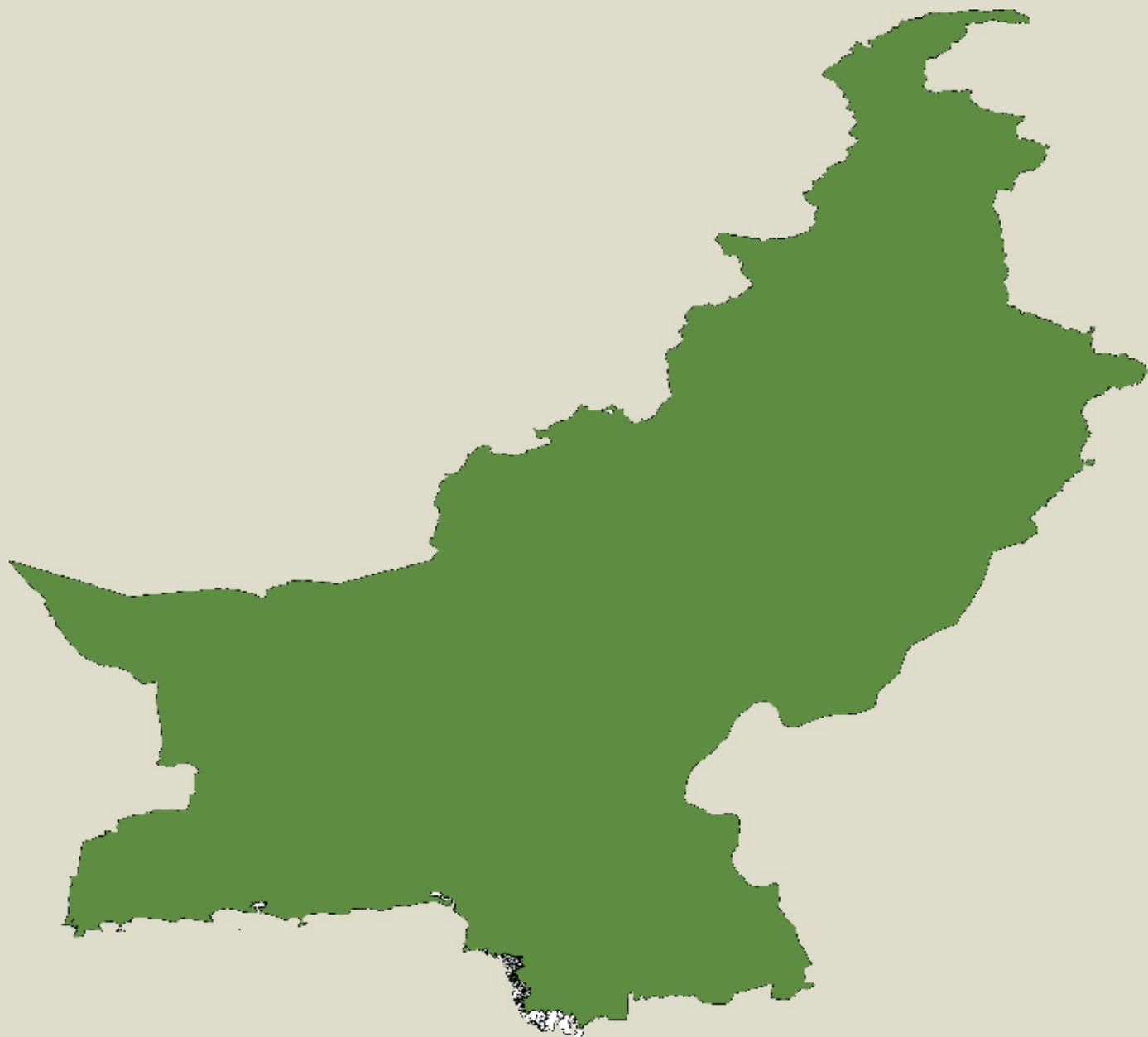


August 2015

PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST

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



*Prepared by
Ashish Shukla &
Manzoor Ahmed Bhat
(Research Assistants, Pakistan Project, IDSA)*

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INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE
STUDIES & ANALYSES
रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST, JULY 2015

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ABBREVIATIONS

ANP: Awami National Party
APC: All Parties Conference
ATC: Anti-Terrorism Court
CPEC: China- Pakistan Economic Corridor
CTD: Counter Terrorism Department
ECP: Election Commission of Pakistan
FIA: Federal Investigating Agency
IHC: Islamabad High Court
ISI: Inter-Services Intelligence
ISPR: Inter Services Public Relations
JI: Jamaat-i-Islami
JuD: Jamat-ul- Dawa
JUI-F Jamiat-Ulema-e-Islam (Fazal)
KP: Khyber Pakhthunkhwa
LHC: Lahore High Court
MQM: Muttahida Qaumi Movement
NAB: National Accountability Bureau
NADRA- National Database and Registration Authority
NAP: National Action Plan
PAT: Pakistan Awami Tehreek
PML-N: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz
PPP: Pakistan People's Party
PTI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
TTP: Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

NATIONAL POLITICS

Imran to lead campaign if MPs unseated, *The Express Tribune*, August 5¹

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan has vowed to steer the party's re-election campaign himself if PTI lawmakers are ousted for their absence from the lower house of parliament during last year's demonstration in the federal capital. "I will advise my party members not to return to the assemblies," the PTI supremo said while addressing the media after meeting with party's chief election commissioner in Islamabad on Tuesday (August 4).

Striking a defiant note, he said, "I want to make it clear, accept our resignations and I will lead the party's election campaign myself." In a bid to reach an out-of-parliament solution on the resolutions against PTI, Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq deferred voting on the matter for two days. Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) and Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) moved the resolutions in the National Assembly to unseat PTI lawmakers, arguing that they had lost legitimacy in the house due to their extended absence during the party's protest in the heart of Islamabad.

ECP to be given full financial autonomy, *The Express Tribune*, August 5²

Accepting a long-standing demand of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), the parliamentary panel on electoral reforms has given the top electoral body full financial autonomy. The decision was taken in a sub-panel meeting of bipartisan parliamentary committee on electoral reforms, held on Tuesday. [...] "We have decided to give ECP full financial autonomy" Zahid Hamid who heads the sub-panel told reporters after the meeting at the parliament house.

SC decision establishes parliament's supremacy: PM, *The Nation*, August 6³

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Wednesday's (August 5) National Assembly proceeding applauded the Supreme Court's decision to dismiss petitions challenging the 18th and 21st amendments, saying the decision would have far-reaching impacts. **"The parliamentary parties had certain reservations over establishment of military courts but such steps would definitely prove fruitful in war against terrorism," said the prime minister**, considering the Supreme Court's verdict has established the supremacy of parliament. He

¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/932404/re-election-imran-vows-to-lead-campaign-if-mps-unseated/>

² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/932400/monetary-independence-ecp-to-be-given-full-financial-autonomy/>

³ <http://nation.com.pk/national/06-Aug-2015/sc-decision-establishes-parliament-s-supremacy-pm>

said that apex court has validated these constitutional amendments. "Political parties have jointly decided operation Zarb-e-Azab, National Action Plan, constitutional amendments and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)," he added.

No place for traitors in Pakistan: Siraj, *The Dawn*, August 10⁴

Jamaat-i-Islami emir Sirajul Haq has said that Pakistan is not merely a piece of land but an ideology and there is no place for traitors in the country. Addressing a 'Pakistan Zindabad Rally' via telephone on Sunday, he said treason against Pakistan would actually be treason against the blood of martyrs, Mohajirs, Hijrat and the Quaid-i-Azam. The rally was taken out from Gulshan-i-Iqbal near Urdu University Campus to the M.A. Jinnah Road. **Mr Haq said that people who sought help from Nato, United Nations and India, would not find a place to live in Pakistan and asked why the prime minister had not taken notice of it.** "We will protect Pakistan till the last drop of our blood. We are not against any community, but we are against corrupt oligarchy and oppressors. **We are determined to turn Pakistan into an Islamic polity because solution of the country's problems lies in the Islamic system of governance," he said.** [...] "We will eliminate usury" after coming to power, he declared. Mohammad **Hussain Mehnati, another JI leader, said Pakistan came into being in the name of Islam and the Quaid-i-Azam had announced that the country's constitution would be based on the Quran and Sunnah.** He said the JI had pledged to free the nation from what he called the US slavery.

PPP is not finished, it never was, *The News*, August 11⁵

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Patron-in-Chief Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Tuesday said that his party was neither finished before nor will it vanish now. Speaking at a ceremony to mark the international day for minorities here at Bilawal House, he said he has taken over the flag of the party, whose ideology he added would never change no matter how difficult the circumstances get. The PPP chairman said that her mother, former prime minister Benazir Bhutto was provoked by those who spread terrorism in the name of religion. "Our leaders were not only murdered, but their children were abducted also," said Bilawal. "When Zulfiqar Bhutto died, people said the PPP was over... same was said when my mother died," he added.

NA adopts Quaid's vision about minorities, *The Dawn*, August 12⁶

The National Assembly adopted a resolution on Tuesday (August 11) demanding that what is regarded by many as a secular vision of the Quaid-i-

⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1199524/no-place-for-traitors-in-pakistan-siraj>

⁵ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-193922-PPP-is-not-finished,-it-never-was:-Bilawal>

⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1199939/na-adopts-quaid-vision-about-minorities>

Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah about the status of religious minorities in Pakistan be adopted as the country's roadmap for the future. Some supporters of the resolution, moved by Ports and Shipping Minister Kamran Michael to mark Minorities' Day, wanted the Quaid's famous speech to Pakistan's first Constituent Assembly on Aug 11, 1947, containing that vision, be made part of school and college curriculum to make the country's youth aware of what its founder had visualised the new state to be like. "The text of the historic Aug 11 speech is a beacon of light for us ... and be regarded as a roadmap for the future," said an opposition amendment to the Urdu text of the official resolution that recalled what it called the Quaid-i-Azam's promise of "rights of equality" for all minorities living in Pakistan. There was no opposition to the resolution in the depleted house, though hardline religious scholars, like those in the government-allied Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (JUI-F) and the opposition Jamaat-i-Islam, have in the past disputed a secular interpretation of the Quaid's vision, which they say was actually of an Islamic state.

'JuD is a banned organisation', *Daily Times*, August 13⁷

Senate was informed on Wednesday (August 12) that Jamaatud Dawa (JuD) is a banned organisation and has been placed in the list of suspects after a court allowed it to undertake charity work. Responding to a motion moved by Senator Farhatullah Babar of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) regarding restrictions on banned militant outfits to resurrect under a different name or as charity organisation, State Minister for Interior Baligur Rehman said that the activities of all proscribed organisations are being closely monitored. [...] "JuD is undertaking charity work as Lahore High Court (LHC) has allowed to carry out philanthropic activities, and this is the reason it (JuD) operates in different parts of the country as charity organisations," he added.

CPEC western route, *Daily Times*, August 13⁸

Serious questions were raised on Wednesday (August 12) in the Special Senate Committee on the completion of western route of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on priority basis. Voicing apprehension, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Senator Farhatullah Babar said that the government was not coming out clean on implementing the May 28 decision of the All Party Conference (APC) and raised several questions in this regard. ***The PPP senator said that the projects claimed in the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2015-16 as part of the western route were actually the ongoing road and highways projects that have been lingering on for years.*** He

⁷ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/13-Aug-2015/jud-is-a-banned-organisation>

⁸ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/13-Aug-2015/cpec-western-route-ppp-senator-concerned-decisions-not-being-implemented>

said even if these missing links were completed it will not be the same as the envisaged Gwadar-Kashghar corridor that can be used by heavy 24-wheelers.

No compromise on defence: president, *The Express Tribune*, August 14⁹

President Mamnoon Hussain said on Friday despite facing a number of challenges the nation stands alongside the Pakistan Army against the menace of terrorism. "Today, hoisting of the national flag has recalled the sacrifices of our forefathers," Mamnoon said during his address at the event of the Independence Day celebrations at Convention Centre in Islamabad.

TARGETTING OF MQM AND ALTAF HUSSAIN

Balochistan CM criticises Altaf's speech, *The Dawn*, August 4¹⁰

Balochistan Chief Minister Dr Abdul Malik Baloch has criticised MQM chief Altaf Hussain for using 'negative remarks' against state institutions in his recent speech. In a statement issued here on Monday, the chief minister said the repeated criticism of state institutions by Mr Hussain would benefit elements involved in criminal activities and terrorism. **He termed the MQM chief's remarks a threat to the integrity of the country.** [...] Rejecting Mr Hussain's apprehensions about the targeted operation in Karachi, he said that restoration of peace in Karachi was necessary for turning around the national economy.

MQM asked to hand over target killers, *The Express Tribune*, August 5¹¹

The paramilitary Rangers on Tuesday (August 4) asked the MQM to hand over custody of its 187 workers, who are nominated in cases of the targeted killings of police officials who participated in the Karachi operation in 1990s. According to a letter, a copy of which is available with *The Express Tribune*, the Rangers said all the police officials and personnel who had participated in the 90's operation against MQM have been killed one by one. The letter said 187 men, allegedly belonging to the militant wing of the MQM-A (the main MQM group), had been nominated in the FIRs of these murders. [...] The letter was also sent to the Sindh Chief Minister's secretariat, Secretary Home Department, Sindh Inspector General Police and AIG Karachi.

Altaf booked under Enemy Agent Ordinance 1943, *The Nation*, August 6¹²

A case was registered against MQM chief Altaf Hussain and others under Enemy Agent Ordinance 1943 on Thursday (August 6). For the first time in the history of the country, Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Prosecutor

⁹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/937946/president-pm-felicitate-nation-on-independence-day/>

¹⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1198292>

¹¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/932441/rangers-asks-mqm-to-hand-over-target-killers/>

¹² <http://nation.com.pk/national/06-Aug-2015/case-against-mqm-chief-altaf-hussain-under-enemy-agent-ordinance-1943>

Chaudhry Azhar, registered a case against MQM chief Altaf Hussain under Enemy Agent Ordinance 1943. The complainant said in his application that the MQM chief proved his enmity against the country during his recent speech, calling for Indian help.

Altaf says he is not against security forces, *The Dawn*, August 7¹³

The MQM chief Altaf Hussain said on Wednesday (August 5) he and his party were not against armed forces and law-enforcement agencies and called their personnel "our sons and brothers". But he reiterated that army, Rangers or police of any country should "avoid committing excesses against their citizens". [...] It was the only grievance of his party and he had been raising his voice only for that 'injustice', he added. The Muttahida leader "appealed" to Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif to play his role for providing justice to families of MQM's slain workers and recovery of those missing for several months.

MQM takes back strike call after Rangers' assurance of probe, *The Dawn*, August 10¹⁴

The MQM on Monday withdrew its call for a shutter down strike to be observed across Sindh on Monday over what the party referred to as the 'extra-judicial killing' of a young party worker, Muhammad Hashim. The strike call was withdrawn after assurances by the Sindh Rangers to probe the murder of the activist, according to statement on the party's website.

Nisar extends talks offer to MQM, *The Express Tribune*, August 11¹⁵

Interior minister Chaudhry Nisar has reiterated that neither Rangers nor Pakistan Army nor the ongoing security operation in Karachi was against the MQM adding that the government was ready to sit down with the political party to discuss persisting issues and resolve them. Addressing the National Assembly on Monday (August 10), Nisar said the problem lies not with the paramilitary force but with speeches of MQM chief Altaf Hussain, Express News reported. "MQM has no control over what their leader says in his speeches from London," the interior minister lamented. He furthered that the government has credible evidence gathered from Nine Zero during the Rangers' raid there and which suspects they went there for. "We are ready to make that evidence public," Nisar said and added that there has to be some accountability of the arms recovered from MQM headquarters.

¹³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1198882/altaf-says-he-is-not-against-security-forces>

¹⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1199545/mqm-takes-back-strike-call-after-rangers-assurance-of-probe>

¹⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/935584/operation-not-against-a-particular-party-nisar-extends-talks-offer-to-mqm/>

Worker's death turns MQM into an angry opposition, *The Express Tribune*, August 11¹⁶

After it withdrew its strike call for Monday, the MQM decided to use the Sindh Assembly as a platform to condemn the extra-judicial killing of its worker. The party donned the role of an angry opposition, unlike its friendly demeanour witnessed on the opposition benches in the last few years. The MQM lawmakers entered the House wearing black armbands as a sign of protest against the killing of their worker, Muhammad Hashim, who had gone missing in May and was found dead on Sunday. [...] Following the Sindh Assembly session on Monday, the MQM demanded the FIR of Muhammad Hashim's murder to be lodged against the chief minister.

MQM MPs submit resignations on Altaf Hussain's directive, *The News*, August 12¹⁷

On the directive of the MQM chief Altaf Hussain, the party's members of National Assembly, provincial assembly and Senate have submitted their resignations to MQM's parliamentary leader, sources told Geo News on Wednesday (August 12). MQM is of the view that their voice is not being heard on any government forum, therefore, the party is left with no other option but to quit membership from National Assembly, provincial assembly and Senate, sources said. [...] The decision to resign from the national and provincial forums was taken at a meeting of MQM Rabitta Committee which was presided over by the party chief Altaf Hussain.

Resignations draw diverse political reaction, *Daily Times*, August 13¹⁸

The "unexpected" and "emotional" resignation of Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM) lawmakers from parliament as well as the Sindh Assembly invited diverse reaction from political parties, with some terming it "unnecessary" and trying to bring the disgruntled legislators back to the Houses, while others "foreseeing trouble" in the port city and calling the move "politics of blackmailing". Leader of the opposition in National Assembly (NA) Khurshid Shah and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Fazlur Rehman on Wednesday accelerated their efforts to avoid the acceptance of resignation of MQM and bringing the party back to the House. [...] On the other hand, Awami Muslim League (AML) head Sheikh Rashid Ahmed feared that security situation was going to deteriorate in Karachi

¹⁶ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/935741/extra-judicial-killings-workers-death-turns-mqm-into-an-angry-opposition/>

¹⁷ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-193955-MQM-MPs-submit-resignations-on-Altaf-Hussains-directive:-sources>

¹⁸ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/13-Aug-2015/resignations-draw-diverse-political-reaction>

following the resignations of MQM parliamentarians. Reacting to the latest political development, Rashid said that the MQM would be at the losing end following this sudden decision.

Siraj ready to mediate between MQM, govt, *The Dawn*, August 14¹⁹

Jamaat-i-Islami chief Sirajul Haq has asked the leadership of MQM to withdraw resignations of its lawmakers from assemblies. Talking to journalists during his visit to Bajaur Agency on Thursday (August 13), he said that he was ready to mediate between the government and MQM to resolve the issue. [...] "I believed that the recent submission of resignations of MQM lawmakers is not the right way to protest and it would further suffer MQM as the decision is based only on emotions," Mr Siraj said.

Rangers raid MQM Landhi offices, *The Express Tribune*, August 14²⁰

Rangers carried out a raid at four unit offices of the MQM in Karachi's Landhi area in the wee hours of Thursday (August 13), with the party claiming over a dozen workers had been arrested. "Rangers raided the party's Landhi offices in the wee hours of the Independence Day and arrested over 12 workers," MQM leader Dr Farooq Sattar said, while addressing party workers during a two-day Independence Day celebration at Jinnah Ground. Regretting that the victimisation of MQM has not ended Sattar said, "Party workers are not even allowed to celebrate Independence Day."

Plea for unseating MQM lawmakers in SC, *The Express Tribune*, August 18²¹

Former senator and Pakistan Muslim League –Nawaz (PML-N) leader Zafar Ali Shah has filed a petition in the Supreme Court to unseat the Muttahida Qaumi Movement's (MQM) lawmakers who handed in their resignations last week. Shah urged the top court to order removal of the MQM representatives from parliament and the Sindh Assembly, as well as to stop their salaries and perks in accordance with the rules laid down in the Constitution. The move comes at a time when the government sent JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman to convince the MQM to take back the en masse resignations.

UK court summons Altaf, *Daily Times*, August 27²²

The proceedings of a highly anticipated money laundering case kicked off in London, with a magistrate issuing summons for MQM chief Altaf Hussain

¹⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1200407/siraj-ready-to-mediate-between-mqm-govt>

²⁰ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/937983/rangers-raid-mqm-landhi-offices-arrest-at-least-12-workers-farooq-sattar/>

²¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/939978/resignations-imbroglio-plea-for-unseating-mqm-lawmakers-filed-in-sc/>

²² <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/27-Aug-2015/uk-court-summons-altaf-as-money-laundering-trial-begins>

along with other suspects. Altaf Hussain was arrested in April on suspicion of money laundering by Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), as thousands of people in his home city of Karachi staged a sit-in, calling for his release. He was later freed on bail, which was extended afterwards. The magistrate had also legally bound Sarfaraz Merchant, Iftikhar Qureshi, and Tariq Mir to appear in court.

PROVINCIAL POLITICS

Imran suspends Wajih's party membership, *The Nation*, August 6²³

PTI Chairman Imran Khan has suspended the basic party membership of senior party leader Justice (r) Wajihuddin Ahmed as there looks no end to internal rifts in Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. Imran, the other day, had issued a circular to the party members with a clear warning that if any individual commented on internal party affairs on any public forum, his/her basic party membership would be immediately suspended. "If any member goes public and challenges party decisions, it is a serious breach of discipline and unacceptable," Khan said, adding, that he was concerned about internal party matters and decisions which were being commented upon by PTI members at public fora. Justice (r) Wajihuddin Ahmed, the head of PTI's Internal Election Tribunal, became first victim of the circular of Chairman Imran Khan though latter had been showing patience for the former in past despite election tribunal's decisions against some senior leaders of the party.

No scope for men of principles in PTI, says Pervaiz, *The Nation*, August 6²⁴

Minister for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage (IBNH) Senator Pervaiz Rashid said on Wednesday that due to autocratic attitude of Imran Khan, his party (PTI) was losing its wickets. In a statement, he said that aeroplane and money has won and people having character and principles have lost as in PTI there is no scope for people with character and principles. He also said that Imran Khan should realise that political party workers are not personal employees.

Qaim discontent with NAB, Rangers performance in Sindh, *The Dawn*, August 7²⁵

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah in a press conference on Thursday communicated his dissatisfaction over the conduct of Rangers, and also showed discontent on the interference of external institutions in the anti-corruption workings of the province. All provinces have their own anti-

²³ <http://nation.com.pk/national/06-Aug-2015/imran-suspends-wajih-s-party-membership>

²⁴ <http://nation.com.pk/national/06-Aug-2015/no-scope-for-men-of-principles-in-pti-says-pervaiz>

²⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1198781/qaim-discontent-with-nab-rangers-performance-in-sindh>

corruption mechanisms, Shah stressed. "We don't need other institutions for this [anti-corruption] work." **He stated that National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has been around for a long time. "What has happened to suddenly activate them?" he questioned.** Shah was of the view that the legal jurisdiction of Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) is related to federal offences and ideally they shouldn't be interfering in provincial matters. Additionally, he expressed his unhappiness over the Rangers' July raid at Civic Centre. He said people have rights over land, and there were many sensitive files present. "The rangers just blindly put all the files in a truck and took them," Shah protested.

Citizens with dual nationality to contest LG polls, *The Dawn*, August 13²⁶

The Sindh Assembly on Wednesday (August 12) passed 'The Sindh Local Government (Third Amendment) Bill 2015', allowing a citizen having dual nationality to contest the polls besides increasing the number of women seats from one to two an addition of one member from the youth in union committee and union council. With the amendment, the total strength of the union committee/ council has increased from nine to 11.

ANP terms Aug 12 black day for Pakhtuns, *The Dawn*, August 13²⁷

Senior leaders as well as young activists of Awami National Party marked the Babarra massacre and observed Aug 12 as black day. ANP general secretary Mian Iftikhar Hussain attended a gathering in his hometown Nowshera and recalled how unarmed Pakhtuns were fired at by the then provincial government on Aug 12, 1948. The Khudai Khidmatgar, the followers of Bacha Khan, including women and children, were protesting against the arrest of their leaders and party workers when government forces opened firing on them, killing around 600 activists and injuring 1,000, said Mr Hussain. He said that the injured were denied any medical treatment at government-run hospitals and were left to die.

JUI-F breaks away from Kohat alliance, *The Dawn*, August 14²⁸

The local chapter of JUI-F parted ways with Azeem Bagh group, comprising PPP, ANP, JUI-S and PML-N, after it was directed by the central leadership to accept nothing less than the slots of district and tehsil nazims while forming alliance with any party. Sources said that the dispute erupted between JUI-F and Azeem Bagh group when the winning candidates after Kharmato and Lachi re-polling joined PML-N on the pursuance of the latter. It was clear violation of the agreement which says that the winners from those areas will

²⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1200131/sindh-allows-citizens-with-dual-nationality-to-contest-lg-polls>

²⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1200220/anp-terms-aug-12-black-day-for-pakhtuns>

²⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1200399/jui-f-breaks-away-from-kohat-alliance>

be asked to join JUI-F. However, the Azeem Bagh group, led by PTI's adviser to chief minister, Amjid Afridi, wanted to give the seat of district nazim as a gift to Mian Nawaz Sharif.

Political parties pay tribute to Bizenjo, *The Dawn*, August 14²⁹

Several renowned political leaders, writers, poets and authors on Tuesday paid rich tribute to veteran Baloch nationalist leader, Mir Ghaus Bakhsh Bizenjo. Ruling Baloch nationalist political party – National Party (NP) – had organised a public meeting in connection with the 26th death anniversary of Bizenjo. Political leaders from various political parties expressed concern over issues relating to Balochistan and stressed upon the need for a negotiated settlement to overcome them.

Govt using KP Ehtesab to discredit opponents: Hoti, *The Dawn*, August 17³⁰

Former chief minister and provincial president of ANP Ameer Haider Khan Hoti has expressed serious reservations about the functioning of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ehtesab Commission (KPEC), established by the PTI-led government, alleging that the accountability body is being used 'to dishonour' political opponents. "But we didn't expect anything good either. We would continue our legal and political struggle despite baseless allegations," said Mr Hoti who along with his party office-bearers held a press conference at Peshawar Press Club on Sunday (August 16) to counter what he called an ongoing media campaign to malign his party through 'planted' stories regarding possible arrests of the ANP leaders by the commission on the charges of corruption.

Civilian courts to be established in all Fata agencies, *The Dawn*, August 20³¹

The federal government on Wednesday (August 19) announced the establishment of civilian courts in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Fata). Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Governor Sardar Mahtab Ahmad Khan announced the decision to establish the courts at the inauguration ceremony of Fata Tribunal Courtroom at the Federal Judicial Complex in Peshawar. "We will establish civilian courts in all agencies of Fata and also post an additional political agent in every agency whose sole responsibility will be to facilitate the court in his assigned agency," said the governor of KP.

²⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1199840/political-parties-pay-tribute-to-late-baloch-leader-ghous-bakhsh-bizenjo>

³⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1200990/govt-using-ehtesab-commission-to-discredit-opponents-hoti>

³¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1201456/civilian-courts-to-be-established-in-all-fata-agencies-governor-kp>

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Altaf Hussain's speech, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, August 4³²

The speeches being delivered by MQM chief Altaf Hussain are becoming increasingly provocative and irrational. In his latest address, made from London to MQM supporters in Dallas, he had suggested that Nato and UN forces be called in to investigate, what he termed a campaign against the MQM in Karachi, and where responsibility for it lies. Coming from the chief of an important political party, such irresponsible statements do nothing for the MQM's cause. Given the wording of the MQM leader's speech, it is difficult to believe the rather feeble denial issued by the party that its head had not called for foreign intervention. The Pakistan government expressed its outrage, with Chaudry Nisar Ali Khan, the interior minister, saying it was considering moving a legal reference against Mr Hussain, who has lived in the UK since the 1990s.

Supreme Court judgement, Editorial, *The Dawn*, August 6³³

BOWING to the supremacy of parliament and express language of the Constitution, the Supreme Court of Pakistan has dismissed the challenges to the 18th and 21st Amendments. Effectively, then, the new military court system designed to try civilian terrorism suspects in virtual secrecy and approved by a two-thirds majority of both houses of parliament in January will resume functioning. [...] Yesterday was certainly bittersweet: ***the SC did the right thing in allowing the will of parliament to prevail, but it was the will of parliament itself that was flawed*** — no democratic system should ever have military courts in the manner and for the reasons they have been foisted on the country by the military leadership after the Peshawar carnage last December.

The Supreme Court verdict, Salahuddin Ahmed, *The Dawn*, August 10³⁴

[...]Unfortunately, the 10 separate judicial opinions spread over 902 pages have left many confused about what actually has been decided. First and foremost, the argument whether the Constitution has a basic structure or not has finally been settled. Thirteen of the 17 SC judges confirm that it does: it comprises "the salient features" of the Constitution. [...]Among the 13 who agreed that the parliament's power to amend the Constitution was subject to judicial review, there was disagreement as to whether the 21st Amendment actually violated any of the salient features of the Constitution. ***Five of them — with Justice Jawwad Khawaja at their helm — agreed that the 21st Amendment violated the independence of the judiciary which was a salient***

³² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/931656/altaf-hussains-speech/>

³³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1198655/supreme-court-judgement>

³⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1199451/the-supreme-court-verdict>

feature of the Constitution. [...]The plurality judgement allows the SC to avoid direct conflict with the army, the government and a unanimous parliament. Simultaneously, it ensures that military courts shall operate within the commonly accepted parameters for a fair trial and their orders shall remain subject to judicial review of the high courts and SC.

Scale of the challenge, Amir Rana, *The Dawn*, August 9³⁵

PAKISTAN'S internal security situation has shown considerable improvement over the past few months. That has not only created a sense of optimism across Pakistan but also boosted the confidence of law enforcement agencies in urban areas. [...]Military operations have significantly weakened militants' infrastructure and networks in the North Waziristan and Khyber agencies. [...] Yet, militants' presence in parts of Fata and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa poses a political challenge and security threat. [...]The pace of improvement in Balochistan is slow. [...]**Malik and his aides' death will not only weaken the LJ in Punjab and Balochistan, but also affect the operations of the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Al Qaeda and Jamaatul Ahrar in Punjab with whom the group had operational nexus.** [...]The military operations in Fata have significantly damaged the TTP.

Mainstreaming madressahs, Syed Moazzam Hai, *The News*, August 12³⁶

Bringing madressahs into the mainstream of our national life remains an elusive proposition as is the fabled dream of madressah reforms. [...]There is a gaping lifestyle divide between madressah students and outsiders, especially urban outsiders. The contemptuous rage with which stick-wielding madressah students act during road protests gives us a glimpse of the ostensible grudge many of them seem to carry against the world outside their madressahs. Limited interaction between the madressah students and the 'outsiders' further widens the gap. The absence of an economic dream in the lives of madressah students further adds to the sense of indignation against the world outside. [...]As madressah reforms remain an elusive dream and the idea of introducing regular school education along with religious education in madressahs remains just an idea we would have to devise a practical way to enable madressah students earn themselves a financially stable life and position in the society.

Imran's Marxism, F. S. Aijazuddin, *The Dawn*, August 13³⁷

IMRAN Khan has been outed. What was suspected for some time has been confirmed: Imran is a closet Marxist. **It is clear that Imran follows not the**

³⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1199303/scale-of-the-challenge>

³⁶ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-9-333710-Mainstreaming-madressahs>

³⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1200099/imrans-marxism>

doctrinaire ideology of Karl Marx but the ambivalence of the comedian Groucho Marx, who wrote to his club: "Please accept my resignation. I don't care to belong to any club that will accept me as a member." Imran Khan's prevarication regarding his membership of our National Assembly echoes Groucho Marx's ambiguous remonstrance.

Judging 1947, Zahra Sabri, *The Express Tribune*, August 16³⁸

[...]Despite the popular rhetoric around the Two-Nation Theory, the actual debate between the Muslim League and the Indian National Congress was not about the possibility or impossibility of Hindus and Muslims managing to live close together within a single state, but about the constitutional structure of the post-colonial Indian federation. The basic question to ponder is whether or not Muslims of India were justified in pursuing certain political safeguards for themselves in order to mitigate the power of the federal centre. [...]Keeping in mind the political atmosphere of the times, if we judge that the Muslim League's demand for constitutional safeguards within the Indian federation for their Muslim constituency sprang out of a misplaced and baseless paranoia and not out of reasonable fears for their post-colonial future, we could not justify Partition even had every single Muslim in India been later driven into the sea or hacked to death in a state-sponsored genocide.

Upsetting the civil-military balance, Muhammad Ali Ehsan, *The Express Tribune*, August 18³⁹

[...]With the civil-military balance hitting a new low after the damaging accusations levelled by a well-informed minister of his cabinet, the prime minister cannot distance himself from the controversy just by forcing the minister to resign. [...]Thinking of the civil-military relationship as a zero sum game, the current Nawaz Sharif government, despite the lessons it should have learnt in the past, is failing to appreciate that toeing the political agenda of the PPP and the MQM is a lost cause. **The people of Pakistan do not support any politics that seeks to harm the Pakistan Army as a state institution.** [...]Senator Mushahidullah Khan's outburst clearly reflects the deep-set desire of the collective will of the polity to continue conjuring conditions and circumstances which cause an interruption in the military operation and prevent it from undertaking actions against terrorists and corrupt elements with the vigour and intent with which it wants to proceed.

Was Pakistan sufficiently imagined?, Hasan Askari Rizvi, *The Express Tribune*, August 24⁴⁰

³⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/939166/judging-1947/>

³⁹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/939733/upsetting-the-civil-military-balance/>

[...]Jinnah advocated a modern constitutional democratic state that sought ethnic inspiration from the teachings of Islam rather than the establishment of a puritanical and religious Islamic state. [...]However, the orthodox and fundamentalist ulema stood for a religion-based fundamentalist Islamic state. This worldview of the ulema was not adopted as official policy until General Zia assumed power. Since then, the Pakistani state projects a fundamentalist and conservative, religion-based identity. [...]It is true that there was more enthusiasm for Pakistan in Muslim-minority provinces, especially in UP, and that the bitter experience of the Muslims during Congress rule in these areas (1937-39), turned them towards the demand for the division of India. However, had there been no Muslim-majority, there was very little likelihood that Pakistan would have been established as a sovereign state.

FOREIGN POLICY

India, Afghanistan involved in religious terrorism, *The Express Tribune*, August 5⁴¹

The Balochistan police chief has accused India and Afghanistan of fuelling religious terrorism in the province through their intelligence networks. Iran is also involved in a few such incidents, according to Inspector General Muhammad Amlish. “[Afghanistan’s] NDS and [Indian] RAW are involved in terrorist activities in Balochistan while Iran’s involvement is also reported in a few incidents,” he said, adding that no solid evidence of Tehran’s involvement had been found.

Nisar calls for greater liaison between Pak-UK security agencies, *The Nation*, August 6⁴²

Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan on Wednesday (August 5) underscored that greater liaison between security and law enforcement agencies of Pakistan and UK in counter-insurgency would be significant for enhancing capability in fight against terrorism. He gave these remarks while talking to British Secretary of State for Defence Michael Fallon, who called on him here at the Punjab House. [...]Michael Fallon while highlighting excellent relations between the two countries said his government was keen to further strengthen its multifaceted relations with Pakistan and during next five years the existing cooperation would be further strengthened.

⁴⁰ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/943379/was-pakistan-sufficiently-imagined-before-independence/>

⁴¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/931233/unrest-in-balochistan-india-afghanistan-involved-in-religious-terrorism-says-igp/>

⁴² <http://nation.com.pk/national/06-Aug-2015/nisar-calls-for-greater-liaison-between-pak-uk-security-agencies>

Afghanistan urges Sami to push for resumption of Taliban peace talks, The Dawn, August 9⁴³

Afghanistan has sought the help of Maulana Samiul Haq to urge the Taliban to resume the Pakistan-brokered peace talks, which had been halted after the announced death of Taliban chief Mullah Omar. Afghanistan's ambassador in Pakistan, Janan Mosazai, along with a delegation met the Maulana, who is the chief of his own faction of Jamiat-e-Ulema-i-Islam, and held a six-hour long meeting with him in Nowshera, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Sources say the Afghan ambassador conveyed President Ashraf Ghani's message to Sami, requesting him to play his role in resumption of the suspended talks with Afghan Taliban.

FIA arrests NADRA official for registering 'aliens', *The Express Tribune*, August 11⁴⁴

The Anti-Human-Trafficking Cell of the FIA arrested on Monday an official of the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) on charges of registering aliens. On Monday afternoon (August 10), FIA officials conducted a raid at the NADRA office in Jackson Market, Keamari and took into custody deputy assistant director Abdul Qadeer, who was in-charge of NADRA's Jackson office. Two more NADRA officials were also taken away by the FIA but they were released later after initial interrogation. Qadeer is still in FIA custody.

Pakistan reiterates commitment to peace in Afghanistan, *The Express Tribune*, August 11⁴⁵

Responding to allegations by Afghan president Ashraf Ghani about terrorists' centres, Pakistan reiterated that it was committed to fighting terrorism, adding that it backed an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process. In a statement issued on Monday evening (August 10), the ministry of foreign affairs spokesperson Qazi Khalilullah said it has taken note of the press conference in Kabul and its contents relating to Pakistan.

'Pakistan paid heavy price for regional peace', *Daily Times*, August 21⁴⁶

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Thursday (August 20) said Pakistan is contributing to regional peace and has paid a heavy price both in terms of

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⁴⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/935743/illegal-immigrants-fia-arrests-nadra-official-for-registering-aliens/>

⁴⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/935669/ghanis-allegations-pakistan-reiterates-afghanistans-enemy-is-its-enemy/>

⁴⁶ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/21-Aug-2015/pakistan-paid-heavy-price-for-regional-peace>

lives and financial losses. ***“We have sacrificed tens of thousands of precious human lives in the war against terror which has also resulted in economic losses of over US\$100 billion,”*** he was addressing the 7th meeting of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Finance Ministers.

Pakistan refuses to host Commonwealth moot, *Daily Times*, August 21⁴⁷

The National Assembly on Thursday (August 20) announced that it would not host the 61st Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) as a consequence of the emergency tele-conference of the executive committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). [...]Talking to reporters, the speaker said Pakistan has pulled back from hosting the CPC, as Indian demand to invite the Indian-held Kashmir (IHK) Assembly speaker cannot be accepted. [...] ***He said Pakistan’s principled position on Jammu and Kashmir would be compromised if the speaker of the IHK Assembly is invited to the conference.*** There are outstanding UN Security Council’s resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir, which call for the Kashmiris’ right to self-determination through a free and impartial plebiscite under the auspices of the United Nations.

Afghanistan calls off key meeting, *The Express Tribune*, August 25⁴⁸

Afghanistan has refused to participate in a meeting of the Joint Economic Commission (JEC) at the last minute as relations with Pakistan are at the lowest ebb after recent outburst by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani against Islamabad.

Afghan Finance Minister Eklil Hakimi on Sunday told his counterpart Ishaq Dar about his government’s decision to call off the JEC meeting just before his plane was scheduled to take off for Islamabad, said sources in the Ministry of Finance.

Sino-Pak relationship unprecedented: Chinese VP, *The Nation*, August 26⁴⁹

Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli told Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif yesterday that he would personally monitor China-invested projects in Pakistan and a high-level committee would be set up for the purpose. The idea for setting up a committee was floated by Shahbaz at a meeting with the Chinese Vice Premier Gaoli at Great Hall in Beijing, a handout said. ***“China has been working with various countries but its cooperation with Pakistan is unprecedented. China is extending full cooperation to Pakistan in energy,***

⁴⁷ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/21-Aug-2015/pakistan-refuses-to-host-commonwealth-moot>

⁴⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/944172/joint-commission-afghanistan-calls-off-key-meeting-on-economic-issues/>

⁴⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/26-Aug-2015/sino-pak-relationship-unprecedented-chinese-vp>

transport, infrastructure, health and other sectors," Goali said. He added that China-Pak Economic Corridor will establish economic contact of Pakistan not only with China but also with 60 other states.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Kabul attacks, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, August 9⁵⁰

[...]The internal affairs of the Afghan Taliban have never been transparent, but the death of Mullah Omar, whenever or wherever that happened, has provoked a churn that has no obvious ending. [...]A Taliban, divided and consumed by internal conflicts and struggles for primacy, is a Taliban weakened and offers a chance to drive any number of wedges. Failure to capitalise on that opportunity allows the Afghan Taliban time to put their house in order and return to the fray re-energised. Effectively, the peace process is paused while the leadership contest is resolved one way or the other. There is unlikely to be a swift or painless outcome.

Angry Afghanistan, Editorial, *The News*, August 12⁵¹

The honeymoon period between Pakistan and Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani seems to be over. After being elected into office last year, Ghani attempted to move closer to Pakistan. However, the recently reported death of Mullah Omar and the increased Taliban attacks in Afghanistan seem to have pushed him into a corner domestically. [...]Now, it appears Afghan intelligence have reports confirming the involvement of Pakistani authorities in the recent spate of attacks. The fact is that much like Pakistan and India blaming each other of cross-border terrorism, there is a need to make any such claims public – along with strong evidence – to allow for serious change to take place.

Ghani's remarks, *The Dawn*, August 12⁵²

Ahead of the first round of the Murree talks, there had been much talk of a growing understanding between the Pakistani and Afghan states. The mood in the short run-up to the second round of talks was almost celebratory. Then, on the eve of the second round, it was the Afghan government itself that threw the talks into disarray by asserting that Mullah Omar had died two years ago in Karachi. [...]It does appear that all sides are consolidating their respective bases first. President Ghani's diatribe was probably meant in part to appease hawks inside his government and the Afghan security apparatus. The wave of Taliban attacks may be partly for the new leadership, or the leadership contenders, to establish their bonafides as genuine Taliban leaders

⁵⁰ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/935053/kabul-attacks/>

⁵¹ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-8-333707-Angry-Afghanistan>

⁵² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1199889/ghanis-remarks>

and not mere power-hungry leaders. And the Pakistani state's relative reticence may be to not cause the Taliban to fracture more and deeper than it needs to. A bit of patience in Kabul, however difficult, may help.

Afghanistan: ghost war, ghost peace, Dr Mohammad Taqi, *Daily Times*, August 13⁵³

[...]With the Afghan Taliban just having chosen their new emir (head), Mullah Mohammed Akhtar Mansoor, and deputy emir, Sirajuddin Haqqani, on Pakistani soil by most accounts, it was inevitable that Afghan President Dr Ashraf Ghani would lambast Pakistan for failing to put a leash on assorted Taliban groups. Within hours of the airport attack Dr Ashraf Ghani held a press conference laying the blame squarely on Pakistan's doorsteps. [...]Dr Ashraf Ghani's speech and press conference indicate that after fighting the war against the ghost of Mullah Omar he is not willing to accept the ghost peace presented to him a la the Murree talks. [...] ***The Murree peace process that the US diplomats sat through was a dud; the ghost of Mullah Omar could make war but certainly cannot make peace.*** To stop the cycle of ghost war and ghost peace imposed upon Afghanistan the international community, including the US, will have to hold Pakistan's feet to the diplomatic fire. Dr Ashraf Ghani has an uphill task ahead but his straight talk indicates he is not only gearing up for it but that speech may also be his roadmap.

MILITARY AFFAIRS

Supreme Court upholds establishment of military courts, *The Express Tribune*, August 5⁵⁴

In a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed petitions against establishment of military courts with majority. The apex court, in an 11-6 decision, dismissed a slew of petitions against the 21st constitutional amendment wherein military courts have been established to try militants. A 17-judge full bench also dismissed petitions against the incumbent procedure of appointment of judges in a wide 14-3 decision.

Army punishes two ex-generals for corruption in NLC, *The Nation*, August 6⁵⁵

⁵³ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/opinion/13-Aug-2015/afghanistan-ghost-war-ghost-peace>

⁵⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/932537/supreme-court-upholds-establishment-of-military-courts/>

⁵⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/06-Aug-2015/army-punishes-two-ex-generals-for-corruption-in-nlc>

Two army generals and a civilian officer were punished on Wednesday after they were found guilty in an embezzlement case. Maj Gen (r) Khalid Zahir Akhtar was stripped of his rank, meaning that he lost his army medals, honours and awards. He was also dismissed from his high position in the National Logistic Cell (NLC) and denied pension and all other service benefits. A high ranking military committee also held Lt-Gen (r) Muhammad Afzal Muzaffar guilty of flouting the rules and regulations, but he was given a lesser punishment as he did not make any personal gains, an ISPR statement said.

No more cases for military courts in Punjab, *The Nation*, August 6⁵⁶

The Punjab government has no more cases in the pipeline for sending to the military courts except the seven terrorism-related cases forwarded to them three months back. Official sources said that after the Supreme Court's order upholding 21st Constitutional Amendment, the Punjab government might scrutinise more cases for sending to the military courts. The apex committee would finally decide about the cases of the culprits involved in terror activities.

It'll help eliminate terrorism: Parties, *The Nation*, August 6⁵⁷

Ruling PML-N and major opposition parties except PTI have welcomed the Supreme Court decision to uphold the establishment of military courts hoping it will help in eliminating the menace of terrorism in the country. PML-N and MQM believed that the legalisation of the military courts would help the government punish terrorists quickly as compared to the normal judicial course. ***The PTI, however, termed it a 'black day' in the history of Pakistan.*** [...]PTI's Senior Vice President Hamid Khan criticised the court verdict claiming the judiciary had bowed to the will of the establishment. ***"This is a black day in our national history. We launched a campaign for the freedom of the judiciary and the Supreme Court had today given it back to the establishment", Khan argued.*** The PTI leader, who is also a senior lawyer, said the movement for free judiciary was not aimed at securing former Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammed Chaudhry's lost job.

SC verdict rebirth of doctrine of necessity: Experts, *The Nation*, August 6⁵⁸ [

...]The lawyers favouring the judgment have termed it very much in the four corners of the constitution while the opponents of this decision have called it the rebirth of doctrine of necessity. Commenting over the decision, Attorney

⁵⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/national/06-Aug-2015/no-more-cases-for-military-courts-in-punjab>

⁵⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/national/06-Aug-2015/it-ll-help-eliminate-terrorism-parties>

⁵⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/national/06-Aug-2015/sc-verdict-rebirth-of-doctrine-of-necessity-experts>

General for Pakistan Salman Aslam Butt said: "It is a good judgment and will go a long way. On the other hand, renowned lawyer AK Dogar said that he deemed the judges of the Supreme Court have written the verdict which is different from the law and Constitution of the country. He continued that as judges, they had the right to interpret the law as per their own understanding but he added, "In my opinion, this verdict is not in accordance to the constitution and law of the land."

Police to re-examine terrorism cases for trial in military courts, *The Dawn*, August 7⁵⁹

As the Supreme Court of Pakistan upheld the establishment of nine special courts, the Sindh police on Thursday decided to 're-examine' all terrorism cases on the basis of severity of the crime committed before recommending them to the home department for trial in the military courts, officials and sources said. The move, they added, was likely to add a few recent cases to the previous list of over 60 cases, which had been prepared before the 18th and 21st Amendments were challenged in the apex court.

No longer immune, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, August 7⁶⁰

A crack has appeared in the culture of impunity that, for too long, has protected those in high places from scrutiny or prosecution. Any inquiry into the workings of the military has typically been stonewalled, and it is unusual for wrongdoings to come to light, let alone for individuals to have been punished. Now a military investigation into a scam involving the National Logistics Cell (NLC) found on August 5 that two former generals were guilty of making illegal investments in the stock exchange. [...] Two retired generals were punished under the Pakistan Army Act, and the punishment in military terms was severe.

Operation Zarb-e-Azb in final stages, *Daily Times*, August 13⁶¹

Operation Zarb-e-Azb, which is being carried out in North Waziristan Agency to eliminate terrorists and their safe havens, is in its final stages, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Raheel Sharif said on Wednesday (August 12). General Raheel visited the front lines in Waziristan, where he directed operation commanders to ensure that terrorists remain cut off from their "friends and their outside support", said a statement released by the Inter-Services Public Relations. **"These enemies of state and their financiers will not**

⁵⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1198817/police-to-re-examine-terrorism-cases-for-trial-in-military-courts>

⁶⁰ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/933527/no-longer-immune/>

⁶¹ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/13-Aug-2015/operation-zarb-e-azb-in-final-stages-army-chief>

find a place in the country and will ultimately meet their justified ends,” said the army chief. [...]Speaking to troops, the army chief said remaining terrorists in NWA had been squeezed into “penny pockets”, which will also be cleared soon. He said the successes of operation Zarb-e-Azb and the sacrifices of army officers and men have been acknowledged by the entire nation.

PHC moved against conviction of ‘10th grader’ by military court, *The Dawn*, August 13⁶²

One of the six convicts, sentenced to death in April by a military court after the Army Public School incident, happens to be a 10th grader, who was a juvenile when he was allegedly handed over to the security forces in 2009, claim his family members. [...]Bacha Laiqa, the woman, filed a writ petition in the high court stating that her son was regular student of 10th grade at Malakand High School, Sarsenai, Kabal tehsil in Swat.

Senate adopts bill to amend Army Act, *The Express Tribune*, August 12⁶³

The Senate on Tuesday turned down the opposition’s demand seeking public opinion before passing the bill to amend Pakistan Army Act 1952 to try terrorists accused in military courts which it said was inconsistent with the recent judgment of the Supreme Court (SC) in the 21st Amendment case. Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Senator Farhatullah Babar raised the issue when Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif moved the bill seeking approval of the upper house of parliament but it was turned down through a voice vote.

Have guilty officers faced justice in NLC scam?: SC, *The Nation*, August 19⁶⁴

The Supreme Court asked NAB as to what action it has taken against the two military officers who were found guilty and sentenced by military authorities for causing Rs4 billion loss to the National Logistic Cell. The corruption watchdog inquiry against these army officers was pending since 2012, and the apex court took notice of it on July 29. A week later the army announced that two retired generals and one civilian officer of NLC have been found guilty for causing loss to NLC through taking wrong investment decisions and other irregularities. The military inquiry team exonerated Lt-General Khalid Munir saying that no evidence was found against him. Justice Qazi Faez Isa, a member of three-judge bench of the apex court hearing the case, inquired

⁶² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1200226/phc-moved-against-conviction-of-10th-grader-by-military-court>

⁶³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/936431/voice-vote-senate-adopts-bill-to-amend-army-act/>

⁶⁴ <http://nation.com.pk/national/19-Aug-2015/have-guilty-officers-faced-justice-in-nlc-scam-asks-sc>

from the additional prosecutor of National Accountability Bureau (NAB) whether they had conducted further investigation against the officers. Prosecutor Akbar Tarar told the court that loss to NLC was caused due to imprudent decision, breach of trust and violation of policy. The army chief taking administrative action had removed the guilty officers from their posts, but had the matter ended with their dismissal from service, asked Justice Qazi. The judge further asked, "If a military officer commits civil or criminal offence during service then was he not liable to be dealt under civil or criminal laws?"

Army launches ground operation in Shawal, *Daily Times*, August 21⁶⁵

Pakistan Army on Thursday (August 20) said it had initiated ground operations to flush out terrorists from Shawal Valley, North Waziristan, according to a tweet from Major General Asim Bajwa. He said Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif had ordered the achievement of military objectives as soon as possible, and also commended the 'ideal ground and air coordination' between the forces. [...] Since the terror attack that killed Punjab former home minister Shuja Khanzada, the military has carried out multiple aerial strikes in North Waziristan and Khyber Agency.

COAS okays more military courts for Karachi, *The Nation*, August 26⁶⁶

More military courts were approved for southern metropolitan Karachi yesterday when a civil court in northwestern city of Peshawar stayed a death penalty passed by one of such tribunals. [...] "(The) Chief of Army Staff approved increase in number of military courts at Karachi to handle outstanding terrorist cases," army spokesman Major General Asim Bajwa said on Twitter. General Raheel Sharif "directed across the board operations to eliminate terrorists, criminals and mafias from Karachi," Bajwa added.

Gen Austin praises Pakistan's sacrifices in war on terror, *Daily Times*, August 26⁶⁷

US Central Command chief General Lloyd Austin on Wednesday (August 26) met with Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif, as he visited the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi. The military leaders discussed matters of mutual interest and regional security. ***General Austin praised Pakistan Army's sacrifices in the ongoing war on terror and said that Pakistan was fighting for the peace and stability in the region.***

⁶⁵ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/21-Aug-2015/army-launches-ground-operation-in-shawal-nwa>

⁶⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/national/26-Aug-2015/coas-okays-more-military-courts-for-karachi>

⁶⁷ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/26-Aug-2015/gen-austin-praises-pakistan-s-sacrifices-in-war-on-terror>

Three terrorism cases to be withdrawn from military courts, *The Dawn*, August 27⁶⁸

Three terrorism cases, including that of the attack on Sri Lankan cricket team, are reportedly being withdrawn from military courts due to insufficient evidence and technical reasons, Dawn learnt on Wednesday (August 26). [...]The provincial government had agreed to a request of the military courts to withdraw the case on the grounds that ordinary courts could not cancel bail of the five accused. And that the military courts were unable to deal with their cases.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

The 'doctrine of necessity', Ikram Sehgal, *Daily Times*, August 13⁶⁹

The landmark Supreme Court (SC) judgment validating parliament's enactment of laws authorising trials of terrorists by military courts was widely hailed throughout the country. [...]The Mian Nawaz Sharif government deserves credit on two counts: (1) taking cognizance of the deficiencies in our law enforcement and judicial system by bringing in military courts for a limited period within defined constitutional parameters to ensure the rule of law being taken to its logical and practical conclusion, and, as such, (2) heading off inevitable autocratic rule if democratic dispensation from parliament was not forthcoming — the patience of the khakis was wearing thin!

The death of an ideologue, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, August 18⁷⁰

[...]He has been labelled as "the father of the Taliban" and was certainly instrumental in their rise to power in Afghanistan, but in reality, his role was more nurturing than creative in any fatherly sense. He was a conservative ideologue to the end, much favoured by right-wing TV anchors and the religious political parties. [...] **He was the man who took up the mantle of the Ziaul Haq era and carried it forward to the modern context to the delight of some and the disapprobation of others.** [...]His very considerable following in Pakistan is closely allied to the drift towards extremism of the last 20 years, and whether his death will do anything to arrest that trend is too early to say. For many, his espousal of a radical ideology is exactly what Pakistan needed to lead it away from the swamps it perennially inhabits; for others, Hamid Gul was the creator of the very swamps which others see his ideology as leading us out of.

⁶⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1203085/three-terrorism-cases-to-be-withdrawn-from-military-courts>

⁶⁹ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/opinion/13-Aug-2015/the-doctrine-of-necessity>

⁷⁰ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/939729/the-death-of-an-ideologue/>

Editor's note: The dawn its editorial "Hameed Gul" underlines that the former spymaster had made a deep and lasting impact on the civil-military relationship in Pakistan. It also discusses his passion for turning Pakistan into the bastion of an international jihad. It concludes with arguing that his legacy lives on.

A general's legacy, Ayesha Siddiqa, *The Express Tribune*, August 20⁷¹

[...]The 1980s was a decade when the term offensive-defence took on a whole new meaning. This was also the beginning of a strategic thinking that insisted upon carving a larger military-strategic role in the region. So, when later spymasters flaunt how the world seriously engages with Pakistan and its military, it's the thinking of Gul's generation at work. Indeed, despite evidence of some friction, the military never disowned him or Zia.

Safoora Goth bus attack suspects may be sent to military courts, *The Dawn*, August 24⁷²

The Sindh police plan to send 35 cases of terrorist activities allegedly carried out by Safoora Goth bus attack suspects, believed to be local operatives of self-styled Islamic State, to military courts, official sources say. Apart from the crimes committed by bus attack suspects, two more high-profile cases of Shikarpur Imambargah attack and murder of Jamiat Ulema-i-Pakistan (JUI-F) leader Dr Khalid Mehmood Soomro had been lately re-examined by the authorities to be forwarded to the military courts, said sources.

Arbitrary executions, Editorial, *Daily Times*, August 27⁷³

[...]Military courts are geared towards the goal of executing suspected terrorists, which does not leave any room for a fair trial for the accused or the right to an appeals process. [...]The Karachi operation is another example of how this renewed vigour to fight terrorism has been counterproductive. **There have been several reports and eyewitness accounts of police and security forces killing suspects in shootouts without just cause and with no accountability.** There is no record of how many people have been killed in the Karachi operation so far and estimates range from somewhere in the hundreds to over a thousand. [...]The Karachi operation has so far been anything but transparent and the state owes the people of Pakistan an explanation for every civilian who has been killed since the 21st amendment was passed. Now, COAS General Raheel Sharif has said that more military courts will be set up in Karachi and the Karachi operation will continue with

⁷¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/941162/a-generals-legacy/>

⁷² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1202383/35-cases-against-safoora-goth-bus-attack-suspects-may-be-sent-to-military-courts>

⁷³ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/editorial/27-Aug-2015/arbitrary-executions>

full vigour. ***The government, military and judiciary all seem to be either unaware of or unperturbed by these state-sanctioned human rights violations. This new system of 'justice' will undermine democracy and the credibility of the state.***

A three-path judgement, Asma Jahangir, *The Dawn*, August 31⁷⁴

[...]The fight against terrorism in Pakistan has taken a toll on civil-military ties. To avoid confrontation, the government often gives in to the military's demands. Parliament too passed a constitutional amendment, temporarily allowing military courts to try civilians linked to terrorism. The amendment was challenged in the Supreme Court by members of civil society. After a much-awaited judgement, the petitions were predictably dismissed. ***Perhaps it is difficult to imagine any judiciary in Pakistan assuming it can override a powerful military's desires.*** [...]The judgement shows lack of consensus in Pakistan about some basic issues. The disagreements and opposing trends seen in the 10 legal opinions, delivered by a full court of 17 judges, reflect confusion. [...] ***By ruling that establishing military courts during armed conflict survives the salient-feature threshold, the doors have been opened for the executive to subvert due process and put fundamental rights at the mercy of 'security needs'.*** [...] ***A large section of the media is under self-censorship and operates under regular military 'advice'.*** The court's timid response to military justice has discouraged those willing to demand accountability of the security and intelligence services known to abuse their authority.

ECONOMIC ISSUES

FISCAL ISSUES

State Bank of Pakistan to take decisions independently, *The Express Tribune*, August 14⁷⁵

The government has managed to get an important piece of legislation passed from parliament that empowers the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to take crucial decisions independently pertaining to interest rates, foreign currency reserves, exchange rate, limit and nature of advances and loans to the government. It tabled "The State Bank of Pakistan (Amendment) Bill 2015" in the National Assembly on Thursday (August 13) in the absence of opposition legislators as they staged a walkout in protest against the attitude of cabinet members, who, according to them, were not taking the house business seriously. The new law paved the way for setting up a statutory monetary policy committee that would take monetary policy decisions independently and without any interference. "A statutory monetary policy committee, with

⁷⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1203878/a-three-path-judgement>

⁷⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/937720/empowering-central-bank-na-passes-bill-sbp-to-take-decisions-independently/>

external experts to be appointed by the federal government, has been established, which will be responsible to formulate, support and recommend the monetary policy," said the bill.

ENERGY

Pakistan is gateway for trade energy and oil, *The News*, August 11⁷⁶

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif Tuesday (August 11) said Pakistan was a gateway of trade and energy between its northern eastern and western neighbours connecting the regions through trade routes, oil and gas pipelines and power transmission lines. "We have the necessary infrastructure in place as well as the manpower. The need of the hour is to improve connectivity and efficiency by spreading a network of roads railways and telecommunications." [...] **He said Pakistan was situated at the confluence of the ancient silk routes the cusp of Central South and West Asia which makes it a potential major hub of regional economic activity. We are determined to exploit this enormous potential he said.** [...] He said Pakistan considers peace and enhancement of regional trade essential for regional prosperity and mentioned the Pakistan China Economic Corridor which he said would change the dynamics of the region especially with its connectivity projects. "Our region also has ample opportunities of cooperation in the field of energy. We can all reap harvest from various energy projects in the region such as CASA 1000 and the Turkmenistan Afghanistan Pakistan India (TAPI) gas pipeline project." The prime minister stressed the need to work towards a successful implementation of these projects.

SECURITY SITUATION

TERRORISM

Jl leader vows to protect minorities' rights, *The Dawn*, August 17⁷⁷

Jamaat-i-Islami secretary general Liaquat Balouch has said that attacks on minorities' places of worship are being carried out by those elements who want to destabilise Pakistan. [...] The JI leader criticised those who imposed their views on others. [...] Describing the gathering as a representative Jirga of patriotic Pakistanis, Mr Balouch spoke about the first cabinet of Pakistan headed by the Quaid-i-Azam, recalling that Jogendra Nath Mandal and Sir Zafarullah were members of that cabinet. The JI leader said, "We will jointly struggle against all those who are usurping the rights of minorities".

⁷⁶ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-193901-Pakistan-is-gateway-for-trade-energy-and-oil:-PM-Nawaz>

⁷⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1200964/ji-leader-vows-to-protect-minorities-rights>

Terrorists strike Attock, again, *The Dawn*, August 17⁷⁸

On the third anniversary of the terrorist attack at Kamra air base, which is located in Attock district, the terrorists carried out another attack in the district – though this time around the target was a politician, Punjab’s home minister Shuja Khanzada. [...]The Sunday (16 August) attack also killed DSP Hazro Shaukat Shah, who had been critical of the alignment between criminals and the religious elements in ‘Chach’ area, which comprises mainly the Hazro tehsil of Attock district. [...]Meanwhile, a colleague of Shaukat Shah, another DSP of the Punjab police, said that the Sunday attack was linked to the ongoing operations against terrorists in Punjab. **“The attack is aimed at pressurising the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of the Punjab,” the police officer added, who was affiliated with a team that is investigating a sectarian attack in Attock district.** He highlighted that there were around 370 madressahs in Hazro tehsil. Analysts are also of the opinion that Attock is home to extremist elements.

Nawaz vows to pursue NAP with full force, *The Dawn*, August 17⁷⁹

Condemning Sunday’s (August 16) attack in Attock in which Punjab Home Minister Shuja Khanzada was killed, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has reaffirmed his government’s determination to pursue the National Action Plan (NAP) against terrorism with full force. He called for adopting a pre-emptive strategy to counter terrorists’ plans and asked law-enforcement agencies not to lower their guards till the elimination of last terrorist.

PTI demands commission to probe Khanzada’s killing, *The Express Tribune*, August 18⁸⁰

The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf demanded on Monday (August 17) that the government form a commission to probe Sunday’s (August 16) suicide attack in Attock in which Home Minister Home Minister Shuja Khanzada and 16 other people had died. Addressing a press conference, PTI provincial deputy organiser Omer Sarfraz Cheema also expressed concern over the alleged links between banned outfits and some provincial ministers. [...]“**On one hand people like Khanzada have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty; on the other, some people in the cabinet have links with banned outfits,” the PTI leader said.** Cheema said the governor Salmaan Taseer, too, had pointed towards such elements but his concerns were never addressed. He said it was vital for the government to purge its ranks of such people. Asked if he believed that some people within the government were behind Khanzada’s

⁷⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1200960/terrorists-strike-attock-again>

⁷⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1200938/nawaz-vows-to-pursue-nap-with-full-force>

⁸⁰ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/939920/attock-attack-pti-demands-commission-to-probe-khanzadas-killing/>

killing, Cheema said several elements could be involved. "This is why we have demanded an immediate inquiry into the attack," he said.

Secret Islamic State document found in Pakistan, *The Nation*, August 19⁸¹

A document, allegedly belonging to the Islamic State was found in the tribal areas of Pakistan by the American Media Institute. According to a report appeared on Mail Online, the document titled 'A Brief History of Islamic State Caliphate: The Caliphate According to the Prophet', was discovered in the tribal areas, written in Urdu. ***Much like Adolf Hitler's autobiographical manifesto, Mein Kampf, the 32-page document includes a graphic depiction of the six stages of the Islamic State. A US intelligence official who confirmed the authenticity of the document stated that according to the diagram, the fifth phase declares the caliphate will be followed by a final phase, "open warfare" in 2017.*** [...] Further, while it remains unclear as to why the militant group aims to proceed towards India as its future battleground rather than Western Europe, IS, in the document, conveniently declared that Pakistan and Afghanistan are set to be its next areas for terror camps.

Terror networks operating from Pakistani soil dismantled: Nisar, *The Express Tribune*, August 24⁸²

A day after an improvised explosive device blew up in Bajaur agency killing a Pakistan Peoples Party leader, Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar on Monday (August 24) claimed that all terror networks in the country, whether acting domestically or otherwise, had been dismantled. Providing details of the National Action Plan (NAP) and action taken against extremism in the country, Nisar said that the country was more secure today. ***"For the first time in 30 years, no terrorist network is operating from Pakistani soil," the interior minister claimed while addressing a press briefing after a cabinet meeting in Islamabad.***

ATC summons foreign secy, *The Dawn*, August 27⁸³

A Rawalpindi Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Wednesday (August 26) issued show cause notices to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for its 'poor coordination' in ensuring the attendance of US lobbyist Mark Seigel to record his statement in the Benazir Bhutto murder case. Mr Seigel, a star witness against Gen Musharraf in the Benazir murder case, had consented to testify. The foreign ministry had informed the ATC that the US lobbyist would testify

⁸¹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/19-Aug-2015/secret-islamic-state-document-found-in-pakistan>

⁸² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/943949/terror-networks-operating-from-pakistani-soil-dismantled-nisar/>

⁸³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1203125/atc-summons-foreign-secy-over-poor-coordination-in-securing-seigels-testimony>

on August 26 and 27 via video-link from Pakistan's embassy in Washington DC.

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND FATA

Five 'militants' killed in North Waziristan, *The Dawn*, August 4⁸⁴

At least five suspected terrorists were killed on Monday (August 3) during a clash between security forces and militants in Shawal area of North Waziristan, security sources said. The sources further informed that three security personnel also sustained injuries during the clash.

US drone kills five 'militants' in North Waziristan, *The Dawn*, August 7⁸⁵

A US drone attack on a militant compound in North Waziristan on Thursday (August 6) killed at least five militants, security officials said. Military sources said the drone strike took place in Lawra Mandi village of Datta Khel in the North Waziristan tribal district bordering Afghanistan, where the military is battling Taliban militants. The drone fired two missiles targeting a house, killing at least five suspected militants, sources said.

15 suspected militants killed, *The Dawn*, August 18⁸⁶

At least 15 suspected militants were killed airstrikes in the Khyber tribal region's Rajgal area near the Pak-Afghan border, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Tuesday (August 18). The militants killed in the airstrikes also included at least two suicide bombers, the military's media wing said, without giving out any other details. [...]The army says it has killed over 1,300 militants in North Waziristan and Khyber since June 2014.

Pakistan airstrikes kill 18 more militants, *The Nation*, August 19⁸⁷

Air strikes have killed 18 militants in northwest Pakistan near the Afghan border in the latest phase of a major operation against the Taliban and other insurgents, the military said. The Tuesday (August 18) attacks took place in the Shawal area of the North Waziristan tribal region, and come after strikes which killed 50 militants the previous day and a further 40 on Sunday, according to Pakistani officials.

10 terrorists killed in Shawal air blitz, *The Express Tribune*, August 20⁸⁸

Jet fighters bombed militant hideouts in the North Waziristan Agency on Wednesday (August 19), killing at least 10 terrorists as the air offensive in the

⁸⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1198156/five-militants-killed-in-clash-with-security-forces-in-north-waziristan>

⁸⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1198786/us-drone-strike-kills-five-militants-in-north-waziristan>

⁸⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1201217/15-suspected-militants-killed-in-khyber-airstrikes>

⁸⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/national/19-Aug-2015/pakistan-airstrikes-kill-18-more-militants>

⁸⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/941096/day-4-at-least-10-terrorists-killed-in-shawal-air-blitz/>

region continued for a fourth consecutive day. "Precise air strikes were carried out in the Shawal valley of North Waziristan Agency," Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement. "Pakistan Air Force jet fighters heavily pounded militant positions, killing 10 terrorists."

KP, Punjab Police arrest two terrorists, *Daily Times*, August 21⁸⁹

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and the Punjab Police, in a joint operation on Thursday, arrested two terrorists from Rawalpindi, said a spokesman for police. The CTD Department of KP and Punjab police have conducted a joint operation in Rawalpindi and have arrested Bakhtiar and Fazle Subhan, a resident of Manyar District Swat.

PPP leader killed, four soldiers injured in Bajaur, *The Dawn*, August 24⁹⁰

A pro-government tribal elder and local leader of Pakistan People's Party was killed and four security personnel were injured in two bomb blasts in Bajaur tribal region on Sunday (August 23). According to political administration officials, an explosive device went off near the house of Malik Mohammad Khan, president of the PPP's Mamond tehsil chapter, in Gilele area. He was seriously injured and died while being taken to hospital. [...]The second incident took place in a hilly area of Sapary where four security personnel were injured in a roadside explosion. The political administration officials said that paramilitary troops were patrolling the area when a remote-controlled device planted by suspected militants went off.

3 beheaded in Landi Kotal, *The Dawn*, August 25⁹¹

A pro-government armed group of the Zakhakhel tribe beheaded three men from a rival group for allegedly planting a bomb outside a mosque in Bazaar Zakh-akhel a couple of months ago. Sources close to Tauheedul Islam (TI), the so-called Zakhakhel peace committee, said they had taken the men 'hostage' before the month of Ramazan and found them responsible for planting an explosive device outside a mosque frequented by the Tauheedul Islam's leaders. [...]The deceased were identified as Mamoor Khan, Mohammad Najeeb and Hamid, residents of the Khasrogai village in Bazaar Zakhakhel.

Two army men, 6 militants killed, *The Express Tribune*, August 24⁹²

A lieutenant colonel and a soldier were killed during clashes between militants and Pakistan Army in the Shawal Area of North Waziristan on

⁸⁹ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/21-Aug-2015/kp-punjab-police-arrest-two-terrorists-in-joint-operation>

⁹⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1202443/ppp-leader-killed-four-soldiers-injured-in-bajaur-blasts>

⁹¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1202635/3-beheaded-for-planting-bomb-outside-mosque-in-landi-kotal>

⁹² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/943909/shawal-ground-operation-army-colonel-6-militants-killed-in-north-waziristan-clashes/>

Monday (August 24), according to Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR). The officer has been identified as Lieutenant Colonel Faisal Malik, while the soldier's identity is yet to be revealed. The clashes also left six militants dead.

Three soldiers killed in militant strike, *The Nation*, August 26⁹³

At least three security personnel were killed after a raid on a Pakistan Army checkpoint in South Waziristan, security officials say, as the military presses on with an offensive in the Shawal Valley. Pakistan began a ground offensive in the deeply forested ravines of the valley, a historical smuggling route which straddles the border between North and South Waziristan, on Friday (August 21). According to reports, terrorists attacked a security check post in Ladha and opened fire, resulting in the demise of three security personnel: Jafar Hussain, Mohammad Ali and Arsalan Khan.

Two soldiers killed, one injured in S. Waziristan, *The Dawn*, August 27⁹⁴

Two soldiers have been killed after a roadside improvised explosive device (IED), planted by terrorists in Nano area of South Waziristan, exploded when a military convoy was passing through the area. Sources in security forces confirmed the casualties on Wednesday (August 26) and said the convoy was attacked near Nano area, killing two security personnel and injuring another. Mehsud Taliban spokesman Azam Tariq claimed responsibility for the attack, saying one vehicle was destroyed in the attack.

Pro-govt tribal elder killed in Bajaur, *The Dawn*, August 27⁹⁵

A pro-government tribal elder was killed on Thursday (August 27) in a blast in Bajaur tribal agency's Chamarkand tehsil. According to security sources, the blast was caused by a planted improvised explosive device (IED) which led to the demise of tribal elder Malik Gul Rahim. Banned militant outfit Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed the responsibility for the killing in a statement issued by its spokesman Khalid Khurasani.

Army chief to expose elements helping terrorists, *The Dawn*, August 28⁹⁶

Army Chief Gen Raheel Sharif visited on Thursday Shawal Valley in North Waziristan where troops are engaged in the final phase of the Zarb-i-Azb operation. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations, Gen Sharif spent the day with troops and directed them to destroy all hideouts and sever their

⁹³ <http://nation.com.pk/national/26-Aug-2015/three-soldiers-killed-in-militant-strike-at-swa-checkpost>

⁹⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1203069/two-soldiers-killed-one-injured-in-s-waziristan>

⁹⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1203159/pro-govt-tribal-elder-killed-in-bajaur-ttp-claims-responsibility>

⁹⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1203313/army-chief-vows-to-expose-elements-who-helped-terrorists>

links with their abettors. "We will not allow anyone to kill our people, children in this country and will expose all faces who helped them at any stage in any way," an ISPR statement quoted the army chief as saying.

BALUCHISTAN

Two suspected militants killed in Noshki district, *The Dawn*, August 4⁹⁷

At least two suspected militants were killed in Balochistan's Noshki district on Tuesday (August 4) morning, security officials told Dawn News. Khan Wasey, the spokesperson for Frontier Corps, said a search operation was conducted in the district after a tip off regarding the presence of miscreants in the area was received. "Two miscreants were killed during the search operation," he said.

Three TTP leaders among 16 arrested, *The Dawn*, August 10⁹⁸

Security forces claim to have arrested 16 suspected militants, among them three leaders of the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), in different areas of Balochistan. Security officials said on Sunday (August 9) that personnel of Frontier Corps and intelligence agencies raided a hostel in Qila Saifullah after receiving information about the presence of three TTP leaders and took them into custody. [...]Meanwhile, security personnel raided a place in Sanjavi area of Loralai district and arrested three suspects who were allegedly involved in terrorist attacks and targeted killings. FC troops took three suspects into custody in Zhob.

Zarb-e-Azb weakened Balochistan militants, says minister, *The Express Tribune*, August 10⁹⁹

Terrorists took up sanctuary in Balochistan after abandoning their camps in North Waziristan Agency in the wake of the military operation codenamed Zarb-e-Azb, the provincial home minister, Sarfaraz Bugti, said on Sunday (August 9). "Terrorists entered Balochistan via South Waziristan Agency when the military launched an operation against militants in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Fata)," he said in an interview with APP on Sunday (August 9). [...]The home minister pointed out that Operation Zarb-e-Azb has also helped restore peace and maintain law and order in Balochistan. "Local networks of militants who also had links with the banned outfits operating in Fata. When the military destroyed the hideouts of militants in

⁹⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1198338/two-suspected-militants-killed-in-balochistans-noshki-district>

⁹⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1199517/three-ttp-leaders-among-16-arrested>

⁹⁹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/935244/zarb-e-azb-weakened-balochistan-militants-says-minister/>

Waziristan, it also weakened militant organisations in Balochistan," Bugti explained.

Police official killed in blast at Quetta, *The Dawn*, August 11¹⁰⁰

A police official was killed and another critically injured when a huge explosion rocked Gawalmandi Chowk in Quetta, Dawn News reported on Tuesday (August 11). Rescue authorities rushed to the site of the incident. The injured were rushed to Civil Hospital Quetta where emergency was imposed to provide urgent treatment to those critical. Initial reports claim that four people, including one policeman, were injured in the blast which occurred near a police station.

Tirah IED explosion kills three soldiers, *Daily Times*, August 13¹⁰¹

At least three security personnel were killed when an improvised explosive device (IED) went off on Wednesday (August 12) in Sandana area of Khyber Agency's Tirah Valley. According to a security official, the bomb, which had been planted on a roadside, exploded when security personnel were on a routine patrol of the area, where the army is currently involved in Operation Khyber-2. As a result of the IED attack, three security personnel, including a Pakistan Army captain, were killed.

Eight militants including commander killed, *The Dawn*, August 27¹⁰²

Eight militants, including a commander of a proscribed organisation were killed in Balochistan's Dera Bugti district on Wednesday (August 26) according to a statement issued by the Frontier Corps (FC). [...] "Eight militants belonging to a proscribed organisation were killed in a search operation launched by FC," said Khan Wasey, spokesperson for the FC. **"Among the dead was a commander for the militant group, Chella Resh," added the FC spokesperson.**

Three lose their lives during bid to plant bomb, *The Dawn*, August 28¹⁰³

Three suspected militants were killed on Thursday (August 27) after a bomb they were planting on the main railway track, exploded near Metheri area of Sibi, linking Quetta with other parts of the country.

¹⁰⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1199832/police-official-killed-in-blast-at-quettas-gawalmandi-chowk>

¹⁰¹ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/13-Aug-2015/tirah-ied-explosion-kills-three-soldiers>

¹⁰² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1202978/eight-militants-including-commander-killed-frontier-corps>

¹⁰³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1203324/three-lose-their-lives-during-bid-to-plant-bomb-on-rail-tracks>

SINDH

Cop killed, another wounded in Nawabshah checkpoint attack, *The Dawn*, August 7¹⁰⁴

At least one policeman was killed and another injured when unknown armed men attacked on a police checkpoint Thursday (August 6) morning. Unidentified assailants opened fire on the Abdul Haque Jamali checkpoint, killing 50-year-old Abdul Qayyum Rajput and injuring 32-year-old Abdul Fatah. [...]The Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in an email claimed the attack on the Nawabshah checkpoint. However, the claim could not be independently verified.

Four policemen killed in Karachi van attack, *Daily Times*, August 13¹⁰⁵

Four policemen were killed by gunmen in Kornagi on Wednesday (August 12). A police spokesman said the incident took place in Korangi 5-1/2 G, within the limits of Zaman Town. He said the gunmen, who were on a motorcycle, fired at a police patrol vehicle, injuring four policemen, all of whom died on the way to hospital. They have been identified as ASI Aqeel, Constable Jamil, Constable Akhtar and Constable Anwaar Hussain.

Investigators confirm Islamic State link in Safoora attack, *The Express Tribune*, August 21¹⁰⁶

Investigators probing the deadliest attack on members of the Ismaili community have finally confirmed that the assailants were affiliated with the Islamic State (IS). [...]The charge sheet, in its concluding part, states that the suspects had long been linked with the al-Qaeda and after the emergence of the new terror group, IS, shifted towards it.

PUNJAB

Three terrorists killed in Dera Ghazi Khan, *The Nation*, August 6¹⁰⁷

At least three suspected terrorists on late Wednesday night (August 5) were killed in an alleged police encounter while two managed to escape. According to a police spokesman, policemen were taking two accused of attacks on Ahmadi worship places to recover hidden arms when four to five armed men opened firing at police party on Indus Highway near Taunsa Bypass and got freed the two detained men. "Police chased the attackers and in an encounter at Pull Gajoji three accused Muhammad Hanif, Raja Iftikhar and an

¹⁰⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1198757/cop-killed-another-wounded-in-nawabshah-checkpoint-attack>

¹⁰⁵ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/13-Aug-2015/four-policemen-killed-in-karachi-van-attack>

¹⁰⁶ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/941890/warning-signs-investigators-confirm-is-link-in-safoora-attack/>

¹⁰⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/national/06-Aug-2015/three-terrorists-killed-in-dera-ghazi-khan>

unidentified gunman were killed," the spokesman said. The slain accused were members of a banned group, the spokesman added.

Search operations in Punjab seminaries, *The Dawn*, August 7¹⁰⁸

The Counter-Terrorism Department, police and intelligence officials carried out joint search operations in seminaries of Multan, Faisalabad division, Gujranwala and Bahawalpur on Thursday (August 6). [...]The spate of raids on seminaries is to bust militants, if any, from seminaries. It is a part of the National Action Plan to avert reaction to the Zarb-i-Azb Operation. [...]CHINOT: The seminaries raided included Idara Dawat Wal Irshad, headed by PML-N MPA Maulana Ilyas Chinioti; Jamia Millia Islamia, Madressah Darul Uloom Madina, Madressah Jamia Farooqia and Jamia Baasat Rajoa Sadat. Documents related to seminaries' registration were also seized and the identity of students and teachers was verified through biometric machines. FAISALABAD: Regional Police Officer's spokesman Malik Shahid said 43 seminaries were searched in Faisalabad, Jhang and Toba Tek Singh. He said police had not found any hate material, wanted suspects, explosives or proclaimed offenders in any seminary. He said 21 seminaries had been searched in Faisalabad and 11 in Jhang. GUJRANWALA: Eighteen students from different seminaries were detained and later released after interrogation. The students were arrested from seminaries at Sheranwala Bagh, on Sheikhupura Road, in Khiali, Railway Station and Sabzi Mandi. BAHAWALPUR: Search operations were conducted in 18 seminaries of the district and 10 suspects taken into custody, mainly for failure to prove their identity.

Additional sessions judge gunned down in Pindi, *The Dawn*, August 7¹⁰⁹

Unknown men on Wednesday (August 6) killed an additional district and sessions judge in Rawalpindi's Sadiqabad Town area. Three unknown gunmen on a motorcycle opened fire on the vehicle of the judge as he was leaving his Judges Colony residence in Sadiqabad area of Rawalpindi.

Nine held in swoop on seminaries, *The Dawn*, August 12¹¹⁰

District police claimed on Tuesday (August 12) to have arrested nine suspects during a swoop on seminaries and Imambargahs of the district. Sources told Dawn that police registered three cases against the suspects. District Police Officer Ghulam Mubashar Maikin said the campaign had been launched under the NAP. He said police arrested suspects and confiscated huge

¹⁰⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1198863/search-operations-in-punjab-seminaries>

¹⁰⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1198550/additional-sessions-judge-gunned-down-in-rawalpindi>

¹¹⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1199950/nine-held-in-swoop-on-seminaries>

quantity of sectarian hate material. He said two cases were registered against as many people for sectarian graffiti while seven other suspects were arrested during a search operation. The cases were registered by Gadai and city police stations. Meanwhile, Rajanpur DPO Zahid Mehmood Gndal said 13 seminaries had been cleared as no objectionable material was found.

Khanzada terrorist attack, *The Dawn*, August 17¹¹¹

The Punjab police sees the involvement of banned Lashkar-i-Jhangvi (LeJ) in the assassination of Punjab Home Minister retired Col Shuja Khanzada. A preliminary report submitted to Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif by Inspector General of Punjab Police (IGP) Mushtaq Sukhera revealed that the home minister was killed in retaliation of the killing of LeJ chief Malik Ishaq and 13 others, including his two sons, in July 29 in Muzaffargarh district.

LeJ leader among 15 arrested, *Daily Times*, August 21¹¹²

The police arrested leader of banned Lashar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) Rao Javed Iqbal along with 15 suspects during a search operation in various areas of Bahawalpur District on Thursday (August 20). The police, under National Action Plan (NAP), continued search operation against the miscreants across the district. The police detained LeJ leader Rao Javed Iqbal from Qaimpur area and 15 suspects from other localities of the district.

Seven terrorists arrested from Faisalabad, *Daily Times*, August 21¹¹³

A team of sensitive agencies have arrested seven terrorists from Faisalabad, a police spokesman said. He said the terrorists were residing in four houses away from the residence of Punjab Law Minister Rana Sanaullah. [...]The sensitive agencies also monitored the suspicious activities of the terrorists for three days, he added. A team of sensitive agencies conducted raid at late night on Wednesday (August 19) and took seven terrorists into custody. Out of them, five terrorists belong to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), whereas two were residents of Faisalabad including accused Tariq, a resident of Makkoana and accsued Shoaib Cheema, a resident of Chak No 226RB, he said.

Malik Ishaq had serious differences with Ludhianvi, *The Dawn*, Agusut 25¹¹⁴

The tragic incidents of terrorism and the Zarb-i-Azab military operation had allowed friction between Ahmed Ludhianvi-led Ahl-e-Sunnat Wal Jamaat

¹¹¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1200920/khanzada-terrorist-attack-police-submit-initial-report-to-shahbaz>

¹¹² <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/21-Aug-2015/lej-leader-among-15-suspects-arrested-in-bahawalpur>

¹¹³ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/21-Aug-2015/seven-terrorists-arrested-from-faisalabad>

¹¹⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1202616/malik-ishaq-had-serious-differences-with-ludhianvi-observers>

(ASWJ) and the Malik Ishaq-led Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LJ), the banned militant outfits, to go unnoticed. However, the July 30 killing of Malik Ishaq in an encounter with police has highlighted these differences and observers have noted that the Ludhianvi's ASWJ showed no reaction to the event as it has neither condemned the killing nor announced any protest against it. The only noticeable protest against the killing reported by the media was held in Quetta where some protesters were detained by law-enforcement personnel. "It is the policy of Chairman Allama Ahmed Ludhianvi and of ASWJ to not support arson, terrorism and aggression," said Oneeb Farooqui, the spokesman for the ASWJ's Islamabad chapter.

Over 100 Afghan nationals arrested in Islamabad, *The News*, August 25¹¹⁵

More than 100 Afghan nationals were arrested in a joint operation carried out by police and intelligence agencies in the federal capital of Pakistan on Tuesday (August 25). According to security sources, the operation was carried out in Golra Sharif and Tarnol areas. Startling revelations regarding terror plots have been made by the suspects during the initial interrogation, they said. Sources further said the arrested have also disclosed details in connection with drugs and arms smuggling.

At least five killed during raid in Toba Tek Singh, *The Dawn*, August 28¹¹⁶

At least five people, including three children and a woman, were killed during a joint-raid conducted by police and security forces in Pirmahal area of Punjab's Toba Tek Singh district on Thursday (August 27), according to District Police Officer of Toba Tek Singh. [...]Police claimed to have arrested one suspected terrorist, who was in wounded condition, while another reportedly blew himself up to avoid arrest. [...]Police sources also said that that the arrested suspect was a key commander belonging to the outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militant organisation.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Deep fissures, Huma Yusuf, *The Dawn*, August 3¹¹⁷

[...]The ASWJ's restraint is striking, and worrying. Many have perceived Ishaq's killing to be a turning point in Pakistan's counterterrorism strategy vis-a-vis sectarian militant groups. They believe Ishaq's killing was deliberate and extra-judicial, a new stance by the Punjab police and provincial government — or from higher up, by those in khaki — toward sectarian

¹¹⁵ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-195333-Over-100-Afghan-nationals-arrested-in-Islamabad>

¹¹⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1203183/at-least-five-killed-during-raid-on-suspected-militant-hideout-in-toba-tek-singh>

¹¹⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1198059/deep-fissures>

militancy. [...]It remains to be seen whether the LJ will crumble — or at least lie low — in the absence of strong leadership. [...]But even if Ishaq's killing acts as a deterrent to sectarian attacks, it cannot heal sectarian divides entrenched in Pakistani society. [...] Madressahs with a sectarian agenda are mushrooming throughout the country, particularly in Sindh where divisive views have been slower to gain traction. These are locally funded and have been allowed to flourish by a state that perceives sectarianism to be a lesser evil than separatism. [...]In this context, organisations such as the ASWJ, which straddle the domain of politics and sectarian identity, are well positioned to thrive, particularly after establishing some distance from militant violence. Rumours have been circulating about disagreements between Ishaq and Ahmed Ludhianvi, and the latter will seek to consolidate his position following Ishaq's killing, possibly by seeking a broader political remit.

The death of a hermit, Zahid Hussain, *The Dawn*, August 5¹¹⁸

[...]**Although Mullah Omar enjoyed absolute loyalty of the leadership council, his influence seemed to have waned over the years with the growing radicalisation of a new generation of field commanders.** Being out of the field for so long — believed to be operating from the Pakistani side of the border — had turned Mullah Omar into more of a symbolic figurehead. Nevertheless, that kept the faction-ridden organisation united. What is most curious is the timing of the announcement of his death, a day before the second round of talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government. [...]**One wonders whether, given his stubbornness, Mullah Omar would have agreed to reconciliation. Maybe not.** Perhaps his death will pave the way for moderates to assert themselves and take a more rational path to end the Afghan war. With the death of their supreme commander the Taliban are much more divided now. The succession issue is never easily resolved in an organisation so deeply invested in an undisputed authority. It is now a battle for leadership between his handpicked deputy and family members. Whatever the outcome may be, the ensuing power struggle has further fractured the militant group. That leaves a big question mark hanging over the peace negotiations and the future of the Taliban movement itself.

Terrorism in the Punjab, Editorial, *The Nation*, August 17¹¹⁹

[...]Shuja Khanzada was killed in retaliation of Malik Ishaq's killing and was known for his zero-tolerance anti-terrorist stance. **The government and intelligence agencies know the LeJ structure well, and they must dismantle it. These groups have been allowed to operate with impunity.** The state only

¹¹⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1198412/the-death-of-a-hermit>

¹¹⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/17-Aug-2015/terrorism-in-the-punjab>

wakes up when it is too late, when people are already buried under rubble. How long before other tolerated groups like the Jamat ud Daawa and the Ahle Sunnat Wal Jammata engage in similar attacks? [...]The problem is that there has been no real action taken against terrorism in the Punjab. The militants here are the highest in number, but deals with the politically powerful had kept them somewhat under control.

Attock tragedy, Editorial, *The Dawn*, August 18¹²⁰

[...]In the Attock attack, there is confirmation of what independent observers have long warned: **the myth of south Punjab being the sole hotbed of militancy in the province needs to be laid to rest**. Urban Punjab, central and northern Punjab, indeed areas in other provinces not usually associated with militancy, have all become zones in which the militants are able to hide and operate.

The sectarian front, Editorial, *The News*, August 26¹²¹

[...]While questions remain over the lack of action against the LeJ's political front, the Ahl-e-Sunnah wal Jammata (ASWJ), there has been much more progress against sectarian terrorists in the last six months than in the last decade. The interior minister has also confirmed that the government will be coming up with the first clear, uniform list of banned organisations. We do wonder, though, why such a list had never been prepared before despite promises to the effect. And the bigger question is: who will make it onto the list? And what will be done about the massive infrastructure of banned organisations?

RELATIONS WITH INDIA

BSF firing near Sialkot leaves five injured, *The Dawn*, August 4¹²²

Cross-border firing between Indian and Pakistani security forces near Sialkot on Tuesday morning (August 4) left five injured, a statement from the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said. The ISPR said that "unprovoked shelling" across the Working Boundary in Sukhial village injured three children and two women. The ISPR added that Pakistani troops responded to the shelling in a "befitting" manner.

NADRA: Udhampur Suspect is not Pakistani, *The Nation*, August 6¹²³

In response to Indian claim of arresting a suspected terrorist belonging to Pakistan, the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) on

¹²⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1201124/attock-tragedy>

¹²¹ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-8-336340-The-sectarian-front>

¹²² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1198334/bsf-firing-near-sialkot-leaves-five-injured-ispr>

¹²³ <http://nation.com.pk/national/06-Aug-2015/nadra-says-suspect-arrested-in-udhampur-is-not-pakistani>

Thursday (August 6) clarified that the suspect is not a Pakistani citizen. According to official sources, suspect Usman Khan alias Muhammad Naveed is not a Pakistani as his information was not found in the NADRA record.

Pak Army lodges protest with UN group, *The Express Tribune*, August 6¹²⁴

Pakistan Army lodged on Thursday (August 6) a strong protest with the United Nations Military Observers group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) against ceasefire violations by India's Border Security Force (BSF), reads statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). The UN has also been requested to investigate the incident, Express News quoted ISPR as saying.

Asif tells India to end blame game, *The Dawn*, August 10¹²⁵

Federal Defence Minister Khwaja Muhammad Asif has asked India to end blame game and come forward with a fresh mind for peace talks. [...] He said India should show sincerity in peace talks and end the old tactics of leveling false allegations against Pakistan. He said Pakistan was ready to make confidence building measures with India. Mr Asif said Pakistan was committed to making peace efforts at all levels and armed forces were playing their role in uprooting militancy, insurgency and terrorism from the country.

Government issued notice over screening of 'anti-Pakistan' film, *The Express Tribune*, August 11¹²⁶

Lahore High Court (LHC) issued a notice to the federal government on Monday (August 10) on a petition filed by Jamaatud Dawa (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed against the screening of an Indian movie, Phantom, in Pakistan. [...] A JuD spokesperson and Saeed's brother-in-law, Hafiz Abdul Rehman Makki, attended the court proceedings. [...] Responding to a query after the proceedings, Makki said they wanted the film to be banned on every forum, including the internet, cinemas and DVDs. [...] In the petition, Saeed had said the JuD was a charitable organisation. He said it also helped people such as Abdul Sattar Edhi. He said the organisation had no nexus with the Lashkar-i-Taiba, a banned militant organisation. Saeed said the JuD had established 142 schools and four universities across the country. "It is educating the poor," he said.

¹²⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/933390/pakistan-army-lodges-protest-with-un-group-over-indian-ceasefire-violations/>

¹²⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1199568/asif-tells-india-to-end-blame-game>

¹²⁶ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/935810/controversial-government-issued-notice-over-screening-of-anti-pakistan-film/>

Pakistan lodges protest with India, *The News*, August 11¹²⁷

Pakistan lodged a strong protest on Tuesday against the latest incident of unprovoked firing by Indian troops at the Line of Control (LoC). The Deputy High Commissioner of India was summoned to the Foreign Office today to lodge a protest over the killing of a 28-year-old Pakistani woman, Fareeda, who succumbed to her wounds today at a hospital in Rawalpindi after being injured by firing on Friday across the LoC. [...] "Pakistan also condemned the latest unprovoked ceasefire violations by the Indian security forces at the LoC in Nakial sector near Kotli and Bhimber Gali sector on August 9, in which Pakistani posts were targeted," said the statement. "Indian security forces have committed 37 and 24 unprovoked ceasefire violations on the LoC and the Working Boundary in July and August respectively." The statement continued: "The government of Pakistan expressed its deep concern at the continuous and unprovoked ceasefire violations and urged India to stop them forthwith."

CPEC doesn't perturb India, *The Dawn*, August 12¹²⁸

A lack of trust between Pakistan and India is the major hurdle in resolving core issues such as Kashmir and maintaining lasting peace. However, the successful continuation of the Indus Water Treaty between the two states indicates the possibilities of settling down core disputes, says Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan Dr T.C.A Raghavan who addressed an event organised by the Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (Pildat) at a local hotel on Tuesday (August 11). [...] "India is not perturbed over Pak-China cooperation through the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) rather stable Pakistan is in favour of India which wants to achieve its high economic growth with the help of regional stability," said Mr Raghavan.

UN observers visit shelling-hit villages, *The Dawn*, August 12¹²⁹

A team of United Nations (UN) observers in Pakistan visited on Tuesday (August 11) Indian shelling-hit Sialkot border villages in Bajwat sector. According to senior Punjab Rangers officials, the observers met the families of three martyred Pakistani civilians – Muhammad Asif and Muhammad Faisal (brothers), and Muhammad Adnan. They were killed by the unprovoked mortar shelling of Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) on Aug 4. The observers met other people and sought details from about the BSF hostilities. They also inquired about the health of the several people at the Sialkot

¹²⁷ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-193926-Pakistan-lodges-protest-with-India-over-latest-LoC-firing-casualty>

¹²⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1199999/cpec-doesnt-perturb-india-says-envoy>

¹²⁹

Combined Military Hospital. They said they were closely observing the situation after the shelling on Sialkot border villages and investigating the situation.

Govt issued notice on Hafiz Saeed's petition, *The Dawn*, August 14¹³⁰

Lahore High Court (LHC) directed the federal government on Thursday (August 13) to file its reply to a petition filed by Jamatud Dawa chief Hafiz Saeed against the exhibition of an Indian movie. On behalf of the government, a law officer appeared before the court on Thursday (August 13) and requested more time to file the reply. Justice Shahid Bilal Hasan said that the reply should be filed by August 20.

Army gives its input ahead of India talks, *The Nation*, August 19¹³¹

Pakistan has put the issue of India's sponsoring terrorism on its territory on the top of its agenda for the forthcoming talks in New Delhi, said a senior government official, after the army chief gave his input to the prime minister yesterday. [...]The meeting, which lasted for over an hour, discussed the scheduled visit of Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz to India in the two-day talks beginning on Sunday (August 23). During the meeting, the military leadership gave its input on India's alleged sponsoring terrorist activities, especially in Balochistan and Karachi, and emphasised that Pakistan must present its view point on core issues during the talks in a forceful manner.

NSAs' talks cancelled over Indian conditions, *The Dawn*, August 23¹³²

Amid intense bickering, the government decided on Saturday (August 22) to cancel the planned meeting of national security advisers with India, citing New Delhi's refusal to allow an expanded agenda and a meeting with Kashmiri leaders. [...] "***The scheduled NSA-level talks cannot be held on the basis of the preconditions set by India,***" the Foreign Office said in a ***statement***. A meeting held under conditions set by India "would not serve the purpose" of "reducing tensions and restoring trust as a first step towards normalisation", it added. [...]Explaining the insistence on a broader agenda, Mr Aziz said Pakistan only wanted to discuss a future roadmap and modalities for discussion on other issues and was not seeking substantive negotiations on them.

¹³⁰ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/937779/controversial-movie-govt-issued-notice-on-hafiz-saeeds-petition/>

¹³¹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/19-Aug-2015/army-gives-its-input-ahead-of-india-talks>

¹³² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1202269/nsas-talks-cancelled-over-indian-conditions>

Held Kashmir leaders disappointed over cancellation of NSAs talks, *The Dawn*, August 24¹³³

The chief minister of India-held Jammu and Kashmir expressed disappointment on Sunday over cancellation of talks between national security advisers (NSAs) of India and Pakistan while the disputed region's anti-India leaders blamed the Indian government for the development. Chief Minister Mufti Sayeed expressed disappointment and expressed the hope that "the break in talks would be temporary". He said he wanted to see the two countries "walk the bridge of trust together".

Rabbani hopeful about thaw in ties with India, *The Dawn*, August 25¹³⁴

Senate Chairman Raza Rabbani has expressed the hope that ties between India and Pakistan would become normal ultimately. ***"It appears that (Indian) Prime Minister Narendra Modi is pursuing an internal agenda," he said. "However, in regional politics one cannot change one's neighbours."*** [...]Mr Rabbani said Islamabad had always gone the extra mile for holding a meaningful dialogue with India and always desired a working relationship with it but the sentiments had not been reciprocated by the other side.

Nation united against terror just like Indian aggression in 1965, *The News*, August 25¹³⁵

Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Asif on Tuesday said the nation stood united in war against terrorism as witnessed in the face of Indian aggression in 1965. [...] ***The Defence Minister said that war against terrorism should be viewed as continuation of the war of 1965 as the enemy in 'another form' was still carrying out its 'aggressive and hegemonic designs'.*** "We are still in phase of war and our valiant armed forces are fighting heroically to secure our tomorrow," he added.

In terror war India stands with our foe: Asif, *The News*, August 26¹³⁶

Defence Minister, Khawaja Asif has said that in the ongoing war against terrorism India stands with Pakistan's enemy. In an interview, Khawaja Asif said a number of freedom movements are presently active in India in which several dozen people get killed every now and then. He said India had attempted in futile to put the blame of events like Gurdaspur and Gujrat on Pakistan. "Pakistan is being presented as a villain," he added. [...]The

¹³³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1202426/held-kashmir-leaders-disappointed-over-cancellation-of-nsas-talks>

¹³⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1202626/rabbani-hopeful-about-thaw-in-ties-with-india>

¹³⁵ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-195352-Nation-united-against-terror-just-like-Indian-aggression-in-1965:-Asif>

¹³⁶ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-195355-In-terror-war-India-stands-with-our-foe:-Khawaja-Asif>

Defence Minister said Pakistan government will not be blackmailed by anybody and Kashmir will continue to hold a key significance in Pakistan's foreign policy.

Pakistan, India must resume dialogue: US, *The Nation*, August 26¹³⁷

The United States has underscored the need for resumption of talks between Pakistan and India to resolve the "important issues" between the two South Asian neighbours so as to end tensions in the region. "The tensions in the region are significant. We recognise that, and we believe it's important for leaders of both countries to resume this dialogue and the discussion and to try to come to some resolution," State Department Spokesman John Kirby told reporters at his daily press briefing on Monday.

'Pakistan cancels ANF chief's visit to India', *Daily Times*, August 26¹³⁸

Pakistan will not send director general of the Anti-Narcotics Force to attend a meeting to be held in New Delhi next month on illegal narcotics trade, India's *The Economic Times* newspaper reported. [...]The meeting of South Asian countries on illegal narcotics trade is to be held in September under the Colombo Plan. [...]“The withdrawal has come after the cancellation of the advisers talks,” said a senior Indian official, who did not wish to be named. “It's significant because this is, otherwise, a routine regional meeting,” the official said. Further, the official termed the development a big setback, claiming Pakistan to be an important country as far as to discuss and devise a strategy on smuggling, transit and supply of various forms of drugs. According to reports, India was planning to share information with Pakistan regarding suspected drug lords.

Rangers, BSF to meet in New Delhi, *Daily Times*, August 27¹³⁹

Pakistani and Indian border security force chiefs will meet in New Delhi next month, officials said on Wednesday (August 26), days after the first high-level peace talks in years between the two countries collapsed. The chiefs of the Pakistan Rangers and the Indian Border Security Force will meet in New Delhi from Sept 9 to 13, according to a statement by the Pakistan Rangers. Representatives from the two paramilitary border forces held a meeting on Tuesday (August 25) at the Wagah-Attari border “to coordinate modalities of (the) September meeting”, the statement said. The agenda for the meeting would include recent firing over the Line of Control, the de facto frontier in

¹³⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/national/26-Aug-2015/pakistan-india-must-resume-dialogue-us>

¹³⁸ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/26-Aug-2015/pakistan-cancels-anf-chief-s-visit-to-india>

¹³⁹ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/27-Aug-2015/rangers-bsf-to-meet-in-new-delhi-from-sept-9-13>

the divided Kashmir region, as well as cross-border smuggling, Pakistan Rangers spokesman Waheed Bukhari told Reuters.

Confusion in Delhi about Modi's Pakistan policy, Daily Times, August 27¹⁴⁰

Senate Defence Committee Chairman Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed said on Wednesday (August 26) there is confusion in New Delhi about the Pakistan policy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who seems to be motivated by the extremist Hindutva agenda that was divisive and rooted in the past. [...]He said India itself is suffering because of Modi's confusion and U-turns and the communal agenda of the Indian government has divided Kashmiri society because the Indian government is seeking demographic changes in occupied Kashmir.

Seven dies in Indian firing, The Dawn, August 28¹⁴¹

At least seven Pakistani civilians were killed and several others sustained injuries as Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) personnel resorted to firing and shelling along the Working Boundary in Sialkot's Charwah, Harpal, Chaprar and Sucheetgarh sectors through early Friday morning (August 28), sources said.

India is the only external threat, says military, The Dawn, August 28¹⁴²

The Senate defence committee was told on Thursday that India was the only external military threat to Pakistan. Military officials shared the perceived threat with members of the Senate body during a visit to the Joint Staff (JS) Headquarters. In the briefing they were also informed on how the JS Headquarters worked as a higher defence organisation and Strategic Plans Division, which is the custodian of the nuclear programme. This was the committee's first visit to the JS Headquarters, where the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Rashad Mahmood, and his team briefed the members.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Mumbai attacks trial, Tariq Khosa, The Dawn, August 31¹⁴³

Pakistan has to deal with the Mumbai mayhem, planned and launched from its soil. This requires facing the truth and admitting mistakes. [...]The following facts are pertinent. **First, Ajmal Kasab was a Pakistani national**, whose place of residence and initial schooling as well as his joining a banned

¹⁴⁰ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/27-Aug-2015/confusion-in-delhi-about-modi-s-pakistan-policy-mushahid>

¹⁴¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1203398/at-least-seven-pakistanis-killed-in-indian-shelling-sources>

¹⁴² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1203329/india-is-the-only-external-threat-says-military>

¹⁴³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1198061/mumbai-attacks-trial>

militant organisation was established by the investigators. **Second, the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists were imparted training near Thatta, Sindh and launched by sea from there.** The training camp was identified and secured by the investigators. The casings of the explosive devices used in Mumbai were recovered from this training camp and duly matched. **Third, the fishing trawler used by the terrorists for hijacking an Indian trawler in which they sailed to Mumbai, was brought back to harbour, then painted and concealed.** It was recovered by the investigators and connected to the accused. **Fourth, the engine of the dinghy abandoned by the terrorists near Mumbai harbour contained a patent number through which the investigators traced its import from Japan to Lahore and then to a Karachi sports shop from where an LeT-linked militant purchased it along with the dinghy.** The money trail was followed and linked to the accused who was arrested. **Fifth, the ops room in Karachi, from where the operation was directed, was also identified and secured by the investigators.** The communications through Voice over Internet Protocol were unearthed. **Sixth, the alleged commander and his deputies were identified and arrested. Seventh, a couple of foreign-based financiers and facilitators were arrested and brought to face trial.** [...]Are we as a nation prepared to muster the courage to face uncomfortable truths and combat the demons of militancy that haunt our land? That is the question!

Dialogue with India, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, August 4¹⁴⁴

[...]There can be no solution to the difficulties between Pakistan and India except through negotiated settlements. Any other option is out of the question. For these reasons, Pakistan needs to do all it can to build the bridges that have remained broken down for long. It is a good sign that India is apparently continuing to make gestures that indicate it is eager to establish peace and talk to Pakistan on critical issues. [...] **The fact that there was confusion over whether Kashmir was discussed at Ufa is unfortunate. Such a lack of clarity should be avoided as it only gives rise to hawks on both sides to muddy the waters and further perpetuate the hostile environment.** It is important that at this point in time when tensions are high, the agenda for the talks between the NSAs is clearly elucidated and takes into account the concerns of both parties, in order to avoid any opportunity for hawks to derail the process. We have no other option, but to opt for dialogue with India.

India-Pakistan spectacle, Editorial, *The Dawn*, August 23¹⁴⁵

RARELY, even by the tortured standards of the Pakistan-India relationship, has there been as much farce and confusion surrounding the now cancelled talks between the national security advisers of Pakistan and India. [...] **That the Indian government reacted so angrily to what was to have been a fairly**

¹⁴⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/931648/dialogue-with-india/>

¹⁴⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1202206/india-pakistan-spectacle>

innocuous and standard meeting between a visiting Pakistani leader and representatives of the Hurriyat Conference is perhaps a sign of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's true intentions. [...] Yet, for all the Indian obstinacy, there have been some serious errors by the PML-N government in Pakistan. [...] **That terrorism was made central to the upcoming round of talks without any mention of the broader Kashmir issue appeared an error on Prime Minister Sharif's part.** [...] **Then came the next error: seemingly reversing itself on Ufa and demanding that the Indian government talk about Kashmir too.** That elicited a predictable response from the Indian government in the form of an angry denial that the Ufa agreement had been about broader issues and a rejection of the Pakistani attempt to include Kashmir in the agenda. **Finally, without a full-time foreign minister, the talks switched to being conducted at the NSA level, an awkward fit for full-spectrum dialogue and the Kashmir dispute.** [...] Mr Modi in particular seems not to have a clear Pakistan policy at all. How does refusing to talk to Pakistan address any of the concerns that India has? But Mr Sharif needs to demonstrate stronger leadership internally too. How can a three-term prime minister find himself in a self-created bind?

Blame Nawaz, Cyril Almeida, *The Dawn*, August 23¹⁴⁶

There is no point talking about Kashmir, but there is a point in talking to India. Nawaz knows that. The boys won't accept that. And Modi doesn't seem to get it. What Nawaz doesn't know is how to get the other two to listen to him. Not Modi, nor the boys. And it really is his fault this time.

NSA talks were doomed, but why?, Jawed Naqvi, *The Dawn*, August 25¹⁴⁷

[...] **If terror was the subject of the agreed meeting, the point persons, ideally, should have been the chiefs of Pakistan's ISI and India's RAW.** These are the two worthies best placed to realistically tackle the tangled issues of terrorism. [...] Had they been more serious about making progress on any sensitive issue the two sides could have chosen a more tested route on Sunday (August 23) but didn't. Remember that in the past they had conducted back-channel talks authorised by their political leaders. In fact, whatever solutions are being discussed for Kashmir in the public sphere resulted from painstakingly patient and quiet diplomacy. [...] **If Pakistan seriously wanted to discuss Kashmir or other important disputes — minus the security issues — the right forum, as has been the practice, would be the diplomatic channel.** The point persons for this part of talks should be Pakistan's Aziz and India's Sushma Swaraj, or their foreign secretaries.

¹⁴⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1202209/blame-nawaz>

¹⁴⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1202666/nsa-talks-were-doomed-but-why>

Theatre of the absurd?, Shahzad Chaudhry, *The News*, August 26¹⁴⁸

[...]These are the days of Modi Sarkar, and it is no ordinary sarkar. His vision on Pakistan when he took the helm in May, 2014 was based around aggressive assertiveness that would teach Pakistan a lesson for its excesses like 'dismembering a country' (pun, of course), or on a more serious note events such as Mumbai 2008. ***His objective is to cow Pakistan down into eternal submission so that the psychological dynamics of Pakistan divest forever an aggressive intent towards India.*** [...]The firings at the LoC and the working boundary physically manifest the approach of an angry India that will bomb at will. Were Pakistan to somehow submit to the status quo on Kashmir, India could be freed from a damning shame that it must still contend with globally by denying a people their fundamental right of freedom and keeping them under forced occupation. [...]As it plays out, India is in the process of reframing the paradigm on Kashmir – making it more domestic, making both Pakistan and Kashmiris irrelevant to the process, and in extricating the issue from the bilateral basket and using its internal mechanisms of force, coercion, and legal contortion to kill the issue as per India's own design. The rest, to their mind, will only be a cakewalk.

India, Pakistan and the fictional world, Ali Malik, *Daily Times*, August 27¹⁴⁹

[...]In the present round, Prime Minister (PM) Nawaz Sharif set the tone for failure when he agreed, in Ufa, for the NSA level talks to be centred on terrorism alone. [...] ***Dissecting the saga, on Pakistan's part it really baffles one why Nawaz Sharif is so insistent on engaging with Indians when Pakistan can live without.*** On India's part, it is a comic rationale that any fruitful engagement between the two countries is possible without tackling the elephant in the room, Kashmir. [...]This failure is rooted in the national narrative both sides have built for themselves, a narrative that is devoid of historical and geopolitical realities. Unless and until both sides simultaneously scrap this flawed narrative, there can be no fruitful engagement between the two. [...] ***What the Two Nation Theory does for Pakistan, Nehru's Discovery of India, Glimpses of World History does for India.*** This work of fiction has many flaws but its biggest flaw is that it portrays India as a political union rooted in history that has as its destiny to be a global power. [...]To feed this narrative, both sides abide in a world of fiction. [...]Both states, in their national narratives, forget that they are not the US nor will be any time soon; even if, by some stroke of luck, one of them becomes the US, it would still not have the geographical advantage that the US enjoys. This comedy of errors will lead to every Indo-Pak engagement

¹⁴⁸ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-9-336344-Theatre-of-the-absurd>

¹⁴⁹ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/opinion/27-Aug-2015/india-pakistan-and-the-fictional-world>

failing. So, probably it is time for India and Pakistan to start acting with indifference to each other. India has a vast east in the Pacific century. Pakistan has Central Asia and the Middle East to create markets.

Editor's Note: In another column "Must We Talk?" in Express Tribune Ayesha Siddiqi argues that even the Indians are surprised the way Modi government is handling its Pakistan policy. She also wonders why Pakistan issued the joint statement if it couldn't afford to exclude the issue. She concludes by saying that both the parties should come to talking table only after doing their homework properly.¹⁵⁰

Back to the future, Munir Akram, The Dawn, August 30¹⁵¹

[...] **Modi's policies are driven by an ideology whose central tenet is the 'Hinduisation' of 'Mother India' which encompasses all of South Asia.** Pakistan's eagerness to normalise relations with Modi's India — attending his 'inauguration', pleading for revival of the 'Composite Dialogue', offering concessions on trade — were seen as signs of weakness and evidence of the differences between Pakistan's civilian government and its 'security establishment'. Not surprisingly, these overtures were met by intensified bullying and bluster from New Delhi. [...] The best defence is offence. Pakistan should revive the demand for implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on Kashmir; raise India's oppression of the Kashmiris in the Human Rights Council; call for the withdrawal of India's 700,000 occupying force from India-held Kashmir; provide generous financial support to Kashmiri political parties seeking self-determination; invite them to meet in Pakistan or elsewhere and help to unify their struggle for freedom. [...] With appropriate incentives and pressure, the Afghan Taliban, under Mullah Mansour, can be persuaded to resume the talks with Kabul and perhaps to agree to a partial de-escalation of violence. [...] **Only once India realises that it cannot intimidate Pakistan into submission will it agree to negotiate normalisation on the basis of equality and rationality. This is unlikely until Modi and the BJP have passed from power. Pakistan has lived with Indian hostility for 68 years.** While war must be avoided through deterrence and diplomacy, Pakistan can wait a while longer to establish a normal relationship with India.

¹⁵⁰ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/945331/must-we-talk/>

¹⁵¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1203709/back-to-the-future>

EXCERPTS FROM URDU MEDIA & SELECT JIHADI LITERATURE

Afghan peace process should be restored, Editorial, *Daily Jang*, August 3¹⁵²

New Afghan Taliban Chief Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansur¹⁵³ in his first audio message urged all the Taliban groups to remain united “lest the enemies might derive advantage out of our weaknesses, which would further aggravate our problems”. [...]Mansur also rejected several reports emanating from enemy’s quarters as false and baseless propaganda. [...] **Despite Pakistan’s crucial role in conducting Afghan Peace talks, there are some sections in Afghanistan who have leveled baseless allegations against Pakistan.** In this connection, recent statement emanating from Chief of Afghanistan High Peace Council – Maulvi Attaullah Ludin is an important one, wherein he has alleged that Pakistan authorities disclosed the death of Mullah Omar to scuttle the peace process.

Taliban leader Mullah Yaqoob killed, *Daily Dunya*, August 4¹⁵⁴

Differences among Taliban leaders over the appointment of Akhtar Mansur as new *Ameer* have intensified. **10 out of 18 member Taliban Shura opposed Mullah Akhtar Mansur’s appointment.** Some of them are **Mullah Amir Mutaqi, Mullah Abbas, Mullah Jalil and Mullah Deen Mohammad.** According to sources, the dissident group has decided to form its own Shura. The members of the Taliban Shura in Qatar also opposed the Mansur’s appointment and many Taliban leaders held that such appointment violated the principles of Islam, and was hence unacceptable to them [...] **The deputy speaker of Afghan parliament Zahir Qadir claimed that Mullah Yaqoob was also killed in Quetta during a meeting where he opposed Mansur’s appointment. He further stated that Pakistan and Taliban members were involved in his killing.** [Later media reports suggested that there was a power struggle within Taliban and the news of a confrontation between rival factions might be true, but Yaqoob was still alive.]

Mullah Omar: Rumours and Reality, Hamid Mir, *Daily Jang*, August 6¹⁵⁵

The real story of Mullah Omar has not come to fore. His most powerful enemies had kept 10 million dollar bounty for his arrest but their dollars and

¹⁵² http://e.jang.com.pk/08-03-2015/karachi/pic.asp?picname=06_01.gif

¹⁵³ The Taliban chief’s name Mansur is also spelt as Mansour and Mansur in various reports—Afghan, Indian and Western. However, we have adapted this spelling from Afghan Taliban’s website and will use it in our translations from Urdu media.

¹⁵⁴ http://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2015-08-04&edition=LHR&id=1824359_64280915

¹⁵⁵ http://e.jang.com.pk/08-06-2015/lahore/pic.asp?picname=09_06.gif

technology could not nab him. **His enemies could not lay their hands on him when he was alive and could not also track his death. The US won the war of propaganda in the global media but Mullah Omar kept defeating the US forces on ground.** Rumours were always part of Mullah Omar's life.

"Tayyeb Agha", Mohammad Tahir, *Daily Ausaf*, August 6-7¹⁵⁶

When Mullah Omar started his movement Tayyeb Agha was studying in Islamabad. [...]After the fall of Taliban government, Tayyeb Agha came to Islamabad in 2002. Initially, he was inducted into the economic commission and in 2009, the Taliban assigned him the leadership of their political commission, which was till then headed by Mullah Agha Jan Motasim.[...]In 2009, when Tayyeb Agha went to Germany, where Bonn conference was going on, both Americans and Germans gave him lot of importance. Only then, the need for opening a permanent office was felt. Taliban's Qatar office was the result of the secret parleys in Germany. [...]The Pakistanis had their own concerns about Tayyeb Agha. **The Chinese first met Tayyeb Agha in Qatar in 2011. He was invited to China which he readily accepted to the chagrin of Pakistan. [...]Moreover, Tayyeb Agha started developing contacts with the Iranians and the Americans.** Strengthening relationship with the Iranians meant to cut short the influence of Pakistan in the region. [...]Iran-Taliban connections are such that one Taliban Shura member very recently told me that we can secure our interests through the Iranian border. This is the reason behind Pakistan's utmost interest in mediating talks between Taliban and Afghan government, which Tayyeb Agha wanted to sabotage by getting closer to the Iranians. [...]Tayyeb Agha has resigned recently and he has expressed his dismay as to why he was not informed about the death of Mullah Omar but similar questions can be asked to him as well. If Mullah Omar had died in 2013, then why was he continuously claiming that he had full support of Mullah Omar.

Importance of Kashmir in Indo-Pak relations, Editorial, *Daily Jehan Pakistan*, August 3¹⁵⁷

Pakistan's National Security Advisor & Secretary on Kashmir Affairs Senator Sartaj Aziz disclosed that during the meeting between Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Narendra Modi at Ufa several problems including Kashmir were discussed. **Sartaj Aziz clarified that without discussing Kashmir issue, no regular talks could ensue with India.** During the meeting, Nawaz Sharif raised the issue of Indian involvement in Balochistan and also provocative speeches coming from Indian leaders. He further disclosed that the meeting

¹⁵⁶ <http://www.dailyausaf.com/story/55308>

¹⁵⁷ http://www.jehanpakistan.com/epaper/detail_news.php?news=?%2Fepaper%2Flahor

between two prime ministers was not a pre-arranged meeting but it was suddenly arranged with the intervention of some friendly countries to defuse the tension prevailing between two countries.[...] *In bilateral relations between India and Pakistan, 'Kashmir' is the core issue. It is a stark reality which one cannot ignore at any stage. [...] Without a balanced and judicious resolution of the Kashmir issue, other problems like Sir Creek, Water resources and Siachin are bound to persist and cause immense hardship to the Kashmiris.* [...] India itself is well aware of this fact that without improving relations with its neighbour it would never be possible to protect its interests in the region. Despite all this, Modi and his lieutenants, imbued with a sense of arrogance, have chosen not to soften their attitude towards Pakistan. ***It is only because of international pressure that India has agreed to have talks with Pakistan.*** This was visible when Modi sought an appointment with Nawaz Sharif in Ufa.

ON HAMID GUL

Some good memories of Gen. Hamid Gul, Hamid Mir, *Daily Jang*, August 17, 2015.¹⁵⁸

[...] Some twenty years ago when I interviewed former ISI chief Gen. Hamid Gul, he answered my bitter questions with smile on his face. ***Some days after that interview I met him again at one programme in Lahore where he told us that Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto have failed and we should bring Imran Khan into politics.*** During those days Imran Khan was busy with Shaukat Khanam Hospital. [...] When in 1996 Pakistan Tehrik-e- Insaf was founded Gen. ***Hamid Gul was not involved in it but the then Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto believed that Gen. Hamid Gul Was the God father of Imran Khan.*** I still remember when Taliban emerged in Afghanistan, Gen. Hamid Gul did not openly support them because he was closer to Gulbadin Hekmatyar. In one programme, he even talked about his reservations against Taliban because during that period both Benazir Bhutto and the Americans were supporting Taliban. ***In the same programme Mufti Nizam-u-din Shamzai tried to clear his confusions about Taliban and later Maulana Sami-ul-Haq bridged the gap between Taliban and Gen. Hamid Gul.*** It is not correct to say that Gen. Hamid Gul created Taliban or that he was the father of Taliban. [...] When his confusions about Taliban were cleared he started supporting them. [...] ***In democratic circles he was criticized for creating Islami Jamhoori Itehad in 1988 to defeat Pakistan People's Party. Whenever he was asked about this he would always say yes and also add that it was a task given to him by none other than Army Chief and if anybody wants to file case against him he was free to do that.*** [...] When his newly formed IJI failed

¹⁵⁸ http://e.jang.com.pk/08-17-2015/lahore/pic.asp?picname=10_06.gif

to keep Benazir away from power Gen. Hamid Gul told Benazir that he had formed the party. After some time Benazir Bhutto showed him the doors.

Hamid Gul: An Ill-informed Analyst, Saleem Safi, *Daily Jang*, August 18¹⁵⁹

[...]As a person, Gen. Hamid Gul was was famous for changing his stance both ideologically and politically. He played a big role in introducing Nawaz Sharif to politics but later became his main detractor. He used to give suggestions to Imran Khan but refused to become his associate and became his critic. **At one time, he was very fond of Gulbadin Hekmatyar, Ustad Sayyaf and Burhanuddin Rabbani. He considered them heroes but when Mullah Omar opposed them he changed his line and started supporting Taliban.** Just before 12 October 1999, he asked the army to stand against Nawaz Sharif and supported Musharraf's coup. Later he stood against Gen. Musharraf and supported the lawyers' movement. He supported Chaudhary Aitzaz Ahsan in his campaign for democracy but later became disillusioned with the movement and talked about *Khilafat*. He happened to be pro-America and enemy number one of the erstwhile Soviet Union but later reversed his position. At one point of time he was a diehard loyalist of Saudi Arabia but during his last days of life he had tilted towards Iran. **In reality, he was an ill-informed personality.** Till the end of his life he believed that 9/11 was not planned and executed by Al-Qaeda but it was done by Americans themselves. **He also claimed that during the Abbottabad operation Osama bin Laden was not there and that the Americans, Gen. Kyani and Gen. Pasha were not telling the truth.** He used to say that Afghan Taliban and Pakistan Taliban have no links with each other and believed that Pakistani Taliban were the agents of India. Surprisingly, on TV interviews he would praise Moulvi Faqir Mohammad and Mangal Bagh by saying that they did not support fight against Pakistan. **He had never seen or talked to Mullah Omar and he also did not know that Mullah Omar had died some years ago, but he was very forceful in his assertion that Mullah Omar was alive and commanding the Taliban.** He was still considered father of the Taliban and even Americans believed that he remained in touch with the Taliban and that he guided them.

We lost an important limb of our body, *Daily Ummat*, August 18¹⁶⁰

[The Taliban contradicted this version later and held that they had not sent any message of condolence to Gul's family]

The chief of Taliban, Mullah Akhtar Mansur has sent a condolence letter to the bereaved family of Gen. Hamid Gul in which the chief had written that with the death of Hamid Gul, the Taliban lost an important arm. Mullah

¹⁵⁹ http://e.jang.com.pk/08-18-2015/lahore/pic.asp?picname=08_06.gif

¹⁶⁰ <http://ummat.net/2015/08/18/news.php?p=news-04.gif>

Mansur said this was the second biggest loss after Mullah Omar. Afghan Taliban performed all those rituals on Gen. Gul's demise which Muslims generally do after the death of their kith and kin— like offering prayers and Quran recitation.

Ideology of Pakistan is its strength, Haafiz Saeed, *Daily Muhasib*, July 13¹⁶¹
[This piece was republished in *Ummat*]

[...] **The narrow-mindedness and cowardice of Hindus is not accidental but they are born with these traits. There is no concept of brotherhood, tolerance and humanism in Hinduism. Hinduism is a religion defined by bloodshed, hatred, selfishness and deceit.** [...] All India National Congress was jointly formed by Britain and the Hindus so that they could enslave the Muslims of India. When the Congress party became powerful, it became the flagbearer of Hindu nationalism. There came a time when Hindu leaders used to say:

1. India will be ideologically and politically a Hindu State where all practices be adopted from Hindu culture and the rulers would be Hindu by religion and culture.
2. The only solution to Hindu-Muslim differences was to convert all Muslims to Hinduism.
3. It was also said that till India is cleared of all other religions, save Hinduism, the Hindus would not rest.
4. The Hindus were not ready to accept a country with 20 per cent Muslims.
5. Sometimes it was even stated that Hindu organizations would be the pillars of the Hindu state where respect for all Hindu scriptures would be an essential feature of the state.
6. There were talks that Hindus would burn Quran and raze Mosques.
7. They would also talk of raising Vedic and Arya Samaji Flags on all Mosques.

It will not be wide off the mark to say that Pakistan became a reality because of Indian National Congress' hostile attitude towards the Muslims. Their policies awakened and united the Muslims of the subcontinent. Muslims of the subcontinent have given great sacrifices for Pakistan. We have not received Pakistan as a gift, but to lighten this candle lakhs of people have sacrificed their lives and those sacrifices need to be remembered for ever. [...] **If India has not forgotten the partition of India then how can we easily forget the migration of one crore Muslims, the blood of thirty lakh martyrs and those women who were raped?** How can we forget these brutal

¹⁶¹ <http://mahasib.com.pk/muzzaffarabad/today/p2/story.php?param=8s.jpg>

memories— that too at a time when India is displaying its hostile attitude towards Pakistan, when conspiracies are at their peak, and fuel is being added to the fire of separatism in Balochistan? The agenda of Modi government is based on enmity towards Pakistan. Modi government is trying to fulfil all those promises which Modi had made during his election campaign and firing on LoC and the 'working boundary' are part of that agenda. [...] ***During these difficult times, it is necessary that we reform ourselves and return to for the path which led to the creation of Pakistan.*** Besides strengthening ourselves we need to understand the policies of our enemy. Fortunately, because of the efforts of our soldiers, terrorists are being eliminated and all conspiracies hatched by India do not seem to be affecting Pakistan. The success of our political leadership and the army is a reality, which nobody can deny, ***but it is also urgently necessary to revive the ideology of Pakistan.***

Civil-Military cooperation: A national necessity, Editorial, *Daily Jang*, August 18¹⁶²

[...] ***Nawaz Sharif took the right step in the interests of the nation. Senator Mushahid-u-Ilah had in an interview revealed that former chief of ISI had laid the ground for last year's protests in Islamabad in which Imran Khan and Tahir-ul-Qadri were at the fore front.*** The senator had referred to an audio message intercepted by the Intelligence Bureau, wherein the former ISI chief was heard directing the protesters to march towards Prime Minister's House. Mushahid-ul-Ilah had also said that the Prime Minister made the Army chief listen to the audio and had summoned the former ISI Chief and asked him whether that was his voice or not. After the interview the spokesperson of army rejected the presence of any such audio recording and said that these allegations were baseless.

INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS AND NSA-LEVEL TALKS

Pakistan decided to discuss ceasefire violations in upcoming talks, Editorial, *Daily Ausaf*, August 20¹⁶³

Pakistani civil and military leadership has decided to highlight Indian unprovoked firing on borders in upcoming NSA level talks. In this regard, Chief of Army Staff Gen. Raheel Sharif met Nawaz Sharif at Prime Minister's House. The other leaders who were present on that occasion included finance minister Ishaq Dar, Home minister Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan, Prime Minister's advisor on foreign affairs and national security Sartaj Aziz and special assistant on foreign affairs to Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi. In the meeting all agreed on giving India a befitting reply. The issues like National

¹⁶² http://e.jang.com.pk/08-17-2015/lahore/pic.asp?picname=10_01.gif

¹⁶³ http://www.ausaf.pk/wp-content/uploads/2015-08-20/news/detail14_03.php

Action plan, Attock tragedy and operation Zarb-e-Azb were discussed as well. [...] **It is being felt in Pakistan that Pakistan's ideological and geographical boundaries are being targeted by India which needs to be responded as well.** India's open intervention in Karachi and Balochistan, violations on control line and working boundary should not only be taken up at NSA level talks but in UNGA as well.

[Similar concerns were highlighted in the editorial of Jang with the edition that in Tuesday meetings ISI chief Gen. Rizwan Akhtar was also present.¹⁶⁴]

Interior Minister's statements, Editorial, *Daily Nawai Waqt*, August 21¹⁶⁵

The Interior Minister of Pakistan has said that **our enemy, which is creating problem inside Pakistan, is also the same enemy which is firing from other side of the border.** Yesterday in Mandi Bahaudin, while addressing the passing out parade of the rangers, he maintained that our internal and external enemy is one. [...] **According to him, those who are fighting in the name of Islam are taking money from our non-Muslim enemy and then they kill our children and security forces.** He said that this enemy is weak and coward. On the one hand it talks about friendship and on the other, it is continuously violating ceasefire along the Line of Control and International (working) Boundary. **Whatever Chaudhary Nisar has stated is known to his party and government, but instead of all this, our Prime Minister is trying to forge trade relations with the wicked enemy (Makkar Dushman)[...] Instead of resolving the Kashmir issue it has plans of integrating Pakistan administered Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan as well.**

[Chaudhary Nisar's statement was also taken up by Asadullah Gaalib in his article. He wrote that **even if our enemy changes its colour hundred times like a chameleon, we will easily recognize it.**]¹⁶⁶

Time to remain vigilant on borders, Editorial, *Daily Jang*, August 21¹⁶⁷

As the news comes from India and 'occupied' Kashmir, the hopes attached to upcoming NSA-level talks seem to be evaporating fast. [...] By sending spy jets into our territory, the BJP government has started showing its real face. They have unveiled their dangerous policy that can never contribute to regional peace. [...] **India's intentions can be assessed by the fact that they have stationed more than 10,000 forces near the border and people living near border have been asked to vacate their houses.** [...] The Narendra Modi government feels bad about not being able to form the government in Jammu and Kashmir on its own and it had to face stiff reaction from Kashmiri people

¹⁶⁴ http://e.jang.com.pk/08-20-2015/lahore/pic.asp?picname=07_06.jpg

¹⁶⁵ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2015-08-21/page-5/detail-0>

¹⁶⁶ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2015-08-21/page-5/detail-0>

¹⁶⁷ http://e.jang.com.pk/08-21-2015/lahore/pic.asp?picname=08_01.gif

when it decided to scrap article 370. **Moreover, on 14 August, the green flags were raised throughout Kashmir which while 15 August was marked as a black day.**

India's Dangerous Intentions, Editorial, *Daily Jasarat*, August 21¹⁶⁸

[...]Because of the Indian aggression people living near borders in Kashmir and Sialkot are leaving for safer places. **Schools have been closed, sanctioned leaves of army men have been cancelled and more than 10,000 forces have been called to guard the borders. Such moves make the evil intentions of India very clear and it is not difficult to understand that India is preparing for a war.** [...]Irony is that international community, especially the UN, does not take cognizance of India's actions. Observers of United Nations are present on either side of the border and they can at least see themselves who the aggressor is. [...]At this juncture, **an extremely aggressive war monger is ruling India and demonstration of aggressive behaviour towards us is a political necessity for him. But India should always keep one thing in mind that there is a huge difference between a Muslim and Non-Muslim. Muslims are not scared of death; rather achieving martyrdom is the wish of every Muslim.** India could not suppress the freedom sentiments of Kashmiris even after placing seven lakh troops there. They can only arrest Kashmiri separatist leaders including an octogenarian Syed Ali Shah Geelani. [...]No doubt the **Indian policy towards Pakistan was always clear but the intentions of a person who is known as "Gujrat ka Kasayee" are very clear.**

India's strategy of avoidance: Threat to World Peace (*Bharat ka mujakrat se gurez: Alami aman ke liye khatrah*), Editorial, *Daily Jang*, August 23, 2015¹⁶⁹

It has been customary for Pakistani authorities to meet Hurriyat leaders ahead of talks with India, and former Indian prime ministers— Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh— never objected to it. However, **Modi government has made it an importunate (persistent) alibi to cancel talks with Pakistan.** [...]India's stance only indicates its confusion (*bokhlahat*). **India first wanted to keep the issue of Kashmir out of the agenda and limit the discussions to terrorism and border tension. Later, it indicated that if Kashmir was to be discussed then Pakistan must stop talking to Hurriyat leaders.** [...]Faced with Pakistani insistence, India finally held the talks impossible. Indian anxiety over Hurriyat leadership indicates its lack of confidence over the Kashmir issue. In contrast, Pakistan's decision to take Hurriyat leaders into confidence ahead of talks demonstrates its rational and confident approach to the issue. [...]The world needs to know that **persisting tension between two nuclear powers is a threat to world peace.**

¹⁶⁸ <http://jasarat.com/news.php?date=21-08-2015&news=01&category=editorial>

¹⁶⁹ <http://jang.com.pk/jang/aug2015-daily/23-08-2015/idaria.htm>

Why are India-Pak talks conditional?, (Pak-Bharat mujakrat mashroot kyon?)
Rozanama Duniya, August 23, 2015¹⁷⁰

Pakistan had to say not to talks because India made the talks conditional and limited in scope (*mehdood aur mushawarat kiye jane par*)[...] **For the second time, India has cancelled talks over a trivial issue (mamuli se issue ko buniyaad banaa ke). [...] Narendra Modi is not sincere about the talks, therefore, he is inventing these excuses (bahane bajiyon se kaam chala rahe hain). [...]** Ufa declaration clearly indicated that there will be talks on all issues between India and Pakistan and **nowhere was it mentioned that Pakistani authorities would not meet 'Hurriyat leaders'**. [...] **Pakistan has succeeded in convincing the internal community that it was ready for unconditional talks and was quite concerned about the prevailing tensions along the LoC. [...] Now it is incumbent on the international community to bring India back on track through diplomatic pressure.**

Narendra Modi Vs Nawaz Sharif, Saleem Safi, *Daily Jang*, August 2¹⁷¹

[...] **Narendra Modi and Nawaz Sharif are Prime Ministers but not national leaders, both are politicians but not good statesmen. Both are confused and have made their foreign policy hostage to their respective domestic policies. [...] Narendra Modi was not allowed to enter the US because of his controversial past. His image was initially very bad and to improve that he adopted very soft stand vis-à-vis his neighbouring countries.** Similarly, he bowed down in front of the US and when Barak Obama patted him on his back his inner feelings against Muslims came out. His Hindu face became visible and he started talking against Pakistan. His friends in corporate sector became angry when he did this. When he tried to reach out to Pakistan later, his extremist Hindu nationalist followers registered their protest. That is the reason he has tried to invent excuses to move away from the dialogue table. **For the first time India does not seem to have any clear policy for Pakistan.** On the other hand, Nawaz Sharif's confusion is exemplary. [...] **Nawaz Sharif was advised by his own establishment not to go himself to attend Narendra Modi's swearing in ceremony but he vetoed the advice. Not only he went to Delhi but also he unnecessarily stayed there for two days.** Last year in UN General Assembly he delivered a speech as if he was not prime minister of Pakistan but a chief of Jama'at Islami. In Ufa, where he met Narendra Modi, without any planning and homework, he signed a joint statement which was totally against his past stance.

¹⁷⁰ http://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2015-08-23&edition=LHR&id=1854684_26293295

¹⁷¹ http://e.jang.com.pk/08-25-2015/lahore/pic.asp?picname=08_07.gif

Wait till moderate government comes in India, Editorial, *Daily Ummat*, August 23¹⁷²

The drama of talks between India and Pakistan should end now. **When India is not ready to talk on the biggest dispute which eludes peace in the region then how can we resolve the issue? [...]Whether India accepts to talk on Kashmir or not its weak stand on Kashmir has come to fore and world leaders have seen how India refuses to talk about Kashmir.** Analysts are surprised that world's biggest democracy could not tolerate Pakistani delegation's meeting with Kashmiri separatists. **[...]If they wanted to discuss only terrorism then Kashmir on its own becomes part of the agenda.** [...]Despite India's inflexible position, Pakistan is showing willingness to talk. Pakistan should give clear message to India that we also do not want to talk if the main contentious issue of Kashmir would be kept out of the agenda. [...] **Nowadays an extremist and junooni Hindu is India's Prime Minister whose enmity towards Muslims and Pakistan is known to everyone.** Expecting any breakthrough or peace from him is wrong. **Pakistan should keep itself away from the drama of talks till any moderate government replaces Modi.**

[Similar line of argument was advanced in an article written by Aijaz Mengli in *Ummat*. The author suggested his government to wait until a new government would come to power in India. But he adds that "we should not sit quiet till that time. Although war is not a good option, giving an enemy a chance is not logical. We should not make the enemy our master. **There is no wrong in preparing to fight against our enemy. We need to secure support of all peace loving nations. We should not forget that allies change with time**]¹⁷³

"Indian belligerence and our oppressed nation" by Badshah Khan [**"Zaarah India aur Mazlum Awam"**], Regular column, "Samandar ka sakut", *Daily Ausaf*, August 30¹⁷⁴

The western propoganda is rife that Pakistan is increasing its nuclear stockpile. But there is no comment on Indian aggression against Pakistan. [...] **For the first time, the civil and military authorities are on the same page over the issue of Indian aggression. This was not the case earlier.** [...]Now the question is: **What strategy shall we adopt?** Lodging protests (with the High Commissioners or their deputies), keeping international community abreast of Indian aggression are fine, but we must realise that **we have been doing it since last 65 years without any results. Will the same story repeat itself? [...]Time has come for us to convey a clear message to India and its western friends that enough is enough. If there will be talks or war this time round, it will be for final resolution all outstanding issues.** [...]If war is thrust on

¹⁷² <http://ummatpublication.com/2015/08/23/news.php?p=idr1.gif>

¹⁷³ <http://ummat.net/2015/08/25/news.php?p=idr2.gif>

¹⁷⁴ http://www.ausaf.pk/wp-content/uploads/2015-08-30/news/detail15_01.php

Pakistan now, the Modi government should not be under any illusion about the consequences of a war this time.

BALUCHISTAN

Balochistan is changing, Aga Masood Hussain, *Daily Dunya*, August 23, 2015.¹⁷⁵

Due to the efforts of political and military leadership, Balochistan is rapidly changing for the better. If things change at the same pace then the time won't be far when the Baloch will see a new life. Those people who were exploited by foreign powers and had fought against their own government are slowly and steadily putting down their arms. [...]Peaceful Balochistan is not too far now. [...]The common man in Balochistan has realized that Balochistan would hardly survive as an independent entity and its separation from Pakistan is impossible. **Majority of the Baloch have benefited from Pakistan and the Baloch youth have been provided jobs in Pakistan army who are proud to be part of army.** [...]Had the Baloch people not fought against our security forces, and had they instead lived a peaceful life, then the province would not have seen such devastation. **The issue of economic backwardness has been blown out of proportion but the reality is that the province has always been ruled by Baloch sardars like Akbar Bugti, Ghaous Bakhsh, Bizenjo, Sardar Staullah Mengal, Akhtar Mengal and Raisani. Why could not they end the economic problems. They could have done it but they did not.** Now Balochistan is showing signs of change. On 14 August, people celebrated the Independence Day in Quetta and many areas of Balochistan and gave a message that within Pakistan they can make their future bright.

Mehran and Brahmdagh Bugti are in Touch with Pakistan: Khan of Kalat, *Daily Tawar*, August 19

In London Khan of Kalat met Baloch leaders like Nawab Mohammad Khan Shahwani, Sardar Kamal Bangloi, Mir Kabeer Mohammad Shahi and Mir Khalid. Talking about his meeting with these Baloch leaders, Khan of Kalat, Mir Salman said that after the killing of Nawab Akbar Bugti in 2006, *Jirga* members sent him to London so that the issue of Balochistan could be raised at international level and now the same people are suggesting me to get back to Pakistan. Khan of Kalat asked the members to make environment favorable and put forward three demands. The *Jirga* members insisted that he should come back as the government in Balochistan is run by Baloch nationalists who are free to take their own decisions. When he was told that the new leaders of Marri and Bugti tribes—Mehran Baloch and Brahmdagh Bugti— do not come under his authority, he criticized both of them and said they were in touch with Pakistan. **He mentioned the names of Akhtar Mengal and Javed Mengal**

¹⁷⁵ http://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2015-08-23&edition=LHR&id=1854691_78016080

as well and said these people have blood relations with each other. [...] In the end, he said that talking to elder leaders of Balochistan is not bad but our demands will remain the same and the situation on ground will decide the future course.

Close Aide of Akbar Bugti Surrendered, *Daily Tawar*, August 18, 2015.

Close aide of Martyred Akbar Bugti and friend of Brahmdagh Bugti, Abdul Sattar Bugti, has put down his arms. When Akbar Bugti was fighting, Sattar Bugti was his most trusted man and he used to formulate the strategy for war with Akbar Bugti. **After Akbar Bugti's martyrdom he accompanied Brahmdagh Bugti to Afghanistan and since then had commanded the Baloch Republican Army (BRA). After the infighting started among various Bugti tribes, the one tribe close to Brahmdagh Bugti sidelined Sattar Bugti. For a long time, he lived a very desolate life in Afghanistan and finally surrendered.**

There would be breakthrough soon in Balochistan: Home Minister, *Daily Intekhab*, August 24, 2015.¹⁷⁶

The home minister of Pakistan, Chaudhary Nisar announced that there would be breakthrough soon in Balochistan and that Farari camps were being eliminated in the province. **He also claimed that all the terrorist networks had been eliminated in Pakistan and said that security situation was improving with the surrender of 500 pararis (Baloch rebels).** Talking about civil-military relations, he said that both were on the same page with regard to terrorism, and the Army's southern command had played a significant role for peace in Balochistan. **Giving further details, he figured out that during last nine months 1,114 terrorists were killed. This year alone more than 62,000 targeted operations were conducted throughout Pakistan. He also said that 282 leaders of terrorist organizations were identified and 7,900 members of the banned organizations were under constant observation.**

We are ready to give up demand of Independent Balochistan and negotiate, *Daily Nawa-i-Waqt*, August 27¹⁷⁷

Baloch leader, Brahmdagh Bugti has shown willingness for talks and has said if people would wish he was ready to give up the demand of independent Balochistan. In the past, he had been rejecting offers of talks by saying that armed struggle would continue till independent Balochistan was formed. **While talking to BBC Urdu Brahmdagh Bugti said that Pakistan establishment has lost the plot in Balochistan and they needed to accept that their strategy was wrong.** To a question he would give up the demand of independent Balochistan before talks, he replied that if his friends, the Baloch people wanted this to happen, then he was ready to go with them.

¹⁷⁶ <http://www.dailyintekhab.com.pk/news/news1.gif>

¹⁷⁷ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2015-08-27/page-1/detail-5>

The Baloch are coming back from the brink: Historic steps of PM and Army chief, Abdul Khaliq, *Daily Jang*, August 20¹⁷⁸

The process of convincing angry Baloch rebels is going on. Some time back, the provincial government had sent a delegation to London to have meetings with Khan of Kalat and later Sanaullah Zehri also met Khan of Kalat there. ***Khan of Kalat had told the delegation that he was sent to London by a grand Jirga and he would return only if the Jirga wanted him to return.*** In this context, Sanaullah Zehri's meeting is significant. After these two meetings, the Chief Minister of the province, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch said that Khan of Kalat seemed quite interested in the issues concerning Balochistan. He also maintained that every Baloch fighter should understand that our aim has been to bring all banned organizations on the table so that Balochistan can become a peaceful province.

Two influential commanders surrender, *Daily Jang*, July 22¹⁷⁹

The announcement of general amnesty by Pakistan government has received positive response in Balochistan. ***In Makran district two top ranking separatist commanders Altaf Buledi son of Imam Bakhsh and Changez Buledi son of Baloch Khan have bid farewell to arms and surrendered before the government authorities.*** In Balochistan, Maran, is considered to be epicenter of separatist movement. Both commanders have surrendered along with their several comrades after getting full assurance of amnesty from the concerned authorities. This surrender is a severe jolt to the Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF) because both these commanders were considered to be strong pillars of the movement and were considered to be symbol of BLF movement in Makran and Turbat districts.

Tragedy of Mastung, Aqeel yosufzai, *Hilal*, No.1, Vol. 52, July, 2015, pp. 4-8.

The debate over Balochistan is once again coming to fore at regional and international level. Our neighbouring country has openly stated that they not only intervene in the internal matters of Balochistan and FATA but also are ready to teach Pakistan a lesson through many other ways. It might be true that Pakistan government has not addressed the genuine problems of people of Balochistan and that government has not fared well in the issues of Human rights in the province. Let us also accept that these people are facing more problems in comparison to other provinces but courting external support and resorting to arms in order to get rid of these problems is definitely not the better option. [...] ***Very recently, American defense secretary, Chuk Hagel, has gone on the record saying that India is intervening in the internal matters of Pakistan and that concerns America as well.*** Interestingly Indian intervention

¹⁷⁸ , http://e.jang.com.pk/08-20-2015/lahore/pic.asp?picname=07_06.jpg

¹⁷⁹ <http://e.jang.com.pk/07-22-2015/lahore/pic.asp?picname=1420.gif>

is being criticized by those men as well who at one point of time were very close to India. **The reason is that those groups who talk about separatism have started targeting other ethnicities besides the army. In the past they used to kill Punjabis and then they turned their guns towards Shias and Hazaras. Now they are killing Pashtuns as well, which is a very serious issue.** Shias and Hazaras belonged to minority communities and had very less access to power whereas Pashtuns have more representation in power structure. This needs to be understood as enemy wants us to remain engaged in several internal fronts.

Terrorism and foreign involvement in Pakistan, Editorial by Yosuf Alamgireen, *Hilal*, No. 1, Vol. 52, p.3.

As we know, reality can never be concealed. Sooner or later, the truth comes to light. One cannot camouflage the reality but India for decades has been denying its involvement in liberation of East Pakistan in year 1971. [...] Now Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi could not but praise the valour of the Indian army, who fought shoulder to shoulder in the liberation struggle with Mukhti Bahini. So in this way the reality concealed by India for decades came out. **Indian Minister for communication and Broadcasting has been issuing provocative statements against Pakistan. Indian Defence Minister crossed all the limits of decency when he openly announced that "we are encouraging the extremist elements inside Pakistan." Needless to say that it was gross violation of the principles of UN Charter.** The present psyche of Indian leadership proves that **all our allegations with regard to India's involvement in Balochistan, Waziristan and Karachi are 100 per cent correct.** And India is threatening the integrity and sovereignty of Pakistan. [...] **India by its vicious designs has been trying to destabilize a terror stricken country [Pakistan] in the South Asian region. Sarmila Bose's "Dead Reckoning: Memories of 1972 Bangladesh War" and Dr. Sajad Hussain's "The Wastes of Time" have proved Pakistan right with regard to Bangladesh.**

STATISTICS

BOMBINGS, SHOOTINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES

(Select incidents culled out from the Pakistan media)

Place	Date	Description	Killed	Injured
Balochistan				
Noshki ¹⁸⁰	4/8/2015	Two suspected militants killed	2	0
Pishin ¹⁸¹	11/8/2015	Bodies of five men two women found	7	0
Gawalmandi Chowk ¹⁸²	11/8/2015	Police official killed in Quetta	1	5
Chaghi ¹⁸³	17/8/2015	Three FC men killed	5	0
Turbat ¹⁸⁴	21/8/2015	Militant killed	1	0
Turbat ¹⁸⁵	23/8/2015	Three bodies found	3	0
Sui ¹⁸⁶	27/8/2015	Eight militants killed	8	0
Quetta ¹⁸⁷	28/8/2015	Three lose life while planting bomb	3	0
FATA				
Shawal ¹⁸⁸	4/8/2015	Five militants killed in North Waziristan	5	3

¹⁸⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1198338/two-suspected-militants-killed-in-balochistans-noshki-district>

¹⁸¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1199810/seven-bodies-found-in-balochistans-quetta-and-pishin-districts>

¹⁸² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1199832/police-official-killed-in-blast-at-quettas-gawalmandi-chowk>

¹⁸³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1200817/three-fc-men-killed-in-attack-on-check-post-in-chaghi>

¹⁸⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/942058/crackdown-militant-killed-three-held-in-balochistan/>

¹⁸⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1202317/three-bodies-found-in-balochistans-turbat-district>

¹⁸⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1202978/eight-militants-including-commander-killed-frontier-corps>

¹⁸⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1203324/three-lose-their-lives-during-bid-to-plant-bomb-on-rail-tracks>

¹⁸⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1198156/five-militants-killed-in-clash-with-security-forces-in-north-waziristan>

Datta Khel ¹⁸⁹	7/8/2015	US drone strike kills five 'militants'	5	0
Khyber ¹⁹⁰	13/8/2015	Tirah IED explosion kills three soldiers	3	0
Shawal ¹⁹¹	20/8/2015	At least 10 militants killed	10	0
Bajaur ¹⁹²	24/8/2015	PPP leader killed	1	4
Shawal ¹⁹³	24/8/2015	Two army men, 6 militants killed	8	0
Ladha ¹⁹⁴	26/8/2015	Three soldiers killed	3	0
Dera Ismail Khan ¹⁹⁵	27/8/2015	Two soldiers killed, one injured	2	1
Punjab				
Dera Ghazi Khan ¹⁹⁶	6/8/2015	Three terrorists killed	3	0
Rawalpindi ¹⁹⁷	7/8/2015	Additional session judge gunned down in Rawalpindi	1	0
Attock ¹⁹⁸	17/8/2015	Shuja Khanzada murder	19	0
Sialkot ¹⁹⁹	28/8/2015	Seven die in Indian firing	7	0
Toba Tek Singh ²⁰⁰	28/8/2015	At least five killed	5	2

¹⁸⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1198786/us-drone-strike-kills-five-militants-in-north-waziristan>

¹⁹⁰ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/13-Aug-2015/tirah-ied-explosion-kills-three-soldiers>

¹⁹¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/941096/day-4-at-least-10-terrorists-killed-in-shawal-air-blitz/>

¹⁹² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1202443/ppp-leader-killed-four-soldiers-injured-in-bajaur-blasts>

¹⁹³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/943909/shawal-ground-operation-army-colonel-6-militants-killed-in-north-waziristan-clashes/>

¹⁹⁴ <http://nation.com.pk/national/26-Aug-2015/three-soldiers-killed-in-militant-strike-at-swa-checkpost>

¹⁹⁵ ¹⁹⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1203069/two-soldiers-killed-one-injured-in-s-waziristan>

¹⁹⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/national/06-Aug-2015/three-terrorists-killed-in-dera-ghazi-khan>

¹⁹⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1198550/additional-sessions-judge-gunned-down-in-rawalpindi>

¹⁹⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1200992/shuja-khanzada-murder-fir-filed-against-unidentified-attackers>

¹⁹⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1203398/at-least-seven-pakistanis-killed-in-indian-shelling-sources>

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa				
Rajgal ²⁰¹	18/8/2015	15 suspected militants killed	15	0
Sindh				
Nawabshah ²⁰²	7/8/2015	Cop killed, another wounded	1	1
Korangi ²⁰³	13/8/2015	Four policemen killed	4	0

²⁰⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1203183/at-least-five-killed-during-raid-on-suspected-militant-hideout-in-toba-tek-singh>

²⁰¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1201217/15-suspected-militants-killed-in-khyber-airstrikes>

²⁰² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1198757/cop-killed-another-wounded-in-nawabshah-checkpost-attack>

²⁰³ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/13-Aug-2015/four-policemen-killed-in-karachi-van-attack>