registration Authority
NAP: National Action Plan
PML-N: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz
PML-Q: Pakistan Muslim League Quaid
PPP: Pakistan People's Party
PSO: Pakistan State Oil
PTI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
SNGPL: Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited
SSGCL: Sui Southern Gas Company Limited
TTP: Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan
WAPDA: Water and Power Development Authority.

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

PROVINCIAL POLITICS

Use of force cannot bring peace in Balochistan: Raisani, Dawn, April 4¹

Former Balochistan chief minister Nawab Muhammad Aslam Raisani on April 3 said that peace in Balochistan cannot be restored through use of force or deployment of Frontier Corps personnel. In an interview, the former chief minister said peace cannot be brought in Balochistan through the barrel of a gun, rather all-out efforts should be made for meaningful dialogue to address the grievances of people. *"I was not given the mandate to resolve problems in Balochistan or talk to disgruntled Baloch leaders,"* Nawab Raisani said when asked about initiating dialogue with exiled-Baloch leaders as chief minister. Raisani however termed solution of the Kashmir issue integral for peace in Balochistan. *"Resolve the Kashmir issue, the Balochistan issue would be automatically resolved,"* Nawab Raisani said. The former chief minister termed cordial relations with Iran, Afghanistan and India essential for durable peace in the country. Raisani admitted that there was worsening law and order situation in Balochistan in general and Quetta in particular. He revealed that members of the Hazara community were murdered during his tenure every day.

'KP govt to allocate more funds for higher education', The News, April 5²

A senior official said on April 4 that the KP government invested approximately Rs. 53 billion in the higher education sector during the last five years and it is intending to allocate more funds to improve the quality of higher education in the province. Secretary Higher Education Department, KP Muhammad Ali Shahzada said this while speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the 3rd annual three-day Medical Education and Research Conference at the Khyber Medical University. *"To share knowledge and improve its quality is our hope for a healthier Pakistan of tomorrow. The zeal to learn and learn better can bring smile on face of a dying child somewhere around us,"* he said. He said their sincere efforts were meant to provide an atmosphere conducive to the growth of intellect and it can guarantee creativity and innovation. *"Our collective determination is to join hands to improve the extent and worth of treasure of our knowledge,"* he added.

¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1173891/use-of-force-cannot-bring-peace-in-balochistan-raisani>

² <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-310894-KP-govt-to-allocate-more-funds-for-higher-education>

Fissures in MQM becoming visible, *The Nation*, April 5³

It is not clear at this moment whether the loyalists of Altaf Hussain or Old Guard will succeed in ensuring London Command's grip over its nerve centre in Karachi or not but what is becoming clear by each passing day is that the MQM is heading on the path of facing real factions within itself. The MQM witnessed divisions soon after the assassinations of its some founding leaders as two groups' pro-Altaf and anti-Altaf surfaced under the names of MQM-Altaf and MQM-Haqqiqi led by Altaf Hussain and Afaq Ahmed respectively. Though the MQM-Haqqiqi had failed to establish roots under the command of Afaq Ahmed and Haqqiqi's co-founder Amir Khan, who later rejoined Altaf Hussain, and the faction diminished after Afaq and Amir went to jail facing charges of criminal nature being the real musclemen of their former boss Altaf Hussain. The mentioned founding leaders of the MQM were named as the members of the 'Old Guard or Old Breed', which shed each other's loyalists' blood for quite sometimes in Karachi.

Rangers, police deployed during NA-246 by-polls, *The News*, April 6⁴

Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Qaim Ali Shah on April 5 ordered Rangers and police to ensure free, fair and transparent by-elections in NA-246 constituency scheduled for April 23. "The by-polls in NA-246 constituency will be held under the supervision of Rangers and police," said the spokesman of CM Sindh in a statement. The spokesman said the credit for restoration of peace in the provincial capital goes to the Rangers and police, and they can also ensure order on the day of election in the metropolis. He further said that the leadership of both PTI and MQM should exhibit political maturity ahead of the upcoming by elections. Tension sparked between PTI and MQM ahead of the by-polls in NA-246 and the PTI's plan to stage a rally on April 19 in Jinnah Ground which is located in what is said to be the stronghold of MQM.

PPP to hold rally in Lyari on April 26, *Dawn*, April 15⁵

Sindh Chief Minister Qaim Ali Shah on April 15 announced the PPP's intent to hold a rally in Karachi's Lyari district on April 26. At a press conference, Shah said former president Asif Ali Zardari is also expected at the rally, which will be held in Lyari's Kakri Ground. He said Lyari is one of the more underdeveloped areas in Karachi, and spoke about how the PPP government in Sindh is developing schools and streets in the settlement. The announcement to hold the public gathering comes at the heels of speculations that there are internal rifts within PPP ranks. While the party leadership has

³ <http://nation.com.pk/national/05-Apr-2015/fissures-in-mqm-becoming-visible>

⁴ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-180506-Qaim-orders-Rangers,-police-deployment-during-NA-246-by-polls>

⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1176084/ppp-to-hold-rally-in-lyari-on-april-26>

repeatedly denied an estrangement between its chairpersons Zardari and his son Bilawal Bhutto, it has been made clear that Bilawal is going to take a back seat in what was earlier dubbed his political flight.

Ishratul Ibad has no affiliation with MQM: Altaf, Dawn, April 22⁶

Muttahida Qaumi Movement chief Altaf Hussain on April 22 said Sindh Governor Dr Ishratul Ibad whose political career shares a long history with the party was no longer affiliated with MQM. Speaking to a private television channel via telephone from London, the MQM chief directed party activists against expecting any cooperation from the governor, who he referred to as a "representative of the establishment". Hussain moreover said that the army holds conversations with Ibad whenever it suits them. "[Ishratul Ibad] is not a representative of MQM," Hussain asserted, advising members of the media not to portray the governor as an MQM official. Hussain also seemed critical of what he called Ibad's indifference to the raids on MQM's Nine Zero headquarters and MQM offices. He said the governor neither took any notice nor condemned the operations and the raids against the party.

Landslide victory for MQM in NA-246, The News, April 24⁷

Supporters overjoyed on hearing reports of a landslide victory of MQM candidate Kanwar Naveed Jameel in the by-election of National Assembly's NA-246 seat late on April 23. Following MQM chief Altaf Hussain's appeal, party supporters had gathered in large numbers at Azizabad's Jinnah Ground to celebrate Kanwar Naveed Jameel's anticipated victory. According to official results announced by Returning Officer Nadeem Haider, MQM's Kanwar Naveed bagged 95,644 votes while his closest rival Imran Ismail of PTI managed to secure 24,821 votes. Rashid Naseem of JI came third with 9056 votes. According to RO, a total number of registered voters in the constituency are 357,801 while 131,424 votes were cast in the by-election with 36.72 per cent turn out. He said 1129 votes were rejected on various grounds.

Tribal elders reject Fata Reforms Commission draft, The News, April 26⁸

The Federally Administered Tribal Areas Political Alliance on April 25 rejected the proposed draft report of the Fata Reforms Commission and announced to launch protest if the tribes people were not given their due rights. Speaking at a press conference, Jamaat-e-Islami leader and head of the Fata Political Alliance Sahibzada Haroonur Rashid said that all political

⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1177516/ishratul-ibad-has-no-affiliation-with-mqm-represents-establishment-altaf>

⁷ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-182382-Official-results-announced,-landslide-victory-for-MQM-in-NA-246->

⁸ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-37206-Tribal-elders-reject-proposed-draft-of-Fata-Reforms-Commission>

parties had rejected the proposed draft report. He said they would resist if the government continued with its "anti-tribal policy." On behalf of all the political parties and tribal elders, Haroonur Rashid said the Fata Reforms Commission constituted by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Sardar Mahtab Ahmad Khan had finalised its report, but it was against the recommendations proposed by the Fata Political Alliance for reforms in the tribal areas.

Altaf reiterates call for new province out of Sindh, *The News*, April 28⁹

Muttahida Qaumi Movement Chief, Altaf Hussain has once again called for formation of a new province out of Sindh and proposed 'Karachi', 'Urban Sindh', Sindh 1' and 'Sindh 2, as its name. Addressing the members of Rabitta Committee Pakistan and London, office bearers and workers at MQM Headquarters, Altaf Hussain said demand for a new province is not being made by MQM rather it is the wish of the people residing in Urban parts of Sindh province. "*People have declared it necessary with one voice to have a new province in Sindh,*" the MQM Chief said, adding 'the unanimity of public opinion demonstrates that a new province has become our fate'. He alleged that the consecutive governments of Sindh had been ignoring a section of population of Urban Sindh for the past 67 years and subjecting them to discrimination. "*These prejudices have united the people of Urban Sindh in raising the voice for having a separate province for the Haq Parast people,*" he added.

Baloch prefer democratic struggle to militancy: Malik, *The Nation*, April 28¹⁰

Balochistan Chief Minister Dr Abdul Malik Baloch on April 25 said that dictators had created restlessness in the province which triggered separatist thought but now the situation is changing. He said that a good number of Baloch youth have started considering democratic struggle a better way to get rights which is great success of the BNP and all peace-loving people. He was speaking at launching of book titled, "*Tareekh, Siyasat aur Hassas Mehl-e-Waqoo*" written by Senior Vice President NP Tahir Bizenjo at Islamabad Literature Festival. He said, "*We were worried about backlash of the operation Zarb-e-Azb in the Pashtoon belt of Balochistan but things remained under control. The 18th amendment has brought a change. Democratic institutions and civil society are gaining strength which will become a hurdle in the way of dictatorship,*" he added. The province didn't receive any list of favourites for the Senate elections and the NP is appointing people with integrity on key posts.

⁹ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-182896-Altaf-Hussain-reiterates-call-for-new-province-out-of-Sindh>

¹⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/editors-picks/26-Apr-2015/baloch-youth-preferring-democratic-struggle-to-militancy-malik>

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

PML-N pushes for meeting Saudi demand, *The Express Tribune*, April 2¹¹

The ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz ministers have stressed that the government should provide Saudi Arabia all the necessary military assistance. At the same time they have endorsed the idea of opposition parties to call an APC to forge political consensus on the issue. The lawmakers expressed their views during the party's high-level consultative meeting, led by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif who sought the party's input on the Saudi demand, at the PM House on April 1 evening. The sources added that the government delegation, which has come back from the kingdom, will meet the premier on April 2 to inform him about the Saudi's needs.

JUI-F rally warns govt against targeting seminaries, ulema, *Dawn*, April 3¹²

The Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl on April 2 took out a big rally and held a public meeting in Hyderabad against closure of seminaries in the country in the name of the ongoing military operation against terrorists. JUI-F leaders speaking to the participants at Koh-i-Noor Chowk warned of an Islamic revolution if seminaries and ulema continued to be targeted "at the behest of anti-Islam forces". Senator Attaur Rehman said that it was mere propaganda that 10 per cent of seminaries in the country were involved in fomenting terrorism. He said it was also illogical and unfair that the remaining 90 per cent seminaries were also being targeted. He called for the arrest of those who masterminded Dr Khalid Mehmood Soomro's assassination. He said it was strange that the actual killers were arrested but the mastermind was not being touched.

PPP fails to show unity on Bhutto's death anniversary, *Dawn*, April 5¹³

The Pakistan People's Party on April 4 failed to bring its workers together to observe the death anniversary of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Due to the disunity, the PPP had to arrange two separate functions on the death anniversary of its founding chairman. The City chapter arranged a function at Jinnah Park, the old site of the Rawalpindi jail where Mr Bhutto spent his last days. Another group gathered at the site of 'Phansi Ghat' where Bhutto was hanged on April 4, 1979. PPP City president Amir Fida Paracha, Imran Ashraf (brother of former prime minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf), Qazi Sultan Mehmood and more

¹¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/862850/consultative-meeting-pml-n-leaders-push-for-meeting-saudi-demand/>

¹² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1173538/jui-f-rally-warns-govt-against-targeting-seminaries-ulema>

¹³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1174009/ppp-fails-to-show-unity-on-bhuttos-death-anniversary>

than 400 people from different walks of life offered Fateha and pledged to continue the mission of Mr Bhutto for the welfare of the poor.

Judicial Commission will have powers similar to SC, *The News*, April 5¹⁴

The General Elections 2013 Inquiry Commission that will look into charges of deliberate systematic manipulation in the last parliamentary polls will have the powers to punish any person who abused, scandalised or ridiculed the highest judicial body. Section 3 elaborately deals with this aspect. It says the commission will have the same powers as the Supreme Court to punish any person, who abuses, interferes with or obstructs its process in any way or disobeys its order or direction; scandalises it or any of its members or otherwise does anything which tends to bring it or any of its member in relation to his office into hatred, ridicule or contempt. The clause also says that any person, who does anything which tends to prejudice the inquiry or determination of any matter pending before the commission or does any other act, deed or thing, which, under any other law, constitutes contempt of court, will qualify for punishment. However, fair comment made in good faith and in public interest on the final report after the completion of the inquiry will not constitute contempt of the commission.

Parliament calls for neutrality in Yemen conflict, *Dawn*, April 10¹⁵

On day five of the joint parliamentary session on Yemen, lawmakers approved a draft resolution proposing that Pakistan "*should maintain neutrality in the conflict so as to be able to play a proactive diplomatic role to end the crisis*". Although implying that Islamabad should refrain from assisting Riyadh militarily, the resolution added that Pakistan should stand shoulder to shoulder with Saudi Arabia to protect the latter's territorial integrity. No direct clarity was provided on whether Pakistan would, or would not involve itself militarily at any point. The lawmakers okayed the resolution unanimously on the fifth day of the joint parliamentary session on the Saudi-led offensive against Houthi rebels in Yemen.

NAB reopens assets reference against Zardari, *Dawn*, April 17¹⁶

An accountability court in Rawalpindi on April 17 initiated proceedings against former president Asif Ali Zardari in an assets reference. Accountability court judge Raja Ikhtlaq Hussain heard a petition by Special Prosecutor Raja Khurram Ejaz which he had filed on behalf of NAB Chairman Qamar Zaman Chaudhry. The application said that Zardari's immunity had

¹⁴<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-310893-Judicial-Commission-will-have-powers-similar-to-SC>

¹⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1175090/parliament-calls-for-neutrality-in-yemen-conflict>

¹⁶<http://www.dawn.com/news/1176523/accountability-court-reopens-assets-reference-against-zardari>

ended with the termination of his presidential tenure on Sept 8, 2013, and requested that the assets reference against him be reopened. Approving the application, the court ordered Zardari to appear before it on April 27 and subsequently adjourned the matter to the said date.

PM orders removal of irritants from corridor projects, *Dawn*, April 23¹⁷

A day after the departure of Chinese President Xi Jinping, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif ordered completion of all procedural formalities and removal of irritants in the way of \$28 billion 'early harvest' projects to be set up by China by 2017. Planning and Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal said at a news briefing on April 22 that Mr Sharif had presided over a meeting of the ministries and agencies concerned to get a rundown on the proposed projects and agreements signed under the CPEC. He said the meeting had decided that the Planning Commission would be a focal point for coordination and monitoring of implementation of the projects while the prime minister himself would hold weekly meetings to review progress.

Politicians hit out at 'unfair' CPEC, *The Express Tribune*, 23¹⁸

Politicians complained on April 22 that a plan for projects worth \$46 billion to be built with Chinese funding has been unfairly changed to the disadvantage of provinces. Speaking at a press conference, PTI Vice President Shah Mehmood Qureshi expressed reservations on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. He said the provinces were not taken on board to build the economic corridor. Albeit welcoming all the MoUs signed with the Chinese government, *Qureshi said "Only one chief minister was present when the deals were agreed upon. Only CM Punjab Shahbaz Sharif was present when the MoUs were signed"*. He added that that all political parties should have been taken on board when the deals were finalised. Further, he said the plan to build the corridor was not one party's achievement but the project roots back to General Pervez Musharraf's rule.

Poll probe commission issues notices to PML-N and MQM, *The Express Tribune*, April 24¹⁹

The ruling PML-N was finally dragged on April 23 into the controversy revolving around allegations of malpractices in the 2013 general elections and now the subject of investigation by an inquiry commission. The three-judge Judicial Commission headed by Chief Justice Nasir-ul-Mulk issued notices to the PML-N and also the MQM since the PTI and Jamaat-i-Islami had accused

¹⁷<http://www.dawn.com/news/1177660/pm-orders-removal-of-irritants-from-corridor-projects>

¹⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/874049/politicians-hit-out-at-unfair-pakistan-china-economic-corridor/>

¹⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1177862/poll-probe-commission-issues-notices-to-pml-n-and-mqm>

the two parties of having played a role in influencing the last elections. *"Issue notices to both the political parties which shall file their response, if so desires, by 12'O clock on April 25,"* ordered the commission. In its proposals, the PTI had argued that it was convinced that none of the solutions sought by it was unconstitutional and that these were political solutions to an essentially political dispute involving the core issue of legitimacy of mandate claimed by the PML-N when its chief Nawaz Sharif had made a public address at about 11.30 pm before the official announcement of election results. *"This is enough to issue a notice to them,"* PTI's counsel Abdul Hafeez Pirzada suggested to the commission.

Evidence of rigging is present: Imran Khan, *The News*, April 27²⁰

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Imran Khan on April 27 said that it would only take one week if a special investigation team reopens ballot bags to examine them for alleged rigging in the 2013 general elections. *"The special investigation team, which is part of the ordinance and which the Supreme Court can form, it will only take one week for the SIT to check the ballot bags. All the evidence is present inside the ballot bags,"* the PTI chairman told reporters after attending a session of the Judicial Commission probing the rigging allegations. Imran claimed that the PML-N could not have received seven million additional votes, and that the matter should be investigated. The PTI chief reiterated his party's stance that over ten million excess ballot papers had been printed in the days preceding the May 2013 election. Those responsible for ordering excess ballot papers to be printed will also be unmasked, he said.

Zardari cautions govt on corridor issue, *The Express Tribune*, April 27²¹

Former president Asif Ali Zardari has cautioned the government to be careful about Chinese investment, advising it not to let it become a controversial issue in the country as it could derail the investment plans. A source close to him cited Zardari as saying, *"Chinese are very shy investors; let's not give them reasons to be sceptical about the future of their investments."* Zardari held a huddle of political parties recently that was also participated by the government. The meeting was also used as a platform to give a word of caution to the government regarding the rising concerns about the realignment of the multi-billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project which is to be established from Gwadar to Khunjerab.

²⁰ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-182864-Evidence-of-rigging-is-present-in-ballot-bags:-Imran-Khan>

²¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/876494/chinese-investment-zardari-cautions-govt-on-corridor-issue/>

FOREIGN POLICY

PM leaves for Turkey, to discuss Yemen crisis, Dawn, April 3²²

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif left for a one-day official visit to Ankara during which he is scheduled to meet with Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and discuss the ongoing Saudi-Yemen crisis. In his pre-departure statement, the prime minister said that Pakistan believed in a peaceful resolution of the crisis and wished to promote unity among Muslim countries. Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Syed Tariq Fatemi and Secretary Foreign Affairs Aizaz Chaudhry are accompanying the premier. The visit was finalised during Sharif's telephonic conversation with the Turkish president.

After Saudi requests, Pakistan devising its wish-list, The Express Tribune, April 6²³

After senior Saudi officials in Riyadh requested a high-powered Pakistani delegation both 'material and manpower' to tackle Houthi rebels attempting to gain control of Yemen, the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is mulling over what to ask Saudi Arabia in return. The request was made during a two-day visit that ended on April 1. Pakistan's wish list would be shared with Saudi authorities in the next round of talks, sources privy to the development. Saudi Arabia, the biggest buyer of Al-Khalid tanks, which were jointly developed by Pakistan and China, would be offered more materials for sale, said the sources. The Pakistan Air Force is also expected to negotiate a deal on combat aircraft JF-17 Thunder. They said that if Pakistan joins the Saudi forces, then the GCC should ensure that when Pakistan feels threatened by India, then the GCC would not only slap restrictions on Indian employees working in the region but also support Pakistan on many fronts.

Sri Lankan president arrives in Islamabad, The News, April 6²⁴

Sri Lanka's new president Maithripala Sirisena arrived in Pakistan on April 5 for a three-day state visit. In a joint press conference with Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena on April 6, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif announced the signing of six MoUs between the two countries. *"The six agreements signed a few moments ago will intensify cooperation in the fields of*

²² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1173671/pm-leaves-for-turkey-to-discuss-yemen-crisis>

²³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/865185/give-and-take-after-saudi-requests-pakistan-devising-its-own-wish-list/>

²⁴ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-180502-Sri-Lankan-president-arrives-in-Islamabad>
<http://www.dawn.com/news/1174292/sri-lanka-pakistan-sign-six-mous-to-enhance-cooperation>

disaster management, sports, shipping, cooperation in atomic energy for socio-economic development, anti-narcotics and academic cooperation. We agreed to take steps to further improve our economic and trade relations," Sirisena said. Moreover, an agreement signed between the two countries is expected to enhance bilateral trade up to \$1 billion per annum. The Sri Lankan premier also welcomed Pakistani investment in his country and invited the Pakistan International Airlines to re-commence flights to Sri Lanka.

Yemen operation not to affect Pakistan's capabilities, Dawn, April 7²⁵

The United States has said it does not believe joining the Saudi-led alliance in Yemen would adversely affect Pakistan's ability to fight extremists at home. At a recent briefing in Washington, US State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf also said that Al Qaeda's decision to dissolve the central organisation would not complicate the fight against terrorism. Asked if she believed that joining Saudi Arabia in the fight in Yemen would affect Pakistan's capabilities to deal with terrorists at home, she said: "I don't." But she did not elaborate her response and said that she would prefer to keep her answer short.

US approves billion-dollar arms sale to Pakistan, Dawn, April 8²⁶

The US State Department has approved Pakistan's request for a billion dollars' worth of military hardware and equipment, identifying Pakistan as a country of vital importance for US foreign policy and national interests. According to diplomatic sources Pakistan had submitted its request last year, stating that the weapons were needed for fighting insurgents in the country's mountainous regions. The US Defence Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale. "This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a country vital to US foreign policy and national security goals in South Asia," the certification said. "This proposed sale of helicopters and weapon systems will provide Pakistan with military capabilities in support of its counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency operations in South Asia," it added.

Iranian FM calls on PM, COAS, Dawn, April 9²⁷

Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, during a two-day visit to Pakistan, met with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif at Prime Minister House. PM Nawaz and Zarif discussed the situation in the Middle East with regards to the Yemen conflict. Talking to Zarif, Nawaz Sharif called for an urgent resolution of the

²⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1174441/yemen-operation-not-to-affect-pakistans-capabilities-says-us>

²⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1174606/us-approves-billion-dollar-arms-sale-to-pakistan>

²⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1174876/iranian-fm-calls-on-pm-coas>

crisis in Yemen through diplomacy and dialogue. The prime minister also apprised the visiting foreign minister about his talks with Turkish leaders. Talks between Muslim countries and their will to resolve the crisis through peaceful means was also noted with satisfaction. The Iranian foreign minister also shared proposals with PM Nawaz to help implement a ceasefire in Yemen. Bilateral ties, the situation in Afghanistan, and issues of mutual concern were also a topic of conversation. Separately, the Iranian FM also called on COAS Gen Raheel Sharif at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi on April 9. The focus of the discussion with Gen Raheel remained on regional security, including the evolving situation in the Middle East, Pak-Iran border management, and defence and security cooperation between the two countries.

Disappointed with Pakistan's decision: Arab League, *The Nation*, April 12²⁸

Ahmad Bin Mohammad Al Jarwan, Chairman of the Arab Parliament in the Arab league has said he is 'disappointed' with the Pakistani parliament's decision, to remain neutral in the Yemen conflict. His comments came a day after the Pakistani Parliament decided not to participate in Operation Decisive Storm, in a move that drew sharp criticism from the UAE. Al Jarwan described the Pakistani decision as 'inconsistent' with Arab and Islamic stances.

UAE warns Pakistan of 'heavy price' for ambiguity, *The Nation*, April 12²⁹

The UAE on April 11 strongly condemned the Pakistani decision to stay out of the conflict in Yemen, rejecting Saudi request to join its military coalition against Houthi rebels. "*The Arabian Gulf is in a dangerous confrontation, its strategic security is on the edge and the moment of truth distinguishes between a real ally and an ally of media and statements,*" Dr Gargash tweeted after the unanimous resolution passed by the joint session of Pakistan's Parliament that opted for neutrality against the Saudi request to join strikes on rebels in Yemen. Gargash, quoted by Khaleej Times, said Pakistan was required to show a clear stand in favour of its strategic relations with the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council as contradictory and ambiguous views on this serious matter will have to pay a price. "*This is nothing but another chapter of laggard impartial stand,*" Gargash said in reference to Pakistan's parliament resolution that desired impartiality in the wake of turmoil in Yemen. "*The vague and contradictory stands of Pakistan and Turkey are an absolute proof that Arab security,*

²⁸<http://nation.com.pk/national/12-Apr-2015/disappointed-with-pakistan-s-decision-arab-league-head>

²⁹<http://nation.com.pk/national/12-Apr-2015/uae-warns-pakistan-of-heavy-price-for-ambiguous-stand>

from Libya to Yemen, is the responsibility of only Arab countries, though the crisis is a real test for the neighbouring countries," The UAE minister asserted.

PM makes damage control move, Dawn, April 14³⁰

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif tried on April 13 to soothe frayed nerves by reassuring Saudi Arabia and its Arab allies over a parliamentary resolution that had called for neutrality in the Yemen conflict. In a short statement made in the evening, the prime minister reiterated his commitment to security of Saudi Arabia, calling it a strategic ally, but without committing to any military engagement in the Gulf region. Mr Sharif, who stood in front of the cameras while some of his ministers and advisers were lined up behind him to provide moral support or endorsement, said: "*Pakistan does not abandon friends and strategic partners, especially at a time when their security is under threat.*"

Government delegation leaves for Riyadh, Dawn, April 15³¹

A high-level delegation led by Chief Minister Punjab Shahbaz Sharif along with Adviser on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz and Foreign Secretary Aizaz Chaudhry left for Saudi capital Riyadh on April 15, the Foreign Office spokesperson confirmed. According to diplomatic sources, the delegation will meet Saudi foreign and defence ministers and is also expected to meet Saudi Crown Prince Muqrin bin Abdul Aziz. The delegation, which held a meeting with the prime minister prior to departure, will give assurance to the Saudi leadership that Pakistan is with Saudi Arabia in the Yemen crisis. Last month, a high-level Pakistani delegation led by Defence Minister Khawaja Asif had visited Riyadh to hold talks over the ongoing crisis in Yemen.

Pakistan welcomes UNSC's resolution on Yemen, The News, April 16³²

Pakistan has welcomed the UN Security Council resolution on Yemen issue and called for its implementation in letter and spirit. In a statement in Islamabad, the Foreign Office spokesperson said the UNSC resolution endorses Pakistan's view point on the Yemen crisis. The spokesperson said Pakistan condemns the actions of Houthi rebels and calls for restoring the legitimate government of President Hadi.

Ghani seeks Pakistan's help for talks with Taliban, Dawn, April 17³³

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has sought Pakistan's help in bringing the Taliban to the negotiating table for the peaceful settlement of over a decade

³⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1175799/pm-makes-damage-control-move>

³¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1176082/government-delegation-leaves-for-riyadh>

³² <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-181610-Pakistan-welcomes-UNSCs-resolution-on-Yemen-issue:-FO>

³³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1176452/ghani-seeks-pakistans-help-for-talks-with-taliban>

old conflict in Afghanistan for the sake of peace and security in the region. President Ghani was talking to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Pervez Khattak during a one-to-one meeting at the Presidential Palace. Mr Khattak's two-day official visit to the Afghan capital saw him meeting Chief Executive Officer Dr Abdullah Abdullah, former president Hamid Karzai, Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani, Minister for Commerce & Industry Anwarul Haq Ahadi, Minister for Refugees Said Hussain Alimi Balkhi and Speaker of the National Parliament, Abdul Rauf Ibrahimi.

Pakistan, Russia to hold joint military exercises, *The Nation*, April 17³⁴

Pakistan has agreed to conduct joint military exercises with Russia, this will be the first time that the cold war era adversaries have agreed to hold a joint defence drill. Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and his Pakistani counterpart Khawaja Asif announced the agreement on April 15th, after the latter travelled to Moscow for a security conference. The two Ministers also discussed various bilateral issues and Shoigu praised Pakistan for taking steps towards battling terrorism and preventing drug smuggling. Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif was quoted by Sputnik International as stating: "*We [Pakistan and Russia] agreed to enhance cooperation in both defence industry and military training.*" A Pakistani Defence Ministry statement said: "*Joint participation in military exercises will be promoted. There was consensus that a multipolar world would ensure peace and balance in international relations.*" Late last year, the two countries had signed a defence cooperation agreement by which Russia lifted embargoes on supplying weapons to Pakistan.

China, Pakistan ink 51 MoUs, *The Nation*, April 21³⁵

Pakistan and China signed fifty-one agreements and MoUs for cooperation in various fields. The agreements were signed by the senior officials of both the countries in the presence of Chinese President Xi Jinping and PM Nawaz Sharif, after a series of talks in Islamabad on April 20. The two leaders announced eight projects to be initiated in Pakistan with the help of China. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and President Xi also performed ground-breaking of five projects through video link. The projects are related to energy, infrastructure, agriculture, research and technology, education and various other fields. President Xi termed PM Nawaz Sharif as a "senior and most veteran statesman." He also admired the reforms introduced in Pakistan by him saying that such reforms were crucial and had a far reaching impact on the progress of the country. President Xi also appreciated the efforts of PM Nawaz Sharif against eradication of militancy from Pakistan.

³⁴ <http://nation.com.pk/national/17-Apr-2015/pakistan-russia-to-hold-joint-military-exercises>

³⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/20-Apr-2015/china-pakistan-ink-51-mous>

Chinese president addresses Parliament, hails Pakistan as 'Iron Brother',
The News, April 21³⁶

Chinese President Xi Jinping addressed a joint sitting of Parliament on April 21 on the second and last day of what is being termed as a historic visit to Pakistan. "*Pakistan is the first foreign country that I visit this year and my first visit to your country, but Pakistan is not at all unfamiliar to me,*" said President Xi Jinping as he addressed the joint session, specially called in honour of the visiting dignitary. The Chinese president extended warm greetings to the people of Pakistan on behalf of the 1.3 billion people of China, and said that the two neighbouring countries had stood together in each other's hours of need. He said that it was an honour for him to address the Pakistani Parliament. My delegation and I have been greatly influenced by and are thankful for the hospitality of our Pakistani hosts, he said. "*China considers Pakistan as its 'Iron Brother'. I remember the time when China was completely isolated in the world,*" he said, adding that Pakistan was the country that had stood by China in testing times. He said that Pakistan opened its airspace for China when it needed it the most, and was the first country to open diplomatic relations with China.

No change in helicopter deal with Pakistan: US, *The Nation*, April 22³⁷

The United States has ruled out any change in counter terrorism relationship with Pakistan. Talking to journalists in Washington, Acting Spokesperson of State Department Marie Harf said one billion dollars sale of helicopters and other military equipment, is very much on the card.

PM holds talks with King Salman, meets Yemen President Hadi, *Dawn*, April 24³⁸

Saudi Arabia treated on April 23 a crucial visit by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Army Chief Gen Raheel Sharif to Riyadh in a low-key manner. There was no substantive announcement from either side even after Prime Minister Sharif along with his delegation started the journey back home after completing a daylong fence-mending trip. Pakistan government's indecision over joining the Saudi-led military coalition during the 27-day aerial strikes against Yemen's Houthi militia, despite verbal assurances of commitment to Saudi security, had angered the Arab leadership. PM Sharif and his delegation opened the trip with a meeting with Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz at Al-Ouja Palace and later met Crown Prince Muqrin bin

³⁶ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-182153-Chinese-president-addresses-Parliament,-hails-Pakistan-as-Iron-Brother>

³⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/national/21-Apr-2015/no-change-in-helicopter-deal-with-pakistan-us>

³⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1177861/pm-holds-talks-with-king-salman-meets-yemen-president-hadi>

Abdulaziz, Deputy Crown Prince and Interior Minister Mohammad bin Naif, and Saudi Defence Minister Mohammad bin Salman. He also called on President Mansour Hadi, recognised by Pakistan as the legitimate ruler of Yemen. The Saudi media, which at the start of the Yemen offensive had been at the forefront in announcing 'commitments' by Mr Sharif in his conversations with the Saudi leadership, had little to say about the prime minister's meetings in Riyadh.

Pakistan stands with Saudi Arabia, *The News*, April 27³⁹

Pakistan stands with Saudi Arabia and is committed to the defense of the holy sites located in the Islamic Kingdom, President Mamnoon Hussain assured visiting Imam-e-Kaaba Shaikh Khalid al-Ghamidi on April 27. There should be no doubt that Pakistan stands with Saudi Arabia, said Hussain as he met the Imam-e-Kaaba in Islamabad on April 27. Pakistan is committed to the defense of Harmain Sharifain, the president told the Imam-e-Kaaba. The Imam said he was convinced that Pakistan would not back down if bad times fall on Saudi Arabia. The Imam-e-Kaaba arrived on a week-long visit to Pakistan last 23 April. The Imam earlier spent for four days in Lahore and will now stay in Islamabad for the next three days, holding meetings with Pakistani officials, dignitaries and religious scholars to help improve relations between the two countries.

Ties being developed with China, Japan, S. Korea: Aziz, *Dawn*, April 29⁴⁰

Adviser on Foreign Affairs and National Security Sartaj Aziz said on April 28 that the country was steering clear of problems in the turbulent Northeast Asian strategic triangle by simultaneously developing relations with China, Japan and South Korea. "We are not only deepening our ties with China but also reinforcing our bilateral relations with all East Asian nations, including Japan and RoK (South Korea). We have a separate bilateral track with the US, which is playing an active role in the Asia Pacific and South Asian regions," he said while inaugurating a conference at the National Defence University. Longtime allies Pakistan and China are seeking to further solidify their relationship by forging stronger defence and security ties, continuing nuclear energy cooperation and expanding trade. The two countries last week rechristened their ties as an 'all weather strategic cooperative partnership' while inaugurating \$45 billion economic corridor projects during Chinese President Xi Jinping's trip to Islamabad which was described as historic by both sides.

³⁹ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-182873-Pakistan-stands-with-Saudi-Arabia,-president-reassures-Imam-e-Kaaba--s>

⁴⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1178839/ties-being-developed-with-china-japan-s-korea-aziz>

MILITARY AFFAIRS

PM approves deal to buy eight Chinese submarines, *The Express Tribune*, April 3⁴¹

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif approved a deal “years in the making” to buy eight submarines from China, a government official said on April 2, in what could be one of China’s largest overseas weapons sales once it is signed. The official, who was present at a meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence which was briefed by the Navy, said the deal to buy the diesel-electric submarines would likely be signed by Chinese President Xi Jinping when he visits, “but that is still not final”. Xi was due to travel to Pakistan this month, the government in Islamabad has said. China has said Xi would visit this year, but given no timeframe. The contract could be worth \$4 billion to \$5 billion.

Parliament to decide Pakistan’s role in conflict: army chief, *Dawn*, April 7⁴²

Chief of the Army Staff Gen Raheel Sharif said on April 6 that parliament would decide the role of Pakistan in the conflict in Yemen. Talking to a group of reporters at the presidency after a reception hosted by President Mamnoon Hussain in honour of Sri Lankan President Maithripapa Sirisena, the army chief said: “The debate is going on; let us see what will be decided.” Gen Sharif’s remarks came at the time when a joint sitting of parliament is debating the conflict in Yemen and whether Pakistan should meet Saudi Arabia’s request to join a coalition of Arab states trying to crush Houthi rebels. Answering a question about the Zarb-i-Azb military operation in tribal areas, the army chief said it was progressing smoothly. “You will hear good news about the operation,” he said. “It will be completed successfully soon,” he added.

Five Maj Gens promoted as Lt Generals, *The News*, April 9⁴³

Five Major Generals of Pakistan Army have been elevated to the rank of Lieutenant General. According to Inter Service Public Relations, Maj Gen Omar Mahmood Hayat, Maj Gen. Zafar Iqbal, Maj Gen Malik Javed Mehmood Bukhari, Maj Gen Anwar Ali Hyder and Maj Gen Shahid Baig Mirza have been promoted to Lieutenant General rank.

⁴¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/862960/govt-close-to-buying-eight-chinese-submarines/>

⁴² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1174443/parliament-to-decide-pakistans-role-in-conflict-army-chief>

⁴³ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-180905-Five-Maj-Gens-promoted-to-Lieutenant-General-rank-in-Pak-Army>

NAP implementation essential to combating extremism, *The News*, April 10⁴⁴

The 181st Corps Commander's Conference was held at GHQ on April 10. COAS General Raheel Sharif presided over the conference. In a press release the ISPR stated that participants dwelt on professional matters, operational preparedness of the army and internal and external security situation of the country. With regard to the Yemen / Middle East conflict, the forum deliberated at length on the gravity of the situation and stressed that continuation of the conflict will have serious implications for regional security. Addressing the forum, COAS expressed his complete satisfaction over the major gains recently achieved in ongoing Operation *Zarb-e-Azb* in Khyber Agency. He directed the commanders to maintain focus on achieving the end objective of total elimination of terrorism from across the country by coordinating with Law Enforcement and other government agencies. "Intelligence based operations must be further intensified to unearth terrorist sleeper cells, and apprehend hiding terrorists and their abettors from urban centers as well", COAS said.

COAS in Quetta to review law and order situation, *Dawn*, April 15⁴⁵

Chief of Army Staff Gen Raheel Sharif on April 15 arrived in Quetta on a one-day visit to chair a meeting regarding the law and order situation in Balochistan. The Army Chief visited Frontier Corps headquarters to preside over the meeting reviewing overall law and order situation in the aftermath of Turbat massacre in which 20 labourers were killed on April 12. Inspector General FC Major Gen Sher Afghan briefed the COAS about law and order situation in the province and search operations being carried out in Turbat and its outskirts. Senior military officials, FC personnel and other higher-ups also attended the meeting. Earlier, Commander of Southern Command Lt General Nasir Khan Janjua received the Army Chief.

Ghauri Missile successfully test fired, *The Express Tribune*, April 15⁴⁶

Pakistan successfully conducted a training launch of Ghauri Missile system on April 15, according to Inter Services Public Relations. Ghauri Ballistic Missile can carry both conventional and nuclear warheads upto a distance of 1,300 kilometres. The launch was conducted by a strategic missile group of the Army Strategic Forces Command that was aimed at testing the operational and technical readiness of the command. The launch was witnessed by senior officers from Strategic Plans Division, strategic forces, scientists and engineers of strategic organisations. While congratulating the

⁴⁴ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-181020-NAP-implementation-essential-to-combating-extremism:-COAS->

⁴⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1176086/coas-in-quetta-to-review-law-and-order-situation>

⁴⁶ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/870256/pakistan-successfully-test-fires-ghauri-missile/>

scientists, engineers and all ranks of Strategic Forces, Director General Strategic Plans Division Lieutenant General Zubair Mahmood Hayat expressed his full satisfaction over the excellent standard achieved by the Strategic Forces.

COAS warns foreign powers to keep off Balochistan, *The Nation*, April 16⁴⁷

Vowing to support the Balochistan government in eliminating terrorists, Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif on April 15 sternly warned foreign states and international agencies to refrain from destabilising the province. "We will unearth terrorists, their abettors, sympathisers and financiers. None of them will find any place in the country to hide," General Raheel Sharif said during his visit to Quetta. Commander Southern Command Lt-Gen Nasir Khan Janjua received the army chief upon arrival. According to the ISPR, the army chief also held meetings with the governor, the chief minister and the Commander Southern Command and reassured them that the Pakistan Army will go to any length for full restoration of the writ of the state. Credible sources in the Balochistan government told *The Nation* that plans were afoot to expand military operation *Zarb-e-Azb* to Balochistan to tackle the challenge relating to terrorism. The COAS also visited Frontier Corps Headquarters and reviewed security situation in the province. He reviewed the progress of FC operation against terrorists. Senior military officials, FC personnel and other high-ups attended the meeting.

Jinping meets services chiefs, lauds efforts, *The News*, April 21⁴⁸

Chinese President Xi Jinping met services chiefs in Islamabad on April 20 evening and appreciated Pakistan's strenuous efforts in counterterrorism. He termed operation *Zarb-e-Azb*'s remarkable results as a game changer in bringing peace, which will contribute to Pakistan's economic development. The Chinese President vowed to stand by Pakistan in all its endeavours and continue to support it in the fight against terrorism to bring stability in the region.

China to deliver 50 JF-17 fighters in three years, *The News*, April 25⁴⁹

China will turn over the last batch of 50 FC-1 fighters to Pakistan over the next three years, said Li Pei, the former head of the aircraft project under the Aviation Industry Corporation of China, in a report by the party-run *People's Daily*. Known as the JF-17 Thunder in Pakistan, the Xiaolong is a multirole

⁴⁷<http://nation.com.pk/national/16-Apr-2015/coas-warns-foreign-powers-to-keep-off-balochistan>

⁴⁸ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-182133-Jinping-meets-services-chiefs,-lauds-efforts-in-war-against-terrorism>

⁴⁹ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-37185-China-to-deliver-50-JF-17-fighters-to-Pakistan-in-three-years>

fighter designed jointly by the Chengdu Aircraft Industry Group and the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex. The aircraft is a symbol of the friendship between China and Pakistan, according to Li. Pakistan is currently the only other country that uses the fighter. Under the contract signed between Beijing and Islamabad, Pakistan will receive a total number of 110 Thunder fighters from China. Pakistan has already received 60 fighters from China since 2007. Ten of them were devoted to the test and evaluation unit, based at Minhas, the other 50 aircraft were assigned to the 16th and 26th squadrons of the Pakistan Air Force.

ISI chief becomes active against militants in Karachi, *The Nation*, April 27⁵⁰

The chief of Pakistan's main spy agency is spearheading a campaign to wrest control of the teeming port city of Karachi from a powerful political party, the military's latest, and some say boldest, foray into civilian life in recent years. According to military officials, police officers and members of the MQM party which has traditionally dominated Karachi, Rizwan Akhtar has decided the time for policing the city from the sidelines is over. "*There is a quiet, creeping takeover of Karachi by the military,*" said a government official close to Akhtar, head of the ISI agency, which traditionally acts as an extension of army power in Pakistan. "*Karachi is just too big ... too much land, too much business, resources. No one party will be allowed to rule Karachi from now on,*" added the official, who declined to be named.

Army chief to crush 'all mafias' in Karachi, *The Express Tribune*, April 30⁵¹

Army chief General Raheel Sharif vowed on April 29 to finish 'all mafias' in Karachi and made it clear that across the board and indiscriminate operation in the port city would continue till its logical conclusion. During his visit to the Corps Headquarters in Karachi, the army chief said the ongoing operation in Karachi was bringing relief in terms of target killings and extortion, DG ISPR Major-General Asim Bajwa quoted him as saying on Twitter. General Raheel said restoring peace in Karachi was a top priority as it would help revive economic activities and bring relief to the people. "*We will continue to work with the people and the government to finish all mafias,*" he said.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Welcome moves, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, April 7⁵²

The subtle gavotte that is the dance of international relations has brought some cheer to Islamabad, with the visit by the new Sri Lankan president

⁵⁰<http://nation.com.pk/national/27-Apr-2015/isi-chief-becomes-active-against-militants-in-karachi>

⁵¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/877908/army-chief-vows-to-crush-all-mafias-in-karachi/>

⁵² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/865946/welcome-moves/>

bringing some welcome good news on the foreign policy front. Sri Lanka is still in recovery after a crippling civil war, but tourism is resurgent and the economy is in good shape. It needs to modernise its power generation infrastructure, and to that end the agreement signed in relation to atomic energy will see the island nation build its first nuclear power station. Interestingly, Sri Lanka has also signed a similar agreement with India in February, and it is not inconceivable that Pakistan and India may find themselves working if not side by side then at least on the same page of nuclear developments in Sri Lanka. [...]It is a strategically important state if only by virtue of its geographic location off the southwestern tip of the Indian subcontinent, and it is now reaching out to a variety of international partners, not all of which find favour with India, which has viewed Chinese influence in Sri Lanka with unease. Despite being several hours flight away, Sri Lanka is very much 'in our neighbourhood' and with the regional churn triggered by the American pivot towards the Pacific now well under way, it makes good sense to service essential international partnerships. Pakistan and Sri Lanka have long enjoyed good relations, particularly on the military front and the time is ripe to capitalise on that. Some friendships are infinitely more easily cultivated than others, and parliament is unlikely to find itself troubled by an uptick in relations with Sri Lanka.

Tough equation, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, April 9⁵³

The ongoing conflict in Yemen has created a rather grim set of difficulties for Pakistan — as the country weighs its close relations with Saudi Arabia against what would be some immensely negative repercussions of getting involved in the conflict. The fact that during the intense parliamentary debate on the issue hardly any parliamentarian spoke in favour of Pakistani involvement in Yemen is surely significant. Such unanimous opinion cannot be and must not be ignored. [...]This is the line of action Pakistan needs to work towards, too. Pressure must be built to end the conflict. With Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif currently visiting Pakistan, there will be an excellent opportunity for the two neighbours to discuss the options and work together towards putting an end to the fighting. This, after all, is where the interest of all parties lies, and Pakistan would be performing an extremely useful service by joining in with all the players, working towards peace and attempting to build the kind of momentum required to bring this about. There are really no other options but to work towards ending a conflict that has torn the world apart.

⁵³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/866525/tough-equation/>

State Bank autonomy, Editorial, *Dawn*, April 9⁵⁴

IT is encouraging that the government has signalled its renewed resolve to the IMF to pass legislation updating the State Bank's autonomy. The IMF has been given a commitment that this will be done by June, and the new legislation will include language to bring it in line with international standards. The issue has been the most important sticking point in all reviews of the current programme, and the government has been showing considerable reluctance in undertaking this reform. Legislation was drawn up in April last year, and the Fund found that it did not meet international standards. Another attempt was made in August, but was drowned out by the protests, outside parliament, that began that month. [...] But such fears are misplaced. Regulators, particularly as important as the State Bank, need to be insulated from political interference because the duties they perform have long-term effects and should not be allowed to become entangled in the short-term thinking that is typical of politics. And for autonomy to really matter, it must be coupled with proper appointments at the top in order to ensure that the person has no political ambition and brings considerable credibility and expertise to the spheres of banking and economics. Having said that, it is also important that those heading the State Bank show more regard for the hard-fought autonomy that the bank currently enjoys.

Sharif and the Saudis, Cyril Almedia, *Dawn*, April 12⁵⁵

A couple of things we've learned this week. Parliament did a great job, but it was the government that allowed parliament to do the job to begin with. Depending on which side of the fence you are, the government either passed the buck to parliament or the N-League used parliament as a shield. Whatever the stories that may emanate about opposition-led changes and tweaks to the resolution, this much was known from the beginning: there is no closer ally of the Saudis in politics — mainstream politics, anyway — than the PML-N. The PML-N owned the reluctance to respond swiftly to the Saudi demands. And the Saudis had been clear: give us what we want and we need it now. For the N-League to send this matter to parliament — instead of, say, convening the Cabinet Committee on National Security to debate it internally — was for the PML-N to say at the outset, guys, help us out here, we're caught in a bind. [...] It is a good decision. But knowing whether it is born of wise statecraft and Pakistan's position in the Muslim world or a shrewd but narrower estimate of a wrong-headed war matters. There is though one caveat. Through much of the debate in parliament and in the media you could sense the heavy theme hanging over it: Peshawar. Had the convulsion that was Peshawar not happened, would the tenor of the debate on participating

⁵⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1174722/state-bank-autonomy>

⁵⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1175367/sharif-and-the-saudis>

in Yemen been the same? Hard to know counter-factuals, but you can guess the debate would have been at least slightly different. The memory of Peshawar has made it harder to take ugly decisions. The automatic disbelief that Pakistan would try and wade into a sectarian conflict was less about people being sure Yemen is a sectarian conflict or knowing that Saudi-Iran proxies war would re-ignite inside Pakistan and more, you could sense, a revulsion at the thought of fresh horrors being unleashed here, however remote. Peshawar does live in the memory and, for a horror of that magnitude, in a good way. But not to the extent of the government taking the fight against militancy seriously.

Handover of Gwadar port, Editorial, *Dawn*, April 14⁵⁶

After years of languishing, Gwadar port is finally set to be handed over to a credible operator who has signaled a willingness to also invest in the associated infrastructure to bring the facility into operation. This is a good development and deserves to be received with optimism. Thus far the port is handling less than 3pc of the cargo that Karachi does between its two harbours. The main reason for this has been its relative isolation from the country's transport infrastructure such as roads and railways as well as its inability to serve as a home for a large number of skilled workers, which are required to operate a port. [...] There is little doubt that the move to make Gwadar port fully operational will have a transformative impact on Pakistan. Still, there are good reasons to keep the optimism controlled, and to be mindful of the challenges ahead. For one, much of the engagement with China is being seen in Pakistan through an emotional lens, as friendly assistance by a brotherly neighbour. In fact, much of this assistance is coming on commercial terms, and the Chinese have been known to walk away from large projects in Pakistan when they believe that the authorities here have failed to live up to their end of the bargain. There is much that needs to be done by Pakistan to make the Chinese opportunity a reality, and there are question marks hanging over the government's ability to do so. Instead of undue optimism, it would be better if more energy were invested in doing the homework that is necessary to successfully see this project through.

Pressure Mounting, Editorial, *The Nation*, April 14⁵⁷

The parliament's resolution on the Yemen crisis has not been received kindly by the GCC coalition led by Saudi Arabia, which was counting on Pakistan to take a clear position in their favour and commit troops for operations inside Yemen. Their disregard of the collective decision of the peoples' representatives should not surprise considering that they are not used to

⁵⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1175729/handover-of-gwadar-port>

⁵⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/14-Apr-2015/pressure-mounting>

dealing with a Pakistan that takes such key decisions in a democratic manner. In the past, the country has acted much like those demanding its unequivocal support: decisions made behind closed doors with complete disregard for the peoples' wishes and damaging implications. [...] Often, countries find themselves in a position where they have two choices before them and each carries pros and cons. Whether Pakistan joins the KSA-led campaign in Yemen or not, there is a price to be paid. It is difficult to see how the political and military leadership will be able to resist ever-increasing pressure from the GCC. Already, there is a noticeable shift in Pakistan's stance following the strong response to its parliament's resolution, which defined the country's role as neutral player seeking ceasefire and peace in Yemen through diplomatic channels. In his policy statement on Monday, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif criticized the Houthis and reiterated support for KSA and allies. While the PM managed to refrain from promising deployment of troops in line with Saudi Arabia's demand, he has had to compromise on the position of neutrality. Some believe that it is only a matter of time before the government and the military agree to what is being asked of them. It would be unfortunate.

Army chief's visit to Balochistan, Editorial, *Dawn*, April 17⁵⁸

Heedless of the lessons that should have been learnt from history, the old playbook on how to tackle Balochistan has not been revised. The army chief's high-profile visit to the Frontier Corps headquarters in Quetta on Wednesday, where he met the Balochistan chief minister and governor as well as the head of the FC Southern Command — who oversees security-related operations in the part of the province where the insurgency is at its height — makes that very clear. During his trip Gen Raheel Sharif warned "foreign governments and intelligence agencies" against meddling in Balochistan and thereby sustaining the insurgency that he vowed would be defeated "comprehensively". [...] By stifling alternate narratives, allowing free rein to its proxies to run amok and commit horrific human rights abuses, and refusing to suspend its inhumane kill-and-dump policy, the state has allowed deep-seated grievances to develop among the Baloch and fanned the flames of separatist sentiment. Moreover, despite the much-touted benefits of devolution, Balochistan is still deprived of agency over its vast natural resources that are its primary asset. Even though the COAS during his visit advocated an integrated civilian-military approach to address the Balochistan problem, the optics left no doubt that the province continues to be viewed primarily through a security lens. It is the civilian government in Balochistan, which after all has an elected set-up and assembly that should take the lead in finding a durable political resolution to the impasse — including attempts to

⁵⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1176406/army-chiefs-visit-to-balochistan>

engage the insurgents, and any security operations should be announced by the prime minister, not the army chief. Instead, the military's highly visible role simply adds fuel to the fire and makes Dr Abdul Malik's government appear powerless.

China raises the stakes, Editorial, *Dawn*, April 22⁵⁹

Now that President Xi Jinping has concluded his visit to Pakistan, leaving behind him much optimism, it is time to reflect on the meaning of the event. At this early point, there are two things to note regarding the visit, and the message that President Xi brought with him to Pakistan. [...] If properly executed, the China Pakistan Economic Corridor could prove a transformative vision that can be the driver of Pakistan's growth rates for decades to come. Again, much depends on whether the opportunity is properly understood. The invocations of enduring friendship are music to the ears of a country accustomed to being vilified globally for so many years now. But it is important to note that President Xi opens almost every speech in every country with similar invocations. His style of diplomacy is to make everyone he addresses believe they are special. It would be a mistake to understand this to mean that there is no obligation on our part. The 'One Belt, One Road' vision has more than 60 countries participating. But nothing is assured, nor is Pakistan the only country that can serve as a bridge. To successfully become part of this initiative, Pakistan will have to live up to its side of the bargain, which includes doing its bit to promote stability in the region and creating the right economic environment for the promised investment to operate in. The words President Xi had for us were heartening but will only be meaningful if we can match them with deeds on our side. That is where the question marks now linger

China's landmark investments in Pakistan, Talat Masood, *The Express Tribune*, April 22⁶⁰

Hype aside, a seminal shift is taking place in Pakistan's strategic orientation, as it dramatically enhances its cooperation with China in the economic, political and defence areas. With the US thinning its presence in Afghanistan and the region, China's footprint will be fast increasing. The projected investment of \$45 billion in various projects — spread over 10 to 15 years — that China is pledging is a manifestation of its expanding interest in Pakistan. For China, this would be the biggest investment it has made in any country, if it were to fully materialise. China's investments are in line with its overall political and strategic goals, and are a demonstration of its confidence in Pakistan's future. [...] What we are also witnessing is that China is projecting

⁵⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1177401/china-raises-the-stakes>

⁶⁰ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/873627/chinas-landmark-investments-in-pakistan/>

its soft power in our region through economic prowess and sophisticated diplomacy. Another element of China's soft power that is less talked about is its political stability, notwithstanding its one-party rule. As far as the global projection of hard power is concerned, it will defer that until it has established an advanced and more sophisticated industrial and technological base that can fully support its own blue water navy and a state-of-the-art air force. The Pakistani leadership should always keep in mind that as China's footprint in global affairs rise, it would develop more nuanced policies towards Pakistan. While we can expect China to remain a solid and reliable ally, from our side we have to be sensitive to its concern about the activities of militant groups, particularly those of the Uzbekistan Islamic Movement and its allied groups. Beijing is most sensitive to any disturbance in the Xinjiang province that has suffered turbulence over years. It has zero tolerance for any militancy emanating from Pakistan's territory. The Turkic Uighurs have rioted against Beijing and seek more autonomy and independence. Some of their rebel groups belonging to the East Turkestan Islamic Movement have found sanctuary in our tribal belt. But Pakistan has since taken several measures to curb their activities and yet the problem persists, albeit in a less serious manner. [...]

A truly strategic partnership, Rasul Bakhsh Rais, *The Express Tribune*, April 22⁶¹

Very few relationships between two countries have been as consistent and enduring as the relations between China and Pakistan. The symbolism, language of warmth and sentiments often expressed by the leadership of these countries don't capture the significance of this partnership. It is profound, deep and covers many areas of mutual interests, starting from defence issues to the economy. It all started in the early years of the Cold War when Pakistan had the best of ties with the United States, a country that was engaged with us and other countries to contain China. Pakistan made quite a few far-reaching decisions to establish friendly relations with China, disregarding opposition and reservations of its Western allies. Two events shaped the future of this partnership: first was the 1963 border agreement and then the cooperation in defence following the 1965 war with India. These were not just small steps in the atmosphere of the Cold War. [...] However, it is very difficult to measure the distributive effects of any bilateral relationship in equal terms, as one country may have benefits in one particular area of its national interests, while the other wouldn't. In this sense, relations are rather complementary. This must explain the wide-ranging and vastly expanded ties between China and Pakistan. Pakistan is an energy-deficient country — for reasons of poor or no planning — and also witnesses low foreign direct

⁶¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/873625/a-truely-strategic-partnership/>

investment in vital sectors of the economy. China, on the other hand, is brimming with surplus cash, capital, technology and multinational corporations that wish to invest in Pakistan. Pakistan makes better sense for them because of geographical proximity, mutual confidence and a strategic relationship. The real driving force is China's emerging status as a global economic power. It has surprised, rather it has sent shockwaves, by establishing the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank that will play a big role in the development of Asian countries. Pakistan is one of those that will benefit from the bank and Chinese companies have already established their foothold in our economy. The recent visit of President Xi Jinping takes this bilateral relationship to a new point. Never has any country signed so many agreements with the price tag of \$45 billion. These agreements have been negotiated by our governments for more than one year, and some of them, like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, started much earlier. The corridor is the real game-changer in both China and Pakistan. China gets access to the Gwadar Port with closer connectivity of its western borders, and a big opportunity to invest in a very large number of projects from export processing zones to energy production and industrial parks throughout the country. The development of Gwadar and the corridor will change the economy of Pakistan and generate multiple channels of economic interdependence for the entire region. The real test and challenge lies in the timely completion of the projects envisaged in the new vision of the China-Pakistan relationship. The sooner it is done, the better it will be.

Courting China with care, Khurram Husain, *Dawn*, April 23⁶²

Let's clear up some misconceptions that have been doing the rounds since President Xi Jinping visited Islamabad and dangled a \$46 billion carrot before us. The money being offered is project financing, not aid and not concessionary loans. To get a good idea of what that means, take a look at one project that was approved and documents for which were signed during this visit: the Karot hydropower project. Karot is a run-of-the-river hydropower project with a total generation capacity of 720MW. It is located on the river Jhelum, just south of Rawalpindi. The project was initiated in 2006, when a consortium of Associated Technologies (Pvt) Ltd and China Three Gorges International Corporation, which was the main sponsor of the project, applied for a Letter of Interest (LoI) from the Private Power Infrastructure Board (PPIB). [...]As an aside, it should be mentioned that Return on Equity for another coal-based power plant coming up in Sahiwal that has just had its upfront tariff for two 660MW plants approved on March 31, 2015, is 27.2pc, and interest during construction is on the same terms as the Karot project: Libor plus 4.5pc. Compare that to the country's largest commercial bank,

⁶² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1177577/courting-china-with-care>

which had one of its most profitable years in 2014, and announced a return on equity of 20pc. The levelized tariff the sponsors of Karot were seeking in 2011 was 7.5 cents per kilowatt hour for the project life of 50 years. There is no information on what levelized tariff the project has been finalised on today. [...]A lesson from our experiences with the IPPs is worth bearing in mind as we move forward with this investment plan. When the private power policy was announced, and all the investment in private power generation poured forth under it, the government of the time presented the whole enterprise as a big victory. Hubco was hailed as the “deal of the year” by Euromoney magazine, and the government bragged that Pakistan had a surplus in generation capacity. That was true at the time, but then the reality hit home when the bills from these IPPs came in, and the new government of Nawaz Sharif discovered that the tariffs had capacity charges, meaning you had to pay them even if you did not want to buy any of the power they were producing. And most of us remember how that worked out, how the private power policy went from being the panacea to all our problems, to being public enemy number one within a matter of weeks. Let’s not be foolish about it this time. Let’s understand that we are being offered a historic opportunity, but let’s also tally up the costs and benefits clearly upfront, and keep our commitment to procedures and transparency as we move forward to take advantage of this opportunity.

Reconditioned patronage? Ayesha Siddiqa, *The Express Tribune*, April 23⁶³

It seems that Pakistan is now moving away from its dependence on the US to depending on China. While we are not about to abandon the US, we are excited to move towards China in search of another patron that can fulfil some different kinds of needs and add to our sense of much-needed security. But this is meant to be a comprehensive patronage. It includes military and economic components with no apparent pressures to implement democracy or have a political system that Beijing likes. The promise of \$46 billion in investment in infrastructure development and in the economy is attractive. This adds to the existing strong security relations. We needn’t forget that over the years, our armed forces have turned to the Chinese as far as their conventional weapon needs are concerned. Surely, the US has pitched in with the decision to supply Pakistan with weapons worth \$1 billion, but the fact is that we are now shifting increasingly towards China for meeting our major weapons systems needs. The army uses a lot of Chinese equipment, followed by the navy and the air force. [...]This is problematic as this means that the Chinese will have little interest in understanding our domestic complexities and compulsions. This is especially in reference to areas like Balochistan where Beijing now has the contract to develop and manage Gwadar for the

⁶³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/874306/reconditioned-patronage/>

next 40 years. From Islamabad's perspective, this seems like the best option to develop an area that may prove too expensive to explore on its own. The Chinese have little patience for violence against their interests. In any case, the Baloch nationalist struggle is in a phase where it can only harm unarmed and insignificant workers. The rest, be it the military or religious militants, remain unharmed. So, while human rights groups may protest against the situation in Balochistan, the fact is that the territory now represents Beijing's interests — from mineral resources to infrastructure. Gilgit-Baltistan is another area which has greater Chinese influence than Pakistan's. Perhaps, this is the only way Pakistan can frame its partnerships. The ideal option, of course, is to conceive national interests independently

Shrinking space for reason, Zahid Hussain, *Dawn*, April 29⁶⁴

WHO was afraid of Sabeen Mahmud? Was it the state or a non-state actor that silenced a brave voice of reason? Was it a mere coincidence that she was gunned down after a seminar on Balochistan that she had organised? Or was it one of those shadowy extremist groups who considered her liberal values anathema to their obscurantist worldview? Will we ever know? Sabeen had apparently received threats from both sides. There are (unconfirmed) reports she was warned not to host Mama Qadeer. So, did her defiance cost her her life? Surely some will jump to that conclusion. But then there are also reports of her receiving threats over the past six months. According to one such report, a warning note with a bullet was sent to her months before the fateful seminar. Her T2F has been a regular venue for enlightened debates and discussions on subjects varying from the blasphemy laws to the persecution of religious minorities. [...]But why is the establishment so intolerant of people like Mama Qadeer and Farzana Baloch who just want their voices heard and their grievances addressed? By curbing such voices we push more and more people towards the separatists. The situation in the province is far from stable despite claims of normality. Amid anger and outrage, the law-enforcement agencies say they are actively pursuing the culprits. The chief military spokesman said the intelligence agencies are also investigating the case. But there seems to be little hope of the murderers being brought to justice. We have yet to see the murderers of the rights activist Rashid Rehman being arrested, let alone tried. The murderer of governor Salmaan Taseer is projected as a hero and the state does not find the courage to carry out his sentence. Sabeen is believed to have been receiving threats, but no serious efforts were made to investigate the matter. The gunmen on a motorbike who had been following her killed her on a busy road. It was a well-planned targeted attack and the assailants made sure she did not survive. The incident happened a few days after gunmen shot and seriously injured an American

⁶⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1178761/shrinking-space-for-reason>

woman working with a local medical college for the past 20 years. A shadowy militant group claimed responsibility. But there has not been any such claim in Sabeen's case. Of course, there is no dearth of conspiracy theories as happens in this kind of situation. How can one forget the omnipresent 'foreign hand'? It is always easy to blame external enemies. But it is never clear who they are. Only militants and extremists benefit from this atmosphere of fear and shrinking space for liberals and moderates. The government's claim of fighting extremism and militancy is mere rhetoric when the voices of reason are brutally suppressed. That only emboldens the forces of intolerance.

ECONOMIC ISSUES

FISCAL ISSUES

9MFY15: Amid declining exports, trade deficit widens 15.4%, *The Express Tribune*, April 15⁶⁵

Despite the government's attempts at reducing the trade deficit, Pakistan's overall exports to the rest of the world remained dismal during the first nine months of the ongoing fiscal year, standing only at \$18 billion. While exports plunged almost 6% during the July-March period, imports in the same period grew on an average of 3%, widening the trade deficit by 15.4%, said the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics on April 14. In absolute terms, the trade deficit widened to \$16.2 billion in first three quarters of the current fiscal year, which was roughly \$2 billion more than the projections of the International Monetary Fund. The wide gap between actual trade deficit and the IMF's projections will also have implications on overall financing requirements. In its latest report that was released early this month, the IMF had projected a \$14.1-billion gap between exports and imports for the July-March period.

ENERGY

Power purchase: Pakistan to sign accord with Tajikistan this month, *The Express Tribune*, April 15⁶⁶

In a major breakthrough, Pakistan is set to sign a power purchase agreement with Tajikistan in Istanbul, Turkey on April 24, which will bring surplus electricity from Central Asia to South Asia. Under the project, known as Central Asia South Asia Electricity Transmission and Trade (Casa-1000),

⁶⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/869957/9mfy15-amid-declining-exports-trade-deficit-widens-15-4/>

⁶⁶ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/869368/power-purchase-pakistan-to-sign-accord-with-tajikistan-this-month/>

Pakistan will be provided 1,000 megawatts of clean energy at 9.35 cents per unit including all charges. Initial agreement on hydroelectric power supply was signed by Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan in Turkey in December last year. "We have finalised all aspects of the power purchase agreement, which will be signed in Istanbul on April 24," a senior government official said.

Gas company chief ordered to sign LNG deal or pack up, Dawn, April 20⁶⁷

In dramatic circumstances, three public sector stakeholders of LNG have 'Initialled' a tripartite agreement to facilitate import of the commodity through back-to-back guarantees amid resistance by their managements. This comes at a time when the first encashment of \$50 million guarantee becomes due in a couple of days because of failure of the government side to arrange imported LNG in time for re-gasification and transmission into the national network through the Engro terminal at Port Qasim. According to sources, LNG has not been arranged so far and the Engro terminal has been processing nothing since April 16. "Unless Engro waives its service charges in goodwill, it has to encash SSGCL's guarantee on April 21," said an official. The sources said technical and legal teams of the SSGCL, SNGPL and PSO were kept in Islamabad for more than three days to enter into the tripartite agreement.

Chinese experts place faith in coal for power woes, The Express Tribune, April 23⁶⁸

Analysing the on-going energy shortage as the core reason behind the stagnant growth, Chinese power experts have asserted authorities to focus more on indigenous resources for power generation rather than relying on imported fuel – the most incentivised solution by authorities. "Pakistan should accomplish a perfect balance of hydropower and coal-based power projects to maintain a minimum power tariff," said Global Mining Limited China CEO Weikai Gao, while talking to the scribe. "Both natural resources are in abundance and are vital for Pakistan's long-term energy plan." Investors from China visited Pakistan keeping long-term energy plans in mind. For them, the current energy mix of the country is the main reason behind power outages and the seemingly-unending circular debt. Hydel power, which accounted for 60% of the total energy mix in 1980, dropped to 29% in 2013. Similarly, thermal power, which accounted for 40% in 1980, has increased to 68% in 2013, indicating increased reliance of imported fuel in power generation. Apart from the hydropower potential, which according to Wapda officials, is around 60,000MW along the

⁶⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1177043/gas-company-chief-ordered-to-sign-lng-deal-or-pack-up>

⁶⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/874370/crisis-control-chinese-experts-place-faith-in-coal-for-power-woes/>

River Indus alone. Chinese experts said that the untapped 185 billion tons of coal reserves would be the key to obtain energy security in Pakistan. "These massive reserves are the sole reason why Tharparkar is important for attaining energy security," said Gao. "However, demographics of this part of the country are difficult and we will need help of the federal and provincial governments to establish a future energy centre."

Bahawalpur to have \$1.5bn world's largest solar power plant, Dawn, April 23⁶⁹

Pakistan has awarded \$1.5 billion contract for its largest solar power project of 900MW in Bahawalpur to a Chinese company which has the biggest solar power plant of only 170MW back home. After concluding a final round of meetings with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Water and Power Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif on April 22, Zenergy Company Ltd President Yu Yong told journalists that his company had a total portfolio of 1,200MW of solar plants in China and the largest one was 170MW plant in Xinjiang. He said the company had an association of over 17 years with Pakistan. Previously, it had been engaged in telecommunication sector through another company ZTE since 1998. He explained that Zenergy was not a subsidiary of the ZTE, but one of the largest shareholders in the ZTE was also the largest shareholder in Zenergy. Mr Yong said there was a need to address concerns regarding Pakistan's national grid's conversion system to accommodate fluctuating renewable energy sources. "The 900MW solar project launched in Quaid-i-Azam Solar Power Park in Bahawalpur is the largest solar power project in the world," he said.

Upgrading gas pipelines: \$1 bn collection plan from consumers put on hold, The Express Tribune, April 29⁷⁰

The government has put on the back burner a plan of collecting about \$1 billion (Rs101 billion) from gas consumers for financing the upgrading and expansion of the pipeline network in the wake of filing of different cases in courts. According to officials of the Ministry of Water and Power, an improved gas pipeline network is aimed at supplying LNG to proposed power plants in Punjab. However, cabinet members suggested in a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Energy, held on April 8, that it was not possible to allocate Rs101 billion from the (GIDC for augmenting the pipeline capacity as already a number of cases had been filed in courts against the imposition of

⁶⁹<http://www.dawn.com/news/1177634/bahawalpur-to-have-15bn-worlds-largest-solar-power-plant>

⁷⁰<http://tribune.com.pk/story/877483/upgrading-gas-pipelines-1-b-collection-plan-from-consumers-put-on-hold/>

GIDC. The financing issue should be resolved in consultation with the stakeholders, they said.

CDWP gives nod to projects for 2,400MW supply to Punjab, *The Express Tribune*, April 29⁷¹

In a bid to pacify the Punjab population amid a growing energy crisis in the province, the federal government on April 28 approved two projects to transmit electricity from the 2,400-megawatt Liquefied Natural Gas-fired power plants that will be set up in the province. This was in addition to clearing half a dozen education sector schemes. Headed by Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, the CDWP approved 12 projects worth Rs30 billion and recommended another four schemes amounting to Rs14 billion for final approval of Ecnec. The cost of these projects was over Rs3 billion, which is the maximum benchmark for CDWP approval. The CDWP approved Rs1.6 billion scheme to transmit power from 1200MW RLNG based combined cycle power plant that will be setup at Haveli Bahadur Shah District Jhang.

Put IP pipeline on hold until sanctions lifted, says US, *The Express Tribune*, April 30⁷²

The United States has said that Pakistan should put on hold its gas pipeline project with Iran until sanctions against Tehran are lifted after a final agreement is reached with global powers. Speaking to journalists here on Wednesday, US State Department's Special Envoy for Energy Amos Hochstein pointed out that Iran and the global powers, called P5+1 including the US, Britain, France, China, Russia and Germany, were negotiating and moving towards a final deal. "As long as the agreement is not reached, sanctions are in place and therefore, Pakistan should hold off undertaking any project such as the IP (Iran-Pakistan) pipeline until the removal of sanctions," Hochstein said. Raising doubts about Iran's ability to go for gas exports, he said at present Tehran was a net importer of gas.

INVESTMENT

Chinese say their money is safe in Pakistan, *The Express Tribune*, April 20⁷³

Chinese businessmen have said investments they are putting in Pakistan are safe as both the countries enjoy excellent relations at government and public

⁷¹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/877494/focus-on-energy-cdwp-gives-nod-to-projects-for-2400mw-supply-to-punjab/>

⁷²<http://tribune.com.pk/story/878210/word-of-caution-put-ip-pipeline-on-hold-until-sanctions-lifted-says-us/>

⁷³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/872766/investing-with-confidence-chinese-say-their-money-is-safe-in-pakistan/>

level. "The global investments we make in any country depend on the nature of relationships between China and the particular country," said Orient Evertrust Capital Group's Chairman Jiang Xue Ming, while talking with the scribe. "Since Pakistan and China have excellent relationships, so we feel our investments in this country are completely safe," he added.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

China gets 40-year management rights on Gwadar port, access to Arabian Sea, *The Express Tribune*, April 15⁷⁴

With strong military possibilities, China has won the right to operate Pakistan's Gwadar port for a period of 40 years. This move will give China access to Gulf countries, and the possibility of building a naval base on the Arabian Sea in future, sources revealed. Dostain Khan Jamaldini, chairman of the Gwadar Port Authority, on a Hong-King based news channel was quoted to have said the port could be put into full use by 2015 end because the infrastructure construction was nearly complete. China has both financed and constructed the port because it opens up a route for transporting Middle East oil by a 3,000-km long land route from Gwadar port to Kashgar, the northwestern Chinese city. The TV report further added that oil from the Middle East could be offloaded at Gwadar and transported to China by rail and road. Located right at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, the Gwadar port is just outside the Strait of Hormuz, which is the gateway for about 20 percent of the world's oil.

Banks earned record Rs 247 bn in 2014, *Dawn*, April 17⁷⁵

Banking industry's pre-tax profit surged by 52 per cent to an all-time high of Rs. 247 billion in 2014 thanks to their huge investments in government securities, the State Bank said on April 17. In its quarterly report 'Performance of Banking Industry' for Oct-Dec 2014, the SBP said, "Banks holding of government securities surged to Rs4.8 trillion as of end-December, constituting more than 90pc share in total investments and 40pc share in total assets." To expect cut in policy rate, declining inflation and improved balance of payments position, banks mostly invested in PIBs and partly in MTBs. PIBs' share in banks' investment in government securities rose sharply reaching 56.5 pc by Dec 31, 2014 compared to 19.3 pc as of Dec 31, 2013, said the report. Most of these investments were concentrated in three-year PIBs and were kept in 'available-for-sale' category to effectively manage the market liquidity, it added.

⁷⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/870183/china-gets-40-year-management-rights-on-gwadar-port-access-to-arabian-sea/>

⁷⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1176401/banks-earned-record-rs247bn-in-2014>

Balochistan to get first economic zone under CPEC, *The Nation*, April 21⁷⁶

Under the CPEC, industrial collaboration will be enhanced and special economic zones will be set up in all parts of the country with Balochistan to get the first economic zone. Addressing a press briefing here on Sunday, Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said establishment of economic zone in Balochistan will create jobs and bring prosperity in the province. He said Balochistan will get maximum benefit out of the CPEC project. He said the CPEC was not just a road but it was an umbrella under which different projects would be started. Under the bilateral energy cooperation, projects worth 37 billion dollars will be started. These projects will yield 16,400 MW of electricity. The minister said that out of 16,400 MW around 10,400 MW power projects had been selected as early harvest projects which would be completed by 2018.

In policy statement, govt denies change in CPEC route, *The Express Tribune*, April 30⁷⁷

Planning & Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal has sought to quash the impression that the government is rerouting the multibillion-dollar CPEC, which he described as a 'fate changer' for Pakistan. In a policy statement, the minister told lawmakers in the National Assembly on April 29 that there was no plan to change the Eastern route and that all three alignments of roads – Western, Eastern and Central – were being constructed simultaneously. "The corridor will be completed by 2016 and will mainly benefit Balochistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa." As lawmakers of the main opposition parties – the PPP and the PTI – had boycotted the session because of alleged discrimination in allocation of development funds, the minister asked the remaining MPs: "Does anyone possess the original plan? If yes, then can anyone show us what changes have been introduced in the original plan?" Ahsan said the country was fighting against extremists and terrorists. "This project will transform the entire region: South Asia, Asia, China and the Middle East." He added that the CPEC would be a significant project of the 21st century as it would benefit around 1.5 to 2 billion people.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

⁷⁶<http://nation.com.pk/editors-picks/20-Apr-2015/balochistan-to-get-first-economic-zone-under-cpec-ahsan>

⁷⁷<http://tribune.com.pk/story/878337/economic-corridor-in-policy-statement-govt-denies-change-in-route/>

Fiscal quagmire, Dr Muhammad Yaqub, *The News*, April 8⁷⁸

The Ministry of Finance, State Bank of Pakistan and IMF would like us to believe that fiscal consolidation has taken place, a prudent monetary policy has resulted in sound monetary developments and the country's banking system is performing its financial intermediation functions on a solid footing. The monetary aggregates show that money supply increased by 4.7 per cent during July 1, 2014-March 20, 2015 as compared with 5.5 per cent in the same period last year. As the contractionary impact of the rupee counterpart of the Saudi grant, releases of CSF by the US and massive government borrowing from foreign private markets on the monetary aggregates has begun to wear out, money supply has recently accelerated to catch up with that of last year. In fact, the absolute increase in money supply up to March 20, 2015 is about the same as last year but the percentage growth is slightly lower due to a larger outstanding stock of money on whose basis the growth rate has to be computed. [...] It would have been a welcome development if the change were to reflect a consolidation of the fiscal situation; however, it does not because the situation in Pakistan differs in three important ways. First, the fall in borrowing from the SBP does not represent an improvement in the fiscal situation. It has happened because the government decided to substitute borrowing from the SBP by borrowing from commercial banks to meet the IMF conditionally on the net domestic assets of the SBP. [...] Second, the massive increase in government borrowing from commercial banks has not been financed by commensurate effort by banks to mobilise deposits. The bulk of it has been financed by commercial bank borrowing from the SBP through its discount window or voluntary injection of liquidity in the commercial banking system through open market operations by the SBP. [...] Third, this switchover has proven disastrous for economic activities in the private sector. The unlimited appetite of the government to borrow resulted in commercial banks ignoring the credit needs of the private sector. Credit to the private sector expanded by only Rs. 178 billion in the period up to March 20 in FY15 as compared to Rs. 367 billion in the same period last year. [...] The best banking practices require diversification of the asset portfolio of commercial banks and a limit on exposure of banks to a single party even if it happens to be the government. At present government securities account for close to 85 per cent of the total assets of commercial banks. The situation looks alarming when studied in the context of the rising domestic government debt. The fiscal situation is such that debt servicing and defence expenditure consume almost all the tax revenue and it is bound to rise at a faster pace than revenue without tax reforms. In the circumstances, the risk of default of sovereign debt has increased and so has the vulnerability of banks in case a fiscal crisis develops. If the government were to print notes excessively to

⁷⁸ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-9-311429-The-monetary-and-fiscal-quagmire>

meet its debt servicing obligations to commercial banks, such irresponsible conduct is bound to lead to a loss of trust of the people in the currency of the country. The Ministry of Finance and the SBP should do some serious rethinking for course correction before they, intentionally or unintentionally, plunge the country in another economic crisis emanating from the domestic banking system.

The KSE index as barometer? Idrees Khawaja & Rafat Mahmood, *The News*, April 16⁷⁹

The rise and fall of stock market indices are perceived to predict the upcoming boom and bust in an economy. Why are stock market indices used to predict the upcoming boom-bust in the economy? And can the KSE index be used to predict these boom-busts in Pakistan? Under-representation of the agriculture and services sectors on the KSE index and the larger influence of the bigger firms on the changes in index value make it difficult to rely on the KSE index as a predictor of Pakistan's economy. Generally stock market indices are created in a way that they represent the movement in prices of shares quoted in that specific market. A rise in the price of share X theoretically implies that the profit of the firm is expected to increase in future. If profits of most of the firms in an economy are expected to increase this would mean that a booming economy is likely in the times ahead. It is worth emphasising that if at all the changes in a stock market index predict something about the economy that would show the expected long-term trend of the economy rather than the current state of the economy or the state in the near future. Therefore, it may not be appropriate to use the KSE index to reflect upon the economic management of a regime.

SECURITY SITUATION

TERRORISM

NAP report indicates little progress on key fronts, *Dawn*, April 3⁸⁰

The government announced the NAP to counter terrorism and extremism about three months ago, but its implementation still leaves a lot to be desired on several key fronts. A consolidated report on NAP implementation, prepared recently by the interior ministry and available with Dawn, is vague at best and raises more questions than it answers. Led by Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan — who is also the focal person responsible for the implementation of the 20-point NAP — the ministry of interior's account of progress on fronts such as activating the Nacta preventing the re-emergence of proscribed

⁷⁹ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-9-313001-The-KSE-index-as-barometer>

⁸⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1173611/nap-report-indicates-little-progress-on-key-fronts>

organisations and clamping down on terrorists' communication networks, does not inspire confidence. On most fronts, the report indicates that there is still a lot of work to be done.

UN imposes sanctions on TTP chief Fazlullah, Dawn, April 9⁸¹

A committee of the UN Security Council has imposed sanctions on the banned TTP chief Mullah Fazlullah, the mastermind of the Peshawar school massacre, for perpetrating and financing terror acts. Fazlullah was added to the Security Council's Al Qaeda Sanctions list on Tuesday and he would now be subject to assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo. The TTP chief, also known as the "Mullah Radio", was reported to have been seriously injured in air strikes in Khyber tribal area late last month. The US had in January designated Fazlullah as a global terrorist and had slapped sanctions against him. The Security Council Sanctions Committee approved Fazlullah's entry to its sanctions list of individuals and entities for "*participating in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing, or perpetrating*" TTP's acts or activities.

Punjab government challenges Lakhvi's release in SC, The Nation, April 14⁸²

The Punjab government today challenged the LHC release orders for Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi, one of the key accused in the 2008 Mumbai attacks in Supreme Court. The petition filed by the Punjab Home Department maintains that there was sufficient evidence against Lakhvi, but LHC's Justice Anwarul Haq had ignored it and ordered his release on April 10. The petition requests that the LHC's decision to release Lakhvi be suspended with the top court, permitting to restore his detention under Maintenance of Public Order. The Punjab government had previously maintained that Lakhvi had been detained based on 'sensitive information,' provided by intelligence agencies. Lakhvi had challenged his fourth one-month detention ordered by the Okara DCO on March 14, upon which the LHC had ordered his immediate release.

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND FATA

Switching loyalties: TTP chief in Bajaur and his deputy quit, The Express Tribune, April 7⁸³

Two senior leaders of the outlawed TTP have resigned, the militant group's spokesperson announced on April 7, without citing any reasons for their action. Mohammad Khorasani said that Maulana Abu Bakr, the TTP's Bajaur chief, and his deputy Qari Zahid have stepped down from their posts. The

⁸¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1174801/un-imposes-sanctions-on-ttp-chief-fazlullah>

⁸² <http://nation.com.pk/national/14-Apr-2015/punjab-government-challenges-lakhvi-s-release-in-sc>

⁸³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/865668/switching-loyalties-ttp-chief-in-bajaur-and-his-deputy-quit/>

TTP Bajaur leaders are believed to have hideouts in Afghanistan's Kunar province. The TTP central council in Bajaur has elected Sheikh Gul Muhammad as the new leader for Bajaur and Dr Burhan as the deputy chief, the TTP spokesperson told the media using an Afghan mobile number. Gul Muhammad is the younger brother of the former TTP deputy chief, Maulvi Faqir Muhammad who was arrested by the Afghan authorities in February 2013. Afghanistan had refused to hand him over to Pakistan after his arrest in the eastern Nangarhar province. Although the TTP spokesman did not give reasons for the leaders' resignation, sources close to Da'ish's Pakistan wing leaders claimed that Abu Bakr had joined the ultra-extremist militant group from the Middle East that has wreaked havoc in Iraq and Syria.

KP police report: 100% conviction rate after NAP claimed, *Dawn*, April 12⁸⁴

A report filed by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police cited a 100 per cent conviction rate after the implementation of the National Action Plan. In the wake of last year's Army Public School attacks last year, security of educational institutions has also become a priority for law enforcement agencies. Under the Sensitive and Vulnerable Establishments and Places (Security) Bill 2014. The National Action Plan was drafted in the wake of the Peshawar school attack to chalk out a comprehensive strategy to combat terrorism.

IS Pakistan chief killed in IED explosion, *The Express Tribune*, April 17⁸⁵

The Islamic State's commander-designate for Pakistan, Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, was killed with two others in a bomb explosion in the Toor Dara area of Tirah Valley on April 16. Khyber Agency officials said the militants were planting or manufacturing an IED when it went off, killing the three men on the spot. While the security forces claimed one of them was IS commander Hafiz Saeed, there was no confirmation from the militant group. Saeed hailed from the Aurakzai Agency and was among five leading Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan commanders who announced their disassociation from the banned outfit last October. Later, they swore allegiance to IS under the leadership of Shahidullah Shahid. The IS high-command through a message circulated by Shahid had declared Saeed as the IS chief for Pakistan. However, Shahid is believed to be the real chief with Saeed serving as his dummy.

⁸⁴<http://www.dawn.com/news/1175469/kp-police-report-100-conviction-rate-after-nap-claimed>

⁸⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/871240/tirah-valley-is-pakistan-chief-killed-in-ied-explosion/>

Security forces claim major success in Tirah valley, Dawn, April 29⁸⁶

Security forces took control on April 28 of the entire Sipah and Akkakhel areas in Tirah valley after flushing out Lashkar-i-Islam activists from these areas. Official sources said that the control of Sipah and Akkakhel was so far the biggest achievement of security forces during the ongoing Khyber Two military operation against joint forces of the outlawed Lashkar-i-Islam, Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan and Jamaatul Ahrar. The banned outfits had joined hands soon after the launch of Khyber Two operation in February. The forces also pressed their ground advance towards the TTP-controlled Kukikhel areas in the valley with fierce ground battles in Dwa Thoe and Zarmanza areas of Kukikhel, Garhai of Kamar Khel, Jabbar Mela of Qambar Khel and Nakai area of Malakdin Khel.

BALUCHISTAN

11 militants, including 4 suicide bombers, arrested in Quetta, claims FC, Dawn, April 5⁸⁷

Security forces claimed the arrest of 11 militants, including four suicide bombers, during raids conducted in different parts of Quetta on April 5 morning. Khan Wasey, the spokesman for Frontier Corps (FC), a paramilitary force, told Dawn News that security forces and intelligence agency personnel had foiled a major terror bid by apprehending seven terrorists, including four suicide bombers, during a raid in Kuchlak area of Quetta district, "*The terrorists were planning a major terror strike in Quetta,*" said Wasey adding that the arrested men belonged to a banned militant outfit. The suspects were shifted to an unknown location for interrogation.

Rebels kill eight Iranian soldiers, The Express Tribune, April 7⁸⁸

Eight Iranian border guards have been killed in a clash with rebels who had allegedly infiltrated from neighbouring Pakistan, Iran's official IRNA news agency reported on April 7. "*Armed terrorists entered Iran from Pakistan and clashed with border guards, killing eight soldiers before fleeing back to Pakistan,*" Ali Asghar Mirshekari, deputy governor of Sistan-Baluchistan province, told the news agency. The southeastern province has a large Sunni community and has seen repeated attacks by militants on the security forces of Iran. But the clash in the Negur district was the deadliest since October 2013 when 14 border guards were killed in an attack claimed by militant group Jaishul Adl.

⁸⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1178827/security-forces-claim-major-success-in-tirah-valley>

⁸⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1174098/11-militants-including-4-suicide-bombers-arrested-in-quetta-claims-fc>

⁸⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/865770/rebels-kill-eight-iran-soldiers-on-pakistan-border/>

The same group captured five Iranian troops in February last year. Four of them were released last April. The fifth is still missing presumed dead.

Gunmen massacre 20 dam builders in Turbat, *The Nation*, April 12⁸⁹

A large group of gunmen on April 11 attacked a work camp near the construction site of a dam in Gobdan area of district Turbat, overpowered eight security guards and shot dead 20 sleeping labourers before fleeing. The workers killed at the construction site 15 kms from the town of Turbat were mostly from outside Balochistan which suggested the Baloch rebels were responsible, said Balochistan Minister Akbar Hussain Durrani. "All were sleeping in their camp when they were targeted," he said. Three wounded survivors said the gunmen opened fire on the sleeping men with automatic weapons, then escaped on motorcycles, he said. A man claiming to be a spokesman for the banned Baluch Liberation Army called local reporters and said his group had carried out the attack as a reprisal for military operations in the area. Makran Division Commissioner Pasand Khan Buledi said 16 of the dead were from Punjab and four were from Sindh. He said the eight guards, all from Balochistan, were unharmed in the attack.

'Enemy-backed group killed Baloch labourers', *Dawn*, April 12⁹⁰

Groups supported by the Indian intelligence agency are involved in the ethnic massacre of the Baloch, said Balochistan Home Minister Sarfaraz Bugti while talking to the media after arriving at the Sheikh Zayed International Airport on April 11. Bugti said 20 labourers had been killed while three injured in a "terrorist attack" in Turbat. He also said Balochistan Finance Minister Mir Khalid Langoo, Information Minister Abdul Rahim Ziaratwala and Spokesperson to the Balochistan Chief Minister Khan Bulaidi had also reached here to participate in the funeral prayers of the killed labourers. He said his government condemned this "act of terrorism" and that a terrorist group had killed the 20 Pakistanis not an ethnic group. He claimed a terrorist group in Balochistan had received funding and training from "the enemy" and murdered the labourers. He said he wanted to convey a message to the terrorists that his government would chase them and that they would not succeed in dividing Pakistanis. Answering questions, Bugti said his government was treating ethnic terrorism the same way as sectarian terrorism.

⁸⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/12-Apr-2015/gunmen-massacre-20-dam-builders-in-turbat>

⁹⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1175462/enemy-backed-group-killed-baloch-labourers>

Terrorists receiving funds from RAW, *The Nation*, April 12⁹¹

Following the brutal killing of 20 laborers in southern Baluchistan, police today registered a case against Allah Nazar Baloch, the chief of banned militant organization Baloch Liberation front. According to source at the Turbat police station, the case was registered against the banned organization's leader and his accomplices under anti-terrorism laws. Terrorists had killed the 20 men and injured three others, when they opened indiscriminate fire at the laborers who were asleep in a camp, set up at the site of an under-construction bridge on a stream. The murdered laborers belonged to different areas of Sindh and Punjab provinces. Condemning the incident, Chief Minister Baluchistan Dr Abdul Malik Baloch had claimed that terrorists receiving funds from Indian spy agency RAW, were involved in the heinous act. Funeral prayers for 13 slain laborers were offered in Rahim Yar Khan on April 12 mornings, while the funeral prayers of seven workers were offered in their native villages in Tharparkar and Badin.

Jl chief to use jirga for talks with Baloch separatists, *The Express Tribune*, April 12⁹²

After playing the role of an interlocutor and successfully persuading the PTI to engage in dialogue with the ruling PML-N, Jamaat-e-Islami chief Sirajul Haq is willing to assume a more challenging task of persuading Baloch separatists to adopt the path of reconciliation. "I promise to lead a political Jirga for mediation between the government and Baloch separatist groups," said the JI chief on Saturday. "War is no solution, nor the ongoing policy of action and reaction [will work]," he said at the Karachi Press Club on April 11. Haq said he intends to meet the prime minister and secure his permission for a political jirga to talk with the separatists. "This Balochistan issue ought to be addressed on emergency basis as the crisis can worsen to a point of no return." The JI chief said he is willing to lead from the front as he does not wish to see the country slipping towards another catastrophe, but the government will have to offer its pledge of support.

Pakistan to seek extradition of top Baloch insurgents, *The Express Tribune*, April 30⁹³

The government is all set to approach five countries and the United Nations to seek extradition of top Baloch insurgents accused of fomenting unrest in Balochistan which has been in the throes of a low-profile separatist

⁹¹<http://nation.com.pk/national/12-Apr-2015/terrorists-receiving-funds-from-raw-cm-baluchistan>

⁹²<http://tribune.com.pk/story/868488/balochistan-insurgency-ji-chief-to-use-jirga-for-talks-with-separatists/>

⁹³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/878332/pakistan-to-seek-extradition-of-top-baloch-insurgents/>

insurgency since 2006. The security agencies have identified 161 training camps of Baloch insurgents, nearly two dozen of them are believed to be located in Afghanistan and two in Iran. *"We are taking up the issue of Baloch insurgents with five countries [India, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Iran and Afghanistan],"* said a top security official, who did not want to be named in this report. Dr Allah Nazar, Hyrbyair Marri, Brahumdagh Bugti, Javed Mengal and some other wanted insurgents are commanding their fighters in the province, he added. Hyrbyair Marri, the head of the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), has been living in self-exile in the United Kingdom where he has been granted political asylum. The BLA has been responsible for most violence in Balochistan.

SINDH

20pc of all Sindh madressahs in Karachi west district alone, Dawn, April 5⁹⁴

Twenty per cent of the seminaries functioning across the province are situated in Karachi west district alone, it emerged on Friday as the home department carried out an exercise aimed at establishing a database of madressahs and streamlining their registration process. According to a report compiled by the home department, more than 4,000 registered and unregistered seminaries are functioning across the province, while 799 of them have been spotted only in west district. With the help of the database, the industries department will register seminaries and decide about grant of permission for the construction of others only after obtaining NOCs from the home department, deputy commissioner concerned and the Sindh Building Control Authority. One of the key points the home department report mentioned was identification of the madressahs having links with 'terrorists/ groups/ organisations' by collecting tangible evidence so that legal action could be initiated against them. The report identified a total of 4,021 madressahs in Sindh, of which 2,598 were registered and 1,423 were unregistered. However, it added, unregistered seminaries were still being counted and their list was being prepared by police. The report said 388,327 students were enrolled with all the madressahs in Sindh and 269,325 of them were enrolled with the 2,598 registered madressahs.

Karachi intellectual, NGO director shot dead, The News, April 25⁹⁵

Sabeen Mahmud, the founder and director of T2F, a community space for open dialogue, and PeaceNiche, a NGO, was gunned down here in Defence Phase II Extension on April 24 night. She was a human rights activist and an

⁹⁴<http://www.dawn.com/news/1173936/20pc-of-all-sindh-madressahs-in-karachi-west-district-alone>

⁹⁵ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-37173-Karachi-intellectual-NGO-director-shot-dead>

intellectual. Police said Sabeen Mahmud and her mother, Mehnaz, were heading towards their home from T2F in their car when two men riding a motorcycle fired gunshots at their vehicle on the Sunset Lane 5. They were rushed to the National Medical Centre where Sabeen expired. Her body was taken to the Jinnah Hospital for autopsy. Mehnaz was admitted to a private hospital.

Karachi University assistant professor gunned down, *The News*, April 29⁹⁶

Unidentified attackers gunned down an assistant professor teaching at the Karachi University in Dastageer area of the city on April 29, police said. According to police, Dr Waheedur Rehman was a resident of Federal B Area Lateef Square and was targeted by the gunmen in Dastageer shortly after the professor left his residence. SP Liaquatabad Tahir Noorani said Rehman received one bullet to his head and another to his shoulder and died on the spot. A security advisor at the Karachi University confirmed that Rehman was a member of faculty at the university's Mass Communications department. He had until recently served as the media advisor of the university's Vice Chancellor, and penned opinion articles and columns for newspapers.

RELATIONS WITH INDIA

Peace with Pakistan integral to India's growth', *Dawn*, April 8⁹⁷

Indian High Commissioner Dr T. C. A. Raghavan on April 7 said normalising relations with Pakistan was essential for his country to achieve its economic growth targets. The high commissioner was speaking at a roundtable conference arranged by the Centre for Research and Security Studies. Dr Raghavan said a stable neighbourhood is integral to India's economic growth. He recalled that India recorded highest growth rates between 2004 and 2008, a period of relatively calm ties with Pakistan. The envoy said rather than traditional sectors, the new economy of hydrocarbons, health and medical tourism etc. offer more opportunities for cooperation. He said it was important for India and Pakistan to treat each other as trading partners. Speaking to media persons after the conference, Dr Raghavan expressed hope that Pakistan-India ties would move forward from the current stalemate during the Saarc summit next year.

⁹⁶ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-183086-Karachi-University-assistant-professor-gunned-down>

⁹⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1174633/peace-with-pakistan-integral-to-indias-growth>

Lakhvi, a free man for now, Dawn, April 10⁹⁸

Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi, the alleged mastermind of the 2008 Mumbai attacks, was released from Adiala jail on April 10 following the Lahore High Court's dismissal of detention orders issued against him by the Okara DCO on March 14. A central leader of JuD, Lakhvi was released from the prison early this morning after furnishing Rs. 2 million in surety bonds. According to jail authorities, following his release he was picked up by JuD members amid tight security with his current location not known. Prior to his release on April 10, the LHC orders were confirmed with Chief Secretary Punjab Khizar Hayat Gondal, who provided the clearance for the JuD leader's release. However, a case against Lakhvi is still pending in the Islamabad High Court. The FIA had filed an appeal in the IHC in January seeking cancellation of the bail granted to Lakhvi by an anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Dec 2014. He had paid surety bonds worth Rs. 500,000 before he was released on bail at the time. If the IHC decides to cancel the bail granted to him by the ATC, he could be re-arrested.

Modi cites Simla, Lahore pacts for talks, Dawn, April 10⁹⁹

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said he is open to talks with Pakistan on all outstanding issues in the framework of Simla and Lahore pacts, but he indicated no time in an interview published on April 9. "We remain open to bilateral dialogue with Pakistan on all outstanding issues in an environment free from terrorism and violence," Mr Modi told Hindustan Times in his first interview to an Indian newspaper. He was speaking a day before leaving for France, Germany and Canada. Bilateral ties went into a freeze after Pakistan's High Commissioner Abdul Basit held meetings with the Kashmiri Hurriyat leaders last year which annoyed the Indian foreign ministry. Since then, the two sides have taken tentative steps towards a possible resumption in dialogue, with Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar visiting Islamabad for talks with his Pakistani counterpart. The Simla Agreement and Lahore Declaration have to be the basis for going forward," he said, referring to two bilateral treaties agreed between the troubled neighbours to normalise relations and curb a nuclear arms race in South Asia. "Peace can only thrive when the climate is right," Mr Modi said, when asked when the bilateral dialogue could resume.

⁹⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1175099/lakhvi-a-free-man-for-now>

⁹⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1174982/india-pakistan-ties-modi-cites-simla-lahore-pacts-for-talks>

No contradiction in resolution, PM statement, *The Nation*, April 17¹⁰⁰

Islamabad said on April 16 that waving Pakistan's flag by the Kashmiris in the Indian-occupied Kashmir was reflection of their love for Pakistan. "We'll extend diplomatic and moral support to Kashmiris in their struggle for just cause", Foreign Office Spokesperson Tasnim Aslam said in the weekly press briefing, asking New Delhi to implement the UN Security Council's resolutions in this regard. Commenting on the protest rallies in the Indian Occupied Kashmir where Pakistan flags were prominent, the spokesperson said Pakistan is concerned about the continuous violence and violation of fundamental rights of the Kashmiris. The spokesperson said Pakistan has principled stand on Kashmir issue that it should be resolved in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiris through resolutions of Security Council of the United Nations. Expressing concern over the excessive use of force against the Kashmiris to curb their struggle, the spokesperson said India could not deny the basic rights of the Kashmiris.

'K-P can boost regional trade', *The Express Tribune*, April 23¹⁰¹

Indian High Commissioner Dr TCA Raghavan believes KP can play a vital role in trade relations between his country and Central Asia. Speaking at a press conference at the KPCCI on April 22, Dr Raghavan who is visiting Peshawar said that the Indian government is focused on revamping economic relations with Pakistan. This is the first visit of an Indian diplomat to the province after a gap of nine years. The high commissioner said although a lot has changed over the past few decades, very little has improved in terms of economic progress. "The South Asian Free Trade agreement, signed in 2010, was also not successful and didn't increase trade between the two countries," he added. Businessmen asked for access to the markets of Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Maldives and other South Asian countries, under the South Asian Free Trade agreement. Former KPCCI president Zahidullah Shinwari said India is not giving them access to these nations. He added Pakistan, in response, was not giving New Delhi an inroad into Afghanistan.

India called off talks with Pakistan unilaterally, *The News*, April 29¹⁰²

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on April 28 said that India called off the foreign secretary level talks with Pakistan unilaterally and was not even trying to resume the dialogue, Saudi newspapers reported. In interviews with different Arab language newspapers, he said his government was interested in renewing better ties with the South Asian neighbor like previous tenures of

¹⁰⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/17-Apr-2015/no-contradiction-in-resolution-pm-statement-fo>

¹⁰¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/874268/k-p-can-boost-regional-trade/>

¹⁰² <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-183044-India-called-off-talks-with-Pakistan-unilaterally:-Nawaz>

the PML-N. However, India was not positively responding to Pakistani efforts to restore the dialogue, he added. Terming Jammu and Kashmir occupation by Indian forces as the main hurdle, the premier said Pakistan was hopeful for constructive dialogue on all contentious issues between the two countries. India had called off the talks after Pakistan's High Commissioner Abdul Basit held meetings with the Kashmiri Hurriyat leaders last year.

Treatment of Pakistani seamen by India a violation of international law, Dawn, April 30¹⁰³

The Foreign Office on April 30 expressed serious concern over the plight of Pakistani seamen in India and said treatment meted out to them was in violation of international law and norms. "A Pakistani ship was on way to India for ship-breaking when it sank. However, seamen were rescued and taken to the Indian state of Gujarat where they were kept in a police station. This was when the ship's Yemeni crew was accommodated in a hotel," FO spokeswoman Tasneem Aslam told a press briefing in Islamabad. She said the High Commission in New Delhi was in contact with Indian authorities for the wellbeing of the Pakistani citizens. "*We have conveyed our concerns to the Indian government over the treatment being meted out to our seamen.*"

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Positive vibes from India? Editorial, Dawn, April 12¹⁰⁴

IN the case of Pak-India relations, it seemingly is always a case of either going round in circles or, worse, one step forward, two steps back. Earlier this week, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered his most positive comments on the bilateral relationship since becoming prime minister, in a newspaper interview, by referring to his government's willingness to engage in dialogue and then specifically mentioning the Shimla accord and the Lahore declaration as the frameworks within which India could conduct dialogue. The Shimla accord has long been hostage to differences between Pakistan and India on a key interpretation — does it allow for international, third-party mediation or does it strictly require bilateral negotiations only? [...] At the very least, then, the Indian government does not appear immediately ready to return to the bellicose route it has taken with Pakistan for the most part of Mr Modi's tenure so far. Perhaps, as a recent internal BJP declaration on foreign policy suggests, the BJP government is coming around to the long-understood logic of the need to engage Pakistan rather than hold it at arm's length. Within Pakistan though there remains quite a bit of reckoning to be done. The

¹⁰³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1179119/treatment-of-pakistani-seamen-by-india-a-violation-of-international-law-fo>

¹⁰⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1175371/positive-vibes-from-india>

release of Lakhvi suggests a total breakdown of all aspects of the state doing their job: the political government, the security establishment and the superior judiciary. The evidence against Lakhvi was, for the most part, locally gathered and his prosecution depended on the Pakistani state demonstrating some resolve. If such a high-profile case is so poorly handled, what does that say about Pakistan's overall ability to fight militancy?

Time to unstick, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, April 30¹⁰⁵

In real terms there has been almost no change, at least not for the better, in relations between India and Pakistan for the last 20 years — and they have been in virtual cold storage since the attacks in Mumbai. The last three years have been particularly bumpy, and the hopes that came with a seeming warming of relations between new Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif have faded. The only way forwards is dialogue, it is as simple, and as complicated, as that. Neither country either wants or can afford to go to war. [...] In real terms there has been almost no change, at least not for the better, in relations between India and Pakistan for the last 20 years — and they have been in virtual cold storage since the attacks in Mumbai. The last three years have been particularly bumpy, and the hopes that came with a seeming warming of relations between new Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif have faded. The only way forwards is dialogue, it is as simple, and as complicated, as that. Neither country either wants or can afford to go to war.

EXCERPTS FROM URDU MEDIA & SELECT JIHADI LITERATURE

Pakistan should remain on guard, by Abdul Qader Hassan, *Daily Express*, 4 April 2015¹⁰⁶

Western imperialists have now embarked upon a ruthless campaign to destroy Muslim countries. ***They want to destroy Islamic countries, their culture, their religion and the whole nation (Quom). This campaign is carried out by a well-concerted plan of inciting and provoking internal feuds based on sectarian ideologies amongst different ethnic and warring groups in Muslim countries.*** In this well-thought out plan, Western imperialists extend a little financial help and some war material. Thus they encourage them to get engaged in endless wars and become silent spectators of the tragedy

¹⁰⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/878032/time-to-unstick/>

¹⁰⁶ www.ex.php.com.pk/e.paper/ex_proo_news_id=1102782200_&Issue=NP-Ist_dates_2015-04004.

unfolding in the Islamic world. What a callous attitude towards Muslim world and Muslim brethren!

History bears witness that Western countries have been successful in their pious duty towards Christianity. We know that for nine long years, they got Iran and Iraq engaged in a callous confrontation, which completely exhausted both these (Muslim) countries. They devastated historic countries like Iraq, Syria and Lebanon. Now they have focused their attention on Yemen where Muslims are allegedly fighting a sectarian war. Both victors and victims are Muslims. Yemen is a key country (250 million population and 28000 sq metres of land) sharing border with Saudi Arabia and it is now caught up in a sectarian war. Its mostly tribal population is flush with weapons. 70 percent of the population is connected with Shafai sect. The rest belong to Shia sect.

In its fight against a dictatorial regime earlier, this country suffered a lot. This fight led to a democratic government. In the meanwhile, Ansar Allah movement initiated by Houthi militants upset the apple cart. Houthis are tribal Zaidi Shias and dwell mostly in North Yemen. The founder of Houthi movement was Hussain Badr ud deen Houthi.

For restoring their basic rights this Houthi sect fought six wars with the Yemenese government, and one with the Saudi Arabian govt. **After capturing capital Sanaa, one Mr. Ali Raza Zakari— an Iranian Assembly Member— came out with a statement saying that Iran was now controlling four Arab capitals— Baghdad, Damascus, Beirut, and now Sanaa.** In this warring scenario, Arab countries are, as a precautionary measure, discussing to have a joint military to combat this menace of Shia onslaught. And the Western countries— enemies of Islam— are merrily playing the role of umpires in this sectarian war!

Yemen is an Arab country which has almost zero political connection with Pakistan. It is just another fellow Muslim country. Pakistanis are upset about the state of affairs in Yemen, but do not have any significant connection— political, or economic— with the people of Yemen. No doubt Yemen is strategically important for Saudi Arabia. In comparison we have a robust relationship with Saudi (one of Hermeen al Sharfeen). **Since we have no direct connection with Yemen, there is no reason why Pakistan should be influenced by outside pressures from Saudi Arabia and be dragged into conflict.** We are already fighting a war with militant within the country. **So it would have been politically and militarily expedient to be on guard and not to be swayed by any outside pressures from the Muslim world. This is very much in our national interest.**

Tragic skirmish on Pakistan-Iran border, Rozana Express, 9 April 2015¹⁰⁷

Recently, eight Iranian border security personnel were killed on the Pak-Iran border by some armed militants. **This attack is believed to have been carried out by some Pakistani militants in District Negar of Seestan (Iranian Balochistan) along the Pak-Iran border. The militants killed eight policemen – four officers and four sepoy. This incident unfortunately took place when Iranian Foreign Minister Javed Zareef was on a two-day tour of Pakistan to discuss the Yemenese situation with our leadership.**

Iranian authorities have asked Pakistan to locate these militants involved in the skirmish and hand them over to Iranian authorities. According to a media channel, these militants belonged to Jaish-ul-Adal group. Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman Tasneem Aslam explained that **Pakistan authorities shared all the evidence regarding this skirmish with the Iranians.** She further clarified that Iran had been assured that in case these militants, after the attack have returned to Pakistan, they would soon be located and strict action would be taken against them. Needless to say that Pakistan always condemned such terrorist incidents especially those perpetrated against a friendly Islamic country.

Iranian Foreign Minister has come to Islamabad to discuss and work out some strategy to deal with the disturbed situation in Yemen. Pakistan itself is waging a war against terrorist on the home turf and cannot afford to have enmity with a friendly country like Iran. **Moreover, the enemies of our country are ever ready to exploit any such incident and thus weaken our country....** On earlier occasions also, such allegations had been leveled from the Iranian side. We must investigate such incidents and deal with these militants with a firm hand so that peace and security would prevail along Pak-Iran border.

Kashmir and self-respect, by Sardar Ateeq Ahmed Khan¹⁰⁸, Daily Ausaf, 9 April 2015¹⁰⁹

After PPP, Jamaat Islami and Nawaz League, now Tehrik-e-Insaaf has also—contrary to Qaid-i-Azam’s policy of non-interference—has decided to

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http://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspxnewsID=1102782107&Issue=NP_ISB&Date=2015-0409

¹⁰⁸ Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan is a Pakistani-Kashmiri politician who served as the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir twice between 24 July 2006 to 6 January 2009 and between 29 July 2010 till 26 July 2011. He also presides over All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference.

¹⁰⁹ http://www.ausaf.pk/wp-content/uploads/2015-04-09/p14_05.jpg

intervene in the internal affairs of "Azad Jammu and Kashmir". It was a surprise to see that for the election campaign of its sole candidate – former PM of Azad Kashmir and former President Muslim League, Barrister Sultan Mahmud, Imran Khan made a sudden visit to Mirpur. **To our utter surprise, during his campaign instead of talking about problems of Kashmir, he was addressing the people as if they were party workers of the MQM!** Imran Khan Niazi's (*beniyazi*) indifference/apathy is quite well known. Even Imran's Tsunami could not quench his thirst for Mangla Dam. Barrister Sultan Sahib is a Kashmiri political leader and Qad Kath is his traditional and family constituency which he has won several times. **Anyway it was an interesting contest wherein the government of Azad Kashmir, federal government, Punjab and Sindh governments had an opportunity to flex their political muscles.** This was, in a way, a futile exercise. It would have been a splendid service to our country had all these jamaats utilized all their resources and energies put together to solve the problems faced by the earthquake victims, the people who lost their land during the building of Mangla Dam and the **Kashmiri muhajirs**. If that had been so, Pakistani people would have greatly lauded their actions. But sorry to say, our political leaders have looted our exchequers and deposited huge funds in overseas banks.

The way in which Nawaz League dominated the Azad Kashmir, its echoes are ringing in our ears even now. Keeping aside recorded and un-recorded information, if we only take into account media reports, we learn a lot about their political intrigues and even plots to assassinate several leaders. Thus the self-respect of the Kashmiris was butchered and political assassinations became a routine exercise. Our Kashmiri brethren busy killing their own in the process. A loud voice rang in the air— Muslim Conference is dead!

A non-Kashmiri lady was made to contest and win from Narowal on a PPP ticket. One seating PMLN MLA (Dr Fouzia Ashraf) was made to resign from a reserved seat for women to make room for her. Strange are the ways of nature! The lady selected by PPP was no other than the wife of retired General Muhammad Aziz Khan— the same General who had played a critical role in the ouster of Mian Nawaz Sharif and had lobbed him in Attock jail. At one point in time, Nawaz had stated that he could forgive Musharraf but not Aziz. Now we should look at the sheer indifference shown by Nawaz League towards Azad Kashmir. The seating MLA, who was made to resign to accommodate Mrs Aziz, belonged to PML-N. **In this particular case, both PPP and PMLN behaved in strange ways. The PPP seemed to forget the past and accommodate the wife of a General who had been very close to General Zia (who sent their legendary leader to the gallows). The PMLN also willingly vacated a seat to oblige the same General. In spite of the fact that there was an alternative for both in Samiya Sajid Raja— a candidate from Muslim Conference— not a single vote was cast in her favour.**

Future political scenario, by Abu Junera, *Jasaarat*, 15 April 2015¹¹⁰.

Once again all important political parties in Pakistan have resorted to the same old tactic for publicity. For example, Tehrik-e-Insaf is adopting the same tactic adopted by MQM earlier. MQM had earlier given an impression that all communities were against Muhajirs to garner popular sympathy.

The Establishment enabled the Punjabi-Pakhtun Ittehad to fight the MQM ans simultaneously encouraged the Sindhis also to confront the Muhajirs in Sindh. By doing so, they poured oil on fire and made it easier for Altaf Hussain to come out with his bellicose speeches and expand his constituency among the muhajirs. All Urdu speaking population in Karachi thought that MQM was a 'saviour' for them and this led to the dawn of a new era in Karachi. One could see that the same Establishment has now started according maximum publicity for Tehrik-e-Insaf to contain the MQM. It has selected one more player on the political chess board and tried to make full utilization of 246 member of National Assembly in Karachi to defeat the MQM.....On 24 February, in Nabeel Gopal— who was earlier a PPP politician and had resigned from his party, joined MQM and won by 140,000 votes—announced that he had resigned from National Assembly seat and he was given wide media coverage. In fact, Nabeel Gopal became an icon of protest. 17 days after his resignation, on 11 March, Rangers raided THE Headquarters of MQM and recovered huge cache of arms and ammunition and arrested many hard-core criminals. As a result of this, MQM was in deep trouble. Whatever goodwill and credibility MQM had among the Pakistani people also vanished when Saulat Mirza, a MQM worker who was given death sentence, gave an interview from jail detailing the wrongdoings of the party, which completely shattered the image of MQM. Thereafter the party as well as its leadership came under heavy pressure. This was the time when the Establishment could prop up an alternate leader, who would be ready to dance to their tune and hold demonstrations. Actually, the Establishment was frantically in search of such a puppet. ***It was reminiscent of the politics played by Zia ul Haq to smash the bank vote of Jamiat-e-Islami and other parties by propping up MQM.***

With the resignation of Nabeel Gopal, by- election was announced and polling was fixed for 23 April. In this election, MQM nominated Kunwar Naved Jameel of Hyderabad, while PTI nominated Imran Ismael, and Jamaat Islami nominated Rashid Naseem. With the announcement of the election, ***Tehrik-e-Insaf continued with its publicity exercises emphasizing that in***

¹¹⁰ <http://www.jasarat.com/news.php?date=13-04-2015&news=03olcategory=columnns>.

Karachi there were only two contesting parties—MQM and PTI. While the ground reality is that apart from these two main parties, Jamiat-e-Islami is also an important player, whose workers are engaged in door-to-door campaigning..... Now, the **Establishment is playing its cards quite seriously and they need a candidate of their own choice. Whatever be the outcome of this election, the PTI is leveraging it to boost its political fortunes at the national level.**

When we glance look at Pakistan's past history we would find that **National Assembly elections were never held in an impartial and transparent manner** and if Establishment does not support Tehrik-e-Insaf (as it had done earlier with MQM) then the real contest would be between MQM and Jamaat-i-Islami. Political pundits are of opinion that even though Jamaat Islami does not win the election, there would be a very close contest among the three parties.

However, the manner in which Tehrik-e-Insaf has been propped up, one could expect a bolt from blue (unhonee). But this will not be a fair deal for the voters of Karachi. The Establishment should ensure free and transparent elections and give full freedom to voters to exercise their electoral rights.

Urgent need of Zarb-e-Azb operation in Karachi, Ummat, 12 April 2015¹¹¹

Last Friday, (10 April 2015) Jamiat-e-Islami (JI) brought out a rally in support of its candidate, Rashid Naseem, for the by-elections. When the rally reached al Azam square **there was an attack on this rally by MQM workers. As a result, eight JI workers were seriously injured and one worker has gone missing.** Before this, when PTI candidate, Imran Ismail, tried to reach his party's camp office at Karimabad the MQM hooligans tried to assault him and created an unpleasant situation. In this volatile situation, even Imran Khan had to retreat after making a symbolic presence.

On the one hand, the workers and leaders of MQM attend TV shows and affirm their innocence and non-interference in these attacks. They assure all out support to JI, but later change their colours like a chameleon.....Now JI and PTI feel that Karachi should be purged of all terrorist elements so that peace and security prevails in the city....Pakistan's Army Chief General Raheel Sharif has been, for quite some time, hearing about the popular demands for initiating Zarb-e-Azb in Karachi. Yesterday, at the meeting of Corps Commanders, he has finally given instructions to arrest all extremist

¹¹¹ <http://ummat.com.pk/2015/04/12/news.pho?p=idrl.gif>

elements so that common man feels secure. ***In all seriousness, the operations should start. There is a dire necessity for Zarb-e-Azb in Karachi.***

Ground-realities in Yemen, Ummat, 12 April 2015

The Joint Session of Parliament unanimously approved the resolution to remain impartial on the Yemen issue and offered its support to protection of the two holy shrines in Mecca and Medina, in Saudi Arabia. ***However, Pakistan should offer all its support to, and stand shoulder to shoulder with, Saudi Arabia in the Yemen war.***

At present, Saudi Arabia's Minister for Religious Affairs, Dr. Abdul Aziz Ahad is in Islamabad and he has said that Saudi Arabia welcomed the Resolution passed by the Pak parliament. The spokesman of Saudi Arabian Military, Brigadier Ahmed al Aseeri has, on the other hand, stated that they have not yet been informed about the resolution passed by Pakistani Parliament, but he would expect Pakistan to send its forces, which are of international standards, to strengthen Saudi war efforts in Yemen.

....Leave aside the fringe section of society, all Pakistani people are well aware that this war being fought against Houthi rebels in Yemen, whose action is quite deplorable. In such conditions, ***Pakistani military as well its people should be keen to crush the Houthi rebels.*** This is required to maintain security and stability of Saudi Arabian kingdom and security of the two holy shrines. Meanwhile, Imam of Masjid al Harama and renowned international Islamic scholar Shaikh Saud al Shareen has ***issued one Khutba, which states that these Houthi rebels are dreaming of capturing the two holy shrines of Mecca and Medina. Therefore, Saudi Arabia is justified in its action against the Yemeni rebels.*** Nevertheless, the Muslim governments of the world have decided to stay neutral in the Yemen conflict.

Let us not forget that the Saudi government has done a lot to develop these two mosques and no other government in the world could even imagine doing as much. God forbid, no Muslim can entertain any thought of causing any damage to these holy mosques. ***Hence, it is the need of the hour for Pakistan to do everything possible to resolve the Yemeni issue along with Turkey and Iran and bring all the parties to the conflict sit across the table for meaningful talks so that the ongoing war comes to an end. We should keep aside our mutual differences and remember the statement emanating from the chief of Jamaat-ud-Dawa, Hafiz Mohammed Saeed that the Houthi attack on Saudi Arabia can never be justified.***

Joint Resolution & Yemen, Rozana Duniya, 20 April, 2015.¹¹²

Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif stated that Pakistan would not abandon its allies and strategic friends when they were in trouble, and added that **any incident leading to violation of security and sanctity of the holy mosques at Mecca and Medina would be retaliated with full force and fury.** Our Resolution with regard to Yemen crisis is very clear. **Perhaps leaders of the Gulf countries did not fully understand our resolution. Without any iota of doubt, we are standing in support of the Gulf countries.** Sharif clearly said that dislodging of legally elected government in Yemen by the Houthis tribal forces has led to serious crisis in the whole region.

The Iranian authorities are also under pressure to play a mediator's role and bring the Houthi rebels to the table and initiate a dialogue to bring an end to the present crisis. The joint resolution by Pakistani Parliament has given rise to some strong apprehensions amongst leaders of Gulf countries, who have assumed that the resolution was aimed against them. Similar impressions were given by national and international media and TV shows. As a result of this confusion, it necessitated a policy statement from Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in his statement has explicitly made it clear that Pakistan would go to any extent to protect the two holy mosques. With regard to the crisis in Yemen, Pakistan has offered for all out support to the Gulf countries. Pakistan is not only fully aware of the developments in Yemen. It has urged the Iranian Foreign Minister Javed Zarif to mediate sincerely to bring Houthi rebel leaders to the table for negotiations.

Now it is hoped that all decks are clear and all our friendly countries must be satisfied with the Prime Minister's policy statement. As the situation in the Gulf region is still very volatile and we have to be very cautious at every step till the storm is over. **All confusion and misunderstanding about Pakistan's stance in the Yemen crisis arose from the fact that the joint resolution was not very explicit and categorical.** It was Saudi Arabian Minister's magnanimity to brush it aside as an internal issue of Pakistan. **Now Pakistan should find a way of acceding to Saudi Arabian appeal to join the 'united campaign' against the Houthi rebels.** At the same time, it should strive hard, along with other Gulf countries, to work out some mutually accepted formula to end the crisis as soon as possible.

¹¹² http://e.duniya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2015-04-15&id==1648315_4340036

We should assist Saudi Arabia, by Ghulamullah Keyani, *Daily Ausaf*,
Hypocrisy is a curse. A hypocrite is one who, at a critical juncture, would support both the sinner and the sinned, truth as well as falsehood. Wisdom lies in the fact that we should support 'the sinner' and also save 'the sinned' from being victimized— only then could we boast of being impartial or neutral. But if we remain merely silent spectator doing nothing and console ourselves that we are impartial is irreligious, it is cynical and condemnable. Would it not be betrayal of our Faith.

What is the difference between Mukti Bahini and the Houthis? Both the groups revolted against their rulers. The reasons of their revolt are different, but both are supported by outside elements. The Houthis are supported by Iran, while Mukti Bahini was supported by India, who took its revenge on Pakistan.....***In dismembering Pakistan, India trained Mukti Bahini forces, supplied them arms and ammunition and helped them murder Bengali intelligentsia—doctors, professors and student leaders. Later on, all blame was thrust upon Pakistan.*** Ironically, the same propaganda continues till today. We know that India performed an important role in the break-up of Pakistan.

Now what is the difference between Urdu and Bengali? We should accept this that we did not accept the peoples' mandate and behaved like dictators. We were drowned in the quagmire of power, pomp and greed and thus ignored the other side. Bharat helped Mukti Bahini. At that time our politics and diplomacy were dead-drunk. ***Even today Pakistan's supporters are being hanged and their houses set on fire. Every day, they are being subjected to torture.*** But we remain neutral. What kind of impartiality is this?

If we call Mukti Bahini forces rebels and terrorists, we could also call Houthis 'rebels' or 'terrorists. ***But we will not call them so, because our benefactors in Iran, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon would be annoyed. But in reality, the inside story is that they are against Saudi Arabia*** because they took initiatives to bring Nawaz Sharif out of jail and accorded highest protocol to him. So his enemies were very much upset. The fact remains that condition in Middle East is undergoing rapid changes. The rebels are dislodging elected governments not by democratic means but by the power of gun. As a result, the safety and security of Saudi Arabia is also in danger.

The resolution passed by Pakistan Parliament contains 12 clauses. Clause 8 suggests that it should remain neutral as far as the current crisis in Yemen is concerned. ***But there is no mention as to who would mediate between the 'rebel forces' and Saudi Arabia. God forbid, if Houthis capture the President House, Prime Minister's House, Parliament, Supreme Court by force and resort to mass killings, who would be the negotiator in such a chaotic***

situation and settle this dispute? We have to, at all costs, contain the fury of Houthis with a firm hand with the power of gun.

We all know that Saudi Arabia has always been an ally of Pakistan and has been helping us at every juncture. Now Saudi Arabia is asking us for immediate help and we are making the false drama of being 'impartial'...Even today, Saudi Arabia has helped us by funding flood relief programs, rehabilitating earthquake victims and providing us with diplomatic, political and economic help at the international level. **They have helped us with millions of dollars to build our infra-structure, while Iran has not paid even a penny in our times of trouble.**

Be that as it may, both Mukti Bahini and Houthi rebels are terrorists...So we should keep aside the joint resolution, wherein Saudi Arabia was targeted. **At such a delicate juncture, we should immediately dispatch our forces to Saudi Arabia and strengthen its hands. In this way, we would demonstrate our sincerity towards our ally.**

Heartiest welcome for President Xi Jinping, Daily Ummat, 24 April 2015.¹¹³

Today, Chinese President Xi Chinpeng is arriving at Islamabad. ...His visit was earlier fixed in September 2014, but it was cancelled due to demonstrations by Imran Khan and Tahir-ul-Qadri.....During this period of turmoil in Pakistan, several political leaders including Chinese President Xi Jinping made their tour to India. However, the Chinese leadership extended its moral support to Islamabad and assured us that all bilateral agreements would be finalized soon. Before coming to Islamabad, Xi became very emotional in his interview wherein he expressed that even if it was his first visit to Pakistan, he felt as if he was going to his brother's house. He has quoted one Urdu couplet which says: Dil ke aaine men rahti hai tasveer-e-yaar, Jab chaha gardan jhukai aur dekh li. (The beautiful face of my friend (beloved) is engraved in my heart. Whenever required, I could bend myself and behold her.)

Sino-Pak friendship is high as Himalayas and deep as the oceans. It has been a long journey of friendship and cooperation. No doubt at the time of our need, Pakistan has banked on its age-old friend— China. With Chinese cooperation, several developmental projects are in progress in Pakistan. **Chinese leaders as well as its people would always remain grateful to Pakistan for the pivotal role it played in getting China a permanent seat in the UN Security Council.** As a result, Hong Kong also became part of China.

¹¹³ <http://ummat.net/2015/04/20/news.php?p=odr1.gifs>

It also helped China in maintaining rapport with outside world. Furthermore, Pakistan was the first country which provided air corridor to China for its flights. Surprisingly, in his interview, Chinese President recalled all these while tracing the history of Sino-Pak relations.

Bharat's expansionist policy as well as its unreasoned hostility towards China is known to everyone. It considers Pakistan its enemy. **Therefore, Sino-Pakistan friendship and bilateral cooperation is all the more significant in view of India-Pakistan strained relations.....** During this visit, we hope that the dream of Pakistan's economic development would be fulfilled. Up till now Uncle Sam was boasting to be the biggest donor to Pakistan. One US newspaper *Wall Street Journal* has mentioned that China would assist Pakistan to the tune of \$46 billion, which is much less than what has so far been given by the United States. However, China is expected to overtake the US. One more reason for deep-rooted Sino-Pak relations was that Pakistan has been number two in China's foreign investments destination among developing countries. Thus it is right for Pakistan govt as well as people of Pakistan to welcome their age-old friend with heart and soul.

Visit of Chinese President to Pakistan, *Daily Dunya*, 20 April 2015¹¹⁴

Our most reliable and trust-worthy friend, the Chinese President is coming to Pakistan on a two-day visit. During the visit about 47 Agreements amounting to billions of dollars would be finalized....Pak-China friendship is higher than the Himalayas and deeper than the oceans. This relationship started with effect from year 1960. At that time, Western countries had put Pakistan in a very insecure position, although Pakistan was a Member of both CENTO and SEATO. **In 1962, during India-China war, Uncle Sam came to the rescue of the Indian government with huge military tanks and hardware without caring about Pakistan's security concerns. Later on, Pakistan's doubts about the US intent became clear when in both 1965 & 1971 wars India used the same military tanks against us.**

On the other hand, Pakistan whole-heartedly supported China in improving its relationship with the US and on the diplomatic front it also helped China to secure its seat in the UN Security Council. In 1989, during the then Chinese Premier's visit to Pakistan, China promised to help Pakistan produce electricity through nuclear energy. Pakistan had to face sanctions imposed by Western countries. **During these difficult times, China came to our rescue and helped us in every respect. Since 1993, China has been working on nuke plants in Chashma to produce nuclear power for Pakistan.** During the cold war

¹¹⁴ http://e.dunya.com.pkp/detail.php?date=2015-04-20&edition=LHR&id1656279_89068209

years, Pakistan was targeted by India and its allies. After 9/11, by helping America in its war in Afghanistan, Pakistan is confronted with the menace of terrorism. Needless to say, **the US has never been sincere in its approach towards Pakistan. It has only left us in the lurch.** During her visit to Pakistan, Mrs. Hillary Clinton appreciated our sacrifices to contain terrorism and promised to help us tackle the energy crisis. But 7-8 years have gone by, and nothing has been done so far in this regard.

Let us not forget that in the US war against Taliban in Afghanistan, we sacrificed about 60,000 innocent civilians and more than 6000 soldiers. We also suffered huge economic losses amounting to \$1 billion. In return, what we got is beyond description. **In contrast to this, China has always been concerned about our economic growth because it is our real friend.**

Our friend China has started several mega projects in Pakistan. The role of a true friend is to provide us the technological know-how and give us financial help for our economic betterment. On our side, we have to work out our road-map for economic progress. China could only guide us, but it is we who have to work. China became independent in the year 1949 [two years after we got independence]. Today China is an economic giant. We have to examine our policies and follow in its foot-steps. Our sincere friend has often complained about Uyghur terrorists (Islamic mujahideen operating in Xinjiang province) hiding in our territory. We could at least win our friend's confidence in this regard.

New era ushers in Sino-Pak relations, Daily Dunya, 22 April 2015¹¹⁵

Several bilateral agreements have been signed between Pakistan and China, which prove that by passage of time, relations between the two countries have become more stable and cordial. **Obviously, implementation of these Agreements would not only result in increase in Pakistan's economic conditions but also fulfill China's dream of progress in the whole region.**

Pakistan is confronted with severe power shortage. Even in winter season, there has been intermittent load-shedding for hours. It is, however, assumed that with the completion of these Agreements with China, it would not only bring an end to power shortage but would bolster industrial and agricultural growth. As a result, it would have positive impact upon country's economy and thus poverty-line in country would be substantially reduced. **Once power crisis will be over and Gwadar port will function in full swing, Pakistan will be able to achieve tremendous economic growth. With Chinese**

¹¹⁵ http://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2015-04022&eiion=LHR&id=1600241_41391780

assistance, Pakistan has plans to make Gwadar port a pivot for commercial activity with the Middle East. ...Further Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline project is considered to be the most indispensable for the economic recovery of the country. With the completion of this project, Pakistan would be getting domestic gas throughout country and thus energy crisis would be over.

It is gratifying to note that the visit of Chinese President to Pakistan went without any untoward incident...So it seems that the security arrangements made by Pakistan security agencies during Chinese President's visit were quite successful. We could say that the efforts and sacrifices made by Pakistan military against terrorists are now bearing fruits...While concluding one could say that political stability and harmony are very important ingredients for finalization of these Agreements. The ultimate responsibility for this lies with the present government and **there should be consensus among all political parties** to keep internal bickerings on back burner....**Secondly civil-military relations should not deteriorate. No doubt, the civilian government extended its full support to carry out Zarb-e-Azb, but the credit for wiping out extremist elements from country goes to military only.** So it would be in national interest that civil and military operate in the same wave-length. This would facilitate the implementation of Agreements which China has signed especially the establishment of economic corridor.

Dialogue with Bharat, Nawaz's frustrations, Nawai Waqt, 26 April 2015¹¹⁶

Nawaz Sharif recently told media that our desire for good neighbourly relations with India has not been reciprocated. India unilaterally called off the bilateral dialogue process...There is no sign of India desiring resumption of dialogue with us. In an interview to *Saudi Gazette*, Nawaz Sharif was in a desperate mood to disclose that Pakistan was always anxious to have good relations with its neighbours, especially with India. **He mentioned that he was very eager to sort out all disputes including Kashmir and other issues, but India was not forthcoming and created unnecessary bottlenecks to derail bilateral talks.**

Describing Bharat's callous attitude towards resolving of bilateral issues, he said that Bharat was neither eager to respond to our invitation for talks nor was it prepared to maintain peace on the border. This could be seen from day-today violations along the LoC and the working boundary.....During the last two meetings between Gilani and Dr. Manmohan Singh at Sharm-el-Sheikh and Bhutan, the two leaders decided to further boost bilateral relationship. **Former Prime Minister Singh was even scheduled to visit**

¹¹⁶ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pkt/E-Paper/Lahore/2015-04-26/page/14/detail-4>

Pakistan. But his promise to visit Pakistan remained unfulfilled. There was no change in India's position on disputed issues and the talks could not proceed. **For almost last seven decades, one could sense that India only wanted to act as a bully in the talks. It holds us at the same level as Bhutan and Nepal.** India does not want to accept anything that is contrary to its wishes. On Kashmir, India is not prepared to listen to any of our suggestions. **Thus one could conclude that India was not in favour of having any dialogue and in other words it was ever-ready to show its barbarity along the LoC.**

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif went out of his way and bypassed all diplomatic norms to visit India to felicitate Narendra Modi at his swearing in ceremony, wherein it was agreed to have composite dialogue. But, as usual, the dialogue process was postponed and thereafter cancelled.

Again beginning of March, India's Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar visited Pakistan to meet his counterpart Aizaz Ahmed Chowdhary wherein they decided to take steps to end border tensions and resolve bilateral differences. A joint communiqué was also issued to this effect. But this hope did not materialise. As a result, Nawaz Sharif is very upset at the domineering stance of India.... **There are strong apprehensions that in order to discourage Chinese investments in Pakistan, India's barbaric activities may further intensify along the LoC and the borders.** This will sabotage all developmental projects carried out under Sino-Pak Agreements. If this be so, it would be very unfortunate for the whole region.

Keeping all these facts in mind **Nawaz Sharif has hinted that the chances of India coming to the table for dialogue are very remote. In this scenario, it is the responsibility of the international community to put diplomatic pressures on India to restart the dialogue.** This is very much required for peace to prevail in the South Asia region.

Elections in Jammu & Kashmir – A Fraud, Daily Ummat, 26 April 2015¹¹⁷

...The Election Commission of India held elections in Kashmir recently. ...Before announcement of elections, the leaders of **Hurriyat Conference and other opposition parties gave a call for total boycott of these elections.** Hurriyat leaders said that elections in Jammu and Kashmir were a fraud since Kashmir was a disputed issue and not an integral part of India. **Responding to this call, majority of Kashmiris boycotted the polls. Polling booths were like deserted places. Reports suggest that polling at several booths was almost 'nil'.**

¹¹⁷ <http://ummatpublication.com/2014/04/26/news.php?p=idr1.gif>

In Kashmir Indian National Congress and Bharatiya Janata Party were the two main rival political parties. Both parties tried their best to win over the Muslims by assuring them peace and security in the region with the understanding that Kashmir was an integral part of India. **However, majority of Kashmiris are Muslims and they do not want to remain with India. Govt. of India has stationed 800 thousand security personnel to maintain its control over Kashmir. How can this territory (J & K State) be taken as part and parcel of India?**

...Figures suggest that the percentage of polling in Shopian was 5%, in Pulwama, it was 12%, in Kulgam 16%, and Anantnag 32%. **These figures show that the appeals of the opposition leaders had a direct impact and the people rejected polls.** One can judge from this data as to how many Kashmiris are in favour of India. In fact, owls were hooting at the polling booths. **Indian government should make some introspection and recognize Kashmiris' right to self-determination as per UNSC resolutions so that Kashmiris could live in peace and security.**

Shimla Agreement irrelevant, Nawai Waqt, 26 April 2015¹¹⁸

On April 23, the representatives of India and Pakistan exchanged strong words at the International Conference Jakarta over the Kashmir issue. Sartaj Aziz, Chief of Pakistan delegation threw Indian Ambassador Anil Wadhwa to a tizzy, when he repeated the same old cock and bull story on Kashmir and emphasized that depriving Kashmiris of their right of plebiscite was a gross injustice meted out to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

To this, India's representative, Anil Wadhwa warned Sartaj Aziz and once again reminded him that Pakistan was trying to internationalise Kashmir, which was an integral part of India. **He mentioned that as per Shimla Agreement, it was binding on both the countries to settle all outstanding issues bilaterally.**

At the Conference, Sartaj Aziz, to India's chagrin, whole-heartedly backed the Azadi campaign started by the Kashmiris. He said that it was unfortunate that Kashmir issue was always sidelined at various international fora. But, the ground reality is that Kashmiris have been deprived of their 'rights'...He further added that international community should wake up from slumber as the Kashmiris have given supreme sacrifices which should not go waste. He added that for peace to usher in region and

¹¹⁸ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2015-04-26/page-14/detail-4>

world, Kashmir should be resolved. However, India has been resorting to delaying tactics over the issue.

Sartaj Aziz explained that had there been any progress in the bilateral talks to resolve the disputes, the Kashmiri people would have been at peace by now and the region would have witnessed peace and prosperity.***There is no doubt that Shimla Agreement of 1972 was signed under duress which was a splendid example of India's barbarity and Pakistan was made to sign this agreement as per India's terms and conditions. It is true that all bilateral disputes are to be settled between two parties with consensus. But let us not forget that the UNSC Resolutions preceded Shimla Agreement, which were accepted by both the countries.*** It was agreed that Kashmir problem would be resolved through a plebiscite. These resolutions are valid and relevant even now.

Instead of conceding Kashmiri people their right of 'self-determination, India enslaved them and put them in chains. India amended its constitution to turn Jammu and Kashmir into another province. This action aroused "Azadi movement" in minds of Kashmiri people. ***India's aggressive stance brought Kashmiris closer to Pakistan and they solicited our help. There is a sense of unity and solidarity over this issue in Pakistan and there can be no compromise on this sensitive issue. Against this backdrop, the issue can only be resolved through Shimla Agreement if the two countries decide to adopt the spirit of UNSC resolution and agree to hold a plebiscite in Kashmir.***

There could be no compromise on the issue of plebiscite. Therefore, both countries, through serious negotiations, should work out modalities for holding a plebiscite. But India is not at all ready for this and has been dodging this issue for a long time..... ***Kashmiris will have to be given their legal right to self-determination to decide their fate, which is enshrined in the UN charter. It is a sheer act of shamelessness on the part of India to deny this right to them. The spirit of Shimla Agreement— to resolve all bilateral issues through bilateral discussions— does not do justice to this fundamental right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people.*** Shimla Agreement has enabled India to perpetrate a reign of terror on the Kashmiris and we have been reduced to silent spectators.

...Now with Modi's assumption of power there are strong apprehensions that his government would usurp Kashmir. Pakistan has been repeatedly given to understand that Kashmir is an integral part of India. ***Rebuffing this claim, Kashmiris have been flying Pakistani flags demonstrating their zeal to unify with Pakistan.*** Indian security forces have arrested Syed Ali Shah Gillani and Shabir Shah. When such excesses are being committed upon innocent

Kashmiris, how can we remain silent. We must try to expose India's excesses and highlight the Kashmir issue like we did in Jakarta.... ***Our fight should continue until we liberate Kashmir from India. We should intensify the Azadi campaign in Kashmir and sustain it until we free our jugular vein from the clutches of our enemy and fulfill the long-cherished dream of the Kashmiris. Amen.***

STATISTICS

BOMBINGS, SHOOTINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES

(Select incidents culled out from the Pakistan media)

Place	Date	Description	Killed	Injured
Balochistan				
Quetta ¹¹⁹	3/4/2015	Four bullet-riddled bodies found.	4	0
Zhob ¹²⁰	16/4/2015	Three, including two women, killed in firing near Pak-Afghan border.	3	0
Quetta ¹²¹	27/4/2015	Three Hazaras killed in firing incident in Quetta.	3	0
FATA				
South Waziristan ¹²²	22/4/2015	Seven security personnel injured in South Waziristan clash.	0	7
Punjab				
Lahore ¹²³	17/4/2015	Student, two security guards injured in Lahore school firing incident.	0	3
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa				
Peshawar ¹²⁴	24/4/2015	Seven injured as blast targets Police vehicle in Peshawar.	0	7
D. I. Khan ¹²⁵	28/4/2015	Three security personnel injured in IED attack: ISPR.	1	3

¹¹⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1173384/four-bullet-riddled-bodies-found>

¹²⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1176284/three-including-two-women-killed-in-firing-near-pak-afghan-border>

¹²¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/876686/firing-incident-in-quetta-leaves-two-dead-one-injured/>

¹²² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1177519/seven-security-personnel-injured-in-south-waziristan-clash>

¹²³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/871374/student-two-security-guards-injured-in-lahore-school-firing-incident/>

¹²⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/875092/blast-targets-police-vehicle-in-peshawar/>

¹²⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/877147/three-security-personnel-injured-in-ied-attack-ispr/>

Sindh				
Karachi ¹²⁶	8/4/2015	Five suspected terrorists killed in Karachi 'encounter'.	5	0
Karachi ¹²⁷	16/4/2015	Preedy SHO gunned down in Karachi.	1	0

DRONE STRIKES

Place	Date	Description	Casualties
South Waziristan ¹²⁸	12/4/2015	Drone strike kills 4 suspected militants in South Waziristan.	4

¹²⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1174672/five-suspected-terrorists-killed-in-karachi-encounter>

¹²⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1176288/preedy-sho-gunned-down-in-karachi>

¹²⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1175472/drone-strike-kills-4-suspected-militants-in-south-waziristan>