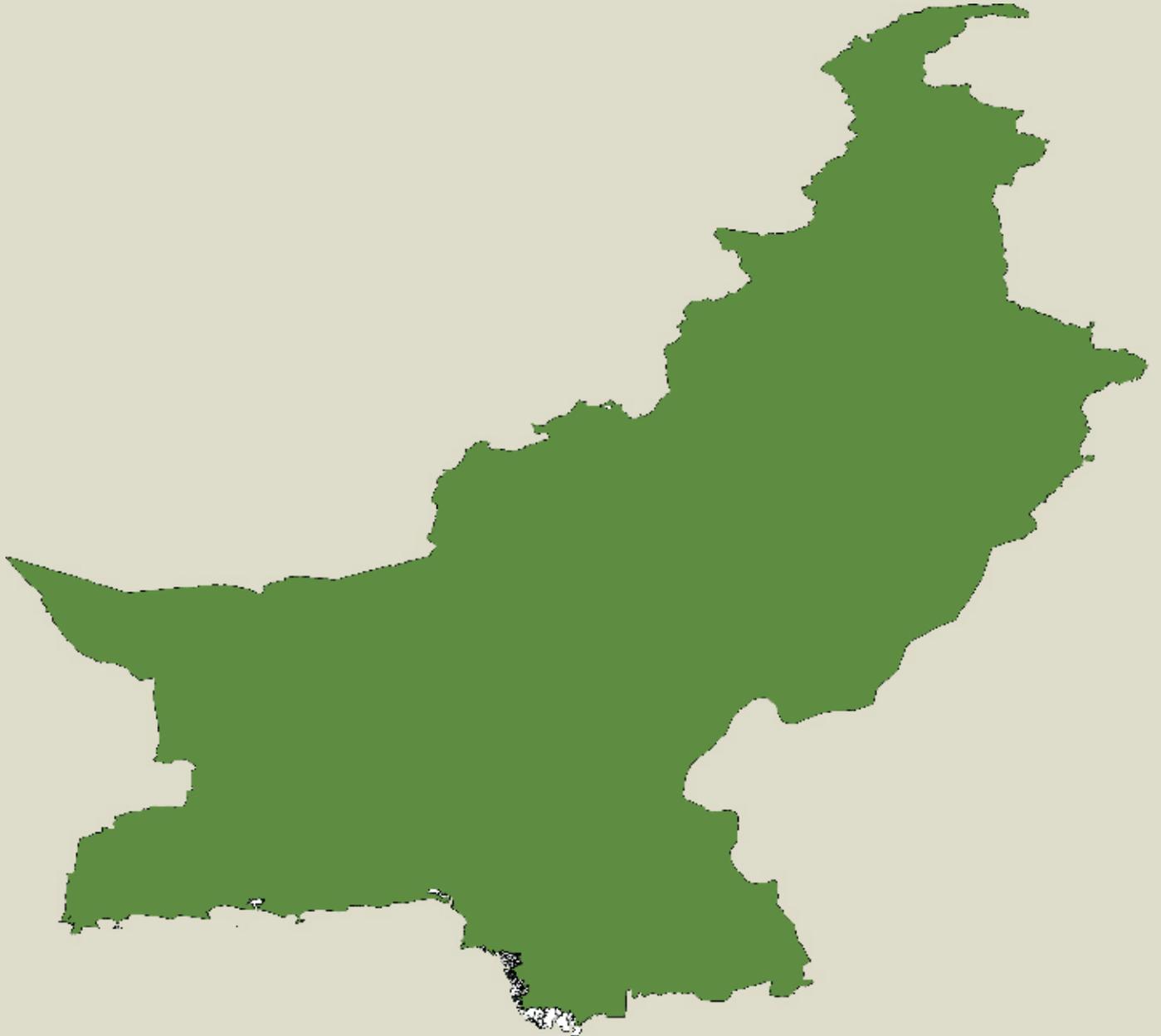


September 2015

PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST

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



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

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INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE
STUDIES & ANALYSES
रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS	2
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS	3
NATIONAL POLITICS.....	3
PROVINCIAL POLITICS.....	8
EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS.....	13
FOREIGN POLICY	16
EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS.....	20
MILITARY AFFAIRS	22
EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS.....	29
ECONOMIC ISSUES	30
FISCAL ISSUES.....	30
ENERGY.....	31
INVESTMENT.....	31
EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS.....	32
SECURITY SITUATION	32
TERRORISM.....	32
KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND FATA.....	36
BALOCHISTAN.....	38
SINDH.....	39
PUNJAB.....	41
EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS.....	41
RELATIONS WITH INDIA	43
EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS.....	47
EXCERPTS FROM URDU MEDIA & SELECT JIHADI LITERATURE	52
INDIA-PAKISTAN.....	52
AFGHAN AND KASHMIRI MUJAHIDIN LEADERS ON HAMID GU.....	57
BALOCHISTAN.....	59
TALIBAN AND MULLAH OMAR FAMILY.....	64
POK INCLUDING GILGIT-BALTISTAN.....	64
BOMBINGS, SHOOTINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES	69

ABBREVIATIONS

ANP: Awami National Party
ATC: Anti-Terrorism Court
BDA: Balochistan Development Authority
BLA: Baloch Liberation Army
BLF: Baloch Liberation Front
CPEC: China- Pakistan Economic Corridor
CTD: Counter Terrorism Department
ECP: Election Commission of Pakistan
IAEA: International Atomic Energy Agency
IED: Improvised Explosive Device
IHC: Islamabad High Court
ISI: Inter-Services Intelligence
ISPR: Inter Services Public Relations
JI: Jamaat-i-Islami
KP: Khyber Pakhthunkhwa
LHC: Lahore High Court
MQM: Muttahida Qaumi Movement
NAB: National Accountability Bureau
NAP: National Action Plan
NCA: National Command Authority
PML-N: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz
PPP: Pakistan People's Party
PTI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
TIM: Tanzeem Ittehadul Madaris
TTA: Tehreek-e-Taliban Afghanistan
TTP: Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan
UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

NATIONAL POLITICS

Cases against PPP leaders discrimination: Gilani, *The Nation*, September 3¹

Former prime minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani was granted protective bail by Islamabad High Court (IHC) Justice Noorul Haq Qureshi on Wednesday (September 2) in a ninth case registered against him by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) with regards to a multi-billion rupee scam involving the Trade and Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP). [...] Speaking to the press, Gilani said he suspected there were five or six more cases against him in the pipeline. He alleged that the FIA had visited his Multan residence and harassed his employees. He called the incident "discrimination" and "character assassination of a political party".

Arrest warrants stack up against Altaf Hussain, *The Express Tribune*, September 6²

An anti-terrorism court in Karachi has again issued non-bailable warrants for Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) chief Altaf Hussain's arrest in the criminal intimidation case instituted against him on the complaint of Sindh Rangers' Col Tahir Mehmood. Moreover, an ATC in Timergara has also issued separate warrants for Altaf's arrest to the SHOs of the Samar Bagh and Och police stations via advertisements in Urdu dailies.

Zardari hits out at Altaf for 'negative politics', *The Express Tribune*, September 6³

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari said on Saturday (September 5) that MQM chief Altaf Hussain's 'negative politics' was detrimental to his own party's interests. In a statement issued by Zardari's spokesman Senator Farhatullah Babar, the PPP co-chairman was quoted as advising the MQM to join the country's mainstream politics and work for the progress and prosperity of Sindh and Pakistan. Zardari also advised Altaf to desist from 'unnecessary' speeches and statements. ***The PPP leader told the MQM chief that making incendiary remarks and 'accusations' almost every day was in appropriate for a man in his position.*** Zardari lamented that the MQM had reneged on its promises made to the PPP. "But the PPP has always kept its promises to the MQM." He said his party had always put forward two conditions every time they had a dialogue with the MQM: "There will be no discussion on division of Sindh, and cooperation will be ensured to make

¹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/03-Sep-2015/cases-against-ppp-leaders-discrimination-gilani>

² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/951535/fresh-move-arrest-warrants-stack-up-against-alfat-hussain/>

³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/951500/zardari-hits-out-at-alfat-for-negative-politics/>

Karachi a peaceful city." [...]Meanwhile, the MQM's Rabita Committee said in a statement that whether it was development in Karachi's urban areas or offering employment, Zardari had never fulfilled any of his promises. They lashed out at the PPP co-chairman in response to his earlier statement. "The MQM was in power with the PPP in Sindh for five years, Zardari never fulfilled any written agreements," said the coordination committee statement.

Bilawal ends policy of reconciliation with PML-N, *The Dawn*, September 8⁴
PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari announced on Monday (September 7) ending the politics of reconciliation towards the ruling PML-N, saying his party is a "party of resistance, not reconciliation". [...] **Mr Bilawal said that PPP Jialas should not be disappointed because he would strengthen the party along with them. "I will visit every district in Punjab and interact with the workers," he said.** He said that Election Commission's provincial members should resign without delay for having failed to hold free and fair elections in 2013, otherwise the PPP would hold protests. He said PPP would not hesitate in taking to streets for the rights of the poor.

SC seeks report from Balochistan, KP on minorities' rights, *The Dawn*, September 8⁵

The Supreme Court directed advocates general of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Monday (September 7) to submit reports on steps taken for welfare of minorities and also a plan for their security. A bench headed by Chief Justice Jawwad S. Khawaja and comprising Justice Dost Mohammad Khan and Justice Qazi Faez Isa also ordered the two provinces to file a progress report on implementation of its decision of June 19 last year.

Govt won't spare errant seminaries, ulema told, *The Dawn*, September 8⁶

The top civilian and military leadership – in a rare meeting with representatives of religious seminaries – made it abundantly clear on Monday (September 7) that the government intended to register and streamline their working at all costs. According to those present in the meeting, both Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Army Chief General Raheel Sharif were willing to listen to the legitimate concerns of members of the Tanzeem Ittehadul Madaris (TIM). However, neither one of them minced words in getting the message across that no madressah would be spared if found involved in any kind of extremism or terrorism-related activities.

⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1205567/bilawal-ends-policy-of-reconciliation-with-pml-n>

⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1205562/sc-seeks-report-from-balochistan-kp-on-minorities-rights>

⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1205572/govt-wont-spare-errant-seminaries-ulema-told>

Government forms multiparty panel on CPEC, *The Express Tribune*, September 10⁷

The government on Wednesday (September 9) honoured its commitment to political parties as the National Assembly acting speaker constituted a bicameral parliamentary committee to oversee the multibillion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The decision to constitute the committee was taken during an all parties' conference (APC) convened on May 28 this year to develop a national consensus on the \$46 billion economic corridor which will join China's south-western region with Gwadar port. In this regard, the National Assembly adopted a motion on June 24 and Senate on July 10.

Enemies of progress cannot stop us, say federal ministers, *The Dawn*, September 15⁸

The federal government on Monday (September 14) reacted sharply to allegations levelled against it by the Sindh government and the Pakistan People's Party, saying that the enemies of the Pakistan's progress won't be able to create another Gen Musharraf and coerce the government into abandoning its ongoing drive against corruption and terrorism.

Mixing terror and graft will weaken democracy, *The Express Tribune*, September 15⁹

Amid calls for across-the-board and transparent accountability, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) on Monday (September 14) told other political entities in the Senate that mixing corruption with terrorism in an arbitrary and partisan manner would weaken the democratic system. The PPP lamented the federal government's "indifference", saying that an impression was created that corruption was rampant in only one province. [...] However, members of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) rejected the impression of "targeted action" and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senators said the PPP and the PML-N were both engaged in mudslinging.

Reconciliation returns?, *The Nation*, September 16¹⁰

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif yesterday (September 15) asked his ministers to go soft on the Pakistan People's Party and the Muttahida Qaumi Movement. ***"The PM does not want tension. He has asked his team to show patience and***

⁷ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/954108/fulfilling-commitment-government-forms-multiparty-cpec-oversight-panel/>

⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1207066/enemies-of-progress-cannot-stop-us-say-federal-ministers>

⁹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/956877/senate-proceedings-mixing-terror-and-graft-will-weaken-democracy-says-ppp/>

¹⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/16-Sep-2015/reconciliation-returns>

do not respond to the hostile statements as this could damage the reconciliation bids," a senior minister told The Nation after a cabinet meeting here.

Mushahid elected chief of NA body on CPEC, *The Nation*, September 16¹¹

The newly-formed Parliamentary Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has elected Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed unopposed as its chairman. His name was proposed by Balochistan's Senator Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo and seconded by Ijaz Jakhri of the PPP and Ghous Bux Mehar of the PML-F, both from Sindh province.

Motion on Mushahidullah's statement turned down, *Daily Times*, September 17¹²

The Senate chairman on Wednesday (September 16) disallowed an adjournment motion moved by PPP's Senator Farhatullah Babar, seeking discussion over the statement of former minister Mushahidullah Khan that the head of a premier intelligence agency was behind clandestine moves to destabilise the government. [...] However, Raza Rabbani said since the government had disputed the press talk of Mushahidullah Khan, it was a reason to disallow the motion.

No one can remove PM if parliament, democracy coexist, *Daily Times*, September 17¹³

Leader of the opposition in National Assembly Khurshid Shah said on Wednesday (September 16) that as long as there was a presence of parliament and democracy, no one can remove Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Addressing a function in Lahore, Khurshid Shah responded to the prime minister's concerns that some people were trying to de-seat him. The opposition leader said that although the PM's belief was "quite possible", it cannot happen with the co-existence of parliament and democracy.

PM should not worry about any coup: Khursheed Shah, *The Nation*, September 18¹⁴

Opposition Leader Khurshid Shah on Thursday (September 17) said that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif should not worry about any takeover. ***"Why will there be a takeover? What the coups have given us in the past? The***

¹¹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/16-Sep-2015/mushahid-elected-chief-of-na-body-on-cpec>

¹² <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/17-Sep-2015/motion-on-mushahidullah-s-statement-turned-down>

¹³ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/17-Sep-2015/no-one-can-remove-premier-if-parliament-democracy-coexist-shah>

¹⁴ <http://nation.com.pk/national/18-Sep-2015/pm-should-not-worry-about-any-coup-khursheed-shah>

country has only prospered during democratic rules," he said while talking to media representatives at his chamber in the parliament. "If General Raheel Sharif's posters are seen on the walls it should not bother the politicians. There should not be derailment of democracy," he added. Shah affirmed that his party will be rock solid to save democracy and the parliament in case of any threat. PPP will try to save democracy and the Parliament. This is our commitment," he said. He warned that if anyone tried to corner the PPP, the country's stability will be in danger. **"No one can eliminate the PPP. If anyone attempted to do this, he will be putting the country's stability in danger," added the veteran politician. Shah defended the politicians saying, "you can't blame them for every wrongdoing. "** He continued, "Almost everything including the constitution and nuclear capability has been given to the country by politicians. Two of PPP leaders sacrificed lives for the country."

Musharraf to pit 'third force' against PML-N, *The Express Tribune*, September 22¹⁵

Former president Gen (retd) Pervez Musharraf plans to bring together different political parties under the banner of the United Muslim League before he contests the next general elections. To this end, a meeting of different factions of the Pakistan Muslim League (PML) was convened recently in Lahore. Leaders of PML-Quaid, PML-Chattha, PML-Jinnah, PML-Likeminded, Muslim Conference of Azad Kashmir and All Pakistan Muslim League (APML) said they intended to merge their parties.

Centre blamed for victimising PPP, *The Dawn*, September 24¹⁶

The federal government was pushing Pakistan People's Party to the wall because it was raising voice for the poor people, said PPP provincial general secretary Eng Mohammad Humayun Khan. In a statement, issued here on Wednesday (September 23), he said that PPP had noticed that efforts were being made to push it to the wall but such attempts would yield no positive results. Mr Khan said that PPP had roots in the masses and that's why martial law regimes at different times failed to uproot the party despite using many tactics against it. [...]Mr Khan said that political opponents were trying to scandalise PPP leaders to keep them away from the masses but such attempts would not succeed.

¹⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/961197/united-muslim-league-musharraf-to-pit-third-force-against-ruling-party/>

¹⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1209017/centre-blamed-for-victimising-ppp>

PTI demands removal of Khawaja Asif, Abid Sher Ali, *The Dawn*, September 29¹⁷

The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) on Monday (September 28) demanded removal of the federal and state ministers for water and power as the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) held them responsible for loadshedding and inflated billing.

PML-N govt is dependent on stay orders: Imran, *The Nation*, September 29¹⁸

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has said that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government is dependent on stay orders over rigging allegations. While addressing a press conference, Khan said that only 12 days are left in by-elections and N-league's MNA Siddique Baloch has got a stay order from the Supreme Court. "He knew that he will be defeated," Khan said while pointing out that same was the case with Saad Rafique. "Even Shahbaz Sharif has worked as Chief Minister for four and half years on stay order," Khan said. "How will you go to public court?" he asked N-league. He further stated that it took two and half years to prove rigging which shows the plight of justice system in our country. "I want to uncover the reality of the justice system of Pakistan," he said.

Lawyers protest against Altaf counsels, *The Nation*, September 30¹⁹

A group of lawyers yesterday (September 29) held protest demonstration at the Lahore High Court against Asma Jahangir and Dr Khalid Ranjha for being counsels of MQM Chief Altaf Hussain. The protests organised by Advocate Aftab Virk and others alleged that the MQM was involved in the murders of lawyers during the 2007 movement for the restoration of judiciary. They alleged that Altaf was involved in lawyers killing in Karachi on May 12, 2007. They also alleged that MQM chief created law and order situation which barred the then chief justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhary from entering the city. The protestors distributed pamphlets among the lawyers and were also holding clippings of some old media statements in which Asma Jahangir had called MQM a terrorist party.

PROVINCIAL POLITICS

PPP least bothered about LG polls, *The Nation*, September 30²⁰

Unlike other political parties, PPP-P seems least interested in contesting the upcoming local polls in Punjab starting on October 31. Local party cadres have not been activated and the process of ticket allocation is yet to start.

¹⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1209626/pti-demands-removal-of-khawaja-asif-abid-sher-ali>

¹⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/national/29-Sep-2015/n-league-government-is-dependent-on-stay-orders-imran>

¹⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/30-Sep-2015/lawyers-protest-against-altaf-counsels>

²⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/03-Sep-2015/ppp-least-bothered-about-lg-polls>

Prospective candidates are clueless about when to start the electioneering since they are not sure whether or not they would be considered for the tickets. Though the provincial leadership has formed committees at the district and tehsil level to finalise candidates, these bodies are yet to start the selection process. Comprising of party office bearers and ticket holders, these committees would make selection of candidates for the slots of councilors to be elected for the union councils. The local PPP-P leaders have also been authorized to make seat adjustments with all religious and political parties except the PML-N their main rival in Punjab.

Mohsin Ali confesses to killing Dr Imran Farooq, *The News*, September 3²¹

Mohsin Ali, one of the prime accused in Dr Imran Farooq murder case, on Thursday (September 3) confessed to his direct involvement in the killing of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) leader. According to sources, Ali admitted his crime during the interrogation by a Scotland Yard team, currently visiting Pakistan to investigate the suspects in custody of Pakistani authorities.

Baloch should not be pushed to wall: Haq, *The News*, September 9²²

Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Siraj-ul-Haq Khan has called upon Baloch leadership to come and play their role in development Balochistan. He was speaking to a large public gathering in Quetta. Siraj-ul-Haq said that previous governments kept this province deprived. He said corruption is severer than cancer and blamed it for Balochistan under-development. He further demanded government not to push angered Balochs to wall and suggested they should be asked to join mainstream politics.

PML-F's Pappu Shah joins PPP, *The Dawn*, September 15²³

Former two-time Sindh minister and central leader of Pakistan Muslim League- Functional (PML-F) Syed Ali Bux aka Pappu Shah announced to join Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) today (September 15).

Imran's call unconstitutional: Nisar, *The Express Tribune*, September 15²⁴

Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar has said extending invitation to Rangers for accountability was unconstitutional and the paramilitary force did not have any such mandate in Karachi or any other part of the country. Referring to

²¹ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-196267-Prime-suspect-Mohsin-Ali-confesses-to-killing-Dr-Imran-Farooq>

²² <http://www.thenewstribe.com/2015/09/09/angered-balochs-should-not-be-pushed-to-wall-siraj-ul-haq/>

²³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1206928/pml-fs-pappu-shah-joins-ppp>

²⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/957518/extending-invitation-to-rangers-for-accountability-is-unconstitutional-nisar/>

Imran Khan's recent call for Rangers to conduct an anti-corruption operation in Punjab, the interior minister said he was "surprised" to know that such a demand came from the leader of a political party. **"It is unwise on part of a political leader to involve state institutions for political gains. It is against democratic norms," the interior minister said** in a statement on Tuesday (September 15).

Rs150b package for Karachi: Bilawal, *The Express Tribune*, September 16²⁵

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairperson Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has announced a development package of Rs150 billion for Karachi, revealed Sindh local bodies minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah on Tuesday (September 15).

Tribal leaders to support Fata merger into KP, *The Nation*, September 18²⁶

Tribal leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) have supported the 22nd Constitutional Amendment Bill, moved for merging FATA into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. While speaking a news conference at Peshawar Press Club on Thursday (September 17), PTI FATA chapter leader, Iqbal Afridi said the tribal people were deprived of all constitutional rights, due to Frontier Crimes Regulation (FCR) in FATA. "We want abolishment of the century-old draconian FCR in FATA, which is against basic human rights," he demanded. He said FATA has been deliberately kept backward in all fields, wherein tribesmen were not provided with basic facilities, like education, health and others. He appreciated the FATA elected representatives for moving the 22nd constitutional Amendment Bill in parliament, aimed to merge FATA into the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Fata should be part of KP: Imran, *The Nation*, September 18²⁷

Federally Administered Tribal Areas should be made part of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan said yesterday (September 17). He, however, suggested the federal cabinet consult with the local chieftains. [...] "The people of Fata should be given the opportunity to become part of Pakistan and be given their rights," Khan demanded during a media talk. "The (federal) cabinet would have to consult with Fata leaders, elders and experts on the matter to reach a consensus on the issue, and discuss how the "old British system" could be done away with" the PTI chief said.

²⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/957456/for-the-sake-of-development-ppp-chairperson-announces-rs150b-package-for-karachi/>

²⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/national/18-Sep-2015/tribal-leaders-to-support-fata-merger-into-kp-afridi>

²⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/national/18-Sep-2015/fata-should-be-part-of-kp-imran>

LHC suspends by-poll campaign notification, *The Dawn*, September 24²⁸

The Lahore High Court suspended on Wednesday (September 23) the operation of Election Commission's notification barring parliamentarians from taking part in the campaign for by-elections in NA-122 (Lahore) and NA-154 (Lodhran). Justice Ayesha A. Malik issued the interim order on a petition filed by Shoaib Siddiqui, a Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf candidate for PP-147, which falls under NA-122. Advocate Hamid Khan, appearing on behalf of the petitioner, argued that the impugned ban was in violation of the fundamental rights. He said Imran Khan, the PTI Chairman, was also a member of the National Assembly and by virtue of the impugned ban/code could not visit the constituency where by-elections were being held.

Sikhs declare boycott of LG elections in Sindh, *The Dawn*, September 24²⁹

Showing his reservations over lack of representation in the provincial and national assemblies, Pakistan Sikh Council patron-in-chief Sardar Ramesh Singh on Tuesday (September 22) declared that the Sikh biradari (community) wouldn't participate in the upcoming local body elections. With a population of around 10,000 in Sindh, the Sikhs demand a right to dual vote to choose representatives from whichever community they deem fit without being limited to their own.

PML-N losing ground in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, *The Dawn*, September 26³⁰

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, which rules the centre, seems to have lost ground to opponents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to lack of attention on part of central leadership towards its reorganisation. The party's poor performance in the recent local government elections in the province is enough to bear out the notion. Most PML-N office-bearers complain the central leadership doesn't meet them or call them to functions at the central level.

ECP made Dir by-poll controversial, *The Dawn*, September 28³¹

Jamaat-i-Islami chief Sirajul Haq here (Timergara) on Sunday (September 27) demanded of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to issue notification about the victory of his party's candidate in the by-election on provincial assembly seat, PK-95, without any further delay. Addressing a news conference at Timergara Press Club, he said that ECP had been delaying the

²⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1208998/lhc-suspends-by-poll-campaign-notification>

²⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1208688/sikhs-declare-boycott-of-local-government-elections-in-sindh>

³⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1209248/pml-n-losing-ground-in-khyber-pakhtunkhwa>

³¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1209441/siraj-accuses-ecp-of-making-dir-by-poll-controversial>

notification since May 7. He said that JI candidate Izazul Mulk Afkari had bagged 18,798 votes in the by-election. The JI chief alleged that ECP was making by-poll controversial over the women disenfranchisement issue. He said that neither JI nor its candidate had anything to do with the women voting on polls' day.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Adopt Urdu as official language immediately: SC, *The Nation*, September 9³²

The Supreme Court has ordered all government departments to adopt Urdu as the official language without delay and issued a nine-point guideline for it. A three-member bench on Tuesday (September 8) directed that copies of the judgment be sent to all federal and provincial secretaries, who shall submit progress report on compliance within three months. The apex court also ordered that all federal and provincial laws should be translated into the national language within three months.

Investigating Pakistan's 'mobs for hire', Saba Etijaz, *BBC*, September 21³³

To an outsider, it can often look like mob rule in Pakistan. There are public lynchings and frequent attacks on religious minorities and nobody ever seems to get arrested or go to jail. ***But running and renting out mobs is also an organised business in the country, where the men organising the mobs insist they are providing a vital public service and anything is available - at the right price.*** [...] "Gathering a mob - what's so difficult about that?" he says. "One phone call and a hundred people will come, they can throw stones till nothing is left and if that doesn't work, it costs very little to buy 10 litres of petrol and set things on fire." [...] ***We are often hired by religious militant organisations for various tasks - if they want to straighten someone out or send a message, we can find the men to do that. Our men are used in political protests or to fill out political rallies, whatever is needed.*** Many militant Islamic organisations have been banned in the Punjab as part of the government's efforts to curb terrorism and radicalisation - but the mob boss says it is easier to operate behind the scenes, by hiring mercenaries like him, with no direct links or affiliations. Like any professional business, he has a list of services, and prices go up with the intensity of violence. "Burning and lynching will cost extra, we have to pay off all kinds of people to avoid trouble," he says. Another individual involved in the business says: "We recruit desperate men, poor labourers sitting at road junctions seeking daily wages. We offer them up to 1,000 rupees (\$10; £6), food, transport and the

³² <http://nation.com.pk/national/09-Sep-2015/adopt-urdu-as-official-language-immediately-sc-tells-govts>

³³ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-34312108>

reassurance that we will get them out if they are arrested. We have those connections."

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Bringing FATA Into The Fold, Editorial, *The Nation*, September 9³⁴

When the military operation was launched across the nation, many mooted the merger of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) as the final step in the reconstruction and rehabilitation project, and now the lawmakers from the restive land have themselves put forward a strong proposal arguing for the same. [...]The Taliban initially made ground in the region not because of fear, that came later, but because they could provide things that the government could not. A quick and efficient justice system, be it the harsh interpretation of Shariah dished out by the Taliban, was preferred to the virtually non-existent state system. The lack of jobs, absence of education and isolation from the modern world contributed heavily to religious extremism taking root. Now the government has a chance to reverse that, it can build a region that has been neglected for decades.

Mainstreaming Fata, Editorial, *The Dawn*, September 10³⁵

[...]What the Fata parliamentarians have proposed also carries extra significance because the MNAs are directly elected by the people of Fata. As such, the parliamentarians' recommendations carry more weight than the decidedly less representative and anachronistic system of tribal maliks and jirgas. In truth, however, the parliamentarians have proposed a halfway house: merging Fata and Frontier Regions with KP and administering those areas as a Provincially Administered Tribal Area. It is quite possible that the call for a separate province altogether, while deemed desirable was considered unfeasible, given the impact that it would have on the federation, from the composition of the Senate to that of bodies such as the Council of Common Interests.....Ultimately, though, whether change for the better will in fact come to Fata depends on if the national institutions are able to agree on the necessary balance between the security of the country and the socio-economic needs of its people.

Understanding Jinnah's vision of Pakistan, Emanuel Sarfraz, *The Nation*, September 11³⁶

Often we hear politicians and people talking about Jinnah's Pakistan. It is a vague term and widely misunderstood. This is the reason that Pakistan had to face the threat of increasing extremism throughout its history. The policy

³⁴ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/09-Sep-2015/bringing-fata-into-the-fold>

³⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1205923/mainstreaming-fata>

³⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/national/11-Sep-2015/understanding-jinnah-s-vision-of-pakistan>

never has been to promote unity in diversity and the country had to pay for it. We lost East Pakistan because of it and had to face insurgency in Balochistan. That extremism turned into an ugly face called terrorism that we now are desperately trying to eliminate.

The democratic dream, Editorial, *The News*, September 17³⁷

Certainly, the time is right to speak about the role of the military and that of the civilian leadership in our political sphere. [...] **The feeling that the military is stepping into areas from which it should stay out is obviously strong. Yet it is also true that the political parties themselves leave the ground open for them to walk into.** It is important the parties themselves undertake accountability and other measures that can prevent the military from having to do so. We certainly do not need another military intervention in a country that has seen far too many of them, and has suffered as a result. But all political parties should ask what they are doing, or what they have done before, to change this order of events and whether they have met with the success that we badly need to maintain equilibrium.

Double standards, Editorial, *Daily Times*, September 17³⁸

An appeal made by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan for launching an anti-corruption operation in Punjab led by the army has been rebuffed by Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan. [...] No doubt the demand is senseless and inappropriate but what about the discriminatory policy of the federal government towards the Rangers' operation in Sindh? **It is being perceived that the federal government has no control over the security agencies and they are taking action at will.** [...] It is the government's weakness that is prompting **immature politicians like Imran Khan to make such irresponsible demands** that are against democratic norms. **A perception is developing in the country that the government is helpless to keep a check on the arbitrary style of working of the security agencies.**How can the government justify an accountability operation led by security agencies in Karachi when it is opposing the same drive in Punjab? If the Rangers do not have the mandate to arrest people for committing corruption and interfere in civil departments' affairs, then what is going on in Karachi?

The challenge to the PM, I. A. Rehman, *The Dawn*, September 24³⁹

[...] A government does not become democratic merely by having been elected, because it must also be responsible to the people and responsive to their needs and aspirations. Thus, instead of having his eyes all the time on

³⁷ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-8-340739-The-democratic-dream>

³⁸ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/editorial/17-Sep-2015/double-standards>

³⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1208909/the-challenge-to-the-pm>

the mischief brewing in the hearts of his rivals, the prime minister should address the question whether his government qualifies as a democratic dispensation. [...] **It is strange that there is no full-time minister of defence, who is needed at least for form, and the government is also functioning without a regular law minister.** And this while the country has a heavy backlog of legislation. Added to this is public anxiety over growing evidence that the cabinet is not always consulted on matters that should be decided only at that level. Further, the most fundamental test of democracy is the degree to which parliament is allowed to perform its appointed functions.

The new political (dis)order, Zahid Hussain, *The Dawn*, September 24⁴⁰

[...]It is more a political disorder — not civil-military cohabitation. **The balance of power has long tilted towards the military, yet neither Sharif the prime minister nor Sharif the general is actually in the driving seat. Can this tenuous power calculus last long? It cannot. But it is hard to predict how and what kind of change is in the offing.** [...]Meanwhile, the clout of the military has grown further in the aftermath of the Peshawar school massacre and the formation of apex committees to oversee the implementation on the National Action Plan. [...]Ironically, the growing shadow of the military over the political landscape has further divided political forces instead of uniting them. That has once again elevated the military to the position of sole arbiter of power. [...] **Unsurprisingly, the popularity graph of Gen Raheel Sharif has catapulted with the growing power vacuum and widening chasm among the major political parties.** Such a high public profile for a chief of army staff is unprecedented even in this country where army rule has been a norm. Surely this is to a large extent due to his role as military commander leading from the front, but it is also to do with the massive publicity campaign undertaken by the ISPR. [...]Gen Raheel Sharif may not have any ambition for power, but the military's deepening involvement in all affairs of the state and high public expectations could lead to a slippery path making direct intervention unavoidable.

Democracy in recession?, Raza Rumi, *The Express Tribune*, September 28⁴¹

[...]The year 2014 witnessed decline in civilian power. Months of televised protests, orchestrated with the help of elements within the establishment — the blowback from the attempt to indict General Musharraf for treason — left the Sharif government considerably weakened. After the lethal attack on the Army Public School (APS) in December 2014, Sharif's power slipped further. Within weeks of the APS incident, parliament amended the Constitution to create military courts, and the Apex Committees led by the military took over

⁴⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1208753/the-new-political-disorder>

⁴¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/963903/democracy-in-recession/>

counterterrorism operations. **The regional situation has also helped the military regain its prestige, somewhat lost during the anti-Musharraf protests.** The West wants to leave Afghanistan and the military is the key player that can broker a deal between Afghanistan and the Afghan Taliban. China is advancing its 'One Belt, One Road' policy that makes Pakistan vital for expanding Chinese influence westwards. This cannot be accomplished without the military undertaking the security for the \$46 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. **The re-emerging Russian power has also found an ally in the form of the military as Pakistan is seen as key to containing the extremist threat in the Central Asian region.** At home, the Baloch insurgency is divided, and its outcome appears to be tilting in favour of the establishment.

PTI-the enemy within?, Dr. Farid A. Malik, *The Nation*, September 30⁴²

[...]In fifteen years (1996 to 2011) PTI had developed a unique political culture of its own. Founding members like Comrade Ahsan Rashid, had instilled the virtue of giving not taking. Honesty, simplicity and integrity were the driving spirit of the party. [...]Kaptan has repeatedly remarked that the enemy is within the party. Unless the ideologues and the electables see eye to eye, the conflict and confusion will increase. It is the culture that gels an organization and it must be understood and respected by all if they desire harmony and positive results. At this juncture the Chou-en-Lai of the party Comrade Ahsan Rashid's presence is greatly missed, as he truly represented the soul of the party. So far struggle for an honest ballot stands out is the biggest achievement of the movement spearheaded by the Kaptan. For the sake of 'Naya Pakistan' and our coming generations the Kaptan has to stamp and enforce the documented culture of PTI otherwise the status-quo will live while the crusaders will be perished and their struggle will go in vain.

FOREIGN POLICY

The 'do more' mantra — again, *The Dawn*, September 1⁴³

US NATIONAL Security Adviser Susan Rice's visit to Islamabad may have officially been to extend an invitation to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to visit the White House next month, but there appears to have been a good deal of other business conducted too. **Unhappily, the old do-more mantra was trotted out again — do more, Ms Rice is reported to have told her Pakistani hosts, against the Haqqani Network.** [...]Time and again it has become apparent that the US policy on Afghanistan is muddled and shaped by short-term agendas. The real focus in Afghanistan should be on the resumption of

⁴² <http://nation.com.pk/columns/30-Sep-2015/pti-the-enemy-within>

⁴³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1204081/the-do-more-mantra-again>

talks at the earliest. Suggesting to Pakistan that it is once again up to its old tricks hardly seems a recipe for success.

'Almost all' Uighur militants eliminated: Pakistan, *The Express Tribune*, September 2⁴⁴

Almost all members of the Uighur militant group the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) have been eliminated from Pakistan, the country's president said on Wednesday (September 2) during a visit to Beijing. [...] Meeting Chinese President Xi Jinping in the Great Hall of the People, Pakistan **President Mamnoon Hussain said a recent anti-terror operation codenamed Zarb-e-Azb "has been successful in eradicating the terrorism from our country"**. "It has also been very helpful in eliminating the ETIM element from our country and I think almost all the ETIM people in our country have been eliminated. Maybe, if they are there, there should be very few," Hussain said.

Afghanistan asks Pakistan to act against militants after talks, *The Express Tribune*, September 6⁴⁵

Afghanistan asked Pakistan to act against Afghan Taliban militants operating on its territory during weekend talks in Kabul, while Pakistan said the South Asian neighbours needed to build trust, officials said after the meetings. [...] "We reiterate our position and state facts, asking Pakistan to take action against terrorist groups inside its territory that declare war against our people," a spokesperson for the Afghan president's office said in statement on Sunday (September 6). Pakistan said after the meetings that both countries should work together to restore trust, and that an agreement had been reached to end a blame game over a spate of attacks.

Afghan refugees' PoR cards to be extended till 2017, *The Dawn*, September 10⁴⁶

The Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Indrika Ratwatte, has said that the government of Pakistan has agreed to extend the validity of PoR cards till Dec 31, 2017. During a meeting with Balochistan Governor Muhammad Khan Achakzai here on Wednesday (September 9), he said that in the tripartite meeting held in Kabul, the Pakistan officials had informed the Afghan authorities and the UNHCR that pending inter-ministerial deliberations and a decision by the cabinet, the

⁴⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/949287/pakistan-says-almost-all-uighur-militants-eliminated/>

⁴⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/951759/afghanistan-asks-pakistan-to-act-against-militants-after-talks/>

⁴⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1206055/afghan-refugees-por-cards-to-be-extended-till-2017>

validity of the PoR (Proof of Registration) cards had been recommended to be extended till Dec 31, 2017.

Pakistan decries flawed UNSC reform process, *The Dawn*, September 15⁴⁷

Pakistan decried on Monday (September 14) that the Intergovernmental Negotiation process (IGN) on the reform of the UN Security Council was flawed this year and expressed fervent hope the negotiations would move forward with more transparency. In a hard-hitting statement in the UN General Assembly, Pakistan's Ambassador to the United Nations **Maleeha Lodhi reiterated "meaningful reform of the Security Council can be achieved only if there is genuine consensus among member states", not via the so-called "procedural" method.** "The agreed objective of the IGN process is a negotiated solution with the widest possible political acceptance of member states," she added. Referring to the efforts of the some aspirants to the permanent seats the G4 nation – India, Germany, Brazil and Japan, she observed "those who have long sought to use procedural manoeuvres to advance their positions on Security Council reform should be aware that such efforts will not and cannot succeed".

Silk road, one belt one road one mission: Pervaiz, *The Nation*, September 16⁴⁸

Minister for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage Senator Pervaiz Rashid Tuesday (September 15) suggested that the concept of one belt one road, being implemented by China should include the word 'one mission' of bringing people together as culture is about people. [...] "This road is not only for vehicles, commodities and goods but mainly to promote exchange of ideas, cultural understanding to bring socioeconomic well-being of all the regions along the historical Silk Route", the minister added.

Kidnapped BDA officials recovered from Afghanistan, *The Nation*, September 18⁴⁹

Six officials of Balochistan Development Authority (BDA) including its general manager, who were earlier kidnapped from Killa Saifullah district of Balochistan, were recovered from Afghanistan's Paktika province on Thursday (September 17). [...] Chief Minister Balochistan, Dr Abdul Malik Baloch had taken notice of the incident, and the provincial government contacted the Afghan authorities to ensure safe recovery of the kidnapped officials. Security forces had also launched search operations following the

⁴⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1207064/pakistan-decries-flawed-uns-c-reform-process>

⁴⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/national/16-Sep-2015/silk-road-one-belt-one-road-one-mission-pervaiz>

⁴⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/18-Sep-2015/kidnapped-bda-officials-recovered-from-afghanistan>

kidnapping, but were unable to apprehend the kidnappers as they had crossed the international border into Afghanistan.

Pakistan against expanding UN Security Council, *The Nation*, September 18⁵⁰
Pakistan stands for reforms in the United Nations with consensus of all member states but opposes addition of new permanent members to the Security Council, reiterated Pakistan Foreign Office Spokesman Qazi M Khaliullah Thursday (September 17). At a weekly news briefing in Islamabad he said ***“there had been various proposals by its members and Pakistan being member of the “Uniting for Consensus” group was opposed in principle to include any individual permanent member to the UN Security Council. It has advocated an effective and feasible reform of the Security Council, based on consensus among the UN Membership”.***

IAEA ‘completely satisfied’ with Pakistan’s N-Safeguard, *The Nation*, September 27⁵¹

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Yukiya Amano expressed his complete satisfaction on Pakistan Nuclear Program’s safeguard measures, set by the IAEA, during a meeting with Pakistan’s Foreign Secretary Aitzaz Ahmad Chaudary in New York. DG of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Pakistan’s Foreign Secretary met on the sidelines of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, discussed matters related to mutual cooperation between Pakistan and the UN nuclear watchdog in the peaceful application of nuclear technologies, according to an official press release. “The IAEA’s Technical Cooperation Program with Pakistan was one of its largest in the world,” Amano said, while appreciating the country’s excellent cooperation with the agency.

US advocates dialogue with India, *The Nation*, September 29⁵²

US Secretary of State John Kerry, who met Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif at the UN on Sunday (September 27), advocated dialogue with India to sort out problems, after the Pakistani leader expressed his deep concern over Indian firing along the de-facto border in Kashmir and Sialkot areas. ***“The United States urges both Pakistan and India to engage in a dialogue and to take steps to de-escalate tension on the borders,”*** US Acting Special Representative for Pakistan and Afghanistan Laurell Miller told reporters after the 25-minute Nawaz-Kerry meeting on the sidelines of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly.

⁵⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/18-Sep-2015/pakistan-against-expanding-un-security-council>

⁵¹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/27-Sep-2015/iaea-completely-satisfied-with-safeguard-measures-of-pakistan-nuclear-program>

⁵² <http://nation.com.pk/national/29-Sep-2015/complaint-against-india-earns-talks-advice>

Kashmir issue is Indo-Pak matter: Obama, *The Nation*, September 29⁵³

President Barack Obama agreed with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi that Kashmir is a bilateral issue to be resolved between India and Pakistan as they held talks here (US). "***There was a broad acknowledgement that this is a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan and people were happy for India and Pakistan to resolve it among themselves,***" external affairs ministry spokesman Vikas Swarup told reporters here when asked whether Kashmir came up during Modi and Obama talks.

Swarup, while briefing on Modi's meetings with Obama as well as UK Premier David Cameron and French President Francois Hollande, said Pakistan came up in the context of terrorism.

Kunduz fall brings border into focus, *The Nation*, September 30⁵⁴

A day after Afghan Taliban seized Kunduz city, the country took to calling on Pakistan to crack down on extremists carrying out cross-border attacks, claiming that some of the Kunduz raiders came from across the border. On the other hand, the army chief of Pakistan – which is itself a victim of border infiltration – said practical steps are required to manage the porous border for gainful conclusion of military operation the country has been carrying out against all militants without any discrimination. [...] "***A peaceful Afghanistan can open regional connectivity,***" ***the army chief said, adding that benefits of China Pakistan Economic Corridor project can be shared with the landlocked neighbor.*** This project, he said, is essential for development of Pakistan which would help address extremism. [...] On the other hand, Afghanistan's Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah called on Pakistan to keep its promise of clamping down on extremists who are allegedly waging cross-border attacks. In his address to the UN General Assembly Monday night (September 28), which came hours after Kunduz fall, Abdullah alleged that some of the attackers had come from abroad.

Editor's Note: Another editorial in *The News*, "The Fall of Kunduz", takes up the same line and argues that Ashraf Ghani's government is quite weak but also argues that the return of Taliban would not be good for anyone including Pakistan.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Foreign policy trajectory, Editorial, *The Dawn*, September 14⁵⁵

The inaugural Foreign Ministers' Forum held by the Institute of Business Administration in Karachi over the weekend brought together men and

⁵³ <http://nation.com.pk/national/29-Sep-2015/kashmir-issue-is-indo-pak-matter-obama>

⁵⁴ <http://nation.com.pk/national/30-Sep-2015/kunduz-fall-brings-border-into-focus>

⁵⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1206790/foreign-policy-trajectory>

women who had steered the Foreign Office over much of the past decade: Khurshid Kasuri, Hina Rabbani Khar and Sartaj Aziz. What they demonstrated was a collective – and reasonably consistent – understanding of Pakistan's place in the region and the world today. The focus on good neighbourly relations, internal security and economic growth amounted to putting the people at the centre of national policy – exactly as it should be. There was even some candid talk about which institution steers key foreign policy and national security decisions: the military-ISI combine or civilian institutions.

Yet, for all the forthright and commendable analysis and first-person accounts shared in the Forum, ***what was missing was a road map for how Pakistan is to go from a relatively insecure state with troubled regional relations to a stable, robust and economically vibrant one.*** How, for example, does Pakistan move towards a foreign policy that is more economically oriented than security heavy? [...] Unless a reservoir of talent is nurtured within political parties and parliament invests in research and analysis, foreign policy will remain an ad hoc affair on the civilian side – allowing the old formula of military dominance to continue.

Afghanistan talks, Editorial, *Daily Times*, September 17

[...] Indeed the resumption of dialogue represents the best possible avenue for solving the crises plaguing both countries, and Pakistan should do its utmost to convince the Afghan government that it is a serious and interested partner in the peace process. As contiguous neighbours with porous borders, history reveals that events in one country invariably have a spillover effect in the other. ***Pakistan needs to target the militant groups which are anathema to the Afghan regime, particularly the Haqqani network, rather than inexplicably persisting in covertly supporting them.*** After more than a decade of war that sees no end in sight, all rational thinkers and strategists have agreed that no time or effort should be wasted in reorganising these negotiations and Pakistan should prove equal to the task for its own good.

New vistas in foreign policy, *The Nation*, September 18⁵⁶

[...] For the first time, in Pakistan's history, the foreign policy is on the right track. Pakistan is trying to maintain a balance between its relations with the western powers and the regional countries. It seems to be that Pakistan has decided that although America will remain important, it must have good relations with other countries. [...] ***The most explicit sign of the new chapter in the rising relationship between Pakistan and Russia is the offer made by the Russian state-owned corporation to build a pipeline for Pakistan that will***

⁵⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/columns/18-Sep-2015/new-vistas-in-foreign-policy>

carry natural gas from Iran to cities in Pakistan. The estimated cost of the project is 2.5 billion dollars. The pipeline will extend from Karachi to Lahore, Pakistan. This is going to be the **first major project in Pakistan after four decades in which Russians will be involved** (the Russians had helped in building the Pakistan Steel Mills, Karachi in 1973). **It seems that both China and Russia are interested in investing in Pakistan to protect their southern underbellies against the export of extremism.**

A delicate balance, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, September 22⁵⁷

The trenchant denial by the Afghan government that the recent attack on the Badshaher base was orchestrated from its territory holds no water, and the Afghan government does itself no favours by claiming otherwise. There is ample evidence in the form of calls made to journalists in Pakistan whilst the attack was in progress; as well as statements by Pakistan security agencies that they monitored traffic that was sourced to Afghanistan.

Terror in Kunduz, Editorial, *The Nation*, September 30⁵⁸

[...]The fall of Kunduz, a major gateway to northern neighbouring countries like Tajikistan, is likely to have repercussions for the spread of the insurgency and the morale of the Afghan security forces. Mr. Ghani has found himself under significant public pressure, as his national unity government has remained stagnant on almost every front. This incident will also set his claims straight of Taliban attacks originating from Pakistan. **Undoubtedly he cannot blame Pakistan anymore, now that the fall of Kunduz is very much a clear indication of his failure to protect the sovereignty of his State against the very tangible threat of the Taliban.** [...]This incident also shows that despite the internal divisions in the Taliban after the death of Mullah Omar, the Taliban remain a force to be reckoned with. New leader Mullah Akhtar Muhammad Mansour appears to have overcome the bumpy start.

MILITARY AFFAIRS

COAS approves death sentences of five terrorists, *The Nation*, September 3⁵⁹

Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif on September 2 approved death sentences of five "hardcore terrorists", according to a statement issued by ISPR. [...]The terrorists who were condemned by the military courts include persons involved in killing of an advocate at Lahore, attack and subsequent breakout from Bannu Jail, attacking police officials in Gadap town near Karachi, destroying a girls' school in Khyber agency and an attack on a polio

⁵⁷ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/960926/a-delicate-balance-3/>

⁵⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/30-Sep-2015/terror-in-kunduz>

⁵⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/03-Sep-2015/coas-approves-death-sentences-of-five-terrorists>

vaccination team. Out of six terrorists, five were awarded death sentence and one life-imprisonment by the military courts.

'PPP backs army in war on terror', *The Nation*, September 3⁶⁰

Opposition Leader in the National Assembly, Khursheed Shah on Wednesday (September 2) said that his party, being a victim, supported the Pak Army in the ongoing war on terror. [...]Shah said that his party had given sacrifices for the eradication of terrorism and would continue its struggle for the cause. He said the PPP fully supported the government in the anti-terrorism drive, but the desired results could not be achieved so far despite giving powers to the army. He said his party wanted the ongoing anti-terrorism operation to be completed till the elimination of last terrorist.

Law enforcers to go after sleeper cells, *The Express Tribune*, September 6⁶¹

As the law enforcers evaluate the progress made two years into the Karachi operation, they realised the presence of 'sleeper cells' as the biggest threat to its success. Sleeper cells is a term used to define those criminals who are fully assimilated in the society, hold regular jobs and attend university, but act only in specific terrorist attacks.

Corps commanders review overall security, *The Nation*, September 9⁶²

Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif on Tuesday (September 8) chaired the Corps Commanders Conference at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi to review overall security situation in the country. ***An exhaustive review of professional matters vis-à-vis armed forces, internal and external security situation was carried out***, according to a statement issued by the ISPR [...]Army Chief General Raheel Sharif expressed satisfaction over the progress achieved in the ongoing Zarb-i-Azb operation in North Waziristan and said ***the operation would continue till the complete elimination of terrorism from the country.***

Pakistan to maintain full deterrence, *The Express Tribune*, September 9⁶³

National Command Authority (NCA) reiterated on Wednesday (September 9) the country's resolve to maintain full spectrum deterrence capability to deter all forms of aggression and adhere to a policy of avoiding an arms race. "In view of the growing conventional asymmetry, the NCA reiterated the nation's resolve to maintain full spectrum deterrence capability in line with the

⁶⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/03-Sep-2015/ppp-backs-army-in-war-on-terror>

⁶¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/951457/wake-up-call-law-enforcers-to-go-after-sleeper-cells-in-the-city/>

⁶² <http://nation.com.pk/national/09-Sep-2015/corps-commanders-review-overall-security>

⁶³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/953686/pakistan-to-maintain-full-spectrum-deterrence-capability-nca/>

dictates of 'credible minimum deterrence' to deter all forms of aggression, adhering to the policy of avoiding an arms race," DG ISPR Asim Bajwa said, regarding the meeting.

Three 'militants' arrested near Pak-Afghan border, *The Dawn*, September 10⁶⁴
Security forces foiled a major terror bid, seizing a huge cache of explosive material and weapons from the custody of suspected militants near the Pak-Afghan border on Wednesday (September 9). Three suspected militants were arrested during the raid and 3,800 kilogrammes of explosive material, ten mortar shells and hundreds of sub-machine gun rounds were recovered, security sources told Dawn News.

Raheel discusses Afghan peace process with US officials, *The Dawn*, September 15⁶⁵

Army Chief Gen Raheel Sharif discussed on Monday (September 14) the stalled Afghan reconciliation process with senior US officials. The issue was deliberated upon during Gen Sharif's meeting with top US and Nato commander in Afghanistan General John Campbell and the acting American Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Jarrett Blanc.

Sino-Pak military ties to touch new heights, *The Express Tribune*, September 16⁶⁶

Army chief General Raheel Sharif has said that the armies of Pakistan and China are *enjoying 'special relationship'* which will grow to unprecedented heights. His remarks came during a visit to **Bahadur Ranges near Attock, where he witnessed a Pakistan-China field exercise, codenamed 'Warrior-III'**, on Tuesday (September 15).

Raheel inaugurates multiple projects in South Waziristan, *The News*, September 16⁶⁷

Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Raheel Sharif visited South Waziristan Agency (SWA) Wednesday (September 16) and inaugurated multiple projects as part of a post operation comprehensive rehabilitation plan for FATA. The projects included a state of the art WANA cadet College Building funded by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for 500 children from Waziristan and rest of FATA. The COAS also commissioned a 132 KVA Grid

⁶⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1205885/terror-bid-foiled-three-militants-arrested-near-pak-afghan-border>

⁶⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1207062/raheel-discusses-afghan-peace-process-with-us-officials>

⁶⁶ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/957611/sino-pak-military-ties-to-grow-to-new-heights-coas/>

⁶⁷ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-197648-Army-chief-inaugurates-multiple-projects-in-South-Waziristan>

Station and a 54 KM transmission line at Wana as modern power infrastructure for the people of FATA to fulfil their longstanding demand. [...] Gen Raheel also visited D I Khan today and inaugurated a USAID funded 62 KM DIK-Hathala-Tank dual carriage road as part of the 705 KM Central Trade Corridor linking the area with Afghanistan.

No differences between govt, army: Mamnoon, *Daily Times*, September 17⁶⁸

President Mamnoon Hussain declared on Wednesday (September 16) there were no differences between the government and army. Mamnoon said peace is returning to the country and there is complete harmony between the government and armed forces. Talking to a delegation of Pakistan National Forum, which called on him in Islamabad on Wednesday, he said that work is in progress under National Action Plan (NAP) for complete restoration of peace in the country. [...] About China-Pakistan Economic Corridor he said that it would guarantee the growth of regional economy. He said that this project is being carried out with the help of China. President Mamnoon said Pakistan's policy on dealing with terrorist sanctuaries and militant organisations is very clear and the military operation Zarb-e-Azb was targeting all terrorist outfits without discrimination.

IHC stays death sentence by military court, *The Nation*, September 18⁶⁹

The Islamabad High Court yesterday (September 17) stayed the capital punishment awarded by a military court to Muhammad Tahir, a Bannu jailbreak accused. Acting IHC Chief Justice Noor-ul-Haq N Qureshi heard the petition of Muhammad Tahir's father who had sought grant of stay against the capital punishment awarded to his son by a military court for his involvement in the Bannu jailbreak incident.

'Establishment' trying to create anti-N alliance, *The Nation*, September 18⁷⁰

Knitting an alliance against the PML-N, different factions of Muslim Leagues have the backing of the "Establishment", it has been learnt. Some of the Leaguers part told *The Nation* on Thursday (September 17) ***the political action to unify various factions of the Leagues has the backing of certain quarters of the Establishment.*** About the target of this possible alliance, they said the coalition would first gather all Muslim Leaguers on a single platform including the estranged leaders of the PML-N excluding its high command. In the second phase the unified Leaguers would reach out to other likeminded leaders and in the third, launch a campaign to dislodge the government.

⁶⁸ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/17-Sep-2015/no-differences-between-govt-army-mamnoon>

⁶⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/18-Sep-2015/ihc-stays-death-sentence-by-military-court>

⁷⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/18-Sep-2015/establishment-trying-to-create-anti-n-alliance>

Raheel approves death sentences for nine, *The Dawn*, September 21⁷¹

The Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif on Monday (September 21) approved the death sentences of nine 'hardcore terrorists' involved in various heinous terrorism activities, said a statement released by head of military's media wing on Twitter. [...] ***The condemned terrorists were involved in the killing of Major General Sanaullah, General Officer Commanding for Malakand division, and Lt Col Tauseef Ahmed during an attack on the military convoy in Swat.*** The Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan had claimed responsibility for the attack. The police later claimed that the suspect behind the attack, Abdul Rahim alias Raes, was arrested in March this year during an operation in Barawal, near the Pak-Afghan border. [...] One terrorist has also been awarded life imprisonment, Dawn News quoted the ISPR as saying.

It's a war for Pakistan's future: Air Chief, *The Dawn*, September 21⁷²

Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Sohail Aman on Monday (September 21) visited Pakistan Air Force (PAF) camp Badaber and said that the war against terrorism is the war for Pakistan's future. ***"The enemies of Pakistan should remain cognisant of the fact that no one can shake our resolve," said ACM Sohail Aman,*** while addressing a gathering of PAF airmen during his visit to the PAF base.

Four major generals promoted, *The Dawn*, September 23⁷³

The army announced on Tuesday (September 22) promotion of four major generals, including chief of the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), to the rank of lieutenant general. ***Those promoted are (Director General ISPR) Maj Gen Asim Saleem Bajwa, (GOC 35 Div – Bhawalpur) Maj Gen Sadiq Ali, (Vice Chief of General Staff) Maj Gen Umer Durrani and (Director General Military Operations) Maj Gen Aamer Riaz, a statement by ISPR said.*** [...] The Army also announced the postings of the newly promoted generals, besides reshuffling a few other positions. The DG ISPR will retain his position. ***Lt Gen Bajwa would be the first three star general to head the military's public affairs wing.*** Gen Amir Riaz has been appointed as the new commander of the Quetta-based Southern Command, Gen Sadiq Ali as Corps Commander Lahore, and Gen Umar Farooq Durrani as Corps Commander Mangla.

⁷¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1208413/gen-raheel-approves-death-sentences-of-nine-hardened-terrorists-ispr>

⁷² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1208403/war-against-terrorism-is-the-war-for-pakistans-future-air-chief>

⁷³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1208747/four-major-generals-promoted>

17 suspects arrested in raids near Quetta, *The Dawn*, September 24⁷⁴

Seventeen people, among them three suspected militants involved in bomb attacks and other acts of subversion, were arrested in a search operation conducted by security forces in different areas here on Wednesday (September 23). A spokesman for the paramilitary Frontier Corps said that police and FC personnel conducted raids in Kharotabad and nearby areas on the outskirts of the provincial capital and rounded up 14 suspects.

MQM's list of its 'executed' members, *The Express Tribune*, September 24⁷⁵

The Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) has drawn up a list of 46 members it says were killed deliberately by paramilitary Rangers in Karachi, the first time it has accused the force of a campaign of extrajudicial killings. MQM has submitted the list to the office of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, ratcheting up pressure on him to make the force, and the military to which it answers, more accountable. [...]But the list, which Reuters has seen, raises the stakes by documenting dozens of alleged extrajudicial killings. Neither the Rangers nor the armed forces responded to requests for comment on the list and Karachi operation, launched in late 2013 to tackle soaring crime rates. [...]“**In all 46 cases, they are either killed in fake encounters (shoot-outs) by Rangers or police or they are picked up by them and we find their bodies dumped somewhere days or weeks later,**” said senior MQM leader **Nadeem Nusrat of the list**. “Petrol, bottles and red hot rods have been inserted in their rectum area. The skin is exposed to acid. Their genital areas have been tortured with electricity. They are shot at close range.” The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances referred 35 cases of illegal abductions of MQM workers to the government in May and 20 in August, concluding a “pattern of specific targeting” of the MQM by Rangers.

10 'militants' arrested in Gwadar district, *The Dawn*, September 25⁷⁶

Security forces claim to have arrested 10 suspected militants affiliated with a banned militant organisation in Balochistan's Gwadar district on Friday. Frontier Corps (FC) spokesman Khan Wasey said FC and intelligence agencies' personnel conducted a raid in Gwadar and arrested 10 suspected militants. The suspected militants were involved in target killing, extortion and bomb blasts in the area, Wasey said. Senior security officials are interrogating the suspects.

⁷⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1209004/17-suspects-arrested-in-raids-near-quetta>

⁷⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/962702/mqm-p pressures-govt-army-with-list-of-executed-party-members/>

⁷⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1209259/10-militants-linked-to-banned-organisation-arrested-in-gwadar-district>

Pakistan to defeat all perpetrators of terrorism, *The Express Tribune*, September 25⁷⁷

Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif reiterated on Friday (September 25) Pakistan's resolve to defeating all internal and external perpetrators of terrorism. ***"With the entire nation standing behind the Armed forces in the fight against terror, Pakistan is bound to defeat all internal and external perpetrators of terrorism,"*** Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Asim Bajwa quoted the army chief as saying in a tweet. "We must focus on the whole nation's response to deny opportunities to prevent any organised activities by the enemies of the state," he added.

Politicians overshadowed by a publicity-seeking general, *The Nation*, September 26⁷⁸

The image of a mustachioed man with peaked cap and a chest full of medals is becoming hard to avoid in Pakistan. It is splashed across the posters of a politician competing in a by-election in the eastern city of Lahore. It looms large on giant billboards in the port city of Karachi, apparently paid for by adoring citizens. ***And it is a rare day when Pakistan's chief of army staff is not pictured on a newspaper front page. He has even entered the colourful repertoire of artists who decorate the nation's trucks and rickshaws.*** [...] This marks quite a turnaround for an institution that eight years ago was so unpopular that off-duty soldiers in the most restive areas were advised not to wear their uniforms in public. The long rule of General Pervez Musharraf, a coup-maker, had seriously tarnished the army's prestige. [...] ***Today the army is riding high, buoyed by an improvement in security following a decision in June 2014 to launch an all-out campaign against the Pakistani Taliban. Many credit General Sharif with taking the initiative.*** [...] But the constant boosting of the army has come at the price of undermining Pakistan's civilian rulers, who come across as petty and ineffectual characters compared with the go-getting General Sharif. [...] The aura surrounding the army chief has extinguished what little public scrutiny there was of his institution. Such oversight is badly needed as the army's power expands.

Levies gun down suspected militant in Kalat, *The Dawn*, September 28⁷⁹

A suspected militant was killed and another arrested after an exchange of fire in Balochistan's Kalat district Sunday evening (September 27), officials said. Levies sources told Dawn.com that miscreants opened fire at a levies vehicle

⁷⁷ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/963077/pakistan-bound-to-defeat-all-perpetrators-of-terrorism-army-chief/>

⁷⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/national/26-Sep-2015/politicians-are-being-overshadowed-by-a-publicity-seeking-general-the-economist>

⁷⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1209320/levies-gun-down-suspected-militant-in-kalat-shootout>

in Mangochar area of Kalat district. Security personnel retaliated, killing one of the attackers and arresting another. Sources said levies personnel also recovered a rifle from the custody of the arrested miscreant.

Operation launched against foreign seminary students, *The Dawn*, September 28⁸⁰

The administration has launched an operation in the Kohat district following reports about presence of illegal foreigners in the local seminaries. District Police Officer Mohammad Sohaeb Ashraf told this scribe that the objective of the operation was to computerise the data of the seminaries, check militant activities there and verify that their curriculum was approved by Waqaful Madaris, the supreme body looking after the seminaries countrywide.

Govt backs longer tenure for army chief, *The Express Tribune*, September 29⁸¹

The federal government has dropped the clearest hint yet that it is ready to back a proposal to extend the tenure of chief of the army staff's office from three to four years. Sources close to the prime minister's office said, on the condition of anonymity, that the proposal was informally floated with the top military office. But the incumbent of the office suggested that the government should reconsider the proposal and implement it from the tenure of the next chief of the army staff, who will take charge in November 2016. Army Chief General Raheel Sharif, they claim, effectively communicated to the federal government that he may not be interested in any extension in his office tenure. There has been a lot of media speculation round this particular question.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Operation Punjab, Editorial, *The Nation*, September 3⁸²

In the aftermath of the death of Punjab Home Minister Shuja Khanzada, the Rangers have begun a covert operation against all banned terrorist organizations in Punjab. [...] Many see the security situation in Punjab as a relative state of calm in the past couple of years, but the Attock attack has been a reality check. ***It has re-awoken the civilian as well as the military leadership alike who were hoping the Zarb-e-Azb operation was nearing its end.*** [...] Sources have also confirmed that Pakistan's intelligence services have crushed a network of more than 12 RAW operatives in Punjab. Details are emerging of enemy agents gathering information on important politicians and

⁸⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1209428/operation-launched-against-foreign-seminary-students-in-kohat>

⁸¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/964177/from-3-to-4-years-govt-backs-longer-tenure-for-army-chief/>

⁸² <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/03-Sep-2015/operation-punjab>

official figures as well as monitoring day-to-day security arrangements of vital state buildings and installations. With the threat of a possible war with India, RAW operatives in hiding as well as rumors of sleeping terrorist and sectarian cells across Punjab it seems that the Rangers and the military leadership has its plate full.

COAS's message, Editorial, *Daily Times*, September 9⁸³

The unprecedented show of unity and enthusiasm on Defence Day this year can and should be placed in the context of the current tensions with India. For Pakistan, there is no choice but to keep its powder dry and wait for the current fever in Modi's government against Pakistan to die down and for New Delhi to return to inevitable talks between the two neighbours for resolving their problems. Pakistan needs peace on its western and eastern borders in order to deal effectively with its internal problems and pave the way for a peaceful and prosperous future. For this purpose, there is also the need for the civil and military leadership to continue to work in the close coordination that has been on display for some time, while heeding the COAS's words on state institutions playing their due role in this existential struggle against the terrorists and fanatics that afflict our society.

ECONOMIC ISSUES

FISCAL ISSUES

Less duty-free access to US than EU, China, *The Express Tribune*, September 21⁸⁴

The United States is Pakistan's biggest export destination and one of the few countries where Pakistan enjoys a substantial trade surplus. During the last three years, the annual trade balance has been around \$2 billion in favour of Pakistan. In 2014, Pakistan exported goods worth \$3.6 billion and imported \$1.5 billion of goods from the US. Pakistan's exports predominantly comprise textile made-ups with shipments of home textile standing at more than \$1 billion and accounting for about 10% market share in the total US global imports of \$13 billion. Despite the trade surplus, Pakistan's total share in the US market of \$2.3 trillion is just 0.2%. The US is also Pakistan's biggest donor and contributed over \$4 billion since 2009 to projects relating to energy, economic growth, education, healthcare and women empowerment. Moreover, Pakistan also receives \$500 million annually for the Coalition Support Fund (CSF) in support of counter-terrorism efforts along the Afghan border.

⁸³ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/index.html>

⁸⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/960350/major-trading-partner-pakistan-gets-less-duty-free-access-to-us-than-eu-china/>

ENERGY

Thar to emerge as country's 'energy capital', *The Dawn*, September 10⁸⁵

Planning and Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal has said that with the opening of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Thar will emerge as the 'energy capital' of the country and will provide opportunities for employment and growth in the backward areas of Sindh. Speaking at an interactive session on the CPEC with civil society representatives on Wednesday (September 9), Mr Iqbal said the corridor would help overcome the energy crisis by enhancing the capacity to generate electricity.

INVESTMENT

China to be provided 2281 acre land in Gwadar, September 11⁸⁶

Federal and provincial (Balochistan) governments have on Friday (September 11) decided to provide 2281 acre land to China for constructing Gwadar industrial zone, reported Dunya News. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is not going to prove an important milestone for progress of Pakistan only, but also for the progress of entire region. All the vital steps are being taken for making the Gwadar port functional for this purpose. Federal and provincial governments have also decided to provide the land for construction of Gwadar International Airport and industrial zone by the end of this month. Federal Minister for Port and Shipping has said that all the measures are being taken in order to make Gwadar an industrial zone.

JI wants western part of CPEC completed first, *The News*, September 11⁸⁷

The top leadership of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) on Thursday (September 10) criticised the PML-N government for its failure to come up to the expectations of the masses, but appreciated the statements and views expressed by the military and political leadership of the country on the Defence Day (September 6). [...]Sirajul Haq advised the government that it should be careful in executing projects like the China Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Gwadar Port. ***He said the natives of Gwadar should be given constitutional and legal rights so that they continue to hold ownership rights of their land in Gwadar. The JI leader also asked the government to first start and complete the western part of CPEC so that grievances of the people of Balochistan could be addressed.*** He mentioned that he had also met nationalist leaders in Balochistan and Sindh and they were not anti-Pakistan

⁸⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1206026/thar-to-emerge-as-countrys-energy-capital-says-minister>

⁸⁶ <http://dunyanews.tv/index.php/en/Pakistan/298424-China-to-be-provided-2281-acre-land-for-Gwadar-ind>

⁸⁷ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-39590-JI-wants-western-part-of-CPEC-completed-first>

at all. "Instead of calling them anti-state, they should be heard by the concerned authorities," he said.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Wasting energy on FTAs, Shahid Kardar, *The Dawn*, September 15⁸⁸

THE first phase of our Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China involving restructuring of import tariffs ran its course in 2012. ***There is heart-burning in Islamabad that the benefits that had been envisaged to flow to Pakistan's economy from such an arrangement have not been realised.*** The feeling is widespread that the FTA is slanted in favour of the Chinese instead of being neutral to both parties, that we have seemingly given more generous concessions to the Chinese in terms of the number and variety of products than they have given to us. [...] In support of this contention the data shows that our imports from China are \$7 billion (17pc of our total imports and 24pc of non-oil imports at today's reduced prices of oil) while our exports to China are \$2.2bn (a mere 9.5pc of our total exports). The resulting trade deficit of \$4.8bn is 27.6pc of the country's overall trade deficit and 50.5pc of the total Pak-China trade. [...] ***The most damaging impact on the economy (especially through the escalation in the cost of manufacturing) has come from imports of rather inefficient Chinese energy equipment, simply because of the considerable price advantage that they have over energy suppliers of more efficient equipment from the rest of the world.*** [...] High-value and technology-intensive components, especially in electronics and telecommunications, produced in Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Singapore are being put together under an assembly process in China and then sold internationally. Countries importing these finished products end up running large bilateral trade balances with China simply because the value chain ends in China. In other words, if we want to mend this trade balance with China we must become an integral part of this East Asian supply chain.

SECURITY SITUATION

TERRORISM

SSGC officials involved in terror finance, *The Express Tribune*, September 2⁸⁹

The senior Sui Southern Gas Company officials detained by the Rangers in recent days are allegedly involved in funding militant groups, SSGC Managing Director Khalid Rahman told a parliamentary committee on Tuesday (September 1), adding that many others are in hiding. "Eight SSGC top management officials have gone underground, following the recent action

⁸⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1207052/wasting-energy-on-ftas>

⁸⁹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/949149/parliamentary-testimony-ssgc-officials-involved-in-terror-finance-panel-told/>

by the Rangers and I am the only one left in the Company," Rahman told the National Assembly Petroleum and Natural Resources Committee, chaired by Bilal Ahmed Virk, on Tuesday (September 1).

Aftab group involved in Khanzada murder, *The News*, September 3⁹⁰

Punjab Law Minister Rana Sanaullah on Thursday (September 3) said the proscribed Aftab group has been identified for involvement in the assassination of Punjab home minister Shuja Khanzada. Speaking in the Punjab Assembly on call to attention notice, Rana Sanaullah said, in this connection, some of the terrorists have been arrested, however, he stopped short of disclosing their names at this stage.

Terrorists thrown out of Swat, *The Dawn*, September 8⁹¹

Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif has said that terrorists will not be allowed to return to the Swat valley from where they have been driven out by committed soldiers of the Pakistan Army. Addressing a large gathering of elders of Swat and tourists from across the country on the concluding day of the Swat tourism and trade festival at Kalam on Monday (September 7), the army chief praised the sacrifices rendered by the people of Swat and the positive role played by them in support of security forces in the war against terrorists and their efforts to restore peace in the valley.

Heads under threat, *The Nation*, September 11⁹²

Heads of seven parties and a dozen senior politicians are under threat of attack by Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan, it is learnt. Sources told *The Nation* on Thursday (September 10), TTP sleeper cells could target high-profile political figures to mount pressure on the government to abort the ongoing operation across the country. ***"PTI chairman Imran Khan, All Pakistan Muslim League chief Pervez Musharraf, Awami National Party President Asfandyar Wali, Awami Muslim League chief Sheikh Rashid, JUI-F head Fazlur Rehman, Quami Watan Party president Aftab Sherpao and Sunni Ittehad Council chief Sahibzada Hamid Raza are on the hit list of TTP terrorists," the sources warned.*** Moreover, they said that noted figures including Hamza Shahbaz Sharif, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Abdul Rehman Kanju, Najaf Abbas Sial, Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Syed Iftikharul Hassan, Syed Saqlain Shah Bukhari, Muhammad Athar Hussain Gilani, Syed Imran Ahmed Shah, Faisal Saleh Hayat, Syeda Abida Hussain and Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi are also under threat. They said information gathered through communication intercepts

⁹⁰ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-196247-Aftab-group-identified-for-involvement-in-Khanzada-murder:-Sana>

⁹¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1205554/terrorists-thrown-out-of-swat-for-good-army-chief>

⁹² <http://nation.com.pk/national/11-Sep-2015/heads-under-threat>

and human intelligence strongly suggests life bids on high-ranking political figures. "A group of TTP sleepers can target party heads while another two can carry on attack on political figures. Such strikes are aimed at shattering the government's anti-crime struggle under National Action Plan (NAP)," the sources opined.

Now is the turn of religious hatemongers, corrupt: Nisar, *The Nation*, September 11⁹³

Pakistan has decided to crush those challenging the state writ and launch a countrywide crackdown against sectarianism and corruption. Country's top civil-military leadership has given a go ahead against the corrupt, the religious hate mongers and the rebels of all sorts, Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan announced on Thursday (September 10) following a meeting of the national apex committee held at the PM House. ***"It was unanimously decided during the today's meeting... that elements challenging the writ of the state would be eliminated,"*** Nisar told a press conference after the apex committee reviewed the progress on implementation the National Action Plan against terrorism.

NAP success a collective responsibility: Nawaz, *The Nation*, September 11⁹⁴

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Thursday (September 10) said implementation of National Action Plan (NAP) against terrorism is a collective responsibility and everyone has to play one's role to make it a success. Chairing a high-level meeting to review progress on NAP at the PM House, he expressed dissatisfaction over the implementation of plan and directed the federation and provinces to improve coordination for better results. ***"Some part of the NAP has been implemented, but there has been little progress on a large part of it,"*** he said, adding that implementation is necessary on each and every aspect of the (20-point) anti-terrorism plan.

Kh. Asif reaffirms pledge to quell terror, *The Nation*, September 16⁹⁵

Federal Minister for Defence, Water and Power Khawaja Asif said that the government was committed to weeding out terrorism from the country. He added that operation Zarb-e-Azb had broken the backbone of the militants and their networks. He said that it was achieving its goals and meeting with great success. He said that the operation would soon complete. Talking to different delegations at Sialkot, Asif said that the whole nation stands united against terrorism and was ready to sacrifice even their lives in fighting

⁹³ <http://nation.com.pk/national/11-Sep-2015/now-is-the-turn-of-religious-hatemongers-corrupt-nisar>

⁹⁴ <http://nation.com.pk/national/11-Sep-2015/nap-success-a-collective-responsibility>

⁹⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/16-Sep-2015/kh-asif-reaffirms-pledge-to-quell-terror>

terrorism shoulder to shoulder the armed forces of Pakistan for defending the motherland.

8,000 'militants' arrested in Balochistan, *Daily Times*, September 17⁹⁶

Balochistan Home Secretary Akbar Hussain Durrani on Wednesday (September 16) stated that the provincial law enforcement agencies have arrested more than 8,000 suspected militants after the implementation of National Action Plan (NAP). **"A total of 204 terrorists were killed by security forces during different operations and raids in the province," said Durrani.** He further added that out of the 204 terrorists killed, around 100 were high-profile terrorists. The home secretary also stated that 1,840 intelligence-based operations (IBO) have been conducted in Balochistan after the implementation of NAP. "The situation has improved drastically in the province, and a large number of insurgents have laid down their arms and have re-joined society," added Durrani.

Atmosphere of threat must go: Pervaiz, *The Nation*, September 18⁹⁷

Minister for Information Pervaiz Rashid yesterday (September 17) said that the atmosphere of fear and threat must be eliminated from Pakistan. Addressing a counter-terrorism workshop here, he said the forces of good will always be on the upper hand over the forces of evil. Later, talking to police officers in Islamabad, the Information Minister said that the backbone of terrorists had been broken. **He said a comprehensive campaign would be run in the media to create awareness among people about the need to stop making donations to banned organisations. He said the media should play an effective role in implementation of National Action Plan.**

Renounce violence and restart talks, *The Express Tribune*, September 18⁹⁸

Pakistan has invited the new leadership of the Afghan Taliban to renounce violence and re-join the reconciliation process after the insurgent group this week resolved a succession dispute that had threatened to split it. Reacting to reports that Mullah Omar's family has pledged allegiance to his successor Mullah Akhtar Mansur, the Foreign Office spokesperson told reporters on Thursday (September 17) that it was an internal matter of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Afghanistan (TTA). "However, we hope that TTA will give up violence and join intra-Afghan dialogue for peace in Afghanistan. Pakistan will facilitate the dialogue, as before," Qazi Khalilullah said.

⁹⁶ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/17-Sep-2015/8-000-militants-arrested-in-balochistan-under-nap-govt>

⁹⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/national/18-Sep-2015/atmosphere-of-threat-must-go-pervaiz>

⁹⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/958856/afghan-peace-overtures-renounce-violence-and-restart-talks-taliban-told/>

Hundreds nabbed under NAP, *The Dawn*, September 21⁹⁹

Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Amin Wains said on Sunday (September 20) police in association with law enforcement agencies were carrying out search operations under the National Action Plan (NAP) and checked more than 29,000 houses in different areas of the city in the last week. [...]Police registered 91 cases on violation of the loudspeaker act and tenancy act and particulars, including identity documents of 2,513 seminary students, were checked at 12 seminaries belonging to various sects. Police warned seminary administrations not to enrol any student without identification of documents and handed over advisory letters issued by the government to improve their security. ***During raids, police nabbed 223 proclaimed offenders and court absconders. All hotels, guest houses and bus stands were checked and 99 suspects taken into custody.***

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND FATA

IED blast in Bajaur kills one, injures four ,*The Dawn*, September 1¹⁰⁰

At least one man killed and four others sustained injuries Monday (Augusts 31) in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast in Khar Tehsil of Bajaur agency. According to security sources, the vehicle was on the way from Salarzai area to Khar when an IED, planted on the roadside, went off. The source said that a pro-government elder travelling in the vehicle was the apparent target of the attack but the elder survived the blast while his driver was killed.

Army major, 5 militants killed in N. Waziristan, *The Dawn*, September 15¹⁰¹

A major-ranked officer of the Pakistan Army and five militants were killed late during an attack on a check post in Spin Wam area of North Waziristan tribal region's Mirali tehsil, security sources told Dawn News on Monday (September 14). Militants attacked Dandi Kuch checkpoint situated in Kaka Ziarat area of Spin Wam near the Pak-Afghan border killing an officer of the Pakistan Army identified as Major Ismail. The area lies adjacent to Afghanistan's Khost province. Security personnel resorted to retaliatory firing killing five militants. Security sources added that the attackers, who had used light and heavy weapons, managed to escape from the site taking advantage of darkness and also took away the bodies of the colleagues.

⁹⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1208338/law-violators-booked-hundreds-nabbed-under-nap>

¹⁰⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1204007/ied-blast-in-bajaur-kills-one-injures-four>

¹⁰¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1206934/army-major-5-militants-killed-during-attack-on-checkpost-in-north-waziristan>

22 terrorists killed in North Waziristan, *The Express Tribune*, September 15¹⁰²

At least 22 terrorists were killed in a military action triggered by an armed attack on a security check post in North Waziristan Agency that left one senior military officer dead. Local administration officials said Major Ismael was killed when heavily armed terrorists attacked the check post in the Dandi Katch area of Speen Wam tehsil late Sunday (September 13) night. The area is sited near the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The military mounted a retaliatory action and killed at least 22 terrorists. The identity of the slain terrorists was not immediately known. The body of Major Ismail was airlifted to Peshawar where his funeral was held, and later the body was sent to the deceased's native village for burial.

Shops razed after military convoy bombed, *The Express Tribune*, September 15¹⁰³

Helicopter gunships and bulldozers destroyed dozens of shops in a restive tribal area on Tuesday (September 14) after a bomb attack on a military convoy wounded five soldiers, officials said. The incident took place in Wana, the main town of troubled South Waziristan district, where the military is battling Taliban militants. [...] **Local administration and intelligence officials and residents said helicopters bombed the market at Wana by-pass road and later bulldozers razed dozens of shops belonging to suspected militants.** A curfew has been imposed in Wana and military helicopters were hovering above, they said.

Drone kills seven militants in South Waziristan, *The Express Tribune*, September 18¹⁰⁴

At least seven suspected militants were killed and two others injured in a US drone strike conducted on Friday in South Waziristan's Ladha subdivision. "A vehicle close to a militant compound was the target of the strike in the Shonkrai Narai village of South Waziristan," an official said. The official confirmed the death toll; however, did not delve into details regarding identities of the deceased.

Militants attack PAF base in Peshawar, *The Express Tribune*, September 18¹⁰⁵

At least 18 people, including an army captain, were killed as militants attacked a heavily-guarded Pakistan Air Force base in Badhaber area on the outskirts of Peshawar early Friday (September 18) morning, senior security

¹⁰² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/956990/22-terrorists-killed-in-north-waziristan/>

¹⁰³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/957285/shops-razed-after-military-convoy-bombed-in-wana/>

¹⁰⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/959077/seven-militants-killed-in-south-waziristan-drone-strike/>

¹⁰⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/959024/militants-attack-pakistan-air-force-base-in-peshawar/>

officials said. [...] **The attack on the Badaber base, 10 kilometres south of Peshawar, triggered fierce gunbattles between insurgents and the military in which at least 10 soldiers were wounded. Further, security officials told The Express Tribune, "Two security force personnel belonging to the PAF and FC have been killed in the attack."** [...] In an email to the media, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) Khorasani group claimed responsibility for the attack. **"We sent 14 men to attack the base and eight of them entered the base from one side and six from the other side," the spokesperson said.**

KP police claim arrest of Bannu jailbreak suspect, *The Dawn*, September 24¹⁰⁶

The provincial police force of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) claimed on Wednesday (September 23) the arrest of a suspect, Gul Rauf, involved in Bannu jailbreak. "Lakki district police conducted an operation after receiving actionable intelligence and arrested the accused," said Riaz Ahmed Yousufzai, spokesperson for KP police. The police spokesperson added that the accused was arrested from Takhtekhel area of Lakki district. KP police had announced a reward of Rs2 million for the capture of the accused, who was involved in 30 cases of terrorism and abduction, according to KP police sources.

TTP commander killed in Lakki Marwat, *Daily Times*, September 24¹⁰⁷

A commander of banned Tahrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Gul Rauf was killed during a police search and strike operation at Takhtikhel in the precincts of Naurang Police Station in Lakki Marwat on Wednesday (September 23). Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Police spokesman said Gul Rauf was an important commander of the banned TTP, who was killed during an intelligence based police search and strike operation at Takhtikhel in Lakki Marwat.

BALUCHISTAN

Three policemen killed in Peshawar gunfight, *The Express Tribune*, September 2¹⁰⁸

At least three police were killed and eight wounded early Wednesday (September 2) in a gunfight with armed men holed up in a house on the outskirts of Peshawar. Senior police official Mian Saeed said the gunmen opened fire after police launched a routine house-to-house search in Urmar Payan village, triggering a gunfight which lasted more than half an hour.

¹⁰⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1208836/khyber-pakhtunkhwa-police-claim-arrest-of-bannu-jailbreak-suspect>

¹⁰⁷ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/24-Sep-2015/ttp-commander-killed-in-lakki-marwat-kp-police-spokesman>

¹⁰⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/949289/three-policemen-killed-in-peshawar-gunfight/>

“Three policemen were killed and eight wounded in the exchange of fire. One attacker was also killed while others fled the area,” Saeed told AFP.

Baloch separatist leader killed in Pak, September 9¹⁰⁹

Allah Nazar Baloch, the chief of separatist Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF), has been killed in an operation by the security forces in Awaran district of the troubled Balochistan province, the government said. **“According to intelligence reports, BLF chief Dr Allah Nazar has been killed in an operation in Awaran,” Balochistan Home Minister Sarfaraz Bugti announced at a press conference in the provincial capital Quetta.** He, however, added that the reports of the 46-year-old tribal leader’s death have not been confirmed. “We have still not recovered his body but at same time there is also no evidence that he is alive no sign of life or otherwise,” Bugti told reporters.

Editor’s Note: The reports of Allah Nazar’s killing have been appearing in the media for quite some time. However, nobody has officially confirmed his death so far.

Pakistani leader shot dead, September 12¹¹⁰

A leader of Pakistan’s National Party (NP) and a member of the Gogadan union council, has been shot dead in Balochistan’s Turbat city. Unidentified assailants dragged Jan Ahmed Dashti out of his vehicle and fired at him, Dawn online quoted the police sources as saying. District Council chairman Fida Hussain Dashti said Dashti’s death was a huge loss to the NP and demanded the immediate arrest of his killers.

SINDH

1,171 suspects killed in Karachi operation, *The News*, September 3¹¹¹

Karachi police on Thursday (September 3) released an updated report of the ongoing targeted operation in the metropolis. According to the report, during the targeted crackdown on criminal elements that was initiated two years ago, 1,171 accused were killed and 64,000 accused taken into custody. It said 841 dacoits, 282 terrorists, 38 kidnappers and 10 extortionists were killed during the operation.

Driver who witnessed Sabeen murder shot dead, *The Dawn*, September 8¹¹²

A police constable, who worked as driver of slain social activist Sabeen Mahmud and was a witness to her killing in April this year, was shot dead in the city’s Korangi area on Monday (September 7). According to officials, 48-

¹⁰⁹ <http://www.freepressjournal.in/baloch-separatist-leader-killed-in-pak/>

¹¹⁰ http://zeenews.india.com/news/south-asia/pakistani-leader-shot-dead_1795175.html

¹¹¹ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-196248-Police-report-says-1,171-suspects-killed-in-Karachi-operation>

¹¹² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1205556/driver-who-witnessed-sabeen-murder-shot-dead>

year-old Ghulam Abbas was attacked outside his home in Bhitai Colony. Two men on a motorcycle opened fire at him and escaped. He suffered three bullet wounds and died on the spot, said area DSP Rao Iqbal.

Geo-tagging of 3,662 madrassas in Sindh, *The Dawn*, September 10¹¹³

Under National Action Plan (NAP) geo-tagging of 3,662 madrassas has been completed in Sindh, of which 2,122 are in Karachi and 1,548 in Hyderabad, a meeting held to review the implementation of NAP was told on Wednesday (September 9). The meeting was held at CM House with Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah in chair. It was further apprised that this information gathering process is currently in progress and would be completed soon.

CTD arrests Al-Qaeda financier from Karachi, *The News*, September 16¹¹⁴

The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) on Wednesday (September 15) claimed to have arrested an alleged financier of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Sub-continent (AQIS) in a raid conducted in Defence (DHA) area of Karachi. According to an official press release, a special team of CTD led by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Naveed Khawaja arrested the alleged financier, Syed Sheaba Ahmed, whose name was disclosed by an accused during interrogation of the Safoora Carnage case. CTD said that Sheaba, who is a resident of a posh area in Karachi, confessed to his association with Tanzeem-e-Islami.

Seven terrorists perish in Karachi shootouts, *The Nation*, September 18¹¹⁵

At least seven terrorists were gunned down in four shootouts with the law-enforcement agencies in different areas here Thursday (September 17). Four terrorists were killed during armed encounters with police personnel in the megacity areas of Mochko and Docks. Meanwhile about three gangsters hailing from Lyari's Uzair Jan group were killed in an armed encounter in Mochko.

Karachi operation aimed at terrorists, *The Express Tribune*, September 22¹¹⁶

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said on Monday (September 21) that the Karachi operation is only targeting terrorists and the residents of the metropolis were extremely happy and satisfied with the improving security situation in the city. In a meeting co-chaired by him and President Mamnoon Hussain with

¹¹³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1205905/geo-tagging-of-3662-madrassas-completed-in-sindh-cm-told>

¹¹⁴ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-197646-CTD-arrests-Al-Qaeda-financier-from-DHA-Karachi>

¹¹⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/18-Sep-2015/seven-terrorists-perish-in-karachi-shootouts>

¹¹⁶ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/961195/security-issue-karachi-operation-aimed-at-terrorists-pm/>

the office bearers of PML-N Sindh at the PM Office, the premier said that Operation Zarb-e-Azb was a unanimously approved political decision and the operation has yielded positive results. He expressed resolve to continue the operation till extremism and terrorism are eliminated from the country.

PUNJAB

Six 'terrorists' killed in shootout with CTD, *The Nation*, September 16¹¹⁷

The Counter Terrorism Department, flanked by the police, killed six alleged terrorists in the wee hours of Tuesday (September 15). Two outlaws escaped the shootout under the cover of darkness. Identity of the deceased and runaway outlaws could not be confirmed yet. The joint operation was carried out in village Lager in the Manawala Police precincts. The CTD was tipped off that the terrorists had holed up in the area and were allegedly planning attacks in Sheikhpura and Nankana districts.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Sleeper cells in Karachi, Editorial, *The Dawn*, September 8¹¹⁸

[...]The Karachi operation needs to be further finessed if the terrorist menace is to be decisively rooted out. Sleeper cells are a means whereby terrorist organisations make space for themselves in a society; these organisations also create sleeper cells as a survival strategy when they are under threat, such as in Karachi at present. Because these sub-units consist of a few individuals — who sometimes seem to lead ostensibly 'ordinary' lives — and maintain only minimal links with their parent organisation, they can be difficult to detect.

Witness no more, Editorial, *The News*, September 9¹¹⁹

[...]With the counterterrorism department confirming that Abbas was the prime witness in Sabeen's murder case and key to identifying the main suspect, serious questions must be raised about the government's commitment to resolving the case. Why was no protection available to a witness in one of the most high-profile murder cases in Pakistan's recent history? The counterterrorism department has now raised alarm over the security of other witnesses, but why did this concern not strike these fine gentlemen earlier? What is strange is that, according to state reports, the main accused, Saad Aziz, has continued to accept responsibility for Sabeen Mahmud's murder. Usually the killing of key witnesses in high-profile cases is to cover up tracks. If the accused is accepting responsibility, then what point is to be scored by anyone by killing a lead witness?

¹¹⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/national/16-Sep-2015/six-terrorists-killed-in-shootout-with-ctd>

¹¹⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1205537/sleeper-cells-in-karachi>

¹¹⁹ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-8-339086-Witness-no-more>

Counter-terror response: a mixed bag, Imtiaz Gul, *The Express Tribune*, September 16¹²⁰

[...]As for the security establishment, it continues its awe-and-strike strategy through Operation Zarb-e-Azb, which has invariably become an extension of the NAP as well. [...]But challenges that both the government and the military face at the administrative level are multiple and daunting. It took months of perusal and insistence by the military before the government decided on September 14 to establish a National Terrorists Financing Investigation Cell to curb terror funding. It is a good step, but in a country where traders refuse to submit their income tax returns and oppose a minor tax on their daily transactions worth tens of millions, how can such a cell be effective? Why would funds intended for terrorist or radical organisations be routed through banking channels? Similarly, civilians have failed to devise a mechanism for the registration of madrassas across the country. Neither has a consensus survey form on madrassas been developed, a complaint that kept recurring during the meeting between heads of madrassas, the army chief and the interior minister. [...]It took the government over nine months to say that special courts are being reinforced and expanded; although the Pakistan Protection Act (PPA) was passed with great fanfare late last year, only one PPA court has been set up so far in Punjab. ***Why shouldn't the army press for military courts if the civilian response to issues of terrorism and religious extremism is so lacklustre?*** Currently, some 52 anti-terrorism courts are operating across the country, 14 of them in Punjab alone. One wonders why the civilian government increase the number of these courts and also expand their scope.

Terror In Multan, Editorial, *The Nation*, September 16¹²¹

[...]The BLA has been one of main terrorist organisations that had been successful in breaching the security around Lahore, one of the busiest cities in the country. ***The blast in Multan proves that although the level of security has been hyped up around the province, the BLA militants are still capable to launch bomb attacks in the most developed Punjab province.*** [...]While we have barely been able to keep up with the threat of the Taliban in Punjab, the BLA presents an additional and growing problem. Over the last year the government and military has been trying to contain the problem of terrorism and sedition in Balochistan. It seems that it is too late; the problem has not been contained.

¹²⁰ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/957376/counter-terror-response-a-mixed-bag/>

¹²¹ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/16-Sep-2015/terror-in-multan>

Badaber and beyond, Mohammad Taqi, *Daily Times*, September 24¹²²

[...]Regardless of the origins and location of the handlers, over a dozen attackers, clad in Frontier Constabulary (FC) uniforms, could not have made their way to Badaber from Kunar or Nuristan, Afghanistan or, for that matter, from Darra Adam Khel in Khyber Agency next door, on the morning of the attack. ***Just like the attacks on the PAF bases in Kamra and Peshawar and the Army Public School (APS), Peshawar, the terrorists had to have had local sanctuary and logistical support for days prior and indeed a mole inside the targeted base.*** [...]What is well known though is that almost all TTP honchos had escaped unscathed from first the Swat operation and then Zarb-e-Azb. Barring a couple of TTP men like Muslim Khan, who was arrested way after the Swat operation and allegedly died in custody, none of the jihadist linchpins are known to have been arrested or killed by the Pakistani forces. The TTP's former emir, Hakimullah Mehsud, was killed in a US drone strike — an event memorialised by certain Pakistani leaders virtually wailing at his death — while his successor, Fazlullah, was able to escape from the Swat operation. [...]The Afghan president's calls to Pakistan "to jointly fight alongside Afghanistan all terrorist groups without discrimination so that peace and stability are ensured" will unfortunately fall on deaf ears again. Pakistan has spurned such requests in the past and indeed has wilfully squandered opportunities to become the anvil to the hammer of Afghan and US forces in the past decade and a half. ***It is also unlikely that, going forward, Pakistan will quit picking and choosing between the 'good' and 'bad' Taliban.*** For assorted expediencies, the kid-glove treatment to the known jihadist-infested religious seminaries, the Afghan Taliban and the India-oriented jihadists did not change even after the APS attack and are likely to remain the sine qua non of the Pakistani attitude to jihadist terror even beyond the Badaber attack.

RELATIONS WITH INDIA

China advised to practice restraint, *The Express Tribune*, September 2¹²³

China on Tuesday (September 1) advised Pakistan and India to resolve ongoing tensions through mutual dialogue and cooperation and try to curb violations on the border, to ensure their commitment to peace in the region. ***"As a neighbour and friend of India and Pakistan, China calls on the two countries to exercise restraint, manage the situation through dialogue and consultation, properly deal with relevant differences and stay committed to the peace and stability of South Asia,"*** Chinese foreign ministry

¹²² <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/opinion/24-Sep-2015/badaber-and-beyond>

¹²³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/949329/china-advises-pakistan-india-to-practice-restraint-on-the-border/>

spokesperson Hua Chunying said. "China follows closely the development of the situation," she added.

Protest against Indian state terrorism in Poonch, *The Nation*, September 3¹²⁴

People staged a protest demonstration against the Indian state terrorism unleashed by its forces in Poonch district in occupied Kashmir. People took to the streets after the Indian troops stopped a bridegroom procession (Baraat) and detained guests including bride for three long hours in Balakote area of the district. The protesters also shouted anti-India slogans, KMS reported. The Baraat of one Muhammad Razaq who was coming back from Baryani Gali of Rajouri district was stopped by Indian Army's 43 Rashtriya Rifles and Artillery Regiment at Ramlutta in Balakote area. The bride was asked by Indian troops to come out of palanquin three times and the palanquin was frisked, "The Indian army also broke the lock of a box of bride and frisked that as well," the witnesses said.

India's border violence threat to peace: PM, *The Nation*, September 3¹²⁵

Unprovoked Indian firing on the Line of Control (LoC) was a threat to international peace, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif warned on Wednesday (September 2). It was not only an aggression against Kashmiris but also amounts to targeting the conscience of the world community, he told a gathering after inaugurating a string of development projects in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan, he said, is continuously keeping the international community abreast of these provocations, ceasefire violations and trampling of human rights of Kashmiris by Indian troops. ***The hearts of Pakistanis beat in unison with the Kashmiris he, the PM said.*** "Our patience should not be taken as our weakness.

Hindus, Christians against Indian shelling, *The Nation*, September 3¹²⁶

The district-based Muslim, Hindu and Christian religious clerics and scholars yesterday (September 2) teamed up at Indian shelling-hit border village Kundanpur and participated in an inter-faith prayer ceremony. They participated in the interfaith prayer ceremony for the eternal peace of August 28, 2015 victims of unprovoked Indian shelling in the village.

¹²⁴ <http://nation.com.pk/national/03-Sep-2015/protest-against-indian-state-terrorism-in-poonch>

¹²⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/03-Sep-2015/india-s-border-violence-threat-to-peace-pm>

¹²⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/national/03-Sep-2015/muslim-hindu-christian-in-unison-against-indian-hysteria>

NA panel adopts resolution against Indian firing, *The News*, September 3¹²⁷

National Assembly's Standing Committee on Defence on Thursday (September 3) passed a resolution against unprovoked Indian firing across the Line of Control and the Working Boundary.

Border talks begin on positive note, *The Nation*, September 11¹²⁸

Pakistan and India yesterday (September 10) decided to devise new strategies along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir to put an end to incidents of ceasefire violations as they began their three-day DG-level border dialogue here. In what can be seen as an encouraging development in bilateral talks between the two neighbours, the Pakistan Rangers-BSF meeting has been extended for a day to "discuss and finalise" these new protocols and strategies. ***"The most significant takeaway of the talks has been that the two sides agreed that maintenance of peace and tranquility on this border is the most important issue and this needs to be implemented on the ground," a top government source said.*** [...]The Pakistan Rangers, led by DG (Punjab) Major General Umar Farooq Burki, asked the BSF to initiate the joint patrolling along some mutually identified areas which was agreed by India, they said. The sources further said the Rangers "did not bring on table" the issue of activation of the UNMOGIP (UN Military Observer Group in Indian and Pakistan). [...]The BSF also put forth its agenda points of stopping infiltration from across the border, smuggling of narcotics and construction of unauthorised defence structures by the other side on the frontier, the sources said, which was taken note by Pakistan.

India shells villages along LoC, *The Dawn*, September 15¹²⁹

Indian troops shelled Pakistani villages along the Line of Control on Monday (September 14), the military's public affairs wing said. ***"Indian troops while violating the sanctity of the LoC resorted to unprovoked shelling/firing in the Nakial sector," said the ISPR in a brief statement.*** The Indian troops fired small arms, mortar shells and rockets on Monday afternoon. No casualties or injuries were reported from the area. Pakistani troops responded to the shelling, the ISPR said.

Unprovoked firing kills a soldier, *The Express Tribune*, September 16¹³⁰

A Pakistani soldier was killed when Indian troops resorted to 'unprovoked firing' along the Line of Control (LoC) on Tuesday (September 15), said the

¹²⁷ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-196224-NA-panel-adopts-resolution-against-cross-border-Indian-firing->

¹²⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/national/11-Sep-2015/border-talks-begin-on-positive-note>

¹²⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1207054/india-shells-villages-along-loc>

¹³⁰ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/957571/indian-aggression-unprovoked-firing-kills-pakistani-soldier-at-loc/>

military's media wing, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). According to the ISPR, the Indian troops violated the ceasefire in Battal Sector along the LoC, a temporary border that divides disputed Himalayan valley of Kashmir between arch rivals, Pakistan and India. The deceased was identified as 20-year-old Sepoy Shams, who was the resident of village Shanglot, District Ghizer of Gilgit-Baltistan. "Pakistani troops responded befittingly to Indian unprovoked firing," said the ISPR's statement.

New Delhi asked to stop ceasefire violations, *Daily Times*, September 17¹³¹

Pakistan on Wednesday (September 16) lodged a strong protest with India over the ceasefire violations and urged Indian government to observe the 2003 Ceasefire Arrangement. [...]According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Indian deputy high commissioner was summoned by the director general (South Asia & SAARC) and a protest was lodged over the latest unprovoked ceasefire violations by India along LoC.

India will have to request PMs meeting: Aziz, *Daily Times*, September 17¹³²

National Security Advisor Sartaj Aziz said on Wednesday (September 16) India will have to request Pakistan if it wants a meeting between the prime ministers of the two countries on the sidelines of UN General Assembly in New York later this month, Indian media reported on Wednesday. "***Our position is very clear. India called off the NSA-level dialogue last month and the request for any meeting must come from you. India has to take the initiative,***" Aziz said in a telephonic interview with the Hindustan Times. Islamabad has not yet received any request from New Delhi for a meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, Aziz told the Indian newspaper. "Nothing so far," he said, "If there is a request, our stand is clear. We want a discussion on all outstanding issues, including Kashmir." [...] "***Let me make it clear that we will continue to meet the Hurriyat. Even people in India are questioning the government on its rigid stand of us not meeting them,***" Aziz said.

Report hints at RAW's hand in Multan blast, *The Nation*, September 18¹³³

A forensic report has revealed involvement of Indian intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) in recent bomb blast in Multan that claimed 11 lives and injured more than 60 people. [...]Iqbal Khan, a district officer of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), has stated that the sort of

¹³¹ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/17-Sep-2015/islamabad-asks-new-delhi-to-stop-ceasefire-violations-immediately>

¹³² <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/17-Sep-2015/india-will-have-to-request-pms-meeting-aziz>

¹³³ <http://nation.com.pk/national/18-Sep-2015/report-hints-at-raw-s-hand-in-multan-blast>

explosives used in the incident had also been used in previous attacks carried out by the terrorists allegedly linked with RAW. He said the blast site has not been cleared yet as further evidence will be collected from the scene. Intelligence agencies also arrested a suspicious person from the blast site. He was shifted to undisclosed location for interrogation.

India having plan to build wall at LoC, *The Express Tribune*, September 25¹³⁴

Pakistan has complained to the UN Security Council (UNSC) about India's plans to construct a wall along the Line of Control allegedly to convert it "into a quasi-international border". Pakistan's ambassador to the UN Maleeha Lodhi has written two letters dated September 4 and 9 to the UNSC. ***In the September 9 letter to UNSC President Vitaly Churkin, Lodhi expressed "deep concern" at the plan by India to construct a 10-metre-high and 135-feet-wide embankment (wall) along the 197km boundary between Jammu & Kashmir and Pakistan.*** In the letter, Lodhi said Pakistan "considers the embankment a permanent structure that will bring about a material change in the territory in violation inter alia of Security Council resolution of 1948.

India can't distract us from terror war: COAS, *The Nation*, September 25¹³⁵

Army Chief General Raheel Sharif said Thursday (September 24) that continued ceasefire violations on Line of Control (LoC) and Working Boundary by India is an unsuccessful attempt of neighbouring country to distract Pakistan from its war against terror. General Raheel Sharif said this during his visit to forward locations on LoC where he met with soldiers deployed on the front lines. Talking to troops General Raheel said the battle hardened Pakistan Army is successfully handling "two different kinds of war" and is capable of defending every inch of the beloved motherland.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Indo-Pak reality, Moeed Yusuf, *The Dawn*, September 1¹³⁶

[...]If Modi wants to keep Pakistan in the dock, preoccupying us at the tactical level is precisely what he would be aiming for. To understand this, we first need to establish why Modi is able to maintain a dismissive attitude towards Pakistan and why the world is looking the other way. [...] ***It's statecraft 101: with an internal base that is stronger than ever, India can afford to forego benefits of improved ties with Pakistan, especially if its dismissiveness allows it to keep Kashmir off the table. Equally, the world's attitude towards India is driven by a convergence of interest between Delhi and the global***

¹³⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/963125/pakistan-complains-to-un-about-indias-plan-to-build-wall-along-loc/>

¹³⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/25-Sep-2015/india-can-t-distract-us-from-terror-war-coas>

¹³⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1204093/indo-pak-reality>

powers. India offers the world's military-industrial complex the single largest market and its economy has locked in Western business and investment interests. Add to this the West's flawed belief that India will play counterweight to China. Therefore, if I am Modi and I want to keep Pakistan boxed in, I would want to ensure that my differential with Pakistan grows further; that Pakistan remains the world's favourite whipping boy; and consequently, I feel no real pressure to negotiate sincerely on disputes with Pakistan. [...] **Pakistan's decision-makers should realise that focusing solely on the tactical game with Modi only plays into his hands. You've got to think strategic and find a way to reverse Modi's two real advantages: power differential; and the world's support to him. Pakistan's only silver bullet solution is creating leverage over India by forging strong economic ties with it.**

Illusion of victory, Irfan Ghauri, *The Express Tribune*, September 2¹³⁷

[...]Both sides still claim that they gave a crushing blow inflicting heavy casualties to the other side and won the war. However, most independent war historians dispute claims of the two sides and say it was a draw and none of the two was ultimate winner in the battlefield.

A wrong war, Zahid Hussain, *The Dawn*, September 9¹³⁸

IN marked contrast to the pomp and show eulogising the fable of the 1965 war victory, the speech of the army chief at the GHQ ceremony was sombre. There was no jingoism or war rhetoric; just firm resolve. It was more about the internal and external security challenges that confront the country at present than a show of grandiloquence and bluster. Indeed, the nation is indebted to the brave soldiers who laid down their lives to defend the motherland against a much bigger adversary. For this reason we mark Sept 6 as Defence Day every year to pay homage to those brave souls. But there have never been such celebrations of 'victory' as was witnessed on the 50th anniversary of the war. [...] **The real story of the 1965 war has largely been missing in the media discourse that only highlighted the false victory version.** [...] Air Marshal Nur Khan, who led the air force, achieving complete superiority over the Indian air force, called it a wrong war that was planned "for self-glory rather than in the national interest". History has to be put straight so that the mistakes are not repeated.

¹³⁷ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/949151/illusion-of-victory-in-the-eyes-of-the-media/>

¹³⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1205740/a-wrong-war>

Where did we go wrong?, Rasul B.Rais, *The Express Tribune*, September 9¹³⁹

[...]The people, the armed forces and the government of Field Marshal Ayub Khan stood united. Facing an Indian invasion directed at Lahore and Sialkot created one of those first moments in Pakistan's history when the whole nation came together. The censored, manipulated and one-sided narrative that dominated the state-run information system worked magically on the minds of a nascent nation that was in a state of a real war with India. The hatred for 'Hindu' India was at its highest, and so was the spirit within us to go to the borders and fight to the last. **While I salute the heroism and sacrifices of our soldiers to defend the country, I believe that the Ayub Khan government created the right conditions for war by orchestrating Operation Gibraltar — our intrusion into Indian-held Kashmir months prior to the full-scale war between India and Pakistan. The lessons of its failure were not learnt, and the regime blundered further into launching Operation Grand Slam by sending regular troops to cut Jammu off the Srinagar valley.**

Deterrence on steroids, Cyril Almeida, *The Dawn*, September 13¹⁴⁰

[...]Gone — though the boys are pretending it's not — is the old nuclear doctrine of credible minimum deterrence. That was the simple business of having a handful of nukes to ensure India would never invade us. [...] **Credible minimum deterrence was simple, elegant — and enough. But then, because they can and because of the way they see the world and understand security, the boys decided it was not enough. In its place came this new-fangled business of full-spectrum deterrence.** It is based on, roughly, four elements. First is the high-end of the spectrum — long-range missiles. In March we tested something called the Shaheen-III, which has the rather specific stated range of 2,750km. Why 2,750km? Well, if you pull out a map and look for the Andaman and Nicobar islands, you'll see they're roughly 2,750km from Pakistan. [...] **Theoretically, if India had a land mass somewhere that Pakistani missiles could not reach, then India could put a bunch of nuclear missiles there and apparently threaten Pakistan. So we need to be able to hit the Andaman and Nicobar islands, the farthest outpost of India from Pakistan, with our own nukes.** [...]Second, the low-end of the spectrum: very-short-range missiles, aka tactical nuclear weapons. That controversial expansion was based on an even more controversial idea — vague Indian musings on Cold Start and the possibility of rapid and shallow India military ingresses into Pakistan. [...]Third is an assured second-strike capability. [...]Fourth is something called ambiguity: we don't tell the world or India just how many, even in rough terms, nuclear weapons we have. [...] **The more immediate problem is already here: the boys have internalised**

¹³⁹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/953171/where-did-we-go-wrong/>

¹⁴⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1206614/deterrence-on-steroids>

nuke as the answer to an ever-growing range of threats that they perceive from India.

India-Pakistan: hyphenated, Munir Akram, *The Dawn*, September 13¹⁴¹

THE Pakistan army chief's speech on Sept 6, Defence Day, highlighted the security threats which Pakistan continues to face from India 50 years after the 1965 war. That war lasted 17 days. If, God forbid, war was to break out today, it may last only 17 hours. [...] American discrimination against Pakistan was revived and institutionalised in 2007 when the then US secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice, proclaimed Washington's decision to "de-hyphenate" US policies towards India and Pakistan. This decision followed an American determination to build India as a bulwark against China's rising power. [...] **Given the real and present danger of a devastating conflict between Pakistan and India, the US should stop India's militarisation and seek military de-escalation and arms control in South Asia.** But to succeed in this objective, it will need to put the hyphen back in its policies towards India and Pakistan. Strategic restraint by Pakistan will be possible only if it is mutual and reciprocal with India.

Making dialogue worthwhile, Ashraf J. Qazi, *The Dawn*, September 14¹⁴²

[...] India and Pakistan have mutually exclusive and self-sufficient narratives on why talks between them end in mutual recrimination instead of mutual understanding on how to move the process forward. **Public opinion, including supposedly 'sophisticated and informed' opinion in both countries, has internalised its national narrative to an extent that it has become very difficult to talk constructively with each other. In these circumstances, designing a dialogue strategy that both sides can commit to becomes exceedingly difficult.** [...] Leaders in India and Pakistan lack a mutually acceptable vision of relations with each other. [...] The India-Pakistan stand-off is not a static situation. It is dangerously dynamic. It can very quickly degenerate towards confrontation and conflict unless 'core concerns' are addressed in a manner that reduces tensions.

Pride Over Pragmatism, Editorial, *The Nation*, September 18¹⁴³

[...] By sticking to a hard and fast condition – that India must initiate – Pakistan is exhibiting the same stubborn stance that India has maintained for years. Shifting the burden of the peace process on India would surely relieve the pressure on the government, but it owes it to the civilians caught in the crossfire at the borderlands to continue to talks, at least until the cross border

¹⁴¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1206621/india-pakistan-hyphenated>

¹⁴² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1206794/indo-pak-talks-making-dialogue-worthwhile>

¹⁴³ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/18-Sep-2015/pride-over-pragmatism>

violation stop. As long as the border remains in the grips of unrest, the government must make every effort to simmer things down. A volatile eastern border detracts from manpower, resources and effort required on the western border, especially when the military operation is in its critical final phase. [...] **Even if the government maintains its stance on higher level diplomatic talks, it must continue engagement on security and military levels.** Although they never last permanently, meetings between border security officers from both sides has always bought a small measure of respite. This engagement must continue, perhaps one day both sides would stumble upon a workable solution to the cross border violations. **The stance taken by the government is merited, but it favours Indian interests most.** In all diplomatic engagements, Pakistan has been the one pushing the Kashmir issue while India only wanted to talk terrorism and trade.

Can coercive diplomacy work?, Hasan Askari Rizvi, *The Express Tribune*, September 21¹⁴⁴

[...]The Pakistan Rangers-Indian Border Security Force (BSF) meeting in New Delhi ended on a positive note on September 12, engendering the hope that there will now be peace and stability at the LoC. This hope did not materialise. It was all quiet at the LoC while the Pakistan Rangers and the BSF were holding meetings. **The violent action resumed after the return of the Pakistani delegation. This means the firing is not an accidental development, but part of a carefully crafted policy.** There is hardly any incentive for the Pakistan Rangers and the military to initiate firing on the LoC or the Working Boundary. Pakistan's security forces are fully engaged in counterterrorism operations in North Waziristan and other tribal areas, which is their highest priority. The Rangers are busy undertaking a counterterrorism operation in Karachi and they have to deal with terrorist incidents in other parts of Pakistan from time to time, the latest being the terrorist attack on the Badhabar Air Base in Peshawar. The security of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border is another priority. **There is hardly any reason for the Pakistan Army to open a new front at the LoC. Keeping in mind India's global aspirations, including the desire to get a permanent seat in the expanded UN Security Council, it makes no sense for India to escalate conflict with Pakistan.** [...]Peaceful relations with Pakistan can facilitate India's global diplomacy. However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his foreign policy and national security team have developed an erroneous notion of putting Pakistan under military pressure, while keeping this issue out of sight of the international community. [...] **There is a consensus in Pakistan on the part of the civilian and military authorities and political circles that there is little chance of improvement of bilateral relations as long as Modi is in power.**

¹⁴⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/960406/can-coercive-diplomacy-work/>

EXCERPTS FROM URDU MEDIA & SELECT JIHADI LITERATURE

INDIA-PAKISTAN

Unite Against India, Ali Imran Shaheen, *Daily Jasarat*, September 15.¹⁴⁵

After continuous ceasefire violations and threats of war now it is being communicated to us that India would not fire the first bullet. **Before this, Indian Army Chief had ordered his forces to be ready for short-term wars. Pakistan responded to this very well. Our Army chief retorted that we were ready for all kinds of wars.** The defense minister even said that for our national security we would use atom bomb if it was needed....

Everyone knows that since Narendra Modi assumed office Muslims in India have started facing all kinds of discriminations. In occupied Kashmir, Narendra Modi government has adopted ruthless methods to crush the movement by the Kashmiris. Initially, they talked about scraping of Article 370 and later they talked of providing land to former security forces in Kashmir. On the one hand they try to support the *Yatras* to bring more and more Hindus to Kashmir and on the other the tourists are being encouraged to travel to other states by telling them that Kashmir is insecure....

The enemy of Pakistan [read India] has tried all options to isolate Pakistan. Where ever Narendra Modi goes he tries to make an alliance against Pakistan. Many a time, India has tried introduce resolutions in the UNSC against us. Last time Modi had tried to pass a resolution to declare Pakistan as a terrorist state but with the timely intervention of China India did not succeed. Recently, Modi traveled to UAE where he signed trade agreements worth 70bn US dollars. **India also wanted to sign military and defense agreements to encircle Pakistan but Saudi Arabia pulled UAE away from that.** The UAE is a country with whom we have had friendly relations and bulk of our population is staying and working there. These Pakistanis are regularly sending remittances to Pakistan as well. During Yemen crisis when our Arab friends sought our help we did nothing which surprised the Arab countries. Now we are facing the consequences. **Our biggest enemy is trying to pit our friends against us.** India is also claiming that with the visionary foreign policy of Modi they have successfully turned America and UAE against Pakistan.

¹⁴⁵ <http://jasarat.com/news.php?date=15-09-2015&news=04&category=columns>

Pakistan ka Mudalal Moukif (reasoned stand), Modi UN assembly main Khitab say farar, Editorial, *Daily Ummat*, September 15.¹⁴⁶

In the coming session of United Nations General Assembly Pakistan is committed to raise the issue of Indian violations along Line of Control and [working] International boundary. **The evidences of involvement of RAW in Pakistan will also be registered in United Nations. Nawaz Sharif will strongly raise the Kashmir issue in his 30th September speech. Fearing Pakistan, the prime minister of India, Narendra Modi has decided not to speak in the General Assembly.** Narendra Modi has gone far ahead of all his predecessors in antagonizing Pakistan. He spits venom towards Pakistan because Pakistan does not respond strongly to him all the time....Modi does not know how to respond to Pakistani allegations; that is why he has opted out of UNGA and asked Sushma Swaraj to deliver the speech.

Modi has earmarked 350 million fund to denigrate Pakistan army, Assadullah Gaalib, *Nawai Waqt*, September, 18.¹⁴⁷

On the occasion of the golden jubilee of Difa-e-Pakistan, Lt. Gen. Ghulam Mustafa (a retired three-star general of the Pakistan Army, credited with raising the Army Strategic Forces Command) has revealed that Modi has sanctioned 350 million US dollars for denigration of the Pakistan army.

The author believes that this fund is showing results in Pakistan as the scholars of Pakistan are continuously criticizing the Pakistan army. **Some of these critics blindly believe in Hamood-ur-Rahman commission report which was published in Delhi. The report holds Pakistan army responsible for its defeat in 1971 war.....** I do not understand why our Newspapers publish lead stories about General Raheel Sharif. Is it because they want to warn politicians about his growing popularity? To some extent, they have succeeded in their mission as politicians have started talking about losing their political space. [The author would imply that such eulogy of Raheel Sharif could be motivated because it would widen the civil-military divided and this did not augur well for Pakistan].

RAW is involved in Budaber attack, Dr. Shabir Ahmad, *Daily Jang*, September 22.¹⁴⁸

On the one hand India has engaged Pakistan on Line of Control and (working boundary) International border and on the other hand Indian agents have entered Afghanistan and launch anti-Pakistan activities from there. **All observers agree that Indian embassy and its consulates in Afghanistan are involved in suspicious activities. RAW and Afghan NDF— which is headed**

¹⁴⁶ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2015-09-15/page-14/detail-1>

¹⁴⁷ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2015-09-18/page-4/detail-2>

¹⁴⁸ , http://www.ausaf.pk/wp-content/uploads/2015-09-22/news/detail15_02.php

by Omar, who is close to Abdullah Abdullah— have contacts with TTP and are trying to destabilize Pakistan. India is doing this to sabotage CPEC.

TTP is not being able to withstand attacks of the Pakistan army. Its militants have become agents of RAW. Abdullah fears growing influence of Pakistan in Afghanistan. That is why this new *troika* is trying to challenge Pakistan.

Army chief says we are ready, Naveed Masood Hashmi, *Daily Ausaf*, September 7.¹⁴⁹

After listening to Gen. Raheel Sharif I can say it very confidently that our enemy (India) should not be under the impression that Pakistan would not react because our military chief Gen. Raheel Sharif, who is considered to be one of the best military generals of the world, has made it clear: "Whether the war is fought with conventional weapons or non-conventional weapons, we are very ready for it. It does not matter whether it is cold start or hot start, we are ready to give them a befitting reply. The enemy cannot comprehend the risk they are taking; they will have to pay a heavy price for it."

General Raheel added that "Kashmir is an unfinished agenda o. By putting the problem on the back-burner we cannot have durable peace and security in the region. Now it is the need of hour to work towards resolving the Kashmir problem according to the wishes and aspirations of Kashmiri people and also according to UN Resolutions." He added that terrorism has manifested its ugly face and by intensive military operation we have now maintained supremacy of the State. While addressing a function in the honor of martyrs at G.H.Q. on Pakistan Defence Day, he lauded the sacrifices of war veterans and said that facilitators of terrorists would be sent to hell. He said many things in his speech. **he lamented that our country is confronted with challenges not only from outside but also from within.** In such a delicate and volatile situation he sent a very clear message to the enemies.

The Indian Army Chief has threatened to initiate a small-scale war against us (Pakistan). To this, our military chief has given an apt reply and has won many hearts in Pakistan. It is not possible for a sovereign country like Pakistan to surrender in front of a country like India. General Raheel has explained that whenever Pakistan has extended its hand of friendship to India, it has never respected our offer. **He has rightly said that for last seven decades, the Kashmiris have been subjugated under the tyrannical rule of India. Even today, innocent patriotic Kashmiris who raise slogans of Pakistan on the streets of Srinagar have become victims of atrocities of the Indian army. They have been lathi-charged, beaten and even riddled with bullets and on the top of it the cruel and indifferent world community has**

¹⁴⁹ http://www.ausaf.pk/wp-content/uploads/2015-09-08/news/detail14_05.php

been a silent spectator of this scenario. Indian authorities have, by the power of gun, subjugated more than 1.25 crores of innocent Muslims. And in this tirade more than one lakh of Kashmiris have given their supreme sacrifice and this process continues even today.

The tragedy is that India, despite claims of being a champion of democratic principles and so-called secularism, its leadership and the Indian military, intelligentsia and so-called objective media even after 70 long years have not come out of their shell of Hindutva. Is it not a mockery of Indian secularism? Even now in the 21st century, slaughtering of cow inevitably leads to Hindu-Muslim riots resulting not only in unjustified killing of innocent Muslims but scores of Muslims have been rendered handicapped. Obviously, this demonstrates India's "satanic" wickedness vis-à-vis the Muslim minorities. Even today one could sense that there was a strong under-current of caste system in India and the Muslims are being treated as low class pariah. There is a plan to exterminate this community.

Extremist India rigid on Kashmir, Editorial, *Daily Ummat*, September 18.¹⁵⁰

The Indian forces continued their firing for the second consecutive day which resulted in the death of one Pakistani national and destruction of several buildings causing so much of loss to the residents. A day before, one military jawan was martyred due to unprovoked firing on line of control. Pakistan Foreign Office called Indian Deputy High Commissioner and registered a strong protest on this issue. Pakistan Foreign office asked the High Commissioner to obtain full details of this incident. Pakistan Foreign Office has also handed over one note to the Indian High Commissioner, which says that India was violating the 2003 Ceasefire Agreement. It has been observed that due to incessant firing by the Indian forces on the Line of Control several families have been compelled to migrate from their ancestral homes.

It may be recalled that there was an important meeting between the heads of the BSF and Pakistani Rangers, wherein Pakistan presented solid proof of border violations by Indian security forces and demanded that these violations should be stopped. If Pakistan also plans to retaliate then conditions may deteriorate further and this may turn into a war-like condition. ***In the meeting, India promised not to resume firing on LoC. But hardly after two days, India started unprovoked firing on LoC all over again. It appears that tolerant attitude shown by Pakistani forces has been mistaken by India as Pakistan's weakness.*** In case Pakistan is compelled to respond for safety and security of its citizens, there is every possibility of a war which will lead to loss of lives on both sides.

¹⁵⁰ <http://ummat.net/2015/09/18/news.php?p=idr1.gif>

Even now Pakistan has been emphasizing peaceful dialogue. But we should make sure that the so-called 'peace talks' bear fruits. Up till now dialogues and meetings have been futile. India has nurtured an illusion that if the Kashmir issue is excluded from the Agenda of talks, then India would maintain a dominant position in the talks. Pakistan's National Security Advisor Sartaj Aziz during his interview to *Hindustan Times* has reiterated that Pakistan was prepared to discuss all disputes with India. If India wants both Prime Ministers to meet on the occasion of the U.N. General Assembly Session in New York, then the initiative should come from India.

India should take the initiative for meeting with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif: Logical Stand by Sartaj Aziz, *Daily Nawai Waqt*, September 18.¹⁵¹

Pakistan's National Security Advisor Sartaj Aziz has bluntly said that if India wanted to have meeting between two Prime Ministers in New York, then it should come from their side. Further, Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will not participate in the meeting if Kashmir problem is not included in the Agenda.

Let us make it clear that Pakistan always wanted to have cordial relations with its neighbors and has made continuous efforts to resolve all the differences through dialogue only. ***The last meeting of the two Prime Ministers at Ufa was also finalized only because of sincere efforts from Pakistan side. But when Pakistan National Security advisor wanted to meet pro-Pakistani Kashmiri leaders prior to talks, the Indian leadership cancelled the meeting.***

Sartaj Aziz had announced in Islamabad that he was prepared to go to India for conducting dialogue without any pre-conditions. But India's Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj put the condition of "No meeting with Kashmiri leaders" deliberately to cancel the meeting. Even today Pakistan is willing to resume dialogue with India, but it should be made clear that the real agenda of dialogue would be "Kashmir problem" and all Kashmiri leaders would also participate in the talks. This is all the more necessary because without participation of Kashmiri leaders the talks would merely be 'symbolic'.

Pakistan has collected all the evidence of India's illegal involvement inside our country. All these evidences would be presented to U.N. General Assembly to expose India's wicked face. And to avoid such precarious situation in United Nations General Assembly Session, Modi has entrusted the job to Sushma Swaraj. The Indian government, which has always been eager to blow its trumpet of secularism before the whole world, its prime

¹⁵¹ . <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2015-09-18/page-14/detail-9>

minister has now decided not to address the U.N. General Assembly Session, lest his real face be exposed before the whole world.

AFGHAN AND KASHMIRI MUJAHIDIN LEADERS ON HAMID GUL

Till the very last moments of his life he guided the Kashmiris, Syed Salahudin, *Daily Ummat*, September 11.¹⁵²

I arrived in Pakistan in 1994. Within few months of my arrival I had a chance to meet Gen. Hamid Gul. ***In my first meeting with him I realized how emotionally he was attached with Kashmir. He used to tell me what Kashmir was important for the stability, security and future of Pakistan.*** It is an article of faith for every Pakistani and especially for every member of the Pakistan army. I met him several times after this incident on different occasions which helped me understand his point of view. ***His stand was clear; Pakistan is not secure till Kashmir remained under Indian occupation. He was of the opinion that for the liberation of Kashmir there was a need for state-wide movement and serious diplomacy. But he firmly believed that without a planned state-wide armed rebellion (Jihad) Indian occupation cannot be challenged. He was sure that Kashmir will be freed only through armed resistance and Jihad.***

He had a vision which he shared with me many times that the leadership and people of Pakistan should decide as to what extent they can go to liberate Kashmir. How much they are ready to sacrifice for it. ***He believed that there should be a national consensus regarding Kashmir.***

India was scared of him although he was a retired general. The reason is simple that all imperial powers whether, Brahman imperialists, Zionist imperialists or western capitalistic imperialists fear those who believe in the ideology of Jihad. ***Indians were aware of his ideology and they also knew he was attached emotionally to Kashmir. Late Gen. Gul used to tell me that without Jihad the problems and issues of Muslim Ummah would not be resolved. He believed in Jihad and tried to convince people about it as well.***

He wanted to govern Pakistan according to the ideology of Pakistan. ***For him, the ideology of Pakistan meant establishment of an Islamic republic. He believed that till all Islamic organizations and leaders unite, the dream of Islamic Pakistan cannot be fulfilled.*** According to him all occupied areas including Kashmir, Palestine and Afghanistan could not be liberated until Islamic powers united and adopted the way of Jihad. Difa-e-Pakistan Council was also the result of his visionary strategy and he was one of the main pillars of this council. He used to say that all Muslims would be answerable to Allah

¹⁵² <http://ummat.net/2015/09/11/news.php?p=general-13.gif>

and they would be asked why were the Muslim areas occupied and ruled by non-Muslims. ***Our discussions used to revolve around the concept of Jihad and when he was in his 70s he told me "Peer sahib, Kashmir meray Deen-o-Iman ka Masla hai, if at this age I am ordered I am ready to go to Kashmir for Jihad and sacrifice my life there. I will never say no."***

His attachment with Kashmir was unique. Whenever we Kashmiris went to meet him he shared his military experiences and guided us.

The predictions of Hamid Gul about America were all true, Gulbadin Hikmatyar, *Daily Ummat*, September 11.¹⁵³

...If anything hurt me more than the brutal death of my father that is the death of Gen. Hamid Gul. He was like a brother. I will never forget how he respected me. ***He was a blessing for Afghans but unfortunately he was treated badly when Jihad against Russia was showing good signs.*** When I became prime minister of Afghanistan, Gen. Hamid Gul told me that what we had dreamt for the Islamic world may not come true because of our own faults and personal acrimonies. The Afghans who used to treat each other as brothers are fighting against each other and we should find solution for this. ***At that moment I had told him that "you are the only person who can do this. If you want then all Mujahideen authorize you and I personally give you this authority." Since he was retired from Pakistan army and was not backed by government of Pakistan, he did not succeed in his mission.***

I have thousands of memories attached with Gen. Hamid Gul and I still do not believe that he is no more... ***In Charikar he said, "our work will not end, If Russia leaves America will invade the Islamic world. Jihad is the way towards freedom and America doesn't like it. America wants to enslave the whole world.*** I think after Russia, America will come to this region which would be even more destructive. ***If Mujahideen fight with same sincerity—the way they fought against Russia— then America will also be defeated in Afghanistan; India will be defeated in Kashmir and all oppressed Muslims will be liberated. People will be set free from the clutches of western democracy."***

I feel bad that I could not attend the funeral procession of two personalities – my father and Gen. Hamid Gul. Daud martyred my father and brother and buried them at an unknown place and now due to American occupation and other difficulties I have not been able to carry the coffin of Gen. Hamid Gul on my shoulder. I pray to Allah that I would be able to recite Fatiha at his grave...

¹⁵³ <http://ummat.net/2015/09/11/news.php?p=general-7.gif>

Hamid Gul did not allow Americans to exploit Afghan Jihad, Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, *Daily Ummat*, September 11.¹⁵⁴

My relationship with Gen. Hamid Gul is very old and for thirty years we were close to each other. ***The main reason behind our relationship was Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and to liberate Afghanistan Jihad was opted in which Gen. Hamid Gul played a very important role. He was considered the most sincere and close companion of Zia-ul-Haq. Gen. Gul is known for his support for Afghan Jihad.*** He opened the door of resistance against Soviets. Alhamdulillah we can say that with his role in Afghan Jihad he won the hearts of all Afghans.

The most important thing that he did was that he and Zia together did not allow the Americans to get what they wanted from the Afghan Jihad.... ***As far as I know Taliban consulted him frequently and valued his suggestions.*** The Afghan people and Pakistan benefitted from whatever Gen.Hamid Gul did. ***There was a time when Afghanistan and Pakistan looked like a single country as people of both the countries loved each other and it was the result of the policies of Gen. Hamid Gul.*** While accepting his contribution [to the defeat of Russia and end of the cold war] the German government sent him a piece from Berlin wall which is still there in his drawing room.

America wanted to use Pakistan and their policy was to use Pakistan in Afghanistan. It wanted to control the resources of Central Asia and Afghanistan. To scuttle this mission our Generals did well and that is why Americans did not like Zia-ul-Haq and later the aeroplane in which he was travelling was blown up by them.

Gen.Hamid Gul consulted me several times. In forming the Difa-e-Pakistan Council he played a prominent role. He formed the core of this alliance. For unity among various jihadi groups, the mention of his name was enough. ***In my last meeting with him the discussion revolved around the topic of ideology of Pakistan and the need to bring Pakistan back on the Islamic track.*** This is necessary because by so doing we can make our young generation aware of the ideology of Pakistan and the two-nation theory. We have to tell this to minorities of India as well. These were some of the ideas we discussed during the last days of his life.

BALUCHISTAN

Balochistan is not moving away, Pro-Pakistan slogans are chanted: Gen. Nasir Janjoo, *Daily Jang*, September 17.¹⁵⁵

¹⁵⁴ <http://ummat.net/2015/09/11/news.php?p=general-10.gif>

¹⁵⁵ <http://e.jang.com.pk/09-17-2015/lahore/pic.asp?picname=1515.gif>

The commander of southern command, Gen. Nasir Janjoa said that there is no more a threat of secession of Balochistan. Those who were fighting in the name of ideology have given up and pro-Pakistan slogans are being continuously heard in the province. He dedicated the success to the people of Balochistan. **He further stated that Pakistan was hidden somewhere in the hearts of the people of Balochistan and when we called it came to the fore.** With the help of Baloch, Pakistan army has come a long way from an era when Pakistani flags were burnt to a period when the flags are hoisted.

Gwadar handed over to China for 40 years, Daily Tawar, August 11, 2015.

For special economic zone, Pakistan has decided to give Gwadar to a Chinese company on lease for forty years. [...]The special economic zone is part of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor for which 46bn US dollars are to be invested. **With the development of economy, energy sector and transportation the CPEC will connect western China with Arabian Peninsula. The head of Gwadar port Authority, Dostin Jamaldeni, told the mediapersons that agreement has been finalized with Chinese overseas port holding company.** The Chinese company will hold 2,300 acres of land without paying any tax for the next forty years. The agreement will be signed either in this month or in October. Jamaldeni further said that "as part of this project, work on Gwadar international airport will begin in three months and we also expect that by next month the highway connecting Gwadar with North will be completed. This port lies in Pakistan's largest province, Balochistan where Baloch nationalists have been spearheading a separatist movement since 2004. For this very reason, Pakistan will form a special security force to protect the port.

Balochistan is showing signs of change, Asrar Bukhari, Daily Ausaf, September 17.¹⁵⁶

The separatism, riots, rebellion and violence had changed an abode of peace into hell. Uncertainty had overshadowed everything and national security was under serious threat. Amid all this the killing of Nawab Akbar Bhugti added fuel to fire. It created an environment where Indian agency, RAW, freely stretched her wings. To control the situation Gen. Parvez Musharraf resorted to brute force and during Gen. Kyani's time there were some changes in the policy but the desired goals could never be achieved. **The policies adopted by Gen. Raheel sharif have shown good results. Although the use of force has not been abandoned but those who want to join the mainstream are encouraged to live a peaceful life with their families. Everyone who puts down arms is given a Pakistani flag in return to show that they have not surrendered out of fear but for the love of Nation.** The facial expressions of all those who surrendered show signs of hope and despair. Despair because they

¹⁵⁶ http://www.ausaf.pk/wp-content/uploads/2015-09-17/news/detail14_05.php

regret the initial decision of becoming pawns of outsiders. Another good news is about the Khan of Kalat who might come back from his exile. It is not possible to express in words how Brahmdagh Bugti's decision has won the hearts. But it is sad that nation could witness this only after losing many people especially members of Pakistan army....The willingness of Brahmdagh Bugti to talk is a guarantee to peace and history cannot be repeated. He should not be subjected to a wait and watch policy as was done with Akbar Bugti.

Circumstances forced Baloch separatists to soften their stand, Najmul Hassan Aarif, *Daily Ummat*, September 22.¹⁵⁷

The successful operations by security agencies forced Baloch separatists to soften their stand. **According to some sources in current situations it is not easy for separatists to receive funds from Afghanistan and even European allies have stopped supporting them.** This is the reason why the Baloch leaders living in European countries have responded positively to Pakistani proposals for negotiations. Brahmdagh Bugti sent his representative to the secretary general of PML(N) Iqbal Zaffar. Iqbal Zaffar revealed that in London, where he was staying, a representative of Brahmdagh Bugti came to meet him and informed about the willingness of Brahmdagh Bugti for talks. Due to the paucity of time, the PML(N) leader could not talk to Brahmdagh Bugti. **On the other hand the condition of the families of Baloch leaders is very volatile. The Baloch leaders believe that if they continued to rely on guns, their families won't be able to get economic benefit from the China-Pakistan economic corridor project. The other groups might emerge and could get the benefits.** This will help those groups to tighten their grip on political matters as well which is unacceptable to current Baloch separatist leaders. According to some sources the main reason behind the internal rifts in the party of Dr. Allah Nazar is the share in economic resources.

Derailing peace process in Balochistan, Editorial, *Daily Jang*, September 1.¹⁵⁸

Two engineers were martyred as a result of terrorist attack on Jeevani airport near Gwadar on Sunday (August 29) and whole Radar system was completely destroyed. **It seems a clear attempt by the enemy to sabotage our efforts towards restoring peace and move towards progress and development.** In the aftermath of this incident, whole province stood united and expressed its solidarity and a sense of patriotic fervor was also evident on Pakistan Defence Day. Several militants put down their arms and joined national mainstream. Also there was a sanguine hope of carrying out dialogue with

¹⁵⁷ <http://ummat.net/2015/09/22/news.php?p=story2.gif>

¹⁵⁸ http://e.jang.com.pk/09-01-2015/lahore/pic.asp?picname=10_02.gif

two estranged and angry top-ranking Baloch leaders –Brahmdagh Bugti and Khan of Kalat, Mir Suleman Dawood.

Brahmdagh Bugti has in his recent interview made it clear that, “If our friends, comrades, political friends and supports are willing then we are ready to stay with Pakistan.” While only two weeks ago two meetings were held between provincial minister Sana-u-llah Zehri and Khan of Kalat Mir Suleman Dawood in which they discussed about the return of latter for sake of progress and economic development of Pakistan and Balochistan. [...] It has been observed that our enemy has always been ready to sabotage all our efforts which were meant to restore peace, prosperity and stability in the province and country as a whole. Thus an attack on Jeevani airport was one example of enemy’s intentions. In such circumstances it is imperative to augment security arrangements and take immediate action against every suspected person. As of now, since the disgruntled and angry Baloch leadership has agreed to come to the negotiation table federal authorities should seize this opportunity to make speedy progress in ironing out the differences so that the peace process could gain momentum and our cherished goal accomplished. Apart from this, all supporting splinter groups of Balochistan should also be invited for a dialogue. No doubt, it is essential that we should speed up this process and arrive at some positive results for peace and security of all citizens.

Restoring peace in Balochistan, Rahimullah Yousufzai, *Daily Jang*, September 11.¹⁵⁹

For the last two years the present Baloch-Pushton National Government, with the support of PML(N) has initiated several measures to convince the self-exiled Baloch leaders to come back and persuade the anti-national elements at home to surrender their arms and join the national mainstream. **For joining national mainstream, under Peaceful Balochistan Program, they will also be paid sufficient funds to live peacefully their new phase of life.** Apparently the initial efforts made in this direction did not yield any positive results because Khan of Kalat Mir Suleman Daud has put some conditions for his return. But now Pakistan federal authorities have taken up measures to resume dialogue with all those estranged Baloch leaders. **Sources disclosed that Khan of Kalat has specifically said: “If the conducive atmosphere prevails in Balochistan and the issues are addressed then I will think of returning back to my homeland.”** Meanwhile he also demanded that military operation being carried out in Balochistan should be stopped immediately and the other senior members of Balochistan, who have been in exile should also be persuaded to return home. Some important figures of Baloch Grand

¹⁵⁹ http://e.jang.com.pk/09-11-2015/lahore/pic.asp?picname=11_02.gif

Jirga constitute of Sanaullah Zehri, Senior provincial Member of PML(N), Nawab Mohammad Khan Shah Wani, Sardar Kamaal Hingoe, Mir Khalid Longove and Mir Kabir Mohammad Shahi.

All these Members were sent to Britain for a specific purpose to appeal Khan of Kalat and others to return home and play their role in restoring peace in Balochistan. The above members [by virtue of being Members of coalition government] placed the agenda of Chief Minister, Dr.Abdul Malik before Khan of Kalat.

As of now condition in Balochistan has improved and present provincial government of Balochistan is capable of taking decisions on its own and there is no outside pressure from federal authorities. Besides this, one more positive development took place. Brahmdagh, in a statement, has said that 'If people of Balochistan are willing then he would resume dialogue with the present government and be prepared to forget his claim of a separate state of Balochistan'. With this development there has emerged a hope of peacefully resolving all the problems. Prior to this there was no such move for separatist elements to come and resume dialogue for reconciliation. Rather they were fighting against federal government to have 'Azad Balochistan' and before dialogue they were keen to seek help and guarantee from the Western powers.

The recent proposal of "Peaceful Balochistan Program" initiated by the government of Nawaz Sharif has brought positive results. There are more than 500 militants, who were hitherto supporting cessation of Balochistan from Pakistan, who have now surrendered their arms and agreed to come in the mainstream. There are strong speculations that many more fugitives would surrender their arms. Each fugitive under 'Peaceful Balochistan Program' would be paid an amount of Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs.15 lakhs to enable him to start a new phase of life. This Peaceful Balochistan Program was launched recently when Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and General Raheel Sharif visited Quetta. It is strongly felt that with the implementation of this scheme, separatist Balochis would be lured to join mainstream and thus discard the idea of getting funds from enemy country.

At present it would rather be premature to judge as to how far the 'Peaceful Balochistan Program' would succeed. In Pakistan there are also strong apprehensions of scams whenever there is some money involved in any project of government. But nevertheless it is hoped that our mature and seasoned military officers would handle it professionally. The amount to be distributed among fugitives would be determined on the basis of militant strength of each fugitive leader. No doubt, the distribution of funds to

fugitives under the Peaceful Balochistan program is an intricate and complicated procedure. But whatever be the cost, if this mission is successful, then it would be like 'paradise regained in Balochistan'. If this campaign succeeds, then the issue would arise that extremist elements of FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa should also be dealt with on the same lines.

TALIBAN AND MULLAH OMAR FAMILY

Mulla Omar was suffering from Hepatitis C and he died in Afghanistan: Mullah Yaqub, Daily Ummat, September 15.¹⁶⁰

Mullah Yaqub, the son of Mullah Omar, rejected the news that his father was treated in any hospital in Pakistan and that he died there. ***In his first audio message Mullah Yaqub said his father was suffering from hepatitis C and he died because of this disease two years ago and was buried in Afghanistan.*** For the unity of Taliban the news of his death was not announced. While answering to a question Yaqub said that his father never chose his successor and all the reports about it were baseless and rumors. ***In this audio message he called American forces in Afghanistan as the main enemies and appealed Taliban to unite. He also said that Unity is the need of the hour and that if his death can unite Taliban then he is ready to give his life.***

Mullah Omar Family accepted Emirship of Mullah Mansoor, Daily Ummat, September 16.¹⁶¹

The family members of former Taliban leader, Mullah Omar, have finally accepted the Emirate headed by Mullah Akhtar Mansoor. Mullah Yaqub and Mullah Abdul Mannan (brother of Mullah Omar) had earlier refused to accept Mansoor as new chief but now they recognize him as the leader of the Taliban. With this the differences within Taliban have come to an end. ***According to media reports this has happened because of the efforts of Mullah Mansoor. Former minister of Taliban government who happens to be member of leadership council has revealed that Mullah Mansoor has hinted to give some responsibility to Abdul mannan.***

POK INCLUDING GILGIT-BALTISTAN

Azad Kashmir Elections, Sardar Nazar Mohamad Khan, Jang, September 17.¹⁶²

In the next elections in Azad Kashmir, the Pakistan Tehrik e Insaf will contest for the first time. Till now they don't have any candidate except former Azad Kashmir Prime Minister, Barister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhary who can attract voters. But ***according to some reports the members of current***

¹⁶⁰ <http://ummat.net/2015/09/15/news.php?p=news-15.gif>

¹⁶¹ <http://ummat.net/2015/09/16/news.php?p=news-02.gif>

¹⁶² http://e.jang.com.pk/09-17-2015/lahore/pic.asp?picname=07_06.jpg

legislative assembly might shift their loyalty to PTI. The president of PTI has said that he is waiting for an opportune time to announce something which will be unbearable for PML(N) and PPP.

No taxation without representation, Daily Bang-e-Sehar, September 21.¹⁶³

Gilgit Baltistan is considered as a playground by Pakistan federal authorities who allege that the local officials have failed in collecting tax in the region. It is not only Pakistan establishment, but also our local leaders who have created problems in resolving the issue of constitutional representation. **Gilgit Baltistan Council has alleged that the Pakistan govt. should accept the people of Gilgit Baltistan as good as the people of Pakistan and thus accord basic constitutional rights.** The Gilgit Baltistan Council rejected illegal tax collection. Let us not forget that Gilgit Baltistan is neither an integral part of Jammu and Kashmir nor does it have any relation with it. It appears that the provincial government has ill-intentions on the issue of Gilgit Baltistan's representation in economic taxation and transit duties. These views were vehemently expressed by participants at All Party Conference organized by Pakistan People's Party under the chairmanship of Advocate Amjad Hussain and Wazir Baig, a former Speaker. The other members who participated in APC include Haji Rehmat Khaleq of J.U.I, Ahsan Advocate, Zafar Iqbal, former M.D.Q, Shaikh Mirza Ali of Islami Tehrik, Nawaz Khan Naji of B.N.F, Enayat Allah Shumali, former Caretaker, Maulana Abdulla Sameeh of Jama'at-e-Islami, Karim Khan K.K. of P.M.L, Haji Jumma Khan of Anuman Tajran, Hemayat Allah, former Member, and several other members of M.Q.M.

All the participants agreed on this view that Pakistan federal govt. for its own benefits and interests has not accorded constitutional rights to the residents of Gilgit Baltistan. They urged that Gilgit Baltistan should be made an integral part of Pakistan or at least on interim basis it should be given representation in National Assembly and Senate. They urged that the issue of rights of economic corridor should be brought before the people of Gilgit Baltistan. The members who participated at the A.P.C. expressed their anguish and disappointment and said: "For last 78 years federal authorities have treated our people like 'bonded labour'. Its relation was like a 'master-slave relationship. Pakistan's forcible control over Gilgit Baltistan has always been in 'dispute', which has been confirmed by the statement of Foreign Secretary. We should now exhibit our boldness and should help in getting Gilgit Baltistan residents their constitutional rights. Participants emphasized that provincial authorities have always maintained a lukewarm attitude in

¹⁶³ http://www.bangesahar.net/popup.php?r_date=09-14-2015&img=09-14-2015page-1-1

granting equal representation to Gilgit Baltistan in respect of granting economic transit duties to the residents of Gilgit Baltistan.

Focus on tourism is needed for economic development and progress of Gilgit-Baltistan, *Daily Baang-e-Sehar*, September 23.¹⁶⁴

In this year there was heavy influx of tourists and media persons in Gilgit-Baltistan. This was only because of the fact that peace prevailed in the region. On the other hand, regional authorities also made special efforts for attracting tourists. For instance, special festivals were organized at different locations. Chief Minister Hafiz-ur-Rehman undertook intensive publicity measures to attract foreign tourists to visit beautiful spots of Gilgit-Baltistan.

...Despite all the natural calamities, there were about five lakh tourists who visited Gilgit-Baltistan – a record number in itself. This visit of foreign tourists was an encouraging aspect for tourist industry in Gilgit, which needed to developed further to lure foreign tourists and to give boost to our economy. Meanwhile Chief Minister has announced that there would be one million tourists visiting the region in the coming year. During last few days an important Chinese delegation also visited Gilgit and met Chief Minister Hafiz-ur-Rehman wherein they discussed in detail issues pertaining to commerce and trade. We are all aware that tourism is the backbone of country's economy and also its identity. Had we not wasted our 30 valuable years in cutting down each other's throats, region would have by now turned into hub of tourist industry. It was sour misfortune that we could not fathom the depth of malicious plots hatched by enemy and were merely engaged only in internal feuds and fighting!

Unfortunately Gilgit-Baltistan is a "disputed territory" and leaders of this region are bereft of authority and control to harness their natural resources like minerals, water-resources, forests, flora fauna and development of tourist spots etc. All the powers to harness these natural resources are vested in federal authorities in Islamabad, who are not willing to share these assets with the local leaders. As a result region is bereft of development and progress. If power is vested with local leadership, Gilgit-Baltistan would earn 10,000 million rupees annually. This huge amount could mitigate unemployment, scourge of poverty, illiteracy and alleviate sufferings of the poor, which in turn could change the lifestyle of the people and improve their living standard. Now this could only be done if the local political leadership of Gilgit-Baltistan campaigns to wrest these power from the federal authorities at Islamabad.

¹⁶⁴ <http://www.bangesahar.net/popup.php?r-date=09-23-2015&img=09-23-2015page2-1>

MISCELANEOUS

Our foreign policy, Editorial, *Daily Jang*, September 14, 2015.¹⁶⁵

With the help of Institute of business administration first foreign ministers forum was held in Karachi. Sartaj Aziz, Hina Rabbani Khar and Khurshid Kasuri talked about the changing situation in region and at international level and foreign policy of the nation. Sartaj Aziz identified some regional and internal dimensions which affect Pakistan's foreign policy. **He said the deal of world powers with Iran has increased animosity in Gulf where Pakistan needs to focus. Talking about the regional situation he said that as a global power the growth of China and Russia's growing interest in South Asia is good for us but with the help of western powers the Indian dream of becoming a regional hegemon can be an impediment.** He blamed Narendra Modi for the bitter relationship between India and Pakistan and said any advancement on any contentious issue is not possible with Modi. **Talking about Afghanistan he said no doubt relations between Kabul and Pakistan has gone down and there is misunderstanding between the two but he was certain that ways for peace talks are opening.** About internal situation he said terrorism, sectarianism, sub nationalism or separatism and poverty are the main problems that Pakistan need to deal with. He further stated that Pakistan's internal security is first priority of Pakistan's foreign policy. Second is economic stability of the country. **Peaceful relations with neighbors is the third priority because without this we won't succeed in economic stability.** Our fourth priority is to make our geographic location an asset for which china-Pakistan economic corridor is very significant. Former foreign minister Khurshid Kasuri said if Narendra Modi wants to become successful Prime Minister then he should change his attitude towards Pakistan. Hina Rabbani Khar focused on Independent foreign policy where India and Afghanistan can't be ignored.

Pakistan-China friendship and bright future, Editorial, *Daily Jang*, September 22.¹⁶⁶

At the time when our neighboring countries are supporting extremists to weaken Pakistan, China's open support for Pakistan is encouraging. Pakistan has always responded positively to China. **There was a Chinese group in Pakistan working against the interests of China. Pakistan silently eliminated them all which the proof of Pakistan-China strategic partnership.** Both China and Pakistan have an agreement that they will not give the J-F 17 Thunder technology to India and America. This J-f 17 is far better that

¹⁶⁵ http://e.jang.com.pk/09-14-2015/lahore/pic.asp?picname=10_01.gif

¹⁶⁶ http://e.jang.com.pk/09-22-2015/lahore/pic.asp?picname=08_08.gif

American F-16. America had recently asked for the technology of J-f 17, which Pakistan denied.

Zind'abad Nawaz Sharif, Shukriya Raheel Shareef, Saleem Safi, *Daily Jang*, September 22.¹⁶⁷

He left his party and country to Parvez Musharraf and stayed with Kings in Saudi Arabia. People who fought showed resistance and suffered during Musharraf's period received nothing. When Nawaz Sharif returned back he gave an impression that he has changed and Party members and our nation made his brother chief minister and later he himself was made Prime Minister of the country. But unfortunately after becoming PM he chose the same old route. He made party his own property. **Instead of choosing people like Syed Gaus Ali shah and Peer Sabir Shah he started honoring crooks and the men of Parvez Musharraf.** Instead of distributing portfolios on the basis of merit he selected good-for-nothing individuals for coveted posts....

He was elected as a Prime Minister of the entire country but he preferred to be PM of one portion of a province. For many months he did not have time to finalize the cabinet of Balochistan. He did not go to any area of FATA for a year. For long time he left Sindh completely to Qaaim Shah. **There were many capable persons including Sartaj Aziz and Sardar Mehtab in his party for the post of president but he preferred his own man for that post. President of Pakistan is also chief executive of FATA where fight against terrorists is going on and there Pakistan faces a challenge of integrating the region to Pakistan. But it is said that our president, Mamnoon Hussain has never visited the tribal areas and he even does not know the names of tribal areas....** Initially he kept the defense ministry portfolio himself but when SC asked to appoint defense minister he chose someone who was most disliked person.... for the civil-military coordination he changed cabinet committee for defense to National security committee but for several months he did not call for any meeting so that he could take decision on his own on several important issues....The home minister on the one hand blamed Altaf Hussain for treason and on the other the speaker was asked to call Altaf Hussain. Nawaz refused to meet Zardari to prove his loyalty to army and the other day he sent Fawad Ahsan to brief Asif Ali Zardari.

Pakistan successfully test fired drone, Buraq, *Daily Ummat*, September 8.¹⁶⁸

Pakistan successfully tested its drone, Buraq, in North Waziristan where it killed three high profile terrorists. Major Gen. Asim Salim Bajwa, Director General of ISPR has lauded the efforts of aeronautical engineers through his

¹⁶⁷ http://e.jang.com.pk/09-22-2015/lahore/pic.asp?picname=08_08.gif

¹⁶⁸ <http://ummat.com.pk/2015/09/08/news.php?p=news-02.gif>

tweet on Monday (September 7) saying that Pakistan drone buraq carried out its first attack in, Tehsil Shawaal of North Waziristan and targeted the terrorist safe havens. **According to ISPR, these Pakistani drones were manufactured by Pakistani engineers and were used for first time in operation against terrorists in North Waziristan.**

Sheer stupidity, Editorial, *Daily Ummat*, September 28.¹⁶⁹

On the occasion of Eid festival, Pakistani General Raheel Sharif visited forward areas along the Line of Control, congratulated the soldiers and lauded their efforts. He praised the manner in which they have given face-crushing defeat to the barbarity perpetrated by Indian military. **On this day, he specifically lauded the officers and jawans for their defense preparedness to thwart all the violations along the border by our enemy. He said that India has been purposely making provocative ceasefire violations to divert our attention from our main target (Zarb-e-Azb).** But at no cost India's provocative ceasefire violations would deter our attention from our Zarb-e-Azb and we would protect every inch of our motherland, said Gen. Raheel. He also praised Kasshmiri jihadis who face the onslaught of Indian barbarity in occupied Kashmir.

At present Pakistani military is headed by such a commander, who is not only concerned about the security of the borders, but is equally worried about any untoward incidents taking place within the country. In brief he has been equally fighting against terrorism as well as political irritants inside country. Finding their commander in chief amongst them in forward areas, the soldiers feel spiritually elevated and their morale is boosted. There has been loss of life as well as properties by repeated violations on Line of Control and working boundary (International boundary). Pakistani forces despite being capable of thwarting Indian incursions, have always maintained peace.

BOMBINGS, SHOOTINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES

(Select incidents culled out from the Pakistan media)

Place	Date	Description	Killed	Injured
Balochistan				
Peshawar ¹⁷⁰	2/9/2015	Three policemen killed	3	8
Turbat ¹⁷¹	12/9/2015	Pakistani leaders shot dead	1	0

¹⁶⁹ <http://ummat.com.pk/2015/09/28/news.php?p=idr1.gif>

¹⁷⁰ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/949289/three-policemen-killed-in-peshawar-gunfight/>

¹⁷¹ http://zeenews.india.com/news/south-asia/pakistani-leader-shot-dead_1795175.html

Quetta ¹⁷²	12/9/2015	Three dead bodies recovered	3	0
Lakki Marwat ¹⁷³	24/9/2015	TTP leader killed	1	0
Kalat ¹⁷⁴	28/9/2015	One militant killed	1	0
FATA				
Bajaur ¹⁷⁵	1/9/2015	IED blast kills one injures four	1	4
Spin Wam ¹⁷⁶	15/9/2015	Army major, 5 militants killed	6	0
North Waziristan ¹⁷⁷	15/9/2015	22 Terrorists Killed.	22	0
Ladha ¹⁷⁸	18/9/2015	Drone kills seven militants	7	0
Punjab				
Manawala ¹⁷⁹	16/9/2015	Six terrorists killed	6	0
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa				
Badhaber ¹⁸⁰	18/9/2015	PAF base in Peshawar attacked	18	22
Sindh				
Korangi ¹⁸¹	8/9/2015	Driver shot dead	1	0
Karachi ¹⁸²	18/9/2015	Seven terrorists killed	7	0

¹⁷² <http://www.thenewstribes.com/2015/09/13/three-dead-bodies-recovered-from-quetta/>

¹⁷³ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/24-Sep-2015/ttp-commander-killed-in-lakki-marwat-kp-police-spokesman>

¹⁷⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1209320/levies-gun-down-suspected-militant-in-kalat-shootout>

¹⁷⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1204007/ied-blast-in-bajaur-kills-one-injures-four>

¹⁷⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1206934/army-major-5-militants-killed-during-attack-on-checkpost-in-north-waziristan>

¹⁷⁷ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/956990/22-terrorists-killed-in-north-waziristan/>

¹⁷⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/959077/seven-militants-killed-in-south-waziristan-drone-strike/>

¹⁷⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/16-Sep-2015/six-terrorists-killed-in-shootout-with-ctd>

¹⁸⁰ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/959024/militants-attack-pakistan-air-force-base-in-peshawar/>

¹⁸¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1205556/driver-who-witnessed-sabeen-murder-shot-dead>

¹⁸² <http://nation.com.pk/national/18-Sep-2015/seven-terrorists-perish-in-karachi-shootouts>