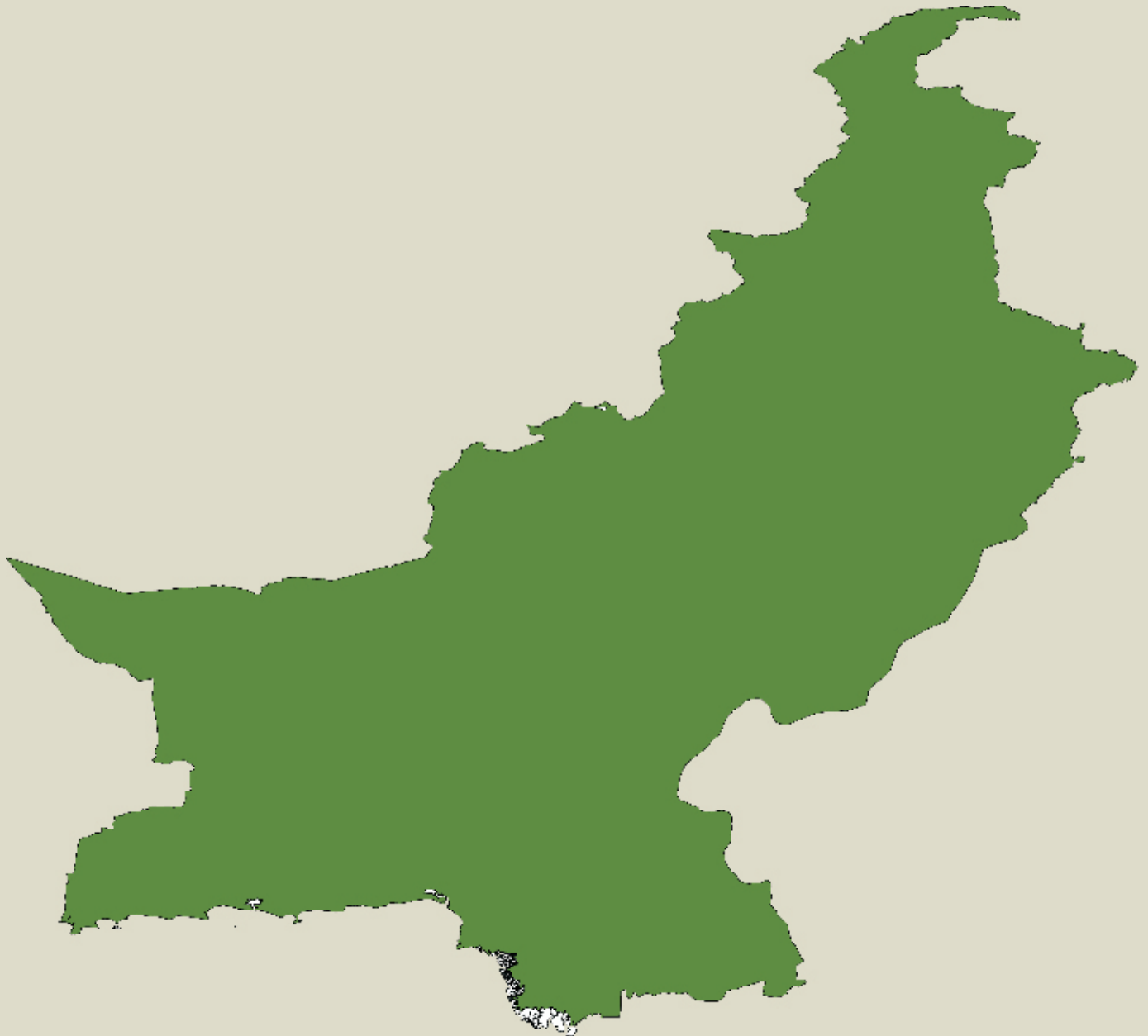


June 2015

PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST

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



Prepared by

Ashish Shukla & Manzoor Ahmad Bhat

(Research Assistants, Pakistan Project, IDSA)

idsa

INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE
STUDIES & ANALYSES

रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST JUNE 2015

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

Prepared by

*Ashish Shukla & Manzoor Ahmed Bhat
(Pak-Digest, IDSA)*



INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

1-Development Enclave, Near USI
Delhi Cantonment, New Delhi-110010

PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST, JUNE 2015

CONTENTS

.....	0
ABBREVIATIONS.....	2
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS.....	3
NATIONAL POLITICS.....	3
PROVINCIAL POLITICS.....	6
EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS.....	9
ZARDARI TAKING ON THE ESTABLISHMENT.....	15
FOREIGN POLICY.....	19
MILITARY ISSUES.....	26
ECONOMIC ISSUES.....	36
FISCAL ISSUES.....	36
INVESTMENT.....	37
SECURITY SITUATION.....	39
TERRORISM.....	39
KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND FATA.....	41
BALOCHISTAN.....	44
SINDH.....	45
PUNJAB.....	46
RELATIONS WITH INDIA.....	49
EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS.....	52
EXCERPTS FROM URDU MEDIA & SELECT JIHADI LITERATURE.....	55
INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS.....	55
KASHMIR.....	62
PAKISTANI TALIBAN, INTERNAL SECURITY.....	66
JIHADI MEDIA.....	67
STATISTICS.....	70

ABBREVIATIONS

AGP: Attorney General of Pakistan
ANP: Awami National Party
APC: All Parties Conference
ATC: Anti-Terrorism Court
BNP: Baluchistan National Party
CPEC: China- Pakistan Economic Corridor
ECL: Exit Control List
ECP: Election Commission of Pakistan
IMF: International Monetary Fund
ISI: Inter-Services Intelligence
ISPR: Inter Services Public Relations
JI: Jamaat-i-Islami
JIT: Joint Investigation Team
JuD: Jamat-ul- Dawa
KP: Khyber Pakhthunkhwa
LHC: Lahore High Court
MQM: Muttahida Qaumi Movement
NAB: National Accountability Bureau
Nacta: National Anti-Terrorism Act
NAP: National Action Plan
PAT: Pakistan Awami Tehreek
PML-N: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz
PPP: Pakistan People's Party
PTI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
RAW: Research and Analysis Wing
TTP: Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan
UNHCR: United Nations High Commission of Refugees

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

NATIONAL POLITICS

PPP leaders' names placed on ECL, *Daily Times*, June 24¹

The Interior Ministry has put the names of key PPP parliamentarians, including Sindh Minister for Information and Local Government Sharjeel Inam Memon, on the Exit Control List (ECL). The ministry also added 26 names to the ECL, including government officials and key party leaders. Names of parliamentarians and officers include Sharjeel Memon, Manzoor Wasan, Jam Shuru, Mukesh Chawla, Mumtaz Jahkhrani, Gyan Chan, Pir Mazhrul Ali, Mardan Shah, Nadir Magsi, Agha Siraj Durrani, Ghumbar Khan Leghari, Saqib Soomro, Raheem Soomro, Sohail Rajput, Shazar Shamoon, Qazi Shahid Pervez, Kher Muhammad Kalwar, Tashfeen K Niaz, Zulfiqar Shalwani, Hashim Raza Zaidi, Ghulam Ali Pasha, Subhan Memon and Fazal Pachio.

MQM 'received' Indian funding: BBC, *The Nation*, June 25²

Officials in Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) have told the UK authorities they received Indian government funds, the BBC learnt from an authoritative Pakistani source. UK authorities investigating the MQM for alleged money laundering also found a list of weapons in an MQM property. British authorities held formal recorded interviews with senior MQM officials who told them the party was receiving Indian funding, the BBC was told. [...]The Indian authorities described the claims as "completely baseless". Asked about the claims of Indian funding and training of the MQM, the Indian High Commission in London said: "Shortcomings of governance cannot be rationalised by blaming neighbours.

BBC report can become a prelude to large-scale action, *The Nation*, June 25³

The targeted operation against militants in Karachi, Pakistan's financial hub, is likely to grow into a large-scale campaign in the coming days after the BBC report that Altaf Hussain-led Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) has been receiving funding from India. The BBC report, according to analysts and government officials, may become a 'licence' for the government to go ruthless and wipe out the alleged militant-wing of the MQM. [...]The operation is on and we need to catch the traitors. We never targeted the MQM

¹ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/24-Jun-2015/ppp-leaders-names-placed-on-ecl>

² <http://nation.com.pk/national/25-Jun-2015/mqm-received-indian-funding-bbc>

³ <http://nation.com.pk/national/25-Jun-2015/bbc-report-can-become-a-prelude-to-large-scale-action>

and will not do so now. We are against those who are conspiring against our country", a senior cabinet member told The Nation.

Altaf Hussain rebuts BBC report, *The News*, June 25⁴

Muttahida Qaumi Movement's (MQM) London based leader Altaf Hussain on Thursday said he respects the British Broadcasting Company (BBC) but its recent story 'accusing MQM of receiving funds from India' was being presented as a 'Quranic verse'. [...] He rejected the BBC report in categorical terms, saying the story was 'fabricated and baseless'. [...] He asked his workers to continue their struggle in case he is assassinated. He said Khawaja Asif warned of MQM's 'loadshedding' soon as he (Asif) raised his finger towards Rashid Godil, the party's leader in the National Assembly. Hussain asked Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan to hold the Holy Qura'n in his hands and to tell the nation if all the operations launched in the past were not against MQM. He claimed that the interior minister was exchanging documents with the British officials. The MQM chief urged Nisar to invite the British High Commissioner one more time and ask him to launch a probe against Finance Minister Ishaq Dar for his past statement in which he (Dar) had admitted to committing the crime of money laundering. "Killers of Dr Imran Farooq were not captured in the last five years but suddenly there are claims that the murderers were arrested from Chaman border," he added. The MQM leader said "crushing MQM is tantamount to elimination of Pakistan".

Nation fully supports operation Zarb-e-Azb: Rabbani, *Daily Times*, June 25⁵

Acting President and Senate Chairman Raza Rabbani on Wednesday said that entire nation and political leadership of the country completely backed the Operation Zarb-e-Azb against terrorism. [...] The acting president expressed these views while talking to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and former Portuguese prime minister Antonio Guterres who called on him along with a delegation at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, said a press release.

No compromise on Model Town, Qadri, *The Express Tribune*, June 30⁶

Pakistan Awami Tehreek (PAT) leader Dr Tahirul Qadri pledged on Monday that he would never compromise on the Model Town incident and would continue to struggle for the provision of justice. Speaking upon his arrival in Lahore, Dr Qadri said he would never accept the report of the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) that was formed to probe the killing of 14 PAT

4

⁵ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/25-Jun-2015/nation-fully-supports-operation-zarb-e-azb-rabbani>

⁶ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/912042/back-in-town-no-compromise-on-model-town-incident-qadri/>

members in the Model Town neighbourhood last year. Although the JIT report cleared the Punjab chief minister, Dr Qadri said he does not have any faith in the probe team constituted by the government. According to him, only an independent investigation can determine the truth and bring those responsible to book. Addressing his supporters at his home in Model Town, Dr Qadri said the security institutions should nab those responsible for the bloodshed in Model Town in the same way as Karachi was being purged of terrorism.

Altaf warns against 'minus-Altaf formula', *The Express Tribune*, June 30⁷

Muttahida Qaumi Movement chief Altaf Hussain warned on Monday of a war on the streets if the 'conspiracies' against his party didn't end. "There are 5 million Mohajirs, and a lot of work is being done on the minus-Altaf formula. If I'm removed, the crowd sitting here won't be sitting here anymore. They'll take to the streets, and every street will witness war which no one will be able to stop," he said addressing his party leaders, parliamentarians and office-bearers at the Lal Qila ground by phone from London on Monday. Altaf also spoke of holding sit-ins in the near future against the ongoing 'conspiracies' against his party, and said if PTI Chairman Imran Khan could hold a three-month long sit-in without a single bullet being fired at him, his party could stretch their protests to six months. Reiterating his stance, the MQM chief said that neither he nor his party had any connections with Indian intelligence agency RAW, and anyone against Pakistan—be it Indians or RAW—were MQM's enemies. "If RAW propagates against the country, then we will be standing next to our armed forces to fight against them. [...] However, he added that his party should not be maligned if an individual from the party becomes part of RAW and gives statements to the police.

Documents purport to reveal MQM leader's statement, *The Dawn*, June 27⁸

Documents purported to be property of the London police surfaced on social media late Friday, suggesting that a senior Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) leader had disclosed the party's alleged links to India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) intelligence agency during an interview with British authorities. Three pages of text, some of it censored with what appears to be black ink, purport to reveal party leader Tariq Mir as saying that MQM had New Delhi's support and that supremo Altaf Hussain received funding from India. [...] Mir allegedly spoke to London police at the Edgware police station

⁷ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/912081/mqm-chief-warns-against-minus-altaf-formula/>

⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1190725/india-funding-claims-documents-purport-to-reveal-mqm-leaders-statement>

in May 2012, the document says, adding that he "attended voluntarily and was not under arrest".

Imran Farooq murder case: Scotland Yard team arrives in Islamabad, *The Dawn*, June 27⁹

A team from Britain's Scotland Yard (London Metropolitan Police) arrived in Islamabad on Saturday in relation to the investigation of the murder of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) leader Dr Imran Farooq. Islamabad had requested that a team visit Pakistan and assist in an ongoing investigation into the murder case as under way in Pakistan.

PROVINCIAL POLITICS

ECP orders re-polling in PK-95, *The Dawn*, June 2¹⁰

The Election Commission of Pakistan on Tuesday ordered re-polling in the PK-95 constituency of Lower Dir in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to absence of women voters during the May 30 by-election. ECP has also announced a new election schedule for PK-95 while dismissing the by-election results. This is the first case where the ECP has dismissed election results and ordered re-polling due to an absence of women voters. [...] Taking serious notice of the development, the ECP emphasised that imposing a ban on women's right to vote was unconstitutional and would be deemed an offence.

Rigging allegations: Gandapur sent on remand, *The Dawn*, June 2¹¹

A judicial magistrate on Tuesday handed over Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Revenue Minister Ali Ameen Khan Gandapur to police on a one-day physical remand. The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) leader is facing three charges, including snatching ballot boxes from the polling staff in Himad area and threatening them and police deployed there. Gandapur surrendered himself to the Saddar Police Station on Monday night after high drama and intervention of the central PTI leadership.

ECP shifts polls unrest responsibility to PTI govt, *Nation*, June 2¹²

The violence, mayhem and irregularities witnessed during local bodies (LB) polls in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have triggered blame game between ruling Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) and Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). While PTI chief Imran Khan has put the onus of mismanagement in the polls

⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1190811/imran-farooq-murder-case-scotland-yard-team-arrives-in-islamabad>

¹⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1185733/ecp-orders-re-polling-in-pk-95-over-absence-of-women-voters>

¹¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1185724/rigging-allegations-ali-ameen-gandapur-sent-on-one-day-physical-remand>

¹² <http://nation.com.pk/national/02-Jun-2015/ecp-shifts-polls-unrest-responsibility-to-pti-govt>

on election authorities, the ECP on Monday issued a strongly worded statement laughing out at the accusation of Mr Khan. In its statement the ECP reminded its critic that maintaining law and order situation was the sole responsibility of provincial government for which the commission had already advised KP government to hold the elections in phases to minimise expected violence and unrest on the polling day.

Three PTI workers killed in Abbottabad, *The Dawn*, June 3¹³

Three activists of the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf were killed and two others were injured in an incident of violence related to local government elections here on Tuesday. With the latest killings, death toll in poll-related violence in Khyber Pakhunkhwa has risen to 21. According to police, supporters of a PML-N candidate, who had lost the election, opened fire on PTI workers, killing three of them and injuring two others.

K-P CM admits to irregularities in LG polls, *The Express Tribune*, June 4¹⁴

The provincial government admitted irregularities and rigging in the local government elections, but placed the responsibility squarely on the shoulders of the Election Commission of Pakistan. Chief Minister Pervez Khattak, while addressing a news conference at his official residence, said the law and order situation escalated after candidates learnt about a shortage of ballot boxes and staff. He added other irregularities included the missing names of candidates and their election symbols.

Asfandiyar demands K-P govt's resignation, *The Express Tribune*, June 4¹⁵

Awami National Party (ANP) chief Asfandiyar Wali Khan demanded on Wednesday the dissolution of the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa government over the failure of holding free and fair local body elections in the province. Speaking at a press conference, the ANP Chief demanded the resignation of K-P Chief Minister Pervez Khattak. "Re-elections should be held to ensure free and fair polls, and a caretaker government should be formed," Wali said.

CM writes to DG Rangers over exceeding powers, *The News* June 17¹⁶

Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Qaim Ali Shah has written a letter to DG Rangers Major General Bilal Akbar over 'exceeding authority' by the paramilitary force in the province, sources said. According to sources, the copy of the

¹³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1185898/three-pti-workers-killed-in-abbottabad>

¹⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/897175/khattak-strikes-back-chief-minister-admits-to-irregularities-in-lg-polls/>

¹⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/896946/asfandiyar-wali-demands-k-p-governments-resignation/>

¹⁶ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-188309-CM-Sindh-writes-letter-to-DG-Rangers-over-exceeding-powers>

letter has also been dispatched to the federation. In the letter, CM Qaim Ali Shah has stated that the paramilitary force exercises the powers to counter militancy under Counter Terrorism Act 1973. He added that conducting a raid on the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) and Lines Area Development Project (LADP) offices were not the authority of the Sindh Rangers.

Sindh govt disempowered via Apex Committee: PPP, *The News*, June 17¹⁷

Senior leader of Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Farhatullah Babar Wednesday alleged that Sindh Rangers were operating beyond their mandate in the province. "Sindh government's powers are being taken away through Apex Committee," Babar claimed while speaking on a point of order during the Senate session, one day after PPP Co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari's no-holds-barred speech in Islamabad. [...] "Did the rejection of demand for thousands of acres land lead to the present situation," Farhatullah Babar questioned. On this, Minister of State, Baleegh-ur-Rehman said law and order is a provincial matter and that the Apex Committee was functioning under the Chief Minister. "If anyone has overstepped his authority, the Chief Minister who is also the captain of Karachi operation, can go ahead and take action," he added.

Opposition criticises Balochistan budget, *Dawn*, June 21¹⁸

Leader of Opposition in the Balochistan Assembly Maulana Abdul Wasay criticised on Saturday the performance of the provincial government and said the provincial budget for 2015-16 did not reflect the aspirations of people. Opening the debate on the budget in the assembly, Maulana Wasay opposed the allocation of huge funds for law-enforcement agencies, saying they had failed in improving law and order situation in the province. The session was presided over by acting Speaker Mir Quddus Bizenjo. Maulana Wasay said the opposition wanted to boycott the budget session, but it was attending it only on the request of Chief Minister Dr Abdul Malik Baloch and Senior Minister Sardar Sanaullah Zehri. [...] He alleged that the government while taking important decisions regarding allocation of funds for development projects did not take the opposition into confidence. The opposition leader rejected the official claim that the situation in Balochistan was improving, saying the government had been unsuccessful in resolving the issues of the province. Mir Karim Nausherwani of PML-Q also criticised the budget and said his constituency in Kharan district was deprived of funds for development projects. The house approved the Rs26.9 billion

¹⁷ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-188341-Rangers-overstepping-authority-in-Sindh:-Farhatullah-Babar>

¹⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1189467/opposition-criticises-balochistan-budget>

supplementary grants for the budget for 2015-16 — Rs15.74bn for development expenditures and Rs10.35bn non-development expenditures. Adviser to Chief Minister on Finance Mir Khaliq Lango presented the supplementary budget.

PTI resolution calls for trial against Altaf Hussain, *The News*, June 25¹⁹

The opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Thursday submitted a resolution in the Punjab Assembly proposing action against Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) Chief Altaf Hussain under Article 6 of the Constitution. [...]The resolution, presented by PTI lawmaker Mian Aslam Iqbal, demanded the formation of a high-powered commission to investigate the allegations against the MQM. It called for the initiation of a trial under Article 6 of the Constitution against Altaf Hussain and his companions if the charges are proved.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Election gone wrong, Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, *Dawn*, June 3²⁰

Around 40,000 councillors of grass-roots village and neighbourhood councils were elected in a major leap forward to build the third and most important tier of the democratic structure. In that respect, KP outdid the two larger provinces, Punjab and Sindh. [...] Some 26,000 polling booths proved insufficient to let the voters cast their seven ballot papers each. At many places, polling staff showed up late; at others, election material did not arrive in time. The polling staff generally lacked election training. Some provincial ministers and other influential politicians flexed their muscle and tried to influence the polling staff. Isolated cases of staff partisanship were reported. All these flaws in poll management and the resulting frustration at the long wait in the heat led to brawls and clashes. Reportedly 11 people died in various incidents. What went wrong and who is responsible? Article 218 (3) of the Constitution places the responsibility of holding free, fair and transparent elections squarely and unambiguously on the ECP's shoulders. It was, therefore, the responsibility of the ECP to accurately estimate the number of expected voters. [...] The ECP should, therefore, accept the primary responsibility for mismanagement. The ECP has recently disclosed that it wanted to hold the KP local government election in phases but it relented in the face of the provincial government's opposition. This is a serious case of abdication of responsibility on the part of the ECP. A process of soul-searching and introspection should ensue at the ECP and lead to specific actions and systemic reforms. One must, however, concede that the ECP has

¹⁹ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-189180-PTI-resolution-calls-for-trial-against-Altaf-Hussain-under-Article-6>

²⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1185791/election-gone-wrong>

been working under tremendous pressure over the past three years. [...] The ECP has its weaknesses and flaws but it is also true that the ECP was not allowed to use its independent judgement in deciding the dates of various important activities. Political parties cannot be absolved of the obligation to contribute to orderly elections. They must educate their workers and voters on the polling procedures, train their polling agents and teach tolerance to their workers. [...] It seems that the ECP, to a large extent, and other stakeholders to some degree, failed to learn adequate lessons from 2013 general election and to apply these to the recent LG election in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

K-P LG polls — what next?, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, June 4²¹

The good news is that Imran Khan, leader of the Pakistan-Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has not rejected outright claims of rigging in the recent local government elections held in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P). [...] It is a fact that despite having plenty of advance notice of the polls both, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and the provincial government of K-P failed at a number of levels when it came to running a free, fair and transparent election. [...] Blaming the ECP for the shambles that prevailed in some places is disingenuous. There has to be a shared responsibility for an enterprise as complex and fraught as a local election. Both the ECP and the provincial government down to district level had a duty to cooperate and coordinate and they failed to do either in a uniform manner.

Rule without taking over, Syed Talat Hussain, *The News*, June 22²²

[...] There is a touch of dark irony in the fact that most of the political parties that have dwarfed in comparison to the military's perceived centrality to the country's future wanted, in different forms and shapes, a modern Turkey-like Pakistan with powerful generals firmly in check and their ability to call the shots in strict compliance with the decisions of those voted to power. What has made Pakistan's democrats gravitate towards accepting a soft coup? There are several reasons for this strange state of affairs, and none have anything to do with what the generals may or may not have done to push their power above that of the politicians. The first reason relates to self-defeating politics. Since the 2013 elections the rules of the game that all sane voices have been propounding for streamlining national politics have been repeatedly flouted. The PTI's single-minded focus on delegitimising the present political system on the assumption that the entire electoral exercise has been fraudulent has unhinged the whole edifice. [...] The second reason relates to political priorities that the PML-N has set for itself after spending

²¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/897055/k-p-lg-polls-what-next/>

²² <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-9-324994-Rule-without-taking-over>

two shaky years in power. The crux of these priorities – decided and determined, in large measure, in the wake of Imran Khan’s siege of Islamabad – is that they must keep the army happy and satisfied. This has meant not just gushing praise for every step the army takes but a total concession to choose and decide how they want to fix Pakistan’s trouble-spots: Fata, Balochistan, Karachi. [...] The third factor explaining the unfolding of a slow, soft and (still) benign coup is the political leadership’s incompetence and pure neglect of the heavy responsibility that comes with elected power. [...] Pakistan’s generals do not seem to have an agenda (yet). They don’t seem to have the itch for more power (yet). They are still quite far from falling to the temptation of taking over (yet). Democracy is still in place. But then they don’t have to do any of the above. Politicians are doing a fine job of giving them so much power, a wide agenda and centrality to decision-making that they don’t have to take over to rule. Why shake the constitution to get your way when shaking the finger is enough to get the job done.

MQM’s Alleged Indian Links, Editorial, *The Nation*, June 25²³

The rumours swirling since yesterday morning materialised in the form of a shattering BBC report on the MQM’s alleged funding and training by the Indian intelligence. While these allegations have recently been levied even within Pakistan, it is the first time a credible news source has corroborated them with input from UK authorities. While detractors of the report (including the MQM) are quick to analyse the sourcing of the story — understandable, given the history of accusations traded between Pakistan and India on a regular basis — what cannot be explained away is the fact that British authorities have MQM workers on record giving details of the funding and training. What cannot be explained away is the list of weapons and their prices found at MQM offices in London, and stacks of weapons at MQM offices in Karachi. What cannot be explained away is that Pakistani and British authorities are now coming across the same findings in their investigations of cases related to the MQM. [...] Meanwhile, India’s facetious, trite, and utterly inadequate reply insists that neighbouring Pakistan is unjustly blaming its woes on India. What the Indian High Commission in London failed to note in its reply was that it was not its neighbour, but British authorities and British media which has broken the story. [...] These confessions, coupled with the weapons and cash recovered from MQM owned premises gives these claims justifiability – they can be the subject of a formal investigation and a legal indictment. Unless that can be done –by either the Pakistani or British law enforcement agencies – the report will continue to serve as a cause of public condemnation and be the subject of a

²³ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/25-Jun-2015/mqm-s-alleged-indian-links>

jingoistic media trial, for a party that has demonstrated time and again, the fierce loyalty of its vote bank. At the ballot box and on the streets.

Editor's Note: An editorial in *Daily Times* "MQM in hot water" speculates at the possible source of the BBC claim regarding MQM receiving funding from India. It also assumes that the suspects may be sent to UK for further interrogation.²⁴ The other editorial in *The News* "The darkening sky" too hints towards the same source of the BBC report.²⁵

Now or never, Ayaz Amir, *The News*, June 26²⁶

[...] The MQM was never a political party in the accepted sense of the word. Beneath its surface lurked the spectres of violence and terror. [...] Altaf Hussain's success was more spectacular. He terrorised and held in his iron fist Pakistan's largest city and only port, its commercial and business capital, the exit and entry point of all its exports and imports. For well over three decades he was the unchallenged king – the less charitable would say the don – of Karachi and much of urban Sindh. No martial law could compete with the hold the MQM exercised over the Karachi media – no media house, no TV channel, no newspaper, daring to go against the whims and wishes of this self-proclaimed 'secular and liberal' party. [...] Now it hasn't gone but it is under unprecedented threat, with an ongoing murder investigation and money laundering charges not before a Pakistani court – which would have been easy to settle – but before the London authorities. The MQM also faces internal pressures. The over-touted former mayor of Karachi, Mustafa Kemal, has embraced the safer shoreline of Dubai. The MQM coordinating committee has been shuffled and reshuffled in recent months. And two suspects in the Imran Farooq murder case are in the custody of the authorities, awaiting the recording of their testimony. If all this was not enough, we now have the BBC story about the MQM receiving money from India. [...] There is the army turning its back on the past – a past it did much to create – and at long last taking on the forces of religion-coated militancy and extremism. There is the cleansing operation in Karachi against extortion and violence, which is sparing no one and has come close even to the hitherto secure confines of Bilawal House. [...] The MQM was untouchable. Bilawal House was untouchable. If the civilians had anything to do with it, the Taliban would have remained untouchable. Not the army of Musharraf and Kayani but the present army has taken on these untouchables. As a result, new winds are blowing across the landscape. The temple dedicated to loot and plunder stands, but by calling into question what were certainties cast in stone until

²⁴ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/editorial/25-Jun-2015/mqm-in-hot-water>

²⁵ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-8-325529-The-darkening-sky>

²⁶ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-9-325694-Now-or-never>

yesterday, the pillars of the temple are being shaken. [...] This is a turning point or it can prove to be a turning point, if those touching the untouchables, taking on the holy cows of yesterday, remain steadfast and do not falter. Such a chance does not come every day. Such a tide does not flow every moonlit night. [...] Do we have the courage of our circumstances? Or will this remain a half-cocked affair, things touched but not pulled up by the roots, as our condition demands? The fear is being voiced that what is happening across Pakistan should not come to be seen as a Punjabi enterprise – the army moving decisively elsewhere but Punjab remaining untouched. For this shaking of the pillars to carry across-the-board conviction, no one should be spared...not Punjab, and not even the army. There are cases against ex generals – the NLC case for one – which are pending. There should be some movement on those. And Gen Musharraf should be called to account not for treason which was a bogus, vendetta-fuelled case from the word go but for his links with the MQM. [...] Shouldn't that be looked into? But the bottom line remains: now or never. We make the most of our present circumstances or we bid farewell to what remains of the Pakistani dream.

Editor's Note: Another editorial in The Express Tribune "The plot thickens" suggests going ahead sensibly and rationally, not emotionally, as far as recent BBC report regarding MQM is concerned.

The politics of fear, Cyril Ameid, *The Dawn*, June 28²⁷

To the average, apolitical observer, the politics of Sindh makes little sense. MQM in Karachi, Hyderabad; PPP in interior Sindh — it adds up to quite the horror show. Sure, the mercenary politics of Punjab, the tribalism of Balochistan and the ruthlessness of the Peshawar valley have their own peculiarities. But what the heck is up with Sindh? Now that the boys have decided to take on cleaning up Sindh a bit, that question is being asked in nuanced and glib ways. The nuanced variation is, what's the endgame here? [...] Punjab swaps its mercenaries around; the Peshawar valley has swung MMA, ANP and PTI in three successive elections; hell, even Balochistan mixes up its winning permutation of sardars and tribals from election to election. But no matter what the MQM does to Karachi and Hyderabad and no matter what the PPP does to Sindh, they get voted in — 90pc Karachi, Hyderabad to MQM; 60pc interior Sindh to PPP. It's manifestly self-defeating — and yet, the vote is real and not significantly coerced. Sure, the MQM pads its seat count through brute force and the PPP has its regressive landowners, but a great deal of the support for both parties is genuine. Perhaps though the nuanced and the glib questions have a common answer: Sindh is about the politics of fear. A double-layered fear, the first of the Mohajirs within Sindh

²⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1190876/the-politics-of-fear>

and the second of the Sindhis within the federation. Fear — and look away now if you're a supporter of either — is perhaps the essence of the MQM and the PPP vote banks. [...] So, there it is. The MQM may be a monstrosity and Zardari's PPP may be a monstrosity, but both stand on old edifices of fear — the Mohajir's fear inside Sindh and the Sindhi's fear inside the federation. Which goes back to the nuanced question: what's the endgame here? IE do the boys really know what they're doing?

A way out for the MQM, Tariq Mahmud, *The Express Tribune*, June 30²⁸

The sensational report by the BBC, followed by alarming admissions by Tariq Mir, the MQM's London-based member, regarding alleged Indian funding to the party, has put many players on the spot, foremost being the British government whose soil was allegedly used for the Indian funding. This money was reportedly meant for the MQM secretariat as well as for weapons for the party's workers who were allegedly trained in India. If true, this is a sad and shameful commentary on the state of affairs in the country where the likes of Declan Walsh and Owen Bennett-Jones reveal the mess in Pakistan while our state organs seem to suffer from lethargy. [...] The statement that was circulated on social media reveals that it was voluntary and that Mir was not under arrest when he gave it. His statement gives details about his meetings with Indian agents and the monetary assistance and training, which MQM workers got in India. [...] If there is a kernel of truth in Mir's reported statement, it means that India had been pulling the levers to destabilise Pakistan's financial hub for the past many years. In this regard, our diplomatic initiative needs to be geared towards confronting India at every forum with evidence until the time it contracts its undesirable flanks in destabilising Pakistan. A possible move could be to develop a dossier containing hard evidence of Indian activities and sharing it with the UN sanctions committee to underpin India for its alleged extra-territorial role in destabilising Pakistan. The MQM, on its part, needs deep introspection to come out of its denial mode. Most of its Pakistan-based leadership is a thinking lot with an enlightened worldview. These leaders are products of the electoral process and are a very useful political resource, which the country cannot afford to lose. [...] The party's London-based secretariat has been pulling the strings even in day-to-day matters. In all probability, the Pakistan-based leadership was not privy to the close-fisted decisions made by the London-based coterie of reportedly accepting funding from India. It should be given the benefit of doubt unless there is strong, direct evidence against any individual. [...] As long as the issue of money laundering and now the funding from India against the London-based leadership is under investigation, the Pakistan-based leadership should distance itself from the

²⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/911862/a-way-out-for-the-mqm/>

former. That may be the only way out for it to stay relevant and ward off the coming difficulties for the party. The MQM needs to carry out a pruning and cleansing exercise within its ranks and shed any criminal elements that may exist. Disowning such elements once they are nabbed and have confessed will be a belated move and will have little impact. The party must also get rid of its 'sector in charge' syndrome and save hapless citizens from street-level thuggery.

ZARDARI TAKING ON THE ESTABLISHMENT

Zardari warns army against PPP victimisation, *The Nation*, June 17²⁹

PPP Co-Chairman and former president Asif Ali Zardari Tuesday made a fiery speech against his political rivals and the military leadership, warning them to stop character-assassination of PPP otherwise he would expose everyone, including army generals. "Stop victimising us. We have expressed much restraint. Be careful now otherwise we will expose all," said Asif Zardari, while addressing the oath-taking ceremony of the party officebearers belonging to KP and Fata. [...] "We know how to wage a war and are not afraid of it," said Zardari, while keeping a smile on his face, amid slogans raised by PPP workers in favour of the party and the leaders. Without naming anyone, he said the tenure of a general is no longer than some years, but the political parties last forever. "You stay for three years and we are here to stay and never retire," he said. "Musharraf does not know how many threats Pakistan is facing, currently, but I do," he added. [...] "I had said at the time of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's martyrdom that "Pakistan Khapay" (We need Pakistan), but, there's a limit to everything," he remarked. "I am not interested in coming into power, but serving the masses is my foremost priority," he said, asserting when PPP moves, it jolts all others. "We want to see continuity of democratic setup. I can wait," he remarked. [...] He said he did not want to weaken the country's institutions, but they should also not try to create hurdles for politicians. He advised the establishment to remain away from politics and avoid interfering in the things that don't fall in its domain.

Nisar slams Zardari's remarks against army, *The Nation*, June 17³⁰

Reacting to the statement of Co-chairman PPP Asif Ali Zardari, Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan said that his remarks were insulting and unreasonable and it was an effort to target an important state institution just to hide his own mistakes and weaknesses. "It is condemnable to target this state institution at a time when its personnel were sacrificing their lives for the existence of the country," he said in a statement. [...] He said the style of

²⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/17-Jun-2015/zardari-warns-army-against-ppp-victimisation>

³⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/17-Jun-2015/nisar-slams-zardari-s-remarks-against-army>

politics of Asif Zardari can cause an irreparable loss to the integrity of country' institutions. He said this style of politics was not only dangerous but also condemnable. "Whatever Zardari sahib would say, every Pakistani respects the country' armed forces and its leadership," he concluded.

Two ex-prime ministers resign from PPP positions, *The News*, June 18³¹

Two former prime minister of Pakistan Raja Pervez Ashraf and Yousuf Raza Gilani have voluntarily resigned from their positions in the Pakistan People's Party (PPP). Gilani and Ashraf, who have been serving as PPP's vice chairman and general secretary respectively, decided to resign during the meeting of party's Central Executive Council at the Bilawal House. According to inside story of the CEC meeting, Raja Pervez Ashraf was critical of Asif Ali Zardari's remarks which many saw as an attack on country's military establishment. "It was not appropriate for the former president to criticize armed forces of Pakistan," sources quoted him as saying.

Unwelcome clash, Editorial, *The News*, June 18³²

We are familiar with the sight of clashes between civilian politicians and the military establishment that jolt our country every few years, sending shockwaves through the system. We are witnessing the same now in the shape of the harsh attack launched by the usually low-key former president Asif Ali Zardari on the military and institutions associated with it. Perhaps this arises from fear; perhaps its source is different. The immediate context of the PPP co-chairperson's remarks is the campaign in Karachi by Rangers and other authorities, including NAB, to tackle corruption and ineptitude in the city. The PPP appears to have seen this as an attack on its governance in the province. [...] On Monday, NAB arrested five KDA officials in Karachi on charges of involvement in illegal sale of land worth Rs4.5 billion. What has irked the PPP even more and caused its leadership to rise to uncharacteristic levels of fury is the seizing of the offices of the Sindh Building Control Authority. The Rangers had in a report released this month referred to corruption worth Rs230 billion in Karachi. No political party had been named, but it was obvious political fury would emerge soon. That fury is visible now. [...] The assertions made by Senator Farhatullah Babar in the Senate about the military's attempts to seize control in Karachi perhaps deserve slightly greater attention. The crisis now of course has spilled over into the political arena. Sides are being taken, and positions being made clear. The prime minister, who was scheduled to meet former president Zardari on Wednesday, reportedly cancelled the meeting on the basis of the speech. He and Interior

³¹ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-188390-Two-ex-prime-ministers-resign-from-PPP-positions->

³² <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-8-324302-Unwelcome-clash>

Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan have both lashed out against the attack on the military, terming it unwarranted and dangerous, especially at a time when tensions are high on our frontier with India and Operation Zarb-e-Azb continues. The PTI Vice Chairperson Shah Mehmood Qureshi asked a pertinent question when he demanded that Zardari explain why he had not spoken out against the 'corrupt' generals he now threatens to identify during his period in power or why he had seen ex-president Pervez Musharraf out of office with a lavish farewell even though the dictator came under fierce criticism on Tuesday. Other smaller parties, notably in Balochistan and Sindh have backed Zardari at least subtly.

No sacred cows in democracy, Editorial, *The Dawn*, June 19³³

WORRYING as it is for a major political party and the military leadership to be at odds with each other, the reaction of the PML-N government and other mainstream political parties has been disturbing too. In cancelling a meeting with PPP boss Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has sent the wrong signal on the civil-military front. Similarly, words of condemnation by PML-N and PTI leaders in particular of Mr Zardari's fulminations against the military appear to have unfortunately aligned major political parties closer to the military than to the democratic system. [...] What Mr Zardari said earlier this week amounted to a political speech against a deepening intrusion into the political realm by the military leadership — can a politician not criticise what he perceives to be a political opponent? [...] In the civil-military domain, civilians crossing over to the wrong side of the equation has historically never worked out well for the latter. Surely, the PML-N should not need to be reminded of that.

Pulling up the PPP, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, June 23³⁴

[...] The emotional tirade given by former president and the party's co-chairperson, Asif Ali Zardari, attacking the establishment has led to almost all other mainstream parties choosing to stay away from the PPP and challenge its place in the mainstream of politics. An iftar dinner hosted on June 19 by Mr Zardari was attended only by former allies of the party when it was in government, including the MQM, the ANP, the JUI-F and the PML-Q. Some of the leaders of these parties even arrived late while other parties, though invited, chose to stay away altogether. Meanwhile, PPP leaders have been trying to either explain or backtrack from Mr Zardari's statement, stating that the PPP respected the military and the army chief, and had always backed Operation Zarb-e-Azb. [...] While Mr Zardari's speech was a highly ill-advised one and much of the criticism directed at his party in its aftermath is

³³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1189034/no-sacred-cows-in-democracy>

³⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/907455/pulling-up-the-ppp/>

justified, the fact is that Pakistan's political arena needs the PPP. We need it because it is a party that in the past has shown that it represents all parts of the country and is capable of pulling the federation together, even if because of its own shenanigans it is now only limited to Sindh. We need the PPP because in many matters it offers a different ideological view from that of the current ruling party and also the PTI, which has emerged as the other main player on the political scene. The PPP urgently needs to work towards resurrecting itself.

LHC dismisses treason plea against Zardari, *Daily Times*, June 23³⁵

Justice Ijazul Ahsan of the Lahore High Court on Monday dismissed as non-maintainable a petition seeking action on treason charges against former president Asif Ali Zardari and other PPP leaders. Ilyas Gujjar, a leader of All Pakistan Muslim League, filed the petition. The petitioner's counsel submitted that Zardari and other PPP leaders have made statements against the armed forces of the country to damage the operation Zarb-e-Azb launched to eradicate terrorism.

Zardari ignoring his advice to pursue reconciliation, *The Dawn*, June 29³⁶

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari seems to have ignored the advice of opposition politicians to continue his policy of reconciliation following his outburst against the military a couple of weeks ago. Leaders of a number of parties said that although the PPP's second-tier leadership had tried to undo the damage that was reportedly caused by Mr Zardari's fiery speech during a party convention held on June 16, he had continued in the same vein in a subsequent speech on the occasion of the late Benazir Bhutto's birth anniversary on June 21. PML-Q President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, who was one of the first leaders to arrive at the PPP Iftar-dinner at Zardari House on June 19 and held an extended one-to-one meeting with the PPP chief, said, "I advised Mr Zardari to actively engage in damage control, but he did not respond to me at that time."

³⁵ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/23-Jun-2015/lhc-dismisses-treason-plea-against-zardari>

³⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1191062/zardari-ignoring-advice-to-pursue-his-policy-of-reconciliation>

FOREIGN POLICY

Enemies want to divide the nation: PM Nawaz, *The Dawn*, June 2³⁷

While chairing an All Parties Conference (APC) in Quetta on Tuesday, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said that enemies of Pakistan want to divide the nation. [...] PM Nawaz said that he was happy that all parties had agreed on the China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) project. "I want to congratulate the Pakistani leadership for owning it." PM Nawaz also heaped praise on the Pakistani leadership for moving towards mature politics. "We made decisions about the National Action Plan (NAP) and military courts during which the country's leadership stood together. What bigger example than this of national unity?" He further said that, "Enemies of Pakistan are hatching conspiracies to weaken our motherland since they cannot tolerate development and prosperity in the country. We are determined to wipe out terrorism."

US-India N-deal affected stability: Aizaz Ahmad, *The Nation*, June 2³⁸

The US nuclear deal with India has affected the strategic stability that existed in South Asia before the deal, says Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry. The foreign secretary, who is leading the Pakistani team at the US-Pakistan talks on security, strategic stability and non-proliferation which began in Washington today, said that maintaining this strategic balance was necessary for peace in South Asia. "The perception of the threat from India was the only rationale for Pakistan's nuclear program," said Mr Chaudhry. "This is a weapon of deterrence, not for actual use." He further stated that "Any discriminatory treatment is not good for strategic stability and this has been our consistent line: create a level playing field." The secretary explained that in the last decade, Pakistan had gained international recognition as a responsible nuclear state. "We have come a long way in establishing strong export controls against any proliferation of nuclear materials," he said. "And our export control lists have been harmonized with the multilateral export regime." Mr Chaudhry said that nuclear safety was another strong area where Pakistan had made a considerable progress. "We have more than four decades of experience in power generation and our nuclear facilities have been completely safe," he said, adding that there was now an international recognition of Pakistan's strong credentials.

³⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1185710/enemies-of-pakistan-want-to-divide-the-nation-pm-nawaz>

³⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/national/02-Jun-2015/n-deal-between-us-india-affected-strategic-stability-aizaz>

Pakistan will not sign NPT, says foreign secretary, The Dawn, June 3³⁹

Pakistan will not sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) because it considers it discriminatory, said Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry as he led the Pakistani team at a meeting with US officials on Tuesday on security, strategic stability and non-proliferation issues. When asked to underline the steps Pakistan had taken to protect its nuclear assets, he said: "We have established a multi-layer system and a strong command and control system." He assured the international community that Pakistan would maintain a "credible minimum deterrence, but it is not in an arms race with anyone". Mr Chaudhry pointed out that for some time India had been working on a massive build-up of conventional weapons. "Pakistan is not asking for a parity with India but we do want a system of check and balance. Such a balance is necessary to promote peace," he said. "Pakistan believes in the concept of comprehensive strategic stability, which includes conventional weapons balance, nuclear restraint, resolution of the outstanding issues," he said. The foreign secretary said that Pakistan also had a right to the civil nuclear cooperation arrangement that the United States had with India. "Our energy needs are more acute. Our power generation met international standards. All our facilities are under IAEA safeguards. And so we have a right to have access to civil nuclear technology," he said.

Britain backing Pak-Afghan intel cooperation, The Nation, June 3⁴⁰

India suspects British involvement in putting together a controversial agreement between Pakistan's ISI and Afghan intelligence service, NDS. India's annoyance could impact a possible visit to the UK by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, tentatively being planned for the end of the year. While the MoU itself has not yet been made public, a couple of clauses which have leaked out have added to India's anger. One of them is that each spy service would "refrain" from criticizing the other in public, among other things. More important, they agreed to "refrain" from cooperating with "hostile foreign agencies". For years, that was Afghan description for ISI itself. Post the agreement, the "foreign agencies" said sources, indicate India. A second inclusion is even more curious - asking Afghanistan to present Pakistan and the ISI in a "favourable" light. Sources here said countries routinely engage in intelligence cooperation with other countries, but they don't involve MoUs, nor do they involve a public relations activity. If implemented, India fears it would mean that the NDS would have to engage in domestic political activity in the same way the ISI does inside Pakistan. Many in the security

³⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1185843/pakistan-will-not-sign-npt-says-foreign-secretary>

⁴⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/03-Jun-2015/britain-backing-pak-afghan-intel-cooperation-indian-report>

establishment here are joining the dots - and coming up with some uncomfortable conclusions that much of this is intended to target India itself.

Pak-Af join hands for closer cooperation, *The Express Tribune*, June 3⁴¹

During a series of talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan, the brotherly countries have underscored the importance of cooperation on war against terror, *Radio Pakistan* reported. In a meeting held in Kabul between Abdur Rauf Ibrahim, spokesperson for Afghan Wolessi Jirga and Pakistan Ambassador to Afghanistan, Syed Abrar Hussain, the authorities discussed ways to increase media cooperation between the two countries.

China backs Pakistan on NSG membership, *The Express Tribune*, June 4⁴²

As the ninth Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) review conference concluded, China said that while it supports Pakistan gaining access to the Nuclear Supplier's Group (NSG), signing the treaty was 'crucial'. Responding to a question, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying said on Wednesday that the international community had a long-standing consensus regarding NPT being the cornerstone of the NSG. On Pakistan's aspirations for NSG membership, Hua said that China had noted its ally's efforts towards mainstreaming into the global non-proliferation regime. "We support Pakistan's engagement with the NSG, and hope such efforts could be conducive to the authority and effectiveness of international non-proliferation regime," she said. "We wish to strengthen communication and coordination with Pakistan," she said.

Pakistan shaping new Afghanistan policy: Fatemi, *Daily Times*, June 16⁴³

Pakistan has rejected assertions it has promised Afghanistan to "pick up" fugitive Taliban leaders and deliver them to the negotiating table to sign a peace pact with the Afghan government. A senior government official also defended a landmark pact recently reached between spy agencies of the two countries, describing it vital for joint counterterrorism efforts. Special Assistant on foreign policy Tariq Fatemi insisted that relations with Afghanistan were moving in the "right direction" and says leaders in both the countries were determined to maintain the positive trend. [...] "We had some influence, we may still have some influence, but we are not in a position to pick up people and take them to the conference table and say

⁴¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/896778/pakistan-afghanistan-join-hands-for-closer-cooperation-against-war-on-terror/>

⁴² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/897465/npt-status-crucial-china-backs-pakistan-on-nsg-membership/>

⁴³ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/16-Jun-2015/pakistan-shaping-new-afghanistan-policy-fatemi>

that 'you sign on the dotted line.' We never made such a promise because we have no such illusions," he said.

Chairman Russian Duma appreciates Pak efforts, *The News*, June 18⁴⁴

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Raheel Sharif held a meeting with Chairman State Duma of Russian Federation in Moscow on Wednesday, according to ISPR. Both sides discussed ways to enhance defence cooperation and more military exchanges to benefit from each other's combat experience. The Chairman Duma appreciated Pakistan's efforts for stability in region and ongoing operation against the terrorists. He said Russia will stand by Pakistan in its fight against terrorism and extremism for stability in region. DG ISPR Major General Asim Saleem Bajwa also tweeted that the whole day was spent witnessing dynamic defence expo including a highly impressive display of all types of arms, aircrafts and helicopters.

Russia ready to sell four Mi-35 to Pakistan, *The Dawn*, June 18⁴⁵

A draft contract for the delivery of four Mi-35M 'Hind E' combat helicopters has been sent to Pakistan from Russia, a source in the Russian military and technical cooperation said on Wednesday, according to a report published on TASS news agency's website. [...] According to Russia's state arms exporter Rosoboronexport, talks between Russia and Pakistan are under way regarding the delivery of helicopters. [...] Pakistan and Russia had signed a bilateral defence cooperation agreement aimed at strengthening military-to-military relations in November last year. The deal had to be followed by another 'technical cooperation agreement' to pave the way for sale of defence equipment to Pakistan. Besides helicopters, Pakistan also appears interested in other Russian hardware. Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif on Tuesday spent about 15 hours at an arms expo near Moscow that featured Russia's cutting edge weapons and military equipment. He inspected not only the weapon systems on display but also saw their live demonstration. "The army chief spent whole of June 16 witnessing dynamic defence expo. Highly impressive display of all types of arms, aircraft, and helis," military spokesman Maj Gen Asim Bajwa, who accompanied the army chief on the Russia visit, tweeted.

⁴⁴ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-188355-Chairman-State-Duma-appreciates-Pakistans-efforts-for-stability-in-region>

⁴⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1188966/russia-ready-to-sell-four-mi-35-helicopters-to-pakistan-report>

Af-Pak forces jointly fighting terrorists, Pentagon, *The Dawn*, June 21⁴⁶

The US Department of Defence has informed Congress that the military-to-military cooperation between Pakistan and Afghanistan is having a positive impact on the fight against terrorism. In its latest report to Congress, the Pentagon noted that "the role of Pakistan remains critical to stability in Afghanistan". The DOD said that since President Ashraf Ghani's inauguration, Afghan and Pakistani leaders have conducted several high-level engagements and engaged in a cooperative security dialogue, "representing a promising trend for regional security". [...] According to the report, during the Operation Khyber II launched in December 2014 the Pakistani military attempted to coordinate bilaterally with Afghan military representatives instead of through US or coalition channels. Both the Afghan and Pakistan governments have indicated a desire to coordinate cross-border security and are in the process of finalising a Bilateral Military Coordination Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

'Pull factors' can help re-integrate Afghans returning from Pakistan: Sartaj, *The Dawn*, June 22⁴⁷

Pakistan on Monday suggested that with the support of the international community, United Nations High Commission of Refugees (UNHCR) should assist the Afghan government in creating pull factors inside Afghanistan which would be helpful in the re-integration of Afghans returning from Pakistan. The message was conveyed to visiting UNHCR chief António Guterres by Adviser to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz during their meeting in Islamabad. Mr Guterres is on a three-day 'Ramazan Solidarity' visit to Pakistan from June 22 to June 24.

UNHCR chief review of deadline, *The Express Tribune*, June 23⁴⁸

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has requested Pakistan to review its December 31 deadline for the repatriation of more than three million Afghan refugees from the country after staying there for three decades. On Monday, the opening day of his three-day visit to Pakistan, UNHCR chief António Guterres called on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and also held talks with Prime Minister's Adviser on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz. [...] Guterres acknowledged the

⁴⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1189455/afghan-pakistani-forces-jointly-fighting-terrorists-pentagon-tells-congress>

⁴⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1189744/pull-factors-can-help-re-integrate-afghans-returning-from-pakistan-sartaj>

⁴⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/908046/afghan-refugees-unhcr-chief-urges-pakistan-to-review-repatriation-deadline/>

efforts by Pakistan for hosting the world's largest refugee population for more than three decades.

Pakistan's emphatic no to Afghanistan, *The Nation*, June 25⁴⁹

Pakistan has emphatically said no to a request by Kabul seeking permission to start direct trade with India via the Wagah border saying trade talks with New Delhi are currently off the table. "We have asked Afghanistan to give us transit access to Central Asia. However, they linked it with allowing them direct trade with India via the Wagah border, which is not acceptable to Islamabad," Minister for Commerce Engr Khurram Dastgir Khan said during informal discussion with journalists.

Pakistan asks UK to hold inquiry into BBC report, *The News*, June 26⁵⁰

Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan has said that he has **apprised the UK High Commissioner about Pakistan's concerns regarding a BBC documentary** that claimed India was funding Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM). Talking to media persons on Thursday, he said that the BBC report also came under discussion during his meeting with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. He said that he invited High Commissioner Philip Barton and called for a thorough investigation into the BBC report that is a matter of significance for Pakistan's security.

Zaid Hamid arrested in Saudi Arabia, *The Express Tribune*, June 26⁵¹

Pakistani analyst and commentator Zaid Hamid has been arrested in Saudi Arabia, the Foreign Office said on June 25. According to reports, Hamid was arrested during a private visit to the Kingdom with his wife. **He was apparently taken into custody after making speeches against the Saudi government.** "Our embassy in Riyadh has informed us that Mr Zaid Hamid was arrested about two weeks ago. Since then, the embassy has been working with the local authorities to get consular access," Foreign Office spokesperson Qazi Khalilullah told a news briefing in Islamabad.

Pak, China agree to expedite Bahawalpur solar project, *The Dawn*, June 27⁵²

Pakistan and China have agreed to gear up work on generating 900 megawatts of electricity in Bahawalpur Solar Power Park, said a report published on Radio Pakistan. The understanding came during a meeting between Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif and a Chinese delegation in

⁴⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/25-Jun-2015/pakistan-s-emphatic-no-to-afghanistan>

⁵⁰ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-189171-Pakistan-asks-UK-to-hold-inquiry-into-BBC-report>

⁵¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/910179/zaid-hamid-arrested-in-saudi-arabia/>

⁵²

Lahore today. Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said the solar power park project is part of the China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC). He said the project will be completed by 2016 while 300 megawatts (MW) of electricity will be generated from the power park by the end of this year.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Of rocks and hard places, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, June 4⁵³

President Ashraf Ghani is trying to hold together an extremely fragile government in Afghanistan. Some of those tensions revolve around the recent improvement in relations with Pakistan, which not all parties in Afghanistan — or Pakistan for that matter — are entirely comfortable with. The most recent point of sensitivity concerns the possibility of intelligence-sharing between agencies from both countries in an effort to battle the extremists better that flow back and forth across our mutual borders. President Ghani has faced severe domestic criticism for allowing this development, and he has now written to our government seeking assistance in his struggle to balance opposing internal forces. Specifically, he is calling for tougher action against the Afghan Taliban in border regions, and moves against what are seen as ‘sanctuaries’ in the tribal areas, as well as seeking house arrest for known Taliban leaders in Quetta and Peshawar and the arrest of members of the Haqqani network. This is a large shopping list, and one Pakistan may find difficult to fulfill to the satisfaction of President Ghani. There does appear to be a willingness at least in principle to cooperate, and the head of a parliamentary panel has said that Pakistan should hand over members of the Afghan Taliban and the Haqqani network to Kabul — which is a significant shift from the position of a year ago where complete denial was the only agenda item. Pakistan in many ways is in no less of a dilemma as Afghanistan. Changing course after years of following the same route is never going to be easy.

Civilian nuclear deal, Editorial, *Dawn*, June 5⁵⁴

THE seventh round of the US-Pakistan Security, Strategic Stability and Non-proliferation Working Group has yielded a familiar joint statement: Pakistan has asked for access to civilian nuclear technology, similar to the India-US civilian nuclear deal; the US has politely told Pakistan to focus on its non-proliferation credentials. [...] This is the relevant portion of the joint statement released on Wednesday after the working group concluded its meeting: “The US delegation welcomed Pakistan’s efforts to harmonise its strategic trade controls with those of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and other multilateral

⁵³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/897005/of-rocks-and-hard-places/>

⁵⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1186272/civilian-nuclear-deal>

export control regimes. [...] The language may be diplomatic, but it speaks of a great divide: the deal Pakistan wants, the US is unwilling to give.

Afghan peace talks, Editorial, *The Dawn*, June 27⁵⁵

Peace talks, or even talks about talks, in Afghanistan for many years now have been a case of going round in circles — with the Afghan Taliban in particular always sending mixed messages. Once again, then, with Pakistan Adviser on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz making some of the most emphatic and direct claims on attempts by the state here to facilitate talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government, the Afghan Taliban have quickly tried to distance themselves from these initial and careful rounds of engagement. Are talks dead before they can even begin? Not necessarily. [...] In the Taliban's case, there is another reason to publicly appear dismissive of talks that have taken place: the annual spring offensive is at its peak and there is little value in sending mixed messages to the rank and file fighting it out over vast swathes of the country. Moreover, this fighting season has brought a new element, a surge of fighters, many of them foreign, who appear to have been dislodged by the military operations in Fata. Were the Taliban leadership to acknowledge even an incidental interest in talks, it would perhaps send the wrong message to the field where the Taliban have made deeper inroads quicker than what was widely perceived. Yet, the same old conundrum remains: the Afghan Taliban, for all their ability to operate in far-flung areas and inflict significant damage on the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces, appear to be no closer to overrunning the country. [...] For its part, the Pakistani state appears to be going through cycles of indecisiveness of its own. All sides agree that Pakistan has influence over the Afghan Taliban, though the security establishment and government here often argue that the degree of influence is much less than it is perceived to be by outside powers and the Afghan government.

MILITARY ISSUES

FC kills 13 suspected militants, *Dawn*, June 2⁵⁶

Frontier Corps on Monday claimed to have killed 13 suspected militants who were allegedly involved in the Mastung carnage that claimed at least 20 lives. "FC launched targeted operations in Balochistan's Kalat and Pangjoor districts, killing 13 miscreants," Khan Wasey, the Spokesman for Frontier Corps said. FC also killed four militants in Parum area of Panjgor district. Wasey stated that search operations were carried out in Hat Boai and Borgan

⁵⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1190661/afghan-peace-talks>

⁵⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1185604/fc-kills-13-suspected-mustung-carnage-militants>

areas of Kalat district. An exchange of fire also took place between forces and miscreants, he added.

Foreign militants killed in airstrikes, *The Nation*, June 2⁵⁷

At least 10 suspected terrorists, including foreigners were killed in precise aerial strikes ahead of Datta Khel in North Waziristan today. According to ISPR, a huge cache of arms and ammunition was also destroyed in the strikes.

***Pakistan and Kashmir are inseparable: Raheel Sharif, The Dawn*, June 3⁵⁸**

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Raheel Sharif on Wednesday said that Pakistan and Kashmir are inseparable, and that Kashmir is "an unfinished agenda of partition". Addressing a conference at the National Defense University, the army chief said, "While we wish for peace and stability in region, we want Kashmir's just resolution in the light of United Nations resolutions and as per aspirations of the Kashmiri people to bring lasting peace in region." General Raheel Sharif further said that contours of future wars are fast changing. He said, "While our enemies supporting terrorism to stoke sub-conventional conflicts and destabilise our country, we are fully determined, capable of defeating nefarious designs." "Pakistan is opposed to the use proxies against other countries and won't allow any country to use proxies versus Pakistan," he further said.

Counterterrorism cell begins work at corps headquarters, *The Dawn*, June 3⁵⁹

A counterterrorism cell having representation of all intelligence agencies has started functioning in the corps headquarters, while there are plans afoot to have surveillance through static balloons and to begin registration of seminaries. The measures were taken by the government in the light of the directives given by the chief minister following the May 14 special apex committee meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif.

Seminaries raided, *The Dawn*, June 15⁶⁰

An unspecified number of unregistered seminaries were raided by police and Rangers personnel in different areas of Sukkur on Sunday. The law enforcement agencies personnel surrounded Madressah Mehmoodia in the Bachal Shah area, Madressah Jamia Ashrafia near the City Point bypass,

⁵⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/national/02-Jun-2015/foreign-militants-killed-in-airstrikes>

⁵⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1185928/pakistan-and-kashmir-are-inseparable-general-raheel-sharif>

⁵⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1185805/counterterrorism-cell-begins-work-at-corps-headquarters>

⁶⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1188199/seminaries-raided-equipment-records-seized>

Madressah Khulafa-i-Rashideen in the New Pind area, Madressah Anwarul Uloom near Maka Goth and other seminaries in the city and checked their records. They rounded up and interrogated all teachers and students present in the seminaries during the raid but set them free within a few hours. However, four clerics were taken away for further interrogation.

Army ordinance extended, *The Express Tribune*, June 16⁶¹

The National Assembly passed a resolution seeking extension in the Pakistan Army Act (Amendment) Ordinance 2015 for 120 days in a session marred by sloganeering and a walkout by lawmakers from the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM). [...] Although the house passed the resolution with majority vote, lawmakers from PTI and MQM said the government should have introduced a bill instead of extending the ordinance through a resolution.

Nearly 350 military men killed in Zarb-e-Azb: ISPR, *The Dawn*, 15 June⁶²

In a series of tweets, Director General of the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Major General Asim Bajwa on Saturday marked a year since the launch of Operation Zarb-i-Azb with an overview of significant achievements. While the information shared by the military's public relations wing cannot be independently verified, the short statement today said that so far 2,763 suspected terrorists have been killed in the North Waziristan operation. It added that 837 hideouts have been destroyed and 253 tons of explosives have been recovered. He said that militant strongholds, communications infra structure and sanctuaries were cleared on a large scale in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Fata), including North Waziristan and Khyber agencies. He said that thousands of suspected terrorists and their abettors had been apprehended whereas '218 hardcore terrorists' were killed in around 9,000 intelligence-based-operations (IBOs). Maj Gen Bajwa added that 347 military personnel had also lost their lives during the operation.

SC seeks record of trials by military courts, *The Nation*, June 17⁶³

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the government to come up with the details pertaining to the trials of five militants who were sentenced to death by the military courts established to speedily try terror cases. The apex court observed that it wants to see if the principle of fair trial was followed or not by the military courts. [...] The full court of the Supreme Court, headed by Chief Justice Nasirul Mulk, heard the petitions against the 21st Amendment. The chief justice questioned whether the military courts established under the

⁶¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/904322/terror-trials-army-ordinance-extended-for-four-months/>

⁶² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1187994/nearly-350-military-men-killed-in-zarb-e-azb-ispr>

⁶³ <http://nation.com.pk/national/17-Jun-2015/sc-seeks-record-of-trials-by-military-courts>

21st Amendment have been given the protection or not. [...] Justice Asif Saeed Khosa said, if possible, the entire proceedings of the military trial court which awarded death sentence to five terrorists and life sentence to one should be furnished to the apex court. Attorney General Salman Butt, however, said the matter is not before the Supreme Court. During the court break, he told some media persons, "I will not supply the record." [...] Justice Khosa observed, according to the reports, the death sentence awarded by the military trial court was approved by the chief of army staff. He remarked though the appeal before the appellate forum is provided in the Army Act, how army officers, even a major generals sitting in the appellate could go against the COAS.

Rangers raid Sunni Tehreek headquarters, *The News*, June 18⁶⁴

The Pakistan Rangers Sindh arrested several workers of the Sunni Tehreek during a raid at the party's headquarters in Karachi late Wednesday night. Heavy contingent of paramilitary troops surrounded the ST headquarters before they conducted a search. Shahid Ghori, a central leader of the religious outfit, confirmed some leaders and workers of the ST have been taken into custody. "Rangers didn't misbehave with us, and we will not support anybody involved in crimes," he said. He said that several ST workers had been killed and thousands of cases were launched against them.

Army act not protected under Constitution, *Asma*, *The Dawn*, June 19⁶⁵

Rights activist Asma Jahangir argued in the Supreme Court on Thursday that since an amendment to the Pakistan Army Act (PAA) 1952 through the Act 2 of 2015 and Ordinance 1 of 2015 giving retrospective effect to the trials before military courts were passed subsequent to the 21st Amendment by a simple majority, the PAA was not protected under Article 8 of the Constitution which declared laws to be void if inconsistent with or in derogation of fundamental rights. [...] Justice Asif Saeed Khosa observed that the president had assented to the 21st Amendment before approving the amendment to the army act which meant that protection to the law was accorded when it was not in existence at that particular time. "It seems the entire exercise is meaningless," he said. [...] Asma Jahangir, representing the Supreme Court Bar Association, argued that the Supreme Court in particular and other superior courts in general enjoyed the right to review the transfer of trials by the federal government which had the authority to refer the cases of any accused to military courts under the amendment to the PAA. She said the

⁶⁴ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-188383-Rangers-raid-Sunni-Tehreek-headquarters-in-Karachi>

⁶⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1189051/army-act-not-protected-under-constitution-claims-asma>

outcome of the trial by a military court was subject to judicial review by the apex court. [...] Ms Jahangir said the Supreme Court was the only institution which protected inalienable rights of the people and, therefore, it could intervene by widening the scope of its jurisdiction if parliament made a law that cut deep into the fundamental rights. The role and the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court were wider than what had been enunciated in the constitution, she argued.

FCS vice chairman detained by Rangers, ATC told, *The Dawn*, June 19⁶⁶

The Pakistan Rangers, Sindh, on Thursday informed an antiterrorism court about 90-day preventive detention of Fishermen Cooperative Society vice chairman Sultan Qamar Siddiqui for questioning. The Rangers personnel along with their legal team produced the detainee in the chamber of an ATC judge amid tightened security. They submitted through an application that in exercise of powers conferred upon them by the provincial and federal governments through a notification and order, the Rangers picked up the suspect while acting on credible information about his involvement in offences related to targeted killing, kidnapping and extortion punishable under the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA), 1997.

Corps commander praises Rangers' action in Karachi, *The Dawn*, June 19⁶⁷

A day after the Sindh government had accused the Pakistan Rangers of 'acting beyond their authority' in Karachi and asked its chief to 'limit' movement of his men in line with the defined rules, Corps Commander Karachi Lt Gen Naveed Mukhtar 'appreciated efforts' of the paramilitary force in 'bringing back normalcy to the city'. With relations between the Sindh government and Pakistan Rangers already straining fast over a couple of months, the recent statements and moves from the two sides have created quite a stir in the political scenario.

Civil-military duo vows indiscriminate operation, *Daily Times*, June 24⁶⁸

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif on Tuesday decided that operation against criminals and terrorists would continue unhindered across the country to optimally utilise the environment created due to phenomenal successes of Zarb-e-Azb. [...] **Both the leaders reiterated that Operation Zarb-e-Azb would be taken to its logical conclusion regardless of the cost.** They pledged that the terrorists and

⁶⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1189022/karachi-operation-fcs-vice-chairman-detained-by-rangers-for-90-days-atc-told>

⁶⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1189030/corps-commander-praises-rangers-action-in-karachi>

⁶⁸ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/24-Jun-2015/civil-military-duo-vows-indiscriminate-operation>

criminals would be hunted down indiscriminately. **The prime minister said the nation was proud of its valiant armed forces and highly valued the sacrifices rendered by the officers and men in fighting against terrorism.**

SPD's role in boosting country's defence vital: PM, *The Nation*, June 25⁶⁹

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has appreciated the security and safety mechanism of nuclear programme and said Strategic Plans Division (SPD) has been playing an important role in strengthening Pakistan's defence capabilities. The Prime Minister was talking to the newly appointed DG Strategic Plans Division (SPD), Lt. Gen Mazhar Jamil who called on him at the PM House here Wednesday and discussed matters relating to Pakistan's nuclear, missile and space programmes.

'Pak forces at times operate without civilian oversight', *The Dawn*, June 26⁷⁰

In Pakistan, the military and intelligence services nominally reported to civilian authorities but at times operated without effective civilian oversight, the US State Department informed Congress on June 25. The department's 2014 country reports on human rights identify extra-judicial and targeted killings, sectarian violence, disappearances, and torture as the most serious human rights problems in Pakistan. [...] The report also notes that violence, abuse, and social and religious intolerance by militant organisations and other non-governmental actors contributed to a culture of lawlessness in some parts of the country, particularly in Balochistan, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtun-khwa and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas.

FC nails six insurgents in separate raids, *The Express Tribune*, June 28⁷¹

The paramilitary Frontier Corps, Balochistan said on Saturday that it has arrested six suspected militants of a proscribed organisation from the insurgency-hit areas of Kalat and Turbat. According to the Frontier Corps (FC) spokesman, the paramilitary force carried out an intelligence-based search operation in Kalat. "FC personnel arrested two militants of Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) and recovered automatic weapons from their possession," the spokesman said. [...] Meanwhile, FC soldiers carried out another search operation in Kalagdad area of Turbat and arrested four men on charges of insurgency, the spokesman said. "FC soldiers arrested four people who were involved in attacks on security forces," he said.

⁶⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/25-Jun-2015/spd-s-role-in-boosting-country-s-defence-capabilities-vital-pm>

⁷⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1190471/pakistani-forces-at-times-operate-without-civilian-oversight>

⁷¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/911096/balochistan-unrest-fc-nails-six-alleged-insurgents-in-separate-raids/>

Army gearing up for final push in Shawal, *The Express Tribune*, June 29⁷²

The army is preparing for a final push in the coming weeks in the country's fight against militants. A year on from the launch of a major offensive to eradicate strongholds of Taliban and other militants in North Waziristan tribal area, the military says the job is 90 percent done. It is now positioning troops around the Shawal Valley, a key location close to the Afghan border that is home to some of the last redoubts of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), according to locals and security sources. [...] The troop movements were confirmed by locals, though some tribal elders warned militants were slipping across the porous mountainous border into Afghanistan. "Up to two dozen militants are leaving the area every day and around 200 militants recently moved into part of Afghan territory," elder Ajab Khan told AFP. [...] Zarb-e-Azb does seem to have had a positive impact on militant attacks, which have been down overall, with some shocking exceptions, such as the December massacre by Taliban gunmen of more than 130 children at a school in Peshawar.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

A hard-fought year, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, June 16⁷³

[...] Whilst we warmly approve of the plaudits given to the military, we also advise caution in taking politicians at their word when it comes to "The fight against terrorism". There is little doubt that considerable gains have been derived from Operation Zarb-e-Azb. The number of terrorist incidents across the country has dropped and suicide bombings are also down. [...] The body count is substantial — 2,763 militants as against 347 officers and other ranks dead, with figures for the wounded unavailable. A heavy price. The operation is being viewed so positively that there is now talk of moving to battle terrorists in urban areas, which is a very different kettle of warfare when compared with fighting in depopulated mountain areas. [...] The defence minister is offering himself as a hostage to fortune by predicting a 2015 victory, especially when there is agreement on all sides that the war against terrorism is never going to be won by military means alone. His assertion that the operation is in its "final stages and the country will soon usher in a new era of peace and prosperity" lacks heft, the more so as the National Action Plan is seen to be failing across much of the country. Let us not be beguiled by false dawns. The military has done what was asked of it and done it valiantly. The civilian side of the equation has yet to make good on its promises.

⁷² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/911661/army-gearing-up-for-final-push-in-operation-zarb-e-azb/>

⁷³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/904105/a-hard-fought-year/>

Beyond Zarb-i-Azb, Zahid Hussain, *The Dawn*, June 17⁷⁴

THE battle for North Waziristan may not be over yet, but Zarb-i-Azb has proved the sceptics wrong. [...] One year down the line, the security forces have achieved many of their objectives, thanks to the immense sacrifices of our soldiers. The higher number of casualties of the security personnel indicates the intensity of resistance in this most difficult battlefield. Surely, this battle in the tribal areas is the most critical in which our security forces have ever been engaged. [...] Many of the areas are now believed to have been cleared of insurgents. Yet it is still a long way to go before the territory can be fully secured. [...] Perhaps the most difficult battle is yet to come in Shawal valley, which boasts some of the most forbidding terrain. [...] What is most significant, however, is that the military offensive in North Waziristan has brought down the level of militant violence in the country indicating a direct link between the various terrorist groups to the agency. Though sectarian and religious violence has continued unabated, the capacity of the militant groups to launch major terrorist attacks has certainly been curtailed. One major reason is said to be the intelligence-based crackdown by the security and intelligence agencies in the mainland. The North Waziristan operation is, however, only one dimension of the protracted battle against militancy and extremism in the country. Zarb-i-Azb may have received wider public support than expected, but there is still no coherent strategy to deal with the problems of terrorism and militancy in the long run. The danger is that the gains that have been made by the military in North Waziristan and in other tribal agencies could be wasted. We need to learn lessons from past operations. Militants returned to almost all the areas after the claims of having cleared them out, not once but many times.

Sins in Sindh, Umair Javed, *The Dawn*, June 22⁷⁵

[...]A particular institution of the state — the most autonomous, and hence powerful, one — says its new, better-than-ever-before leadership has a plan to resolve all of our issues. It says it's currently busy fixing law and order, and the plague of criminality in Karachi. [...] Then I hear they're expanding their ambit beyond the fight against terrorism, and picking up a new fight against corruption and incompetence. These two ills, everyone is told, are the (presumably joint) number one problem in the country. The new line is that you can't fix militancy without taking on corruption and incompetence because the latter finances and fuels the former. [...] Shortly after we find out that the offices of a Sindh government agency dealing with land regulation have been raided. Whispers abound that another modification in the institution's ambit has taken place. The new mission says the party in power

⁷⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1188610/beyond-zarb-i-azb>

⁷⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1189569/sins-in-sindh>

in the province needs to be dealt with. There's simply too much corruption, malpractice, and not enough governance happening on its watch. [...] Here's where my newfound faith begins to falter ever so slightly. Is an institution designed and trained to fight wars and protect borders also skilled in financial auditing and public-sector performance evaluations? Does it have a wondrous secret game plan in place to fix workplace shirking, procurement rule violations and collusive practices in public tendering? Is its strategy to fight corruption built on empirical evidence, which suggests such practices are outcomes of skewed incentive structures, and in part, represent the 'costs' of maintaining a social coalition in power? [...] Is this most competent of institutions going to spend the rest of our time on Earth monitoring corruption and incompetence in the Sindh government? I ask this only because — for better or for worse — the law says that someone or some party chosen through a competitive election has to be in charge. [...] My faith falters a bit more when I hear reports that this most esteemed of institutions is concurrently fighting with the Sindh government over some prime land in Karachi for itself. It falters slightly more when I hear that villagers in Hyderabad are resisting acquisition by the cantonment board, which wants to build a new wedding hall on their agricultural land. I try to shut out my ears to rumours that an appendage of this institution is somehow implicated in Karachi's water crisis. I run out of the room when someone tells me that we don't know what happened to the three NLC officers who were supposed to face justice for a Rs4bn misappropriation.

Operation Zarb-e-Azb, Shamim Shahid, *Express Tribune*, June 23⁷⁶

Operation Zarb-e-Azb will no doubt become another success story like Operation Rah-e-Rast in Swat, once it results in not only the complete destruction of militants' well-established dens and compounds, but also the disintegration of any unity and order that does exist among them. However, certain doubts and confusion lingering in the minds of tribesmen in particular, are yet to be addressed. [...] The armed forces, through well-planned strategies, not only crushed the resistance, but also left the militants with no option other than to abandon their dens and compounds. Within months, the armed forces had cleared almost all of the Miranshah and Mirali regions. [...] Official estimates reveal that around 106,000 families left homes in North Waziristan and became internally displaced, whereas around 70,000 individuals have crossed the border into Afghanistan. So far, only 1,674 internally displaced families have returned to their homes. [...] Though the government, the armed forces and civilians have made efforts in being hospitable to the IDPs, the gap between North Waziristan tribesmen and the government has widened. Many tribesmen are unhappy with the

⁷⁶ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/907973/operation-zarb-e-azb-a-little-extra-needed/>

government's attitude whereas the terms and conditions that have been put forward before them in the wake of their rehabilitation in their homes have generated further complications. Almost all tribesmen are reluctant to sign the 28 terms and conditions and view them as harmful to their tribal traditions and norms as well as to basic human rights. Another aspect to take note of is that leading militants, including Hafiz Gul Bahadur, along with his aides, are still at large. These militants, who either moved across the border or found shelter in forests and the snow-covered Shawal mountains, pose a threat to the lives of tribesmen as well as to peace in the country. Unless the reservations of the tribesmen are addressed, it could be hard for the government and the security forces to ensure a durable solution for peace.

The need for a counter-narrative, Babar Ayaz, *Daily Times*, June 23⁷⁷

Impressive figures have been released by the ISPR on the first anniversary of the launch of Operation Zarb-e-Azb. [...] The official claim is that non-discriminatory action has been taken against the terrorist groups, which include the Tehreek-e-Taliban's Shehryar group, Mansoor group, Sajna group, Haqqani Network, Gul Bahadur group, Punjabi Taliban, Uzbek Taliban, Turkistan Islamic Movement and al Qaeda. While there was consensus in the country that action should be taken against the terrorists — who are responsible for killing over 55,000 civilians and around 6,000 soldiers — independent journalists take the official account with a pinch of salt because only embedded journalists are given access to the war zones in FATA. [...] My friends, who have access to the establishment, tell me that the paradigm is shifting and that the Titanic has to be steered away from the iceberg slowly. A genuine predicament could be that they cannot take action against all the terrorist groups at the same time. As these groups are not challenging the writ of the establishment within the country and are considered as useful tools of our revanchist policies, there is hardly any will to withdraw the covert support to them at present. [...] A cursory assessment of the National Action Plan (NAP) shows that very little progress has been made on most of the suggested actions, mostly because of the political government's vacillating behaviour. They are confused and afraid to take action against the jihadis' street power and propaganda. Now the question is: is the military operation in the tribal areas enough to put an end to the multi-headed hydra that is the terrorist network in Pakistan? Indeed, it is not. [...] The military operation needs to be backed by a more comprehensive strategy. The Islamist terrorists have to be countered militarily, politically and above all, ideologically. To reduce the terrorist attacks in the cities, the provincial governments will have to take action. [...] A question that we need to address is whether Pakistanis will be ruled by the constitution and its laws or by fatwas backed by the gun

⁷⁷ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/opinion/23-Jun-2015/the-need-for-a-counter-narrative>

power of the terrorists. [...]The most difficult task is to counter the jihadists' narrative. They have an ideology that has many active and inactive sympathisers. [...] The militants have vast resources to propagate their ideology, which is not much different from al Qaeda's. They produce one mullah for every 225 Pakistanis annually and have direct access to the people through over 250,000 pulpits. Not all preach terrorism, but a good majority sympathise with the cause of the jihadists. On the other hand, the state does not have any counter-narrative. On the contrary, its functionaries promote dubious Islamists through the compliant media, while the progressive people who challenge the jihadi ideology are harassed.

ECONOMIC ISSUES

FISCAL ISSUES

World Bank approves \$188m loan for Guddu Barrage strengthening, *The Dawn*, June 21⁷⁸

The World Bank approved on Friday a \$188 million loan for consolidation of Guddu Barrage, the most strategic component of the Indus Basin irrigation system. International Development Association, the low-interest arm of World Bank, approved the funding to increase the barrage's lease of life by another 50 years, besides strengthening the Sindh Irrigation Department's capacity to operate and manage barrages.

Dar unveils major budget changes, *The Dawn*, June 19⁷⁹

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar unveiled major budget changes in the National Assembly on Thursday, including a Rs20 billion farm subsidy fund, withdrawal or reduction of some duties and a higher raise in the salary of government employees. Winding up the general discussion on the budget for 2015-16 after a tumultuous morning session marked by an opposition walkout, Mr Dar announced what he called total acceptance of 20 and partial acceptance of 15 of the 92 non-binding recommendations made by the Senate on Wednesday. [...]Mr Dar took pains to counter opposition charges about the budget being pro-rich and anti-poor, citing examples like an increased allocation for the Benazir Income Support Programme to Rs102 billion from Rs97bn, expansion of Baitul Maal charity and a crop insurance scheme and said it was "pro-poor and not pro-rich budget".

⁷⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1189462/world-bank-approves-188m-loan-for-guddu-barrage-strengthening>

⁷⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1189031/dar-unveils-major-budget-changes>

NA smoothly passes budget for 2015-16, *Daily Times*, June 24⁸⁰

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government got approved its third budget from the National Assembly without any resistance due to the boycott of the opposition parties that continued for the second day on Tuesday. [...] The House continued proceeding unhindered and approved an outlay of Rs 4,451 billion for fiscal year 2015-16. [...] The House also approved charged expenditures on supplementary demands of grants worth Rs 12.620 billion for the year ending on June 30, 2015. [...] On the day, the House also approved supplementary budget of Rs 192.727 billion for various ministries and divisions, with Rs 21.408 billion for Cabinet Division, Rs 620.672 million, Rs 4.6689 billion for Establishment Division, Rs 19.87 billion for Defence Services and Division and Rs 9.336 billion for Finance Division. The National Assembly also approved demand of Rs 1.29 billion for Foreign Affairs Division, Rs 68.005 million for Industries and Production Division, Rs 690.59 million for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage Division, Rs 22.62 million for Interior Division and Rs 640.003 million for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan. The House also accorded approval to the demand of Rs 125.738 million for Law, Justice and Human Rights Division; Rs 86.512 million for Religions Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony Division, Rs 55,000 for Commerce Division, Rs 95 million for Revenue Division, Rs 37.619 million for Statistic Division, Rs 950 million for Education, Training and Standards in Higher Education Division and Rs 162.653 million for National Food Security and Research.

INVESTMENT

World Bank approves \$125m for Pakistan, *Daily Times*, June 4⁸¹

The World Bank on June 2 approved \$125 million to Pakistan for supporting the restoration of resilient flood protection infrastructure and the strengthening of government capacity to manage disasters and climate variability. Pakistan is vulnerable to adverse natural events and has experienced a wide range of disasters over the past 40 years, including floods, earthquakes, droughts, cyclones and tsunamis, says a statement issued by the Bank on June 3.

Foreign investment falls in negative territory, *Dawn*, 17 June⁸²

The foreign direct investment (FDI) fell to negative \$7 million in May compared to \$612m in the same month last year, while the foreign private

⁸⁰ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/24-Jun-2015/na-smoothly-passes-budget-for-2015-16-supplementary-grants-amid-opp-boycott>

⁸¹ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/04-Jun-2015/world-bank-approves-125m-for-pakistan-to-combat-natural-disasters>

⁸² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1188603/foreign-investment-falls-in-negative-territory>

investments (FPI) were just \$35m against \$671m a year ago, said the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Tuesday. The month proved to be hard, as both the FDI and FPI fell sharply to negative or negligible. The government, for the last two years, has been expressing hopes of huge foreign investment in the country, particularly from China. However, the data indicates that so far it has failed to mobilise foreign investors.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Development priorities, Editorial, *The Dawn*, June 3⁸³

THE new development budget for the next fiscal year shows some skewed priorities at play. Irrigation projects have been reduced, as have health and education, under the argument that these are now provincial responsibilities. Outlays on roads have been increased, and there is a mammoth Rs100bn hike in spending on IDP repatriation and “related security expenditure”. Additionally, Rs20bn have been allocated for the prime minister’s miscellaneous youth-related initiatives, such as laptop distribution. This is a little puzzling and some questions necessarily arise. Why is ‘security-related expenditure’ being budgeted in the development plan for next year? And how does the bill for IDP repatriation add up to Rs100bn, especially considering the announcements that repatriation may be delayed further? And why do the prime minister’s youth-related initiatives merit Rs20bn while other vital programmes such as health and education are brushed off to the provinces? The development plan appears to reflect the government’s preference for high-visibility infrastructure projects and schemes to distribute goodies instead of investing in social service delivery. The extraordinary allocation for ‘security-related expenditure’ also raises serious questions about whether or not this belongs in a development plan or if it should be met through current expenditure instead.

The fuzzy math of the CPEC, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, June 19⁸⁴

Perhaps the single biggest thread that has run throughout the history of Pakistan is the inequitable distribution of resources by the federal government, a phenomenon that can be held responsible for many instances of civil strife in the country. And yet, the government seems bent upon not learning any lessons from history. Its attitude towards the allocation of resources to the various alignments of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a case in point: less than 12 per cent of the infrastructure development spending for fiscal year 2016 has been allocated to the least developed parts of Pakistan — Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) and Balochistan — while nearly 70 per cent will go to the most developed parts of Punjab and

⁸³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1185776/development-priorities>

⁸⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/905947/the-fuzzy-math-of-the-cpec/>

Sindh. Added to this is the government's circular logic to defend the action, making matters worse. Its first argument is that the area along the eastern route is the most developed and hence can be completed the fastest in order to meet China's deadline for completion of at least one CPEC route. The work will no doubt be completed faster on this route, but when exactly does the government plan on rectifying the historical injustice of leaving the western provinces under-developed? If the argument is that Beijing's funds must be allocated towards Beijing's priorities, then what prevents Islamabad from using its own money towards building up infrastructure in K-P and Balochistan? If China is really providing so much money for the CPEC, then surely there must be room in the development budget to direct locally-raised taxpayer money to create a more balanced approach to the CPEC. **The reality is something that the government does not want the people to know: most of the aid from China consists of commercial loans to private-sector Pakistani companies that are hiring Chinese firms to set up coal-fired power plants.** Even the government aid consists mostly of loans. The CPEC is a worthwhile project, but any inequity will detract from what should be the great equaliser for Pakistan's political economy.

SECURITY SITUATION

TERRORISM

32pc decline in losses caused by acts of terror reported, *The Dawn*, June 5⁸⁵

The government reported on Thursday that because of improved security losses caused by terrorism declined by about 32 per cent during the first three quarters of the outgoing fiscal year (2014-15) as compared to 2013-14. According to the Economic Survey, the losses caused by terrorism during the first nine months amounted to Rs457.93 billion (\$4.53 billion), which were 31.7 per cent less than Rs681.68 billion (\$6.63 billion) lost in 2013-14. The cost incurred last year was comparable with losses suffered in 2008-09, when Rs720.6 billion was lost.

ATC gets notice for dropping terrorism charges against Hijratullah, *Daily Times*, June 23⁸⁶

A division bench of the Lahore High Court on Monday issued notice to the trial court for dropping terrorism charges against Manawan Training School convict Hijratullah alias Shakirullah. The bench sought report from the trial court in two weeks. It issued notice while holding suo motu proceedings over

⁸⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1186265/32pc-decline-in-losses-caused-by-acts-of-terror-reported>

⁸⁶ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/23-Jun-2015/atc-gets-notice-for-dropping-terrorism-charges-against-hijratullah>

dropping terrorism charges against Hijratullah. An additional prosecutor general Abdul Samad submitted that the ATC had absolved Hijratullah of charges of having dagger and being tried under Section 7 of ATA. He said in 2009, he was arrested from the site with a grenade and having a dagger and there were cogent reasons to try him under terrorism charges.

Eight of 10 Malala attackers secretly acquitted, *The Express Tribune*, June 5⁸⁷

In a startling revelation, eight of the 10 militants jailed for life over involvement in the 2012 near-fatal attack on Malala Yousafzai have been freed, media reports revealed on Friday. [...] Swat Police chief Azaad Khan confirmed only two men, Izharullah and Israr Rehman, have been locked up. Ten militants involved in the 2012 near-fatal attack on Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai were jailed for 25 years each by an anti-terrorism court in Swat on April 30. ATC Mingora Judge Muhammad Amin Kondi sentenced all the militants to life imprisonment for planning and shooting the teenage education activist in an attack that had triggered a global outcry. The convicted militants – identified as Zafar Iqbal, Adnan, Salman, Irfan, Hazrat Bilal, Izhar, Zafar Ali, Shaukat Ali, Ikram and Israr Rehman – were arrested in September last year during raids in the Nawakaley, Ningolai and Fizagat areas of Swat. The militants admitted TTP chief Mullah Fazlullah had masterminded the attack on Malala, which also left her two friends, Shazia Ramzan and Kainat Riaz, injured, according to the military.

PPP stresses joint fight against militancy, *The Dawn*, June 21⁸⁸

PPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari said on Saturday that all national institutions must work within their assigned parameters in order to ensure victory in the ongoing fight against militancy. "Fight against militancy is a collective fight of the whole nation. It can be fought successfully only when it is fought collectively, with each institution performing its assigned duties, within (its) parameters," the former president said in his message on the eve of the 62nd birth anniversary of his late spouse and former prime minister Benazir Bhutto. "As for the PPP, we are committed to exterminating the militant ideology that is posing an existential threat to the country," he said. [...] "This anniversary of our great leader is being commemorated at a time when the nation has achieved major successes against militancy, thanks to the unity of political forces and state agencies, an achievement that had eluded us for long," he said. "We salute all those in the defence forces, the police, the civil law enforcing agencies and the people who have sacrificed their lives or suffered otherwise in the fight against militancy. The nation cannot forget them and will not allow their sacrifices to go in vain," he added.

⁸⁷ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/898312/eight-of-ten-malala-attackers-secretly-acquitted-report/>

⁸⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1189444/ppp-stresses-joint-fight-against-militancy>

Gujranwala ATC indicts accused in Daska killings, *The Dawn*, June 22⁸⁹

An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Gujranwala on Monday indicted former Station House Officer (SHO) Shahzad Warraich — the main accused in the killings of two lawyers in the Daska incident. Two lawyers, including the president of the local bar association, were killed by police during a clash on May 25 in Daska. Warraich had allegedly fired at the lawyers who were protesting outside the Daska tehsil municipal administration (TMA) office on kutchehry road against its record keeper for allegedly misbehaving with a lawyer, Amir Shahzad Bajwa. The case was heard in a courtroom in Central Jail Gujranwala. The former SHO was produced in the ATC today amidst strict security. The court indicted Warraich under Sections 302, 324, 337D, 337A1 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) and Sections 6 and 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA).

SC questions govt's non-chasing of Taliban, *The Nation*, June 25⁹⁰

The Supreme Court Wednesday questioned that despite having enough evidence against those Taliban who are waging a war against the state, why the federal government so far has not registered cases against them. Justice Qazi Faez Isa questioned from attorney general whether 'Daesh' (a Taliban group) has been declared proscribed organization or banned. He asked: "If the reply is in 'yes' then show us its notification." [...] Justice Qazi further asked why the state is not registering FIRs against them (Taliban leaders). [...] Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Salman Butt stated he would reply to all these questions, but in-camera. [...] Qazi Faez said according to Anti-Terrorism Act when the trial of these persons could be held in absentia then why it has not been done so far. In a counter question the AGP asked is there any bar that these persons could not be tried under the Army Act? Justice Jawwad S Khawaja remarked there was lot of information about them and in video clips faces of many Taliban leaders are visible then why the FIRs have not been registered against them yet? "Now we have seen the electronic evidence," the judge said.

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND FATA

Govt official among 3 dead in SWA blast, *The Nation*, June 2⁹¹

A roadside bomb on Monday killed a local government official and two others in Raghzai area of South Waziristan Agency on Monday, officials said. The bomb, detonated remotely, hit the vehicle of political administration official Farooq Wazir in Raghzai area of troubled South Waziristan district,

⁸⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1189745/gujranwala-atc-indicts-main-accused-in-daska-killings>

⁹⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/25-Jun-2015/sc-questions-govt-s-non-chasing-of-taliban>

⁹¹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/02-Jun-2015/govt-official-among-3-dead-in-swa-blast>

said a senior security official. Farooq Wazir and two others were killed on the spot, the official said. [...] Some other reports, however, said that three men killed in the blast were officials of political administration. According to a source, Political Muharrar Farooq Wazir with his two associates was on his way to Wana Bazaar from his home town when their vehicle was hit by a remote-controlled bomb planted on a roadside, killing them on the spot. The two tribesmen were identified as Hazrat Noor and Raz Khan.

Four cops including DSP injured in D.I. Khan blast, Dawn, June 5⁹²

At least four policemen, including Deputy Superintendent Police (DSP) Kulachi, Zahoor Khan, were injured on Friday in an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Dera Ismail Khan district. The police mobile van was on routine patrol when the blast occurred in D.I. Khan's Dara Mastang area wounding four policemen.

Terrorist hideouts in NWA 'absolutely eliminated': US, The Dawn, June 16⁹³

The operation Pakistan launched against the militants in North Waziristan last year has "absolutely" eliminated extremist safe havens in Miramshah and Mirali, says a US official. "Suicide attacks and resultant fatalities declined, with 336 killed in 25 such incidents in 2014, as against 43 suicide attacks resulting in 751 fatalities in 2013," it observed. But a senior US official, Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights Sarah Sewall, warned that military operation alone would not end terrorism. [...] The official, who asked not to be identified in order to speak freely about the matter, however, noted that some of these militants had dispersed around Pakistan. They were continuing to plan attacks against not only Pakistanis, but also against Afghans, Americans and others inside Afghanistan from their new hideouts, he said. "And it is going to take a sustained effort to make sure these groups don't reconstitute in the cleared areas," the official said.

Bajaur Agency school targeted in two blasts, The Dawn, June 17⁹⁴

A boys primary school in Bajaur Agency was targeted in a blast early Wednesday morning. Unknown miscreants planted explosives in the Tangi Gharyal school situated in the Mamund tehsil of Bajaur Agency. There was no loss of life or injuries reported as the blast occurred at night time. Another planted explosive went off in the area near the school on Wednesday morning as the tehsildar was on his way to school to examine the situation. The tehsildar was not injured. According to official sources, 116 schools have been targeted in Bajaur Agency since 2005.

⁹² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1186347/four-cops-including-dsp-injured-in-di-khan-blast>

⁹³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1188449/terrorist-hideouts-in-nwa-absolutely-eliminated-us>

⁹⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1188741/bajaur-agency-school-targeted-in-two-blasts>

Air strikes kill 20 terrorists in Khyber Agency, *The Express Tribune*, June 19⁹⁵

Twenty terrorists including some of their 'important' commanders were killed in precise aerial strikes in the remote areas of Khyber Agency on Friday, ISPR said in a statement. Further, there were also reports of about 18 terrorists who were injured in the strikes. [...] As security forces conducted the strikes, 20 suspected militants were confirmed dead while several hideouts were also destroyed. The deeply forested areas near the border are a key smuggling route between Pakistan and Afghanistan, and are dotted with Taliban bases, used as launch pads for attacks on Pakistani forces.

Official killed, *Daily Times*, June 24⁹⁶

A security official was killed and six others got injured in a remote-control blast on Tuesday. Security sources said that unknown miscreants targeted the vehicle of security forces with a remote controlled explosive device in tehsil Mir Ali of North Waziristan Agency (NWA).

Police gunned down outside Peshawar court, *The Express Tribune*, June 25⁹⁷

A policeman was killed while two other persons were injured when unidentified gunmen opened fire on them outside a court room in Peshawar on Thursday. The incident occurred in the jurisdiction of the judicial complex in Peshawar. Whether the two injured victims were also policemen is yet to be determined. "Constable Hashmat was killed on the spot while two others received injuries as a result of gunfire just outside the court room in the judicial complex building of the Sessions Court," an official who did not wish to be named told *The Express Tribune*. [...] "This seems to be a case of personal enmity as the [deceased] victim had testified in court," the official added.

Head constable shot dead in Peshawar, *The Dawn*, June 29⁹⁸

A head constable was shot dead by unknown men in Jabba Suhail area of Yakatut here on Monday. According to Police Control Line, Head Constable Nigar Ali was on his way to duty when he was gunned down by unidentified assailants in Jabba Suhail. He died on the spot.

⁹⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/906316/air-strikes-kill-20-terrorists-in-khyber-agency/>

⁹⁶ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/24-Jun-2015/official-killed>

⁹⁷ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/909450/policeman-gunned-down-outside-peshawar-court/>

⁹⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1191168/head-constable-shot-dead-in-peshawar>

BALUCHISTAN

PM blames foreign forces for terrorism, *The Dawn*, June 3⁹⁹

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said that foreign forces, with the help of local elements, have been promoting terrorism and violence in the country. Addressing an all-party conference here on Tuesday, he said Pakistan had suffered \$110 billion losses in the war on terror over the past few years, but “we are determined to eliminate terrorism and extremism from our country”. The APC on the security situation in Balochistan was convened by Chief Minister Dr Abdul Malik Baloch in the wake of the Mastung carnage. The prime minister said the Mastung massacre was a great tragedy, but leaders of Baloch and Pashtoon communities demonstrated patience and farsightedness to keep the situation under control. “The enemy wants to divide us on sectarian and ethnic grounds by pitting one sect against the other,” he said.

Militant leader surrenders in Quetta, *The Dawn*, June 5¹⁰⁰

A leader of the banned United Baloch Army (UBA) has surrendered to authorities along with his 50 supporters. Wali Mohammad alias Haji Kalati, the UBA ‘commander’ for Kohlu, Kahan and Barkhan region, announced his surrender at a press conference at the residence of provincial Irrigation Minister Nawab Jangeez Khan Marri here on Thursday. Kalati claimed that he had been fighting for independence of Balochistan since 1970 and spent 45 years on mountains. “Now I have realised that this fight has been launched by tribal chiefs to protect their own interests,” he said, adding that internal fighting among leaders of banned organisations had helped him to come to that conclusion. Mr Marri asked members of Marri tribe to say farewell to arms, join mainstream and play a role in development of the country and the province.

Another 59 Baloch militants surrender, *The Dawn*, 15 June¹⁰¹

[...] A group of 59 militants including two key commanders appeared before the media on Sunday, along with senior politicians and government officials from the province, to announce they would end militant activities and become a “useful part” of society. They followed a group of 47 militants on Saturday. All were given amnesty by the government. The militants who surrendered were from groups such as Baloch Republican Army (BRA), Baloch National Movement (BNM), and Lashkar-e-Balochistan (Army of Baluchistan).

⁹⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1185888/pm-blames-foreign-forces-for-terrorism>

¹⁰⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1186242/militant-leader-surrenders-in-quetta>

¹⁰¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1188164/another-59-baloch-militants-surrender>

Militants blow up gas pipeline in Dera Bugti, *The Dawn*, June 15¹⁰²

Militants blew up a gas pipeline in Tali Mat area of Pir Koh in Dera Bugti late Sunday night, Levies officials confirmed. According to Levies sources, an improvised explosive device was used to blow up the 24-inch-wide pipeline. Following the explosion, gas supply to Sui Purification Plant was suspended. Security forces reached the spot and began investigating the incident soon afterwards.

20 killed in clashes between separatist groups, *The Express Tribune*, June 30¹⁰³

Up to 20 people were killed in clashes between two rival armed groups in Peer Masori area of Dera Bugti late on Monday night. According to a source in the security forces, the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) militants attacked the United Baloch Army (UBA)'s Karam Khan Camp in Peer Masori area. As a result of the attack, as many as 20 people were killed in the exchange of firing that lasted for couple of hours.

SINDH

Crackdown on 48 seminaries 'promoting terrorism', *The Dawn*, June 5¹⁰⁴

The Sindh government has decided to initiate a crackdown on 48 seminaries which have been found to be promoting terrorism in the country in general and in the province in particular. Besides, a task force has also been constituted to check finance sources of terrorism, including protection money, ransom money, land grabbing, smuggling and collection of donations, hides and Fitra. These decisions were taken by Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah during the Sindh apex committee meeting, which was presided over by him at CM House here on Thursday.

Police kill four 'terrorists' near Safoora Goth, *The Dawn*, June 17¹⁰⁵

Police claimed on Tuesday to have killed four 'militants' in a 'shootout' near Safoora Goth. The militants on two motorbikes, according to police, were spotted near Anara Garden, a residential project close to Al Azhar Garden where over 45 members of the Ismaili community were killed in a terrorist attack last month. "We have already enhanced deployment in this neighbourhood after the last month's incident and our patrolling parties have been quite vigilant during their rounds. Today's encounter was the result of that proactive policing," the area's sub-divisional police officer, DSP Khalid

¹⁰² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1188167/militants-blow-up-gas-pipeline-in-dera-bugti>

¹⁰³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/912110/up-to-20-killed-in-clashes-between-separatist-groups-in-dera-bugti/>

¹⁰⁴ www.dawn.com/news/1186198/crackdown-on-48-seminaries-promoting-terrorism-planned

¹⁰⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1188661/police-kill-four-terrorists-near-safoora-goth>

Khan, said... The DSP said police had reasons to believe that they were associated with a banned militant group.

Suspected terrorists killed in Karachi encounters, *The Nation*, June 24¹⁰⁶

The paramilitary force today killed at least 11 more suspected extremists in three separate encounters, in different areas of the city. According to spokesman of the rangers, the action was launched on intelligence regarding the presence of terrorists on Super Highway near Kathore. The outlaws opened gunfire as soon as they spotted the personnel of the security force approaching them. In retaliatory fire, six criminals were killed on the spot. According to the rangers, two troopers also sustained injuries in the action. Meantime, four militants were gunned down in area of Manghopir. The paratroopers recovered suicide vest and firearms from the possession of the criminals. Separately, police have rescued abducted man after gunning down the kidnapper in Pak Colony, whereas two target killers were also apprehended during search operation in Awami Colony.

PUNJAB

Four suspected militants killed in Lahore shootout, *The Dawn*, June 29¹⁰⁷

The Counter-terrorism Department, Lahore police and intelligence agencies killed four suspected militants in an early-morning raid on a house in Sheikhpura district on Monday, officials said. Intelligence agencies had earlier alerted security forces to the possibility of militants from Waziristan crossing into Lahore with the intent to carry out attacks on the provincial capital and Raiwind. Acting on the tip-off, security forces raided on the Ferozewala house situated on Kala Shah Kaku Road. Three suspected militants were killed in an exchange of fire with security forces, while one suicide bomber blew himself up during the confrontation. Four, including a policeman, were injured.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

New front opens in Balochistan, Zahid Hussain, *The Dawn*, June 3¹⁰⁸

[...] The latest assault targeting Pakhtuns is indeed an ominous sign sparking new ethnic tensions in the already troubled province. Intriguingly, it occurred in the same region where sectarian militant groups have also targeted buses carrying Shia pilgrims. Is it just a coincidence or does it indicate something more sinister? The motive behind the latest attack targeting the local Pakhtuns is not yet clear. Pakhtuns are said to comprise some 35pc to 40pc of the province's population and the ensuing tension is conspicuous in angry

¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1191170>

¹⁰⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1185785/new-front-opens-in-balochistan>

protests in Quetta and other towns. In fact, the Baloch and Pakhtuns have lived in harmony despite insurgencies that have gripped the province over the past six decades. The fallout of such attacks will certainly be much more serious than assaults on settlers or poor labourers from Punjab and Sindh. A plausible reason for the recent escalation in attacks on civilians could be to destabilise the nationalist government in the province. The return of nationalists to the political process and their participation in the 2013 elections came as a huge setback to the separatist cause. Although the voter turnout in strife-affected Baloch areas was low, the electorate by and large ignored the boycott appeal. Widening differences among them that often led to bloody clashes further weakened the separatist groups. [...] While there are more than half a dozen militant groups operating in Balochistan there had not been any instance of their fighting against each other despite political and tribal rivalries. This internecine war is believed to have substantially weakened their capacity to challenge the security forces. It is surely convenient for the government and the security agencies to put the entire blame for the insurgency on Indian and other foreign intelligence agencies. **It may be true that insurgents receive support and funding from outside. But Baloch discontent is rooted in years of deprivation of political and economic rights.** External involvement can only work in an unstable, internal political environment. The situation in Balochistan and the state policy of repression has provided a favourable situation for India and other vested interests to apparently fish in muddied waters.

The 'banned' outfit, Editorial, *The Dawn*, June 26¹⁰⁹

[...]While it is debatable what sort of presence the IS has in Pakistan and how big a threat it poses to the country's security, the nation needs to know whether it has been officially banned or not. The problem is that many militant outfits thrive because the state has left a grey area where they can operate. Groups like the IS, Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat and Jamaatud Dawa all fall within this category. Are these groups banned? If so, how are they able to organise and how are their leaders able to march in rallies and deliver speeches? Also, while an organisation may be banned on paper, its leadership is largely free to carry on business as usual. This dichotomy needs to be addressed. An authentic list of banned organisations needs to be made public and must be updated regularly. Moreover, all individuals associated with proscribed outfits must also be watched and their finances frozen.

¹⁰⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1190431>

Militants' fundraising streams, Amir Rana, *The Dawn*, June 28¹¹⁰

[...] **Apart from routine fund collection through charity and donations, banned groups have three major sources of financial supplies: zakat collection in Ramazan; collection of animal hides on Eidul Azha; and foreign funding.** Even if one of these supply lines is blocked, it will have huge impact on the militants' operations. The militants' media publications are still available, which carry appeals for donations. Pamphlets containing such appeals can also be found on noticeboards of some mosques. Banned groups are still operating in cyberspace and attracting people to contribute to their cause. [...] The challenge is complex. But the government is still confused about how to deal with it. It seems that political considerations matter for the government. Banned organisations like Jamaatud Dawa and Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat have a support base in Punjab and the government is reluctant to take any risk to annoy them, as they have street power and vote banks. But the government has also failed to take effective measures against other militant groups such as small sectarian groups and those linked to Al Qaeda and the TTP, which are increasingly generating funds from urban areas of Pakistan, mainly Punjab.

A worthless list, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, June 30¹¹¹

The list of 212 national and transnational organisations that has been published by the Pakistan government is nothing more than a piece of window-dressing. It purports to detail those organisations that have been 'proscribed' but the Supreme Court has rightly viewed the list with scepticism because the list does not "define how much state proscription is effective" — and therein lies the kernel of the problem. **The government has not banned any group since the massacre at the Army Public School in Peshawar last December, and despite an emerging body of evidence that the Islamic State (IS) may well be alive and well in Pakistan, it does not appear on the list because the government would be admitting an IS presence if it did — not something it is willing to do, preferring a state of eternal denial instead.** That the state has not moved decisively against many of the groups on the list is evidenced by the profound silence emanating from those on the list. [...] Further evidence of invertebrate activity by the government is found in the failure to fund the National Counter-terrorism Authority (Nacta) despite it being a key designated player in the National Action Plan. Nacta does not even have an internet presence, with the monitor displaying the Nacta page that says "Updated website under construction".

¹¹⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1190877/militants-fundraising-streams>

¹¹¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/911873/a-worthless-list/>

RELATIONS WITH INDIA

Modi for end of 'deadlock' with Pakistan, *The Nation*, June 2¹¹²

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said he was strongly in favour of breaking the deadlock with Pakistan but at the same time urged the neighbouring country to shun violence. [...] Modi said there was no hinderance in normalisation of relations with the country provided it created an atmosphere of peace. I expect just one thing from Pakistan it should take to the path of peace and non-violence. The path of violence will do neither any good to them nor to us," he said.

India sponsoring terror in Pakistan, *The Express Tribune*, June 4¹¹³

Speaking to a private news channel, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said evidences about the involvement of India's spy agency, Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) in Balochistan suggested that India is sponsoring terrorism. The minister further asserted that RAW was creating disturbances in various areas of the country since the launch of Operation Zarb-e-Azb.

Do not treat Pakistan like Myanmar: Musharraf, *Daily Times*, June 16¹¹⁴

Former president Pervez Musharraf has once again warned India against attempting a military operation inside Pakistan, saying India "dare not" treat Pakistan like Myanmar. Musharraf, who ruled from 1999 to 2008, hit out at the Indian leadership over its stand on army operation in Myanmar, saying, "**Pakistan is not Myanmar, and India dare not treat Pakistan as Myanmar.**" The former president cautioned India against what he called "similar adventurism".

Sharif asks Modi to work for peace, *The Nation*, June 16¹¹⁵

In a bid to defuse soaring tension between the two nuclear armed neighbours, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi rang up Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday night and greeted him on the event of beginning of holy month of Ramazan. During a conversation which spanned over five minutes, Modi also informed Sharif of his decision to release detained Pakistani fisherman as a goodwill gesture, a statement released from Prime Minister's Office said. [...] Modi told Nawaz that he wanted to establish cordial relations with Pakistan. Reciprocating the same gesture, Premier

¹¹² <http://nation.com.pk/national/02-Jun-2015/modi-for-end-of-deadlock-with-pakistan>

¹¹³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/897484/evidence-suggests-india-sponsoring-terror-in-pakistan-defence-minister/>

¹¹⁴ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/16-Jun-2015/india-dare-not-treat-pakistan-like-myanmar-musharraf>

¹¹⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/17-Jun-2015/sharif-asks-modi-to-work-for-peace>

Sharif said that both the countries should try to resolve their grievances and work to build a peaceful environment so that people on both sides of the border remember their leadership in good words.

US concerned over Pak-India tensions, *The Nation*, June 17¹¹⁶

US Secretary of State John Kerry on Tuesday voiced “enormous” concern over heightened tensions between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan, saying he discussed with Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sahrif about how to reduce the new strains in the relationship between the two South Asian nations. [...] Kerry, who spoke to Prime Minister Sharif by telephone, said the Pakistani leader was “extremely forthcoming” and said Sharif had just spoken with his Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi.

Normal ties with India key for security, development, *The Dawn*, 18 June¹¹⁷

Pakistan on Thursday welcomed all efforts to normalise relations between Pakistan and India, saying that peace between the two countries is key to security and development in the region. In a weekly media briefing at the Foreign Office in the federal capital, Foreign Office spokesperson Qazi Khalilullah said, “We are committed to having good relations with all neighbours in the region but the serious issues between India and Pakistan should be resolved through dialogue.” [...] Answering a question about cooperation to fight against terrorism, the spokesperson said Pakistan has been making sincere efforts in this regard and is already cooperating with the international community.

UN urges Pakistan, India to mitigate tensions, *The Dawn*, June 19¹¹⁸

United Nations (UN) associate spokesman Farhan Haq at a briefing in New York urged Pakistan and India to take steps to ease tensions, reported Radio Pakistan. Haq said the UN continues to encourage peaceful resolution of bilateral issues between the two countries.

Modi protests China’s veto on Indian move in UN, *Daily Times*, June 24¹¹⁹

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday voiced concerns over China’s move to veto a UN action against Pakistan for releasing alleged Mumbai terror mastermind Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi. [...] As the UN sanctions committee met at India’s request, a clarification was to be sought from Pakistan over Lakhvi’s release, but China blocked the move on grounds that

¹¹⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/national/17-Jun-2015/us-concerned-over-pak-india-tensions>

¹¹⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1188986/normal-ties-with-india-key-for-security-development-in-region-fo>

¹¹⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1188976/un-urges-pakistan-india-to-mitigate-tensions>

¹¹⁹ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/24-Jun-2015/lakhvi-s-release-modi-protests-china-s-veto-on-indian-move-in-un-against-pakistan>

India did not provide adequate information. [...] India's Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Vikas Swarup confirmed that they were taking up the matter with Chinese leadership. Responding to question on China's statement on Lakhvi, Swarup said that, "In the case of China, this matter has been taken up at the highest level." "Our concerns in this matter were conveyed to the Chair of the [UN Security Council] 1267 Committee. We also raised this bilaterally with the other members of the Committee."

Pakistan highlights Kashmir's disputed status, *Daily Times*, June 24¹²⁰

Pakistan's Mission in Geneva has clearly articulated that Kashmir is an internationally recognised dispute pending final settlement through a free and impartial plebiscite under the UN auspices as enshrined in numerous United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. The international community was therefore bound to fulfil its obligations that were made by one of the principal UN organs and are still valid even after more than six decades. [...] The India delegation responded to Pakistan's intervention alleging that it had occupied Kashmir since 1947 which was an integral part of India and demanded that it end its "occupation" of Kashmir. They also levelled accusations of cross-border terrorism against Pakistan.

'RAW sent threatening SMS to Zimbabwe team', *Daily Times*, June 24¹²¹

Punjab Home Minister Col (r) Shuja Khanzada, while claiming the involvement of Indian Intelligence Agency (RAW) in 90 percent of terrorist attacks in Pakistan, has disclosed that it was also involved in threatening SMS to Zimbabwe Cricket Team's Manager to stop the tour to Pakistan. [...] He said that wave of terror in Pakistan has reduced by the effective operation from the Pak Army and solidarity among the political parties on the issue. He said that Indian RAW was involved in 90 percent terror attacks in Pakistan while some other countries were also involved in remaining 10 percent of incidents. [...] He disclosed that when the Zimbabwe Cricket Team was moving to Pakistan from Dubai Airport, its manager received a SMS from unknown person in which they were threatened to behead in Pakistan on the same pattern of Daash (ISIS). He further said that during the investigations from Pakistan, it was confirmed that such life threatening SMS to the manager was sent by RAW from the location of New Delhi, India.

Ill-informed remarks, Editorial, *The Dawn*, June 26¹²²

¹²⁰ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/24-Jun-2015/pakistan-highlights-kashmir-s-disputed-status-in-geneva>

¹²¹ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/punjab/24-Jun-2015/raw-sent-threatening-sms-to-zimbabwe-team-manager>

¹²² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1190430/ill-informed-remarks>

WHETHER it was a faux pas or stemmed from ignorance, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar's statement that Azad Jammu & Kashmir is part of Pakistan should jolt the old hands at the Foreign Office, for it repudiates the very basis of Islamabad's political, legal and moral stand on the more than six-decade-old dispute. [...] That Mr Dar should know so little about foreign affairs is rather surprising. [...] His ill-informed claim, therefore, that they are part of Pakistan underlines a regrettable truth: the cabinet does not function as a cohesive policymaking body, and Nawaz Sharif's retention of the foreign minister's portfolio has caused enormous confusion in the conduct of foreign policy. Odd as it is, there has been no government clarification, not even the usual claims of having been misquoted. That a federal minister should exhibit such disregard towards a sensitive foreign policy issue reflects adversely on the quality of the leadership. It is not too late to have a fulltime foreign minister.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

India's objections to CPEC, Editorial, *The Dawn*, June 3¹²³

Now, amidst all the predictions of economics acting as the sole, or dominant, factor shaping international politics, the China Pakistan Economic Corridor — to which the Indian foreign minister has unjustifiably voiced strong objections — threatens to open up yet another front for the trademark waving of clenched fists by Islamabad and New Delhi. [...] The objections to CPEC are also a reflection of the deteriorating ties between India and Pakistan in the larger context. The days when Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif hinted at better relations between the two countries have long passed. In search of a common, recognisable 'enemy' to hit out at, Pakistanis are increasingly falling back on the old 'hate-India' mantra to build national cohesion. Across the border, there are signs that the 'nationalist' Indian rulers believe that raising the Pakistan bogey for the present would benefit them. In addition, the BJP government does not see a resumption of dialogue between the two countries soon, linking talks with action in Pakistan against those accused of carrying out the 2008 Mumbai attacks. Such mistrust between the two has impeded progress in so many areas, besides doing nothing to tap the potential of the region's billion-plus inhabitants. A negative approach to CPEC will not change that.

Words of wisdom, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, June 16¹²⁴

Ambassadors tend to be selected as much for their sagacity and the ability to deploy a safe pair of hands when needed than the ability to be platitudinous non-entities. Thus a meeting of ambassadors is likely to be a gathering of some of the more able minds, and so it has proved with the ambassadors of

¹²³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1185779/indias-objections-to-cpec>

¹²⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/904104/words-of-wisdom-2/>

the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Economic Cooperation Organisation at their recent moot in Islamabad. The assembled luminaries met for three days to review a basket of regional issues, among them the ossified nature of relations between Pakistan and India. They have recommended — perhaps ‘cautioned’ is a more appropriate word — that the government of Nawaz Sharif is not pushed off-track by the sulphurous rhetoric emanating for India currently and to stick to the “peaceful neighbourhood” policy. Not to fall into the trap being laid by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the firebrand nationalists, and to rise above the crudities being hurled right and left. [...] **A wealthy, stable Pakistan has not been on the BJP government’s agenda, and the pot is kept simmering.** The CPEC, however, is a game-changer for all concerned — and not only the signatories to the agreement. It is not in the interests of Pakistan to play into the hands of Mr Modi. Pakistan should ideally be taking a position of masterly inactivity rather than engaging in ill-judged knee-jerk reactions that only add accelerants to Mr Modi’s fire.

The trade of barbs, Tariq Mahmud, The Express Tribune, June 16¹²⁵

Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj’s latest statement that the multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was unacceptable to India has evoked a sharp response in Pakistan, but it should not surprise many considering the broader objective of the BJP government to needle Pakistan whenever possible. [...] India has upped the ante on the pretext that the corridor passes through Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B) which is disputed territory. Pakistan’s reaction, rather being upfront, has been bland and placating. National Security Adviser Sartaj Aziz has explained things in terms of the economic connectivity the corridor will promote in the region. [...] India’s intentions are far too obvious. It is to scuttle a move which brings economic opportunities to Pakistan in general and peace and stability in the western provinces of Balochistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa in particular. [...] At the same time, India is anxious about the growing role that China is going to play with a vast opening in the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf through the deep sea port of Gwadar and land linkages. [...] The BJP government’s move to encircle Pakistan through psychological ploys is understandable as muscle-flexing along the Line of Control has not borne much result. The BJP government, in all likelihood, wishes to deflect international attention from Kashmir where its desperate moves to undo Article 370 of the Indian Constitution giving special status to Jammu and Kashmir and efforts to create separate enclaves for the rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits are at a critical stage. These moves are facing stiff resistance by Kashmiri Muslims of the Valley.

¹²⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/904103/the-trade-of-barbs/>

India's confrontational spectacle, *The Nation*, June 17¹²⁶

Once again, in the contentious history of the post-colonial subcontinent, has an Indian Premiere unabashedly admitted to interfering in the affairs of Pakistan. From Indira Gandhi's boast, "We have taken the revenge of a thousand years [...] we have drowned the two-nation theory in the Bay of Bengal", to Modi's dramatic proclamation, there is simply no room for doubt about India's consistent and covert involvement, leading to the disintegration of Pakistan. [...] The controversial raillery began with the statement by the Indian Defense Minister, "We have to neutralize terrorists through terrorists only. Why can't we do it? We should do it. Why does my soldier have to do it? Kaante se kaanta nikalta hai (You remove a thorn with a thorn)." [...] Pakistan's officials, including the PM's Advisor on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz, as well as – and perhaps for the first time in such a categorical manner - the Corps Commanders Conference in early May, have openly castigated RAW activities in Pakistan. [...] Controversy raised its ugly head again during the Indian PM's recent visit to China, where he raised the issue of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) "very strongly" and termed the project "unacceptable". [...] Furthermore, during Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh, in his address to Dhaka University, he once again blamed Pakistan for spreading terrorism in India. This strategically aggressive and provocative posture that has recently been taken up by India appears to have peaked with the statement by Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, the Junior Minister for Information and Broadcasting on June 10th, where he categorically stated that based on intelligence: "We will carry out surgical strikes at the place and time of our own choosing." It is evident that India has resorted to a systematic campaign of defamation and provocation towards Pakistan – a campaign that has gained momentum since the announcement of the CPEC, as well as Chinese support for engagement with Pakistan on the NSG membership issue. Such statements are a blatant attempt to not only destabilize the precarious strategic balance of the region, but to hold Pakistan back from progress and development. [...] The Sharm-el-Sheikh joint statement in July 2009, for example, saw the Indian premier admitting to Indian interference and role in inciting terrorism in Pakistan, particularly in Baluchistan. [...] The geo-political scenario that is developing as a result of the Indian arms build-up and provocative demeanor is a blatant attempt to overthrow the precarious strategic balance of the region. Sanity can only prevail if the Indian aggression is approached with calm and dignity. Pakistan cannot and will not stand for any breach of its sovereignty in any shape of form, but we must refuse to get sucked into the spiral of malicious designs that hope to see a weakened Pakistan.

¹²⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/columns/17-Jun-2015/india-s-confrontational-spectacle>

Impasse impossible, A. G. Noorani, *The Dawn*, June 27¹²⁷

Individuals can sever relations for good. That luxury of self-indulgence is denied to states on a shared planet, especially to neighbours and, even more so, if they have a heavy long-standing agenda to cope with. The cancellation of the foreign secretaries' talks by India last year made little sense. The stated reason implied that it was a signal: don't talk to Hurriyat leaders before you talk to us. But since then, India has moved the goalpost far away, which would suggest a major policy decision. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on the eve of the commencement of Ramazan was a gesture of courtesy. [...] What we need to ask ourselves now is, how do we break this impasse? It is wasteful and potentially dangerous [...] The subcontinent is not an island unto itself. Having stalled the dialogue process, India should revive it. Sir Creek is overripe for solution. LoC trade and the hideous visa regime do not affect governments; only the people. Some untangling is urgently called for. Else, where do we go from here?

EXCERPTS FROM URDU MEDIA & SELECT JIHADI LITERATURE

INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS

India takes credit for breaking up Pakistan, Editorial, *Daily Jasarat*, June 9, 2015.¹²⁸

While accepting the involvement in the break-up of Pakistan, India's Prime Minister Said, "the creation of Bangladesh was the wish of every Indian. Our Forces fought along with Mukhti Bahini and helped them in the creation of Bangladesh." ***Atal Bihari Vajpayee was conferred the award of 'Bangladesh Liberation War honour' for playing significant role in the freedom struggle of Bangladesh and for cementing mutual relationship between India and Bangladesh.*** Narendra Modi received the award on behalf of Vajpayee from Abdul Hameed, President of Bangladesh. Narendra Modi said on the occasion that he came to Delhi as a young volunteer to support Mukhti Bahini. He also praised Sheikh Hasina's policy and supported her crackdown of terrorists. Modi repeatedly said that, "when Bangladeshi people were shedding their blood for their nation, every Indian was supporting their cause. Before this, Shiekh Hasina government had honoured ex-Indian prime minister Indra Gandhi as well for breaking Pakistan.

¹²⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1190664/impasse-impossible>

¹²⁸ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/editorials/09-Jun-2015/391076>

Although there was hardly any doubt about Indian involvement in the break-up of Pakistan, now Modi has unmasked the real face of India by saying that he himself supported the movement of Mukti Bahini....**Now the whole world has come to know that Indian intelligence Agency RAW and Indian Army tried to dismember Pakistan which India is still doing. RAW wants to destabilize Pakistan. Sectarian tensions and language crisis are being flared up to weaken Pakistan internally...**India always claims Kashmir as an integral part of its territory and in this back drop it is meaningless to expect Indian leadership to agree to resolve the issue. **Now India does not hesitate in claiming southern part of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir as well.** Nawaz Sharif during his previous premiership extended friendly relations with the then Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and hoped Kashmir issue would be resolved but India didn't change its policy...Narendra Modi's statements are food for thought for our political leadership, government officials and military leadership and if we still don't think of our security then swallows won't come from sky to protect us.

Role India played in 1971 is being repeated in Balochistan, Hafiz Mohammad Saeed, *Daily Jasarat*, June 9, 2015.¹²⁹

Chief of Jamaat-ud-dawa Prof. Hafiz Mohammad Saeed has said that the statements given by Narendra Modi during his Bangladesh tour proves that India is the real culprit behind East-Pakistan Crisis. **India is playing the same role in Baluchistan which it played in 1971 after helping Mukti Bahini.** India is involved in all the mess and terrorism in Pakistan. **While sitting in Afghanistan India wants to make Pakistan a battle ground...** Hafiz Sayed said in his speech that organizations like United Nations and Security Council have different yard stick for Muslims.

Economic Corridor: Modi Governments' apprehensions are unjustified: Shahbaz Sharif, *Daily Nawa-i-Waqt*, June 10, 2015.¹³⁰

Chief Minister of Punjab Shahbaz Sharif said that the China-Pakistan economic corridor was meant for 18 crore Pakistanis. From this project people of Sindh, Baluchistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Kashmir and all other Pakistanis would be benefited and therefore they should work together on this project The corridor will not only be beneficial for Pakistan but for other countries of the region.It is the beginning of a great journey and the apprehensions of Modi government are completely unjustified. **China has US\$ 75 billion worth of trade with India and has invested billions of Rupees in energy sectors in India about which we never uttered a single word and we never will. For the economic stability of**

¹²⁹ <http://jasarat.com/news.php?date=09-06-2015&news=49&category=nation>

¹³⁰ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/national/10-Jun-2015/391519>

the region, Modi government should not oppose this project. The package of US\$ 46 billion investment in Pakistan reflects the love of Chinese political leadership towards the people of Pakistan and it shows their trust in the policies of Nawaz Sharif...**Answering a question on India's opposition Shahbaz Sharif said that Pakistan was a nuclear weapon state and no one can dare hurt the people of Pakistan.** He also said that huge amount has been kept for Gilgit-Baltistan development. Specific amount has been reserved for buying land for Dasu and Diamer Basha Dams and after the completion of these Dams, thousands of MW of electricity will be produced.

Why is fox trying to be a lion? [*Aek gheedhad Sher ban'nay ki koushish kyun kar raha hai*], Naveed Masood Hashmi, *Daily Ausaf*, June 12, 2015.¹³¹

...They [Indians] are now openly coming out with threatening statements and useless propaganda against Pakistan! **Pakistan's electronic media is busy providing space for programmes on Indian films stars and artists and putting a lid on the bellicose statements emanating from Indian politicians.** After all, by adopting such a placid approach what are we going to gain?...**What could be more unfortunate than the fact that several journalists feel highly elevated after taking interviews with Indian legendary singer Late Mangeshkar!**

In this land of Pakistan, **there are still some diminutive (baunna) intellectuals who are now and then emphasizing that all chapters dealing with Hindu-Muslim conflicts should be erased from the educational curriculum so that better and peaceful atmosphere prevails between the two nations.** These are (i) chapter on Mahmud Ghazni's 17 attacks on Somnath Temple, (ii) Chapter depicting Muhammad bin Qasim as a destroyer of idols.

Is there any one amongst them who could explain to us why should any youth hailing from Azad Kashmir who goes to Srinagar to save the honor and dignity of our Muslim sisters and mothers from molestation by Kafirs be tagged as a terrorist? When Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi confirms his involvement in dismembering Pakistan in 1971-war, why you fellows are sitting like dumb and deaf cattle?

After Prime Minister Modi's dangerous confirmation of his role in truncating Pakistan, why aren't you taking any action. **On the contrary, we are singing songs of friendship with India. In this context, our Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif – who won Elections for third time on the plank of having good relations with India and who is always surrounded by his cronies advocating this position should explain how he is going to handle this issue.** And

¹³¹ : http://www.ausaf.pk/wp-content/uploads/2015-06-12/news/detail14_06.php

Pakistani intelligentsia and TV anchors should also explain what substantial service they have rendered to their motherland – Pakistan?

As a matter of fact Narendra Modi was neither a brave heart in the past, nor is he so even today. Like a fox, he is simply trying to show himself off and hoping to get counted as a roaring lion. ***If Pakistan government supports Kashmiri mujahideen continuously for six months then I am sure that Kashmiri mujahideen would break the bones of Bharati forces in occupied Kashmir and we will very easily redeem this Muslim territory.***

In case of any emergency, Pakistan would use nuclear weapons, *Daily Ummat*, June 12, 2015.¹³²

Pakistani security agencies believe that India's stand has always been provocative when dealing with its neighbour (Pakistan)! Again the sole objective of recent aggressive and senseless statements by its political leaders has been to provoke Pakistan leadership to respond with some aggressive action, so that it (India) could malign Pakistan in the eyes of world leaders.

It may be recalled that India's MOS for Information & Broadcasting had very rudely said India's military operation in Burma was a clear message for Pakistan. If there was any danger from outside, India would not at all hesitate to retaliate.

According to security sources, the information received here reveals ***that chances of conducting "Burma-style" operation inside Pakistan was not even less than one percent.*** In this connection, according to intelligence gathered by Pakistan authorities there has been ***consensus between Defence and political leadership that in case of India's carrying out Burma-style adventure inside Pakistani would be tantamount to declaring an all-out war against Pakistan...The intelligence sources have also suggested that whatever plots are hatched between Indian politicians and military leaders our national security agencies have been carefully watching these developments. India can never contemplate undertaking Myanmar-style surgical operation inside Pakistan, as they very well know the after-effects of such an adventure (nuclear strike by Pakistan). Pakistan is fully prepared to confront any such eventuality.***

Our intelligence agencies have affirmed that any such mis-adventure by Indian authorities would be met with severe retaliation. Incidentally our Army Chief Raheel Sharif at the end of Formation Commanders Conference came out with a strong statement which could serve as a rebuff to India.

¹³² <http://ummat.net/2015/06/12/news.php?p=story1.gif>

Indo-US Bilateral Relationship, Editorial *Daily Ummat*, June 22, 2015.¹³³

One reputed American journal, *Forbes* has come out with a Report, wherein it says– ‘To thwart China’s economic development, Uncle Sam has extended its cooperation in having bilateral relations with India’. ***It has been observed that to compete with China in the region, United States is planning to enter into bilateral cooperation with India especially in fields of defence and nuclear energy.....***

The Report further warns that this development has resulted in an imbalance in current Indo-Pak relations and compelled Pakistan to supplement its defence capability. As a result, ***Pakistan has sought China’s help and has entered into several bilateral agreements especially for procurement of JF Thunder fighter planes and economic corridor from Beijing to Gwadar etc.***

As we all know, Uncle Sam has obviously suffered heavy losses by meddling in the internal affairs of several countries. It has learnt bitter lessons and has now adopted a policy of alienating itself from the scene and instead throwing other countries in the cauldron. Thus in this way, Uncle Sam would want to maintain its dominating position in several areas. Moreover, for ensuring sale of sophisticated arms and ammunition to warring countries, it would obviously be required to create conditions of uncertainty around the world so that it could rescue its shattered economy from wilderness. The report further says that while United States would want to maintain its supremacy in these areas, it would also be keen to exploit all the natural resources of the warring countries.

At present, Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, is leader of staunch Hindu party and he himself was accused of carrying out several pogroms against Muslims in Gujarat. As we have seen, the brief history of Pakistan bears witness that it has neither exhibited any aggressive designs against any country nor had any malicious designs against any country. Its neighbours had never felt insecure. ***India’s case is altogether different. It has never had cordial relations with any of its neighbours. Let us not forget that India, despite launching four wars with Pakistan continues its malicious campaigns against us.***

¹³³ <http://ummat.net/2015/06/22/news.php=idrl.gif>.

India's callousness and meek protest, Syed Imdad Hussain Shah, *Daily Ausaf*, June 22, 2015.¹³⁴

These days Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his group of ministers have been making senseless speeches and wild statements against Pakistan and the Western powers have given them the required space to do that. Pakistan was trying its best to accord M.N.F. status to India and give India direct access to Afghanistan and Middle Eastern countries. However, India would not tolerate any mention of 'Kashmir' in the dialogue process. ***Incidentally, our Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif failed to understand the crooked mentality of Hindu baniya and went to New Delhi to join the swearing in ceremony. From that very day Modi initiated all efforts to do away with "Kashmir's special status" from the Indian Constitution.....***

In such strained conditions, Pakistan-China Economic Corridor Agreement has added fuel to the fire in Indo-Pak relations. ***India, United States of America and leaders of other countries who have plans to encircle China, have been very upset at this development.*** This is because of the fact the road from China to Gwadar which normally took at least 45 days could now be completed in one week's time. This corridor would provide a safe and secure route from Beijing to Gwadar, which would not fall under the surveillance of U.S. forces and American Navy....

Open threats have been issued by India's NSA Mr. Doval and Defence Minister Parrikar to dismember Balochistan from Pakistan. Pakistan should be ready to face tide of terrorism and Karachi, the economic hub of Pakistan, may be another target.....

Needless to say, ***the time has come when we Pakistanis as a nation should rise above political differences and unite against the malicious designs of our enemy*** who has been trying to destabilize our country. These agents have been busy smuggling out hundreds of thousands of dollars from our country.

India-US relations: Implications and dangers, Editorial, *Daily Muhasib*, June 22, 2015.¹³⁵

According to one American newspaper, America's new-found friendship with India may accentuate the possibility of war between India and Pakistan. ***According to the newspaper, to confront China, America is strengthening its military relationship with India. This can become a cause of conflict between the two nuclear rivals in South Asia.*** Recently, White House and Department

¹³⁴ <http://www.ausaf.pk/wp-contact/uploads/2015-06-11/p.14-08.jpg>

¹³⁵ <http://mahasib.com.pk/muzzaffarabad/story.php?param=1s.jpg>

of Defence emphasized cooperation with India in defence and nuclear matters. **Any such agreement with Modi government can flare up tensions between India and Pakistan. China is also trying to tighten the noose around India by giving Pakistan submarines, J.F Thunder and by constructing the strategic road through Kashmir. The overt and covert support of China to Pakistan is especially meant to confront India. Put other way, China is doing for Pakistan what America intends to do for India.**

This report is not good news for the future of South Asia. After the end of Cold War, India left Russia and became an ally of America. For America, the vast geographic expanse of India and its more than one billion population was something they had never imagined they could ever access. Americans has found in India a huge market for its finished goods. Many reputed American officials are either shareholders of multinational companies or their advisors and that is the reason why they have prevented America from playing an impartial role in South Asia. **All these influential officials have warned American policy makers that the main threat to American interests is coming from China's growing military and economic prowess and if this power is not controlled then its expansion towards west is imminent.** To achieve these political ends, America has pumped up India **but in this changing political scenario, Americans forgot that Pakistan was their historical ally in the region which in all circumstances extended its helping hand towards them.** America has now completely forgotten India-Pakistan conflict and surprisingly adopted the Indian narrative on Kashmir. **Whenever Pakistan has asked America to mediate between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, America has not showed any interest....The attention of Pakistan has now been drawn from eastern to western border and the Taliban threat has been exaggerated compared to the main Indian threat.** This ploy has not worked, and in the end, **Pakistan has chosen to be an ally of China instead of being a puppet of America**

Pak Army Chief's Russia visit, Nusrat Mirza, Daily Jang, June 23, 2015.¹³⁶

Keeping aside the tussle for power in Pakistan wherein Asif Ali Zardari has openly criticized Pakistan army, we will give preference to Army Chief's Russia tour. **This is important because of several reasons including India-America five year Defence Agreement, India's attack on Naga camps in Myanmar and Indian Minister's statement that such operations can be conducted in Pakistan as well.** In such an environment, our Army Chief's Russia trip is very significant.

¹³⁶ http://e.jang.com.pk/06-22-2015/lahore/pic.asp?picname=08_08.gif

Situation is changing at the global level. America is challenging Russia and China. Americans believe that all countries together cannot fight against them. ***The economy of America comes from Military Industries and that is why Military Industrial Complex and Israeli Lobby AIPAC want to keep America in a mode of continuous war.***

America used modern technology to bring India's Narendra Modi to power and now they are using him to create hurdles for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Meanwhile, the new Indian maneuvers have disappointed Russia and it has taken the decision to strengthen relations with Pakistan. ***Pakistan needs Russia at the moment. We need modern arms and weapons so that we are able to confront our enemy.*** Sukhoi-40 aircrafts can boost our defence capabilities. We have MI-17 helicopters and we also need MI-35 helicopters. However, ***if Russia, China, Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan come together it will surely be a great development.***

Russia had given the signal much before that it wanted to have good relations with Pakistan but our leadership did not respond to it well. Now it is necessary for Pakistan to develop better relations with Russia because America is moving closer to India. In this regard Russia tour of our Army Chief is the beginning of a new journey.

Shangai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting and BRICS summit will be held from 8-10 July this year in which Pakistan will participate as an observer and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has already given hints that he would attend the meeting. This meeting is going to be very significant because Ukraine crisis has become a prestige issue for Russia and a challenge to American superiority.

There is a possibility that Pakistan can become a permanent member of SCO. Till now our membership was put on hold because of India and now after becoming an ally of America, India would not like to be a member of SCO. ***It needs to be mentioned that both India and Pakistan are nuclear weapon states. America should avoid pumping up India further and instead of investing on India to confront China, America should play role in resolving the very serious and longstanding dispute of Kashmir.***

KASHMIR

Modi Government is Dangerous for whole Region, Nothing Less than Azadi is acceptable: Syed Salahuddin, Daily Jasarat, June 9, 2015.¹³⁷

¹³⁷ <http://jasarat.com/news.php?date=09-06-2015&news=48&category=nation>

Chairman of United Jihad Council Syed Salahudin has said that Narendra Modi's government is dangerous for the whole region. Although terrorism in Pakistan was going on under the auspices of India but now India's ill will has come to fore on Pakistan-China corridor. In occupied Kashmir, people have given their referendum after hoisting Pakistani flags. **Kashmir is Jugular vein of Pakistan and our struggle will continue till the independence of Kashmir.** He expressed these views in his meeting with Ammer-i-Jama'at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Professor Mohammad Ibrahim Khan at Jamaat i Islami office in Peshawar. He said that Kashmiris have pledged that they won't accept any solution less than Azadi. He also said that Narendra Modi's agenda won't materialize. **At that point of time Ameer-i-jamaat Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mohammad Ibrahim Khan assured Salahudin that Kashmir issue would be raised at every Jama'at forum.** He condemned Narendra Modi for offering reward for Salahudin's arrest. Nobody can cast an evil eye towards Syed Salahudin, he said.

Responsibility lies with UN to ensure implementation of Kashmir Resolutions: Nawaz Sharif, Daily Nawai Waqt, June 10, 2015.¹³⁸

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif appreciated the role played by Ban Ki Moon for world peace,,,,(and) said that India had not shown any positive commitment to restart the dialogue process. Hence, the UN must ensure early implementation of resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir. **He reiterated that it was incumbent upon Security Council to ensure implementation of resolutions and** called the recent statements of Indian leadership about Pakistan very unfortunate and wanted Ban Ki Moon to play a role in the region.

Elections in Gilgit-Baltistan, Mehtab Khan, Daily Ausaf, June 10, 2015.¹³⁹

Yesterday under the supervision of Pakistan military, Assembly elections were held in Gilgit-Baltistan without any untoward incident. Out of 24 Assembly seats, the PML (N) got clear majority. Peoples Party faced a complete rout while Tehrik-e-Insaf was lagging far behind in the number of seats they secured.

It is significant that the people of Gilgit-Baltistan— which is notorious for sectarian violence— put aside their sectarian differences and came forward to vote for their candidates of choice. Voting was conducted through computerized machines and it was for the first time that polling was widely recognized as being very fair and transparent due to military presence at polling stations... Results revealed that this time Gilgit-Baltistan voters

¹³⁸ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/national/10-Jun-2015/391527>

¹³⁹ <http://www.ausaf.pk/wp-content/uploads/2015-06-10.p.14-13.jpg>

rejected their former Chief Minister of Peoples Party Syed Mehdi Shah and other members of his cabinet....

The people of G-B are sanguine that with the introduction and completion of Pakistan-China Economic Corridor Project, there would be prosperity and all their day-to-day problems would now be addressed. It is believed that this time voters of Gilgit-Baltistan have demonstrated their political maturity. For last one year federal authorities have carried out Zarb-e-Azb operation in the region and thereby safe havens of militants have been destroyed. **Mililitants have been sneaking inside Pakistan from India or Afghanistan.** They have not only killed our security personnel but also our innocent citizens. They have also destroyed our properties worth crores of rupees. These militants have also turned our border areas into safe-havens for their operations. In response to this, Pakistan authorities launched Operation Zarb-e-Azb to eliminate these militants and the operation is still on. **India has, on the one hand, openly supported terrorist activities inside Pakistan and established training camps inside Afghanistan on the other.** As a result, these extremists easily infiltrate into Pakistan and kill our security personnel and innocent citizens. So in this regard, we should strongly take up the issue with Afghanistan authorities and should ascertain that hereafter there would be no more infiltration.

Target killings in Kashmir; hartal, protests and possibility of more bloodshed, Daily Nawa-i-Waqt, June 18, 2015.¹⁴⁰

There was complete Hartal in Sopore against target killings. The strike call was given by Huriyat Conference. Syed Ali Geelani and Mirwaiz said that the puppet regime is responsible for the killings of the Kashmiri youths. **As per the reports of BBC more than twenty thousand former non-Muslim armed men have joined Hurriyat to take forward the struggle.** Shabir shah has said that Indian diktats were not acceptable while Asiya Andrabi gave a statement that if current policy of Pakistan government continued Kashmir issue would be resolved soon.

Azad Kashmir can be included in the NFC Award: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, Daily Muhasib, June 19, 2015.¹⁴¹

Pakistan Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has said that meeting will be convened soon to discuss NFC Awards and there is no problem in including Azad Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and FATA in the discussions. It should be noted that from the very first day every Azad Kashmir government and opposition

¹⁴⁰ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/international/18-Jun-2015/393478>

¹⁴¹ <http://mahasib.com.pk/muzzaffarabad/story.php?param=azaad-kashmir-f.jpg>

has demanded that the region should be included in the NFC Awards so that they can get their due shares equal to provinces of Pakistan.

Gilgit-Baltistan is not disputed but part of Pakistan: Ishaq Dar, Daily Bang-e-Sahar, June 24, 2015.¹⁴²

While speaking in National Assembly, Pakistan finance Minister Ishaq Dar said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is going to be a game changer. **Neighbouring country (India) has raised the question that this corridor is going through a disputed territory. However, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan is not disputed but very much part of Pakistan.** Only Kashmir is a disputed territory which is under Indian occupation. **Economic corridor is not acceptable to some countries who campaigned that this route is being built through disputed territory. We should all unite on national issues like this.**

The statement of Ishaq Dar is far from reality: Balawaristan National Front, Daily Bang-e-Sahar, June 25, 2015.¹⁴³

Balawaristan National Front central office has issued a statement which says that whenever Pakistan is in need of resources from Gilgit-Baltistan they say the region is not a disputed one. **They condemned Finance Minister for issuing such statements. How can Gilgit-Baltistan be part of Pakistan without making any amendment to Pakistani constitution? Finance Minister's statement is violation of UN resolutions and if you claim this then write to United Nations that Gilgit-Baltistan is part of Pakistan. One Minister says the region is disputed and another makes it part of Pakistan; whom are you trying to fool?** He should read history of Gilgit-Baltistan before making such statements which distorts our history. **Gilgit-Baltistan is a disputed territory and to install any power project here is illegal and in grave violation of UN resolutions.** Until the issue of Gilgit-Baltistan is resolved no work on any mega project should be initiated. UN officials in Gilgit-Baltistan should take serious notice and act against those who exploit the people of the region.

Resolution Passed in Azad Kashmir Assembly, Editorial, Daily Muhasib, 30 June 2015.¹⁴⁴

Azad Kashmir Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution to bring back within its purview the departments of Income Tax, excise and taxation. In 1979, during the time of a non-elected government all important departments were put under the control of Azad Kashmir Council without considering the wishes of people. With this we lost control over our economy. Now authority of these depts. should be given back to Azad Kashmir

¹⁴² http://www.bangesahar.net/popup.php?r_date=06-24-2015&img=06-24-2015page-1-2

¹⁴³ http://www.bangesahar.net/popup.php?r_date=06-25-2015&img=06-25-2015page-1-12

¹⁴⁴ <http://mahasib.com.pk/muzzaffarabad/story.php?param=2s.jpg>

government and legislature... **Collection of Taxes by any authority other than Azad Kashmir Government is a mockery of democracy.**

PAKISTANI TALIBAN, INTERNAL SECURITY

Pakistani Taliban Raised slogans of Jihad for Muslims of Myanmar, Roznama Dunya, June 10, 2015.¹⁴⁵

Pakistani Taliban asked the Muslims of Myanmar to stand up and wage *Jihad* against their political leaders. The **spokesperson of Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, a split-away group of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Ehsanullah Ehsan said in a press conference on Monday that, "we share the pain of Rohingya Muslims. I ask the youth of Myanmar to stand and do Jihad in the way of Allah and verily Allah is with us. Our centers are ready to provide you with everything needed to live a comfortable life".** He also said that protests, rallies and resolutions would not serve any purpose. Only *Jihad* will stop leadership of Myanmar from inflicting more miseries on Muslims.

In June last year, Pakistan army started operation Zarb-e-Azb against TTP which successfully pushed back the TTP militants from the tribal areas. **Very recently, it has come to light that many Islamic groups including Al-Qaeda have trained Rohingya Muslims for Jihad but they have not yet turned to armed struggle** ...The sufferings of Rohingya Muslims have created a stir within Pakistan. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has appointed a committee to find a way out for helping out Rohingya Muslims. The committee on June 9 sent its recommendations to the Prime Minister, who accepted all the recommendations and announced US\$ 50 lakh as aid for the Rohingyas.

Operation in North Waziristan, Editorial, *Daily Jang*, June 10, 2015.¹⁴⁶

The statement issued by ISPR claimed that operation against terrorists in North Waziristan is going on and in a recent incident, **more than two dozen terrorists tried to attack Pakistan army near Pak-Afghan border.** Pakistan army foiled their attempt and killed 19 terrorists including 5 commanders. One suicide bomber exploded himself and killed 7 Pakistan army personnel. In North Waziristan, almost 80 – 90 per cent of the land has been cleared of terrorists within a year. The aerial bombing of the various locations have left the terrorist with no other option but to move towards mountainous regions. **The terrorists would soon be wiped out if the agreement that was signed between Pak-Afghan intelligence agencies is acted upon in letter and spirit. ...But due to the internal problems of Afghanistan and the conspiracy of Indian agencies much advances could not be made. Nevertheless, the brave**

¹⁴⁵ http://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2015-06-10&edition=LHR&id=1739330_8477

¹⁴⁶ http://e.jang.com.pk/06-10-2015/lahore/pic.asp?picname=09_03.gi

officers of the Pakistan army are doing everything possible to make Pakistan free from terrorism.

Pakistan has been fighting an undeclared war against Afghanistan for last 14 years: Ashraf Ghani, Daily Nawa-i-Waqt, June 11, 2015.¹⁴⁷

Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani while talking to leaders of Afghan tribes at Mandigak mahal (palace) at Kandahar said that Pakistan has been fighting an undeclared war with Afghanistan for the last 14 years. Hence for restoring peace and stability in the region, his government has decided to hold talks with Pakistan before talking to Taliban...**According to BBC sources Ashraf Ghani explained that reconciliation does not take place with a brother but it is done with those who fight with you.** This statement of President Ashraf Ghani was contrary to the statements made earlier with regard to Pakistan, wherein he had spoken about happily sorting out bilateral concerns between both the countries.

JIHADI MEDIA

Pak Army in a so-called democratic country, Umar Media, (Tehrik-e-Tliban Pakistan) June 25, 2015.¹⁴⁸

The Army of a so-called democratic country used tear gas canisters and then fired at internally displaced persons of Waziristan when they were protesting against shortage of water, in the month of Ramzan. **Due to the heavy firing five persons were martyred and many more injured. This is the reality of Pakistan army which uses the language of force against those who demand their basic rights.** Whether they are tribals, Baloch, or the people associated with Red Mosque and Jamia Hafsa, Pak army has tried to crush all by force. **Someone has rightly said that in front of the weak they flex their muscles whereas while facing the powerful they whine like cowards. For example, while facing the army of the most coward nation six [lakh] strong army of Pakistan surrendered tamely in Bengal. Same was the story in cases like Raymond Davis and Salala.**

Special Speech of TTP Chief, Haq Fazlullah Khurasani, to Suicide Commandos Ummer Media, June 23, 2015.¹⁴⁹

My Fidayeen (Suicide bomber) Brothers!

You are surely a miracle of the post-Prophet Era. We are grateful that Allah has bestowed us with youths like you who are ready to press the button of

¹⁴⁷ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2015-06-11/page-1/detail-10>

¹⁴⁸ <https://umarmedia.files.wordpress.com/2015/06/bszen.jpg>

¹⁴⁹ <https://umarmedia.wordpress.com/2015/06/23/>

death (and sacrifice their lives for Islam). The most difficult job for a human being in this world is to kill himself and your readiness for that is our great achievement. ***You are our special drones with brain, ears, eyes and you also offer prayers.*** Muslims are fortunate that you know your enemies and are aware of your goals. I want to tell the government that ***the main reason of these youth for staying in mountainous regions is to fight against oppression.*** I want to tell the government that this is only a reaction to what you have done in the past — you desecrated Jamia Hafsa and Lal Masjid and with outside support killed our youths. The government should now learn its lessons and stop killing our people otherwise there are people associated with us who are Muslims by heart and know very well the ideology of Pakistan. ***They believe that if everything belongs to Allah— the earth, the sky and the whole creation— then the laws of Allah must reign supreme.***

You will see that history will never forgive the Pakistan Army, and Allah will soon blow their system. Before tasting victory, Moses had revealed to his people that he had received the good news from Allah that the enemy will be destroyed.

Some people say that we cannot win against an army whose numerical strength is huge and who have tanks and drones at their disposal. But you must believe and always remember that Allah has made clear that howsoever strong the Devil and forces associated with it may appear, they are inherently weak, and so are their policies. If we are believers and show patience and trust in Allah then we will surely end the atrocities committed on our people and we will avenge it all.

I want to tell my countrymen that our people have made great sacrifices for this nation. Hundreds of thousand people have sacrificed their lives just because the essence of Pakistan is “La ila ha Illallah”. They wanted la ila ha illallah to be our system, otherwise it would have been better to live with the Hindus.

We did not fight for this country so that we will pray, fast, go for Haj and open Madrassas. I want to inform you that when we were under British rule nobody was stopped from praying, fasting and going to Haj. Namaz is allowed in America and Europe. If a country becomes Islamic just by allowing its citizens to offer prayers and go to Haj then India is also an Islamic country; so is Europe and America. ***Unless and until Islamic principles are collectively implemented a country cannot be called ‘Islamic’.***

There are some principles recognized by the UN. The UN charter declares that there should not be any discrimination against Muslims; everyone is

allowed to pray according to his own wish. **But we are not allowed to implement our system in our own country. Our judicial system is un-Islamic. Same is the case with our economy, education and social system.**

Look at Afghanistan, which the Americans have destroyed completely. Do you think they were stopped from praying and doing Haj? In reality, America imposed its own system on them and separated them from Allah.

Our Jihad will continue. Either we will achieve Islamic rule or attain martyrdom; there is no other choice. We should be aware of the fact that life and death is in the hands of Allah and it is up to Allah whether we will be killed by missile or by disease or in a car accident. We cannot change whatever the destiny has in store for us. We should accept the will of Allah with open hearts and must show our satisfaction over whatever is provided to us by our destiny. **There is one special door in heaven for those who strictly believe in destiny.** Trust in Allah and victory would be ours.

Interview with a Taliban Special Group (TSG) member.

Q: What is your name?

A: Talha

Q: Talha bhai can you tell our visitors something about this TSG training; how is it going and why did you come here for the training?

A: In the name of Allah, yes training has ended. First thing you should remember is that we are suicide bombers and we use our blood and bones as *baarood* against the enemies of Islam. As you know, in every corner of the world Muslims are being oppressed and that is the reason we have decided to stand for the protection of Muslims and Islam. Our training period was really great and we all lived here as real brothers. Only Allah knows how much we love each other.

Q: After the death of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) Osama was assigned the leadership to conduct Jihad and now you people have been chosen for that responsibility. How do you feel after being chosen for this?

A: We are very happy that we are taking forward the mission of the Prophet and his companions. We are proud of ourselves. **All the members associated with this TSG group are suicide bombers and we will eliminate infidelity from the whole world, particularly from Pakistan. We will uproot democracy and establish the Khilafat.**

Q: What are the main targets of TSG?

A: Pakistani political leaders, Pakistan Army (*Naa Paak Fauj*) Intelligence agencies, ISI and all those who raise their voice against Islam and Jihad are our main targets.

Q: How much do you cherish Martyrdom?

A: We go for Jihad so that Allah forgives our sins and bestows Martyrdom on us. We do suicide bombing to achieve martyrdom.

MISCELLANY

Why only Altaf Hussain? Hamid Mir, *Daily Jang*, 30 June, 30, 2015.¹⁵⁰

In January 1999 Gen. Parvez Musharraf invited some journalists for an Iftaar Party. Before Iftaar, Gen. Musharraf praised the military courts and said that if such courts are not allowed to function then it would be very difficult to eliminate enemies of Pakistan. On the dinner table Gen. Zia-ud-din raised his concern that these military courts could be used against certain political parties. **Gen. Musharraf immediately reacted that no political party would be targeted except some enemies of our country. When I asked who these enemies are, Musharraf replied, "I would like to kill Altaf Hussain himself because he is an Indian agent"**. He later on repeated that Altaf and Asma Jehangir were enemies of Pakistan...About Kashmir, Musharraf said "Within three days, I can liberate Kashmir". Musharraf then told us in detail what he did later in Kargil....

Quran recitation competition for Pakistan Army, *Hilal*, May 2015, Vol. 51, No. 11, p.42.

Quran recitation competition and memorization competition was held in Rawalpindi for Pakistan Army. Hafiz Zahir Abbas (Army air defence) received the first prize for memorizing Quran. Hafiz Habib ul Ilah (30 Core) and Hafiz Aaqib Javed (chief of logistics and staff secretariat) got second and third positions respectively. In the Quran memorization competition Qari Mohammad Aarif (10 Core), Qari Mahammad Hayat (Chief of logistics staff secretariat) and Qari Ghulam Mustafa (4 Core) respectively got first, second and third position. Major General Saad Khatak distributed awards among winners.

STATISTICS

BOMBINGS, SHOOTINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES

(Select incidents culled out from the Pakistan media)

Place	Date	Description	Killed	Injured
Balochistan				
Quetta ¹⁵¹	1/6/2015	FC kills 13 militants.	13	0
Dera Bugti ¹⁵²	30/6/2015	Up to 20 killed in clashes	20	0

¹⁵⁰ http://e.jang.com.pk/06-29-2015/lahore/pic.asp?picname=08_07.gif

¹⁵¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1185604/fc-kills-13-suspected-mustung-carnage-militants>

		between separatist groups in Dera Bugti		
FATA				
North Waziristan ¹⁵³	2/6/2015	10 terrorists killed.	10	0
South Waziristan ¹⁵⁴	2/6/2015	3 killed in a roadside bomb blast.	3	3
North Waziristan ¹⁵⁵	24/6/2015	Official killed	1	6
Punjab				
Lahore ¹⁵⁶	29/6/2015	Four suspected militants killed	4	4
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa				
Abbottabad ¹⁵⁷	3/6/2015	3 PTI workers killed.	3	2
D.I. Khan ¹⁵⁸	5/6/2015	Four cops injured in D.I. Khan blast	0	4
Khyber Agency ¹⁵⁹	19/6/2015	20 killed in Airstrikes	20	18
Peshawar ¹⁶⁰	25/6/2015	Policeman gunned down outside Peshawar court	1	2
Peshawar ¹⁶¹	29/6/2015	Head constable shot dead in Peshawar	1	1
Sindh				
Karachi ¹⁶²	8/4/2015	Five suspected terrorists killed in Karachi 'encounter'.	5	0
Karachi ¹⁶³	16/4/2015	Preedy SHO gunned down in Karachi.	1	0

¹⁵² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/912110/up-to-20-killed-in-clashes-between-separatist-groups-in-dera-bugti/>

¹⁵³ <http://nation.com.pk/national/02-Jun-2015/foreign-militants-killed-in-airstrikes>

¹⁵⁴ <http://nation.com.pk/national/02-Jun-2015/govt-official-among-3-dead-in-swa-blast>

¹⁵⁵ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/24-Jun-2015/official-killed>

¹⁵⁶ [Four suspected militants killed in Lahore shootout](http://www.dawn.com/news/1185898/three-pti-workers-killed-in-abbottabad)

¹⁵⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1185898/three-pti-workers-killed-in-abbottabad>

¹⁵⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1186347/four-cops-including-dsp-injured-in-di-khan-blast>

¹⁵⁹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/906316/air-strikes-kill-20-terrorists-in-khyber-agency/>

¹⁶⁰ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/909450/policeman-gunned-down-outside-peshawar-court/>

¹⁶¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1191168/head-constable-shot-dead-in-peshawar>

¹⁶² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1174672/five-suspected-terrorists-killed-in-karachi-encounter>

¹⁶³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1176288/preedy-sho-gunned-down-in-karachi>