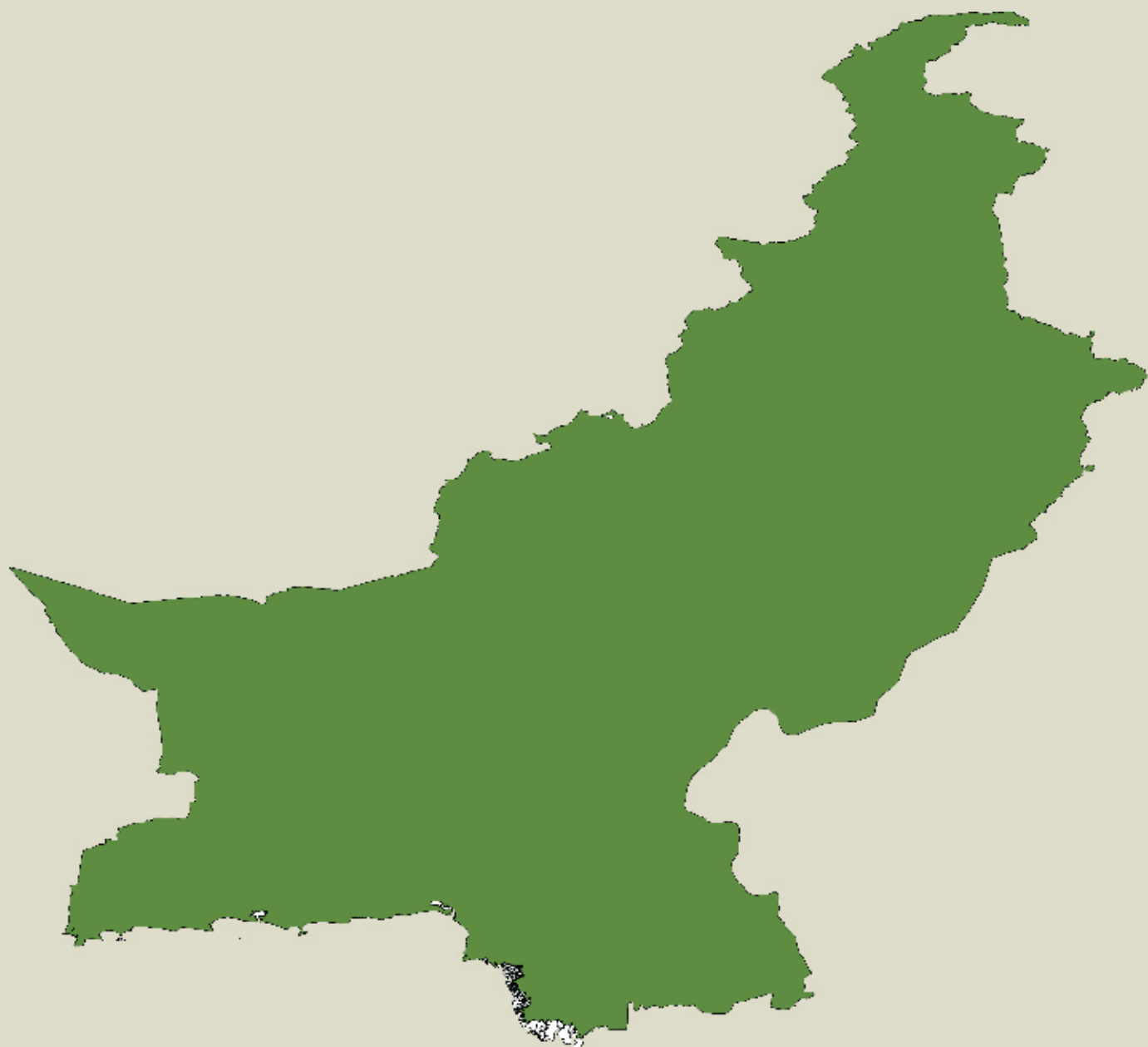


*July 2014*

# PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST

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



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

**idsa**  
INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE  
STUDIES & ANALYSES

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**INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES**

1-Development Enclave, Near USI

Delhi Cantonment, New Delhi-110010

PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST, JULY, 2014

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## ABBREVATIONS

ANP: Awami National Party  
AT: Awami Tehrik  
CMC: Conflict Monitoring Center  
ECNEC: Executive Committee of the National Economic Council  
EFF: Extended Fund Facility  
ETIM: East Turkestan Islamic Movement  
FATF: Financial Action Task Force  
FBR: Federal Board of Revenue  
FC: Frontier Corps  
FEC: Foreign Exchange Component  
FIF: Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation  
HCT: Humanitarian Country Team  
HDI: Human Development Index  
ISPR: Inter Services Public Relations  
JI: Jamaat-e-Islaami  
JuD: Jamat-us- Dawa  
KEPZ: Karachi Export Processing Zone  
MQM: Muttahida Qaumi Movement  
MWM: Majlis-e-Wahdat-e-Muslimeen  
NACTA: National Counter-Terrorism Authority  
NISP: National Internal Security Policy  
PAT: Pakistan Awami Tehareek  
PBS: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics  
PMAP: Pakhtunkhwa Mili Awami Party  
PML-N: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz  
PML-Q: Pakistan Muslim League Quaid  
PPA: Protection of Pakistan Act  
PPO: Protection of Pakistan Ordinance  
PPP: Pakistan People's Party  
PPRA: Public Procurement Regulatory Authority  
PRP: Preliminary Response Plan  
PTI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

SWA: South Waziristan Agency

TAPI: Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India

TTP: Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan

UNMOGIP: United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan

VDCs: village defence councils

## POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

### PROVINCIAL POLITICS

#### **MQM delegation visits JI Karachi office, Dawn, July 5<sup>1</sup>**

The MQM delegation, comprising Ameenul Haq, Abdul Haseeb and Rehan Hashmi extended their invitation to JI Karachi Emir Hafiz Naemur Rehman, to join MQM's rally in solidarity with the armed forces, which is scheduled to be staged at the Bagh-i-Jinnah. *JI warmly welcomed the MQM delegation but showed reservations in joining the rally. "Jamaat-i-Islami does not support North Waziristan operation,"* the JI Karachi Emir said, adding, *"We are with the Pakistan Army, but the operation would result in creating differences and rift between our armed forces and the people of tribal areas."* The JI Karachi Emir also asked for an immediate stop to the operation.

#### **PPP to re-launch drive for Punjab division, Dawn, July 10<sup>2</sup>**

The PPP has decided to revive the 'dead issue' of Punjab's division. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has reportedly asked party's provincial leadership, especially the legislators, to raise the issue as the PML-N government had committed to creating two more provinces in the south Punjab. *We will raise the issue in the Punjab Assembly to press the PML-N government to fulfil its promise of creating the Bahawalpur and Janoobi Punjab provinces,* PPP parliamentary leader in the Punjab Assembly Qazi Ahmed Saeed said. He said *the PPP would remind the PML-N that it had promised to carve out two provinces in Punjab. Now it seems to have backtracked after winning the election from there. By launching the Metro Bus project in Multan, the Punjab government thinks that it has done enough for the people of south Punjab.*

#### **Karachi operation in dire straits, Dawn, July 12<sup>3</sup>**

The Karachi operation launched amidst great fanfare in September last year in the hopes of improving the law and order situation in the country's commercial capital is currently in dire straits. A senior official of the federal government said: *"I must accept, with a heavy heart that, having lost whatever momentum we had built up in the beginning, the Karachi operation is almost dead now."* The political masters of many of arrested criminals began to feel the heat of the operation and raised a hue and cry. They accused law enforcers of being prejudiced in their arrests and even alleged that they were involved in extra-judicial killings.

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1117275/mqm-delegation-visits-ji-karachi-office>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1118773/ppp-to-re-launch-drive-for-punjab-division>

<sup>3</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1118704/karachi-operation-in-dire-straits>

**28,000 arrested in 10-month Karachi op, The Nation, July 12<sup>4</sup>**

Karachi police claimed to have arrested over 28,000 suspects and killed 392 criminals in various alleged encounters during the 10 months of targeted operation. *Karachi police statistics* revealed that 392 criminals including extortionists, target killers and members of outlawed TTP were killed in various encounters with the police. Police recovered three anti-tank mines, eight rocket launchers, 577 kilogrammes explosives, nine suicide jackets, 643 hand grenades, three light machineguns, 186 Kalashnikovs, 7,201 pistols, 116 rifles and 125 repeaters. Karachi police spokesperson Atiq Shaikh told media persons that there is a massive decrease in the cases of targeted killings in Karachi. *"In the 306 days of Karachi operation, total 1,065 killings have occurred in the City. In the corresponding period, a total of 20,432 killings had occurred last year and the credit goes to Karachi police,"* he said. Though, the police claimed to have apprehended over 28,000 suspects, the jail authorities said they had only around 1,000 suspects imprisoned at Central Jail, Karachi and District Jail, Malir.

**Government urges Imran to change long march date, Dawn, July 13<sup>5</sup>**

Federal Minister of Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique urged Imran Khan to change the date of his scheduled long march in Islamabad on August 14. At a press conference Saad Rafique said, *"The tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to 66 years. It is not a PML-N event but a national event for Pakistan and it cannot be changed."* He added that Imran should not turn the celebration into a day of agitation and urged him and PAT chief Dr Tahirul Qadri to be careful of "rabble-rousers" such as Pervez Ilahi and "gossip-mongers" such as Sheikh Rashid.

**PPP acting as 'mediator' in PML-N, PTI standoff, Daily Times, July 10<sup>6</sup>**

For the sake of continuation of the democratic process, PPP is playing the role of a firefighter by persuading Pakistan PTI to shun its planned million-man march on August 14 against alleged rigging in general polls last year. PPP, despite supporting PTI over its complaints about rigging in general elections last year, is concerned about the way things are shaping up on the political front. Syed Khursheed Shah of the PPP, who is opposition leader in the National Assembly also asked PTI's Shah Mehmood Qureshi to *review the decision of the long march when both met a couple of days back to discuss the appointment of CEC.*

**Article 245 invoked to stop Imran's long march: PPP, Daily Times, July 28<sup>7</sup>**

The PPP has feared that invoking Article 245 of the constitution in the capital is to stop Imran Khan from the long-march by adopting similar measures just like the government took against Tahirul Qadri by killing his workers in Model Town, Lahore. PPP's Central Information Secretary Qamar Zaman Kaira said *"If security is the objective then it should be better invoked in Bannu, DI Khan, and other parts of the country where the security situation is much worse than the city,"* he noted. *"We had never called the army to block the political rivals to hold the rallies which the present government is going to do, just to counter Imran Khan,"* he added. He said that the PML-N

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<sup>4</sup><http://www.nation.com.pk/karachi/12-Jul-2014/28-000-arrested-in-10-month-karachi-op>

<sup>5</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1118969/aug-14-government-urges-imran-to-change-long-march-date>

<sup>6</sup><http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/islamabad/10-Jul-2014/ppp-acting-as-mediator-in-pml-n-pti-standoff>

<sup>7</sup><http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/28-Jul-2014/article-245-invoked-to-stop-imran-s-long-march-ppp>

should not hide behind the national institutions through such acts and should come up openly about it.

**Imran tells army to stay neutral on 'Azadi March', Daily Times, July 29<sup>8</sup>**

Imran Khan on July 27 demanded the *army should not support the government and stay neutral in his party's August 14 rally*. Imran threatened to file a murder case against Nawaz Sharif if violence is used against his party's workers during the rally. Talking to media persons he reiterated that the *PTI will challenge the imposition of Article 245 in the Supreme Court*. He said that *Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif has contacted him and agreed to meet his demands*, which included answers to: 1) *Who scripted the victory speech of Nawaz Sharif on May 11, 2013*; 2) *What was the role of caretaker Punjab chief minister Najam Sethi*; 3) *What was the role of the then-chief justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry*; 4) *And lastly why returning officers were not put in place under the Election Commission of Pakistan*. In response to the ongoing rumours of Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan considering to join the ranks of PTI, Imran said *his party's doors are always open for Nisar, as he is the only person in PML-N who is not a darbari (courtier)*.

**MWM accuses Punjab govt of supporting militancy, The News, July 16<sup>9</sup>**

The Shia political party Majlis-e-Wahdat-e-Muslimeen (MWM) has accused the PML-N government of Punjab of supporting sectarian militant outfits. Its leader Nasir Abbas Jafari said the *"Saudi-backed" federal government had intentionally delayed the military operation underway in North Waziristan to help the terrorists flee the area*. *"Operation Zarb-e-Azb should be expanded to Karachi, Balochistan and every other area the terrorists are holed up in,"* he demanded.

**Army to maintain Islamabad law and order for three months: Nisar, Dawn, July 26<sup>10</sup>**

Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan on July 25 announced the government's decision to call in the military to take control of Islamabad from August 1 for a period of three months. Under Article 245 of the Constitution has sought the army's services for maintaining law and order in the federal capital.

**PPP lashes out at govt for invoking Article 245, Dawn, July 26<sup>11</sup>**

PPP on July 25 strongly opposed the government's decision to hand over the federal capital to the army under Article 245 of the Constitution to handle the law and order situation. *"The decision is pregnant with serious consequences for the people and the country as it means not only failure of the civil administration but also total suspension of the jurisdiction of the high courts. Worst still, in practical terms it also means setting up of military courts which cannot be permitted,"* PPP spokesperson Senator Farhatullah Babar said in a statement. *"The situation in Islamabad is not any worse than that in any other part of the country to warrant inviting security establishment to fix it by vesting in them powers beyond judicial oversight,"* he said.

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<sup>8</sup><http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/29-Jul-2014/imran-tells-army-to-stay-neutral-on-azadi-march>

<sup>9</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-4-262047-MWM-accuses-Punjab-govt-of-supporting-militancy>

<sup>10</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1121542/army-to-maintain-islamabad-law-and-order-for-three-months-nisar>

<sup>11</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1121560/ppp-lashes-out-at-govt-for-invoking-article-245>

## OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

### **US envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan steps down, *Dawn*, July 2<sup>12</sup>**

The US special envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan is stepping down, Secretary of State John Kerry announced. James Dobbins, a veteran diplomat with deep ties to Afghanistan, is retiring after just over a year in office and will be replaced by his deputy Dan Feldman, Kerry said in a statement. Dobbins's "*relationship with President Karzai was invaluable, particularly at difficult moments,*" Kerry said.

### **Rift between Nawaz and Nisar**

### **PML-N fails to remove Nisar's reservations, *The News*, July 4<sup>13</sup>**

The ruling PML-N's meeting and efforts of Shahbaz Sharif failed to remove reservations of Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan. Nisar has differences with some top guns in the government on policy issues. In recent days, reports about these differences on issues of national security, Taliban and civil-military relations have popped up. Nisar believes whenever the army intervenes in politics, it gets weaker while it cannot be challenged when it performs its routine duties. After assuming the office of the interior minister, formation of a national security police is the highlight of Nisar's efforts. But when it came to implement this policy, problems were created. Upon this, Nisar's differences with Khawaja Asif and Ishaq Dar also grew.

### **Inside story of why Nisar was angry, *The News*, July 6<sup>14</sup>**

At least five crucial factors caused deep exasperation to Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, forcing him to stay away from Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for weeks, but their old affiliation and rapport stood largely revived after their meeting in Lahore on July 5. [...] Chaudhry Nisar felt frustrated and aggravated primarily because he was not consulted by the PM in important areas that required his input, opinion and complete involvement. The hawkish cabinet elements came close to Nawaz Sharif, pushing away the doves like Chaudhry Nisar, which upset and annoyed the interior minister. The hardliners were kept at an arm's length when talks were initiated with the Taliban, and *Chaudhry Nisar was calling the shots. But when the decision to launch the military operation was taken, the hawks prevailed and the interior minister was not even consulted,* which tremendously angered him. [...] Informed circles say that the actual distance between Nawaz Sharif and Chaudhry Nisar was created after the relations between the security establishment and the government were marred. "*No doubt, the prime minister and Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif enjoy complete understanding,*" said one of them.

### **Nawaz-Nisar patch-up to bring no relief for Musharraf?, *The News*, July 6<sup>15</sup>**

Will the end of Nawaz-Nisar standoff bring any relief to Gen. (R) Pervez Musharraf in terms of scrapping of his name from the ECL or will his case be put on hold until completion of military operation in North Waziristan? No one in the federal capital has any clue about what is going

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<sup>12</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1116561/us-envoy-for-afghanistan-and-pakistan-steps-down>

<sup>13</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31372-PML-N-fails-to-remove-Nisars-reservations>

<sup>14</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31406-Inside-story-of-why-Nisar-was-angry>

<sup>15</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31417-Nawaz-Nisar-patch-up-to-bring-no-relief-for-Musharraf>



to happen. The News gathered that the government was determined to take the trial to its logical conclusion come what may, and even if it consumes more time.

### **Lahore baboos rob Nisar's authority on Interior Ministry, *Daily Times*, July 17<sup>16</sup>**

Chaudhry Nisar Ahmad may have buried the hatchet but his authority is seriously crippled as a Prime Minister's two blue officers are getting direct verbal orders implemented in one or more departments. Additional secretary is bypassing the interior minister as a matter of routine. For example, *the two officials, hailing from Lahore, in the premier's office – Principal Secretary Javed Aslam and Additional Secretary Fawad Hassan Fawad* - have been instrumental in reversing the minister's orders through verbal instructions to NADRA Acting Chairman Imtiaz Tajwar.

### **Musharraf Case**

#### **Musharraf resigned after safe exit deal: Gilani, *The News*, July 12<sup>17</sup>**

Former PM Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani revealed that former president Pervez Musharraf had resigned after striking a deal that he would be given a safe exit. Upon stepping down, Musharraf was offered a safe exit from the country under an agreement with the establishment. Gilani said the establishment had also taken Nawaz Sharif into confidence at the time of striking the deal for Musharraf's safe exit. *"At the time of the Bhurban Accord, when the issue of impeachment of the then president Musharraf came up, the establishment contacted me as well as Nawaz Sharif and it was agreed that Musharraf would be provided a safe exit from the country if he stepped down from the Presidency,"* said the former PM.

#### **Govt doesn't want Musharraf to face long jail term: minister, *The News*, July 15<sup>18</sup>**

Federal Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique said that the government did not want that former president Pervez Musharraf landed in jail for a long term, and that the issue of Article 6 would go to parliament.

#### **PPP proposes 4-year govt tenure, *The Nation*, July 9<sup>19</sup>**

PPP has now started proposing amendment in the Constitution for the appointment of CEC, the government is unwilling to give a chance to senior bureaucrats and lawyers on this slot. The delay in the appointment of CEC due to some legal hitches triggered the opposition parties to give new proposals as they even asked the government to give a chance to lawyers and senior bureaucrats for this vacant post. Receiving no satisfactory response from the government, Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly Khursheed Shah introduced a new plan that tenure of the government should be curtailed to four years after the completion of the incumbent government's five years. *"This change will end all the conflicts,"* he said.

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<sup>16</sup><http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/17-Jul-2014/lahore-baboos-rob-nisar-s-authority-on-interior-ministry>

<sup>17</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31539-Musharraf-resigned-after-safe-exit-deal-Gilani>

<sup>18</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31600-Govt-doesnt-want-Musharraf-to-face-long-jail-term-minister>

<sup>19</sup><http://www.nation.com.pk/national/09-Jul-2014/ppp-proposes-4-year-govt-tenure>

**Lt Gen (Retd.) Qadir to replace Khwaja Asif as defence minister, *The Nation*, July 11<sup>20</sup>**

To improve the civil military relationship, Nawaz Sharif has finally decided to appoint a full time defence minister and he is going to take back the acting portfolio from Khwaja Asif during the next phase of expansion of cabinet. The decision was taken in a five-hour long meeting of Nawaz with Nisar wherein the PM agreed with the point of view of the interior minister. *Nisar convinced the PM to take immediate steps to resolve the issues with the military leadership and Nawaz assured him of taking measures to bridge the gap.* Sources are confident that Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Qadir Baloch will be the successor of Khwaja Asif. *General Raheel Sharif had served Qadir Baloch as staff officer when Qadir was Gujranwala Corps Commander.* They had a good working relationship in the past and have pleasant personal relations. It was in fact Lt-Gen (r) Qadir Baksh Baloch who had strongly recommended General Raheel Sharif for the post of army chief and convinced Nawaz Sharif for his appointment as COAS.

**Pak-Afghan road to be completed by Dec-end, *The Nation*, July 14<sup>21</sup>**

Project In-charge of Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) Major Haseenullah said that construction work on the Pak-Afghan Road initiated on 2012 would be completed by the end of December 2014. Major Haseenullah said the 44km long road would be completed with the financial support of the United States and would cost \$77 million. He said the project had been divided into seven phases as per its demographic location. *"The 16km road has been constructed in first phase in Jamrud and was opened for all kind of traffic,"* he added.

**PPP ready to play ball with establishment, *The Nation*, July 15<sup>22</sup>**

Former PM Yousuf Raza Gilani's pro-Musharraf statement was in fact a deliberate move on the part of the PPP to send a message to the establishment that it was ready to play ball with it if the latter had any plan to bring a new setup in place through democratic means. The PPP insiders have claimed that Gilani's statement came following a well-thought-out decision by the party leadership also involving two of its top leaders, Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto. Gilani could act as go-between to negotiate terms of engagement. He would be playing the same role Amin Fahim had played during Musharraf's rule to bring the party back to power through the NRO, they added. [...] The timing of Gilani's statement is very important. It came at a time when the PTI chief is preparing to start a long march on the capital and Dr Qadri is talking of bringing a revolution in the country. ...But at the same time it wants to maintain a public posture that it would oppose any undemocratic move to dismantle the existing setup.

**PML-N, PTI, PAT, all trying to drag army into politics, *The News*, July 23<sup>23</sup>**

Dr Tahir-ul-Qadri has been trying to draw army into politics. Imran Khan knows full well that he will not be able to get all that he wants without dragging the army into resolving purely political disputes. Lo and behold, PML-N with its invitation to the army to hold a parade at D-Chowk the same venue as chosen by PTI is now also trying to suck the army into politics. *It has three choices: to stay neutral, to side with the PML-N or to side with the opposition. PTI and PAT are*

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<sup>20</sup><http://www.nation.com.pk/national/11-Jul-2014/qadir-to-replace-kh-asif-as-defence-minister>

<sup>21</sup><http://www.nation.com.pk/national/14-Jul-2014/pak-afghan-road-to-be-completed-by-dec-end>

<sup>22</sup><http://www.nation.com.pk/national/15-Jul-2014/ppp-ready-to-play-ball-with-establishment>

<sup>23</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-263356-PML-N-PTI-PAT-all-trying-to-drag-army-into-politics>

*desperate to use the army to topple the PML-N government. PML-N is now getting desperate to use the army to thwart PTI's rally. In all probability, GHQ will stay neutral....We are now at a stage where PML-N and PTI have both surrendered most of their cards to the GHQ and now it is up to the GHQ how it plays those cards.*

**Iftikhar Chaudhry sends Rs20b defamation notice to Imran, *Express Tribune*, July 24<sup>24</sup>**

Former chief justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry on July 24 sent a defamation notice worth Rs20 billion to Imran Khan under section 8 of the Defamation Ordinance, 2002. However, the retired justice added, he would withdraw his claim if the PTI chief tendered an unconditional apology or agreed to pay Rs20 billion within a period of 14 days. In the notice, Chaudhry said Imran had defamed him as well as the judiciary by accusing him of rigging practices in the general elections.

**Pakistan ranks 146 on UN's Human Development Index, *Daily Times*, July 25<sup>25</sup>**

Pakistan is ranked at 146 – the same spot as in the previous year – among the 187 countries in UN's 2013 HDI's annual rankings that is worked out by combining indicators of life expectancy, educational attainment and income.

## **FOREIGN POLICY**

**Israeli atrocities against Palestinians unacceptable, *Daily Times*, July 10<sup>26</sup>**

Reiterating Pakistan's support to Palestinians in their right to have a free and independent state, Nawaz Sharif said Israeli atrocities against innocent Palestinians were "*unacceptable and violation of all human rights*". "*Israeli government has always used brutal force against unarmed Palestinians which amounts to war crime,*" he said. The prime minister said, "*The people of Pakistan are with the people of Gaza and will support their right to have a free and independent state*". ....In a statement here the Foreign Office spokesperson said *Pakistan has consistently supported the Palestinian cause, specially the two-state solution which paves way for a viable, geographically contiguous Palestinian state, created on the basis of pre-1967 borders, with Al Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.*

**Afghan court imprisons Pakistani journalist for four years, *Daily Times*, July 17<sup>27</sup>**

*An Afghan court sentenced a Pakistani journalist to four-year imprisonment for "contacting terrorists", officials said. After contacting the Pakistani Taliban ARY News reporter Faizullah Khan was arrested in April 2014 by the Afghan security forces in Nangarhar province near the Pakistani border.*

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<sup>24</sup><http://tribune.com.pk/story/740354/iftikhar-chaudhry-sends-rs20b-defamation-notice-to-pti-chief/>

<sup>25</sup><http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/25-Jul-2014/pakistan-ranks-146-on-un-s-human-development-index>

<sup>26</sup><http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/10-Jul-2014/israeli-atrocities-against-palestinians-unacceptable>

<sup>27</sup><http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/17-Jul-2014/afghan-court-imprisons-pakistani-journalist-for-four-years>

**Iran rejects Pakistan's demand to defer penalty, *The News*, July 17<sup>28</sup>**

Tehran has turned down Islamabad's request to invoke the force majeure clause for not completing the gas pipeline because of the US sanctions imposed on Iran, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said.

**US urged to support operation even after pull-out from Afghanistan, *Dawn*, July 21<sup>29</sup>**

A five-member defence delegation from Pakistan has urged the United States to devise a mechanism for continuing to support the operation against Taliban militants in Fata even after its withdrawal from Afghanistan. The delegation asked the Obama administration to re-evaluate its plan to withdraw all American troops from the country by the end of 2016. [...] Pakistani officials said ... that due to Operation Zarb-i-Azb, they had increased their troop deployment along the Afghan border, from 150,000 to 175,000. They argued that Pakistan would need international support for maintaining such a large number of troops along the border and for continuing the fight against the militants. "That's why they urged the US administration to devise a mechanism for continuing to support Pakistan after the expiry of the Coalition Support Fund as well," said the official familiar with the talks.

**Nawaz, Saudi crown prince discuss relations, *Daily Times*, July 22<sup>30</sup>**

Nawaz Sharif, who is on a private visit to Saudi Arabia, called on Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, crown prince, deputy premier and minister of defence. Both the leaders agreed that relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are excellent at all levels and bond of brotherhood has transcended the vicissitude of time. It was agreed that both Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enjoy commonality of views on regional and international matters.

## MILITARY AFFAIRS

**Kayani continued to postpone NWA operation: Gen Athar, *The News*, July 1<sup>31</sup>**

The former DG of ISPR, Major General (ret'd) Athar Abbas, disclosed that the army was ready to launch a military offensive in North Waziristan three years ago but they were unable to do so because of the-then army chief Gen Ashfaq Parvez Kayani's reluctance in this regard. "It had been decided in principle that preparations for the operation would take place between 2010 and 2011, and that it would be launched in 2011 to rid North Waziristan of extremists once and for all," Athar said. When asked whether the reason behind his reluctance to give the final approval for the operation was due to his own weaknesses, Abbas agreed, saying 'yes'. "He was very reluctant when it came to the North Waziristan operation. Kayani thought the decision to launch the operation would reflect on his personality and people would take it as his personal decision, therefore, he kept delaying the operation."

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<sup>28</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31650-Iran-rejects-Pakistans-demand-to-defer-penalty>

<sup>29</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1120521/us-urged-to-support-operation-even-after-pullout-from-afghanistan>

<sup>30</sup><http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/22-Jul-2014/nawaz-saudi-crown-prince-discuss-relations>

<sup>31</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31285-Kayani-continued-to-postpone-NWA-operation-Gen-Athar>

**Pak-Afghan ties key to regional stability: US, Dawn, July 14<sup>32</sup>**

The stability of the entire region requires cooperation between Pakistan and Afghanistan, two top US military commanders have told Congress. At their confirmation hearings this week, an admiral and a general, who are taking over the command of US forces in Afghanistan and other key regions, also pledged to encourage the two nations to work with each other. Gen John F. Campbell, who has been nominated to lead American forces in Afghanistan, said responding to a question: *"Pakistan's first priority was its eastern border with India. But it also continues to be concerned over growing Indian influence in Afghanistan. Pakistan is and will continue to be a critical partner in the region"*.

**Political, business figures hail PM's visit to GHQ, The News, July 18<sup>33</sup>**

Political figures and business representatives have welcomed the visit of PM Nawaz Sharif to GHQ on July 17 as a 'good omen' and a strong expression of solidarity with the armed forces, who are currently engaged in Zarb-e-Azb operation against terrorists.

**Chinese envoy to Afghanistan lauds ISI's efforts to fight terrorism, Express Tribune, July 21<sup>34</sup>**

Rejecting Afghan and Indian concerns, China's newly appointed special envoy for Afghanistan Sun Yuxi applauded Pakistan for fighting terrorism in the region. The former ambassador to both Afghanistan and India said that the ISI *"has been effective in fighting against terrorism," while refuting claims that Pakistan was involved in terrorist activities in Afghanistan.* Yuxi was addressing his first media conference in Beijing after being appointed as China's envoy to Afghanistan. He also spoke about terror concerns in China involving the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) which is thought to have ties with Afghan-based groups and is fighting for independence in the western Xinjiang region of the country. Sun reassured that *China would continue to invest and develop in infrastructure projects in Afghanistan which include building a transport and electrical power network covering the whole country, constructing residential communities and developing mineral resources.* He said, *"The US is beginning to withdraw security forces and we feel happy about this. We also welcome the fact that some military bases of the US are still in operation."*

## **EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS**

**Work has been initiated on Pak-China corridor, Dawn, July 5<sup>35</sup>**

A highly placed Chinese official told a gathering in Urumqi that a *study on a direct rail link from Gwadar to Kashgar has been initiated.* The project needs more transparency and a clearer idea of who exactly is in charge of its implementation on the Pakistani side. It also needs to become clearer how the security challenges of Balochistan will be tackled, since the formation of a 10,000 man strong Balochistan Constabulary announced at the last meeting is likely to prove very inadequate to the task. *In a recent Senate hearing, Planning Commission representatives — who are trying to integrate the corridor and their own Vision 2025 were unable to give a consistent and satisfactory answer as to why the route of the road link had been changed from what was provided earlier.*

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<sup>32</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1119025/pak-afghan-ties-key-to-regional-stability-us>

<sup>33</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31667-Political-business-figures-hail-PMs-visit-to-GHQ>

<sup>34</sup><http://tribune.com.pk/story/738832/chinese-envoy-to-afghanistan-lauds-isis-efforts-to-fight-terrorism/>

<sup>35</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1117079/pak-china-corridor>

Also, the Vision 2025 task force had suggested that Havelian should serve as a dry port for the rail link, which should run from Peshawar to Karachi.

**Inexcusable neglect towards IDP's**, Shireen M Mazari, *Express Tribune*, July 16<sup>36</sup>

The IDP crisis is a man-made crisis created directly as a result of the commencement of a military operation in North Waziristan. Unfortunately, while it can be assumed that the war-fighting elements of the military operation were planned, the humanitarian problems such an operation would cause were ignored... It is the job of the civilian leadership in a democracy to take ownership and frame a holistic policy within which the military plans and operates military strategy and tactics. Unfortunately for Pakistan, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has failed to provide resolute leadership to the military operation. Earlier, the same leadership had failed to provide determined leadership to the dialogue, despite a mandate from the entire spectrum of Pakistan's political leadership through an APC.

**No agitation, no reforms**, Abid Hasan, *The News*, July 15<sup>37</sup>

[...] Unfortunately without street agitation, one cannot expect electoral system reforms from the existing assemblies dominated by the 'Gulu Butt Brigade'. Had Imran Khan not built up public pressure, even the proposed Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reforms would not have been formed. The outcome of this initiative will be superficial, since the two mainstream parties will not 'overhaul the machine that enshrines their positions of power'. .. Most of what will pass for reform, as a result, will really be more of the same. Therefore Imran Khan should carry out the long march, hopefully together with Dr Qadri, focusing exclusively on two electoral issues: (i) immediate recount of the four National Assembly seats; and (ii) introduction, within one year, of specific constitutional, legislative and administrative measures to overhaul the electoral system.

**Towards electoral reforms**, Tariq Mahmud, *Express Tribune*, July 15<sup>38</sup>

In Pakistan, members of the election commission, including its chairman, are drawn mainly from the judicator branch. There is no harm in this if this provision is revisited and membership of the commission is opened to other key branches of government, including the civil service, whose members could draw on their valuable field experience. [...] The present system practiced in Pakistan of selection of names for the post of the chief election commissioner by the leader of the house and leader of the opposition points towards a culture of 'politics of compromise' rather than a laid down, objective criterion to assess the credentials of persons considered suitable for this position

**Pakistan's Afghanistan policy**, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, *The News*, July 16<sup>39</sup>

Being servants of the Afghan people means something for both Afghan leaders. No such luck for the Pakistani people. Afghanistan has a future. We have question marks. In Pakistan, it has not been possible to have an audit of even four controversial seats. This is just one of so many

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<sup>36</sup><http://tribune.com.pk/story/736052/inexcusable-neglect/>

<sup>37</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-9-261826-No-agitation-no-reforms>

<sup>38</sup><http://tribune.com.pk/story/735610/towards-electoral-reforms/>

<sup>39</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-9-261990-Our-Afghanistan-policy>

institutional and political failures that portend a failing state. Afghanistan is a devastated state, not a failed state. ...So what should Pakistan do? The government should do the following: welcome the electoral audit and congratulate the two frontrunners; pledge its fullest and exclusive cooperation with the elected government; implement its pledge not to permit any safe havens, resistance supplies or armed attacks from Pakistani territory; call on the Taliban to acknowledge the elected Kabul government and to enter into peace negotiations with it – preferably on Afghan territory; release the remaining Taliban prisoners in consultation with Kabul and the Taliban regarding modalities, but making clear its refusal to hold on to any of them.

**What is the PPP doing?, *The News*, July 25<sup>40</sup>**

The PPP is in a quandary. As the political party that has suffered the most under the iron fist of military rule it has no desire to destabilise our still fragile democracy. At the same time it, like every other party, wants nothing more than to be in power. Pressurising the PML-N by joining with the other opposition parties is an attractive option but the PPP has to walk the tightrope between making life difficult for the government without putting democracy into peril. This has led to a host of statements by party leaders which, when taken together, show a schizophrenic strategy. [However,] Zardari's own spokesman Farhatullah Babar said *the party would not take part in the Long March and neither would it derail democracy* while former deputy speaker Faisal Karim Kundi tried to have it both ways by saying the party saw no harm in the recounts but would not support the PTI.

**Riot in Gujranwala, *Express Tribune*, July 28<sup>41</sup>**

For one Ahmadi family, July 27, brought deep sorrow and the unending pain of death, with three people perishing in a mob attack. Two of three who died were children after a house in Gujranwala was set alight by an angry crowd. Seven others were injured and are being treated in hospital. The Ahmadis, on the basis of their beliefs, have faced ruthless brutality for years. Specific laws have been in place for decades that target them in various ways. *Extremist groups, specifically targeting Ahmadis, have crept up*, and as a result of their activities, intolerance for the community has spread, and this has happened because the state has totally failed in protecting them.

**The next democratic, Tahir Mehdi, *Dawn*, July 29<sup>42</sup>**

The National Assembly speaker has notified the Electoral Reforms Committee. It has 22 Assembly members and 11 senators, and represents all political parties in parliament, barring three single-member parties. It is likely to meet soon. The committee has a daunting task ahead as Pakistan's electoral system suffers from a host of problems. Starting from faulty electoral rolls and gerrymandering in constituency delimitation to 'ghost' polling stations to non-issuance of statements of count, the list is endless. The committee is expected to fix all these problems one by one. But, howsoever meticulous it might be in fine-tuning the relevant laws,

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<sup>40</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-8-263767-What-is-the-PPP-doing>

<sup>41</sup><http://tribune.com.pk/story/742238/riot-in-gujranwala/>

<sup>42</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1122195/the-next-democratic>

practically speaking the problems are not likely to vanish. Even when carefully drafted rules are put to diverse field tests, loopholes stand exposed and are exploited by vested interests.

## ECONOMIC ISSUES

### FISCAL ISSUES

#### **Reserves at \$13.9b, *The Nation*, July 4<sup>43</sup>**

The total liquid foreign reserves held by the country stood at \$13,990.1m on June 27, 2014. The break-up of the foreign reserves position is as, foreign reserves held by the SBP \$ 9,033.2m, net foreign reserves held by banks: \$4,956.9m and total liquid foreign reserves is: \$13,990.1m. During the week ending 27 June 2014, SBP's Liquid FX Reserves decreased by \$157m to \$9,033m compared to \$9,190m in the previous week. During the week ending June 27, 2014, on account of external debt servicing and other official payments, SBP has made payments of \$249m from its reserves which includes \$148m paid to IMF under Stand By Arrangement.

### TRADE

#### **Textile industry crisis endangers cotton economy, *The Nation*, July 3<sup>44</sup>**

Senior Vice Chairman APTMA Akbar Seth has said that the textile industry crisis is set to endanger the cotton economy, as reduction in productivity will make difficult for millers to procure cotton ahead. According to him, chances are high the cotton farmers will not be able to get even production cost if energy crisis persists for another month. .... He urged the government to save jobs of 15 million direct and indirect textile workers by providing electricity and gas supply to the Punjab-based textile mills immediately. He said *exports of yarn and fabric have dropped by 22 percent and 36 percent respectively in the month of April and May and more is likely to take place in next month due to unprecedented increase in load shedding.*

#### **Food exports down by 1.41pc, rice exports up 14.5pc, *The Nation*, July 3<sup>45</sup>**

The rice exports increased by 14.5 per cent, the overall food exports witnessed negative growth of 1.41 per cent during the first eleven months of the fiscal year 2013-14 compared to the corresponding period of last year. The overall food exports during July-May (2013-14) were recorded at \$4.295 billion compared to the exports of \$4.357 billion in July-May (2012-13), according to the data of PBS.

#### **Dar for removal of hurdles in Pak-Iran trade, *The News*, July 13<sup>46</sup>**

FM Senator Ishaq Dar stressed the need to build mutual confidence for overcoming the impediments in barter trade and commodity exchange facilities between Pakistan and Iran. The finance minister said that during the prime minister's visit to Iran, both sides had reaffirmed their commitment that while remaining within the ambit of UN sanctions mutual trade and

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<sup>43</sup><http://www.nation.com.pk/business/04-Jul-2014/reserves-at-13-9b>

<sup>44</sup><http://www.nation.com.pk/business/03-Jul-2014/textile-industry-crisis-endangers-cotton-economy>

<sup>45</sup><http://www.nation.com.pk/business/03-Jul-2014/food-exports-down-by-1-41pc-rice-exports-up-14-5pc>

<sup>46</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31404-Dar-for-removal-of-hurdles-in-Pak-Iran-trade>



cooperation will be enhanced with barter trade and commodities exchange mechanism. The meeting was informed that the western countries' negotiations with Iran are also at an advanced stage of settlement and we should be well prepared and adopt a common approach to tackle issues related to Pakistan-Iran trade.

**KEPZ's exports at \$363mn in FY14, *The News*, July 15<sup>47</sup>**

Karachi Export Processing Zone (KEPZ) recorded an annual export of \$363.13 million in 2013-14, up 26 percent over the last year. The exports from the zone were registered at \$299.16 million in 2012-13. European Union accounts for 38 percent share in the total exports from KEPZ.

**Trade deficit declines by 2.48pc to \$19.98b, *The Nation*, July 19<sup>48</sup>**

The trade deficit has recorded at \$19.98 billion during last fiscal year (July 2013 to June 2014) compared to \$20.49 billion of a year ago, showing a decline of 2.48 percent. The PBS data showed that exports have registered an increase of 2.75 percent, as country exported goods worth of \$25.132 billion last financial year 2013-14 as against \$24.46 billion of a year ago. Meanwhile, the imports have recorded minor growth of 0.36 percent, as it stood at \$45.113 billion during the period under review as against \$44.95 billion of a year ago. ....Exports stood at \$2.027 billion in June 2014, which were \$2.174 billion in June 2013. Imports went down by 10.10 percent, as it recorded \$4.338 billion in June 2014 against \$3.940 billion of June 2013. The trade deficit for June 2014 against June 2013 enhanced by 30.86 percent and was recorded at \$2.311 billion.

**Pakistan assures IMF to bring down inflation to 6-7% by 2015-16, *Daily Times*, July 23<sup>49</sup>**

Pakistan has assured IMF for *bringing down the inflation rate within a range to 6-7 percent by 2015-16 from the current level of 8.8 percent. The commitment was made with the IMF when Pakistan entered into an EFF programme for Special Drawing Rights (SDR) \$5.393 billion in even quarterly instalments over a period of three years subject to successful quarterly reviews.* Officials in the Ministry of Finance said so far Pakistan has undergone three successful quarterly reviews and has received a total SDR \$1440 million in four instalments.

## ENERGY

**PPIB okays processing of 4,250MW coal projects, *The Nation*, July 3<sup>50</sup>**

Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB) approved processing of 4250 MW of power projects based on coal. The Board approved the processing of different projects after completion of the required formalities These include Hubco (660MW), Global Benefit Malaysia (660MW), Giga Energy (420MW), Yunus Brothers/Lucky Cement (660MW), Asiapak Hong Kong (2x660MW), Siddiqsons Group (330MW) Asia Petroleum (200MW). These power plants are proposed at various locations that includes Hub, Port Qasim, Karachi coastal area, Faisalabad, Gharo and Jamshoro. In addition to these, Sino Sindh Resources having China Power

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<sup>47</sup>[http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-3-261715-KEPZs-exports-at-\\$363mn-in-FY14](http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-3-261715-KEPZs-exports-at-$363mn-in-FY14)

<sup>48</sup><http://www.nation.com.pk/business/19-Jul-2014/trade-deficit-declines-by-2-48pc-to-19-98b>

<sup>49</sup><http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/business/23-Jul-2014/pakistan-assures-imf-to-bring-down-inflation-to-6-7-by-2015-16>

<sup>50</sup><http://www.nation.com.pk/business/03-Jul-2014/ppib-okays-processing-of-4-250mw-coal-projects>

International as partners, and Thar Power Company, which is a joint venture of Engro Energy and Government of Sindh have shown interest in developing 2x600MW and 2x330MW power plants respectively at Thar.

**Govt mulling PPP mode for Bhasha dam construction, *The Nation*, July 9<sup>51</sup>**

Chairman Wapda Zafar Mahmood has presented the proposal of PPP (public private partnership) mode for Diamer Bhasha Dam in a meeting chaired by FM Senator Ishaq Dar. The government is struggling to arrange funds for the construction of the much needed dam that could generate around 4500 megawatt electricity. According to the Public Sector Development Programme 2014-15, the overall cost of Diamer Bhasha Dam is Rs 826 billion. Therefore, the government could not afford to complete the project on its resources and it would have to go for PPP mode.

**TAPI pipeline project in its final stage, *Daily Times*, July 10<sup>52</sup>**

The contract of TAPI pipeline project has reached the final stage, in connection to which, Petroleum & Natural Resources Federal Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has flown to Turkmenistan to materialise the deal. Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India would push ahead with a planned transnational gas pipeline connecting the four countries and reach a settlement on the award of the multi-billion-dollar project. *At present, US companies Chevron and ExxonMobil are at the top in the race to get the contract, while the winning firm would operate the pipeline besides its financing, and laying, they added.*

**660MW power project to be set up in Jhang, *Daily Times*, July 14<sup>53</sup>**

Nishat Chunian Limited has signed a letter of interest issued by the Punjab Power Development Board for setting up 660MW of coal based power project in Jhang. A spokesman for the Punjab PPDB said on July 13 that the board had quoted the notional project cost at USD 1.2 million per megawatt.

**CDWP clears Rs144.6 bn project for Gadani, red chillies for Sindh, *The News*, July 18<sup>54</sup>**

The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) that met with Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Prof. Ahsan Iqbal in the chair cleared 6 projects worth Rs177.36 billion including foreign exchange component of Rs126.59 billion for all the provinces of Pakistan. The projects that are recommended to Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) for approval include Construction of Infrastructure for Power Park 6,600 Megawatt project at Gadani (Balochistan), Greater Karachi Water Supply Scheme K-IV (Sindh), Kala Dhaka Area Development Project (KP), Khyber Area Development Project (KP), Construction of 50-Bed Hospital Including Hostels and other equipment at Pasni (Balochistan) and Red Chillies Processing Centre (Sindh).

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<sup>51</sup><http://www.nation.com.pk/business/09-Jul-2014/govt-mulling-ppp-mode-for-bhasha-dam-construction>

<sup>52</sup><http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/10-Jul-2014/tapi-pipeline-project-in-its-final-stage>

<sup>53</sup><http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/business/14-Jul-2014/660mw-power-project-to-be-set-up-in-jhang>

<sup>54</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-262422-CDWP-clears-Rs1446-bn-project-for-Gadani-red-chillies-for-Sindh>

### **Operational accord on Tapi gas pipeline signed, Dawn, July 18<sup>55</sup>**

An operational agreement on the Tapi gas pipeline was signed by Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India on July 8. According to a preliminary breakdown, Pakistan and India would each get about 42 per cent of the gas and Afghanistan the remainder. The project has also won vocal support from the United States, which is strongly opposed to India and Pakistan drawing supplies from Iran through another proposed gas pipeline. The pipeline would deliver up to 33 billion cubic metres of gas annually.

### **LOAN**

#### **WB approves \$76.4m for Sindh agricultural growth project, The Nation, July 9<sup>56</sup>**

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved the Sindh Agricultural Growth Project worth \$76.4 million, as project aims to improve the productivity and market access of small and medium producers in important commodity value chains. The project would benefit approximately 112,000 farmers covering over 66,000 hectares. The credit is financed from the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank Group's grant and low-interest arm. It will be on standard IDA terms, with a maturity of 25 years, including a grace period of 5 years.

### **INVESTMENT**

#### **China keen to develop, operate industrial park in Gwadar, The News, July 18<sup>57</sup>**

An official group of 15 Chinese investors has shown keen interest in developing and operating an industrial park in Gwadar, Balochistan, and other parts of the province. The Chinese investors expressed their interest to jointly work as industrial park. [...] "I cannot confirm the size of the land on which they (Chinese) want to develop the park. However, I can tell you that GIEDA owns about 2,000 acre of land which is about 40 kilometer away from city of Gwadar, while Gwadar Port Free Zone owns about 923 hectare (2,281 acre)," authority said. This was the fourth visit of Chinese investors since January 2014. The visit was in line with a series of policy initiatives under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and bilateral and multilateral understandings between different Chinese and Pakistani public-sector, as well as private sector companies and organizations, he said.

### **OTHER DEVELOPMENTS**

#### **Ecneec okays Rs440b projects, The Nation, July 4<sup>58</sup>**

The ECNEC approved projects worth Rs 440 billion including Karachi-Multan-Lahore Motorway and Prime Minister's programme for provision of laptops to talented students. Meanwhile, the ECNEC also approved the project for land acquisition, affected properties compensation and relocation of utilities for construction of 959km Karachi Lahore Motorway

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<sup>55</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1120062/operational-accord-on-tapi-gas-pipeline-signed>

<sup>56</sup><http://www.nation.com.pk/business/09-Jul-2014/wb-approves-76-4m-for-sindh-agricultural-growth-project>

<sup>57</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-262424-China-keen-to-develop-operate-industrial-park-in-Gwadar>

<sup>58</sup><http://www.nation.com.pk/business/04-Jul-2014/ecneec-okays-rs440b-projects>

with a rationalized cost of Rs.51 billion. *The ECNEC approved raising of Balochistan constabulary project at a rationalized cost of Rs.5.146 billion with FEC (foreign exchange component) of Rs200 million.* The project aims to assist police and district administration in maintenance of law and order in Balochistan by recruiting 6,000 additional force and merging 4,000 reserve police personnel to make 10,000 strong force of Balochsitan constabulary.

**Blacklisted firm still involved in mega projects, *The Nation*, June 11<sup>59</sup>**

A Chinese company, *Dong Fang*, blacklisted in railway locomotive deal, has been the major contractor in many multi-billion power generation projects, raising serious questions on the quality and timely execution of these crucial projects. Dong Fang first came into limelight in Pakistan when it struck a deal to provide locomotives commonly called railway engines to the country, during General Pervez Musharraf's regime. In this scam, NAB investigated former top government functionaries, including former Federal Minister for Railways Lt General (retd) Javed Ashraf Qazi, former Chairman of PR Lt Gen (retd) Saeed-uz-Zafar, Major General (retd) Hamid Hasan Butt. General Manager of Operations Saeed Akhtar was arrested, along with general manager and an additional general manager of Pakistan Railways for their alleged involvement in the scam. *These engines could run on the tracks for some time and were grounded due to development of serious technical faults.*

**Geo to appear on its original numbers soon: minister, *The News*, July 14<sup>60</sup>**

Federal Information Minister Pervaiz Rashid said he loved the media, as a powerful and independent media was vital for democracy in the country. The minister said Geo News was awarded punishment by Pemra for a mistake; it faced the punishment and paid the fine. *Now the matter should come to an end and we should move forward*, the minister added. *He promised that Geo News will appear on its original numbers on cable very soon. The government is taking legal steps for the purpose and the courts are also taking measures in this regard*, he said.

**FBR team to visit Switzerland in August to recover taxes on \$200 billion, *The News*, July 16<sup>61</sup>**

FM Ishaq Dar said that a team of FBR (Federal Board of Revenue) experts will visit Switzerland in third week of August to pursue Pakistan's efforts to recover untaxed billions of dollars of Pakistanis stashed away illegally in Swiss banks. Dar said that he had already got approval from the cabinet to formally initiate negotiations with the Swiss authorities for possible recovery of billions of dollars belonging to Pakistanis in offshore accounts. He explained that it was a lengthy process and might take a few years. It is assumed that Pakistani nationals have over \$200 billion stashed away in Swiss banks.

**SBP refuses to pay \$45m to Iranian firm, *Dawn*, July 21<sup>62</sup>**

The SBP has so far *declined to transfer \$45 million to an Iranian firm and as a result the procurement of 13 heavy power transformers, with an installed capacity of 500MW, has been held in abeyance.* The

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<sup>59</sup><http://www.nation.com.pk/national/11-Jul-2014/blacklisted-firm-still-involved-in-mega-projects>

<sup>60</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31580-Geo-to-appear-on-its-original-numbers-soon-minister>

<sup>61</sup>[http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31620-FBR-team-to-visit-Switzerland-in-August-to-recover-taxes-on-\\$200-billion](http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31620-FBR-team-to-visit-Switzerland-in-August-to-recover-taxes-on-$200-billion)

<sup>62</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1120674/sbp-refuses-to-pay-45m-to-iranian-firm>

request was earlier made by the Ministry of Water and Power in a bid to purchase the power transformers. An Iranian firm placed a low bid to obtain the tender. Iranian firm successfully arranged the transformers but the *SBP has now refused to pay \$45 million to the firm due to US sanctions on Iran*. Sources also informed that payment for the import of 60MW of Iranian electricity has been stopped as it is feared that the power supply would remain suspended in the bordering areas of Baluchistan. *The Ministry of Water and Power has recommended to the Finance Ministry to make the payments to Iran through barter trade.*

### **Companies banned by WB, ADB working freely in Pakistan, *The News*, July 23<sup>63</sup>**

Despite being debarred by the World Bank and ADB, Islamabad, the PPRA (Public Procurement Regulatory Authority), has not banned *17 Chinese, seven Turkish and one Canadian firm in Pakistan*. Documents available with *The News* revealed that of the 17 Chinese firms, one company which was banned even in China by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank due to delay in completing the projects financed by these financial institutions has been awarded the contract for the construction of the new Benazir Bhutto International Airport.

## **EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS**

### **Delinking from global economy, Ishrat Hussain, *Dawn*, July 5<sup>64</sup>**

Pakistanis may not be aware but the nefarious designs of extremists who wish to isolate Pakistan from the rest of the world seem to be working. [...]The international Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has *placed Pakistan among a handful of countries in the high-risk category for its lack of action against money laundering and terrorism financing*. Capital inflows and outflows from Pakistan are now subjected to more serious scrutiny. Even legitimate philanthropic donations for noble causes have to bear the brunt. International retail banks are either completely withdrawing or substantially curtailing their operations particularly at the retail level. Pakistani banks are facing difficulties in maintaining international correspondent banking ties. *Pakistan is being edged out of international financial integration.*

### **Mismanagement of fiscal and monetary policies, Dr Muhammad Yaqub, *The News*, July 6<sup>65</sup>**

It is one thing to ensure stability of the nominal exchange rate by pursuing sound macroeconomic policies. It is altogether another to combine it with the mismanagement of the fiscal and monetary policies and bring it about by increased foreign borrowing/begging. ...The government is caught in cobweb of policies that are mutually inconsistent. The government wants to bring down inflation without adopting monetary and fiscal policies that would help achieve it. It wants to accelerate economic growth without taking steps to promote investment and increase the domestic saving rate. It wants to achieve economic sovereignty without reducing dependence on foreign borrowing. And it wants to maintain stable nominal exchange without creating domestic policies to realise that goal.

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<sup>63</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31777-Companies-banned-by-WB-ADB-working-freely-in-Pakistan>

<sup>64</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1117090/delinking-from-global-economy>

<sup>65</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-9-260232-Caught-in-a-cobweb>

**Facts and figures, *The News*, July 12<sup>66</sup>**

FM Ishaq Dar had triumphantly stated in his budget speech that the PML-N had presided over 4.1 percent economic growth in its first year, a figure higher than that achieved by the PPP in any of its five years in power. We now know that he was not being accurate. In its Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies submitted to the IMF last month, the government admitted that the actual rate of economic growth was only 3.3 percent, the lowest increase in the last six years. This reveals a lot about the priorities of the government. *The public is there to be misled, both in the budget speech and the State Bank's third quarterly report.*

**Where's the Gaza outrage in Pakistan?, Ayaz Amir, *The News*, July 22<sup>67</sup>**

The present leadership, in any case, cannot be expected to take any stand ahead of or out of step with Saudi Arabia. Imagine if a Bhutto had been around. By this time he would have been all around the Arab world, taking the lead in condemning Israel and promising all out support, including military support, to Hamas. In the 1973 war Pakistani air force pilots were sent to Syria. That's what endeared Bhutto to Hafez Al-Assad. But those were different times and Bhutto, for all his other faults, was a different kind of leader. But what about the Pakistani masses, what's happened to them? The Pakistani intelligentsia used to be involved emotionally in distant affairs, including the Vietnam War. There were no television channels then and few independent newspapers. But the Pakistani student, the newspaper-reading man, the professor and academic, the lawyer, the trade unionist, was more aware of what was going on in the world – of what was happening in Cuba, Angola, the streets of Paris during the student uprising of 1968 – than his counterpart today.

## SECURITY SITUATION

### ZARB-E-AZB

**Fazlullah is in Pakistan: TTP, *The Nation*, July 4<sup>68</sup>.**

TTP leader Mullah Fazlullah is currently in the tribal regions of Pakistan, and not in Afghanistan as claimed by Pakistani officials. In an interview with BBC, TTP spokesperson Shahidullah Shahid said that *Mullah Fazlullah was not under the influence of the Afghan government even when he was in Afghanistan* and added that the TTP has never been aided by any government. Shahid also said that *Nawaz Sharif's government treated the negotiations between the government and the Taliban as a joke, saying they mishandled it even more than the governments of Musharraf and Zardari.*

**Taliban returned to Swat as target killers, *The Nation*, July 15<sup>69</sup>**

Maulana Fazlullah and his men fled to Afghanistan during the army operation in 2009 and remained out of sight for almost three years but in 2012, the Swati Taliban re-emerged and they

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<sup>66</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-8-261272-Facts-and-figures>

<sup>67</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-9-263207-Wheres-the-Gaza-outrage-in-Pakistan>

<sup>68</sup><http://www.nation.com.pk/national/04-Jul-2014/fazlullah-is-in-pakistan-ttp>

<sup>69</sup><http://www.nation.com.pk/national/15-Jul-2014/taliban-return-to-swat-as-target-killers>

started attacking Pakistani security forces near Pak-Afghan border in Dir, Bajaur and Chitral. The attacks in the scantily-populated area of Malakand Division did not create any panic in the valley but fear gripped the locals when the Taliban targeted Malala Yousafzai in broad day light in Mingora, the heart of Swat, in October 2012. Afterwards, target killing rapidly increased in Swat and Pashtun nationalist leaders like members of ANP, PMAP, members of VDCs and other pro-government elders were targeted by the unseen killers. *From 2009 to 2012, around 12 eminent persons were killed while during 2013, nine leaders of peace committees were targeted in Swat district.*

**UN seeks \$99 million for North Waziristan IDPs, Daily Times, July 19<sup>70</sup>**

Launched by the UN and humanitarian partners under the umbrella of HCT (Humanitarian Country Team), in consultation with the Government of Pakistan, the PRP (Preliminary Response Plan) *requires \$ 99 million for vital humanitarian assistance to support 500,000 IDPs for six months* while the world body says it has not lately received any funding. So far, the donors have pledged or contributed only \$ 22.5 for the affectees of military action in NWA whose number has reportedly exceeded 1,050,000. Separately, the Pakistani government initially released 500 million rupees for the IDPs in Bannu of which over Rs 400 million have been spent.

**NWA jirga seeks compensation for operation losses, Dawn, July 21<sup>71</sup>**

The tribal elders of North Waziristan Agency have *demand of the authorities to compensate tribal people for the losses inflicted on them during operation Zarb-i-Azb* and take steps for early return of the internally displaced persons to their hometowns.

**Rising civilian deaths fuel outrage in NWA offensive, The News, July 23<sup>72</sup>**

When Pakistan Air Force jets rained down missiles on a village in North Waziristan last week, it was described as yet another victory over Taliban insurgents in the ongoing operation Zarb-e-Azb. ... Official toll has been impossible to verify, raising questions among rights activists over the offensive's true human cost. According to multiple accounts by residents, 37 civilians were killed in the attack carried out on July 23. While villagers grieve, the incident has become a focus of rising anger among tribesmen who have managed to flee to border towns inside Pakistan, and who threatened to march on Islamabad if the operation did not end soon. A senior security official speaking on condition of anonymity has said those who were killed had plenty of warning to evacuate. *" If a terrorist is living with his family and does not abandon them even during the time of operation and we have solid ground intelligence about the terrorist and we target his hideout, what would you call it, collateral damage or what?"* the source asked.

## TERRORISM

**Most Pakistanis fear extremism, dislike Taliban: survey, Dawn, July 2<sup>73</sup>**

In Pakistan 66 per cent people see religious extremism as a serious threat to their country, says a new survey released by a US think-tank. The survey, conducted in spring 2014, shows that

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<sup>70</sup><http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/19-Jul-2014/un-seeks-99-million-for-north-waziristan-idps>

<sup>71</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1120618/nwa-jirga-seeks-compensation-for-operation-losses>

<sup>72</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31793-Rising-civilian-deaths-fuel-outrage-in-NWA-offensive>

<sup>73</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1116414/most-pakistanis-fear-extremism-dislike-taliban-survey>

*there are still 24pc people in Pakistan who do not see extremism as a serious threat. But when it comes to the Taliban, most among these 24pc also want to stay away from them. Almost 60pc of the population in Pakistan sees the Taliban unfavourably. Only 8pc have a favourable view of this extremist organisation.*

**Militants on the run, activities down after operation: report, *The News*, July 2<sup>74</sup>**

Militants' activities have drastically decreased after the launch of Operation Zarb-e-Azb, not only in Fata/KP but also in Balochistan. According to the CMC (Conflict Monitoring Center) statistics, *security forces conducted 127 actions across Pakistan in which 517 suspected militants were killed, 25 others injured and 1,167 suspects arrested.*

**Pak-Afghan DGMOs strike a border deal, *The Nation*, July 4<sup>75</sup>**

The Pak-Afghan DGMOs level talks at the GHQ concluded with a positive note. *The Issue of cross-border shelling, terrorist sanctuaries in Kunar and Nuristan provinces of Afghanistan and attack on Pakistani border villages and posts from those sanctuaries also came under discussion. The Afghan delegation was told that Pakistan only fires back in self-defence when its border posts are attacked by terrorists from the Afghan territory and no indiscriminate firing is carried out from Pakistan's side. Both the sides also agreed to hold another meeting for which schedule is being finalised. According to sources, both the sides ruled out any possibility of hot pursuits. It was a follow-up meeting on Afghanistan's National Security Adviser Dr Rangin Dadfar Spanta's visit to Pakistan. Spanta came to Pakistan after PM Nawaz Sharif's Special Envoy Mehmood Khan Achakzai visited Kabul earlier last month.*

**Pak militant group swears allegiance to al-Baghdadi, *The News*, July 14<sup>76</sup>**

A Pakistan-based militant group has become the first militant outfit in the South Asia region to break ranks from al-Qaeda and declare its allegiance to the Islamic State that has seized power across Iraq and Syria. The little known outfit *Tehreek-e-Khilafat*, which has claimed responsibility for a string of attacks in Karachi, has pledged allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and vowed to raise the Islamic State's flag in South Asia. *"We are praying from the Almighty Allah to give us chance in our lives to see the expansion of Islamic State boundaries towards the Sub-Continent and Khurasan region in order to hoist the flag of Islamic State here,"* the group said.

**Over 500 suspected members of banned outfits arrested in Pakistan, *Dawn*, July 16<sup>77</sup>**

More than 500 suspected terrorists belonging to banned outfits have been nabbed by the security forces from across Pakistan interior ministry revealed on July 16. The official said these detainees would be treated under the newly legislated PPA 2014. *According to the interior ministry official, more than 300 suspects were arrested from the Punjab province mainly from Bahawalpur while more than 100 were arrested from Karachi and around 150 from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.*

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<sup>74</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31307-Militants-on-the-run-activities-down-after-operation-report>

<sup>75</sup><http://www.nation.com.pk/national/04-Jul-2014/pak-afghan-dgmos-strike-a-border-deal>

<sup>76</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31593-Pak-militant-group-swears-allegiance-to-al-Baghdadi>

<sup>77</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1119614/over-500-suspected-members-of-banned-outfits-arrested-in-pakistan>



## KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND FATA

### **Army uniforms openly sold in Quetta markets, Dawn, July 16<sup>78</sup>**

In recent times, brazen assaults at sensitive installations in Pakistan have seen terrorists wearing military and police uniforms to disguise themselves. In Quetta, markets are spilling with uniforms, caps, boots, official badges and other equipment discarded or sold by the military and police. Ironically, these bazaars are not far from security checkpoints which are patrolled by security personnel. Double Road and Alamdar Road, located in the heart of Quetta, house dozens of such shops where vendors sell security forces' uniforms and related items

### **Six top al-Qaeda leaders droned in Waziristan, The News, July 22<sup>79</sup>**

The al-Qaeda has confirmed that the recent US drone strikes had killed six of its leaders. *These six al-Qaeda leaders were killed in the July 10 drone strike that took place in the Doga Mada Khel village in North Waziristan Agency's Datta Khel area.* Some of the top al-Qaeda leaders killed in drone strikes in Datta Khel also included *Mustafa Abu Yazid*, the chief operational commander of al-Qaeda and a close aide of Osama bin Laden, who had claimed responsibility for the 2007 murder of Benazir Bhutto in Rawalpindi. Others could not be identified at that time because their bodies were immediately removed from the scene. However, 10 days later, Sanafi al Nasr, the head of al Qaeda's "*Victory Committee*", who is based in Syria and has close ties with al-Qaeda's general command in Pakistan, has stated that *six of his "dearest comrades" were killed in a US drone strike in Pakistan.* While tweeting on the "*Martyrdom of six of the dearest comrades*", Nasr has named three of them *Taj Al Makki, Abu Abdur Rahman Al Kuwaiti and Fayez Awda Al Khalidi.* He did not name the three other al-Qaeda leaders who were droned to death.

### **Ahrarul Hind claims support of senior TTP commanders, Dawn, July 26<sup>80</sup>**

Ahrarul Hind which had defected from the TTP during its efforts to pursue peace talks with the government earlier this year, announced on July 25 that senior TTP leaders have joined its ranks. The claim could not be verified from the TTP. In a statement issued to this correspondent, Ahrarul Hind spokesperson Asad Mansoor said, the group has "*a well organised structure now and some founder TTP commanders and close aides of Amir Baitullah Mehsud are its members.*" He said *Maulana Umar Qasimi will be the amir of Ahrarul Hind.* Mansoor claimed that the outfit has the support of key commanders like *Maulana Habibul Haq of Malakand*, who was a TTP Nazim, key TTP commander *Maulana Abdullah of Bajaur Agency*, Shura member *Mualana Hamza from Mohmand Agency*, *Mualana Amir Salam*, the former TTP top man in Orakzai, Kurram and Khyber agencies, the Taliban Darul Qaza Chief *Mufti Musbahuddin Sayad of Mohmand Agency*, Commander *Abu Ibrahim of the Punjabi Taliban* and *Mualana Sadiq and Maulana Yasin of Malakand Division.* The AH spokesman vowed to target Pakistani government and the security forces. "*The security forces and the law enforcement agencies besides the government machinery would be on their hit list,*" he said.

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<sup>78</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1119179/army-uniforms-openly-sold-in-quetta-markets>

<sup>79</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31756-Six-top-al-Qaeda-leaders-droned-in-Waziristan>

<sup>80</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1121608/ahrarul-hind-claims-support-of-senior-ttp-commanders>

## SINDH

### **More than 40 TTP groups active in Karachi; extort up to Rs 2 bn daily, *Daily Times*, July 4<sup>81</sup>**

More than 40 groups of banned TTP are active in the mega city and involved in extortion of one to two billion rupees daily in addition to other terrorist activities. According to reports, *Taliban are the top most extortionists in Karachi these days and they are acting as financiers of their mother organisation in FATA*. One report said that *more than 150 terrorists of TTP Swati group are in the mega city*. They said that Swati group is behind target killings and attacks on police stations. According to officials, the Swati group only coordinates activities with its fellow comrades and never join in the activities of any other group.

## PUNJAB

### **Punjab govt to establish correctional facility for militants, *Dawn*, July 2<sup>82</sup>**

The Punjab government decided to establish a correctional facility for suspects belonging to proscribed organisations. CM Punjab Shahbaz Sharif approved a Rs240million grant which would be utilised to establish an academy where scholars and *ulemas of different schools of thought would educate and train the radicalised activists in order to return and re-integrate them into society*. At least 1,300 persons would be enrolled in the rehabilitation program in its first phase. A similar de-radicalisation centre, the *Mishal school in Swat*, is already being run by the army in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

## AFGHAN SECURITY SITUATION

### **Eliminate or extradite Fazlullah, Pakistan asked Kabul, *The News*, July 2<sup>83</sup>**

Ruling out any discrimination in the operation against terrorists in the NWA, Pakistan asked the Afghan government to arrest the TTP chief Mullah Fazlullah and hand him over to Pakistan. Pakistan also made it clear that it will chase the terrorists everywhere and will never allow anyone to use its territory against any other country.

### **The Afghan runoff, *The News*, July<sup>84</sup>**

The preliminary results from the Afghan presidential election, giving Ashraf Ghani a 13 percentage point victory over Abdullah Abdullah, *are so obviously inflated that they will lead only to claims of widespread rigging*, demands to hold the election again and chaos in the country. Abdullah has already declared himself the victor and there are fears he could cause bedlam and anarchy by setting up a parallel government. *Votes are going to be recounted at nearly one-third of the polling stations but that is likely an exercise in futility since rigging is too sophisticated to be caught in such a way*.

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<sup>81</sup><http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/sindh/04-Jul-2014/more-than-40-ttp-groups-active-in-karachi-extort-up-to-rs-2-billion-daily>

<sup>82</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1116534/punjab-govt-to-establish-correctional-facility-for-militants>

<sup>83</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31302-Eliminate-or-extradite-Fazlullah-Kabul-told>

<sup>84</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-8-260679-The-Afghan-runoff>

**'Massive increase in poppy cultivation in Afghanistan', Dawn, July 16<sup>85</sup>**

The director general (DG) of Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), Maj-Gen Khawar Hanif, on July 15 told the Senate Standing Committee on Interior and Narcotics that before 9/11, poppy used to be cultivated in Afghanistan over an area of 6,700 hectares, but at present it was being grown on an area of over 200,000 hectares. The massive increase in the cultivation area *gave rise to a 'conspiracy theory' as senators smelled US/CIA's involvement in the drug trade originating from Afghanistan.* [...] He was of the view that the US might have been funding its war on terror from drug money. *"The Iran Contra scandal involved drug money and it was reported officially. At present, they are financing many wars in Syria and other parts of the world and funding terror groups like TTP from the drug money,"* Senator Tahir Mashadi added. Senator Shahi Syed said the drug mafia was mainly responsible for the deteriorating law and order situation in Karachi. Responding to questions from the senators, *Secretary Narcotics Control Mohammad Akbar Khan Hoti candidly said the Americans claimed that Pakistan had given them heroin and in return they are giving cocaine.*

**Al-Qaeda kills rumours of rift with Mulla Omar, The News, July 23<sup>86</sup>**

Al-Qaeda has openly renewed its oath of allegiance to the ameer of the Afghan Taliban Mullah Mohammad Omar, on the heels of the withdrawal of the US-led Allied Forces from Afghanistan. Al-Qaeda's oath of allegiance to Omar comes at a time when a Pakistani militant group - *Tehreek-e-Khilafat and Jihad* - has already declared allegiance to the chief of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

**Afghanistan holding peace talks with Pakistan not Taliban: Karzai, Express Tribune, July 24<sup>87</sup>**

Emphasizing the importance of Pakistan in the fragile Afghan peace process Karzai told the visiting Chinese special envoy for Afghanistan, Sun Yuxi: *"Pakistan can particularly play an important role in the restoration of peace in Afghanistan. Our peace talks are in fact, with Pakistan and not with the Afghan Taliban". He praised Chinese cooperation and investment in Afghanistan, and hoped that China can play an important role in the Afghan peace process as the country is a friend of Afghanistan and enjoys good relations with Pakistan.*

**Mullah Omar warns Afghans against pact with US, Dawn, July 26<sup>88</sup>**

In a blow to hopes for peace talks, the Afghan Taliban's reclusive leader warned on July 25 that a bilateral security pact allowing thousands of US troops to stay in Afghanistan beyond the end of this year will mean more fighting. *"We believe the war in Afghanistan will come to an end when all foreign invaders pull out of Afghanistan and a holy Islamic and independent regime prevails here. Presence of limited number of troops under whatever title it may be will mean continuation of occupation and the war,"* he said in a message issued ahead of the Eid al-Fitr holiday.

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<sup>85</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1119552/massive-increase-in-poppy-cultivation-in-afghanistan>

<sup>86</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-263358-Al-Qaeda-kills-rumours-of-rift-with-Mulla-Omar>

<sup>87</sup><http://tribune.com.pk/story/740342/in-reality-afghanistan-holding-peace-talks-with-pakistan-not-afghan-taliban-karzai/>

<sup>88</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1121747/mullah-omar-warns-afghans-against-pact-with-us>

## NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY

### **Senate approves PPO with thumping majority**, *The News*, July 1<sup>89</sup>

The Senate on June 30 passed the amended PPO with thumping majority as no political party opposed it. However, the opposition expressed annoyance at the absence of Minister for Interior Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan from the upper house of parliament. The bill sought to provide protection against waging war against Pakistan and prevention of acts threatening its security. The bill will now be taken up and adopted by the National Assembly in its session summoned for July 2 and would become a law after the president gives his assent to it.

### **Unanimity evades PPB passage in NA**, *The Nation*, July 3<sup>90</sup>

On July 2, the NA passed with majority vote the Protection of Pakistan Bill-2014, which would provide protection against waging of war or insurrection against Pakistan, and the prevention of acts threatening the security of the country. The PML-N government even after consultation with opposition parties could not be able to unanimously approve the controversial bill, which gives powers to BPS-15 police officer to fire or order firing as the 'last resort' on any suspect to prevent a scheduled offence. *Opposition parties, except PPP, either preferred to abstain or voted against the bill.* Amid the unusual presence of the prime minister, the opposition benches also felt the absence of Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan from the House, saying *the nonappearance of main architecture of this bill was a matter of serious concern.*

### **Court puts NACTA under PM's control**, *Daily Times*, July 10<sup>91</sup>

The Islamabad High Court removed the head of NACTA Khawaja Muhammad Ashraf and delegated its control to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The government had appointed Amir Ashraf Khawaja, earlier on January 3, 2014, a BPS-20 officer, as national coordinator.

## EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

### **Friends in Afghanistan**, Zafar Hilaly, *The News*, July 2<sup>92</sup>

Hamid Karzai has declared his willingness to jointly fight terrorism provided Pakistan accepts his seven conditions for cooperation, one of which requires *Pakistan (and Afghanistan) to coordinate their anti-terror efforts with India.* How Pakistan can do that with New Delhi, let alone Kabul – both of who, we swear, are sharing intelligence, training and plying the TTP with weapons and coordinating TTP attacks across the Pak-Afghan border – defies credulity. *In the case of Kabul, however, its interference and meddling in Pakistan is an open and shut case...Who would, given Karzai's notorious unpredictability? ..Nevertheless, it made sense to give Karzai's special envoy the reception protocol required because we still need some level of cooperation from Kabul. If the truth is told, all of Pakistan awaits the departure of Afghanistan's quintessential quisling with considerable anticipation.*

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<sup>89</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31287-Senate-approves-PPO-with-thumping-majority>

<sup>90</sup><http://www.nation.com.pk/national/03-Jul-2014/unanimity-evades-ppb-passage-in-na>

<sup>91</sup><http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/10-Jul-2014/court-puts-nacta-under-pm-s-control>

<sup>92</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-9-259357-Friends-in-Afghanistan>

**Shia genocide in Pakistan**, Hassan Raza, *Daily Times*, July 3<sup>93</sup>

*The bombing on Shia pilgrims in Taftan, a district on the border with Iran, which claimed 30 lives, marks a deadly chapter in the militant mission against Shias. Hate speech is rife as is a countrywide pogrom against Shias. These signs of genocide cannot be and should not be ignored, and the perpetrators must be brought to justice. In a similar fashion, the Christians, Ahmedis, Sufis and Hindus also attest to intimidation. In the last 18 months, there were 359 terrorist attacks in the country against the community, hitting 2,054 people; 833 Shias were killed and 1,221 injured. Of these, 40 percent were gunned down, another 35 percent died in suicide attacks while 24 percent were killed in other bombings. On average, 43 Shias were slain every month the figure stands high enough to amount to the definition of a 'systematic genocide'. The most volatile cities for the besieged community are Karachi, Quetta and Peshawar where attackers continue attacking Shia localities without any fear or challenge from the law enforcement agencies. The attacks were carried out with precise planning, as 87 percent of the total attacks were incidents of target killing. Of them, 70 percent were carried out in Karachi, killing 2,018.*

**Why militants now symbolise Muslims**, Anwar Iqbal, *Dawn*, July 5<sup>94</sup>

Why, then, has the militant become the symbol of Islam across the globe? The answer is simple: The methods they use suicide bombings, mass killings, executions and hijacking draw immediate attention. And since they do so in the name of Islam, they are seen as representing their faith even if 80 to 95 per cent Muslims reject suicide bombing as *haram*. ... *While Esposito's argument that political disputes and not religion beget violence may be correct, the inability of political Islam to provide an intellectual base for Muslims allows these violent groups to occupy the central stage in the Islamic world. Political Islam was the ideology they needed, and madrassas provided them with thousands of volunteers willing to die for their faith.*

**Shocking revelations about Zarb-e-Azb**, Gul Bukhari, *Daily Times*, July 6<sup>95</sup>

The military establishment, especially ISPR statements since operation Zarb-e-Azb commenced, would have us believe that in its changed worldview there is no more a distinction in types of Taliban; that the military is going after 'all' Taliban including the erstwhile good ones. Perhaps the ISPR should clarify that it defines the term 'Taliban' very narrowly. Indeed *it should name the few Islamist militant groups it is going after*, as the public generally misunderstood the ISPR statements to mean the military will henceforth eschew reliance on, and relationships with, all Islamist militants. Taha Siddiqui's shocking story outlined in detail 'charity' activities of two militant organisations in Bannu. *It appears LeT has now renamed itself FIF and has a food and medical aid relief camp to serve the IDPs openly.* This group's spectacular attack on Mumbai in 2008 brought India and Pakistan to the brink of war. And whilst there were testimonies and accusations of an in-service ISI handler working with the group at the time, the military and ISI denied any such links.

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<sup>93</sup><http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/opinion/03-Jul-2014/shia-genocide>

<sup>94</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1117260/political-islam-why-militants-now-symbolise-muslims>

<sup>95</sup><http://www.nation.com.pk/columns/06-Jul-2014/shocking-revelations>

**Gauging real public opinion about the extremism in Pakistan, Ayesha Siddiqa, Express Tribune, July 10<sup>96</sup>**

Pakistani newspapers published results of a PEW opinion poll for 2013 and 2014 indicating a large percentage of Pakistanis being perturbed with violent extremism in the country. In some ways, the PEW survey figures by default legitimise the military operation, since it can now be claimed that since the majority of Pakistanis are worried about violent extremism, something should be done to allay their fears. The survey clearly did not fathom the ideological bias of the respondents. In any case, for a lot of people expressing opinion about such issues, violent extremism is not a reflection of their own thinking and behaviour. In fact, many of us make the mistake of thinking of violence and terrorism as external to our social behaviour. Allowed to look closely, we can see that violent extremism is actually a reflection of our radical thinking and attitudes. Over the years, people have evolved a certain mind-set that feeds into creating extremism. The way we think about our community, the kind of belief system we have, what is our perception of different minority groups and similar issues would indicate that we have, indeed, turned into a society that will support extremism. *The issue of blasphemy is a reflection of our thinking.*

**New anti-terror legislation, Dawn, July 12<sup>97</sup>**

[...]It is said that exceptional circumstances require exceptional measures. However, such measures must respect fundamental rights. *What the PPA does is give controversial extra-constitutional measures already in use by LEAs and the military such as 'encounter' killings and enforced disappearances legal cover. What is essentially required to defeat militancy and violent crime in the long run is the rule of law within the confines of basic human rights. This requires the present system to be overhauled. Perhaps if the rulers had the will to undergo such an exercise, no controversial legal experiments such as the PPA would be required.*

**North Waziristan; Were things really so bad?, Ayaz Wazir, The News, July 18<sup>98</sup>**

If one recalls correctly it was announced at the launch of the military operation that it would continue till the last militant had been eliminated, which essentially meant that the menace would be eradicated altogether. If there was even the slightest of possibilities that the militants could return then why was the operation launched at all? Why uproot more than a million men, women and children? And why trumpet the launch of the operation in advance, allowing the militants to escape, if there was a fair chance of their being able to return to the area? *Also if 80 percent of the area has been cleared then why not start the return of the displaced people back to their own homes, which will also help reduce the burden on the meagre resources of the government in looking after them in Bannu? [...]There is something seriously wrong with the way we deal with Fata. Even now at this crucial juncture when we need to involve and engage sensible heads from that area we find hardly anyone from Fata or even anyone who has either spent some time there or speaks Pashto to be among the top leadership in the country. The president, whom Article 247 of the constitution empowers to administer Fata, has not bothered to visit the area even once. His agent, the newly appointed governor, is also yet to visit all the seven tribal agencies. Will he get*

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<sup>96</sup><http://tribune.com.pk/story/733381/gauging-real-public-opinion/>

<sup>97</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1118641/new-anti-terror-legislation>

<sup>98</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-9-262472-Were-things-really-so-bad>

clearance for visiting from those calling the shots in that area to do so, particularly the two Waziristans?

**Pakistan and the Haqqani network: past is the prologue**, Dr. Mohammad Taqi, *Daily Times*, July 24<sup>99</sup>

The Afghan authorities have squarely blamed the Haqqani terrorist network and the ISI for the Kabul airport attack, saying that the intent was to scare away international airlines from flying into Afghanistan. Both the Kabul and Paktika attacks have the fingerprints of the Haqqani terrorist network all over them, reinforcing the concern expressed that the terror group was not targeted in the present NW operation. [...] *It would be pertinent to see how the US, which is providing \$ 300 million in the Coalition Support Fund to Pakistan, contingent upon the latter's action against the Haqqani network, vets Pakistani claims. The Haqqani network did not come to NW with the US's arrival in Afghanistan and will not leave after the US leaves. ..* Admiral Mike Mullen once described the Haqqani network as the ISI's veritable arm. Pakistan is not ready to sever that arm and lose its menacing leverage over Kabul.

**War in the fog**, *The News*, July 23<sup>100</sup>

James Dobbins, the outgoing US Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, is leaving the post at a time when both countries are in transition. [...] Now that Pakistan, as it assured Dobbins, is going after every militant group in North Waziristan, *the Haqqani Network has begun to leave the country and move to Afghanistan. This has allegedly resulted in an uptick in violence in the Paktika province.* The truth is that both countries complain about the other allowing this infiltration while neither has the ability or willingness to stop it. *Everything about this war in North Waziristan is shrouded in such secrecy that one does not know what to make of it.*

**Afghanistan: the myth of the ethnic divide**, Saleem Safi, *The News*, July 23<sup>101</sup>

For unknown reasons, many analysts perpetually paint Afghanistan as a fragile space. Just a little military or political aggravation in Afghanistan is enough for them to predict a very possible division of the state. It is further unfortunate that producers and buyers of this nightmare 'situation' are found in the two countries where Afghanistan is most frequently debated – Pakistan and the United States. [...] Now through the diplomatic intervention of US Secretary of State John Kerry, both presidential candidates are agreed on the method of verification of polled votes in the second phase of the elections. Even had they not agreed and this controversy had resulted in a political standstill, *by no means would it have taken the shape of a linguistic or ethnic divide.* Some elements would have indeed tried to fan the flames of controversy, leading it towards an ethnic division of Afghanistan. But for all practical purposes that is impossible due to certain political realities. [...] *Our analysts in fact ignore the reality that the Afghans are very divided over leadership and manifestoes but they have no differences over the issue of territorial integrity and Afghan nationalism.* Perhaps the Afghans are the most sensitive nation when it comes to respecting the flag and the state.

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<sup>99</sup><http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/opinion/24-Jul-2014/pakistan-and-the-haqqani-network-past-is-the-prologue>

<sup>100</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-8-263346-War-in-the-fog>

<sup>101</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-9-263352-Afghanistan-the-myth-of-the-ethnic-divide>

**Rampant extortion all over the Pakistan**, Mohammad Ali Babakhel, *Dawn*, July 28<sup>102</sup>

Increasing incidents of extortion are an added challenge law enforcers are confronting. It's an organised crime and a parallel taxation mechanism administered either by non-state actors or organised criminals. [...] *In Pakistan, this menace has travelled from the south to the northwest. During 2013, Karachi police registered 545 cases and KP police 40 cases of extortion respectively. During the current year KP police registered 164 cases and arrested 156 accused.* However, the conviction rate remained zero. The nature of extortion in Karachi is different from that in Peshawar. The majority of cases in Peshawar have links with terrorist outfits concentrated in Afghanistan and Fata.

## RELATIONS WITH INDIA

**India says UN has no role to play in Kashmir**, *The News*, July 9<sup>103</sup>

The Narendra Modi government thinks the United Nations Military Observer Group (UNMOGIP) has no longer any role to play between Pakistan and India and has ordered it to vacate the government premises where they have been located free of charge for 40 years. The Foreign Office did not want to comment on media reports but the spokesperson told *The News*: "Even if true, such moves do not change the reality." Meanwhile, an Indian official was quoted as saying: "They should stay in Srinagar and do what they want. In case they want to be stationed in Delhi, they should hire premises in a private property and not occupy the government property." It is only Pakistan that has time and again proposed to India to involve the UNMOGIP over disputes at the LoC as they are neutral observers and the ongoing blame game that follows skirmishes could come to an end.

**India refuses to hold commerce ministers' meeting in Bhutan**, *The Nation*, July 16<sup>104</sup>

India has expressed unwillingness to hold trade talks with Pakistan in Bhutan, Islamabad is still ignorant about any refusal from New Delhi about the development regarding Commerce Minister's meeting at side-line of SAFTA summit next week. Sources informed that Indian government has reportedly expressed regret in arranging a meeting with the Commerce Minister in Bhutan.

**Pakistan asks India not to set conditions for talks**, *Dawn*, July 18<sup>105</sup>

Pakistan has asked India not to set any conditions for talks, reiterating its stance that all outstanding disputes between the two countries should be resolved through dialogue. "You cannot have dialogue and at the same time impose pre-conditions," Foreign Office spokesperson Tasnim Aslam told a weekly Press briefing here on Thursday. She was asked to comment on Indian defence minister's recent remarks who had said that *the early conclusion of the trial of the Mumbai attack accused was mandatory for normalisation of relations* and continuation of dialogue

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<sup>102</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1122030/rampant-extortion>

<sup>103</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31477-India-says-UN-has-no-role-to-play-in-Kashmir>

<sup>104</sup><http://www.nation.com.pk/business/16-Jul-2014/india-refuses-to-hold-commerce-ministers-meeting-in-bhutan>

<sup>105</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1119943/pakistan-asks-india-not-to-set-conditions-for-talks>



and expressed his desire to settle all issues, including the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, in a peaceful manner.

**Pakistan to release 57 Indian fishing boats, *Express Tribune*, July 21<sup>106</sup>**

Having released 150 Indian fishermen in May, Pakistan announced that it had decided to release 57 Indian fishing boats under its custody as a goodwill gesture, the decision was taken after a nine-member Indian delegation visited Karachi from July 18 to July 20 to inspect the boats and discuss modalities for the release with officials of the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA).

**Pakistan working to give India 'most favoured nation' status, *Express Tribune*, July 24<sup>107</sup>**

Pakistan on July 24 said it would re-start work on improving trade ties with arch-rival India when the two nations' foreign ministers meet in Islamabad in August. "When the dialogue process resumes, we hope to build on the work already done in this regard," Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry said. Chaudhry said there were number of issues on both sides for normalising bilateral trade which included "making sure that vulnerable sectors are protected and the issue of the non-tariff barriers in India and the issue of imbalance of trade and certain other infrastructure-related issue." MFN status will mean India can export 6,800 items to Pakistan, up from around 2,000 at present, and the countries aim to lift bilateral trade to \$6 billion within three years, officials have said. Trade between the two countries is presently around \$2.5 billion, with Indian exports accounting for \$1.75 billion, according to the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry. A further \$3 billion is thought to be channelled through Dubai, almost all of it is Pakistani imports, though the business community believes that if Pakistan grants India MFN status the imbalance could change.

**Indo-Pak foreign secretaries meet on Aug 25 to 'relaunch' dialogue, *Daily Times*, July 24<sup>108</sup>**

The foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan will meet on August 25 to re-launch the dialogue process between the two countries. Both sides confirmed the meeting date following a telephonic conversation between the two foreign secretaries. The development raises the prospects of the resumption of dialogue process between the neighbouring states to cover all outstanding issues, including Jammu and Kashmir. Indian Foreign Secretary Sujatha Singh spoke to Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry over the telephone, Pakistan Foreign Office said on 23 July.

## **EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS**

**Talking trade with India, *Dawn*, July 27<sup>109</sup>**

Having missed an opportunity to advance opening trade with India, Pakistan now finds itself dealing with the consequences. The forthcoming talks between the foreign secretaries of the two countries could have been an opportunity to move further down the road of regional

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<sup>106</sup><http://tribune.com.pk/story/738908/pakistan-to-release-57-indian-fishing-boats/>

<sup>107</sup><http://tribune.com.pk/story/740373/pakistan-working-to-give-india-most-favoured-nation-status/>

<sup>108</sup><http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/24-Jul-2014/indo-pak-foreign-secretaries-meet-on-aug-25-to-relaunch-dialogue>

<sup>109</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1121789/talking-trade-with-india>

economic cooperation and integration, but instead they are going to spend their time testing the waters. Going by the words of Pakistan's foreign secretary, the talks will aim to "discuss the resumption of the dialogue process to improve bilateral ties and address all outstanding issues, including Kashmir". More than a decade after the signing of the SAFTA by both countries, the latter should have advanced much further on the road to freer trade. Instead, they are simply seeking a "resumption of the dialogue process".

## URDU MEDIA

### **Operation Zarb-e-Azb going on well** , Editorial, *Daily Express*, 07 July<sup>110</sup>

The operation Zarb-e-Azb against terrorists is successfully going on in North Waziristan. Terrorists have suffered huge losses. One can hope that army will soon gain control of the area and terrorists would be wiped out. According to the ISPR, hundreds of terrorists have been killed so far. Most of them are Uzbek. According to media reports there are a large number of Uzbek and foreign fighters who are offering stiff resistance to the Pakistani army. Uzbek militants were involved in most of the attacks within country. At the moment, North Waziristan is remains the only now only sanctuary for Uzbek and other foreign militants, whereas other agencies have already been cleared by army.....[S]ome religious and political parties were always exerting pressure on the government not to start military operation. They apprehended that military operation would lead to a rise in terrorist incidents and a protracted fight between the military and militants would result in chaos.... However, after Karachi airport was the attacked, it was felt necessary to launch an all-out military operation. The success of ongoing military operation gives an impression that had the military operation been launched earlier, Pakistan would have been much more peaceful today.

### **Main Terrorists Escaped**, Editorial, *Daily Ummat*, 8 July<sup>111</sup>

Both military establishment and civilian government are Pakistani; then, why is it being suggested that they should be on the same page regarding the ongoing operation in North Waziristan? It gives an impression that civil-military relations is strained. Fact remains that no home work was done on how to manage internally displaced people once operation was started. Thousands of militants escaped well before the operation was launched. *Most of them are now in Afghanistan where Afghan, American and Indian intelligence agencies will try to use them against Pakistan. Now the important question is when militants had already escaped from Waziristan what was the need to launch an operation? What was the need to displace thousands of the people?*

### **Government should not hesitate to punish Musharraf**, Editorial, *Nawa-i-Waqt*, 13 July<sup>112</sup>

The former prime minister and the vice chairman of PPP Yousf Raza Giliani recently stated that Musharaaf was given safe passage through a deal with the establishment. He further stated that every political party including PLMN was also in the loop. However, the information minister

<sup>110</sup> [http://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1102305549&Issue=NP\\_ISB&Date=20140707](http://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1102305549&Issue=NP_ISB&Date=20140707)

<sup>111</sup> <http://ummat.net/2014/07/08/news.php?p=idr1.gif>

<sup>112</sup> <http://www.nawaiwaqt.compk/editorials/13-Jul-2014/315228>

Pervaiz Rashid has said that they were not part of any such deal. It was PPP's government which struck so many deals with different institutions. They gave a guard of honour to one who ruined democratic institutions and let him go abroad with honour. Had not PPP government given him a safe passage, today the democratic institutions would have been very strong....Musharraf derailed democracy and denied right to freedom to 18 crore people of Pakistan. He should get punishment for his crime. It is an irony that while the information minister is saying that they were never part of any deal, Nawaz Sharif is having a meeting with his ministers on how to remove the name of Musharraf from ECL. Why is the government caught between two options on Musharraf? Choudhry Nisar was angry with Nawaz Sharif because of the latter's disinclination to allow Musharraf to go abroad. Now if the government provides safe exit to Musharraf, they will face the wrath of the people. Government has to take this case to its logical conclusion.

**Terrorist Attack from Afghanistan**, Editorial, *Daily Express*, 14 July<sup>113</sup>

Security checkpoints in Bajur Agency were targeted by terrorists who came from Kunar province of Afghanistan. One army captain along with two other security persons were killed while another one got injured. The TTP spokesperson Shahidullah Shahid took responsibility for the attack. This is not first time that such attack has taken place. So many times in the past terrorists came from Afghanistan and attacked Pakistan. Pakistan, as usual, condemned the attack and demanded that these attacks must be stopped. But nothing concrete has happened. *...It proves that either Afghan government is providing logistic support to these terrorists or they are not able to stop these attacks...* It is very surprising that in the presence of NATO, huge number of American troops and three hundred thousand of Afghan army personnel that terrorists cross border with impunity and attack Pakistan. After attacking, these terrorists can go back to Afghanistan. It is responsibility of the allied forces there to stop such attacks. It is a fact that terrorists enjoy safe havens in Afghanistan. *Where do these terrorists get these modern weapons and what are their financial sources is an important question to be answered. According to some analysts there are Indian intelligence camps in Afghanistan who are providing training and weapons to terrorists. This is a matter of concern for Pakistan. Pakistan should categorically ask Afghan government not to let its soil be used against Pakistan.*

**Ashraf Ghani wins Afghan Election**, Editorial, *Nawa-i-Waqt*, 9 July<sup>114</sup>

Former World Bank economist Ashraf Gani Ahmad Zai is slated to become the next Afghan president. Eight people contested the first round of the elections. Most of the votes were cast in favour of Abdullah. However, none of the candidates got a clear majority, i.e., 50 per cent of the votes. So a runoff election was held in which Ashraf Ghani won. But Abdullah Abdullah has rejected the results. Abdullah believes that Hamid Karzai wanted Ghani to win so he played great role in organizing a massive election fraud. [...] Ashraf Ghani is from Ahmad Zai tribe. *Abdullah Abdullah is pro-India. He has a house in India too. His family resides in Delhi. His success will further increase India's involvement in Pakistan. Ashraf Ghani is therefore a better choice for Pakistan.* When the US is withdrawing from Afghanistan and the Pakistani army has started an operation against militants, there should be a pro-Pakistan government in Afghanistan. Ashraf Ghani is

<sup>113</sup> [http://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1102317434&Issue=NP\\_ISB&Date=20140714](http://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1102317434&Issue=NP_ISB&Date=20140714)

<sup>114</sup> <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/editorials/09-Jul-2014/314285>

an educated politician. He will try to have good relations with Pakistan. However, Pakistan has to be diplomatically very active so that the past mistakes are not repeated.

**Army needs unstinted support from all quarters**, Dr Mujahid Mansuri, *Daily Jang*, 20 July<sup>115</sup>

Right now Pakistan's main priorities are ending terrorism, ensuring economic stability, getting rid from load-shedding and safeguard constitutional supremacy and individual freedom. Every political party— including even the religious parties— and state institution recognizes these challenges....*It is very important that military gets public support in fighting the war against the militants.* The Pakistani military is very sincere in its efforts. Political and religious parties do extend their support to the military but it is purely for political gains. *It would have been better if all the chief ministers of the four provinces and leaders of all religious political parties visited the GHQ and offered their support to the army and also visited the IDP camps together.*

**Government has failed to fulfill its promises**, Editorial, *Nawa-i-Waqt*, 22 July<sup>116</sup>

Nawaz Sharif has said that long marches will not bring solutions to Pakistan's problems. He further said that we respect the mandate of every political party so we expect everyone to respect the mandate given to us by the people. Of course, the people gave PLMN mandate for five years but it seems that it is not meeting the expectations of the people who cast votes in its favour. The load-shedding has reached unprecedented levels. The political condition in the provinces, including in Punjab, is rather ghastly. Extortion, rape, domestic violence are on rise. Inflation and unemployment do not seem to come down. *Had PLMN led governed well and delivered on its promises it would have not have been scared of long marches.* Imran Khan's threat of long march and Tahirul Qadri's revolution have become possible only because people are clearly unhappy with performance of the government during the last one year. Poor and ignorant people look at Imran Khan and Tahirul Qadri as their saviour. PLMN supported PPP in completing its 5-year tenure and so now they expect PPP to bail them out.

**US must stop Afghan Interference in Pakistan**, Editorial, *Daily Ummat*, 23 July<sup>117</sup>

Recently the special envoy to Pakistan and Afghanistan James Dobbins visited Pakistan and met army chief Gen Raheel Sharif, Chaudhury Nisar Ali Khan, and Sartaj Aziz. Pakistan requested the US through Dobbins to stop Afghanistan from interfering in Pakistan. Afghan terrorists should be stopped from crossing into Pakistan. Pakistan also strongly protested Afghan government's clandestine support to the anti-Pakistan terrorists....Pakistan has made it clear to the American representative that the peaceful and stable Afghanistan is good for both the countries....Meanwhile, Hamid Karzai has said that Pakistan's operation in North Waziristan was not acceptable to Afghanistan. He believes that Haqqani network is not attacked and they were responsible for the recent terrorist attacks inside Afghanistan. He has further stated that the Afghan security forces have evidence of ISI support for Haqqani Network's involvement in terrorist attacks.

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<sup>115</sup> <http://jang.com.pk/jang/jul2014-daily/20-07-2014/col1.htm>

<sup>116</sup> <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/editorials/22-jul-2014/317290>

<sup>117</sup> <http://ummat.net/2014/07/23/news.php?p=idr1.gif>

**Granting India MFN Status will add to government's woes**, Editorial, *Nawa-i-Waqt*, 26 July<sup>118</sup>

Secretary Aziz Ahmad Chaudhury in his press briefing with foreign office spokesperson Tasneem Aslam has said that the both Pakistan and India discussing the issue of according most favoured nation status to India. He further stated that the process is moving on the right track. In 2012, Pakistan agreed to give India MFN status. But there were opposition from various sectors on then PPP-led government and finally the government had to succumb to it. India had given Pakistan MFN status in 1999. They want to have good relations with Pakistan. Pakistani nation is following what Musharraf, then PPP and now Nawaz governments are doing on this front. India is considering Kashmir an integral part of India so it makes no sense to have a composite dialogue. Both the rulers and the bureaucracy are aware about it. One gets the feeling that the composite dialogue with India is being held to grant India MFN status. Government is already facing so much pressure from all sides. Granting MFN status to India at this juncture will create more problems for them.

**The real purpose of army deployment**, Editorial, *Daily Ummat*, 27 July<sup>119</sup>

The federal capital Islamabad will be under the control of army from 1 August. Its main purpose is to deploy army, on the request of the interior ministry, in sensitive places. Interior minister has said that the main reason of deploying military was to confront possible backlash from the militants against the backdrop of the ongoing Zarb-e-Azb operation, but it does not mean handing over Islamabad to the army. In the National Assembly, the opposition PPP leader Khurshid Shah has criticized the move and termed it a failure of the government. The senator Farhatullah Babar has also said that its repercussions would be bad. [...] Tahirul Qadiri, like Zulfikar Bhutto, wants to usher in revolution like Adolf Hitler did in Germany. Hitler set German parliament on fire. Tahirul Qadri wants to follow Hitler's footsteps. He wants to put the parliament house on fire. Since 23 June, he is only postponing his 'revolution' on the pretext of getting ready for it. The military operation against terrorists in North Waziristan has already displaced thousands of people and kept the army busy. Hence, it is a very unwise decision to handover Islamabad to the Army. Imran Khan is not bothered that his ill-timed protests will hurt the interests of the country. Handing over Islamabad to army under article 245 will give army both military and civilian authority. Even the jurisdiction of high court is not applicable under article 245.

## STATISTICS

### BOMBINGS, SHOOTINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES

*(Select incidents culled out from the Pakistan media)*

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<sup>118</sup> <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/editorials/26-jul-2014/318215>

<sup>119</sup> <http://ummat.net/2014/07/27/news.php?p=idr1.gif>

Place	Date	Description	Killed	Injured
<b>Balochistan</b>				
Khuzdar <sup>120</sup>	5/7/2014	Gunmen on a motorbike opened fire on a rickshaw driver in Bazgar area	1	0
Kalat <sup>121</sup>	6/7/2014	Unidentified armed men shot dead a district leader of the PML-N	1	0
Quetta <sup>122</sup>	26/7/2014	Two policemen were gunned down on Sariab Road.	2	0
Quetta <sup>123</sup>	28/7/2014	One person was killed and at least 13 people were injured in a bomb explosion at the busy Kandahari Bazaar.	1	13
Khuzdar <sup>124</sup>	29/7/2014	Seven people were injured in a blast targeting a bus in the Garisha area	0	7
<b>FATA</b>				
Mir Ali <sup>125</sup>	2/7/2014	Two soldiers were killed and another sustained injuries in a militant attack on a security forces' vehicle	2	0
Parachinar <sup>126</sup>	9/7/2014	Jirga between groups of Mengal tribes was in progress over a property dispute when they traded gunfire after arguments. He said that six persons were killed on the spot while 13 others were wounded	6	13
Bajaur <sup>127</sup>	12/7/2013	Militants attacked a security checkpost killing three security personnel including a captain	3	0
	17/7/2014		2	6

<sup>120</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1117222/two-killed-in-khuzdar>

<sup>121</sup><http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/06-Jul-2014/pml-n-district-leader-gunned-down-in-kalat>

<sup>122</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1121699>

<sup>123</sup><http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/28-Jul-2014/one-killed-dozen-injured-in-quetta-market-blast>

<sup>124</sup><http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/29-Jul-2014/seven-injured-in-khuzdar-blast>

<sup>125</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31324-Two-soldiers-killed-in-NWA-ambush>

<sup>126</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31491-Six-killed-in-Kurram-clash>

<sup>127</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1118780/three-killed-in-militant-attack-on-bajaur-checkpost-sources>

Bajaur <sup>128</sup>		Two terrorists were killed and six others injured in a clash with the security forces.	1	2
Mohmand Agency <sup>129</sup>	24/7/2014	A man was killed while two FC personnel were injured in a landmine detonation		
<b>Punjab</b>				
Alipur town Muzaffarga <sup>130</sup>	9/7/2014	Muzaffargarhpolic claim to have killed two terrorists in a shootout	2	0
Hassan Town	12/7/2014	Unidentified motorcyclists gunned down a man and his son in a targeted attack	2	0
Lahore <sup>131</sup>	18/7/2014	Two terrorists and an official of a sensitive agency were killed while six Elite Force personnel received bullet injuries during a 10-hour-long gunbattle in the Raiwind area of Lahore.	3	6
Rawalpindi <sup>132</sup>	18/7/2014	Two activists of ASWJ were killed at Chakri Road.	2	0
Gujranwala <sup>133</sup>	28/7/2014	Three members of the same Ahmadi family including one woman and two minors were killed and nine other people were injured when an angry mob set a house on fire in Arafat Colony	3	9
<b>Khyber Pakhtunkhwa</b>				
Peshawar <sup>134</sup>	16/7/2014	A police constable deployed at the residence of deputy commandant of Frontier Reserve Police	1	0

<sup>128</sup><http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/17-Jul-2014/two-terrorists-killed-in-bajaur>

<sup>129</sup><http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/24-Jul-2014/landmine-kills-man-two-fc-men-injured>

<sup>130</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31480-Muzaffargarh-police-kill-two-terrorists-in-shootout>

<sup>131</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31662-Plot-to-hit-PMs-Raiwind-residence-foiled>

<sup>132</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1120001/two-aswj-workers-killed>

<sup>133</sup><http://tribune.com.pk/story/741943/three-including-two-minors-dead-in-gujranwala-clash/>

<sup>134</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-7-262078-Cop-guarding-FRP-deputy-commandant-house-killed-in-attack>

Mardan <sup>135</sup>	16/7/2014	came under attack by assailants	1	0
Hangu <sup>136</sup>	18/7/2014	Unidentified gunmen killed a head constable	6	3
Jamrud <sup>137</sup>	19/7/2014	Six children were killed and three others sustained injuries in a roadside blast in Dorari Banda.	17	0
Kulachi <sup>138</sup>	25/7/2014	At least eight paramilitary Frontier Corps soldiers and five militants were killed in a gunfight in Khyber Agency, while four policeman died when a hidden bomb exploded in a city centre. Two people were killed in a roadside IED blast, whereas a FC soldier was shot dead in FR Jandola Bazaar.	3	0
<b>Sindh</b>				
Khairpur <sup>139</sup>	5/7/2014	An anti-polio team was attacked with clubs in Allah Bukhsh village	0	2
Karachi <sup>140</sup>	5/7/2014	A bomb blast outside a mosque on New Preedy Street in Saddar	2	2
Karachi <sup>141</sup>	6/7/2014	Sindh Rangers claimed to have killed two suspected TTP militants	2	0
Karachi <sup>142</sup>	14/7/2014	An assistant sub-inspector was gunned down by unidentified assailants	1	0
Karachi <sup>143</sup>	16/7/2014		5	0

<sup>135</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-7-262079-Cop-gunned-down-in-Mardan>

<sup>136</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31672-Six-children-killed-in-Hangu-blast>

<sup>137</sup><http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/19-Jul-2014/12-security-personnel-gunned-down-in-jamrud-peshawar>

<http://www.nation.com.pk/national/19-Jul-2014/8-fc-men-5-militants-dead-in-jamrud-post-attack>

<sup>138</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1121531/fc-soldier-killed-in-jandola-two-others-in-dera-ismail-khan>

<sup>139</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1117119/anti-polio-team-attacked-in-khairpur-village>

<sup>140</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1117146/two-killed-in-saddar-blast>

<sup>141</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31420-Two-terrorists-killed-in-encounter-with-Rangers-in-SITE>

<sup>142</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1119163/assistant-sub-inspector-gunned-down-in-karachi>

<sup>143</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-4-262033-Five-TTP-militants-killed-in-operation>



Karachi <sup>144</sup>	18/7/2014	A TTP commander was among five alleged militants shot dead during a police operation in Landhi	8	0
Karachi <sup>145</sup>	19/7/2014	The alleged mastermind of the attack on the Kamra airbase was killed during overnight action carried out by Rangers personnel. seven attackers were killed and one Pakistani soldier also lost his life	6	4
Karachi <sup>146</sup>	24/7/2014	Six people were killed and four others injured in different firing incidents	3	0
Karachi <sup>147</sup>	27/7/2014	Three young men were shot dead in the militant-infested Ittehad Town area. Five people including cops and clerics were shot dead. A prayer leader and Moazan were shot dead and three others wounded outside a mosque situated in Gulshan-e-Iqbal area.	5	3
Karachi <sup>148</sup>	27/7/2014	Law enforces agencies killed three alleged terrorists and arrested two others in wounded condition.	3	2
<b>Zerb-E-Azb</b>				
NWA <sup>149</sup>	2/6/2014	Pakistani military helicopters shelled militant hideouts	10	0

<sup>144</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1120034/alleged-mastermind-of-kamra-attack-killed-in-karachi-rangers-action>

<sup>145</sup><http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/sindh/19-Jul-2014/six-more-fall-victim-to-violence-in-karachi>

<sup>146</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1121150/three-gunned-down-in-ittehad-town-attack>

<sup>147</sup><http://www.nation.com.pk/karachi/27-Jul-2014/lady-cop-among-5-killed-in-karachi>

<sup>148</sup><http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/sindh/27-Jul-2014/three-alleged-terrorists-killed-in-encounter>

<sup>149</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1116523/army-kills-10-suspected-militants-in-north-waziristan>

Bannu <sup>150</sup>	3/6/2014	Military helicopters shelled militant hideouts	10	0
NWA <sup>151</sup>	5/7/2014	Five suspected militants were killed and five militant hideouts were destroyed	5	0
Datta Khel <sup>152</sup>	9/7/2014	PAF fighter jets pounded seven suspected hideouts	13	0
Shawal <sup>153</sup>	10/7/2014	The security forces claimed to have killed at least 11 terrorists following surgical assaults	11	0
Mir Ali <sup>154</sup>	13/7/2014	13 militants have been killed and seven of their hideouts destroyed	13	0
Miramshah <sup>155</sup>	16/7/2014	Five soldiers were killed and eight others were injured in two encounters with the militants, eleven terrorists were also killed in these two clashes.	16	8
Shawal Valley <sup>156</sup>	17/7/2014	20 terrorists, 12 of them Uzbeks, killed as drone fires two missiles at a militant compound in ZoiSaidgai area. Military kills 35 fleeing terrorists in aerial strikes in Shawal Valley	55	0
Datta Khel <sup>157</sup>	20/7/2014	11 militants of Punjabi Taliban faction were killed in an early morning US drone strike	11	0
Shawal <sup>158</sup>	24/7/2014		20	0

<sup>150</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31333-10-militants-killed-in-NWA-shelling>

<sup>151</sup><http://www.dawn.com/news/1117254/zarb-i-azb-five-suspected-militants-killed-in-nwa-airstrikes>

<sup>152</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31471-Jets-pound-militants-in-NWA-kill-13>

<sup>153</sup><http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/10-Jul-2014/zarb-e-azb-80-percent-of-miranshah-cleared-11-more-killed-in-jet-bombing>

<sup>154</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31568-Another-13-militants-killed-in-NWA-airstrikes>

<sup>155</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31621-Captain-among-five-soldiers-killed-in-NWA>

<sup>156</sup><http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/17-Jul-2014/pakistan-army-us-drone-kill-55-in-north-waziristan>

<sup>157</sup><http://www.nation.com.pk/national/20-Jul-2014/11-punjabi-taliban-dead-in-nwa-drone-strike>

<sup>158</sup><http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/islamabad/24-Jul-2014/20-terrorists-killed-in-shawal-as-forces-clear-parts-of-mirali>

Ghulam Khan Area <sup>159</sup>	26/7/2014	20 local and foreign terrorists were killed and four isolated terrorist hideouts destroyed	7	0
Mir Ali <sup>160</sup>	27/7/2014	A bomb killed two Pakistan Army soldiers, Five militants also died. At least eight militants were killed after the armed forces carried out a ground operation.	8	0

<sup>159</sup><http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-31848-Five-militants-two-troops-die-in-attacks>

<sup>160</sup><http://www.nation.com.pk/national/27-Jul-2014/8-terrorists-killed-in-mirali>