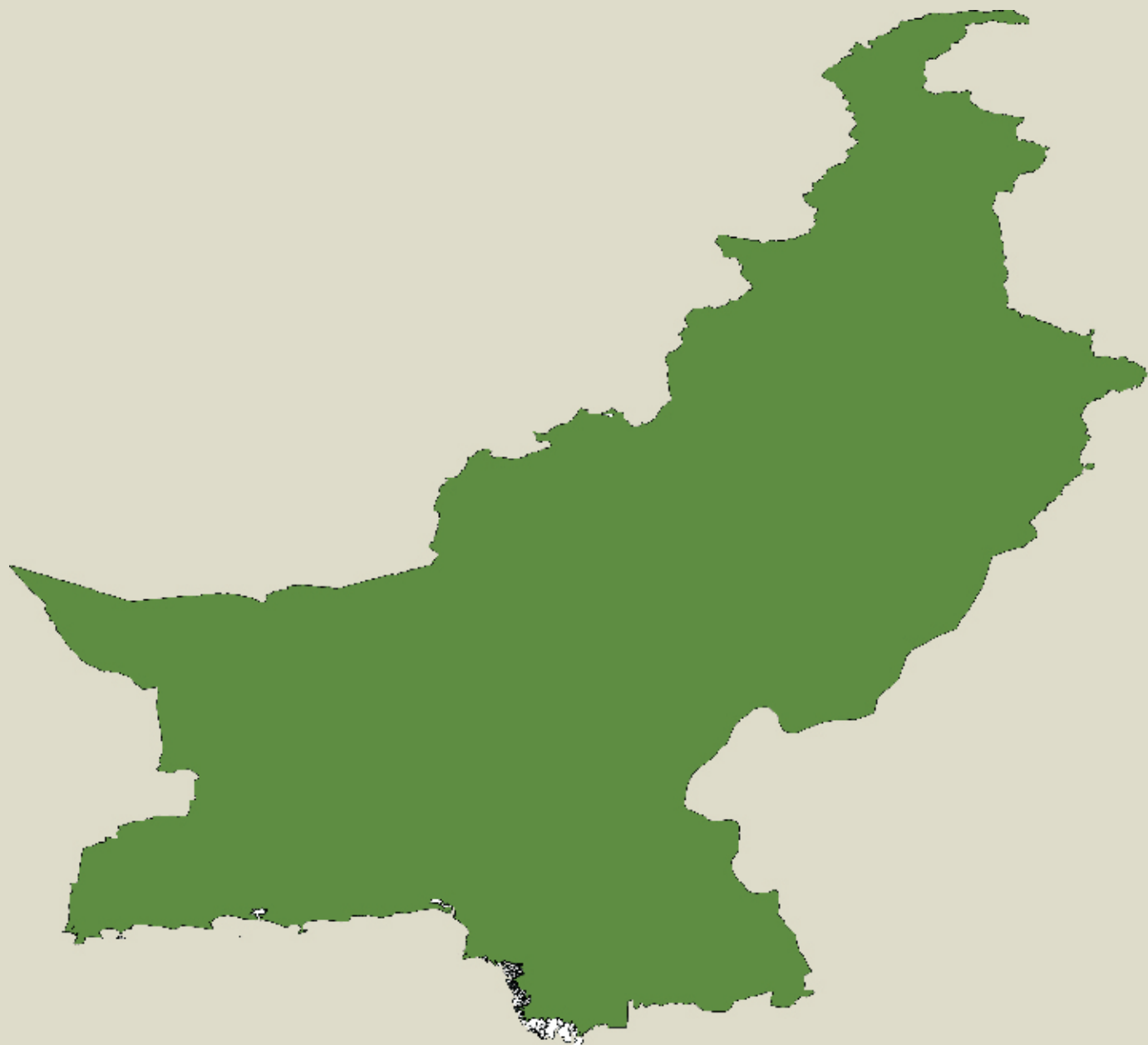


November 2014

PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST

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



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

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INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE
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रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST, NOVEMBER 2014

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ABBREVIATIONS

AG: Attorney General
ASFC: Army Strategic Forces Command
BRP: Baloch Republican Party
BSA: Bilateral Security Agreement
CTC: Central Trade Corridor
CENTCOM: Central Command
DMG: District Management Group
GHQ: General Head Quarters
GSP: Generalized System Preferences
IB: Intelligence Bureau
IMF: International Monetary Fund
ISAF: International Security Assistance Force
ISPR: Inter Services Public Relations
JI: Jamaat-i-Islami
KP: Khyber Pakhthunkhwa
MDTF: Multi-Donor Trust Fund
MQM: Muttahida Qaumi Movement
MWM: Majalis-i-Wahadat-Muslimeen
NAB: National Accountability Bureau
NACTA: National Counter Terrorism Authority
NESCOM: National Engineering and Scientific Commission
NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NSA: National Security Adviser
OGDCL: Oil and Gas Development Company Limited
PAJCCI: Pakistan-Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industries
PBS: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
PC: Privatisation Commission
PML-N: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz
PPP: Pakistan People's Party
PSDP: Public Sector Development Programme
PTI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
QI: Qualified Intermediaries
QWP: Quami Watan Party
SBP: State Bank of Pakistan
SRO: Statutory Regulatory Order
TTP: Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan
TTPJA: Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan Jamaat-ul Ahrar
VBMP: Voice for Baloch Missing Persons

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

PROVINCIAL POLITICS

Father, son reach agreement to segregate party business, *The Nation*, November 3¹

Finally the former president Asif Ali Zardari and his son Bilawal Bhutto have reached a mutual understanding to segregate the party business with clearly defined jurisdictions. Under this arrangement, Bilawal would lead the PPP whereas Zardari would look after the affairs of the PPP-P. These two parallel organizations representing the same party exist separately on paper for all practical purposes. Party sources said that a decision to this effect was made much earlier but it has now been officially confirmed by the leadership. It has been learnt that young Bilawal has been given free hand to make whatever decisions he likes to run the party (PPP) under his command. He would have full powers to make changes in the party organization and to hire the services of veteran party men to assist him on party's organisational matters.

Baloch people being pushed to wall, says Mengal, *Dawn*, November 5²

Balochistan National Party-M organiser Sardar Akhtar Mengal has said that a "policy of victimisation" being allegedly pursued by the establishment has pushed Baloch people to the wall and they have been left with no option but to consider approaching the International Court of Justice to seek justice. In a statement on November 3, he deplored that dumping of mutilated bodies and kidnapping of political activists continued in the province. A few days ago, he said, bodies of three workers of the party had been found and two other members had gone missing. He criticised silence of federal and provincial governments over 'atrocities' being committed against BNP-M activists and warned that the establishment's attitude towards them would have serious repercussions. Mr Mengal said that Baloch people had the right to move the International Court of Justice over "extra-judicial killing, enforced disappearances and violation of human rights by security forces" because the judiciary of the country had failed to provide justice to the aggrieved. He said there was no difference between the PML-N government and the PPP government and the Musharraf regime as far as the treatment meted out to the Baloch people was concerned.

¹<http://nation.com.pk/national/03-Nov-2014/father-son-reach-agreement-to-segregate-party-business>

² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1142318/baloch-people-being-pushed-to-wall-says-mengal>

Tharparkar drought claims two more lives, *The Express Tribune*, November 7³

The ongoing drought in Tharparkar claimed lives of two more children, taking the death toll to 39 in just 38 days. The drought has been making headlines more frequently in recent weeks and 470 lives have been lost over the past three years, including over 300 children under the age of 7. For the third year in a row, rains have refused to fall over Tharparkar and 80 percent of villages in Thar have yet to receive any precipitation this year. PPP patron-in-chief Bilawal Zardari Bhutto had issued show cause notices to Sindh Chief Minister Qaim Ali Shah and provincial Deputy Secretary General, Manzoor Hussain Wassan over the mishandling of the crisis.

Bilawal withdraws show-cause notices to Shah, Wasan, *The News*, November 8⁴

PPP Patron-in-Chief, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has withdrawn show-cause notices issued to President PPP Sindh Sindh, Qaim Ali Shah and General Secretary PPP, Manzoor Wasan. According to the PPP media cell the show-cause notices had been issued over false reports on media pertaining to the Thar situation. The PPP media cell states that an internal inquiry is underway and is being supervised by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, adding that further action will be taken upon its conclusion.

KP governor consults top professionals on Fata reforms, *The News*, November 8⁵

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Sardar Mahtab Ahmad Khan, on November 7 had a long consultative session with some top professionals of the country to discuss Fata reforms in the context of the evolving geopolitical situation and its implication. According to a press release issued here, these professionals had achieved distinction and are known for their in-depth understanding of not only Fata but also of the regional and international power play.

No plan to topple KP govt, says PML-N, *Dawn*, November 12⁶

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz secretary general Iqbal Zafar Jhagra said his party had no plans to topple the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf-led coalition government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. *"We respect public mandate given to any political party. Being the single largest party of the province, it is the right of the PTI to govern the province,"* he told reporters at his house. The PML-N leader said

³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/787193/tharparkar-drought-claims-two-more-lives/>

⁴ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-165093-Bilawal-withdraws-show-cause-notices-to-Shah,-Wasan->

⁵ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-282961-KP-governor-consults-top-professionals-on-Fata-reforms>

⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1143956/no-plan-to-topple-kp-govt-says-pml-n>

dissolution of the KP Assembly would be the biggest folly on the part of the PTI government as the people of the province had given them a chance to prove its worth. *"Dissolving assembly will be like accepting their (government's) failure to deliver, which will not augur well for the PTI as it will have to face the people's anger in the by-elections,"* he said.

PM ignored KP in China agreements, says Khattak, *The News*, November 13⁷

Chief Minister Pervez Khattak has expressed concern over the visit of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to China where he signed many agreements for mega schemes mostly for a single province but ignored KP in these projects. Talking at the provincial assembly secretariat on November 12, he said it would have been better had KP been included in the schemes, investment and loans signed by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif during his China visit. *"The prime minister focused on a single province and ignored Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in all mega projects of the federal government and those signed with Chinese government and investors,"* he said. He added the premier was supposed to represent the whole country not a single province.

KP govt fails to secure its people, *Daily Times*, November 14⁸

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on November 13 said that militants were targeting the PPP workers and peace-lovers. In a statement issued here, he said that the PTI-led government in KP has failed to provide the security to its own people. He also said that the PPP-led government had eliminated militants by launching military Operation Rah-e-Rast in Swat.

Cracks appear in PTI's Rawalpindi chapter, *Dawn*, November 17⁹

Cracks have appeared in the local chapter of PTI after Imran Khan decided to appoint an acting president for the Rawalpindi district. The PTI office-bearers termed the decision a violation of the party rules and refused to accept it. The PTI chairman named MPA Ijaz Khan Jazi as the acting president of the Rawalpindi district after the suspension of 10 office-bearers, including the district president and MPA Arif Abbasi, for beating Imran Khan's cousin Ahmed Niazi at the sit-in site outside Parliament House.

⁷<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-283805-PM-ignored-KP-in-China-agreements-says-Khattak>

⁸<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/13-Nov-2014/kp-govt-fails-to-secure-its-people-bilawal>

⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1145044/cracks-appear-in-ptis-rawalpindi-chapter>

Balochistan to become first province with functional LG system since 2009,
The Express Tribune, November 28¹⁰

Election authorities are all set to complete the second phase of local government polls in Balochistan early next year (January 2) – a step that would make Balochistan the first province to have a fully functional local government system since the last one expired in 2009. ECP on November 27 issued schedule for elections on the seats reserved for peasants and workers in the province. According to the schedule issued by ECP, the members elected on general seats from each local council will elect members on seats reserved for peasants and workers on December 31. Under Balochistan's local government laws, five per cent quota of seats is reserved in every council for peasants and workers. Thirty-three per cent quota of reserved seats in the province is allocated for women and five per cent for minorities..

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

JI holds protest rallies against death sentence in Bangladesh, *The News*,
November 1¹¹

Thousands of people across the country on October 31 joined protest rallies organised by the Jamaat-e-Islami to condemn the Bangladesh government for awarding death sentence to JI Bangladesh Ameer Mutiur Rahman Nizami on charges of supporting the Pakistan Army during 1971. On the call of JI Ameer Sirajul Haq, the protest rallies and processions were held in federal and provincial capitals besides different cities, including Rawalpindi, Multan, Faisalabad, Sargodha and Multan, and towns where Ulema and Khatibs in Friday sermons slated the victimisation of JI leaders and workers by the BD government. The biggest demonstration was held in Lahore which was led by central Naib Ameers Maulana Asadullah Bhutto, Hafiz Muhammad Idrees, deputy secretary Dr Farid Paracha, JI Punjab Ameer Azhar Iqbal and others.

JUI-F complains to PM against 'arrogant' Nisar, *The Nation*, November 2¹²

JUI-F ministers expressed their party's reservations over the interior minister's indifference toward the suicide attack on their party chief Fazlur Rehman to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif here on November 1. Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl ministers Akram Durrani and Abdul Ghafoor Haideri held meeting with prime minister at PM House. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar was also present during the meeting. JUI-F ministers complained about, what they termed, rude and arrogant attitude of Interior Minister Ch Nisar Ali Khan,

¹⁰<http://tribune.com.pk/story/798210/balochistan-expected-to-become-first-province-with-lg-system-since-2009/>

¹¹<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-33835-JI-holds-protest-rallies-against-death-sentence-to-BD-chief>

¹² <http://nation.com.pk/islamabad/02-Nov-2014/jui-f-complains-to-pm-against-arrogant-nisar>

who could not even rang their party chief over the suicide attack on him what to speak of taking some tangible measures to nab the culprits.

Police must be stopped from corrupt practices, *The News*, November 2¹³

Parliamentarians blame the police for the flawed system of registration of FIRs and claim no legislation can counter the misreporting and misuse of the existing system until the corrupt practices in the police department are stopped. Besides police officials, Supreme Court judges, prominent lawyers and legal experts, parliamentarians also believe that the FIR registration system needs to be reformed, but it is possible only by enforcing a vigorous system of accountability in the police department. The panel of parliamentarians believes that there is the need for legislation for a vigorous overhauling of the system.

Some elements want to abolish Constitution, *Dawn*, November 4¹⁴

Jamaat-i-Islami emir Sirajul Haq on November 3 claimed that some hidden elements were conspiring to get the 1973 Constitution abolished, as it had declared Ahmadis as non-Muslims. Addressing a public meeting at Khazana here after inaugurating a government higher secondary school, the JI chief said that leaders of Jamaat-i-Islami were being hanged in Bangladesh but the Pakistani government kept a criminal silence over the executions. He demanded of the prime minister to take up the issue with the Bangladeshi government. Sirajul Haq said that the country was passing through a critical period and it was need of the hour that the nation stood united to steer the country out of the quagmire. "The situation in Islamabad is still not stable," he said, adding the government should speed up electoral reforms process.

Pluralism takes a back seat in Lyari, *Dawn*, November 5¹⁵

Lyari Town is largely known for being secular with a multi-ethnic and multi-religious neighbourhood but there is a lot that has changed for the Shia community residing in Kharadar and Mithadar, which were shut on the 9th of Muharram with tents, containers and roadblocks restricting entry of vehicles as people walked towards the Hussainian-i-Iranian Hall an hour before the evening prayers. At least five people belonging to the Shia community have been killed in Mithadar and Moosa Lane, either at their workplace or on the main streets, in the past six months. The families of those killed pursued the cases but later decided to give up as earlier there was no evidence and later nobody wanted to be a witness.

¹³<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-33855-Police-must-be-stopped-from-corrupt-practices-MPs>

¹⁴<http://www.dawn.com/news/1142369/some-elements-want-to-abolish-constitution-claims-siraj>

¹⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1142342/pluralism-takes-a-back-seat-in-lyari>

CEC nominees being kept closer to chest, *The Nation*, November 5¹⁶

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will soon meet Leader of Opposition in National Assembly Syed Khursheed Shah in connection with the appointment of Chief Election Commissioner, the slot without a permanent posting since the resignation of Fakhruddin G Ibrahim in July last year. Sources in the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz informed *The Nation* that in the meeting with Khursheed, the prime minister would likely present three names and then both would evolve consensus on any of these names. They however said the floating of the three-name list would just be a formality as both Nawaz and Khursheed have already decided the person to be made the new CEC. The Supreme Court of Pakistan in its last week's direction to the government had extended the time for the appointment of permanent CEC till the 13th of this month with the caution that in case of failure the court would withdraw its judge functioning as acting CEC.

Tassaduq Jillani, Tariq Pervez main contenders for CEC office, *Dawn*, November 7¹⁷

Former chief justice Tassaduq Hussain Jillani and retired Justice Tariq Pervez Khan have emerged as the most likely contenders for the office of chief election commissioner. The two retired judges topped the list of five candidates whose names came under discussion at a meeting between Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly Khursheed Ahmed Shah November 7. Soon after the meeting, Mr Shah consulted almost all opposition parties on the names of candidates for the key constitutional office. He is scheduled to meet the PTI leadership on November 7. Rejecting a request by Mr Shah for another three months to complete the process of CEC's appointment, the Supreme Court had on Oct 30 ordered that the office be filled by Nov 13; otherwise it would withdraw its judge currently serving as acting CEC.

Hamid Ali Khan appointed as Nacta chief, *The News*, November 10¹⁸

Sources in the Interior Ministry have revealed that the prime minister has approved the name of Hamid Ali Khan, a BS-22 officer of the Pakistan Administrative Service, for appointment as National Coordinator Nacta. The appointment is being seen as another step by the government to reinvigorate the Nacta, by designating a full time chief to the country's premier counter-terrorism authority, says a press release. Hamid Ali Khan is widely regarded as a professional officer with wide-ranging experience, having held key

¹⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/national/04-Nov-2014/cec-nominees-being-kept-closer-to-chest>

¹⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1142805/tassaduq-jillani-tariq-pervez-main-contenders-for-cec-office>

¹⁸ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-33986-Hamid-Ali-Khan-appointed-as-Nacta-chief>

positions in the bureaucracy. Currently, he is performing his duties as Secretary Capital Administration and Development, while his last appointment was as Additional Secretary Ministry of Interior where he was dealing with the capacity building of LEAs, counter terrorism programmes, the FIA and coordinating courses by donor agencies for enhancing the capacity of security agencies in the country.

LHC asks govt to remove Maryam from loan scheme, Dawn, November 12¹⁹

The Lahore High Court gave the federal government on November 11 an opportunity to replace Maryam Nawaz with another individual as chairperson of the Prime Minister Youth Loan Programme. *"The chairperson has to be changed,"* Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah observed during the hearing of a petition filed by Zubair Niazi, a local leader of PTI, against the appointment. The judge, however, said the court was showing grace by giving a chance to the government to change the chairperson in a lawful and transparent manner.

Ashrafi opposes repeal of blasphemy law, Dawn, November 12²⁰

Opposing calls for repealing the blasphemy law, Pakistan Ulema Council chairman Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi has suggested that instead those misusing the law should be given the punishment prescribed for its violators. Referring to IS posters and wall-chalking being reported in suburban areas of the provincial metropolis, he describes it as a reaction to the hoisting of flags of Hizbullah, a pro-Iran militant outfit active in Lebanon, during activities of some parties here. *"The blasphemy law should stay and those proposing its repealing are neither well-wishers of the non-Muslims nor of the country,"* Ashrafi told a training session organised for religious scholars by the council on November 12.

CEC's appointment not possible by SC deadline, Dawn, November 13²¹

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said on November 12 that the appointment of CEC was not possible by the Nov 13 deadline given by the Supreme Court to the government. *"This is not possible by tomorrow. This is very clear,"* he said while addressing a news conference. The minister, who is also head of the parliamentary committee on electoral reforms, said it appeared that a week or 10 days more would be required to complete the process of CEC's appointment. He said the leaders of the house and opposition in the National Assembly had held consultations and tried earnestly to complete the process by Nov 13. He said before going abroad the prime minister had authorised

¹⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1143921/lhc-asks-govt-to-remove-maryam-from-loan-scheme>

²⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1144169/ashrafi-opposes-repeal-of-blasphemy-law>

²¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1144183/cecs-appointment-not-possible-by-sc-deadline-dar>

him (Mr Dar) to remain in touch with the Leader of Opposition Khursheed Shah.

Militants not dangerous to Pakistan should not be targeted: Sartaj, Dawn, November 18²²

Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz on November 17 said that Pakistan should not target militants who do not threaten the country's security. *"Why should America's enemies unnecessarily become our enemies,"* Sartaj Aziz said during an interview with BBC Urdu. *"When the United States attacked Afghanistan, all those that were trained and armed were pushed towards us. Some of them were dangerous for us and some are not. Why must we make enemies out of them all?,"* he said when speaking about the Haqqani Network. He further said that the Afghan Taliban are Afghanistan's problem and Haqqani Network is a part of it. *"It's the job of the Afghan government to negotiate with them...We can try to convince them, however things are not the same as they were in the nineties,"* Aziz said.

Govt may seek more time for CEC's appointment, Dawn, November 24²³

With the third deadline set by the Supreme Court for the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner ending on November 24, the government is reported to have decided to seek more time to fill the key constitutional office lying vacant for over 16 months. According to media that the decision was taken after consultation on phone between Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah who is in London on a private visit. The sources said the government had already informed Attorney General Salman Aslam Butt about the decision and directed him to apprise the court about reasons for not meeting the Nov 24 deadline.

Kalabagh dam won't be allowed whatever the cost, Dawn, November 24²⁴

Awami National Party president Asfandiyar Wali Khan has said that nobody could dare build the controversial Kalabagh dam because it will drown our children and turn the land of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa infertile. He vowed that people would thwart all such moves with full force. Responding to PML-Q leader Chaudhry Pervez Elahi's assertion that building Kalabagh dam is essential to end energy crisis in the country, the ANP chief told a party rally held at Zafar Park here on November 23 that the project entailed destruction

²²<http://www.dawn.com/news/1145135/militants-not-dangerous-to-pakistan-should-not-be-targeted-sartaj>

²³<http://www.dawn.com/news/1146497/govt-may-seek-more-time-for-cecs-appointment>

²⁴<http://www.dawn.com/news/1146543/kalabagh-dam-wont-be-allowed-whatever-the-cost-anp>

for the entire Pakhtun population and wouldn't be allowed at any cost. The reservoir, he said, would submerge cultivable lands of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Jamaat moot reinforces its pro-Jihad agenda, *The News*, November 24²⁵

The Jamaat-e-Islami leadership's latest call for promoting the culture of jihad and 'Qitaal Fi Sabeel Allah' (killing in the way of Allah) to overcome the present challenges confronted by Pakistan has only reinvigorated the pro-jihad agenda of the Islamist party. The JI had earlier kicked off a controversy in November 2013 when a key party leader dubbed terrorists being killed by Pakistani soldiers martyrs besides questioning the sacrifices rendered by the security forces personnel who are laying down their lives in the line of duty. Addressing the three-day congregation of JI at Minar-e-Pakistan on November 22, the ex-Jamaat ameer Munawar Hassan ruled out the resolution of issues through democratic disposition and instead called for waging jihad or holy war, being the fundamental principle of Islam.

AZADI MARCH

People have rejected sit-in politics, *The News*, November 1²⁶

Renowned lawyer and former president Supreme Court Bar Association, Asma Jahangir, said 31 October people had rejected the politics of sit-in. Talking to media after SCBA election here, Asma said lawyers' community would continue playing its positive role in strengthening the democratic system in the country. At the same time, she said, lawyers would also maintain their bars independence. Asma said Independent Group had won five elections consecutively which was a proof of the lawyer community's trust in its policies and working. To a question, Asma said that though former chief justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry had retired, still there were some judges who wanted to be in the headlines. To a question, she said that some issues related to courts needed review. She said some judges had made a club of their own which not only meddled in bar's matters but also engaged in matters beyond their ambit.

Pervaiz asks Imran not to force his MPs to resign, *The News*, November 2²⁷

Federal Minister for Information Senator Pervaiz Rashid on November 1 advised the PTI Chairman Imran Khan against pressurising his legislators to tender resignations and asked him to allow Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Arif Alvi and Shafqat Mehmood to resume their dialogue with the government.

²⁵<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-286161-Jamaat-moot-reinforces-its-pro-Jihad-agenda>

²⁶<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-33842-People-have-rejected-sit-in-politics-Asma>

²⁷<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-33859-Pervaiz-asks-Imran-not-to-force-his-MPs-to-resign>

Talking to media persons here, the minister said the government was ready to resume its dialogue with the PTI with sincerity and asked Imran Khan to let his team proceed with the exercise. Imran has repeatedly said whatever the negotiating committees do, he will not move from the sit-in unless the prime minister steps down. The minister noted that while Imran described others as monarchs, he himself makes decisions like dictators.

Politics of Dharnas are economic terrorism, *The Nation*, November 4²⁸

Minister for Development and Planning Ahsan Iqbal has said politics of Dharnas is economic terrorism as these are causing severe setback to farmers, laborers and country's exports. He opined that sit in at Islamabad was inflicting loss of billions of rupees to the national economy. He said that Imran Khan was afraid of 2018 general elections, as a number of development projects undertaken will be completed by then and this will boost the popularity of PML-N. He observed that Moody, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and other international institutions had praised Pakistan's performance last year and according to them the country was heading towards right direction. The image of the country that is being shown by Imran Khan's Dharnahas harmed the country, he said.

Change of mind: Defection of Siraj lends credence to PTI's claims, says Alvi, *The Express Tribune*, November 7²⁹

The issue of en masse versus individual verification of resignations submitted by PTI lawmakers in the National Assembly took a new turn on November 6 after PTI MNA Siraj Khan wrote to the NA speaker claiming he had not tendered his resignation voluntarily. The PTI and the government both claim that this serves to vindicate their respective stances on the matter. Siraj Muhammad Khan, won from NA-6 (Nowshera II) with 54,266 votes in the 2013 general elections. He submitted his resignation from the National Assembly, along with 22 other lawmakers of the PTI, on August 22. On Thursday, he wrote to National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq informing him that he had not submitted his resignation of his own volition and asked the speaker not to accept his resignation. Sadiq accepted Khan's application

Hashmi terms Nov 7 important day in history, *Dawn*, November 8³⁰

Veteran politician Javed Hashmi said Nov 7 was an important day in the country's history as the forces that had created a (political) crisis in the

²⁸<http://nation.com.pk/national/04-Nov-2014/politics-of-dharnas-are-economic-terrorism-ahsan-iqbal>

²⁹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/787019/change-of-mind-defection-of-siraj-lends-credence-to-ptis-claims-says-alvi/>

³⁰<http://www.dawn.com/news/1143028/hashmi-terms-nov-7-important-day-in-history>

country had failed in their designs. He said the army and its chief had played their role to save democracy but there were 'certain forces' that created problems. "*The (political) crisis in Pakistan is over after Nov 7; however, there is need to keep an eye on post-Nov 7 situation as this crisis could re-emerge in the future as well,*" he said. Hashmi said some people had tried to use the Supreme Court and army for their conspiracies and he (Hashmi) had also informed Imran Khan about it, adding that he had asked Khan to avoid such people as achieving the targets, set by the party, in their presence was impossible. To strengthen the political system and democracy, there was need to strengthen the political parties, including the PTI, he said.

Chinese five times contacted PTI to end sit-in for President Xi visit, *The Nation*, November 10³¹

Chinese officials in Pakistan had contacted PTI leaders five times to convince them to end protest sit-in for the visit of the Chinese President Xi Jinping in September, Chinese sources privy to the contacts here have said. President's Xi, who was scheduled to visit Islamabad in mid-September, had to postpone the visit over the sit-ins by the PTI and Pakistan Awami Tehrik. The Chinese diplomats had also contacted Shaikh Rashid of the All Pakistan Muslim League and the PML-Q leaders to help in paving the way for the "*very important visit*" of the Chinese President; however, all these efforts met with a failure, the sources told media persons who accompanied a Pakistani parliamentary delegation.

Imran wants ISI, MI role in poll rigging inquiry, *Dawn*, November 10³²

Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan came up with a unique idea on November 9, suggesting that representatives from the Inter-Services Intelligence and Military Intelligence should sit on a Supreme Court commission to investigate alleged riggings in last year's general elections. The head of the commission should be decided by the government and the PTI, he declared. The commission should be formed by Nov 30 and it should finalise its findings within six weeks. Addressing a large public meeting on the lawns of Khawaja Fareed College in Rahimyar Khan, the PTI chief said: "*If the rigging is proved by the commission, Nawaz Sharif should resign and new elections be held under a free and fair election commission.*" He said his party did not trust former chief justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani because he was not impartial and that was why the PTI had suggested the name of retired Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid for the post of chief election commissioner. Four other members of the ECP should also resign, he demanded.

³¹<http://nation.com.pk/national/09-Nov-2014/chinese-five-times-contacted-pti-to-end-sit-in-for-president-xi-visit>

³² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1143447/imran-wants-isi-mi-role-in-poll-rigging-inquiry>

PTI clarifies stance on MI, ISI role in 'rigging', Dawn, November 12³³

The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf's spin doctors spent the day of 11 November on trying to explain their party chairman's statement regarding the role of the ISI and MI in the proposed judicial commission the PTI wants to investigate election results. After taking flak from his detractors for suggesting the inclusion of ISI and MI officials in the investigation of alleged rigging in the 2013 elections, which the PTI had been demanding for the past year, the party's spokesperson also lashed out at critics. PTI information secretary Dr Shireen Mazari issued a detailed press statement explaining what Imran Khan meant when he recommended that the ISI and MI should be part of the inquiry if the government agreed to constitute a judicial commission under the Supreme Court. Dr Mazari regretted that regardless of the detailed explanation that Mr Khan gave after his speech at Sunday's rally in Rahimyar Khan, *"the government is indulging in a dangerous game of misrepresentation and black propaganda"*.

PTI chief dares govt to arrest him, Dawn, November 13³⁴

Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan said on November 12 that he would not seek bail from the anti-terrorism court which earlier in the day issued his arrest warrants for attacking the Parliament House and the PTV building on Sept 1. Addressing the participants of his party's sit-in at D Chowk, the PTI chief challenged the government to arrest him. *"I have just heard the good news about my arrest warrant. I want to make it clear that I was sleeping in the container on that day,"* he said.

PM says sit-ins have shaken investors' confidence, Dawn, November 13³⁵

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said that economic progress and prosperity in Pakistan will help address energy, terrorism and other issues. Talking to journalists on his arrival here from Berlin on Wednesday, he said sit-ins had affected economy and shaken investors' confidence and leaders from China, Sri Lanka, Qatar and Maldives had to postpone their visits. Answering a question about PTI demand for inclusion of representatives from intelligence agencies in the proposed Supreme Court commission to investigate alleged rigging in last year's general elections, the prime minister said politicians should not make such demands. The issue should be resolved according to the criteria given in the constitution.

³³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1143934/pti-clarifies-stance-on-mi-isi-role-in-rigging-inquiry>

³⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1144184/pti-chief-dares-govt-to-arrest-him>

³⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1144113/pm-says-sit-ins-have-shaken-investors-confidence>

Imran accused of collaborating with 'terrorists', Dawn, November 14³⁶

As the PTI prepares to bring the government to a grinding halt on Nov 30, the ruling party has accused Imran Khan of collaborating with "terrorist groups" in a bid to create lawlessness in the country. But Information Minister Pervaiz Rashid, who levelled the allegation at a press conference at the Press Information Department on November 16, did not explain who these terrorist outfits were. He simply said, "We have credible information the PTI leadership has now outsourced the task of creating a law and order situation during its Nov 30 rally in the capital." When asked to elaborate, the minister stuck to recounting how PTI workers, in collaboration with activists of the PAT and armed with iron cutters and cranes, had broken into the Red Zone and later attacked the PTV building and even stormed the lawns of Parliament House.

Nawaz paid IB Rs270 crore to sabotage protests, Dawn, November 17³⁷

PTI chairman Imran Khan on November 16 said that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif gave the Intelligence Bureau Rs270 crore to sabotage his protest movement. The PTI chairman made the allegation while addressing party supporters during a rally in Jhelum. During his speech, Imran Khan also alleged that the PM gave the bureau the above mentioned money, to buy journalists and media houses. "Where did all this money come from?" the PTI chief asked. "This is the public's money which is being used," he said. During the speech Imran Khan spoke about the attack on PTI supporters earlier in the day and said that the government was using heavy handed tactics against his party workers.

Govt looking to frustrate PTI's Nov 30 show, Dawn, November 19³⁸

With less than two weeks to go before PTI promised landmark rally in the capital on Nov 30, the government seems determined to frustrate the protesters' plans. During a number of meetings and consultations with senior aides on November 18, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his cabinet discussed ways to keep the protesting parties at bay. These concerns were also among the main points of discussion at Monday's PTI core committee meeting. Unlike the Azadi March of August, many within the party fear that this time the government will not allow party workers to reach D-Chowk unhindered.

³⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1145009/imran-accused-of-collaborating-with-terrorists>

³⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1144891/nawaz-paid-ib-rs270-crore-to-sabotage-protests-imran>

³⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1145417/govt-looking-to-frustrate-ptis-nov-30-show>

Pakistanis must stand up for their rights on Nov 30, Dawn, November 24³⁹

Addressing a public gathering on November 23 PTI Chairman Imran Khan claimed that the people of Pakistan have rejected the ruling government and want change in the country. He said that the people of Pakistan have to rise up for their rights on November 30, when the PTI hold their rally in Islamabad. *"On 30 Nov it will be decided if the status quo will succeed or whether there will be a new Pakistan,"* he said. Khan said there is great political awareness among the people, who have rejected the status quo. *"When the youth and women of a country decide for change, no power on earth can stop it,"* he said. The PTI chief said that the whole nation was now demanding Nawaz Sharif's resignation, adding that his party has exposed the rigging carried out by the PML-N during the May 2013 General Elections.

Govt to give PTI a run for its money, Dawn, November 26⁴⁰

Federal Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan and Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif met here on November 25 to finalise the government's strategy to deal with the rally the PTI plans to hold in Islamabad on Nov 30. A source in the ruling PML-N said the two leaders resolved that the PTI would not be given a *"free hand"* to hold an impressive show in the federal capital. *"They decided on a strategy under which the opposition party will be allowed to hold the rally, but certain tactics will be employed to stop its workers and supporters from reaching the venue,"* the source said. Mr Sharif and Mr Khan later attended a meeting, which was also attended by other PML-N leaders and top administration officials.

PPP opts for discretion amid PTI's Nov 30 plan, Dawn, November 28⁴¹

The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf's Nov 30 rally in Islamabad has 'forced' PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to cancel his scheduled visit to Lahore to attend his party's Foundation Day. Bilawal's decision has disappointed the party workers, who are reaching the Bilawal House, Lahore from across the country to mark the party's 46th Foundation Day on Nov 30. *"Mr Bilawal will skip the party's Foundation Day event for two reasons. First, he is advised that his Lahore show on Nov 30 is likely to be overshadowed by Imran Khan's Islamabad rally, which will be the main event of the day and the centre of the media's attention. Second, Mr Bilawal's elders think that he should not be in the country on Nov 30 as any untoward incident on the day may create circumstances not suitable to him,"* a source told Dawn.

³⁹<http://www.dawn.com/news/1146368/pakistanis-must-stand-up-for-their-rights-on-nov-30-imran>

⁴⁰<http://www.dawn.com/news/1146990/govt-to-give-pti-a-run-for-its-money>

⁴¹<http://www.dawn.com/news/1147474/nov-30-ppp-opts-for-discretion-amid-ptis-insistence-on-valour>

FOREIGN POLICY

China's role in Afghan peace process endorsed, *The News*, November 1⁴²

Pakistan fully supported China's constructive contribution and five-point proposal envisaged by Premier Li Keqiang for Afghanistan's peace and economic development. This was stated by the Adviser to Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz while addressing the fourth ministerial conference on the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process held in Beijing on October 31. The ministerial conference is a powerful illustration of the international community's commitment to support Afghanistan in its quest for peace, progress and prosperity. Sartaj Aziz said that the Heart of Asia process had evolved into an important platform for collective endeavors in support of Afghanistan's stabilisation. Pakistan's involvement with the six CBMs was a manifestation of its abiding interest in promoting the shared goals of stability and prosperity in the Heart of Asia, through constructive regional cooperation.

Sartaj Aziz meets Iranian FM Javad Zarif, *The News*, November 1⁴³

Adviser to Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz on October 31 met with the Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif on the sidelines of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process conference hosted by China. Both the adviser and foreign minister discussed the bilateral relations and were of the view that economic and trade relations would be further strengthened when the next Joint Economic Commission meeting takes place in Islamabad in 2015. They maintained that a number of high level visits envisaged between the two countries would also reinforce these ties.

Chinese President to visit Pakistan soon, *The Express Tribune*, November 4⁴⁴

As the government anxiously waits for Chinese president Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan, Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Lui Jiancho said Xi will visit the country on agreed dates. The Chinese president's visit was postponed in September reportedly due to security concerns. The government blamed anti-government sit-ins in Islamabad for the delay while PTA chief Tahirul Qadri and PTI chief Imran Khan laid the blame squarely on the government. Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Liu Jianchao, while talking to a Pakistani delegation in Beijing, said China will continue to maintain strategic

⁴²<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-33844-Pakistan-fully-supports-Chinas-contribution-to-Afghan-peace-process>

⁴³<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-33845-Sartaj-Aziz-meets-Iranian-Foreign-Minister-Javad-Zarif>

⁴⁴<http://tribune.com.pk/story/785919/chinese-president-to-visit-pakistan-on-agreed-dates-assistant-foreign-minister/>

partnership with Pakistan. He said Chinese leadership is also eager to receive Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in his upcoming visit to China.

Qatar important for Pakistan, *The Nation*, November 7⁴⁵

President Mamnoon Hussain has commended the ambassadorial services of Sayar Abdul Rahman J. Al-Mawdah, Ambassador of Qatar in Pakistan, for providing further impetus to Pakistan-Qatar bilateral ties during his four and a half years stay in Pakistan, after the outgoing ambassador paid a farewell call on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr on November 6. Discussing Pakistan-Qatar bilateral relations, the president said that Pakistan attached great importance to its close and cordial relations with Qatar and wished to further strengthen cooperation in all fields of mutual interests including trade and defence. The president expressed hope that Qatari Investment Authority would invest in different sectors of Pakistani economy by taking advantage of its lucrative business and investor friendly policies.

Sharif heading for China after Xi's cancelled trip, *Dawn*, November 7⁴⁶

To make up for the Chinese president's cancelled trip to Pakistan, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will be heading to China on November 7 to sign projects worth \$35 to \$40 billion. Following his two-day China visit, the PM will also make brief trips to Germany and the United Kingdom. Dr Mussadiq Malik the newly-appointed spokesperson for the PM told the media that the visits were aimed at rebuilding investor confidence, visibly shaken by the ongoing political crisis in the country. "Whatever investment the Chinese will be making as a result of these projects will not be a loan to the government of Pakistan," Mr Malik was at pains to state in his first interaction with the media. The Chinese have agreed to provide this money directly to the companies investing, he said. However, the PTI leadership contends that this money is coming in the form of loans rather than investment.

Pakistan will help China fight Xinjiang militants, *The News*, November 8⁴⁷

Pakistan will help China with its fight against extremists which Beijing says are active in its unruly far western region of Xinjiang, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said on November 8 during a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping. China blames the East Turkestan Islamic Movement for carrying out attacks in Xinjiang, home to the Muslim Uighur people, though many foreign experts doubt the group's existence in a cohesive group. China, Pakistan's only major ally in the region, has long urged Islamabad to weed out what it

⁴⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/islamabad/07-Nov-2014/qatar-important-for-pakistan-mamnoon>

⁴⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1142793/sharif-heading-for-china-to-compensate-for-cancelled-trip>

⁴⁷ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-165087-Pakistan-says-will-help-China-fight-Xinjiang-militants>

says are militants from Xinjiang, who are holed up in a lawless tribal belt, home to a lethal mix of militant groups, including the Taliban and al- Qaeda.

Pakistan, China ink 19 agreements, Dawn, November 8⁴⁸

Pakistan and China on Saturday signed 19 agreements and MoUs to further boost the bilateral ties between the two countries in various fields, including energy and basic infrastructure sectors. A meeting between Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang was held in Beijing. Both the leaders discussed bilateral relations and the regional situation. The agreements signed between the two countries include solar power production at Quaid-e Azam Solar Park, easy loan for laying optic fibre between the two countries, mining of 65,00,000 metric tons of coal in Thar Block-2, 870 MW Sukhi Kinari hydropower project, 1320 MW Sahiwal power project and MoU for 100 MW Jhimpir wind power project. An agreement was also signed to establish an Industrial Park in Faisalabad. The two countries also inked an agreement for economic and technical cooperation between the two countries.

Returned from China, Nawaz heads to Berlin, Dawn, November 10⁴⁹

Only a day after returning from the four-day official visit to China, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is now leaving for Berlin on November 10 for another official visit. *"Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif is going to visit the Federal Republic of Germany from 10-11 November at the invitation of German Chancellor Angela Merkel,"* said Tasneem Aslam spokesperson of Foreign Office in a statement. Aslam said that during the visit, the Prime Minister would hold talks with Chancellor Merkel which will be followed by an official lunch. He will then meet President of the German Bundestag (Parliament) and also address a business forum organised by the Pakistan Board of Investment, which is expected to be attended by a large number of German business executives and investors. *"Pakistan and Germany enjoy close and cordial relations. Germany is Pakistan's fourth largest trading partner globally and the largest in the European Union. Pakistan's bilateral trade with Germany stands at US\$ 2.5 billion annually. The two countries have strong collaboration in various other fields,"* she said.

Pak-China accords to provide one million jobs, The News, November 10⁵⁰

According to Nawaz Sharief Pakistan-China economic corridor projects have far reaching consequences for Pakistan's economy. These projects will be source of employment for over a million youth of Pakistan. Pak-China

⁴⁸<http://www.dawn.com/news/1143111/pakistan-china-ink-19-agreements-in-energy-basic-infrastructure>

⁴⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1143351/returned-from-china-nawaz-heads-to-berlin>

⁵⁰<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-33970-Pak-China-accords-to-provide-one-million-jobs>

cooperation will also create business opportunities for local and international efforts. The momentous agreements/MOUs will be signed between Pakistan and China ON November 10 covering 21 mega projects which attract investment of over \$46 billion in Pakistan. The historic ceremony will take place in Great Hall, Beijing. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will sign the agreements on behalf of Pakistan. It will be Pakistan's biggest foreign economic investment agreement in country's history. The prime minister has termed the agreements as game changer since his visit is viewed as prosperity and power specific.

Pres. Ghani seeks good relations with Pakistan, *The News*, November 10⁵¹

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani wants to build real and honest cooperation and friendship with Pakistan during his visit to Islamabad later this week his spokesman was quoted as saying in a dispatch published in the Wall Street Journal on November 9. Reporting from Kabul the newspaper said the visit was aimed at resetting ties with Pakistan. Nazifullah Salarzai the Afghan president's spokesman said the Afghan leader would visit Pakistan this week for an official meeting with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. While officials are completing the agenda Salarzai added the talks will focus on bolstering economic ties and security cooperation. Afghanistan wants to have real and honest cooperation and friendship with this neighbouring country, Salarzai said. *"As the president has said we have this window of opportunity. We want this window to be transformed into a door then into a corridor and then into a highway."*

Germany eyes energy investments in Pakistan, *Dawn*, November 11⁵²

During the press conference, Angela Merkel said Germany is looking to increase its investments in Pakistan, especially in the energy sector, provided the conditions are right. Merkel said Germany's KfW state development bank was already involved in projects in Pakistan including hydro power plants, but added that the security situation was sometimes a deterrent. *"We can look at intensifying these (investments), as long as the conditions are right,"* Merkel told the joint news conference. Nawaz said that German companies had shown plenty of interest in his country's energy sector.

President Ghani in Pakistan on a two-day visit, *Dawn*, November 14⁵³

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani arrived in Islamabad on November 14 for a two-day visit to the country. He arrived at the Nur Khan airbase where he was received by Advisor to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs and National

⁵¹<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-165272-Afghan-president-seeks-good-relations-with-Pakistan->

⁵² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1143779/courageous-malala-is-the-identity-of-pakistan-merkel>

⁵³<http://www.dawn.com/news/1144446/afghan-president-ashraf-ghani-in-pakistan-for-two-day-visit>

Security Sartaj Aziz. Ghani was accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising senior leaders, cabinet ministers, high-ranking officials and business representatives. Ghani is scheduled to hold a meeting with President Mamnoon Hussain on November 14 and another meeting with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on November 15. Pakistan is one of the first countries President Ghani, who was sworn in in September, has chosen to visit. He earlier toured Saudi Arabia and China. Ghani's visit is being regarded as a two-day fence-mending mission.

Afghan President Ghani visits GHQ, *The News*, November 14⁵⁴

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani who is on a two-day official visit to Pakistan visited the GHQ on November 14. The Afghan president was accompanied by Defence Minister General Bismillah Muhammadi, Afghan Chief of General Staff, General Sher Muhammad Karimi, senior ministers and Afghan security officials. According to an ISPR press release, the Afghan president was received by COAS General Raheel Sharif and was presented a guard of honour by a contingent of the Pakistan Army. Afghan President, Ashraf Ghani appreciated Pakistan's efforts to fight terrorism and sacrifices rendered by the nation. He said that Afghanistan wants to bolster security and defence ties with Pakistan including cooperation in training and border management. He also assured of Afghan cooperation to jointly curb the menace of terrorism.

Russian defence minister due on 20 November, *Dawn*, November 20⁵⁵

Russian Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu will visit Islamabad on November 20 for talks with Pakistani leadership on strengthening defence cooperation and sale of military equipment. This will be the first visit to Pakistan by a Russian defence minister in recent past. The minister, according to a source, would stay in Islamabad for a few hours before returning to Moscow. Neither side has publicly announced the visit. A defence ministry official said the two sides would discuss full spectrum of defence collaboration during Mr Shoigu's visit.

'Milestone' military cooperation pact with Russia, *Dawn*, November 21⁵⁶

Pakistan and Russia signed a "milestone" military cooperation pact on November 20 aimed at bringing peace and stability in the region, Islamabad's defence ministry said. The agreement was signed during a meeting by Russian Defence Minister General Sergei Shoigu, who is on a day-long official visit to Pakistan, with his counterpart Khawaja Asif. " *The signing of the military*

⁵⁴ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-165715-Afghan-President-Ghani-visits-GHQ>

⁵⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1145701/russian-defence-minister-due-today>

⁵⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1145786/milestone-military-cooperation-pact-signed-with-russia>

cooperation agreement between the two significant countries of the region is a milestone," Asif said after the signing ceremony in a ministry statement. "Both sides will translate this relationship in tangible terms and further strengthen military to military relations," Asif added. The pair expressed hope that the agreement will pave the way for exchange of views and information, as well as issues related to strengthening of mutual trust and international security, counter-terrorist and arms control activities. "The first ever visit of the defence minister from Russian Federation has come at a very critical juncture when US led Nato forces are drawing down from Afghanistan by the end of 2014," the statement said.

Sharif speaks to Ghani about suicide attack, Dawn, November 25⁵⁷

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif called Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on November 24 and conveyed deep sympathy and condolences over the loss of precious lives in a suicide attack in Afghanistan on November 23. The prime minister condemned the deplorable and cowardly act. While conveying Pakistan's solidarity with the brotherly Afghan people, Mr Sharif expressed the confidence that through joint efforts Pakistan and Afghanistan would succeed in rooting out terrorism. Over 50 people were killed and nearly 60 others injured when a suicide blast ripped through crowds at a volleyball game in the eastern Afghan province of Paktika, the deadliest attack in the country since 2001.

Washington not a reliable friend, Dawn, November 26⁵⁸

The uneasy truth of Pakistan's less-than-trusting relationship with the US was acknowledged by a key member of the federal cabinet on November 25 when Defence Minister Khawaja Asif drew a large question mark on the reliability of Washington as a friend of Pakistan. "The Americans have been our friends for a long time – since the 60s and the 70s – but their reliability is relative," he told a packed audience at the Institute of Strategic Studies. He did not stop there. "American foreign policy has been disastrous for this region," he said, referring to South Asia and the Middle East, adding that, "for all times to come, the geography of this region has been changed". Mr Asif warned that Pakistan had to be very careful. "We are still paying the price for our intervention in Afghanistan. The disintegration of this region on sectarian and ethnic lines is in process."

Iran would not terminate gas deal with Pakistan, The Nation, November 27⁵⁹

Iran's oil minister has rejected speculations that Iran would withdraw from gas deal with Pakistan. Bijan Namdar Zanganeh told reporters that Iran was prepared to start its gas exports to Pakistan. "Pakistan has signed a deal to

⁵⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1146737/sharif-speaks-to-ghani-about-suicide-attack>

⁵⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1146987/washington-not-a-reliable-friend-asif>

⁵⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/business/27-Nov-2014/iran-would-not-terminate-gas-deal-with-pakistan-minister>

import 21.5 million cubic meters of natural gas daily from Iran and by the beginning of 2015, it should start receiving this amount of gas according to agreement," he said. However, Pakistani officials had ascribed their failure in construction of even single cubic meters of gas pipeline in their soil to international sanctions, and according to provisions signed in the agreement, it would pay US\$3 million to Iran in compensation for each day delay in its pipeline inauguration. Oil ministry officials still have not commented about Pakistani side's claims. Amid uncertainties in construction of pipeline, experts from both sides have speculated that the gas deal would be suspended, which Zanganeh rejected, saying that Iran's daily production of natural gas increased 100 million cubic meters, bordering 600 million cubic meters daily.

MILITARY AFFAIRS

PNS Alamgir to participate in joint naval exercise in Turkey, *The Express Tribune*, November 4⁶⁰

Pakistan Navy Ship Alamgir (FFG-260) will participate in the Mavi Balina-14 joint naval exercise in Turkey from November 6-15. From Pakistan, the Oliver Hazard Perry class frigate PNS Alamgir (FFG-8), ship-borne anti-submarine helicopter Z9EC and a P3C-Orion aircraft, will participate in the exercises. PNS Alamgir will also visit Aksaz Naval Base Marmaris and Antalya harbour, Turkey as part of the exercise from November 6-15 and will participate in a joint Turkish Navy exercise named Mavi Balina-14. Mavi Balina is evolving into a common forum for both Western and Eastern nations, to share, discuss and propose solutions for collaborative maritime security. Pakistan navy will also participate in the Aman-15 exercise from February 2015. Navies from 72 countries have been invited to participate in the exercise.

Army chief's meeting with Ghani on positive note, *The Nation*, November 6⁶¹

Army chief General Raheel Sharif met Afghan president Ashraf Ghani on November 6 during his maiden visit to the neighboring country, according to the Inter Services Public Relations. DG ISPR General Asim Bajwa tweeted that the meeting between the army chief and Ghani ended on a "*great deal of good will and positivity*." General Raheel will now continue his meetings with the Afghan national security adviser and Chief Executive Officer Dr Abdullah Abdullah. The army chief's visit marks the first high-profile visit from Islamabad since the formation of unity government in Afghanistan. During the day-long trip, which comes ahead of President Ghani's visit to Islamabad,

⁶⁰<http://tribune.com.pk/story/786028/pns-alamgir-to-participate-in-aman-15-naval-exercise-in-turkey/>

⁶¹<http://nation.com.pk/national/06-Nov-2014/army-chief-s-meeting-with-afghan-president-ends-on-positive-note-ispr>

the army chief is expected to assure the Afghan leadership that Pakistan was ready to open a new chapter in its relationship. An official said, "We are ready to work with the new Afghan government. The two neighbors can bury the past and enter into a new partnership agreement."

Offer to train Afghan troops renewed, *Dawn*, November 7⁶²

Army Chief Gen Raheel Sharif renewed on November 6 Pakistan's offer to train Afghan security forces and promised weapons for an infantry brigade. The offer was made during Gen Sharif's day-long visit to Kabul for meetings with new Afghan civil leadership and military commanders. The Army chief met President Ashraf Ghani, CEO Abdullah Abdullah, NSA Hanif Atmar, Defence Minister Gen Bismillah Muhammadi, and Afghan Chief of General Staff, Gen Sher Muhammad Karimi. This was Gen Sharif's first visit to Kabul since the formation of the new government. The visit precedes his visit to the United States from Nov 16 and Afghan President Ghani's upcoming visit to Pakistan later this month. "General Raheel Sharif offered full range of training courses and facilities in Pakistan's training institutions to Afghan security forces," ISPR said in a statement issued from Rawalpindi.

Commander Jordanian Navy arrives in Pakistan, *The Nation*, November 7⁶³

Commander Royal Jordanian Naval Forces Brigadier General Qasem Fadeel Nahar Tanashat has arrived on a 5-day official visit to Pakistan. According to Pakistan Navy, Jordanian Naval Forces Commander is visiting Pakistan on the invitation of Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Zakauallah. Upon his arrival at Naval Headquarters, the Jordanian Naval Forces Commander was received by the Chief of the Naval Staff. A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Navy clad in ceremonial dress, presented him the Guard of Honour. The visiting dignitary was then introduced to Principal Staff Officers at Naval Headquarters.

Rizwan Akhtar takes over as ISI chief, *Dawn*, November 8⁶⁴

Lt Gen Rizwan Akhtar took over on Friday as the head of powerful ISI, succeeding retired Lt Gen Zaheerul Islam. "Gen Akhtar has taken over as the next director general of ISI," a military official confirmed the change at ISI headquarters, commonly known as Aabpara. Gen Akhtar, known to be a close ally of Army Chief Gen Raheel Sharif, was named as director general of the ISI by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in September, more than a month in advance, in an attempt to avoid controversy over the appointment at a time when civil-military relationship was passing through a critical phase.

⁶² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1142808/offer-to-train-afghan-troops-renewed>

⁶³ <http://nation.com.pk/islamabad/07-Nov-2014/commander-jordanian-naval-forces-arrives-in-pakistan>

⁶⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1143050/rizwan-akhtar-takes-over-as-isi-chief>

COAS opens trade corridor in SWA, *The Nation*, November 10⁶⁵

Chief of the Army Staff General Raheel Sharif has said that development and public welfare projects in FATA would help improve the quality of life in tribal areas and address the problem of militancy on long-term basis. General Raheel said this while addressing tribal elders at the inaugural ceremony of an important section of upcoming Central Trade Corridor in South Waziristan Agency on November 9. The CTC is a strategic road link to facilitate trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan, and will directly and indirectly help revive local economy of FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The 705-km long road network of an international standard through southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA, the CTC is being built by the Army engineers and funded by friendly countries.

Hasham made vice chief of naval staff, *The Nation*, November 10⁶⁶

President of Pakistan has appointed Vice Admiral Khan Hasham Bin Saddique as Vice Chief of the Naval Staff with immediate effect, said a notification issued here on Sunday. Vice Admiral Khan Hasham Bin Saddique was commissioned in the Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in June 1980. He undertook initial training at Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth, UK. On commissioning, the officer won the coveted Sword of Honour from Pakistan Naval Academy. He got his early education from prestigious PAF College Sargodha and FSc from Cadet College, Petaro.

Gen Sharif praises ISI, *Dawn*, November 12⁶⁷

Ahead of his trip to the US, Army Chief Gen Raheel Sharif has praised "sacrifices" rendered by premier intelligence agency —ISI — for the defence of the country. On October 11, during his first visit to the agency's headquarters since the change in its command, Gen Sharif "appreciated the role played by the ISI for national security and lauded the contributions and sacrifices of its officers and men towards strengthening the defence of the motherland", the ISPR said. ISPR said the army chief was given a detailed briefing about the "internal and external security situation". A picture released by ISPR showed ISI director-general Lt Gen Rizwan Akhtar briefing the army chief.

Pakistan test fires Shaheen-II ballistic missile, *Daily Times*, November 14⁶⁸

Pakistan on November 13 conducted a successful training launch of Shaheen-II (Hatf-VI) ballistic missile. The launch was the culminating point of the field training exercise of the ASFC which was aimed to ensure operational

⁶⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/10-Nov-2014/coas-opens-trade-corridor-in-swa>

⁶⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/islamabad/10-Nov-2014/hasham-made-vice-chief-of-naval-staff>

⁶⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1143941/gen-sharif-praises-isi>

⁶⁸ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/14-Nov-2014/pakistan-test-fires-shaheen-ii-ballistic-missile>

readiness of a strategic missile group and re-validate different design and technical parameters of the weapon system. Shaheen-II missile is capable of carrying nuclear and conventional warhead to a range of 1,500 kilometres. The launch, having its impact point in the Arabian Sea, was witnessed by Strategic Plans Division Director General Lieutenant General Zubair Mahmood Hayat, ASFC Commander Lieutenant General Obaid Ullah Khan, NESCOM Chairman Muhammad Irfan Burney, senior officers from the strategic forces and scientists of strategic organisations, according to a statement released by ISPR. Strategic Plans Division Director General Lt Gen Zubair Mahmood Hayat congratulated the participant troops and scientists on achieving another milestone towards consolidation of full spectrum credible minimum deterrence.

Gen Raheel lands in US on 7-day visit, *The Nation*, November 16⁶⁹

Army Chief General Raheel Sharif arrived in the US on November 16 on a week-long visit for talks on security and defence issues, the Pakistani Embassy in Washington said. Security in Afghanistan is likely to be a major subject of discussion in his meetings with senior US military leaders including Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey and leaders of the Central Command at a time of growing convergences of views between Pakistan and the United States. The visit comes just two days after the army chief met Afghan President Ashraf Ghani during his Pakistan visit at the weekend. The US has welcomed the Afghan President's visit to Pakistan.

Raheel Sharif meets Centcom commander, *Dawn*, November 17⁷⁰

Chief of the Army Staff General Raheel Sharif, during his visit to the United States on November 16 met with US Central Command (Centcom) Commander Gen Lloyd J. Austin III. During the meeting, the army chief discussed the operation conducted against militants by the Pakistan Army and the success achieved so far. General Austin commended the efforts made by the Pakistan Army and acknowledged the success achieved during Operation *Zarb-i-Azb*.

Kabul to dismantle TTP safe havens, *The Express Tribune*, November 17⁷¹

The new administration in Kabul has assured Pakistan that it will take action against alleged sanctuaries of the TTP and its affiliates on the Afghan soil in a significant move which suggests increased anti-terror cooperation between the two neighbours. The assurance came from President Ashraf Ghani during

⁶⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/17-Nov-2014/gen-raheel-lands-in-us-on-7-day-visit>

⁷⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1144947/coas-raheel-sharif-meets-centcom-commander-during-us-trip>

⁷¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/792251/shift-in-afghan-approach-kabul-promised-to-dismantle-ttp-safe-havens/>

his talks with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and army chief General Raheel Sharif in his just-concluded maiden trip to Islamabad, officials familiar with the development. A security official while speaking on condition of anonymity said there was a visible shift in Afghanistan's approach since the new government took over in September this year. "We have had very frank and candid discussions with the Afghan president and he agreed that terrorist sanctuaries will be dismantled on the Afghan side of the border," he disclosed.

COAS discusses Afghanistan with CENTCOM officials, Daily Times, November 18⁷²

Chief of Army CENTCOM officials and discussed the situation in Afghanistan and ongoing military operation in North Waziristan. Sources said General Raheel visited CENTCOM on November 16 and met Commander Gen Lloyd J Austin and other military officials. In the meeting, COAS General Raheel apprised the CENTCOM officials over the ongoing military operation *Zarb-e-Azb* against Taliban and the logistics needed for it in North Waziristan. The two military leaders also deliberated on the situation likely to arise after US withdrawal from Afghanistan and future of proposed plan on border surveillance. General Raheel also apprised US officials about Pakistan's concerns over terrorists' sanctuaries in Afghanistan. In the meeting Director General Military Operations Major General Riaz was also present.

US terms Gen Sharif's visit productive, positive, The Nation, November 18⁷³

Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif has had a series of productive and positive" meetings with high-level US officials at Central Command headquarters in Tampa, Florida, the State Department said on November 17. A department spokesman said that Gen Sharif – on his first visit to the United States as the army chief — discussed a wide range of issues, including the situation in North Waziristan and border security. "We have a broad relationship with Pakistan and chief of the army staff is a key figure," Jeff Rathke, director of the Press Office at the State Department, told the daily press briefing when asked about Gen Sharif's visit to the United States. Responding to a question, Rathke acknowledged the importance of Pakistan's counterterrorism efforts including the ongoing *Zarb-e-Azb* operation in North Waziristan. "Of course, we consider it extremely important the fight against extremist groups," he said.

⁷²<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/18-Nov-2014/coas-discusses-afghanistan-with-centcom-officials>

⁷³ <http://nation.com.pk/national/18-Nov-2014/us-terms-gen-sharif-s-visit-productive-positive>

Operation against terrorists affected by India: Gen Raheel, Dawn, November 19⁷⁴

Chief of Army Staff Gen Raheel Sharif said Pakistan's operation against terrorists in the country's tribal region was affected by Indian troops' continuous violation of ceasefire at the LoC and Working Boundary, said a report published by BBC Urdu. An official in Washington told BBC Urdu, on condition of anonymity, that during his first visit to the United States, the army chief had said that heavy firing by Indian troops along the border and statements issued by their leaders were affecting Pakistan's campaign in fighting against extremism. Gen Raheel told US officials that Pakistan has deployed 140,000 troops on its Western borders after getting assurance that there would be peace with India on its Eastern borders which did not happen. However, there was no word on Gen Raheel's statement by the US, but experts often say that the US now avoids interfering in India-Pakistan matters.

General Raheel discusses military relations with US officials, The Nation, November 20⁷⁵

Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif on November 20 held a meeting with US Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey in Washington and discussed matters pertaining to defence cooperation between Pakistan and the United States. According to Director General ISPR Major General Asim Bajw, the discussion focused on security and long-term military-to-military relations. Afghanistan's situation also came under discussion during these meetings. The Army Chief also held talks with Deputy Secretary Defence Robert Work and Commandant US Marines General Joseph Dunford and discussed various issues of bilateral cooperation. General Raheel Sharif was also conferred with US Legion of Merit Medal for brave leadership, sagacity, vision, efforts for peace and stability in the region.

Those who butchered soldiers will not be spared, Dawn, November 21⁷⁶

Army Chief Gen Raheel Sharif has vowed not to spare those who played football with the heads of Pakistani soldiers. In a hard-hitting speech at a dinner at the Pakistan Embassy, Gen Sharif also pledged to continue the war against extremists until all terrorist groups were eliminated. "These miscreants, these barbarians played football with the heads of our soldiers and that scene never went off my mind," said the general, highlighting his emotional attachment to

⁷⁴<http://www.dawn.com/news/1145509/operation-against-terrorists-affected-by-india-gen-raheel>

⁷⁵<http://nation.com.pk/national/19-Nov-2014/general-raheel-sharif-discusses-military-relations-with-u-s-officials>

⁷⁶<http://www.dawn.com/news/1145870/those-who-butchered-soldiers-will-not-be-spared-raheel>

the war against terrorists. The army chief also assured the US administration that the operation against extremists was directed at all terrorist groups, whether they were attacking Pakistani, Afghan or US soldiers. *"I would like to openly say that this (operation) is against all hues and colours, and it is without any exception, whether it is Haqqani network or Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan or anything,"* he said.

Military not to act as 'umpire' in PTI's protests, Daily Times, November 25⁷⁷

This was Gen Akhtar's second meeting with the prime minister after assuming responsibilities as DG ISI recently. Apparently the meeting was held to discuss *"matters relating to national security,"* inside sources told Daily Times. However, PTI's politics of agitation was discussed in detail. Sources also revealed that the newly appointed DG ISI briefed the PM about the funds required to meet ISI's operational and logistical requirements, as he desires to equip the spy agency with modern technology. The prime minister assured Gen Akhtar that the government would fulfil the requirements, sources close to the former said. Reportedly the military command's assurances were conveyed to the civilian leadership that the men in boot were not inclined to play the role of "umpire" or "arbitrator" in PTI's upcoming protest and would perform their duties in the role envisaged in the constitution.

Gen Sharif's stance on terrorists pleases US, Dawn, November 28⁷⁸

Gen Raheel Sharif is an extremely articulate spokesperson for Pakistan's interests, says Dan Feldman, US Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan. In an interview, Ambassador Feldman also said that US forces staying in Afghanistan after 2014 would only fight the Taliban only if they directly threatened them, supported Al Qaeda or posed a strategic threat to the Afghan National Security Forces. He also dispelled the impression that the FBI action against Ambassador Robin Raphel was meant to send the message that it was no longer kosher for Americans to be friends with Pakistan. *"Gen Sharif is an extremely articulate spokesperson for Pakistan's interests,"* said Ambassador Feldman while talking about the Pakistan army chief's much-talked about visit to the United States last week. *"In Washington, he received very broad support for Pakistan's counter-terrorism campaign,"* he said.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Militancy: is the state prepared? Editorial, Dawn, November 4⁷⁹

In the aftermath of Sunday's devastating bombing near the Wagah border crossing, many questions have to be asked as dozens of families bury their

⁷⁷<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/25-Nov-2014/military-not-to-act-as-umpire-in-pti-s-upcoming-protests-isi>

⁷⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1147392/gen-sharifs-stance-on-terrorists-pleases-us>

⁷⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1142234/militancy-is-the-state-prepared>

dead and several more begin the long task of looking after the injured. Worryingly, few of the questions have any clear answers. To begin with, with the blowback from the North Waziristan military operation now seemingly gathering pace, how well is the country's intelligence and law-enforcement apparatus positioned to deal with the threat? The army-led security apparatus took a great deal of credit for so-called intelligence-led targeted operations in the cities and towns around the time Operation Zarb-i-Azb was launched in the summer, and they did seem to blunt the urban terrorist threat for a while at least. But the militant threat ebbs and flows and without sustained, focused and relentless pursuit, the state will always find that a period of calm is followed by a period of intense attacks. Militant groups regenerate and, more problematically, tend to splinter over time, leading to ever-more virulent offshoots. Has the security apparatus of the state really kept up the pressure on urban militant groups, in the same way it did in the early days of Zarb-i-Azb? [...] Finally, with two separate groups claiming the Wagah attack, how much is really known about which groups are active in Pakistan and which militant ideologies are proliferating? Perhaps, as some politicians have called for, the government needs to give parliament a detailed briefing on the state of militancy in Pakistan today. To fight the militancy threat, knowing its contours is a prerequisite.

Time to Talk, Editorial, *Dawn*, November 4⁸⁰

Impasse though there may be in the ongoing struggle between the PML-N federal government and the PTI, at least the government appears to be waking up to the reality that it is an undesirable state of affairs. Information Minister Pervaiz Rashid suggested over the weekend that the PML-N is willing to restart talks with the PTI on, presumably, electoral reforms and reviewing the disputed results from May 2013. The information minister could not resist a dig at Imran Khan, suggesting that the PTI chief should unshackle his chief negotiator Shah Mehmood Qureshi, but it does indicate that the government is thinking of ways to find a negotiated settlement to end the anti-government protests that have dominated the national political discourse since the summer. [...] Yet, Mr Rashid also has a point: the PTI needs to return to the negotiating table and understand that electoral reforms should be the focus of talks rather than the ouster of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Overreaching itself, seemingly because of Mr Khan's intransigence, means that the party has achieved virtually nothing in substantive terms. The PTI needs to revisit its own strategy: the politics of protest may produce a spectacle, but it does little to actually improve the democratic system in the country.

⁸⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1142232/time-to-talk>

The monsters among us, Editorial, *The Tribune Express*, November 5⁸¹

The enormity of the crime was amplified by the innocence of the victims, with at least 10 women and seven children among the casualties so far. As many as 60 may have died and 110 are injured, some of whom will die of their wounds. The device that wreaked havoc at Wagah was a suicide bomb of 10-15kg and was laced with nails and ball-bearings to maximise the damage. The arms and legs of the person thought to be the bomber have been recovered. The location of the bombing was significant as well, with tensions running high between India and Pakistan along the Line of Control, and it was clearly calculated to exacerbate those tensions. There may well now be an adverse fallout on India-Pakistan relations as a result of this attack. There have been reports that intelligence agencies had shared information with the police about a possible attack, but it was clearly not taken seriously. [...] And with the dreadful spectre of the Islamic State making its presence felt in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa through pamphlets, there is now a plethora of non-state actors who are well motivated, in many cases well trained and funded, and all bent on the overthrow of the state by violent means. Operation Zarb-e-Azb, in purely military terms, may be going well, but in isolation, it may be acting as a magnifier for extremist thoughts and tendencies. The operation has created a well of anger and resentment among certain elements that is not going to dissipate quickly.

Minorities in limbo, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, November 4⁸²

Minorities of every type are destined for a difficult life in the Pakistan of today. They are routinely denied their civil and human rights, discriminated against at every level and sometimes even murdered for their beliefs. This is a state deeply intolerant of 'the other'. There are at least half a million Hindus in Punjab. They are almost universally poor and come from the scheduled castes, such as the Bheels, Kolhis and Menghwadhs, and they are mostly homeless. They live in makeshift mud houses on land they do not own and face eviction. Time and again, these poor people have demanded that the provincial government grant them basic residential land rights, and as long ago as the tenure of the government of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, certificates were distributed making ill-defined 'grants'. This exercise was repeated under the Musharraf government. [...] The political promises that get made for the resolution of the plight of these people are rarely, if ever, redeemed, and the buck gets passed to successive administrations, which continue to contrive to do nothing. In monetary terms, it would cost little to alleviate the plight of these poor people, gift them a little land and a lot of dignity. Eminently doable, Possible? Unlikely.

⁸¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/785632/the-monsters-among-us/>

⁸² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/785635/minorities-in-limbo/>

COAS visits Kabul, Editorial, *The Nation*, November 7⁸³

For the first time since the new leadership took the reigns in Afghanistan, COAS Gen Raheel Shareef has visited Kabul where he will hold meetings with President Ashraf Ghani, Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah and other members of Afghan civil and military leadership. Set against the backdrop of NATO withdrawal from Afghanistan, military operations in Pakistan and issues related to cross-border, the significance of the visit cannot be undermined. [...]As far as Pakistan's political leadership is concerned, it appears quite eager to mend relations with both India and Afghanistan. [...] Nawaz Sharif's initiative for India irked the military leadership and was met by street protests by organisations such as Jamat-ud-Dawa, which act as the military's political wing whenever their services are required. India's discouraging response to PM Sharif's friendly overtures and the escalation of violence along the LoC and International Boundary further weakened his case, compelling him to retreat to the traditional Kashmir-centric stance. Traditionally, it is Pakistan's military leadership which has had the last say on matters pertaining to foreign policy and national security among others areas that ought to fall in the civilian government's domain. Therefore, it is safe to say that while General Raheel Sharif may be visiting Kabul as the COAS, he is likely to play the role of a foreign minister; one with guns, of course.

Pentagon's view, Editorial, *Dawn*, November 7⁸⁴

A report by the US Department of Defence with critical comments on Pakistan's alleged use of "proxy forces to hedge against the loss of influence in Afghanistan and to counter India's superior military" has elicited a sharp response by the state — and perhaps rightly so. With army chief Gen Raheel Sharif due to visit the US this month, following an equally important visit to Afghanistan yesterday, the report is being perceived here as a snub to an important military ally that has at long last launched a military operation in North Waziristan and has consistently asserted in recent months that the long-term goal is to eliminate all terrorist and militant sanctuaries on Pakistani soil. As ever, the truth lies somewhere in between American petulance and Pakistani prickliness. [...]Even if true, and arguably the Pentagon's characterisation has some truth to it, it is only part of the story. A more balanced view would have taken into consideration Islamabad's legitimate security concerns, not least the issue of reverse sanctuaries, ie Pakistan-centric militants finding refuge in Afghanistan and launching attacks inside Pakistan from across the border. In addition, the issue of Afghan forces firing into Pakistan has become one of the main concerns in the military-to-military relationship in recent months. The "irritants" in the

⁸³ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/07-Nov-2014/coas-visits-kabul>

⁸⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1142763/pentagons-view>

Afghan-Pakistan bilateral relations are bidirectional, rather than the unidirectional as the Pentagon report has suggested. On the Pakistan-India relationship too it is worth asking why a US report on the situation in Afghanistan has throwaway comments on “India’s military superiority” and proxies that are “India-focused”. In 13 years of seeking, needing and enjoying Pakistan’s cooperation on certain issues in Afghanistan, the US foreign policy establishment still does not appear to have much a clue of when it comes to broaching difficult subjects with Islamabad.

PM in China, Editorial, *Dawn*, November 9⁸⁵

China’s growing trade and investment partnerships around the world have stirred up debate about the motivations behind the process. Some view it with alarm, arguing that other strategic interests are sure to follow. Others take a more benign view, saying that China’s growing economic partnerships around the world are purely commercial ventures and nothing more than a search for markets and raw materials, primarily energy and minerals. This debate hangs over Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif’s ongoing visit to China. News that has come out speaks of “more than 20 agreements” signed between the Pakistani and Chinese leaders, in power and communications and the development of an industrial estate. [...]The overwrought rhetoric used in Pakistan to describe the China relationship needs to change towards a more mature and more pragmatic language. In the old days, Pakistan’s place in China’s foreign policy was to serve as a counterfoil to India’s growing military might. In exchange, a few infrastructure projects were provided. Today, the relationship has grown beyond India to include action against militant groups on Pakistani soil, as well as securing peace in Afghanistan. Alongside these commitments, a large number of infrastructure projects are being offered, but on terms that are largely commercial, not concessional. This growing partnership may carry tremendous benefit for Pakistan, but it would be a mistake to view it as brotherly assistance. Instead, our energies should be focused on safeguarding our own economic interests through it, to ensure that we’re not simply exchanging dependence on one great power for another.

Could the Wagah tragedy have been averted? Talat Masood, *Express Tribune*, November 12⁸⁶

The Wagah border terrorist attack was once again a stark reminder that while India and Pakistan may be engaged in jingoistic war-mongering, the more potent threat is from an enemy within. The other grim reality that once again surfaced was the indifference of our leaders to the loss of life and suffering of

⁸⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1143197/pm-in-china>

⁸⁶ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/789381/could-the-wagah-tragedy-have-been-averted/>

our people. Soon after the gruesome terrorist attack at Wagah, we were told that had the suicide bomber not been checked at the first stage of screening by the security forces, the damage could have been catastrophic. Leaders and state institutions that seek escapism by drawing comparison with more gruesome possible scenarios are in self-denial. Nations that value life do not ease their conscience when the blood of innocent people spills on the streets. [...]Political parties that have militant wings are not even prepared to shed them, knowing full well that this negates the very spirit of democracy and good governance. Merely passing resolutions in Parliament condemning terrorist attacks is not enough. Ironically, militant outfits are doing better coordination to augment their power than the government institutions. The government has to transcend from the reactive to a proactive frame of mind in order to win this existential battle. Gains in the military operation can only be sustained if accompanied by comprehensive administrative, economic, political and social measures. And there is scant progress in this direction.

Militancy in Khyber, Editorial, *Dawn*, November 12⁸⁷

The recently launched military operation in Bara may have been overshadowed by the bigger, months-old campaign in North Waziristan, but it is an important piece in the overall fight against militancy in the country for two reasons. One, Bara tehsil's proximity to Peshawar allows militants based in that part of the tribal areas to have an outsize effect on the security and stability of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's capital and largest city. Two, the Mangal Bagh-led Lashkar-i-Islam had established a comprehensive fiefdom that had removed the region under its control for many years from nearly any semblance of being under the authority, or even influence, of the Pakistani state. Unhappily, neither the army nor the civilian government has tried to explain much to the public about what the state is trying to achieve in Khyber Agency. [...]As with all such operations, two related issues are worth highlighting. But such explicit or sometimes tacit deals only allowed for the expansion of militancy in Fata — because the so-called good Taliban or friendly militants always ended up creating more space for the TTP-type, anti-state militants, sometimes even opportunistically aligning with them. Second, there are a quarter of a million IDPs from Khyber — how much is the state doing to help them?

Fencing the Durand Line, *The Express Tribune*, November 14⁸⁸

While both Pakistan and Afghanistan know the importance of peace after more than three decades of extreme instability in the region, the controversies that have surrounded the Durand Line — whether it should be converted into

⁸⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1143838/militancy-in-khyber>

⁸⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/790711/fencing-the-durand-line/>

a permanent border or not, and later, whether it should be fenced or not — have been highly touchy subjects that have never been fully resolved. [...] However, with newly emerging geopolitical realities in the region after the US withdrawal, as well as the fear of the rise of the Afghan Taliban and the emergence of transnational jihadist ideologies, the Durand Line issue and whether it should be fenced or not, is definitely one that needs some resolution. While it would be extremely difficult to fence the entire border, both in practical terms and keeping in view the extreme passions that such a step may arouse, some sort of consensus needs to be built among all stakeholders regarding a realistic solution that respects the opinions of the tribes on both sides, as well as both governments.

Ties with Afghanistan, Editorial, *Dawn*, November 17⁸⁹

AFGHAN President Ashraf Ghani's inaugural visit to Pakistan may not have yielded any immediate breakthrough or produced a dramatic announcement, but it did at least take place in a more cordial and cooperative manner than the one which characterised Pak-Afghan relations during the Karzai era. Yet whatever the quiet diplomacy and serious security-related discussions that surely took place behind closed doors over the weekend, a genuine and lasting improvement in relations would necessarily require moves in the public domain too. What, for example, is the state of reconciliation talks with the Afghan Taliban? [...] Without security cooperation, better border management and joint efforts to curb cross-border movement of militants, the problem of Pakistan-centric militants seeking sanctuary in Afghanistan will only grow and make cooperation on the original problem, the Afghan Taliban, that much more difficult. Which is why Mr Ghani's accommodating and conciliatory language on Pakistan is all the more important – a reset in ties is needed to allow for ties to stabilise. The long-term vision articulated by both sides of a region that is a trading hub and economic corridor is the right one. But security will have to be addressed quickly. Without security there will be no stability and without stability, national potential will not be realised.

Role of IB, Editorial, *Dawn*, November 18⁹⁰

In the long time that Imran Khan has spent opposing the PML-N government, he has made innumerable allegations. Many of those allegations have been worthless and forgotten quickly enough, but some have been worth pausing over to understand their implications and possible genuineness. One of the latter type of allegations was levelled by the PTI chief at the Jhelum rally on November 16: the Intelligence Bureau has spent nearly Rs3bn, according to

⁸⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1144958/ties-with-afghanistan>

⁹⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1145142/role-of-ib>

Mr Khan, to undermine the PTI rallies and to erode support among the public and in the media for the PTI's agenda of toppling the government. [...]Through it all, the IB continued to play a distant role as compared to the military-run agencies in the fight against militancy. Part of the problem surely is the eternal civil-military imbalance and the deterioration of civilian-run institutions across the board. But if reforms are a distant prospect and a professional turnaround of the IB unrealistic in the present milieu, at least the IB could be kept away from nakedly political agendas like dealing with the PTI challenge and shoring up support for the PML-N in the media.

Challenges for Af-Pak relations, Rasul Bakhsh Rais, *The Express Tribune*, November 19⁹¹

[...]The most compelling reason for seeking common ground and close cooperation between the two neighbours is very clearly a verdict of history — what hurts Afghanistan will hurt Pakistan and what happens in Afghanistan will also affect regions around the Indus and beyond. This has been a very long historical pattern from pre-colonial times to modern times. Wars and war-makers in Afghanistan, civil conflicts and foreign interventions have always transferred similar trends, or have at least thrown the debris in our direction. Nor has Afghanistan been immune to interventions, whatever intent we attribute to it from this direction, starting from the first Anglo-Afghan war (1839-1842) to the third cycle of conflict (2002-2014). The memories are not very happy ones. [...]The fact is that militant groups in both countries have found sanctuaries and sources of support in each other and have, for decades, waged wars against the state there. More troubling is the evidence that some of them have always found encouragement and assistance both by private groups, states and international powers. For too long now, both countries have experienced deadly conflicts owing to the interplay of local, regional and international power-players. This must come to an end. But this will essentially remain a wish, unless political leaders across borders commit themselves to placing peace, security and stability before all else.

The real change in Afghanistan-Pakistan relations will come when security is understood as a common goal, established by strengthening the capacity of the states.

Battleground North Waziristan, Zahid Hussain, *Dawn*, November 19⁹²

Once described as the "*epicentre of terrorism*", Miramshah is now reduced to mere rubble. The long row of hotels that had sprung up over the last few years and had been used by foreign militants as rest and relaxation centres have been blown up by air strikes and heavy artillery fire. Sitting in the midst

⁹¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/793212/challenges-for-af-pak-relations/>

⁹² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1145359/battleground-north-waziristan>

of the destruction is a sprawling mosque, which was more than a place of worship. A labyrinth of rooms in the basement served as the joint headquarters of the various terrorist groups operating from the area. Soldiers stood guard on top of the half-destroyed structures. Although the town and the surrounding villages are now under full control of the army, small bands of militants are still lurking around in the hills. [...]The North Waziristan operation is unique in many ways. The role of intelligence has contributed hugely to the targeting with precision of militant sanctuaries. The intelligence-based crackdown on the terrorist network across the country before the start of the army operation in the agency has also helped contain the blowback in other parts of the country. Indeed, it is the most difficult battle the Pakistani forces are fighting in the forbidding terrain. The valour of the soldiers is critical to winning this war. The high ratio of officers killed in the operation gives some idea about the way this battle is being fought; officers leading from the front have established a new legacy. But unfortunately, it is a forgotten war for our political leadership. As one officer lamented: "It is painful to pick up every day the bodies of our fellow soldiers and young officers often blown into pieces by IEDs, but it is more agonising to hear some politicians sympathising with the killers."

One-sided picture, Huma Yusuf, *Dawn*, November 24⁹³

Aziz's comment in a recent interview suggesting that Pakistan would not pursue militants that do not attack the state was damaging, and not only because of its timing: days after Ashraf Ghani's visit to Islamabad during which Pakistan pledged to support Afghanistan's fight against the Taliban, and while Gen Raheel Sharif made the rounds of Washington to pitch the military's counterterrorism credentials and secure more US dollars for the fight against militancy. [...]For years, the security establishment has projected itself as the saviour of the Pakistani people. Civilian politicians have repeatedly been portrayed as corrupt and incapable of governing, and military takeovers have been welcomed by the public as a respite from a parasitic political culture. This narrative seeks to rewrite Pakistan's experience of militancy, suggesting that the country is losing the fight against terrorism because of the ambivalence of its political elite, and despite the military's commitment to eradicate home grown militancy. And it is in the context of this emergent narrative that Aziz's statement is the most damaging. As per this narrative, civilian politicians have constrained the military in its efforts to tackle terrorism, and, more troublingly, wavered on their stance against militancy. [...]According to early estimates, terrorist attacks have decreased by 30pc between 2013 and 2014. The security situation is likely to improve next year too thanks to back-channel negotiations between the security

⁹³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1146424/one-sided-picture>

establishment and amenable militant factions such as the Sajna group in South Waziristan and the Punjabi Taliban, which announced they would not launch attacks in Pakistan. Meanwhile, the government's much-lauded National Internal Security Policy has been a non-starter. Civilian law-enforcement seems increasingly irrelevant and the National Counter Terrorism Authority lies virtually defunct, the victim of a petty power tussle and bureaucratic haggling. Pakistan has a penchant for rewriting history, but it is in the interest of democracy in the long run that our politicians rewrite this narrative before it is taken as the truth.

The sectarian volcano, Editorial, *Dawn*, November 26⁹⁴

Combating sectarian violence has become a major security headache for a number of Muslim-majority states, including Pakistan. Unfortunately, the differences have gone beyond the realm of theological debate and now revolve around the distribution of power. Though perhaps not to the same degree as the Middle East's hotspots, Pakistan has nevertheless also been significantly brutalised by sectarian warriors active in all regions of this country. [...] Perhaps what is needed at the highest levels of leadership is a realisation and admission that the state was wrong to look the other way when it came to sectarian death squads. It is simplistic to think that the communal fires now burning across the Middle East will not touch Pakistan. Due to cultural and religious links, events in that region exert considerable influence in this country. Yet while sectarianism may have taken root in many Arab states, there is still relative communal harmony in Pakistan. But if sectarian killings continue in this country — and go unpunished — that coexistence may well transform into a darker reality. Finally, apart from the state, the ulema bear major responsibility for ensuring communal harmony, specifically by confronting clerical voices that fan hatred.

ECONOMIC ISSUES

FISCAL ISSUES

Under scrutiny: Government to keep tight monetary and fiscal policies, *Express Tribune*, November 12⁹⁵

The federal government has decided to maintain tight monetary and fiscal policies in the remaining seven months of the current fiscal year in an effort to stabilise the economy, but this will heighten the chances of less-than-targeted growth for a second consecutive year. The decision was taken by the

⁹⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1146851/the-sectarian-volcano>

⁹⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/789577/under-scrutiny-government-to-keep-tight-monetary-and-fiscal-policies/>

Monetary and Fiscal Policies Coordination Board, which met here on November 12 with Finance Minister Ishaq Dar in the chair. Because of the cautious monetary and fiscal stance, the annual economic growth will be around 4.3% against the target of 5.1% for the current fiscal year. It will be the second year in a row when growth will stand below target.

Budgetary constraints: Funds fall short when it comes to development, *The Express Tribune*, November 24⁹⁶

As social and development indicators fall below the universally-acceptable standards, the government is facing what it calls a 3-D paradox, where the federal income is less than even the needs of debt servicing and defence, leaving nothing to spend on development. Whatever the meagre amount is spent on development, it is either borrowed from domestic or external sources. The result is that with an existing allocation of Rs525 billion, which is also under threat of a cut, the government needs at least 10 years to complete already approved projects, irrespective how important it is. The time was six to seven years when the PML-N took the reign 17 months ago. It has so far approved 240 projects that cost Rs3.8 trillion. Some of these are of a strategic nature and had to be approved.

TRADE

Pak-Af bilateral trade target set at \$5bn, *Daily Times*, November 14⁹⁷

Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar and his Afghan counterpart Dr Omar Zakhilwal on November 13 agreed on concerted efforts for enhancing bilateral trade from the existing 2.5 billion dollars to five billion dollars in the next two to three years as envisaged by leadership of the two brotherly Islamic countries. Senator Dar received Dr Zakhilwal here at the Ministry of Finance Affairs having detailed exchange of views on Pak-Afghan relations, focusing on ways and means to enhance economic cooperation. Welcoming his Afghan counterpart, he congratulated him on the peaceful transfer of power in Afghanistan. He said that President Ashraf Ghani was a seasoned technocrat and a wise politician to lead Afghanistan in its future quest for prosperity and development. He also felicitated Zakhilwal on assumption of the office of Senior Economic Adviser to the Afghan president.

Pak raises \$1b through Sukuk bonds, *The Express Tribune*, November 27⁹⁸

In a second largest single transaction in less than a year, Pakistan has raised \$1 billion from international debt markets through the issuance of five-year

⁹⁶<http://tribune.com.pk/story/795882/budgetary-constraints-funds-fall-short-when-it-comes-to-development/>

⁹⁷<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/13-Nov-2014/pakistan-afghanistan-agree-to-take-bilateral-trade-to-5bn>

⁹⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/798044/pakistan-raises-1b-through-sukuk-bonds/>

dollar-denominated Sukuk bonds. This will help Islamabad build foreign currency reserves to the satisfaction of the IMF. The transaction is expected to restore international investors' confidence, which was shattered after an unsuccessful attempt to sell stakes in the OGDCL. The government decided to accept offers of \$1 billion for a five-year tenor at a profit rate of 6.75%, which is half percentage points lower than the price at which the five-year Euro bond was sold in April 2014, the finance ministry said on Wednesday. Unlike the Euro bond that was issued without collateral, the government has pledged the Islamabad-Lahore Motorway to raise funds that helped it keeping the interest rate below the Euro bond transaction when it raised \$2 billion. Sukuk is Islamic bond that has to be backed by collateral.

ENERGY

Government committed to resolve energy crisis, *The Nation*, November 2⁹⁹

Minister for Water and Power Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said that the PML-N government would fulfill its responsibility and commitments to steer the country out of energy crisis, state media reported today. In an interview, he said the strenuous efforts are underway to minimize load-shedding. The minister said the ultimate goal of democracy is to ensure respect to fundamental rights of individuals, provision of social justice as well as socio-economic uplift of the country. Khawaja Asif said difference of opinion is beauty of democracy but unfortunately some elements are trying to jeopardize the system through negative politics. He said that sit-ins are serious threats to national economy due to which many agreements with foreign investors could not be signed. The Minister urged the people to show unity to foil conspiracies against democracy.

MoUs with China to help eliminate power crisis, *The Nation*, November 10¹⁰⁰

Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif on November 9 said that a number of agreements had been signed between Pakistan and China for generation of power from coal and other resources during the recent visit of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif to China. These agreements will help in eliminating energy crisis on permanent basis; he said this during separate meetings with the heads of Chinese investment companies and Pakistani delegation in Beijing. He said that the solution of the problem of shortage of electricity will accelerate industrial and trade activities while new job opportunities will also be created resulting in overcoming poverty alleviation.

⁹⁹<http://nation.com.pk/national/02-Nov-2014/government-committed-to-resolve-energy-crisis-kh-asif>

¹⁰⁰<http://nation.com.pk/business/10-Nov-2014/agreements-with-china-to-help-eliminate-power-crisis-shahbaz>

China to invest \$1b in Balochistan, *The Express Tribune*, November 13¹⁰¹

A Chinese company is planning to pour an investment of \$1 billion into setting up Pakistan's first deep-conversion oil refinery in violence-plagued Balochistan, a step that could turn the country into an oil exporter especially to Beijing. "The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources is in talks with Volant Industry Limited of China about developing a deep-conversion oil refinery in Balochistan," said an official. In the first phase, the refinery would have annual production capacity of five million tons and it would be enhanced to 10 million tons in the next stage, the official said. This will not only help meet domestic demand but will also lead to export of petroleum products to neighbouring countries like China. At present, the designed refining capacity of the country is 13.9 million tons per annum, which will increase to about 18.5 million tons after a new Byco refinery with production capacity of 120,000 barrels per day starts operating at the optimum pace.

IMF LOAN

IMF satisfied with economic performance: Dar, *The News*, November 8¹⁰²

During a press conference held with IMF officials, Dar said despite sit-ins, international payments were made on time. "We have been making all payments on time without any delay despite the protests and sit-ins." An IMF statement released from Washington said Pakistan's economic indicators were improving, inflation was decreasing and loans for the private sector had been accelerated. According to officials, after approval by the IMF board next month, Pakistan will be issued a loan installment of \$1.10 billion.

Dar secures IMF loan tranche, *The Express Tribune*, November 20¹⁰³

Hectic lobbying in the IMF headquarters and a closed-door one-on-one meeting between Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and the IMF mission chief helped Pakistan to qualify for a \$1.1-billion loan tranche after progress could not be made during earlier talks. Background discussions with officials of the Ministry of Finance revealed that during the recently concluded talks, things had got stuck at one stage. The sitting held for the fourth and fifth economic review under the \$6.7 billion loan programme continued from October 30 to November 8 in Dubai. There was no convergence of views on some issues during the technical-level talks, officials said. Pakistan's delegation was led by Finance Secretary Dr Waqar Masood and the IMF team was led by its Mission

¹⁰¹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/790236/1b-investment-chinese-firm-to-set-up-refinery-in-balochistan/>

¹⁰²<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-165080-IMF-satisfied-with-Pakistans-economic-performance:-Dar->

¹⁰³<http://tribune.com.pk/story/793974/lobbying-dars-tete-a-tete-with-imf-clears-way-for-loan-tranche/>

Chief to Pakistan Jeffery Franks. However, the situation turned to Pakistan's favour only after the finance minister lobbied in Washington and held a closed-door meeting with Franks for over one and a half hours, winning an extension of three more months to deliver on outstanding issues.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Opposition walks out of NA over privatisation, *The News*, November 1¹⁰⁴

The opposition in the National Assembly on October 31 staged a walkout from the proceedings to record its protest over the police violence on protesting workers of the OGDCL and the privatisation policy of the government. The legislators belonging to the opposition parties, including the PPP, ANP and JI, staged the walkout while the MQM did not participate in the protest. The MQM members spoke against the violence on the OGDCL workers but did not participate in the walkout and remained seated in the House. Though Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Sheikh Aftab Ahmed assured the House that no privatisation of the OGDCL was being carried out yet the opposition did not listen to him and walked out of the House, chanting anti-privatisation slogans.

Govt in a fix on reforming bureaucracy, *The News*, November 2¹⁰⁵

The Nawaz Sharif government is finding it difficult to place competent and experienced hands at key positions in the bureaucracy but the regime is still not keen to identify the fundamental wrongs in order to fix them. In different meetings, the prime minister as well as his ministers has been heard complaining that the administrative machinery is full of deadwood and is thus incapable of responding to the challenges faced by the country. However, no effort has been made as yet to see what has led the bureaucracy to such a decline and how the civil service could be revived to perform and deliver as per the expectations of the people. During the last 16 months of the present government's tenure, certain key ministries have had secretaries changed more than twice and thrice. The Water and Power Ministry, which is the focus of the whole nation to meet the promise of ending power shortage, has seen more than three secretaries during this period.

International donors offer \$690m for IDPS, *Express Tribune*, November 12¹⁰⁶

Pakistan on November 11 got a mixed response to its plea for \$2 billion for the rehabilitation of hundreds of thousands of people displaced by the recent

¹⁰⁴<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-33838-Opposition-walks-out-of-NA-over-privatisation-policy>

¹⁰⁵<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-33856-Govt-in-a-fix-on-reforming-bureaucracy>

¹⁰⁶<http://tribune.com.pk/story/789602/idps-flood-victims-international-donors-pitch-in-with-690m-pledges/>

monsoon-induced floods and Operation *Zerb-e-Azb*, as majority of international donors announced to divert their existing financing instead of committing fresh funds. At the end of the second donors' meeting, \$690 million financial assistance was offered to Pakistan but a big chunk of this was extended by diverting funds the donors and international lending agencies had already promised but remained unutilised, according to finance ministry officials. The available assistance will be spent over a period of three years through the World Bank-administrated Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF), bilateral arrangement, mainly by the United States and multilateral channel of the WB and the ADB, according to the officials who attended the meeting.

ADB pledges financial help for Balochistan, *Dawn*, November 20¹⁰⁷

The Asian Development Bank has promised maximum assistance for infrastructure development projects, poverty eradication and natural resource exploration in Balochistan. ADB Country Chief Werner Liepach held out the assurance to Chief Minister Dr Abdul Malik Baloch during a meeting on November 19. The Chief Minister's Adviser on Financial Affairs Kaiser Bengali and Home Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, besides some senior officials, attended the meeting. The ADB delegation was informed about special attention the province needed for improving the standard of life and implementing its development programme.

Sit-ins hampering FDI, *The News*, November 28¹⁰⁸

Federal Commerce Minister Khurram Dastagir Khan has said that PTI's continuous agitation could trigger a new wave of political instability where every future government would have to face similar situation in post-elections scenario. *"After 105 days of sit-in, the PTI is unable to prove nationwide systematic poll rigging in favour of PML-N during the last elections. This kind of politics could trigger a new wave of political instability in Pakistan,"* he said in an exclusive interview with *The News* in his ministerial chamber at the Parliament House on November 27. The minister said Pakistan wants to open road links with Russia through Central Asian Republics in order to promote trade in this part of the world. Finance minister Ishaq Dar will visit Russia after successful launching of Sukuk bond as Islamabad was making all-out efforts to boost relations with CARs and reach out beyond up to Russia.

¹⁰⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1145707/adb-pledges-financial-help-for-balochistan>

¹⁰⁸ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-286891-Sit-ins-hampering-foreign-investment-says-Khurram>

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

The trade conundrum, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, November 14¹⁰⁹

Pakistan's trade deficit widened by almost 50 per cent, shooting to \$8.8 billion during the first four months (July-October) of the ongoing fiscal year, compared with \$5.9 billion during the corresponding period of the previous year. The trade deficit widened after Pakistan's exports contracted by 6.9 per cent, while the import bill swelled by 16.1 per cent over the corresponding four-month period of the previous year. Data released shows that exports clocked in at \$7.98 billion against imports worth \$16.79 billion from July to October this year. [...]IMF has put forth a target for Pakistan: to increase the central bank's reserves equivalent to three months of imports. At the current rate of imports, that figure is over \$12.5 billion — the State Bank of Pakistan currently has around \$8.5 billion in the kitty. Increasing the import bill and not doing enough to increase exports is what the country is doing right now. Maybe, for a change, the private sector can step in and take up the challenge at hand. We cannot rely on government policy alone to increase our exports. The private sector also needs to come up with innovative means to do so.

Inequality and public policy, **Shahid Javed Burki**, *The Express Tribune*, November 14¹¹⁰

Inequality — the perception about it or in reality — has had a profound impact on Pakistan's political development. The founding of the state of Pakistan was the result of the perception on the part of the Muslim populations in the provinces in British India that they would suffer under the rule of the majority Hindu community once the colonial rulers left their South Asian real estate. The second time when a perception about inequality convulsed the country was in the late 1960s. It was the belief that the rich had appropriated most of the additional wealth that had been created during Ayub Khan's "decade of development" that led to a powerful political movement. It eventually forced the country's first military leader to resign. The third occasion on which inequality forced political change in Pakistan occurred during the rule of General Agha Muhammad Yahya Khan, who took over the reins of the government from his discredited military predecessor. [...]I was witness to the spectacle of how much East Pakistan had been excluded from policymaking when a meeting was held in Dhaka's Governor House to discuss the apportioning of public funds under the Fourth Five Year Pakistan (1970-75). As the economic adviser to West Pakistan's Governor Air Marshal Nur Khan, I participated in the Dhaka meeting chaired by Yahya Khan. The federal government's position was presented by M M Ahmad,

¹⁰⁹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/790700/the-trade-conundrum/>

¹¹⁰ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/792150/inequality-and-public-policy/>

Planning Commission's deputy chairman, that of West Pakistan by Nur Khan and that of East Pakistan by the province's governor Admiral S M Ahsen. All the major players at the table were from West Pakistan. Looking around the conference table, I was stuck at the absence of the Bengalis. It was not a surprise, at least to me, when the exclusiveness on the basis of which West Pakistan had built the political and economic structures in the country's led to its break-up. There are lessons in this for present-day Pakistan.

State Bank's assessment, Editorial, *Dawn*, November 18¹¹¹

IN its latest monetary policy statement, the State Bank says manufacturing will "remain constrained due to energy bottlenecks", even as the speculative and trading economy gallops along. Pakistan's exports are falling, due in part to "weak demand" in destination countries, but also because of the falling price of cotton. The statement steers away from the identifying causes of the drop in exports, saying only that the trend is "further challenged" by these factors. Future growth, therefore, must come from agriculture, it says, pointing to the Rs100 increase in the procurement price of wheat. The statement is silent on the ongoing growth in the services sector, nor does it say much about the real meaning of the steep increases in the stock market. But the picture that emerges from the statement is one of sagging growth in manufacturing, while agriculture remains hopeful and services and speculative trades gallop along. [...]The State Bank has touched the issue very gingerly in its statement, which is still an improvement from its previous pronouncements. This acknowledgement now needs to be built upon by further dilating on the reasons behind, and the possible resolutions of, this troubling state of affairs. Whatever political challenges the government may be facing, these should not distract from the primary obligation to restart economic growth.

Financial confusion, Editorial, *Dawn*, November 19¹¹²

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar surprised his hosts when he chose to discuss a draft law to combat money laundering and terror financing during an event on financial inclusion. The Digital Finance Conference, organised by the State Bank, was supposed to showcase the steps taken to advance financial inclusion for the millions of unbanked individuals in Pakistan. One of the principal impediments to financial inclusion has been the onerous burden of documentation that banks require to open an account, as well as stringent know-your-customer policies mandated by anti-money laundering stipulations. Financial inclusion is increasingly becoming an important goal worldwide, but so is safeguarding the financial system from illicit activity. And sometimes these objectives can pull the financial system in opposite

¹¹¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1145140/state-banks-assessment>

¹¹² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1145357/financial-confusion>

directions. [...]Last June, an action plan to come into compliance was presented, and now we have until February 2015 to reassure our global partners that it is being credibly implemented, which includes AML/CFT legislation as a key component. But it is not clear yet how much consultation has gone into drafting the legislation, and how it will impact ongoing financial inclusion efforts to advance branchless banking. The fact that conference participants were surprised by the finance minister's remarks on the subject at the Digital Finance Conference does not inspire confidence that the goals being pursued in the financial sector have been properly harmonised. More consultation and fewer surprises would work to the government's advantage in pursuing these 21st-century challenges to the growth of the financial system.

Economic managers' wisdom, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, November 19¹¹³

Suffering setback after setback, the multi-billion-dollar Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline project seems unlikely to see the light of day. US sanctions on Iran were always a threat to the IP pipeline ever becoming a reality, and this seems to have only become obvious to Pakistan's economic managers recently, who have decided to stall the \$7.5-billion project until the international community lifts sanctions on Iran. These sanctions were placed in order to force the country to address the international community's concerns over its nuclear programme, leading to the US, Australia and the European Union, among others, to restrict trading activity with the Islamic Republic. [...]However, in all this time, another solution could have been worked on. It is only now that the government is looking to import LNG, which would need to be processed before being distributed. This would address some of the pressing need for gas in the country. However, in the absence of the IP project becoming functional, such a measure might not be enough to extract us out of the energy crisis we face.

Growth engine is stalling, Editorial, *Dawn*, November 26¹¹⁴

A very large wheel is grinding to a halt. Large-scale manufacturing has been languishing at growth rates below 2pc throughout this fiscal year. Latest figures show the LSM growth rate at 1.86pc, whereas in the corresponding period last year the figure was almost 4pc. Recall that last year was hardly a stellar success for LSM since this is when uncertainty rocked the money markets and the IMF programme had just begun. Most of the spurt to growth back then came from the renewed supplies of power due to the circular debt retirement, and diversion of gas towards fertiliser, which accounted for a large share of the uptick in LSM back then. For the figure to slump to below

¹¹³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/793211/economic-managers-wisdom/>

¹¹⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1146852/growth-engine-is-stalling>

2pc today, when we were supposed to be harvesting the fruits of the tough decisions supposedly made in the early months of the current government, should be considered a major failing of the latter. [...]They ought to take a serious look at manufacturing and tell us how they explain the slump, and what plans they have for its revival. The government cannot serve speculators and traders alone, then go on to claim an economic revival by pointing to the growth rate. The real test of economic leadership lies in getting the wheels of manufacturing to start turning again.

Unused funds, Editorials, *The Express Tribune*, November 28¹¹⁵

The most common reason for lack of development that is given by federal and provincial governments in our country is the lack of funds available for development initiatives. However, the fact is that mismanagement of the resources that are available has been a greater curse in some cases and has severely hindered initiatives that are vital for economic uplift and for addressing grievances of marginalised communities. The Multiple Donor Trust Fund, a collaboration of 10 donor countries and the European Union, is an initiative worth \$180 million that was earmarked for the conflict-stricken tribal areas of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) and Balochistan. Unfortunately, most projects that were supposed to be backed by this fund have not seen completion in due time despite this programme having been streamlined under a study of the Post Crisis Needs Assessment (PCNA). The programme has been marred by irregularities and allegations of corruption. [...]The consequences of failure here will be huge and the provincial government needs to think about this seriously. An inquiry must be initiated to see why the funds remain underutilised. Those responsible must be taken to task, particularly at a time when the federal government is making appeals for more international aid for internally displaced persons.

SECURITY SITUATION

TERRORISM

Ahrar claim of Wagah attack more credible, *Dawn*, November 4¹¹⁶

There were times when there was just one main militant group, the TTP which used to have one spokesman. Any major militant attack and a statement by the spokesman would be taken at face value. But all that changed when the TTP opened its franchises and branches all over Fata and in districts where it had its influence, with their own spokesmen who often

¹¹⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/798274/unused-funds/>

¹¹⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1142307/wagah-attack-ahrar-claim-of-responsibility-appears-more-credible>

issued conflicting statements. Things became murkier when many shadow groups emerged, some of them serving as front organisations for the existing ones to deflect responsibility as peace talks were held. The September 22, 2013, suicide bombing at the All Saints Church in Peshawar is a classic example.

Wagah bombing: Poisoning trade chalice, *The Tribune Express*, November 4¹¹⁷

There were three conflicting claims of responsibility for Sunday's suicide bombing at the Wagah border crossing from as many extremist groups – including two factions of the TTP. Jundullah spokesperson Ahmadullah Marwat, TTP-Jamaatul Ahrar spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan and Geelamand Mesud, the purported but largely unknown spokesman for TTP-Mahar Mehsud Group claimed credit for the blast in phone calls to media outlets. The first two talking heads of militants – Marwat and Ehsan – are familiar figures at least for the media, but Mehsud appears to be a 'stranger'. Mahar-Mehsud Group fighters are said to be successors of Hakimullah Mehsud, the TTP chief who was killed in a US drone strike in the Waziristan region in 2013. Sheheryar Mehsud heads this faction which is loyal to the incumbent TTP Ameer Mullah Fazlullah.

IS recruiting thousands in Pakistan, govt warned, *Dawn*, November 8¹¹⁸

The provincial government of Balochistan has conveyed a confidential report to the federal government and law enforcement agencies warning of increased footprints of militant organisation IS, also known by the Arabic acronym Daish, in Pakistan. The 'secret information report', states that IS has claimed to have recruited a massive 10 to 12,000 followers from the Hangu and Kurram Agency tribal areas. "It has been reliably learnt that Daish has offered some elements of Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) and Ahl-e-Sunnat Wai Jamat (ASWJ) to join hands in Pakistan. Daish has also formed a ten-member Strategic Planning Wing," the report from the Home and Tribal Affairs Department of Balochistan says.

Taliban threatens to attack Chinese interests, *The Nation*, November 17¹¹⁹

A splinter group of TTP has warned Beijing against persecuting Muslim population in its far-western province of Xinjiang otherwise the militant outfit would target "the centres of Chinese economic interests" in ways beyond the imagination of the Chinese government. Last week, on November 10 TTPJA

¹¹⁷<http://tribune.com.pk/story/785856/wagah-border-bombing-poisoning-south-asias-trade-chalice/>

¹¹⁸<http://www.dawn.com/news/1143133/is-recruiting-thousands-in-pakistan-govt-warned-in-secret-report>

¹¹⁹<http://nation.com.pk/national/17-Nov-2014/taliban-group-threatens-to-attack-chinese-interests>

released the 9th issue of its official magazine Ihya-i-Khilafat that carried an article by Ehsanullah Ehsan, a key commander and official spokesperson, under the title of "*Hidden motives behind the Chinese investment in Pakistan*". The article has highlighted the condition of Muslims, especially Uighurs (also pronounced as Uyghur) in the Xinjiang province of China. "*The government has recently intensified a religious crackdown on the Muslim minority in Xinjiang province. Men and women are being punished for following the basics of Islam like sporting beards or covering their faces respectively. Above all, these crimes are being touted as law*", writes Ehsan.

Haqqani network as much a threat as others, Dawn, November 19¹²⁰

The US State Department reminded Pakistan on November 19 that the Haqqani network was as much a threat to regional security as any other terrorist group. "*We have long communicated to the Pakistani government our view that militant groups, including the Pakistani Taliban and the Haqqani Network, continue to pose a threat to Pakistan, to the region, and to the United States,*" said director of the State Department's Press Office, Jeff Rathke. "*It's vital that every effort is made to deny safe haven to any and all violent extremists.*" In this first official US reaction to National Security Advisor Sartaj Aziz's comments that Pakistan should not target militant groups that did not "*pose a direct threat to the state*", Rathke said the United States believed all terrorist groups were a threat to regional and international security. "*We will reiterate this message to Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif as well,*" said the US official.

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND FATA

TTP joins hands with Lashkar-i-Islam in Khyber, Dawn, November 7¹²¹

The outlawed TTP on November 7 stated that it was joining hands with Lashkar-i-Islam, the banned militant group operating in the Khyber tribal region. The group also stated that it had appointed a new spokesman, Mohammad Khurrasani, weeks after sacking its former spokesman Shahidullah Shahid who had announced his allegiance with the IS. TTP further said that its fighters under Mullah Fazlullah would support the LI and added that a proper fight would be initiated against the security forces and government. The militant outfit also announced that it would send men to fight along with LI militants in Khyber. The statement comes as the army is engaged in a military operation — Khyber I — in the restive tribal region. Khyber I came months after the military launched an offensive in North Waziristan to target local and foreign militants.

¹²⁰<http://www.dawn.com/news/1145501/haqqani-network-as-much-a-threat-as-any-other-terrorist-group-us>

¹²¹<http://www.dawn.com/news/1142908/ttp-joins-hands-with-lashkar-i-islam-in-khyber>

Jamaatul Ahrar confirms death of commander, Dawn, November 10¹²²

The outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Jamaatul Ahrar has confirmed on November 9 that their key commander Abu Jandal was killed during the Nov 9 bombing in Khyber Agency's Tirah Valley. The TTP Jamaatul Ahrar spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan confirmed to Dawn that Abu Jandal hailing from Mohmand Agency was leading a contingent of 50 fighters to battle the Pakistani security forces with others in Tirah. Ehsan said that a contingent of about 50 more fighters would soon be on their way to the valley to fight along with others against the country's armed forces. He also said that Khyber Agency is a key route for Nato supplies and would be their prime target in the days to come to inflict loss on the Pakistani military and state.

KP govt admits higher crime, terrorism incidence, Dawn, November 25¹²³

Confronted with official figures of the state of worsening law and order situation, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on November 24 admitted increase in incidents of extortion, targeted killings and grenade attacks in the province. public health engineering minister, Shah Farman said that a total of 14 suicide attacks, 218 bomb blasts and three car bomb explosions had been reported in 2014 while in 2013, 18 suicide attacks, 284 bomb blasts and six car bomb blasts had occurred across the province. Whereas Parliamentary leader of Qaumi Watan Party Sikandar Khan Sherpao Giving data about acts of terrorism and other crimes occurred in the province between January and October 15, the QWP leader said a total of 520 acts of terrorism, 291 cases of extortion, 1102 cases of abduction, and 831 cases of car lifting had taken place during the period. "A total of 190,454 crimes have been registered in the period," he said.

SINDH

Mirpurkhas tense after killing 'on sectarian grounds', Dawn, November 5¹²⁴

An unspecified number of activists belonging to the banned Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamat were picked up in several raids carried out in the city after the late Saturday killing of three people by armed men at the main gate of Gama Stadium turned out to be a sectarian attack. Additional units of police and Rangers personnel were deployed at many sensitive places overnight and patrolling by security agencies was intensified to prevent sectarian violence in reaction. The district administration has reportedly sought assistance of army

¹²²<http://www.dawn.com/news/1143515/jamaatul-ahrar-confirms-death-of-commander-in-khyber-airstrikes>

¹²³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1146772/kp-govt-admits-higher-crime-terrorism-incidence>

¹²⁴<http://www.dawn.com/news/1142043/mirpurkhas-tense-after-killing-of-three-men-on-sectarian-grounds>

troops apprehending a law and order situation on the 9th and 10th of Muharram in the wake of the incident.

Qaeda, Ansarul Aseer hatch jailbreak plan, *The News*, November 26¹²⁵

Al-Qaeda and Ansarul Aseer, militant wing of TTP were behind the jailbreak plan, security sources said in their startling revelations on Tuesday. The target of the militants was to set 125 terrorists of TTP and other banned outfits free from the Karachi central jail, the sources said. The security sources further said some jail officials, directly or indirectly, were part of this conspiracy, adding that financial assistance of approximately Rs90 million for this plan was transferred from Afghanistan.

RELATIONS WITH INDIA

Pakistan chooses Kashmiris, *The Nation*, November 7¹²⁶

Pakistan Thursday categorically rejected any conditionality for dialogue with India, saying talks are necessary for peace in South Asia for economic development and welfare of the people. "Dialogue between Pakistan and India is not a favour that one country does to the other," Foreign Office Spokesperson Tasnim Aslam said in response to Indian Defence Minister Arun Jaitley's statement that Pakistan should decide whether it wants to talk to the Hurriyat leaders or India. In her weekly press briefing, Tasnim Aslam said that the Kashmiri are not Indian separatists; they are people in occupied territory struggling for their right to self-determination that has been recognised by the United Nations through its resolutions, adding that Pakistan is a party to the dispute. To a question, the spokesperson said Pakistan does not want to stop trade between India and Afghanistan through its territory, adding that Afghanistan is a landlocked country and Pakistan had given it access to the international waters. She said India can use Karachi port for trade with Afghanistan. She said it is for the Afghan people and the government to take decision from where they want to get aid. She said Pakistan wants that Afghan soil should not be used to destabilise Pakistan. She said Pakistan has adopted the policy of non-interference in Afghanistan.

Efforts under way for Modi-Sharif meeting, *Dawn*, November 13¹²⁷

Diplomats are working hard to make it possible for Indian and Pakistani prime ministers to end their aloofness so as to be able to meet in Kathmandu this month during the 18th Saarc summit, diplomatic sources said on

¹²⁵ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-166867-Qaeda,-Ansarul-Aseer-behind-Karachi-jailbreak-plan:-security-sources>

¹²⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/national/07-Nov-2014/pakistan-chooses-kashmiris>

¹²⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1144112/efforts-under-way-for-modi-sharif-meeting>

November 12. *"A useful opportunity is coming up in Kathmandu. It would be unfortunate if we cannot get the two leaders to sit together,"* a source close to the quiet negotiations said on condition of anonymity. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Pakistan counterpart Nawaz Sharif are scheduled to participate in the eight-nation November 25-27 summit, but both sides have fought shy of going public with the *"first request"* not the least because India is thought to have set stiff conditions. Pakistani sources say Islamabad could consider ways to stay in touch with Hurriyat without offending India. Pakistan is also prepared to restrain its border guards from getting into a spiral of tit-for-tat responses in order to calm down what has been a tense standoff over several weeks.

India snubbed over bulletproof car, *The Express Tribune*, November 17¹²⁸

Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has rejected the use of a bulletproof car provided by rival India for next week's summit of South Asian leaders in Kathmandu, a Nepalese official said Monday. Sharif *"will be bringing his own car... all other vehicles for (visiting) heads of countries have come from India"*, said foreign ministry spokesperson Khaga Nath Adhikari. Adhikari denied the move was a snub specifically targeted at India, whose tense ties with Pakistan have worsened since October over some of the worst cross-border firing in years. *"It's not that they have refused to use an Indian car... when the US president travels, he also brings his own car, it's not an issue,"*

Musharraf on proxy war with India in Afghanistan, *Dawn*, November 18¹²⁹

The departure of Nato combat forces from Afghanistan could push India and Pakistan towards a proxy war in the troubled state, former military ruler General Pervez Musharraf warned in an interview with AFP. *"The danger for Pakistan is... the Indian influence in Afghanistan,"* he told AFP at his house in Karachi. *"That is another danger for the whole region and for Pakistan because Indian involvement there has an anti-Pakistan connotation. They (India) want to create an anti-Pakistan Afghanistan."* Musharraf was a key US ally in its "war on terror" when he was president, but he now lives under tight security in his Karachi home, facing Taliban death threats and criminal cases dating back to his near decade-long rule that ended in 2008.

Afghanistan won't allow proxy India-Pakistan war, *Dawn*, November 20¹³⁰

Former president Hamid Karzai insisted on November 19 that Afghanistan would not allow itself to become the battleground in a proxy war between

¹²⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/792466/pakistan-snubs-india-over-bulletproof-car-at-summit/>

¹²⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1145291/musharraf-warns-of-proxy-war-with-india-in-afghanistan>

¹³⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1145541/afghanistan-wont-allow-proxy-india-pakistan-war-karzai>

India and Pakistan after the imminent departure of US-led troops. Speaking in New Delhi, Karzai angrily rejected warnings by his one-time counterpart in Islamabad Pervez Musharraf that India and Pakistan could co-opt allies among Afghanistan's main ethnic groups to effectively wage war against each other, saying such claims were "hurtful". "Of course Afghanistan will not allow a proxy war between Pakistan and India," Karzai said in an address to a think tank, saying he was "sure" India wouldn't allow such a scenario either. An AFP interview earlier this week, Musharraf warned that Pakistan would look to use ethnic Pashtuns to counter if India tries to achieve its goal of creating an "anti-Pakistan Afghanistan"

Nawaz accuses India of inflexibility, *The Express Tribune*, November 20¹³¹

After Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's speech on Kashmir in UN ruffled feathers in India, the premier blamed the neighbour for having an inflexible approach towards the longstanding issue. Speaking at a meeting of Azad and Jammu Kashmir Council in Muzaffarabad, the prime minister said that he will consult Hurriyat leaders prior to entering negotiations with India. Calling for a peaceful resolution of the dispute, PM Nawaz reiterated that all issues should be resolved through negotiations and without the use of force. "During recent ceasefire violations along the Line of Control, many have been hurt and have suffered; we do not need to use power." PM Nawaz stressed.

India doesn't rule out Sharif-Modi meeting, *Dawn*, November 24¹³²

India has not ruled out a meeting between Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Nawaz Sharif on the sidelines of the Saarc summit, saying Mr Modi is keen to have talks with as many South Asian leaders as possible. Talking to reporters on November 23, Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman Syed Akbaruddin said India wanted "cooperative and peaceful ties" with Pakistan. Efforts under way for Modi-Sharif meeting Mr Modi was keen "to have meaningful dialogue with as many South Asian colleagues as possible," Mr Akbaruddin said. "This would mean taking into account all aspects of the relationships," he added. He said the schedule of the bilateral meetings was being finalised, "and it is a work in progress". "Our intent is to have me-a-ningful dialogues," he said.

India should take initiative to resume talks, *Dawn*, November 26¹³³

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said on November 25 that Pakistan was ready to hold talks with India but it was for New Delhi to take the initiative for resumption of talks. "Now the ball is in India's court," he said while referring to New Delhi's unilateral decision to call off foreign secretary-level talks which

¹³¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/794212/kashmir-issue-pm-nawaz-accuses-india-of-inflexibility/>

¹³² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1146485/india-doesnt-rule-out-sharif-modi-meeting>

¹³³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1146991/india-should-take-initiative-to-resume-talks-pm>

were due in August this year. Talking to reporters aboard his flight from Islamabad to Kathmandu, Mr Sharif said the decision to hold foreign secretary-level talks had been taken by both the prime ministers and they "*should not have been cancelled unilaterally*". The prime minister will attend the 18th summit of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in Kathmandu on November 26.

SAARC Leaders retreat amid Indo-Pakistan chill, Dawn, November 27¹³⁴

South Asian leaders huddled behind closed doors at a picturesque Himalayan hill station in Nepal on November 27 to try to salvage some agreement from a summit paralysed by India and Pakistan's rivalry. All eight Saarc leaders expressed frustration on Wednesday with the slow pace of progress towards greater regional integration, which new Afghan President Ashraf Ghani called a failure of political will. An Indian government source said Prime Minister Narendra Modi may hold informal talks with his Pakistani counterpart at the Dhulikel resort in the Himalayan foothills on Thursday morning, although even that remained uncertain. Modi held one-on-one talks with every Saarc leader except Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday, with both sides saying it was up to the other to request a meeting. "*The idea behind the Saarc retreats is basically to create a relaxed environment in which leaders can speak freely. That's why retreats are there,*" said the Indian official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Pakistan, India may resume talks, The Express Tribune, November 28¹³⁵

On 27 November informal interaction between Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi at a retreat in Kathmandu helped cool down the temperature, according to diplomatic sources. There was no official word from either side about the 'informal chat' but the sources and Pakistani officials hoped this would lead to some positive development. They also indicated that tension between the two countries would ease in the coming weeks. One source suggested that foreign secretaries from the two countries could meet in March. Meanwhile, at her weekly news briefing, foreign ministry spokesperson Tasnim Aslam told reporters that Pakistan wanted peace in the neighbourhood. "*As the prime minister said in his speech yesterday, we need to focus on economic development. Good neighbourly ties have to be on the basis of equality,*" Tasnim added. She dismissed media reports that Pakistan impeded the progress of Saarc, saying Islamabad had played a very constructive role in the meetings leading up to the summit.

¹³⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1147257/leaders-retreat-to-himalayan-hideout-amid-indo-pakistan-chill>

¹³⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/798583/pakistan-india-may-resume-talks/>

Pakistan for ties with India on basis of self-respect, *The News*, Nov. 28¹³⁶

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has returned home after attending 18th summit of the SAARC summit in Khatmandu, Nepal. Speaking to journalists on board, Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan wants ties with India on the basis of dignity, self-respect and honour and desires a “*meaningful*” dialogue to resolve all issues including the Kashmir dispute. The Prime Minister said he twice shook hands with his Indian counterpart and exchanged pleasantries. However, he said that India should not have cancelled the Foreign Secretary level talks in August as was agreed upon during his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi following his swearing in at New Delhi. *‘We had been talking to the Kashmiri leaders in the past whenever Pakistan-India talks are held. This is nothing new as we have to seek the opinion of the Kashmiri leaders on an issue that concerns them the most.* He said Pakistan wishes to pursue the talk’s process from a position of dignity honour and self-respect.

No breakthrough expected in resumption of dialogue, *Dawn*, December 4¹³⁷

Pakistan’s Foreign Office on there is no immediate breakthrough expected in resumption of bilateral dialogue with India. Responding to queries by media representatives at a weekly news briefing in Islamabad, Foreign Office spokesperson Tasneem Aslam said Pakistan believes that peace and stability in the region is important for development. However, there is no immediate break through expected in resumption of bilateral dialogue with India. She further said that Pakistan acted in good faith and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif accepted invitation from India to attend oath taking ceremony of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

SAARC realities, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, November 27¹³⁸

Picking apart the rhetoric and formulaic addresses to the plenary session of the Saarc summit in Kathmandu is neither easy nor likely to be precise. With two of the Saarc member states — India and Pakistan — locked in interminable antagonism and a low-key war on the Siachen glacier and along parts of the Line of Control, expressions by both of emollient sentiments in the Saarc context seem at best fatuous. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif called for the realisation of his own vision of South Asia as a dispute-free region despite it being gripped by the lowest human and social indicators in the world, and poverty disease and illiteracy. The countries of Saarc are home to a quarter of

¹³⁶<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-167073-Pakistan-wants-ties-with-India-on-basis-of-self-respect:-PM-Nawaz>

¹³⁷<http://www.dawn.com/news/1148771/no-breakthrough-expected-in-resumption-of-dialogue-with-india-fo>

¹³⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/797655/saarc-realities/>

the world's population and account for six per cent of global GDP when viewed as purchasing power parity and this is one of the least integrated regions in the world. There is nothing to disagree with in terms of what the prime minister said, but credulity has to be stretched by his vision which may hold true in the very broad context of a Saarc summit but is far removed from reality. [...] This could be nothing more than Prime Minister Modi dreaming out loud, and clarity would be much desired. Where the Indian prime minister was indisputably correct was in his saying that nowhere in the world are collective efforts more urgently needed than in South Asia, and nowhere else are they so modest. A wakeful Saarc would indeed be welcome.

Modi's mythologies, Zarrar Khuhro, *Dawn*, November 17¹³⁹

Suffering from jaundice several decades ago, sick to death of the constant imbibing of sugarcane juice and bored out of my skull, my eyes fell on an interesting volume on my parents' bookshelf: *Some blunders in Indian historical research* by a P.N Oak. It started off innocently enough, with assertions about how the Taj Mahal was a Rajput building appropriated by the Mughals. Similar claims were made about the Red Fort and the Qutub Minar. Reading this up until now I experienced a slightly 'blasphemous' trill, the kind you get when faced with views that go against everything you have ever believed in. Could it be that the history I had been taught all these years was in fact false? Apparently not. According to Oak, Alexander the Great had actually been defeated by Raja Porus (an ignominy suppressed by lying Greek historians). [...] Modi, while he is also prime minister of a country making some serious strides in space technology, is also quite clearly a believer in the Dinanath Batra school of thought. This latter worthy, a RSS ideologue, is the man responsible for getting Penguin India to pulp Wendy Doninger's book *The Hindus: an alternative history*. [...] It may seem hypocritical for a Pakistani to write about this. After all, we've been fed pseudo history, a gift that keeps on giving, and have been fed 'jinn-to-electricity' pseudo-science as well. But here we have the unmatched spectacle of the prime minister of India openly declaring his belief in both. It's hard to look at that with anything but a jaundiced eye.

Taking Saarc out of the baby pool, Jawed Naqvi, *Dawn*, November 25¹⁴⁰

SAARC began as a childish prank to corner the big boy in the neighbourhood. Gen Ziaur Rahman who conceived it and Gen Hossein Mohammed Ershad who hosted the first meeting in Dhaka both bore a baffling grudge against India. We were all allergic to India in South Asia, so we decided to join hands to deal with the problem together, Ershad said in a TV interview a decade

¹³⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1144949/modis-mythologies>

¹⁴⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1146655/taking-saarc-out-of-the-baby-pool>

after flagging off the seven-nation club in 1985. The dramatis personae were as Ershad had described. Gen Ziaul Haq, president Junius Jayewardene, president Maumon Abdul Ghayoom and king Birendra who joined him at the inaugural session fitted nicely with the description of political allergens and allergies. Rajiv Gandhi, of course, had the king of Bhutan for a breakfast partner. Remarkably, India's detractors had another thing in common. They were all traditionally at ease with the United States and China. That was how the diplomatic cookie crumbled in South Asia during much of the Cold War. India along with South Yemen represented Moscow's interests in the Indian Ocean. [...]Despite these apprehensions or perhaps because of them China has kept in touch with influential groups among Afghanistan's Taliban. What is Mr Modi going to say to Mr Ghani about that, and what is he going to be told in return? As the Indian leader and his advisors prepare to head for the 18th Saarc summit in Kathmandu, his home minister has again berated China with some verbal muscle-flexing. Mr Modi's defence minister said no one could take on India any longer. (Well Sri Lanka just did, by picking up some more Indian fishing boats from the Palk Straits!) While they grapple with South Asia's history of mistrust and real or imagined allergies, Mr Modi's advisors may wish to look over the shoulder. An 82-wagon cargo train left for Madrid last week from the Chinese city of Yiwu, signalling the efforts by China and Russia, to revive the ancient Silk Route, and shift the balance of power in Eurasia towards the East. The train, which began its journey on Tuesday, will travel a distance of 10,000 kilometres, a report in *The Hindu* says, 741km more than the Trans-Siberian railway, the longest so far. Starting from Yiwu, a trading hub south of Shanghai, it will cover six other countries — Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, Poland, Germany and France — before ending its 21-day journey in Spain. Mr Modi's dream of bullet trains to link India's cities is laudable, but there may be benefit in opening the aperture a little. The train from China signals growing links among Beijing, Moscow and Berlin who all have been at each other's throats in the past. It is time for South Asia to get out of the baby pool.

FROM URDU MEDIA

Translations by Bhagwandas Ahuja, Yaqoob-ul-Hassan, and Ashok Behuria

America's policy of intervention, Editorial, *Daily Ummat*, 7 November 2014¹⁴¹

US Defence Deptt has published its 6-monthly Report (100-pages) for US Congress wherein it says: (i) Pakistan has been using armed militant groups against Indian military to reduce its strength and capability (ii) Pakistani soil

¹⁴¹ archives at <http://www.ummatpublication.com>

is being used by militants to hatch heinous plots against India, and (iii) Pakistan has also been creating confusion and instability in Afghanistan.

The Report says that both and Afghanistan are very much concerned over this issue that Pakistani militants are having a good time in their safe havens in Pakistan....***After the dismemberment of Russia (which suffered a shameful defeat at hands of Afghan mujahideen), Bharat has craftily come out of Soviet bloc and gone into the American fold. Therefore, Uncle Sam is trying to partonise his new friend and has started pleading its case.*** It is strange that the US has time and again declared that Pakistan is its number one ally and that it was because of Musharraf's unconditional support and excellent cooperation US forces could defeat the Taliban.

At the same time, Uncle Sam has extended full cooperation to Bharat, knowing fully well that it is the greatest enemy of Pakistan. In other words, it wants to ensure its dominant presence in the region by all means even after its withdrawal from Afghanistan. ***Pakistan has become its special target because it feels that by weakening Pakistan, it would weaken the role of the Muslim world in international politics. It also wants to deprive Pakistan of its nuclear assets— that is its first priority!***

As we know, by initiating Zarb-e-Azb operation against the militants Pakistan has achieved tremendous success. Despite all these efforts on our part [to wipe out terrorism], Uncle Sam and Bharat are levelling false allegations against us that our soil is being used by militants. This is completely baseless. ***Let us not forget that during Karzai's regime in Afghanistan, Pakistan extended its full cooperation to it. Otherwise, this puppet government would not have lasted even for one day!***

Now with the coming of the new regime in Kabul led by President Abdul Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, our Army Chief Raheel Sharif has made his maiden visit to Kabul and emphasized upon Afghan military leadership the need to have concord, harmony, unity, cooperation, solidarity and unified approach between our two states, as fellow Muslim nations.

In all probability, relationship between Bharat and Pakistan could improve if Uncle Sam does not interfere in our bilateral relations. As a matter of fact by repeatedly harping upon Pakistani militant activities in both Bharat and Afghanistan and by keeping Pakistan under duress, Uncle Sam is complicating everything.

As we know, all three countries (Bharat, Pakistan and Afghanistan) are independent sovereign countries and there is no need for unnecessary intervention in their internal affairs.

Luckily for us, the recent mid-term elections in America reveal that Obama has lost his control over the Senate and the Congress. In these elections, the

Republicans have gained by securing majority with 243 seats in the Congress. Obama would now face difficulties in working with the Republicans for running his government for next two years. While Obama is facing such internal problems, he should not disappoint the Number One ally of the US.

Conspiracy against Daimar Dam, Daily Bang-e-Sehar, 17 November 2014

Daimar-Bhasha dam is one of the most important projects of Pakistan which could produce 45,000 watt of electricity and address the problem of sever power deficit visiting Pakistan today. This project would also provide 8.1 million acre feet (MAF) of water for irrigating about 3 million acres of land. This would also prove to be a deterrent for floods caused by excess waters in Indus river (Sindh). As far as the disadvantages of this project are concerned, District Daimar would be worst affected by the dam. 32 villages being inhabited by 27,000 families would be affected in the district itself because of the reservoir. Further, Kara Koram Highway connecting China with Pakistan would also be affected.

Because of its significance, Pakistan has initiated a world-wide campaign highlighting the importance of this dam and government officials from Islamabad have been making regular visits to this dam.

Initially, the Government of Bharat had submitted its protest against this dam in the United Nations. In 2006, it had cautioned both the IMF and World Bank to avoid any investment in this project because the project was in a disputed territory. Following this, both these organizations have been reluctant to provide funds for this project. Any opposition from India is not a new thing. From the very inception of Pakistan, India has always opposed any scheme meant for economic growth of Pakistan. Of late, it has come to light that there are also some pro-India bureaucrats in Pakistan who have opposed construction of this dam.

On 4 June 2014, Syed Sikander, Planning Secretary of Gilgit Baltistan sent a letter to the federal government wherein he appealed to the Chief of the Pakistani Planning Commission **that all people affected by the Dam should be compensated with more than PKR150,000 per kanal. The reason given by this Secretary was that if such fat compensations are not given, these people could turn into anti-national elements.** On an earlier occasion, the residents of this district murdered one Captain and Special Superintendent of Police (SSP). Hence, contrary to Syed Sikander's argument, if living conditions of these people get better, then in all probability, these very people could turn against the country. It is good that such intrigues have been exposed in due course of time.

Members of Gilgit Assembly, taking notice of this development, have highlighted their protest to the Secretary Planning. The government has

suspended this Secretary. Rather the right step should have to get him arrested and take serious action against him. Rumours are rife that Syed Sikander has gone on private visit to India at least twice. Secondly, he is very powerful and a close relative of a big General. Actually, there should be investigation into his visits to India.

Earlier during Musharraf's regime, some pro-government elements and people from one NGO were repeatedly visiting this District and pursuing its people to unite and blow the bugle of resentment, but the local residents did not resort to this tactic because of their commitment to welfare of Pakistan. They were rather prepared to sacrifice their graveyard land for the welfare of their country.

It may also be recalled that sometime back one German consultant had visited this area and put forward a plan, wherein he had proposed to pay Rs.25 lakhs per family in 9 stages. Apart from this, according to the Finance Deptt, the Govt was also supposed to take 15 per cent of this sum. In view of such financial and procedural wrangling, the residents of the district demanded release of their dues, which is quite justified. However, the plot hatched by Syed Sikander was that he would dishearten the local population and arouse them against the construction of the Dam project. ***That is why he also sent one copy of his letter to the Governor-Khyber Pakhtun Khwa wherein he wrote that as in the case of Kala Bagh dam, Daimar dam could also be targeted by a bomb.*** Needless to say, in such circumstances, it is the responsibility of the Government to take immediate action against Syed Sikander and give him right punishment and the concerned persons should be given their dues so that no such thing is repeated in future.

Dreaming of peace & prosperity in Karachi, Editorial, *Daily Ummat*, 13 November 2014¹⁴²

Federal Interior Minister Choudhry Nissar Ali Khan claimed that the conditions in city of Karachi have obviously improved. He also assured that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif would soon be visiting Karachi and addressing people in the city.

As we know Karachi is the biggest city of Pakistan and is home to 1/10th of its population. Being a commercial hub it attracts more visitors and is also called "financial capital of Pakistan. But it is an irony that neither the federal government nor the provincial government has allocated sufficient funds for maintaining law and order in this important city.

Sectarian violence coupled with linguistic disputes is witnessed every day in Karachi. For this, provincial police has been provided with Rangers to maintain law and order. According to Choudhary Nissar in last 14 months,

¹⁴² <http://ummat.net/2014/11/13/news.php?p=idrl.gif>

more than 4000 operations were undertaken by the Rangers, wherein more than 7000 militants were arrested. The police authorities should take immediate action, and produce them before the Courts. But this does not happen because the police deptt is beset with corruption. It is a pity that after the arrests, politicians are using these militants for their selfish interests, which has badly damaged the credibility of the police.

As we know Karachi operation was initiated after obtaining the consent of all the political parties. But the figures reveal that the maximum number of arrested culprits belongs to the MQM party. Even the federal minister Chowdhary Nissar gave orders that the police should not disclose their party affiliation! Adding fuel to fire, MQM started complaining that the Government operation was only targeting its cadres only! The residents of Karachi know very well that maximum number of criminals arrested were from Lyari area. It was also noticed that when arrests brought disgrace to a political party or religious tanzeem, all efforts were made not to produce them before the Courts because of political pressures. And if at all some cases were brought before the Courts, the courts set the culprits free due to lack of sufficient evidence. This sort of laxity on the part of Karachi police has provided moral boost to the concerned pol. parties and religious tanzeems. Again in Karachi, ***different kinds of crimes are perpetrated by different tanzeems/parties.***

According to our Staff reporter, despite effective performance by Rangers and repeated patrolling, there is no visible decline in crime rate due to corruption and weekly collection of commissions (*bhatta*) by police.

Terrorists have turned our houses into mourning places!, Editorial, *Daily Express*, 13 Nov 2014¹⁴³

Pakistani security forces have carried out aerial operations. Orakzai agency has witnessed some skirmishes, and there have been bomb-blasts in Bajaur & Bannu areas where they have killed 42 militants, 7 officers and many others are wounded. Reports suggest that up till now 135 terrorists have been killed in operation in Khyber Agency, while 250 militants have surrendered before security forces.

The Sri Lankan government continued its fight against LTTE for 30 long years and in the end they triumphed. Similarly, Pakistani *fauj* and Pakistani citizens have given supreme sacrifices to ensure that their future generations live in peace and security. The good news, according to the government sources, is that our forces have got rid of most of the militants. However, we have long way to go.

¹⁴³http://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1102522387&Issue=NP_ISB&Date=20141113.

....As we know ***Balochistan is the biggest province in Pakistan(area-wise) but as far as the security aspect is concerned, there is no peace at all and we find frequent incidents of murders and killings and even kidnappings of innocent citizens.*** Here we may also recall one case of attack on the Court premises, where the militants attacked the court and instead of killing the Judge, a 13-year old boy was the victim of the terrorists attack. 12 other persons were seriously wounded. In another incident, one ammunition-laden car parked in a market place damaged 6 cars parked nearby and some hardware shops were seriously damaged. Later on, Bomb Disposal Squad revealed that some 40 kgs of explosive was placed in the car! Such sporadic incidents of violence take place regularly. ***All these incidents should be attributed to indiscipline, laxity and negligence on part of our security forces. There is a dire need of infusing more discipline into our security forces.***

Conspicuous shift in Afghan foreign policy, Daily Dunya, 21 November 2014¹⁴⁴

As we know, Pakistan and Afghanistan are connected to each other with regard to their religion and culture. Both countries have relations across the border. ***Except the Durand Line, there is hardly anything which divides them.*** They are also facing similar problems and the most important among them is the issue of terrorism. This menace has gravely affected their economic growth and living conditions of their citizens. Although both countries are fighting against terrorism in their own way problem being grave, they have failed to contain this menace.

Afghanistan is bountiful as far as its natural resources are concerned. If security & peace prevail in the country, and its resources are harnessed, Afghanistan would be on path to progress and prosperity. If terrorism is eliminated from the region, Afghanistan benefit more than Pakistan. In the past, Pakistani leaders have emphasized this fact but these suggestions have never been taken seriously by Afghan leaders. Whenever, the former Afghan President Karzai visited Islamabad, he would be given very cordial welcome and some bilateral agreements would be signed. ***But on his return to Kabul, he would talk differently. He would be talking in a manner which would appeal to Indian leaders.*** When there is no sincerity in bilateral relations, it would be futile to hope for positive results. Now Ashraf Ghani – successor of Hamid Karzai is well-educated and has studied in US; he has a Ph.D. in Economics. He has also been Vice Chancellor of the Kabul University. He is a renowned economist and is extremely serious and always to the point. Hence, we hope that he would implement whatever he said at the joint press conference in Islamabad.

¹⁴⁴ <http://e.duniya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2014-11-17&edition=Ihr&id=1394656-96679666>.

The militants have safe havens on both sides of Pak-Afghan borders. Hence, whenever there is a military operation, the militants run away to the other side of the border. When the Pak security forces started their military operation, it was very convenient for these militants to shift to other side of border and take refuge in Kunnar and Nuristan provinces of Afghanistan. This could be attributed to laxity along the border checkpoints. Similarly, Chief of TTP, ***Fazlullah has been living in Afghanistan and has been hatching plots to carry out attacks on Pakistan. The incident of suicide attack on Wagha border was also planned in Afghanistan.***

For initiating joint action against terrorism, it would be expedient for Afghan government to hand over all the militants to Pakistan and maintain strict surveillance along the border. ***There are 16 passes on the Pak-Afghan border. Khyber, Chaman & Angora passes are being used for trucks and heavy vehicles. There are 13 other small passes with little checking on border.*** Apart from this, there are 125 small passes through which thousands of *qabayalis* (tribal population) are daily transiting on ponies/foot etc. Due to the fact that Durand Line is an open border, there is an urgent need to keep strict surveillance and control on these passes and checkpoints. This would be feasible only when both countries agree to conduct joint operation. As both the countries are facing similar problems, especially the ghost of terrorism, joint action should be initiated before it is too late....

Pak-China Cooperation, Rashid Ahmed Khan, *Daily Dunya*, 15 November 2014¹⁴⁵

Very recently, PM Nawaz Sharif paid yet another visit to China and both the countries signed Agreements to the tune of 45billion dollars. Among these Agreements, energy issue was Pakistan's first priority. The main objective was to stabilize economic condition and speed up progress and prosperity of the country. For the last five decades, China has a special relationship with Pakistan and has close cooperation in several fields.

Of late, both countries have felt that there is a dire need of improving economic conditions for laying firm foundations of an ever-lasting friendship. In 2013, when Chinese Premier had visited Pakistan the new government of Nawaz Sharif was not in office. China had signed 12 agreements which included China-Pak Economic Corridor. During his visit he had emphasized upon improving the energy situation in Pakistan, which was whole-heartedly welcomed by the Pakistani government. That is why ***out of 45 million dollars, 34 million dollars were allotted to exploration of water, air, coal and solar energy resources.*** The record shows that during last decade, several

¹⁴⁵ <http://e.dunya.com.pk/detail//.php?DATE=2014--15EDITION=lhr&ID=1390853-55549238>.

agreements were signed between China and Pakistan to this effect. **But the crux of the problem lies in the tardy implementation of these Agreements.**

Unfortunately the results of the implementation of schemes have not been encouraging. This is the main reasons that despite repeated visit of Nawaz to China the progress in the implementation of programmes has been rather slow, which is very discouraging. **In no way we doubt the intentions of China, but we actually doubt the capability and seriousness of Pakistani government in creating an environment for effective implementation of various MoUs and agreements with China..... Statistics reveals that on ground, Chinese investment in Pakistan so far is very negligible. The fact remains that due to poor law and order situation, the Chinese businessmen hesitate to invest in Pakistan.** This issue was specifically pointed out to Nawaz Sharif during his recent visit to China.

There is no doubt that if these Agreements are implemented in letter and spirit, it would prove to “game changer” for Pakistan. **There exists grav problems of internal instability. Repeated dharnas, protests and demonstrations, have led to larger political uncertainty, coupled with worsening internal security situation due to terrorism.** All these factors have not only discouraged foreign investments but even our indigenous capitalists are scared of making new investments in the country.

As regards the law and order situation, there appears to be some improvement during last one year, but the situation is not stable and secure enough so that investors at home and from abroad to would feel secure about their investment. It is true that since September especially after the launching of Operation Zarb-e-Azb, there has been a conspicuous decline in cases relating to (i) kidnappings (ii) target killings, (ii) weekly *bhattas* extracted by anti-social elements and (4) suicide attacks. However, incidents of traders’ killings, dacoity and fear of life continue to scare the business community. **We should understand that in the South Asia region, China is not only investing in Pakistan but also in several other south Asian countries— especially in Afghanistan and Bharat. No doubt China is anxious to enhance its economic interests in the region. For this, Pak should not only improve its relationship with Afghanistan, but also mend its relations with Bharat.**

New chapter in Pak-Afghanistan relations, Editorial, *Daily Ummat*, 17 November 2014¹⁴⁶

In all probability, in the Ghani-Sharif meeting there was a consensus on improving bilateral relations, and cooperation on various issues of common concern. Meanwhile a statement emanating from Pak. Foreign office says that, both leaders agreed (i) to increase their trade on priority basis; (ii) to hold a

¹⁴⁶ <http://ummat.net/2014/11/17/news.php?p=idr1.gif>

Session in December for improving transit trade facilities; (iii) to form a Joint Business Council constituting members from both countries; (iv) to work jointly towards removing poverty, backwardness, extremist elements and fighting terrorism; and (v) establish a rail-link for trade and commerce to reach Middle East countries.

So the meeting between two leaders is likely to open new vistas in Pak-Afghanistan relationship. President Ashraf Ghani is moving in the right direction and we should now forget the past focus on future!

To recall the past, the Afghan government was favouring India against Pakistan during the rule of King Zahir Shah as well as during Soviet occupation. But after shameful defeat of Soviet forces at the hands of Afghan mujahideen, the ground situation changed. For some time, Afghanistan was ruled by the Taliban. ***During this period there arose strong apprehensions that Pakistan and Afghanistan might be coming together to form a "Confederation", which might later prove to be a model for other Islamic nations in the neighbourhood. This plan was welcomed by Pakistan's General Zia-ul-Haq but was not acceptable to anti-Muslim and pro-American elements. So Uncle Sam hatched a plot and removed Zia-ul-Haq from the political scene.*** Thereafter, US forces attacked Afghanistan and were planning to move towards Pakistan, but failed. Uncle Sam continued its occupation of Afghanistan for 12 years and is now planning to withdraw. ***During occupation of Afghanistan, the US made Karzai his puppet president. He used to speak in favour of India and was always against Pakistan.***

Now since President Ghani has taken over the reins of the administration, it is hoped that he would come forward to improve bilateral relations with Pakistan. If he sticks to his words, then God-willing there would usher a new era in our bilateral relations and it would bring stability in the region.

President Ghani's first visit to Pakistan, Editorial, *Daily Ummat*, 15 Nov 2014¹⁴⁷

It is an irony that both countries were victims of Uncle Sam's so called war on terror, which resulted in the loss of 50,000 lives in Pakistan plus economic hardship to the tune of one lakh million dollars.

President Ashraf Ghani whole-heartedly thanked Pakistan's services and its outright support for Afghanistan. The fact is that the security, progress and welfare of both countries are inter-linked. Ashraf Ghani's first visit to Pakistan is significant because of worsening security scenario in Afghanistan following the withdrawal of the US and Nato forces by the year-end. ***As we know 5 years of Taliban rule was were a splendid chapter in the history of Afghanistan and there was peace and security in the country. Even today,***

¹⁴⁷ <http://ummat.net/2014/11/15/news.php?p=idr1.gif>

most of the provinces of Afghanistan are under Taliban control. Thus there is a strong possibility that after withdrawal of US/Nato forces, there would be confusion and chaos.. And it would be better if there is no external interference in the internal affairs of both Afghanistan and Pakistan. **The past shows that Afghanistan served as a playground for Super Powers to exhibit their might and it was only during Taliban regime it had real peace.**

Both countries being neighbours, needless to say, Pakistan is only country which could provide maximum assistance. **We know that more than 40 lakh persons from Afghanistan took refuge in Pakistan during Soviet occupation. Some are still dwelling in Pakistani camps. The most chronic problem faced by both countries is terrorism which could be tackled jointly.**

Political crisis in Pakistan – A matter of concern, Editorial, *Daily Dunya*, 28th Nov.2014¹⁴⁸

As we know there are still 12-13 days left for PTI's demonstrations and there should be sincere efforts by the government to put an end to this crisis. Nobody should make reckless statements and counter allegations, which may aggravate the present situation.

Naturally, the PTI protesters want that the crisis should deepen and tension intensify so that they could move ahead with their agenda of bringing down the government. The statements coming from Information Minister have already aggravated the situation in the country. This would lead to counter-allegations. After Maulana Qadri ended his protests, there were instructions from the Prime Minister's Office that no reckless statements should be made by anybody and this should be stopped. **Rumours are rife that Nawaz Sharif has paid Rs.270crores to Intelligence Bureau (IB) to sabotage the dharna. If this be correct, the conditions could worsen further.** In these conditions, firing upon PTI rally in Jhelum is a matter of grave concern. It needs to be jointly probed to satisfy the other side. Otherwise situation would be more explosive.

Ever-increasing tide of terrorism, Editorial, *Daily Ummat*, 19 November 2014¹⁴⁹

Global Terrorism Index-2014 reveals that there were 10,000 militant attacks during last year, which was 44% more than last year (2012), wherein 18000 persons died. Institute for Economics and Peace report (IEP) in America says that amongst 5 countries (affected by terrorism), Pakistan stands 3rd in the list.

During year-2013, 1933 attacks took place in Pakistan wherein 2345 persons got killed and 5035 were wounded. Most affected countries with terrorism

¹⁴⁸ <http://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2014-11-18&edition=LHR&id=1396934-43201550>

¹⁴⁹ <http://ummat.net/2014/11/19/news.php?p=idr1.gif>

are Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan. The real cause of spreading the menace of terrorism is known to all, i.e. America. The whole world knows that before the arrival of Uncle Sam, things were not so bad and ghastly. For centuries, both Shias and Sunnis were living amicably. But America along with its allies turned Iraq to shambles. ***On a flimsy ground, it attacked Iraq and got rid of Saddam Hussain. They offered 'democracy' as a gift to the Iraqis. But it also sowed the 'seeds' of Shia-Sunni conflict, the fruits of which are being harvested now by the Iraqis.***

After al Qaeda, now ISIS is another byproduct of Uncle Sam's policy, which has made life hell for the Iraqis. If the US had not pursued its demonic expansionist policy (in Middle East) in holy Muslim countries, al Qaeda would not have emerged. Needless to say, Uncle Sam played a pivotal role in giving a fillip to terrorist activities in Afghanistan. The US had also committed another mistake by tagging all fighting forces, who fought against Soviet Union, as 'mujahid' and boosting their morale. After the exodus of Soviet Union, Afghanistan became a victim of civil war because of fighting between several warring groups. These mujahids finally established an "Islamic regime". ***However, again under the false pretext of 9/11, in which the US held Muslims responsible for the attack and attacked Afghanistan for sheltering Osama Bin Laden and hundreds of thousands of innocent Muslims were killed, despite the fact that Afghans were least connected with Osama bin Laden. After Afghanistan, U.S. diverted its attention towards Pakistan also. On one side, drone attacks coupled with Black Water spy agencies, they carried on indiscriminate attacks on Pakistani soil. All these provocative operations by Uncle Sam has given birth to terrorist tanzeems which made life a hell for Pakistanis.*** Suicide bomb attacks, which were not known to Pakistan, are now so common!

Initially, mass movement in Syria was against the ruling party of Assad. But now, because of US intervention, it has turned into a bloody sectarian war, which has resulted in the death of more than 130,000 innocent Muslims. On top of it, the US, champion of world peace and human rights, has remained as a silent spectator in this tragedy. The result has been obvious. It has rekindled anguish and sympathy amongst Muslim youth all over globe in support of Syrian Muslims, which has now become matter of serious concern for all European countries. Needless to say, Uncle Sam has played pivotal role in this game also.

Now countries in the region are fed up with terrorism and want to get rid of it. ***But despite this terrorism is on the rise, mainly because of the fact that the measures adopted by them are superficial. Secondly the founding father of al Qaeda— the US— is not at all serious about wiping out terrorism because it thinks that if peace would descend upon these lands, it would be biggest***

looser for the simple reason that it would lose its clout in the region. All terrorist *tanzeems* manage to procure sophisticated arms and ammunition from the allies of the US. So the US is net gainer.

After weakening al Qaeda, America has brought ISIS on the world stage. These Islamic fanatics are perpetrating barbarity on innocent Muslims. On the other hand, liberal fascists take every Muslim with beard and cap as a terrorist. Moreover, due to poverty, unemployment and declining security and economic conditions in Muslim countries, many people are joining these terrorist agencies. **As our country is on top of the list of terrorist countries, we need to introspect seriously and find out a solution to this problem so that our next generation lives in peace!**

Raheel Sharif's visit to the US, Editorial, *Daily Express*, 19 Nov 2014¹⁵⁰

General Raheel Sharif made a visit to the US and met Lloyd Austin, Chief of Central Command at Tampa, Florida. D.G. ISPR – Maj. Gen. Asam Bavya has tweeted that Gen. Raheel apprised Gen. Austin about the security conditions, Pakistan's stand on regional security, increase in Pak-Afghan military relations and Indian forces' violations on Line of Control. Main focus was on regional security and stability. Gen. Austin lauded Pakistani's efforts in carrying out Zarbe Azb and praised the Pakistan military for its efforts. Later, Gen. Raheel and his delegation went to Washington DC, where he would meet Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Chairman & Jt. Chief of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey.

The visit being Gen. Raheel's first, would have far-reaching results and have special importance with regard to Pak-U.S. military relations especially from point of view of Bharat-Afghanistan relations. As we know there are changes emerging in south Asian countries especially in Bharat, where BJP has taken over reins of the country. Narendra Modi has maintained an aggressive posture vis-à-vis Pakistan and the US is fully aware of it. In Afghanistan we also have a new leadership – Dr. Ashraf Ghani, who is known to be very close to the US. He has recently visited China and then came to Pakistan. He held detailed discussions with military leaders at the G.H.Q and Raheel Sharif has gone to the US after this. Hence, this visit assumes a special significance. There are strong apprehensions that during the ongoing Zarb-e-Azb operation, some elements are being spared. The reports coming from N Waziristan indicate that all militant groups are being cleared by the operation. This effort is very much appreciated by Gen. Austin and they are aware that the operation is carried out in the right direction. Haqqani network is also being attacked.

¹⁵⁰ <http://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=D=II02532641&issue=NP-ISB&Date=20141119>.

It is believed that during talks Raheel-Austin talks, Pak-Bharat border problem came up for discussion. It is important to apprise US military officers about this issue. ***The previous Karzai regime in Afghanistan had been making false propaganda about Pakistan. The Indian lobby in the US has also been making false propaganda against Pakistan. In such circumstances, it is essential to acquaint the US about the real picture on the ground. This would improve U.S.-Pakistan relations in future.***

How and when can we expect elections in Gilgit-Baltistan?, Dr. Mohammad Zaman, *Daily- Bang-e-Sehar*, 28 Nov 2014

Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto adopted some good measures for the people of Gilgit Baltistan. As a result, he occupies a high pedestal in the perception of the people of this region. ***The PPP workers assumed Gilgit Baltistan as another Larkana for them. They have reaped good electoral harvests in the past and are expecting the same in the coming elections. For this reason, workers of Muslim League always take the people of G-B with a pinch of salt.*** Though Muslim League (N) took over reins of the country three times, it has neither made any administrative reforms nor taken any suitable measures to ameliorate the sufferings of the common man in G-B. ***As a result, they could not win over the the residents of the Sanglakh mountains (Sangla hills).***

The PPP came out with a new set-up in 2009 and renamed the Northern Areas as Gilgit-Baltistan. But unfortunately, the budgetary allocations were not spent well. The allocations were all spent on the rulers and very little was made available for the welfare of the common man. There were no municipal elections held. And the small amount which was left was consumed by the corruption mafia!

The tenure of the present regime will come to an end in December. Elections were to take place in October/November. Federal authorities have postponed the elections for the next year. As we know, the present federal government, due to its own compelling reasons, could not pay due attention to this issue. Leave aside elections, even they could not change the Governor. ***As a result, PML-N branch of the region has been trying its best to convince the central leadership about the need to change the governor of G-B and has even threatened to carry on suicide attacks.*** This has created lot of frustration among the Party workers. Now let us see, who will be the next governor. Obviously this post will go to somebody who is a favourite of Miyan Nawaz Sharif. ***There is already a war of words between PPP and PML-N over this issue.***

We have heard people saying that Mahdi Shah cannot appoint even a grade one employee. Now if Mehdi Shah is removed from seat and replaced by someone else at this juncture, the new CM would not be having a magic wand to satisfy the people. The term of the present regime expires on 12th December.

If the elections are conducted during winter, it would be difficult for the candidates to reach the voters, because the far flung areas would be covered with snow and it would make movement difficult for the campaigners.

Anyway, as and when the elections are announced, there would be hustle and bustle by beating of the drums, covered envelopes would be flying from one place to another. Scrap Gilgit Baltistan Council, Empower

Legislature Editorial, *Daily-Bang-e-Sehar*, 1 Dec.2014,
[http://www.bangeshahr.net/popup.php?date=11-27-2014&img=11-27-](http://www.bangeshahr.net/popup.php?date=11-27-2014&img=11-27-2014Ofw2-3)

2014Ofw2-3 The Federal Minister of States, Frontiers and Kashmir Affairs Choudhry Barjees Tahir presented a budget of Rs.78 crores for Gilgit Baltistan Council for the year 2014-15. During the presentation, he said that this Council was merely a symbolic forum and progeny of the Self-Empowerment Order. **In reality, federal authorities feel that it is a mere waste of time to pay attention to this Forum. Barjees Tahir also knows its importance. It was disheartening that the Council has lost its worth, its utility and importance. The actual role is played by the federal government, and the Prime Minister feels it below his dignity to pay attention to this Council.** Similar is the case with Barjees Tahir. **The Council has a six-member presence, but its interests are only limited to collect salaries and perks and privileges/concessions for the members.** No doubt there are also six local members who have made ample efforts to make it workable, especially during the Peoples Party's regime. But these efforts have not brought any tangible results.

Now it is not clear on which heads this amount of 78 crores has been sanctioned. **There are enormous natural resources. It is not understood why the revenues coming from these resources are not accounted for by the Council itself? The resources are, i.e., forests, tourism industry, minerals etc. All these subjects are under control of Council. It is also not too clear as to how this budget allocated to Council is to be utilized and accounted for.** A Power Board has been established where the appointments are made by Islamabad. These useless officers have not done any useful job. **The Council was established to address the problems of the common man and also highlight these problems before the federal authorities. Unfortunately, the Council itself is a liability and some sort of a burden for the people of GB. The federal govt has allocated budget of several crores for its Members, but its details have never been made public.**

The Self-Empowerment Order covered a wide gamut of issues. But it was rather silent on the issue of travel and tourism, which obviously has great employment potential and needs to be harnessed. They could have through the 18th Amendment brought all departments of GB under the Gilgit Baltistan Assembly. **The six local members of the Council do not do anything worthwhile. Because of some bickering among them, the 'travel and tourism'**

industry has been reduced to nothing. Similar is the case with regard to exploration of minerals. A few days back, some four foreign companies were given licences, while the local companies were denied. Ironically, the Council remained a silent spectator on this issue. Actually, these departments which deal with millions of rupees are under the direct control of Islamabad. Where is the accountability of these funds received from foreign sources?

Similarly, all the files on planning and projects relating to hydro-electricity production are also lying in the cupboard of Nawaz Sharif government in Islamabad! They have established a Power Board, but no one knows the details of the projects. Islamabad has been clamouring about paucity of funds, while they do not want to tell us about the Power Board of Gilgit Baltistan. **We are of the view that the Council, which is of no use, should be scrapped and all authority should be vested in Gilgit Baltistan Legislative Assembly.**

SAARC Conference and the ground realities, Editorial, Daily Express, 28 November 2014¹⁵¹

In the inaugural session, Nawaz Sharif said that one fourth of world's total population was living in this region and was victim of poverty, disease and illiteracy. Bulk of this population is young, majority of remain unemployed. Hence, the region is economically backward. To combat all these problems, it was imperative that all the underdeveloped countries should come together. If all energies and attention were directed towards solving these problems, the SAARC forum would succeed and the region would witness a new dawn.

In the same session, Prime Minister Modi rightly said that all the countries would have to be united to contain the menace of terrorism in the region. We have to bear in mind the common problems faced by all the countries in the region. **Why goods sent from one Punjab will have to go all through a circuitous route [via Karachi and Dubai] to reach the other Punjab? This entails more money and also loss of time.** Modi presented his 5-point vision. We could have better relations with the people by means of trade, travel and commerce, and capital assistance.

Now really, it is to be seen how the mutual differences are resolved and what specific role is played by the leaders of Seven countries for the upliftment and betterment of less-developed regions. Every time at the SAARC meeting, leaders make tall talks, but no substantial measures are being taken to implement these schemes. Secondly, SAARC forum is ineffective due to 'tension' between two big powers, i.e. India and Pakistan. **Modi talks about common problems between countries, but he misses no opportunity to**

¹⁵¹ [http://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1102547870&Issue=NPO-
ISB&Date=2014-11-28](http://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1102547870&Issue=NPO-
ISB&Date=2014-11-28)

criticize Pakistan. During SAARC summit, all countries except India and Pakistan exchanged news/views on bilateral issues.

Needless to say that Saarc has the potential to become like “European Union” provided they make sincere efforts to resolve all irritants, develop a positive attitude and move ahead. **It would be better if Prime Minister Modi, instead of launching his tirade against Pakistan, softens his attitude and remain positive about India-Pakistan relations. Showering of bullets has to stop and tension on borders should end. Then only peace will descend in the region.**

The SAARC Conference, Editorial, *Daily Express*, 27 Nov 2014¹⁵²

PM Nawaz Sharif said that without removing tension between Pakistan and Bharat, SAARC forum could not play an effective role. On the other hand, Indian Prime Minister emphasized that now onwards all territorial and Kashmir problem should be settled by the two countries. He also spoke about collective measures to wipe out terrorism.

But it was Bharat, who cancelled Foreign Secretaries’ meet on 25th August], which was criticized by media persons in India also. It is an irony that on the occasion of SAARC summit, Home Minister of Bharat, Raj Nath Singh, was not lagging behind in accusing Pakistan. He said India had not yet forgotten 26/11 Mumbai attacks. In this connection, Nawaz Sharif has rightly said that when Bharat was initiating dialogue, what made them to stop it?

Before leaving for Kathmandu, Mr.Modi in a brief meeting at New Delhi had said that “he hoped he would have meetings with each Member of the Forum. By this he meant to have a meaningful dialogue at Kathmandu. [But he chose not to have meeting with Nawaz Sharif]. This summit was going to be a failure, but last minute deal on electricity salvaged Kathmandu Summit. On 26th January, US President Obama will arrive in New Delhi. On 11th Nov, 2014, Obama said in Beijing that China should be part and parcel of international regime and should not sabotage this system. **Now time has come that the world community should tell Uncle Sam to pressurize Bharat to resolve all long-pending issues with Pakistan and initiate a dialogue to normalize bilateral relations so that peace descends upon the region!**

Bharat is its own enemy, Editorial, *Daily Ummat*, 1 December 2014¹⁵³

India’s Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha has said that India had to face security challenges in the region because of China’s barbarity, and incursions by Pakistan. He also argued that Pakistan itself was suffering from menace of terrorism and even if it was part and parcel of the International Campaign against Terrorism, it has been encouraging terrorists. **He was of the view that**

¹⁵² <http://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1102546107&Issue=NP-ISB&Date=20141127>

¹⁵³ <http://ummat.net/204/12/01/news.php?p=idrl.gif>

after the exit of allied forces from Afghanistan, India would be confronted with more of conventional terrorism which could deteriorate the conditions further. By virtue of being the biggest country in South Asia region, and it would be in a much more commanding position. **But, by repeatedly voicing these dangers by its political leaders and military bosses, one is inclined to deduce that either it is ignorant of its capability or its morale is very low.** As compared to Pakistan, India's military power is 5-6 times more. Let us not forget that in 1971, by prompting and promoting local rebels in Eastern Pakistan, it succeeded in truncating our country and we lost our right arm. **And still, India has been scared of Pakistan. Instead of accusing the neighbours, India should make serious introspection and take note of its own weaknesses and defects.** History is witness that Pakistan had never taken any initiative to attack India. Similarly, China has never had any expansionist designs vis-à-vis India. Nevertheless, India has always tried to occupy Chinese territories and China has taught a lesson to India. India wishes that by virtue of its demographic dividends it can compete with China in the international economic arena and dominate international markets. **However, this is not possible by any means because there is no corruption in China, while India is riddled with scams. Secondly, the economic and political set-up of China is very stable and strong.**

JIHADI MEDIA

Pakistani regime is the agent of the Satan, Azam Yahya Ghadan, *Nawa-i-Afghan Jihad*, November 2014

Salaam to all my Muslim Brethren of the world, Whenever we recall persons like Hamid Karzai Noorul Malki (of Iraq) and Hassan Sheikh Mahmood (of Somalia) talking about national interests, one cannot but stop laughing. **Karzai talking about national interests was like a devil reciting the scriptures!** Karzai and other names mentioned above were lackeys of Uncle Sam and traitors for their countries! They were made to rule over innocent public by the might of the US and its allies, which has helped them dominate the entire globe! They have managed their puppets well, who have ruled us enjoying the patronage of their masters. **Likewise, many of us believe that most of the other 55 Muslim countries in the Muslim world have also been ruled by puppet governors like Karzai, who are ruling for last 50-60 years. During this period, puppet rulers were busy satisfying their whims and fancies. This phenomenon has continued for last six decades.** These puppets have been at the service of their masters and dance to their tunes.

Western powers colonized the Muslim countries during 1920-1970. They handed over the custody of these countries to some of their confidantes who have ruled on their behalf. Likewise, they have also repeated this same experiment in Iraq and Afghanistan. Notwithstanding all this, there have

been popular rebellions against these government disapproving of the Western(Christian) domination!

Now we see that if Karzai has spent his last 11 years in the service of Uncle Sam then what to talk about Pakistan? ***The Pakistani government, its military and security agencies have been, for the past 65 years, dancing to the tune of Uncle Sam and the Bull Dog[Britain]. Unfortunately, for the last 65 years, Pak Military and Pak political leaders have been meticulously discharging their responsibility which has been thrust upon them since its inception.***

Pakistani leadership has been performing its assigned job of duping all the Muslims from Burma to Afghanistan. On same lines, the devil Muammar Gaddafi regime was given the responsibility to keep Muslims of Africa under his control and thus erect a wall between Eastern and Western Islamic world. In the same way, they are misguiding opposing factions in Syria solely to protect the interests of Israel. ***In this whole game, the most Satanic and wicked partner is the Saudi regime!*** Because of its abundant oil reserves, Saudi royal family has for last so many decades, maintained its supremacy over Mecca and Medina. ***It also has control over all Muslim nations and all Islamic movements. It always poses itself as a supreme power in the Muslim world and prevents any Palestine-sponsored attack, which might prove to be dangerous for Israeli interests.***

All my Muslim brethren, let us discuss the domination of Western powers over Pakistan. After all, the responsibility for this malady rests upon our own Muslim brethren! We have allowed our rulers to bring our countries to such a deteriorating stage for so many decades. One ponders why no one made any endeavor to protect and safeguard our Deen (Islam). It is a pity that we organize protests for load-shedding, we tolerate regular lathi-charges for the defence of our political parties and our favourite [cricket] teams. But, how many of us are there who gave their supreme sacrifice for our Deen? ***How many of us were ready to resort to extreme steps and dared to come forward to remind our puppet rulers that they were on a wrong path, which could not be tolerated anymore? How many of us came in protests on roads with the resolve that we would return to our homes until and unless the Pak puppet regime is replaced with Shariat laws!***

All my Muslim brothers and sisters of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Kashmir, I want to inform you that the Pakistani fauj and government and its intelligence agencies are all playing a duplicitous game not only in the south Asian region, but throughout the world. ***Until we have gained deliverance from these colonizers and their domination, the Muslims of Pakistan-Afghanistan will not make any progress towards peace and stability. At the moment, Pakistan government, military and security agencies have arrested several thousands of our Muslim brethren in Pakistan, Afghanistan and***

Kashmir. Some of them have been killed and some of them have disappeared from the scene.

Let us not forget that the Pakistani regime is not only a lieutenant of the Satan but is hand in gloves with it. It is has, in a way, become a potential danger for the Muslims of the whole region. **It has become an "ulcer" for the Muslim world! That is why I invite all my Pakistani brethren to revolt against the present rulers in Islamabad and Rawalpindi and thus perform your pious duty to serve your religion. We have to dislodge the present rulers and target US/Western interests, their officers, embassies, and this should continue till all the foreigners retreat to their own countries.**

If this was not the right/opportune moment for removing them, then could there be a better time? Or should we wait until Pakistan is torn into further pieces and Uncle Sam takes over our atomic assets, or China and India plan attacks on Pakistan with the help of their own local assets inside Pakistan? Have we not learnt our lessons from losing Bangladesh?

It was a Jihadi attack conducted by insiders in navy to target U.S. and Indian navy!, Nawa-i-Afghan Jihad, November 2014.

With God's grace on 6 September 2014, Jamait al Qaeda al Jihad mujahideen captured two warships of the Pakistani Navy. Actually, the main idea was an attempt to destroy Indian and US Naval vessels. **In this connection, initial information was given to media persons by us in this regard. But, media channels of Pakistan, due to fear of the Pakistani fauj and security agencies, diverted these facts and published a different version saying that some outside agencies attacked Pakistani vessels.** The actual version of the Jamaiul Jihad is as follows:

After 9/11 mujahideen attack on the twin towers, the US not only made direct attack on Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, but also took all measures to maintain its presence in the Indian Ocean. **With this objective the US constituted a major naval Coalition Maritime Campaign Plan (CMCP). Forty five countries are members of this Coalition.** Pakistan Navy is also involved in this Coalition. Other major countries are America, Britain, Australia, France and Japan.

Description of US Oil Tanker-USS Supply

In terms of its size, utility and price-tag, USS Supply is one of the most important American naval ships after aircraft carriers. It carries sufficient quantities of oil to supply all warships of the CMCP with fuel for six months. USS Supply is manned by two hundred American sailors. This tanker does not have its own defense system; however, due to its importance, an American frigate is normally present within a radius of ten kilometers for its protection. The warships of all coalition partners, including Pakistan, are

refueled from this oil tanker every twelve to fifteen days. During refueling, this tanker comes within a distance of only thirty meters of the warship being refueled.

Frigates are very fast moving lethal vessels. This frigate we are talking about is equipped with most sophisticated and ultra-modern weapons, i.e. torpedo missiles, guided missiles with a range of about 120 kms, surface to air missiles, and latest type of guns. It is normally seven times as expensive as the highest-priced military aircraft (such as the P3-C Orion, which was destroyed by the Mujahideen at Mehran Base with by Allah's grace). Only the submarines of the Pakistan Navy are worth more than its frigates. Pakistan possesses one naval ship which is costlier than P3-C Orion. It possesses nine frigates in its flotilla.

For protection of its oil supply tankers, the US has kept a frigate, which is very costly and equipped with sophisticated weapons. It is manned by 250-300 personnel of the American Navy. In addition to the frigates of the Pakistani and American navies, frigates of other coalition partners in the CMCP also patrol the waters of the Indian Ocean. But all frigates are under CMCP control.

For carrying out operation, we had several Taliban mujahideen working on two Pakistani frigates— PNS *Zulfiqar* and PNS *Aslat*. By God's grace we had made fool-proof arrangements to send heavy arms and ammunition to our Mujahideen to enable them to carry out operation as per our plan.

Plan- PNS Zulfiqar (Mansooba)

According to our plans this ship left the dockyard for patrol on 3 Sept. The plan was that few days after its departure, it was to be refueled by USS Supply. According to our plan, the mujahideen on the ship would have destroyed this ship with the help of 76 mm anti-ship missiles when the PNS *Zulfiqar* would have come within a radius of 30 metres of the USS Supply. During this period, another group of mujahideen present on PNS *Zulfiqar* were instructed to target any nearby warship meant for protecting USS Supply with guided missiles. This operation would have continued till the mujahideen attained martyrdom.

Second Plan – PNS Aslat

This ship was anchored at Karachi and we had some mujahideen comrades working on it and they were carrying heavy arms and ammunition. According to Plan, our mujahideen were required to capture and maintain their control over the ship and enter Indian waters with the sole intention of launching missile attacks upon Indian naval ships. If there was any hinderance in carrying out this scheduled programme, mujahideen were

required to move towards Persian Gulf and attack US ship stationed close to Gwadar port.

Details of Execution of the Plan

By grace of Allah the Great, our mujahideen succeeded in capturing the two naval ships. Meanwhile, they were confronted with Pakistani naval officers. The fight continued for several hours on both the vessels. Due to this skirmishes with Pakistani naval officers, the mujahideen could not execute attacks upon US and Indian ships as per the plan. ***During this fighting several Pakistani naval officers lost their lives in defence of American ships and as this fight continued, our mujahideen also made their supreme sacrifice and tasted the nectar of martyrdom!***

Pakistani naval war ship PNS Zulfiqar left Karachi airport on 3 Sept. Our mujahideen laden with arms and ammunition were also there on the ship. As per announcement made by Pakistani Naval Hqrs, this attack took place on 6 November on Karachi naval dockyard. However, in reality this ship had already completed 3 days' journey in Arabian sea by then. How could it be possible to accept that the incident occurred on Karachi dockyard and that the skirmishes took place on Karachi dockyard and not on the high seas.

Assuming that there was no skirmish on the ship and no casualty of naval official, then why this story of the whole incident was announced 5 days after the actual incident? If at all everything took place at the Karachi port itself, what was the reason for delay in disclosing all the details of incident?

Now did it actually take three long days to bring back ship (Zulfiqar) at Karachi shores and all the evidences were being erased during this period! Or did it take three days to bring back the Zulfiqar ship to the shores of Karachi?

Now inside PNS Aslat ship, our mujahideen comrades laden with arms had arrived by 13 August. Actually, there was no attack upon Karachi dockyard from outside. Rather the real fight started after taking over control of PNS Aslat which also spread onto the dockyard area. So we know that the whole story that the attack on Karachi dockyard was engineered from outside is incorrect and completely wrong so as to cover up the death of Pakistani naval officials and conceal the success story of our Mujahideen in fighting. This concoction became all the more essential for the simple reason that American high ranking naval officers were scared lest the real story may reach common man in street and inspire common people to join jihad. ***Could it not be concluded then that sentiments of rebellion has arisen within the ranks of officers of Pakistani military and they are inclined to carry out jihadi attacks upon US, Bharat and its allies and eliminate them?***

The mujahideen who attained martyrdom in this operation were presently working in the Pakistani Navy. Except mujahid Zakhrani, who had resigned

recently from service, all others were serving in the navy. ***We do not know why this fact is being hidden from the public eye. If it were not so, who were these persons who carried out the attack and why their identities were not disclosed to the public?***

STATISTICS

BOMBINGS, SHOOTINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES

(Select incidents culled out from the Pakistan media)

Place	Date	Description	Killed	Injured
Balochistan				
Quetta ¹⁵⁴	11/11/2014	Bomb targeting ATC judge kills boy in Quetta.	1	32
Khuzdaz ¹⁵⁵	17/11/2014	Blast in Khuzdar kills one, injures 13	1	13
Quetta ¹⁵⁶	24/11/2014	One person killed after blast near Pak-Iran border.	1	2
FATA				
North Waziristan ¹⁵⁷	1/7/204	Security convoy attacked with IED, killing four security officials	4	16
Punjab				
Wagah ¹⁵⁸	2/11/2014	TTP splinter groups claim Wagah attack; 60 dead.	60	110
Sailkot ¹⁵⁹	5/11/204	Mortar explosion kills three children in Narowal village.	3	1
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa				
Peshawar ¹⁶⁰	5/11/2014	Explosion in Khyber Agency's Zakakhel bazaar kills four.	4	2
Bannu ¹⁶¹	17/11/2014	Bomb blast in government school leaves three injured	0	3

¹⁵⁴ <http://nation.com.pk/national/12-Nov-2014/bomb-targeting-atc-judge-kills-boy-in-quetta>

¹⁵⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/792054/blast-in-khuzdar-kills-one-injures-four/>

¹⁵⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1146371/one-person-killed-after-blast-near-pak-iran-border>

¹⁵⁷ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/570699/north-waziristan-four-soldiers-killed-in-miramshah-blast/>

¹⁵⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1142006/ttp-splinter-groups-claim-wagah-attack-60-dead>

¹⁵⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1142389/mortar-explosion-kills-three-children-in-narowal-village>

¹⁶⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1142374/explosion-in-khyber-agencys-zakakhel-bazaar-kills-four>

¹⁶¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/792454/bomb-blast-in-government-school-leaves-three-injured-in-banu/>

		in Bannu.		
Sindh				
Karachi ¹⁶²	19/11/2014	Bombs away: Two cops, 19 others injured in grenade attack.	0	19
Karachi ¹⁶³	24/11/2014	ANP leader, MQM worker killed in Karachi violence.	2	0

DRONE STRIKES

Place	Date	Description	Casualties
North Waziristan ¹⁶⁴	11/11/2014	US drone kills six in North Waziristan.	6
Peshawar ¹⁶⁵	21/11/2014	Abu Khalid, Major (retd) Adil killed in drone strike: AQIS spokesman	4

¹⁶²<http://tribune.com.pk/story/793343/bombs-away-two-cops-19-others-injured-in-grenade-attack/>

¹⁶³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1146378/anp-leader-mqm-worker-killed-in-karachi-violence>

¹⁶⁴ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-165412-US-drone-kills-six-in-North-Waziristan>

¹⁶⁵[http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-166359-Abu-Khalid,-Major-\(retd\)-Adil-killed-in-drone-strike:-AQIS-spokesman](http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-166359-Abu-Khalid,-Major-(retd)-Adil-killed-in-drone-strike:-AQIS-spokesman)