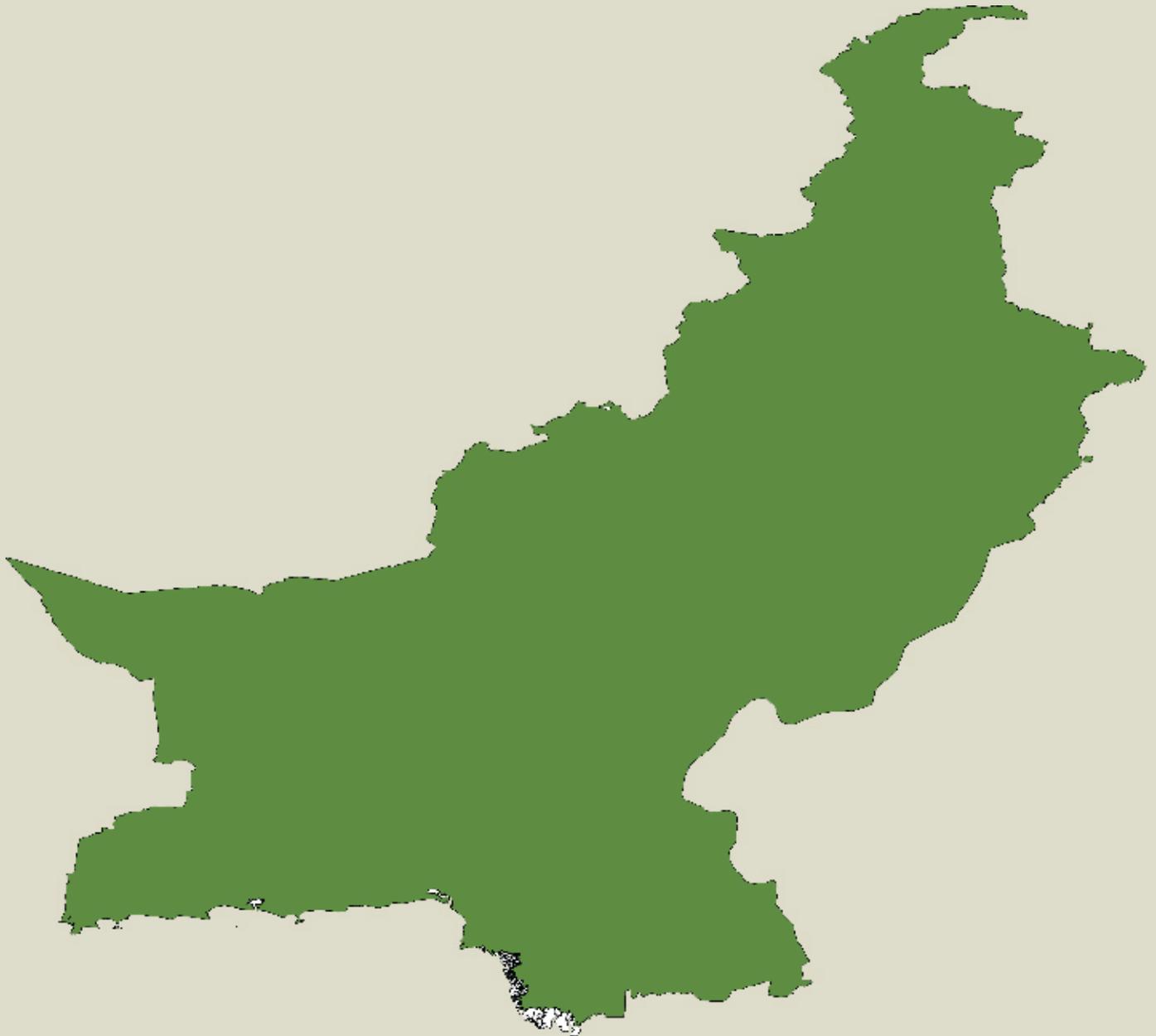


September 2013

PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST

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



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PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST, SEPTEMBER, 2013

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

APC: All-Parties Conference
BNP: Balochistan National Party
CBM: Confidence Building Measure
CJ: Chief Justice
CJCSC: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee
COAS: Chief of Army Staff
DG: Director General
DGMO: Director General Military Operations
ECC: Economic Coordination Committee
FATA: Federally Administered Tribal Areas
FBR: Federal Board of Revenue
FC: Frontier Corps
GOC: General Officer Commanding
IDB: Islamic Development Bank
IED: Improvised Explosive Device
IGP: Inspector General of Police
IMF: International Monetary Fund
ISPR: Inter Services Public Relations
JCSC: Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee
JI: Jamaat-e-Islami
JUI-F: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl
LoC: Line of Control
MPA: Member of Provincial Assembly
MQM: Muttahida Quami Movement
NA: National Assembly
NSA: National Security Adviser
PkMAP: Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party
PML-N: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz
PML-Q: Pakistan Muslim League- Quaid-e-Azam
PPP: Pakistan People's Party
PTI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
SBP: State Bank of Pakistan
SCO: Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
TTP: Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

DIALOGUE WITH TTP

APC: Consensus on talks with TTP, *Dawn* and *The Express Tribune*, September 9 and 10¹²³⁴

Attendees of an All-Parties' Conference (APC) in Islamabad on September 9 unanimously agreed on a resolution stating that negotiation with the militants should be pursued to "give peace a chance": the guiding principle of the conference. The Federal Government was asked to come up with a mechanism and interlocutors for the process. It was decided that another APC would be called to resolve issues facing Balochistan. It was decided that "action" would be taken against the TTP if negotiations did not work.

The six-hour long APC was first briefed by PM Sharif, DG ISI Lieutenant General Zaheerul Islam and COAS General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani on the security situation in the country before deliberations began. The conference was attended by leaders of all nine mainstream parties, Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and the four provincial Chief Ministers and Governors. Prior to the conference PTI chief Imran Khan held a separate meeting with COAS Gen Kayani and PM Sharif where he called drone strikes one of the main causes of terrorism. Prior to the meeting, Interior Minister Khan had said the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) would be remodeled in the image of the US Department of Homeland Security that was established after 9/11.

In the meeting, PM Sharif said the US would continue to maintain a strategic presence in Afghanistan past 2014. COAS Kayani said the civil and military leadership were on the same page over the issue of national security. PTI's Imran Khan said pursuing dialogue and using the army against militants simultaneously was unwise. The MQM's Farooq Sattar said terrorism should be tackled "at its roots".

The full APC resolution can be found here:

<http://dawn.com/news/1041675/resolution-of-the-all-parties-conference-on-sept-9-2013>

¹<http://dawn.com/news/1041637/nawaz-urges-leaders-to-shun-politicking-on-terrorism>

²<http://tribune.com.pk/story/601864/prior-to-apc-imran-khan-briefly-meets-kayani-nawaz/>

³<http://tribune.com.pk/story/601864/prior-to-apc-imran-khan-briefly-meets-kayani-nawaz/>

⁴<http://dawn.com/news/1041678/apc-backs-govt-push-for-peace-talks>

TTP welcomes APC resolution, *The Express Tribune* and *Dawn*, September 10⁵⁶

TTP spokesman Shahidullah Shahid welcomed the APC resolution saying the TTP would be willing to enter into 'meaningful dialogue' after the government announces its policy on how to proceed. He also said that the developments would not overshadow their goals. TTP Political Commission member Ehsanullah Ehsan said the government needed to take more sincere steps. On his Facebook page, Ehsan said the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) and the PTI could play "a serious role" in the dialogue. The central leadership of the TTP claimed on September 9 that PM Sharif had earlier sent a letter to the TTP about a possible peace dialogue to which the TTP had replied.

Framework for TTP talks finalized, *The Express Tribune*, September 11⁷

Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan said the outline for the dialogue process has been decided upon. Sources said it would begin with the preparation of an all-party committee to lay the grounds for negotiations and select mediators, followed by inputs from militants and, finally, a consensus on the venue for talks, which will have to be held in Pakistan.

TTP set preconditions for talks at central shura, *Dawn*, September 11, 15 and 16⁸⁹¹⁰¹¹¹²

After a meeting of the TTP's top leadership council or central *shura*, the TTP demanded the government release militant prisoners and begin withdrawing troops from the group's tribal sanctuary as a precondition for talks. It also called for other CBMs. In an expansion of original demands on September 29, TTP spokesman Shahidullah Shahid said the TTP wanted drone strikes stopped in addition to the two earlier demands

Sharif and Kayani meet to talk strategy, *Dawn* and *The Express Tribune*, September 12¹³¹⁴

PM Sharif met COAS Kayani on September 11 to discuss the government's strategy for talks with militants. Sharif reportedly shared a blueprint for the talks with the COAS. It is believed the PM put forward the name of Maulana Fazlur Rehman, head of the JUI-F, as potential mediator for the talks,

⁵<http://tribune.com.pk/story/602245/renewed-correspondence-ttp-welcomes-unanimous-resolution/>

⁶<http://dawn.com/news/1041680/ttp-welcomes-apcs-peace-talks-decision>

⁷<http://tribune.com.pk/story/602791/search-for-peace-framework-for-taliban-talks-finalised-says-nisar/>

⁸<http://www.dawn.com/news/1042034/ttp-leaders-in-session-to-firm-up-response>

⁹<http://dawn.com/news/1043065/pakistani-taliban-make-demands-ahead-of-peace-talks>

¹⁰<http://tribune.com.pk/story/604908/body-blow-jolt-to-embryonic-peace-process/>

¹¹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/611067/talks-with-militants-govt-not-sincere-about-meaningful-talks-says-ttp/>

¹²<http://dawn.com/news/1046121/nawaz-has-no-authority-to-hold-peace-talks-pakistani-taliban>

¹³<http://dawn.com/news/1042298/nawaz-kayani-discuss-talks-strategy>

¹⁴<http://tribune.com.pk/story/603259/talks-with-militants-nawaz-kayani-mull-choice-of-facilitator/>

to which Kayani noted that all religious leaders close to the TTP must be consulted, especially Maulana Sami-ul-Haq, regarded as “the father of the Taliban”. The talks with the TTP were also discussed at the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC).

Ansarul Islam offers to act as mediator for talks, Dawn, September 12¹⁵

Pro-government militia Ansarul Islam’s *naib emir* Maulana Ezzatullah has welcomed talks between the TTP and the state and expressed readiness to act as mediator.

Prisoners swapped as CBM, Dawn and The Express Tribune, September 12 and 16¹⁶¹⁷¹⁸

Associated Press reported that six TTP prisoners were handed over in exchange for two security personnel in Shoyee Khel area of Shawal, South Waziristan. However, ISPR called the report a rumour. The TTP claimed the freed operatives belong to the Khan Said faction of the TTP. TTP Political Commission member Ehsanullah Ehsan said talks had been “going on for a long time”. The TTP’s spokesperson Shahidullah Shahid said the exchange was carried out by a splinter group.

Army not to bow before terrorists terms: Kayani, Dawn and The News International, September 16¹⁹²⁰

In response to the demands put forward by the TTP, COAS Kayani vowed on September 17 that terrorists would not be allowed “to take advantage of the military’s support to the political process” and would not coerce military into accepting their terms. In an interview to Turkish media on the same day, PM Sharif said force would only be used as last resort to tackle terrorism.

Imran Khan calls for ceasefire, Dawn, September 17 and 21²¹²²

Imran Khan called for ceasefire by the government and Taliban militants along with immediate formation of delegations to kick-off talks. Interior Minister Nisar Khan rejected the idea in the NA on September 20.

¹⁵<http://dawn.com/news/1042302/prisoners-swapped-in-waziristan>

¹⁶<http://dawn.com/news/1042302/prisoners-swapped-in-waziristan>

¹⁷<http://tribune.com.pk/story/603266/trust-building-taliban-confirm-military-denies-prisoners-swap/>

¹⁸<http://tribune.com.pk/story/604909/taliban-dictate-terms-of-talks/>

¹⁹<http://dawn.com/news/1043288/army-not-to-bow-before-terrorists-terms-vows-kayani>

²⁰<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-118674-PM-Nawaz-says-use-of-force-last-option-to-tackle-terrorism-->

²¹<http://dawn.com/news/1043460/imran-calls-for-ceasefire>

²²<http://dawn.com/news/1044161/taliban-talks-efforts-at-standstill-nisar>

Pakistan Taliban: still at war with government troops, Dawn, September 17²³

ShahidullahShahid, TTP spokesman, said the war against the state would continue and the responsibility for ceasing violence was in the hands of the state. He said the government would have announced a cease fire if it had been serious about ending the violence.

NA backs anti-terror war, Dawn, September 18²⁴

The NA on September 17 urged the government to come out “in full support” of the military’s fight against terrorism in a unanimous resolution. The resolution condemned the Upper Dir attack. This came two days after the attack, with no mention of the incident in the house on the day before.

Taliban talks efforts at standstill: Nisar, Dawn, September 21²⁵

In his first public comments since the IED explosion that killed a Major General and Lieutenant Colonel in Upper Dir on September 15, Interior Minister Khan said in the NA on September 19 that talks with the TTP had “come to a standstill”. He said the incident was a “serious blow” to talks.

PPP backs military operation, Dawn, September 23²⁶

PPP Secretary General SardarLatifKhosha has said the PML-N government is ‘confused’ in its approach of dealing with militants, that the Taliban appears ‘non-serious’ about talks and that the use of force seems to be inevitable.

TTP affiliate Junoodul-Hifsa claims responsibility for Peshawar Church attacks; TTP denies claim, Dawn, September 23²⁷²⁸

Junoodul-Hifsa, an affiliate of TTP has claimed responsibility for an attack on bombings on a Peshawar church which killed 83 and wounded 131. This is the same group that claimed the killing of 10 foreign climbers at a base camp on Nanga Parbat in June. They say they aim to kill foreigners to avenge US drone strikes on Taliban and Al-Qaeda operatives. On September 25, *TTP spokesman ShahidullahShahid distanced the TTP from Junoodul-Hifsa and said the organisation had no links with the TTP.*

Unable to move ahead on Talks: PM, The Express Tribune, September 23²⁹

PM Sharif announced on September 22 that the government could no longer move ahead with the All Parties Conference-endorsed plan for talks with the Taliban following the twin Peshawar church bombings.

²³<http://dawn.com/news/1043531/pakistan-taliban-still-at-war-with-government-troops>

²⁴<http://dawn.com/news/1043684/after-reluctance-na-backs-anti-terror-war>

²⁵<http://dawn.com/news/1044161/taliban-talks-efforts-at-standstill-nisar>

²⁶<http://dawn.com/news/1044183/ppp-wants-military-operation>

²⁷<http://dawn.com/news/1044846/death-toll-from-peshawar-church-bombing-rises-to-81>

²⁸<http://dawn.com/news/1044846/death-toll-from-peshawar-church-bombing-rises-to-81>

²⁹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/607969/condemnation-ttp-dialogue-plans-come-unstuck-says-pm/>

Clerics against dialogue with terrorists, Dawn, September 24³⁰

Senior clerics from different Islamic organisations said the government should not engage in dialogue with elements involved in the killing of members of Christian community, adding that they deserved exemplary punishment. They declared the killing of minorities un-Islamic.

No plan to reverse dialogue plans, The Daily Times, September 25³¹³²

Interior Minister Khan said on September 24 that the Peshawar church attack and the recent killing of top army officers were condemnable incidents but the decision to hold talks with the Taliban was made with a consensus and would be pursued.

TTP should open an office: Imran Khan, The Express Tribune, September 26 and 29³³³⁴³⁵³⁶

PTI chairman Imran Khan has said the TTP should open an office to move forward with talks. He was visiting those injured in the Peshawar Church blast. JUI-F leader FazlurRehman called the suggestion "childish". MQM leader AltafHussain said *the idea was "dangerous" and questioned the TTP's ability to talk as a unified group.*

'Vigorous action if Taliban talks fail': PM, Dawn, September 27³⁷

In his meeting with US Secretary of State John Kerry PM Sharif indicated the *government was considering more vigorous police and military action against them should talks with the Pakistani Taliban fail.* He also said, "And those actions wouldn't necessarily be limited exclusively to TTP, particularly since the TTP operates in the same areas as many of these militant groups that target externally."

Swat TTP claims responsibility for Dir attack, Dawn, September 29³⁸

A video has emerged that shows alleged footage of the Dir attack along with statements by Mullah Fazlullah, the head of the Swat chapter of the TTP. Fazlullah said the government could not be trusted in negotiations and that his organisation would abide by the directions of HakimullahMehsud.

³⁰<http://www.dawn.com/news/1045072/ulema-against-dialogue-with-terrorists>

³¹http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\25\story_25-9-2013_pg1_2

³²<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/national/25-Sep-2013/taliban-talks-policy-may-be-realigned-on-pm-return-nisar>

³³<http://tribune.com.pk/story/609208/tehreek-e-taliban-should-open-an-office-imran-khan/>

³⁴<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-119967-Imrans-Taliban-office-suggestion-childish,-says-Fazl>

³⁵<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/editors-picks/26-Sep-2013/allow-taliban-political-office-in-pakistan-pti-asks-govt>

³⁶<http://dawn.com/news/1046025/taliban-office-proposal-dangerous-says-altaf>

³⁷<http://dawn.com/news/1045753/vigorous-action-if-taliban-talks-fail>

³⁸<http://dawn.com/news/1046155/swat-ttp-claims-it-carried-out-dir-attack>

Sharif clarifies grounds for negotiations, *The Wall Street Journal*, September 29³⁹

In an interview with the *Wall Street Journal*, PM Sharif said the *Pakistani Taliban must recognise the constitution, lay down arms and renounce terrorism*. This is the first sign of anything close to the government's bottom line in negotiations.

TTP calls government insincere, *The Express Tribune* and *Dawn*, September 29⁴⁰

TTP spokesperson ShahidullahShahid said the government was *not sincere about dialogue as it was dictated to by the US*. In an expansion of original demands, he said the *TTP wanted drone strikes stopped in addition to the two earlier demands: release of militants and army withdrawal from tribal areas*. Shahid refused to comment on Imran Khan's TTP office proposal. Shahid said *these demands were not preconditions but measures to build confidence* before dialogue began in earnest.

Opinions and Editorials

An opaque dialogue, *The Express Tribune*, September 11⁴²

[...]What is not different is a complete lack of openness about who is going to be talking to whom and about what. Talking to elements ...that can be 'reconciled' ...by definition means that (a) there are elements that cannot and will not be 'reconciled' and (b) those elements are going to continue to seek the overthrow of the state by whatever means, but inevitably violent. Furthermore, *it is a mistake to assume that those 'good' militants ...are going to remain 'good' in perpetuity*. There is no such thing as a 'good militant' as has been amply demonstrated in the past. [...]As the Taliban are fond of reminding us — you may have the watches but we have the time, and they are playing a long game.

Unclear contours: APC decision, *Dawn*, September 11⁴³

[...] On the issue of threat, the resolution is depressingly silent. In fact, *the Taliban don't even get a direct mention, just "our own people in the tribal areas"*. ...there is no mention of the growing sectarian threat militancy has branched into — *a particularly problematic lapse given the overlap between Al Qaeda, the Punjabi Taliban and the TTP on this front....* the massive damage and loss of life inflicted by the TTP has earned no reference at all — a particularly egregious

³⁹<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304795804579099292388430248.html>

⁴⁰<http://tribune.com.pk/story/611067/talks-with-militants-govt-not-sincere-about-meaningful-talks-says-ttp/>

⁴¹<http://dawn.com/news/1046121/nawaz-has-no-authority-to-hold-peace-talks-pakistani-taliban>

⁴²<http://tribune.com.pk/story/602444/an-opaque-dialogue/>

⁴³<http://dawn.com/news/1042076/unclear-contours-apc-decision>

omission *Seeking to give peace a chance without being able to name the enemy or identify what it has done — there is little that is inspirational or even acceptable in any of that.*

Rapprochement efforts, *The Daily Times*, September 12⁴⁴

[...] Previously, talks with the Taliban have consistently failed. ...For talks to be successful, it is necessary that military and civilian institutions effectively coordinate with each other. ...*If the civilian leadership is kept in the dark about security and intelligence matters, then it would continue to lose credibility in the eyes of the TTP.*

Cowardice and consensus, *The News International*, September 12⁴⁵

It's still useful to dissect the rotting corpse of the APC for what it tells us about how the PML-N intends to rule. The answer is not pretty. *This is a government so afraid of losing that it won't even attempt victory.....We do not know who will approach the Taliban, who will be appointed to talk, what concessions, if any, the government is prepared to make and what we will do should talks fail. You can't flesh out a policy when it is this anorexic to begin with.*

Taliban's example: Talks with the militants, *Dawn*, September 13⁴⁶

..If anything, the government should take a page from the TTP's negotiating book. ...it knows what it wants, it specifies who it will talk to and it makes clear what is and isn't acceptable to it. It's almost as if the TTP is the state and the government an illegitimate challenger to the status quo....If the state concedes to any of [TTP's] demands, it would amount to accepting the ideology of the militants — which would mean a surrender of the state itself.

The swap meet, *The News International*, September 13⁴⁷

...The last thing the state should want is to start giving in to every TTP demand since that bodes ill for the upcoming peace talks. [...] The military successes in the tribal areas should have made the state the stronger party. *Unilateral concessions such as this prisoner swap may end up undermining its position and convincing the TTP that it can be pushed around.*

An unchanging enemy, *The Nation*, September 16⁴⁸

[...] A day prior to the attack, Taliban spokesman....had the temerity to state, "The Taliban have been deceived in the past in the name of peace, so the government will have to....assure the Taliban that the government is serious

⁴⁴http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\12\story_12-9-2013_pg3_1

⁴⁵<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-9-201507-Cowardice-and-consensus>

⁴⁶<http://www.dawn.com/news/1042559/talibans-example-talks-with-the-militants>

⁴⁷<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-8-201722-The-swap-meet>

⁴⁸<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/editorials/16-Sep-2013/an-unchanging-enemy>

about the peace process." ...*If the desire for peace is one-sided...why does the state continue to insist on tolerating attacks against its troops, against its cities, against its people, against its constitution?...If the APC's offer of talks was a "last chance", then let that naively offered last chance now stand exhausted.*

Banish the thought, *The News International*, September 17⁴⁹

[...] The killings in Dir should serve as a reminder of the importance of continued military presence in the area. ... Apart from the TTP presence, [Dir] has also been used by MaulanaFazlullah to carry out attacks in Pakistan from his hideout in Afghanistan. *Just because the state may favour talks with the TTP does not mean it should become suicidal and give the militants an opportunity to increase their influence in these territories.*

Aftermath of the TTP's attack, *The Daily Times*, September 18⁵⁰

According to a recent Pew survey carried out in eleven Muslim countries, including Pakistan, it was revealed that out of all the countries surveyed, Pakistan had the highest disapproval rate of suicide bombings and other acts of violence that targeted civilians in the name of Islam. ... Moreover, the survey also revealed that *65 percent of Pakistanis had a negative opinion about the Taliban in general.....The political leadership, especially the provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, should realize that the stark difference in the TTP's worldview from that of the rest of the population is irreconcilable. This realization would strengthen the Pakistan army's hand in fighting against the terrorists.*

The peace delusion, by Babar Sattar, *Dawn*, September 16⁵¹

[...] If we are willing to remodel the vision and future of Pakistan, its laws, political system, foreign policy and social norms, as desired by the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), *why fight?* [...] The point is that a state cannot share monopoly over violence with any private militia, whether motivated by religion or not [...] *Our problem of militancy won't end [...] till there exist armed private militias in Pakistan inspired by the virile belief that they have a legitimate right to forcefully change state policies, our political and legal system or social norms, and possess the means to do so.....There can be no sustainable peace in Pakistan so long as the state views religion-inspired militants as a useful weapon that can be controlled and put to good use in the national interest. [...] Maybe....our leadership is working with a grand strategy: if you can't beat 'em, join 'em.*

⁴⁹<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-8-202515-Banish-the-thought>

⁵⁰http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\18\story_18-9-2013_pg3_1

⁵¹<http://www.dawn.com/news/1043172/the-peace-delusion>

A toxic narrative, Dawn, September 24⁵²

Imran Khan[’s] narrative on violent militancy in the country and the prescription to end the menace is dangerously simplistic. ..Gen Kayani’s statement that the military would not bow to the Taliban’s demands marks a clear departure from the placatory tenor of the APC resolution. It also reflects the growing frustration within the military ranks at the ambivalence of the national leadership on the problem that presents the greatest threat to national security and the unity of the country. ...In order to fight terrorism and violent militancy more effectively it is imperative to dismantle the toxic narrative that is being propounded by the likes of Imran Khan and also taken up by the PML-N government.The roots of militancy are much deeper in Pakistan and while the war in Afghanistan may have only fuelled it further, it is certainly not the cause [...] What is at stake is the future of democracy and the stability of the country.

Something is Fishy (Dal Main Kuch Kala Hai), Tariq Ismael Sagar, Daily Ausaf, September 16⁵³

The Taliban have only welcomed the offer of talks. However, there has been no further comment from their side. After the APC, ...there seems to be no end to terror incidents in Pakistan....If the Taliban wants to talk without accepting the constitution, they should be forced to accept it. The other demand that the Pakistani army should withdraw from tribal areas makes no sense. The Pakistani military has not occupied a part of India or Afghanistan (a part of a foreign territory) from which it can withdraw. Whether it is Waziristan or Karachi, Lahore or Quetta, the Pakistani army has a duty to defend. It can enter any part of Pakistan’s territory.

An important point must be made to those who talk about the US talking with the Taliban without any conditions. America is an occupying power. It is talking to the leaders of Afghanistan. The Pakistani Taliban, on the other hand, has no legal, moral or constitutional authority. It is good to talk but not at the cost of defence of the state.

Whose agenda Taliban is working for?, Nawai Waqt, September 30⁵⁴

If we (the government) are to give up arms, there is no need to talk. Nawaz Sharif is deceiving us and misleading his own people. The Taliban is massacring innocent people to achieve its objectives. The incessant bombings in Peshawar prove the Taliban is working for an external enemy.If the Taliban are not India agents, they should realize Islam does not allow terrorism....They should stop the killing of

⁵²<http://dawn.com/news/1044977/a-toxic-narrative>

⁵³www.dailyausaf.com/epaper/wp.content/uploads/2013-09-16/p4-5.jpg

⁵⁴www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/editorial/30-sep-2013/244865

innocent people, accept the constitution and give up arms in order to send a positive signal for talks.

Yes, it is 'surrender', NaeemTahir, *The Daily Times*, September 19⁵⁵

It is with grief and disappointment that I have reached the conclusion that the APC's offer of negotiations is an unconditional surrender!...It is an absolutely disgraceful sell-out... Even more painful is the silent support of the army to this surrender.[...] Say No to negotiations now. Pick up the courage and face the militant threat with unity.Go ahead and protest to the UN against drone attacks. But to surrender in front of militants against Pakistan is not acceptable. It is a war against the nation and the country...

MUSHARRAF TRIALS

Ghazi Abdul Rasheed case: police register case, *Dawn*, September 2 and 5^{56,57}

Police on September 2 registered a case against Musharraf over the alleged murder of cleric Ghazi Abdul Rasheed and his mother during the Lal Masjid military operation. The case was registered at the behest of the Islamabad High Court. IGP Sikandar Hayat has constituted four-member investigation team to look into the case. Musharraf will not be arrested on murder charges until the results of the investigation are known.

Opinions and Editorials

Questionable move against Musharraf, *Dawn*, September 4⁵⁸

...in this case murder charges are really a step too far.When ...the capital was under siege from a new form of moral policing and vigilantism.[it] was unacceptable and no administration could tolerate it. Something had to be done. [...] Islamabad could not be allowed to succumb to ..threats of the Lal Masjid brigade.

Musharraf and Lal Masjid, *The Express Tribune*, September 4⁵⁹

....Let us not forget that the Lal Masjid students were far from benign; raiding shops selling DVDs, kidnapping and trying alleged prostitutes, and setting fire to the Ministry of Environment building among other things....The wider impact of the court's actions then need to be considered, even as we watch what happens to General (ret'd) Musharraf over the months ahead.

⁵⁵http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\19\story_19-9-2013_pg3_5

⁵⁶<http://dawn.com/news/1040040/lal-masjid-clerics-murder-case-registered-against-musharraf>

⁵⁷<http://tribune.com.pk/story/600065/lal-masjid-operation-ig-constitutes-team-to-conduct-probe/>

⁵⁸<http://www.dawn.com/news/1040463/questionable-move-murder-charges-against-musharraf>

⁵⁹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/599224/musharraf-and-lal-masjid/>

The wrong trial, *The Nation*, September 4⁶⁰

[...] no one seems to be pointing to the 1999 military coup that enabled the man in the docks to do what he did.

....If the government intends to shut and lock the door to military dictatorships, it must try Musharraf not for the song-and-dance criminal trials that obliquely refer to him as the main decision maker and thus culprit, *but for the fact that he overthrew a democratic government, defied an oath sworn to the nation and abrogated the constitution.*

KARZAI'S PAKISTAN VISIT

Opinions and Editorials

About Hamid Karzai's visit, Qaisar Rashid, *The Daily Times*, September 4⁶¹

...Karzai's visit is generally being considered a failed one....It seems that there are five major presumptions Pakistan is sticking to tenaciously. First, the reconciliation between the US and the (Afghan) Taliban is still possible; second, the forthcoming elections in Afghanistan in April 2014 will be a sham and give room to the (Afghan) Taliban to re-establish their roots in Kabul; third, the prospects of peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan lie in Pakistan's hands; fourth, the Kabul government is a puppet one and about to fall in 2014 and the gap will be filled by the (Afghan) Taliban; and fifth, the installation of any government in Kabul is Pakistan's responsibility.

PROVINCIAL POLITICS

PTI to protest Punjab local government bill, *The Express Tribune*, September 5⁶²

PTI has decided to launch a political and legal protest against the Local Government (LG) Bill 2013, calling the proposed laws a repeat "of (...) General ZiaulHaq's introduced laws" regarding the exercise of the local government system in the province. The PML-Q, the PPP, the PTI and the JJ have come together on this issue.

MushahidSayed talks of 'new great game' to encircle China, *The Express Tribune*, September 5⁶³

Senate Defence Committee Chairman MushahidHussainSayed of the PML-Q, speaking at Tsinghua University, Beijing, said in a speech that a 'new great

⁶⁰<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/editorials/04-Sep-2013/the-wrong-trial>

⁶¹http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\04\story_4-9-2013_pg3_3

⁶²<http://tribune.com.pk/story/600047/local-govt-bill-pti-to-oppose-dictatorial-reform-for-punjab/>

⁶³<http://tribune.com.pk/story/600052/syrian-conflict-us-intervention-may-turn-into-a-new-cold-war-says-mushahid/>

game was being played out in Asia, focused on the “containment and encirclement of China”. He spoke of planned US air force deployments in Australia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and southern India, adding that *China posed no threat but a “new Cold War in the region may retard Asia’s rise”*.

PTI submits resolution for the creation of Hazara province, Dawn, September 7⁶⁴

Three lawmakers of the PTI submitted a resolution to the K-P Assembly Secretariat here asking the federal government to create Hazara province through a constitutional amendment. The draft was supported by CM Pervez Khattak.

PML-N government requests SC to reject plea against Zardari, Dawn, September 11⁶⁵

The PML-N led government has requested the Supreme Court to reject a petition which states that former president Asif Ali Zardari should not be allowed to leave the country after the expiry of his tenure in office because he wilfully concealed sensitive information from the armed forces about the Abbottabad incident.

PTI wins seat vacated by JUI-F chief, Dawn, September 22⁶⁶

A PTI candidate won the by-election for the NA-25 constituency (Tank-cum-D.I. Khan) comfortably. The seat was vacated by JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman who had won it in the May 11 elections.

Pervez Khattak steps down as PTI Secretary General, The Express Tribune, September 26⁶⁷

K-P CM Pervez Khattak has resigned from his post as Secretary General of the PTI. Jahangir Tareen will be the new Secretary General.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Justice Mushir Alam recommended for SC by Judicial Commission, Dawn, September 3⁶⁸

A meeting of the judicial commission presided over by CJ Chaudhry has recommended the elevation of Sindh High Court Chief Justice Mushir Alam to the Supreme Court. It also suggested the name of Justice Maqbool Baqar, who was injured in a targeted bombing in late June, to replace Justice Alam as the CJ of Sindh High Court.

⁶⁴<http://dawn.com/news/1041178/pti-submits-resolution-on-hazara-province>

⁶⁵http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\11\story_11-9-2013_pg1_1

⁶⁶<http://dawn.com/news/1043920/pti-wins-seat-vacated-by-jui-f-chief>

⁶⁷<http://tribune.com.pk/story/609224/pervez-khattak-steps-down-as-pti-secretary-general/>

⁶⁸<http://dawn.com/news/1040166/elevation-of-justices-alam-and-baqar-recommended>

Zardari given farewells by ruling party and opposition, *The Express Tribune*, September 5 and 7⁶⁹⁷⁰⁷¹

At a farewell dinner thrown by Leaders of the Opposition in the NA and the Senate on September 4, Zardari said the PPP would extend full support to the PML-N in steering the country out of crisis and for the sake of democracy. On extending the moratorium on death sentences, he said Pakistan had “received incentives” to maintain the ban. He said that he would attempt to reinvigorate the PPP after he steps down by setting up camps in Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore and Peshawar. The PTI boycotted the dinner. PM Sharif also called on Zardari at Aiwan-i-Sadr and hosted a lunch for Zardari at the PM’s house. In an interview on September 7, Zardari said he did not intend to stand for the post of Prime Minister in future.

Mamnoon Hussain takes oath as President, *The Daily Times*, September 9 and 10⁷²

Mamnoon Hussain took the oath to become the 12th President of Pakistan in a ceremony administered by the CJ Ifthikar Chaudhry. Asif Ali Zardari and PM Sharif were present at the ceremony.

AJK government to hold local bodies polls in April, *The Daily Times*, September 13⁷³

Senior Minister Chaudhary Yaseen announced that the AJK government will hold local bodies’ elections in April 2014. He said elections would be held on a party-basis and a local bodies’ election commission would be constituted to hold them.

Suspected TTP militant confesses to Bhatti murder, *The Express Tribune*, September 17⁷⁴

A suspected TTP militant confessed to the assassination of former Minister for Minorities Shahbaz Bhatti. The terrorist said he killed the former minister for speaking against the blasphemy laws.

⁶⁹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/600074/farewell-dinner-we-raised-the-bar-of-tolerance-says-zardari/>

⁷⁰<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/editorials/07-Sep-2013/goodbye-good-sir>

⁷¹<http://dawn.com/news/1041441/zardari-ends-tenure-treated-to-honour-guard>

⁷²http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\09\story_9-9-2013_pg1_2

⁷³http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\13\story_13-9-2013_pg7_21

⁷⁴<http://tribune.com.pk/story/605344/breakthrough-ttp-militant-confesses-to-shahbaz-bhattis-murder/>

ECONOMIC ISSUES

FISCAL ISSUES

FBR missed revenue target second month running, *The Express Tribune*, September 3⁷⁵

The FBR managed to collect around Rs145 billion in taxes in August, Rs 14 billion below the monthly target of Rs159 billion. This in spite of registering growth of 17 percent over August last year. This is the second month running that the FBR has fallen behind on its target: in July, the FBR fell Rs 2 billion short of its target of Rs 136 billion.

IDB extends \$850 million developmental support to Pakistan, *The Express Tribune*, September 10⁷⁶

The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) on September 9 announced that *it would provide \$850 million over three years for development projects in Pakistan. This is in addition to the 750 million euros in support and the \$150 million in trade assistance it had approved and started paying in August.*

Pakistan to get \$362 million from Coalition Support Fund, *The Express Tribune*, September 12⁷⁷

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said on September 11 that *\$362 million worth of claims had been processed by the US under the CSF (Coalition Support Fund) programme. For the current fiscal year, Pakistan has budgeted \$1.2 billion under the CSF.*

Government begins privatisation of PIA, *The Express Tribune*, September 13⁷⁸

The Federal Government decided to *initiate privatisation of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) by putting up 26% of the national flag carrier's shares for sale.*

FBR likely to collect Rs 130 billion less than tax target, *The Express Tribune*, September 17⁷⁹

Against the target of Rs 2.475 trillion for the current fiscal that requires about 28% growth, the IMF has said the government may collect Rs 2.345 trillion, a shortfall of Rs 130 billion. Even Rs2.345 trillion will translate to about 21% growth over last year's collection of Rs1.936 trillion. A major chunk in this expected shortfall will come from a failure to collect income tax.

⁷⁵<http://tribune.com.pk/story/598833/tax-collection-next-imf-tranche-in-jeopardy-as-fbr-misses-target-again/>

⁷⁶<http://tribune.com.pk/story/602260/idb-extends-850-million-project-support-to-pakistan/>

⁷⁷<http://tribune.com.pk/story/603260/reimbursement-us-to-release-360m-under-coalition-support-fund/>

⁷⁸<http://tribune.com.pk/story/603708/curbing-losses-government-kicks-off-privatisation-of-pia/>

⁷⁹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/605191/imf-review-fbr-likely-to-collect-rs130b-less-than-tax-target/>

Development expenditure likely to be cut by about 28 percent, Dawn, September 22⁸⁰

The government is expected to *slash development expenditure for the current financial year by about 28 percent to Rs 834 billion from Rs 1.155 trillion* to contain the fiscal deficit.

Government sells Rs506billion T-bills, Dawn, September 19⁸¹

In the first auction since the hike in interest rates by the SBP, the government *raised Rs 506 billion through treasury bills* against a target of Rs250billion.

Plan to borrow \$625million from banks to boost reserves, Dawn, September 24⁸²

The government reached an agreement with a consortium of seven domestic and international banks *to borrow \$625 million to boost forex reserves*. The government had sought offers from the banks about two months ago and most of them offered *an interest rate of 7.77 percent over Libor, which was reduced to 5.3 percent for one year through negotiations*.

Opinions and Editorials

The wrong storm, The Express Tribune, September 9⁸³

...We agree that high inflation numbers are worrying but also acknowledge that when the government is in the process of removing subsidies that kept prices artificially low, inflation is naturally expected to rise....So, the uptick in inflation is not as worrying as *the fact that the government has become very good at manipulating economic data....the government appears to have blatantly begun interfering in how the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics performs its calculations....*in the case of August's inflation numbers, the government has decided not to reflect the increase in electricity tariffs in the energy component of the CPI, a decision that is without justification. It makes the country's measure of inflation inaccurate and thus, is quite likely to overstate the number for economic growth, making the economy look better than it actually is. In effect, the true state of the economy is being concealed.The prime minister has been candid about how long it is likely to take to repair the economy. So, why is his administration trying to make this year's numbers look artificially better?

⁸⁰<http://dawn.com/news/1043921/development-expenditure-likely-to-be-cut-by-about-28pc>

⁸¹<http://dawn.com/news/1043890/govt-sells-rs506bn-t-bills>

⁸²<http://www.dawn.com/news/1045011/plan-to-borrow-625m-from-banks-to-boost-reserves>

⁸³<http://tribune.com.pk/story/601606/the-wrong-storm/>

A heavy price: Plan to cut development spending, Dawn, September 20⁸⁴

More often than not, IMF-supported economic stabilisation programmes require aid-recipient countries to significantly reduce public development spending ...to meet fiscal targets. That doesn't imply that the IMF is against higher development spending per se. It just shows the *IMF's lack of trust in the countries' ability to raise enough revenues to finance their budgets* without disturbing the fiscal balance and triggering (higher) inflation. It, therefore, should not come as a surprise that the Fund has asked the government to slash its total federal and provincial development spending by almost 28pc from Rs1.155tr to Rs834bn.

Slipping economy!, Dr Kamal Monnoo, The Nation, September 18⁸⁵

Despite a government change this summer Pakistan's economic woes continue.[...] While the intentions of the new leadership may be very good [...] a general perception seems to be building that governmental delivery over the next five years is not going to be much better than the one in the last five years. This ongoing constellation of higher inflation, softening growth, falling currency, rapidly rising debt and waning of investor confidence could spin into a vicious cycle that (if not dealt with in a timely manner), by itself will become difficult to contain.

ENERGY

US signs agreement for 50MW energy project, Dawn, September 5⁸⁶

United States Ambassador Richard Olson approved a \$95million, ten-year loan on behalf of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) to Sapphire Wind Power Company to build a 50MW wind power plant in Sindh on September 4.

GomalZam dam in South Waziristan inaugurated, Dawn, September 13 and 15⁸⁷⁸⁸

Minister for Water and Power Khwaja Muhammad Asif and US Ambassador to Pakistan Richard Olson inaugurated the 17.4 MW GomalZam Dam in South Waziristan on September 12. Separately, the TTP released eight GomalZam dam workers who had been abducted a year ago on September 14 (see TERRORISM section for more).

⁸⁴<http://www.dawn.com/news/1044105/a-heavy-price-plan-to-cut-development-spending>

⁸⁵<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/columns/18-Sep-2013/slipping-economy>

⁸⁶<http://dawn.com/news/1040540/us-ambassador-signs-financing-agreement-for-50mw-renewable-energy-project>

⁸⁷<http://dawn.com/news/1042480/gomal-zam-dam-in-south-waziristan-inaugurated>

⁸⁸<http://dawn.com/news/1042836/taliban-release-eight-abducted-employees-of-gomal-zam-dam>

Power generation crosses 16,000MW: AhsanIqbal, Dawn, September 22⁸⁹

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms AhsanIqbal said the government had surpassed the 16,000 MW electricity production mark. Production levels were around 10,000MW in the past.

Russia offers Pakistan 5,000 MW of energy exports, Dawn, September 20⁹⁰

A Russian delegation offered to invest in the energy sector and export 5,000 MW of through the Kyrgyz-Afghan route. They offered full technical and financial solutions for the Jamshoro and Muzaffargarh power plants and showed interest in investing in Gaddani Power Park.

Kyrgyzstan offers Kashghar-Bishkek route, The Express Tribune, September 25⁹¹

Kyrgyzstan's Charge d'Affaires in Islamabad, Kubanychbek Toktorbaev, termed the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor a significant project for both Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan as it would link Gwadar to Kashghar with which Bishkek already has a strong road link. He said the route would provide Pakistan access to Central Asian and Russian markets opening new avenues of business opportunities for both countries, especially in the import of energy. He highlighted that Kyrgyzstan offered an electricity price that is half the Pakistani price.

Sharif assures Rouhani on I-P gas pipeline, The Nation, September 26⁹²

Sources have said that PM Sharif assured the President Rouhani that Pakistan intended to follow through on the I-P gas pipe during a meeting in New York alongside the General Assembly debates. This was their first meeting since both took power in their countries.

In an interview with the *Wall Street Journal*, Sharif said Pakistan intended to continue with the I-P gas pipeline, stressing on the shortage of gas in the country and the \$3 million a day fine Pakistan will have to pay to Iran in case of delay in the completion of its portion of the project.⁹³

⁸⁹<http://dawn.com/news/1043817/power-generation-crosses-16000mw-ahsan-iqbal>

⁹⁰<http://dawn.com/news/1044116/russia-offers-pakistan-for-exporting-5000mw-electricity>

⁹¹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/608871/exploring-russo-asian-markets-kyrgyzstan-offers-kashghar-bishkek-route/>

⁹²<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/editors-picks/26-Sep-2013/nawaz-assured-rowhani-on-ip-gasline-project>

⁹³<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304795804579099292388430248.html>

Opinions and Editorials

Delaying tactics?: Iran-Pakistan pipeline project, *Dawn*, September ⁹⁴

[...] Slow progress on the project also reflects a disconnect between the country's business interests and its foreign policy objectives. ...Now Islamabad has asked Tehran to reduce the interest rate on \$500m, one-third of the total cost of laying the pipeline on Pakistan's side. While the government is fully within its rights to ask for reduction in the borrowing cost, or renegotiating the price of gas, such demands should not appear as delaying tactics while Pakistan waits for a nod from Washington. ...the fact that no progress has been made weeks after the political transition in Islamabad and Tehran is a subject of negative speculation.

IMF LOAN

IMF board approves \$6.7 billion loan for Pakistan, *The Daily Times*, September 5 and 7⁹⁵

The IMF has approved a \$6.68 billion three-year loan for Pakistan under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF). The Executive Board of the IMF approved the loan, which is 425 percent of Pakistan's quota, during its meeting in Washington. SBP received the first tranche of \$550 million on September 7, boosting forex reserves to \$10.4 billion.

Pakistan agrees to reduce budget deficit to 5.8 percent, *The Express Tribune*, September 10⁹⁷

According to IMF documents, Pakistan has agreed to the IMF's condition to reduce its annual budget deficit to 5.8 percent of GDP. This will result in a cut of Rs. 130 billion to the budget passed two months ago. The Parliament had approved deficit to GDP target of 6.3 percent. If this target is missed, a waiver will be needed to qualify for the next tranche as the IMF has not agreed to a front-loaded agreement.

INVESTMENT

Pakistan foreign investment up 100 percent in July and August, *Dawn*, September 19⁹⁸

Pakistan's FDI increased by 101.2 percent over July and August, the SBP said. Pakistan has \$105.4 million foreign direct investment FDI in the first two

⁹⁴<http://www.dawn.com/news/1043600/delaying-tactics-iran-pakistan-pipeline-project>

⁹⁵http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\05\story_5-9-2013_pg1_2

⁹⁶<http://dawn.com/news/1041225/ecc-approves-rs29-billion-bailout-package-for-psm>

⁹⁷<http://tribune.com.pk/story/602206/imfs-condition-pakistan-agrees-to-slice-budget-deficit-target/>

⁹⁸<http://dawn.com/news/1043989/pakistan-foreign-investment-up-100-per-cent-in-july-aug>

month of the current fiscal year 2013-14 compared to \$52.4 million received during the same months of the previous year.

Opinions and Editorials

The next IMF deal, ShahidKardar, *Dawn*, September 3⁹⁹

[...] contrary to the general perception and the expectations of most commentators, the programme will be relatively soft in terms of its coverage of the long overdue structural reforms needed to address our fundamental issuesTo conclude, the fears of a tough IMF programme, especially *the toxic nature of its first year's conditionalities, are misplaced*. Thus, the fulfilment of the requirements of the first year of the programme and the quarterly disbursement basis are not likely to make us, yet again, a 'one-tranche country' with the IMF.*Instead of feeling anxious we should relax in the express knowledge that it will not be as bumpy a ride as is being dreaded*.

The Damocles option, *The Express Tribune*, September 6¹⁰⁰

The tax base is going to have to be widened to include those who have evaded it with political connivance for decades; and this is to include agricultural taxation of the very richest farmers and landowners. Subsidies are going to have to be cut from energy costs for the end user — everybody except the very poorest is going to be paying a lot more for their gas and electricity by the end of spring 2014. Loss-making state entities are either going to have to be wound up completely or privatised. [...] *What nobody is saying just yet on the government side is that tens of thousands of jobs are going to be lost in the rationalisation of these entities and civil unrest may be expected as a result. The net outcome of these actions is going to be a growth in inflation and a slowing of growth to between 2.5 and three per cent in 2013-14, with hopefully, a resurgence of growth to between 4.5 and five per cent in 2015*.

A check on fiscal policy, *The Express Tribune*, September 15¹⁰¹

What makes the IMF's position interesting is that it crystallises in writing what has hitherto been the unwritten consensus among global investors about the Pakistani economy: it holds enormous promise, but is held back by an ostrich-like mentality when it comes to confronting terrorism. The IMF sets the benchmark against which the government's economic performance is judged. The IMF has decided that politics and economics are too intertwined in Pakistan to be separated.

⁹⁹<http://dawn.com/news/1040200/the-next-imf-deal>

¹⁰⁰<http://tribune.com.pk/story/600791/the-damocles-option/>

¹⁰¹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/604276/a-check-on-fiscal-policy/>

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Rs 2.9 billion bailout package for PSM, Dawn, September 7¹⁰²

The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet approved a three-month bailout package of Rs2.9 billion for the Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM). PSM will remain a public sector enterprise by seeking a strategic partner with a minority stake to run its management.... Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) has received an amount of Rs 1.5 billion as the first instalment of a new bailout package.¹⁰³

Key economic indicators discussed at ECC meeting, Dawn, September 7¹⁰⁴

At a meeting on September 7, the ECC was told that presently the wheat stock was 7.043 million tonnes compared to 6.750 million tonnes in the corresponding period last year, that there were 85 days of oil reserves in the country, compared to 29 days in the corresponding period last year due to the clearance of circular debt and that export in the month of July had increased by nine percent to US\$2.62 billion...A committee was set up under Federal Minister AhsanIqbal to identify non-conventional items and new markets to facilitate an increase in exports.

Iran cancels barter deal for wheat, Dawn, September 7¹⁰⁵

Iran has scrapped its barter trade deal with Pakistan for purchase of one million tonnes of wheat as Iranian authorities demanded supply from fresh wheat stocks. Pakistan had agreed to supply 100,000 tonnes of wheat from stock harvested earlier this year. Iran has repeatedly delayed shipments since February. Iran may consider buying basmati rice from Pakistan instead.

Pakistan at 'high risk' of economic crisis: IMF, The Daily Times, September 13¹⁰⁶

The IMF gave Pakistan a sobering assessment on September 12, saying its economy was at a high risk of deteriorating into crisis and growth was too slow to significantly improve people's living standards. It pointed out that the country had achieved subpar growth and had unsustainable fiscal and balance of payments positions. *The IMF has warned Pakistan that economic growth could be worse than expected next year due to strict austerity measures built into the \$6.68 billion loan.*

¹⁰²<http://dawn.com/news/1041225/ecc-approves-rs29-billion-bailout-package-for-psm>

¹⁰³<http://www.amazon.com/History-India-Volume-Penguin/dp/0140138358>

¹⁰⁴<http://dawn.com/news/1041225/ecc-approves-rs29-billion-bailout-package-for-psm>

¹⁰⁵<http://dawn.com/news/1041272/iran-cancels-barter-deal-for-wheat>

¹⁰⁶http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\13\story_13-9-2013_pg1_1

SBP raises interest rate to 9.5 percent, Dawn, September 14¹⁰⁷

The SBP increased the policy interest rate by 50 basis points to 9.5 per cent on September 14..to counter the inflationary effects of the increase in energy prices and taxes.

PIA suffers Rs 18.4 billion loss, Dawn, September 27¹⁰⁸

Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) posted unconsolidated losses at Rs18.4 billion for the half year ended June 30. This is 2.2 percent above the loss of Rs18.0 billion in the corresponding six months of 2012.

Opinions and Editorials

Inflationary trend: Interest rate hiked, Dawn, September 15¹⁰⁹

THE State Bank of Pakistan's decision to reverse the process of reducing the cost of bank borrowing has surprised many. The bank has hiked the price of credit by 50bps to 9.5pc in less than three months after having slashed it to 9pc. ...Contrary to what the central bank says, the rise in the bank borrowing cost will significantly increase the government's domestic debt servicing, depress economic growth and encourage the risk-averse commercial banks to continue investing in treasury papers at the cost of private credit.

SECURITY SITUATION

TERRORISM

Talks with Taliban not to affect operations in tribal areas: Corps Commanders meeting, Dawn, September 5¹¹⁰

The army top brass, at a Corps Commanders meeting on September 4, said operations in restive tribal areas would not be affected by talks with the Pakistani Taliban.

Army claims Tirah valley in Khyber Agency, The Express Tribune, September 5¹¹¹

General Officer Commanding (GOC) Major General Hamayun Saeed, addressing the media from a former TTP compound in Maidan, said security forces had cleared Tirah valley in an operation that saw the death of 104 TTP militants and eight security officials including a colonel. The operation began

¹⁰⁷<http://dawn.com/news/1042795/sbp-raises-interest-rate-to-95pc>

¹⁰⁸<http://dawn.com/news/1045741/pia-suffers-rs184bn-loss>

¹⁰⁹<http://dawn.com/news/1042921/inflationary-trend-interest-rate-hiked>

¹¹⁰Talks with Taliban not to affect operations in tribal areas

¹¹¹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/600062/govt-establishes-writ-in-tirah-valley-finally/>

on May 28 after the valley fell to the TTP on March 21. Ninety villages have been cleared and the rehabilitation of local tribes-people is underway.

Nine al Qaeda suspects arrested, links with JI suspected, *The Express Tribune*, September 11¹¹²

A Pakistani intelligence agency has detained nine individuals linked to al Qaeda. Six were believed to be part of a suicide squad, two technical collaborators and one, a handler. The suspected handler was staying at a Punjab University hostel and it is believed he was being provided shelter by the Islami Jamiat Talba (IJT), the student wing of the JI.

Taliban release eight abducted employees of Gomal Zam dam, *Dawn*, September 14¹¹³

Eight employees of the Gomal Zam Dam project were released September 14, almost a year after they were kidnapped by Pakistani Taliban militants in South Waziristan tribal region. It was unclear if the release was related to the outcome of the APC earlier this month.

TTP kills senior army officers in crucial bombing, *The Express Tribune*, September 15¹¹⁴

A major general and a lieutenant colonel visiting troop positions in the Upper Dir district along the Afghan border were killed when their vehicle hit an IED. A private soldier was also killed and two other soldiers were injured. TTP spokesman Shahidullah Shahid said the TTP carried out the attack. The PM condemned the "gutless attack" ... Separately, two roadside bomb attacks in Miranshah killed two soldiers and wounded four others. In the neighbouring district of Bannu Taliban militants ambushed a convoy of tribal police, killing two of them and wounding four others.

Zawahiri urges restraint in first "guidelines for jihad", *Dawn*, September 17¹¹⁵

In his first set of guidelines on how jihad must be waged, Zawahiri has said that conflict was to be avoided save for those places where confrontation is inevitable, such as Afghanistan, Somalia, Iraq, Syria and Yemen. He said the conflict in Pakistan was necessary to establish a safe haven for mujahideen that could be used as a launching pad to establish an Islamic system. He also endorsed the right of militants to fight Russians in the Caucasus, Indians in Kashmir and Chinese in Xinjiang. He called on his mainly Salafist followers to avoid attacking other Muslim sects, and said if they were attacked, they should limit their

¹¹²<http://tribune.com.pk/story/602715/startling-revelations-nine-al-qaeda-suspects-arrested/>

¹¹³<http://dawn.com/news/1042836/taliban-release-eight-abducted-employees-of-gomal-zam-dam>

¹¹⁴<http://tribune.com.pk/story/604596/3-army-officers-killed-2-injured-in-upper-dir-ied-blast/>

¹¹⁵<http://dawn.com/news/1043515/zawahiri-urges-restraint-in-first-guidelines-for-jihad>

response to those involved in fighting. He also said they should *leave alone Christians, Hindus and Sikhs living in Muslim lands, respect the lives of women and children and refrain from targeting enemies in mosques, markets and gatherings* where they mix with Muslims they were not fighting.

Federal cabinet approves amendments to anti-terrorism laws, Dawn, September 21¹¹⁶

The Federal Cabinet approved a draft of amendments to anti-terrorism laws on September 20 which seeks to allow preventive detention, ensure better protection of judges, witnesses and prosecutors and to allow the Rangers to take pre-emptive action against potential threats, including firing even if not fired upon. This is the product of work by the Cabinet Committee formed after the Karachi Cabinet meeting on September 4 meant to tackle rising violence in that city.

81 killed, 120 injured in Peshawar church attack, The Express Tribune, September 22¹¹⁷¹¹⁸

Eighty-one people were killed and more than 130 injured in two suicide blasts outside All Saint's Church in Peshawar on September 22. The incident occurred after Sunday mass. Protests, violent in some places, broke out in Peshawar, Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad and Multan following the attack.

Opinions and Editorials

The Taliban equation, The Express Tribune, September 2¹¹⁹

[...]Without decisive action, we are simply giving more space to the militants and possibly allowing them to muster up more confidence as they see a government moving with faltering steps [...]Any decision on talks with the Taliban will be made by the prime minister by the end of the month. This seems like a rather long time to wait on a matter central to our security. It is unfair on the military too, which, notably since 2009 but also before then, has been locked in a long and bitter conflict with militants, losing hundreds of personnel in the process.

Talking to a wall, The Nation, September 3¹²⁰

PML-N's wobbly conduct is symptomatic of the internal disagreement between the civilian leadership's affinity for talks, and the military's strong inclination toward a targeted operation instead. ...How many planted IEDs,

¹¹⁶<http://dawn.com/news/1044227/federal-cabinet-approves-amendments-to-anti-terrorism-laws>

¹¹⁷<http://tribune.com.pk/story/607734/fifteen-dead-in-suicide-attack-outside-peshawar-church/>

¹¹⁸<http://dawn.com/news/1044808/carnage-at-church-after-sunday-mass>

¹¹⁹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/598757/the-taliban-equation-2/>

¹²⁰<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/editorials/03-Sep-2013/talking-to-a-wall>

suicide bombers and mobile explosions will it take for Pakistan's politicians to accept the reality that the Taliban's objectives and security are located in two opposing realities?...Time wasted is, in our case, lives lost.

Tirah and talks, *The News International*, September 7¹²¹

News that the military has retaken the strategically-important Tirah Valley from the grasp of the TTP is very welcome, especially since it comes at a time when the government is seriously considering holding peace talks with the militants.If these talks do end up taking place they may very well lead to a ceasefire – although probably a temporary one – and so it would be advantageous for the government to take back as much territory as it can before this is done. Tirah Valley, in particular, is very important since it both borders Afghanistan and provides a route to Peshawar through Bara.

Hardly a game-changer: Afghan Taliban's release, *Dawn*, September 9¹²²

While prisoner releases grab headlines, there is a sense that the real prize is not contact with Afghan detainees on Pakistani soil but with Taliban leaders who have found sanctuary inside Pakistan. That infinitely more delicate process will likely be managed far away from the media spotlightIf the era of behind-the-scenes deals and cloak-and-dagger diplomacy is ever to be left behind, the government must lead from the front with transparency. Better to talk of Indian influence and the space for Pakhtuns in Afghanistan – the real drivers of policy towards Afghanistan – than to mislead, a game which fools no one, here or in Afghanistan.

Freed, at what cost, *The Nation*, September 9¹²³

....Now that seven more prisoners have been given their freedom, with no reported guarantees to ensure they return to Afghanistan, one can only wonder why there are no questions being raised about their ultimate destination. ...Another mystifying issue is how Pakistan has been historically so adept at catching and incarcerating so many Afghan Taliban terrorists, but is completely aloof with regards to the location of various TTP leaders that are a constant threat to the security of this country. Maybe if they tried hard enough and caught some of those elements involved in the war on this side of the border, having a few bargaining chips in hand would give the government the upper hand in initiating the dialogue process it has shown such a stubborn insistence to pursue.

¹²¹<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-8-200467-Tirah-and-talks>

¹²²<http://dawn.com/news/1041608/hardly-a-game-changer-afghan-talibans-release>

¹²³<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/editorials/09-Sep-2013/freed-at-what-cost>

After the carnage, *The News International*, September 24¹²⁴

A day after the deadly attacks that killed more than 80 people from Pakistan's Christian community – at a church in Peshawar – the sense of anger rages on.[...] *The stance taken by PTI chief Imran Khan, whose party rules KP, is mysterious. He has suggested that elements opposed to dialogue had carried out the deadly attack...*The JUI-F too has suggested that the attacks were meant to derail peace talks. Do these leaders know something the rest of us do not? They should be able to share it with the families of those whose bodies and bones have littered the streets.

Our bloody Sunday, *The Daily Times*, September 24¹²⁵

Even the military seems to be distancing itself from the peace talks. *Military operations against this multi-headed hydra is the only option*, for the militants are now too many and too far down the road of being rogues. [...] Bloody Sunday has sealed the deal.

NEW CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF

Opinions and Editorials

Who will become the next army chief?, Asif Mahmood, *Dawn*, September 2¹²⁶

Nawaz Sharif has a daunting task ahead of him to appoint successors to Pakistan's coveted military offices CJCSC and the COAS *after Gen Khalid Shameem Wynne and Gen Ashraf Parvez Kayani retire on October 6 and November 29 respectively* [...] PML-N leaders say that the contenders tipped to succeed Gen Kayani and Gen Khalid Shameem Wynne include Lt Gen Haroon Aslam and Admiral Asif Sandilla.

Lt General Haroon Aslam currently holds the position of Chief of Logistics Staff at the Army Head Quarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi. He enjoys a credible reputation within the military ranks and a strong army career during which he commanded the Bahawalpur Corps and was later promoted to the position of Lt General in April 2010. He also participated in the 2009 Rah-i-Rast operation conducted against Taliban militants in Swat.

If the principle of seniority is upheld, then Gen Aslam will be appointed as COAS while Admiral Asif Sandilla, who is the Chief of Naval Staff and the senior most official in the armed forces, will be the CJCSC. However, if the Pak Navy chief does not get the post of the CJCSC, then Haroon Aslam is likely to take over and Lt Gen Rashad Mahmood will become the COAS.

¹²⁴<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-8-204048-afterthecarnage>

¹²⁵http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\24\story_24-9-2013_pg3_1

¹²⁶<http://dawn.com/news/1040046/who-will-become-the-next-army-chief>

There is tangible evidence to suggest that Gen Rashad Mahmood is a prospective candidate to make it to the office. Earlier this year, Mahmood was named the new Chief of General Staff (CGS), which is one of the most prestigious positions in the army. Moreover, he has served as the Corps Commander of Lahore. Another key position he previously held was of military secretary to former president Rafiq Tarar.

Looking for a new chief, *The Express Tribune*, September 5¹²⁷

...if Nawaz Sharif's intention was to set the civil-military balance right, then he has to act the constitutional boss rather than the dummy, who will rubber-stamp a decision or get pushed around by powerful groups within GHQ. He already seems to be backing down in certain areas as demonstrated by creating the National Security Council (NSC), which puts the top military brass at par with the civilian leadership....The NSC decision is not constructive for a positive civil-military balance in the long run. Despite more civilians on the Council, the fact that the military dominates information and intelligence and is a key political player will enable it to dominate the decision-making. The fact that Nawaz Sharif could not put life into the Cabinet Committee for Defence and created the NSC instead speaks volumes of where the power lies at the moment.

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND FATA

Ansarul Mujahideen carries out IED attack on security convoy, *Dawn*, September 1¹²⁸

At least nine FC personnel were wounded and twenty injured when a security convoy from Datakhel to Miranshah was destroyed by an IED, according to ISPR. Spokesman for the Ansarul Mujahideen Abu Baseer said the attack had been carried out *in reaction to the drone attack in Mir Ali on September 1 which had left at least four suspected militants dead.*

Troops to withdraw from Swat and Malakand: Pervez Khattak, *The Express Tribune* and *Dawn*, September 15¹²⁹¹³⁰

K-P CM Pervez Khattak approved the withdrawal of Pakistan Army from Swat and Malakand on September 14. He said that withdrawal of troops would begin from Buner and Shangla first. The withdrawal from Malakand is to begin next month.

¹²⁷<http://tribune.com.pk/story/599775/looking-for-a-new-chief/>

¹²⁸<http://dawn.com/news/1039846/ied-blast-in-n-waziristan-kills-nine-fc-personnel>

¹²⁹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/604289/troops-withdrawal-to-begin-from-buner-shangla-pervez-khattak/>

¹³⁰<http://dawn.com/news/1042846/army-withdrawal-from-malakand-approved-by-kp-govt>

K-P to introduce own intelligence network, *The Express Tribune*, September 17¹³¹

K-P CM Pervez Khattak said intelligence agencies had completely failed to deliver and the PTI government had decided to introduce its own intelligence system in the province.

PHC advises K-P government to fulfil legal requirements before troop pull-out, *The Express Tribune*, September 17¹³²

The Peshawar High Court on September 17 said the K-P government should consult the Federal Government and the Army before it proceeds with its decision to pull troops out from Malakand division.

Kayani gives go-ahead for Dir operation, *The Nation*, September 22¹³³

COAS Kayani visited the headquarters of two infantry divisions in Swat and Malakand Division to reportedly give a final nod to an upcoming targeted military action against terrorists in Dir, almost a week after a Major General and Lieutenant Colonel were killed in Upper Dir district. The operation will be carried out by the 17th and 19th Infantry Divisions. Major General Sanaullah Niazi, who was killed in the IED explosion last week, was the GOC of the 17th Division. The operation will reportedly take place in Maidan, Shaltalo, Barawal, and Usheraidarra, the four villages of Upper Dir where the militants have reportedly moved from Karachi and parts of Khyber Agency to avoid military action.

19 killed in Peshawar bus attack, *The Express Tribune*, September 27¹³⁴

At least 19 people were killed and 44 injured after a bomb went off in a bus carrying Civil Secretariat employees.

Peshawar blast kills 38, injures 103, *The Express Tribune* and *Dawn*, September 29¹³⁵¹³⁶

At least 38 people were killed and 100 injured in a blast in Peshawar's QissaKhwani area on Sunday, a week after the church bombing that killed scores. There was no claim of responsibility. The bomb went off in a crowded market area, near a police station.

¹³¹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/605358/home-grown-k-p-to-introduce-own-intelligence-network/>

¹³²<http://tribune.com.pk/story/605470/phc-advises-k-p-govt-to-fulfill-legal-requirements-before-troop-pullout/>

¹³³<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/national/22-Sep-2013/kayani-gives-go-ahead-for-dir-operation>

¹³⁴<http://tribune.com.pk/story/610166/two-killed-10-injured-in-peshawar-blast/>

¹³⁵<http://tribune.com.pk/story/611106/peshawar-blast-kills-2-injures-10/>

¹³⁶<http://dawn.com/news/1046270/twin-blasts-in-peshawar-claim-37-lives>

Opinions and Editorials

All in the family, *The Express Tribune*, September 13¹³⁷

The chief minister of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) has made parliamentary history in his own right by recently *appointing 32 parliamentary secretaries and two special assistants in one day*. By this move, all PTI MPAs now have a government position.

The appointments are widely seen as an insurance against the collapse of the coalition government...The chief minister's executive order hurts the spirit of the Eighteenth Amendment, which requires that a cabinet must not exceed 11 per cent of the total strength of the assembly. *...It is indeed disheartening to see a party on which hundreds of thousands of people had pinned their hopes for a better future, indulge its members in this manner.*

Test for government: Withdrawal from Malakand, *Dawn*, September 16¹³⁸

A day after the KP government announced a phased withdrawal of the military from Malakand division, an IED attack claimed by the TTP killed three soldiers, including a major general, in the region. There may be an impulse to find a link here between the PTI's policy of appeasement and the militants' irrepressible appetite for conflict, but it is an impulse that should be resisted. *....With the kind of political leadership on display in recent days, a fairly legitimate question would be: ought the country to fear the TTP more or its own elected leadership? Surely the situation demands that the politicians rectify their pusillanimous approach.*

¹³⁷<http://tribune.com.pk/story/603393/all-in-the-family/>

¹³⁸<http://www.dawn.com/news/1043161/test-for-government-withdrawal-from-malakand>

Withdrawal symptoms, *The Nation*, September 19¹³⁹

An accurate prediction of post-withdrawal situation is impossible. ...Let the first phase be the test. If the civilian government can maintain law and order in the less sensitive districts of Buner and Shangla, only then, it would be wise to proceed. *The security forces, once relieved from their duties in the districts, will find more resources at their disposal to control intrusions from FATA. Certainty, understandably so, is very desirable, but is a luxury which the country will have to do without for now.*

BALUCHISTAN

JUI-F invited to join government, *The News International*, September 4¹⁴⁰

Chief Minister Abdul Malik Baloch invited the JUI-F to join the provincial government, *Geo News* reported. The invitation was extended in a meeting with JUI-F leader Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri on September 4. Sources told *The Express Tribune* that the JUI-F was unhappy with the three cabinet posts offered to it at the meeting and the "undue share" of power given to the Balochistan National Party (BNP) and the PkMAP (Pashtunkwa Milli Awami Party).

592 mutilated bodies found in last three years in Balochistan, *Dawn*, September 12¹⁴¹

The Home and Tribal Affairs Department of Balochistan revealed that 592 mutilated dead bodies have been found in the last three years from different parts of the province. *Most of the dead bodies were found in Quetta, Khuzdar, Kalat and the volatile Makran belt.* It said there were 132 cases of missing persons pending before the SC and the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances (CIED). *However, Voice for Baloch Missing Persons (VBMP), a non-profit rights group, claimed the number of missing persons was more than what was being claimed by the home department, saying numbers were in the thousands.*

Kayani says army not involved in Balochistan operations, *The Daily Times* and *The Express Tribune*, September 7¹⁴²¹⁴³

Speaking in Dera Bugti, COAS Kayani on September 6 denied rumours that a military operation was underway in Balochistan, saying operations were being carried out by the FC and the police. He also emphasised the role the army played in the socio-economic development of the state.

¹³⁹<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/editorials/19-Sep-2013/withdrawal-symptoms>

¹⁴⁰<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-116706-Dr-Malik-invites-JUI-F-to-join-Balochistan-govt>

¹⁴¹<http://dawn.com/news/1042164/balochistan-unrest-592-mutilated-bodies-found-in-last-three-years>

¹⁴²http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\07\story_7-9-2013_pg1_1

¹⁴³<http://tribune.com.pk/story/601087/kayani-to-baloch-tribes-reap-dividends-of-peace/>

Opinions and Editorials

Balochistan tangle, *The News International*, September 16¹⁴⁴

In a mirror reflection of the work being undertaken by the federal government to make talks with militants possible, the Balochistan government, led by Dr Abdul Malik Baloch of the National Party, has been involved in much the same mission. [...] The task is fairly complex. One reason for this is that, as Dr Baloch has already pointed out, some Baloch groups are based in the province while the leaders of others are based in various countries around the world and are conducting operations from there. [...] It is far from certain that they will agree to come to the negotiating table, though in this respect we must hope that the high standing of Dr Baloch in his home province can win them over. After all the Baloch problem is different from naked terrorism and has an element of political victimisation that needs to be addressed.

SINDH

Karachi situation: Interior Minister briefs PM, high-level meetings held, *Dawn*, September 2¹⁴⁵¹⁴⁶¹⁴⁷

Interior Minister Nisar Khan met with PM Sharif on September 2 and handed over a document about the current law and order situation in Karachi. The two agreed on Khan's earlier proposal that the planned 'targeted apolitical operation' in the city be carried out by Sindh's PPP-led government.

On September 3, Sharif held an all-party meeting to discuss the issue, which was one of three meetings he held with political, religious and business leaders. At the meeting with Sindh's political leaders, *he made it clear that he did not want to encroach on the mandate of the PPP and the MQM in Karachi.* The leaders of the PPP, MQM, JI, PML-N and Pakistan Sunni Tehreek attended the meeting. *Controversy surrounded the revocation of an invitation to MQM's NA leader Farooq Sattar at the behest of regional PML-N leaders.* After the meeting, MQM leaders reiterated Altaf Hussain's demand for the army to intervene. The PTI did not attend the meeting.

In a meeting with national security principals a few hours later, there was agreement that there needed to be broad-based consensus before the proposed 'surgical operation'. Attendees included COAS Gen Kayani, ISI DG

¹⁴⁴<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-8-202312-Balochistan-tangle>

¹⁴⁵<http://dawn.com/news/1040059/special-cabinet-session-nisar-briefs-pm-over-karachi-situation>

¹⁴⁶<http://tribune.com.pk/story/599002/security-huddle-government-to-evolve-consensus-on-karachi-operation/>

¹⁴⁷<http://dawn.com/news/1040213/pm-arrives-in-karachi>

Lt. Gen Muhammad Zaheerul Islam, the Interior Minister and Special Assistant to the PM on foreign affairs Tariq Fatemi. Kayani told the PM the army would assist the government in the operation and ensure the political impartiality of the operation, if called upon. The PM also called for a joint strategy by the ISI, MI (Military Intelligence) and the IB (Intelligence Bureau).

PM holds Cabinet meeting in Karachi; Rangers, not army, for targeted operation, *The Express Tribune and Dawn*, September 4¹⁴⁸¹⁴⁹

At a Federal Cabinet meeting in Karachi on September 4, the PM confirmed that the Rangers and not the army would be used for the proposed operation to wipe out criminal elements in the city. Sindh CM Syed Qaim Ali Shah agreed to the use of the Rangers. The army and the ISI have been asked to monitor the operation and provide intelligence support. A federal minister later confirmed that the army would act as a quick response force if required. The ISI DG Lieutenant General Zaheerul Islam, DG Rangers Major General Rizwan Akhtar, Sindh Chief Minister Qaim Ali Shah and Governor Ishratul Ebad Khan were also present at the meeting. On September 3, the PM said the government was ready to broaden the powers of the Rangers. A committee headed by Minister Zahid Hameed would work on legislation, which will likely include powers of investigation and persecution.

Criminal elements go underground before surgical strike, *The Express Tribune*, September 5 and 8¹⁵⁰¹⁵¹

At a high level security meeting at Jati Umra in Raiwind on September 7, Rangers DG Major General Rizwan Akhtar and ISI DG Zaheerul Islam told PM Sharif that many criminals had already escaped to Dubai and South Africa, and many others had moved to Sukkur, Larkana, Hyderabad and rural areas of Sindh. Rangers DG Akhtar asked the PM to come up with an alternative strategy for the targeted operation.

Karachi erupts as MQM ex-MPA arrested, *The Daily Times*, September 12¹⁵²

Protests and shutdowns were observed in Karachi, Hyderabad and some other districts of Sindh on September 11 against the arrest of former MQM MPA Nadeem Hashmi, suspected of involvement in the death of two policemen. MQM chief Altaf Hussain said the ongoing targeted operation was similar to the one carried out in 1992 and that the PPP government was undertaking an ethnic cleansing of Muhajirs.

¹⁴⁸<http://tribune.com.pk/story/599636/nawaz-sharif-chairs-high-level-meeting-on-karachi-situation/>

¹⁴⁹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/600024/turmoil-in-karachi-army-vows-to-support-operation/>

¹⁵⁰<http://tribune.com.pk/story/600030/karachi-braces-for-surgical-clean-up/>

¹⁵¹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/601471/karachi-security-conundrum-criminals-flee-city-before-crackdown/>

¹⁵²http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\12\story_12-9-2013_pg1_1

Major reshuffle in Sindh police, *Dawn*, September 13¹⁵³

Chief Minister Qaim Ali Shah has ordered the appointed a new chief of Karachi police and ordered the transfer of four additional IGs and 14 deputy IGs. In Karachi, three key DIGs will also be transferred.

PPP government to create more districts in Sindh, *The Daily Times*, September 17¹⁵⁴

The Sindh government decided to create more districts in the state by bifurcating Karachi and Thatta districts.

MuhajirRepublican Army not linked with MQM: Interior Minister, *Dawn*, September 20¹⁵⁵

In a statement in the NA on August 19, Interior Minister Nisar Khan said the “Mujahir Republican Army” — first revealed as one of the causes of violence in Karachi by Attorney General Munir Malik to the SC last month— did not have links with MQM.

Opinions and Editorials

The Karachi operation, *The Daily Times*, September 4¹⁵⁶

[...]It is indeed important that a broad based agreement is achieved among the political parties and other stakeholders over issues of national importance. However, ...[i]t is impossible that there would not be any clamour once the operation begins either from the MQM or ANP. The PPP might also groan at some point. ..In case this happens it would be the beginning of a long, unending crisis in Karachi.

Nawaz has his hands tied on Karachi, *The Express Tribune*, September 5¹⁵⁷

[...] Karachi is a long way from Lahore, let alone Islamabad. The distance is amplified by the Eighteenth Amendment, which has devolved more powers to the provinces. The core of Karachi’s problems is political. And those political disputes will have to be resolved in the Sindh Assembly, where Mr Sharif’s party has a marginal presence.Mr Sharif cannot impose a political solution in Karachi. He cannot offer the ANP, the MQM and the PPP what they could not and would not do for themselves.

¹⁵³<http://dawn.com/news/1042409/major-reshuffle-in-sindh-police>

¹⁵⁴http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\17\story_17-9-2013_pg7_15

¹⁵⁵<http://dawn.com/news/1044161/taliban-talks-efforts-at-standstill-nisar>

¹⁵⁶http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\04\story_4-9-2013_pg3_1

¹⁵⁷<http://tribune.com.pk/story/599773/nawaz-has-his-hands-tied-on-karachi/>

Time is running out, *The Daily Times*, September 5¹⁵⁸

...It is suspected that legislation would be passed that would equip the law enforcement agencies with powers to arrest, detain and interrogate criminals without the fear of these suspects being released by the courts or through political influence. Precedents for such legislation are present such as the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) that was passed in India in 2002. However, the federal government would have to tread very carefully as Pakistan is already infamous for human rights violations.

Birds have flown, *The Express Tribune*, September 10¹⁵⁹

.....every effort appears to have been made to allow robbers, thieves, murderers, kidnappers and extortionists to pack their bags, secure their properties and make an orderly exit before the Boys in Black came to kick the front door in. Against such a background, the average observer might rightly feel that the entire episode was little more than a piece of political theatre of a decidedly cosmetic nature

GILGIT-BALTISTAN

Mastermind of Nanga Parbat attack arrested, *Dawn*, September 5¹⁶⁰

The suspected mastermind of the Nanga Parbat attack that killed nine foreign mountaineers and their guide was arrested from Chilas. The TTP leader and his henchmen were also accused of attacking the convoy of the team that was investigating the attack. The TTP has since distanced itself from the organisation that claimed to carry out the attacks, the JunoodulHifsa.

PUNJAB

Plan to hire 2,000 men for anti-terror unit in Punjab, *Dawn*, September 15¹⁶¹

PM Sharif has approved a plan by the Punjab government to recruit around 2,000 personnel as part of the new Counter-Terrorism Force (CTF) in the province. The structure and mechanism of the CTF, as well as its status as an independent body or a police wing will be finalised by the Home Secretary in the near future. Around 400 instructors, mostly from Turkey and some from the Army and the Special Services Group will be used to train the force.

¹⁵⁸http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\05\story_5-9-2013_pg3_1

¹⁵⁹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/601993/birds-have-flown/>

¹⁶⁰<http://dawn.com/news/1040739/suspected-mastermind-of-nanga-parbat-attack-arrested>

¹⁶¹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/604520/punjab-security-pm-clears-plan-to-hire-2000-men-for-anti-terror-unit/>

Police raid two madrassas of Mullah Omar's teacher in Gujranwala, *The Express Tribune*, September 15¹⁶²

Security forces raided two madrassas in Gujranwala allegedly belonging to QaziHamidullah Khan, a teacher of Taliban leader Mullah Omar, and arrested 21 foreigners.

AFGHANISTAN

Pakistan releases seven Afghan Taliban prisoners, *Dawn*, September 7¹⁶³

Pakistan, on September 7, released seven Afghan Taliban operatives but did not hand them over to Afghan authorities, instead choosing to simply release them from their prison cells. The Foreign Ministry has said the releases were to “facilitate the reconciliation process” in Afghanistan, a week after President Karzai visited Pakistan. Among the released prisoners was MansoorDaduallah who is thought to have been in charge of anti-NATO operations in Helmand. He is the younger brother of Mullah Dadaullah, former overall military commander of the Afghan Taliban. Mansoor is thought to have succeeded his brother after he was killed in an Afghan-NATO operation in 2007.

Baradar released, *Dawn* and *The Daily Times*, September 17, 21 and 22¹⁶⁴¹⁶⁵

Unconfirmed reports suggest Mullah Abdul GhaniBaradar was released on September 21. NSA Aziz told AFP on September 16 that Baradar would not be handed over to Kabul and the government would instead “follow the Taliban’s desires” to encourage the peace process. According to intelligence officials, Baradar was flown to a safe house in Karachi after his release. Baradarhas been released into Pakistan so that he could establish contacts with his *shura* and convince them on the importance of talks with the US and the Afghan government....A senior official told *The Express Tribune* on September 8 that the US, Afghanistan and Pakistan ...[were] discussing relocating [Baradar] to Turkey or Saudi Arabia .. [and] Baradar would likely “spearhead talks with the Afghan government and US” after relocation. He said the Taliban are likely to establish their new political offices in Saudi Arabia.

Five killed in border firing by Afghan troops, *Dawn*, September 19¹⁶⁶

At least five Pakistanis were killed and 25 others injured when Afghan National Army personnel opened fire at a border village in Zhob district. The

¹⁶²<http://tribune.com.pk/story/604558/police-raid-2-madrassas-of-mullah-umars-teacher-in-gujranwala/>

¹⁶³<http://dawn.com/news/1041189/pakistan-releases-seven-afghan-taliban-prisoners>

¹⁶⁴http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\17\story_17-9-2013_pg7_8

¹⁶⁵<http://dawn.com/news/1044437/pakistan-releases-top-taliban-prisoner-mullah-baradar>

¹⁶⁶<http://dawn.com/news/1043931/five-killed-in-border-firing-by-afghan-troops>

Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office and a strong protest was lodged.

Taliban unlikely to open new office, *The Express Tribune*, September 23¹⁶⁷

A Pakistani official told *The Express Tribune* that Afghan Taliban are unlikely to open any formal office [and] discussions might take place in Saudi Arabia but without giving the Afghan Taliban a formal office.

Opinions and Editorials

We want complete destruction of the crusade army, nothing less, Mullah Omar, *Nawai-e-Afghan Jihad*, September 2013

The Eid message of *AmirulMomineen* Mullah Mohammad Omar: With great sacrifices of the mujahedeen, we have achieved success. *We have compelled the occupying forces to retreat. I congratulate Afghan mujahedeen and all those mujahedeen (from other countries) who fought against the occupied forces. I am hopeful that in the future, they will continue to cooperate with the Afghan mujahedeen.*

With the blessings of Allah, the ongoing Jihad is successfully reaching to its conclusion. This year, with *Operation Khalid-bin-Walid*, we have liberated a large area from occupation forces... With great conviction in Allah, we have destroyed a powerful enemy and have brought it to the brink of defeat. ... Afghanistan is passing through difficult times.... *We strongly believe that only a system based on Sharia will bring peace and prosperity to Afghanistan. We will continue to work for a united Afghanistan. We will never let anybody break Afghanistan on ethnic or provincial lines. For us, defending territorial integrity is an important duty..... Our people are no longer interested in the deceptive propaganda regarding the 2014 elections. They know the results of these elections have already been decided in Washington. Thus, taking part in these elections is just a waste of time.... I urge Afghans who are fighting on the side of the enemy to turn their guns towards infidels and their stooges instead of killing fellow Muslims.... Our Afghan people should take advantage of their own natural resources instead of relying on external aid and services. People should also teach their children both religious and worldly education because modern education is a pre-requisite for social welfare.*

...The western powers should understand that the Afghan people will never tolerate foreigners or their stooges. [...] *When in the presence of thousands of foreign troops Afghans were did not accept the system imposed on them, how is it possible that a small number of troops can succeed now?* I want to convey it to

¹⁶⁷<http://tribune.com.pk/story/607959/afghan-peace-process-taliban-unlikely-to-open-new-office/>

the occupiers that *it is ridiculous to make a distinction between moderate and extremist mujahedeen*. All mujahedeen are guided by Islam. They are clear and committed in their objectives.

Afghanistan and Pakistan, HasanAskariRizvi, *The Express Tribune*, September 8¹⁶⁸

...As the Pakistani Taliban become strong in the tribal areas, their linkage with militant and sectarian groups based in mainland Pakistan will also be emboldened. This will intensify internal security challenges for Pakistan. Therefore, Pakistan's security establishment must assign the highest priority to enforcing its writ in the tribal areas before American troops withdraw from Afghanistan....Pakistan must make sure that the religious groups and madrassas with activist Deoband and Wahabbi/Salalqi traditions do not function as a linkage group for the Afghan Taliban.

Ominous clouds, *Dawn*, September 11¹⁶⁹

...It is known that Pakistan arranged for the Afghan ambassador to meet Baradar who apparently told the envoy he did not want to talk to Karzai's people or to play the role of intermediary.....it is in Pakistan's interest to release Baradar and let the current Afghan administration discover for itself whether or not Baradar is really the magic key Karzai believes him to be....If nothing else it may serve to convince the world, if not the Afghans, that Pakistan genuinely and without reservations wishes to contribute to an Afghan-led, Afghan-owned peace process.

Mullah Baradar, *The Daily Times*, September 12¹⁷⁰

Baradar is one of the four men who founded the Taliban movement in 1994. His indisputable alliance with Mullah Omer and sincerity to the Taliban cause makes him the trusted source who could lead the peace talks to a conclusive end. ...His arrest and incarceration has long been considered a tactical move by the ISI to keep the leverage of directing the Afghan settlement to Pakistan's liking. Now that he is being released with some other important Taliban, the chances of a truce leading to a conflict-free and stable Afghanistan is taking shape.

The Baradar release, *The Express Tribune*, September 12¹⁷¹

... Mullah Baradar and the Quetta shura of which he was reportedly second-in-command were the right people three or four years ago — but are they as relevant today as they were then? The Taliban are a dynamic entity and

¹⁶⁸<http://tribune.com.pk/story/601610/afghanistan-and-pakistan/>

¹⁶⁹<http://dawn.com/news/1042083/ominous-clouds>

¹⁷⁰http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\12\story_12-9-2013_pg3_1

¹⁷¹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/603047/the-baradar-release/>

currently undergoing something of a churn. ...The release of Mullah Baradar may be a damp squib rather than a catalyst, appeasement rather than rapprochement.

SECURITY OF MINORITIES

Speakers call for isolation, banishment of Ahmadis, *The Express Tribune*, September 5¹⁷²

Several clerics called for further persecution of the Ahmadi community at conferences held on September 7 to mark the 39th anniversary of the passage of the Second Amendment, which declared Ahmadis to be non-Muslims.

Police bow to clerics' demands to tear down Ahmadiminarets, *The Express Tribune*, September 23¹⁷³

Police demolished minarets at an Ahmadi place of worship in Sialkot after a group of protesters threatened to do so themselves. The police approached the community after a local cleric complained that three worship places for Ahmadis had features that resembled mosques, namely minarets and verses from the Quran written on the walls.

Protesting Christians beaten up, pastor, youth go missing, *The Express Tribune*, September 24¹⁷⁴

Christian residents of Iqbal Town in Islamabad were allegedly beaten up by unidentified men on September 23 for participating in protests against the Peshawar church blasts. Some of the victims are missing.

DRONE ATTACKS

SC says drone attacks not within jurisdiction, *The Express Tribune*, September 5¹⁷⁵

In response to a petition that demanded the government command the armed forces to defend the country against drone strikes, the SC said on September 4 that the issue of drone strikes was related to foreign policy, defence and security and did not come under the judiciary's domain.

¹⁷²<http://tribune.com.pk/story/601720/second-amendment-anniversary-speakers-call-for-isolation-banishment-of-ahmadis/>

¹⁷³<http://tribune.com.pk/story/607912/ahmadi-persecution-police-bow-to-clerics-to-tear-down-minarets/>

¹⁷⁴<http://tribune.com.pk/story/608273/rubbing-salt-into-wounds-protesting-christians-beaten-up-pastor-youth-go-missing/>

¹⁷⁵<http://tribune.com.pk/story/599704/drone-strikes-do-not-fall-under-judiciarys-domain-rules-sc/>

Drone kills Haqqani commander, *The Daily Times*, September 7¹⁷⁶

Pakistani intelligence officials confirmed the death of Mullah SangeenZadran, a commander of the Haqqani group, and six others, including an Arab in a drone strike. The drone destroyed a compound in DargahMandi believed to be a Haqqani stronghold. Zadran is believed to have been responsible for the kidnapping of a US soldier, Bowe Bergdahl, in 2009.

Drone strike near Miranshah, *The Express Tribune and Dawn*, September 29¹⁷⁷

A drone strike took place in the DargahMandiarea, seven kilometres north of Miranshah, killing three. The attack was on a militant-held compound according to security sources.

Opinions and Editorials

Drones and terror sanctuaries, *The Express Tribune*, September 15¹⁷⁸

Islamabad's decision to approach the UN will appear to be nothing more than a cosmetic gesture, and will achieve little that is concrete. [...] What is bound to further complicate and already complex issue is the government's plan to talk peace with the Taliban because that is likely to send a signal to the militants ensconced in the sanctuaries that they have nothing really to worry about as far as the state of Pakistan is concerned.

Ambiguity on drones: Missile strike in North Waziristan, *Dawn*, September 2¹⁷⁹

It was and is Nawaz Sharif's choice to have focused on the energy crisis after taking office, but then perhaps it was best to give the foreign ministry a full-time minister and a clear set of directions [...] If something is unacceptable and a red line is crossed and yet no response comes, governments tend to lose credibility. On drones, the PML-N already appears to be falling off the tightrope.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

131,000 new IDPs since March, *The Express Tribune*, September 3¹⁸⁰

A recent report of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Cell (IDMC) and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) claims that as many as 131,000 persons have been internally displaced in the country since March this year, and over 415,000 were displaced in 2012. The figure does not include many who are unregistered. Over 5 million have been displaced by

¹⁷⁶http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\07\story_7-9-2013_pg1_5

¹⁷⁷<http://tribune.com.pk/story/611105/drone-strike-kills-2-in-north-waziristan-2/>

¹⁷⁸<http://tribune.com.pk/story/603849/drones-and-terror-sanctuaries-2/>

¹⁷⁹<http://dawn.com/news/1040007/ambiguity-on-drones-missile-strike-in-north-waziristan>

¹⁸⁰<http://tribune.com.pk/story/598989/131000-new-idps-since-march-report-reveals/>

conflict and sectarian violence since 2004, with 1.1 million of all registered IDPs displaced due to conflict in the north-west.

Navy inducts first locally built frigate, *The Express Tribune*, September 4¹⁸¹

The Navy inducted the *PNS Aslat*, the first indigenously built frigate, built at the Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works. It was built in collaboration with the China Shipbuilding & Trading Company. This is the fourth F-22P or Zulfiqar Class frigate inducted. The previous three were built in China.

Leaked documents: US questions safety of nuclear weapons, *The Express Tribune* and *Dawn*, September 3, 5 and 7¹⁸²

Parts of US intelligence agencies' "black budget" leaked by Edward Snowden indicate the US has intensified surveillance of Pakistan's nuclear weapons and is concerned about biological and chemical arms sites, according to an article published by *The Washington Post*. Other classified documents reveal new allegations of human rights abuses in Pakistan which could have forced the Obama administration to sever aid to Pakistani armed forces, abuses which the administration decided not to act upon.

The PM chaired a session of the National Command Authority (the body that looks after the safety of nuclear installations) on September 5, wherein the attendees agreed that there was no threat to the nuclear arsenal. At a high-level security meeting on September 7 attended by PM Sharif, COAS Kayani, ISI DG Islam and top cabinet ministers, the participants discussed whether the report was leaked deliberately to prepare ground for action against Pakistan in the future.

Key postings in Pakistan Army, *The Daily Times*, *The Nation* and *Pakistan Defence*, September 24¹⁸³¹⁸⁴

The Army has announced posting of three Lieutenant Generals and two Major Generals to fill in vacant positions. According to ISPR, Lieutenant General Naveed Zaman has been appointed Lahore Corps Commander (IV Corps), Lieutenant General Khalid Ashgar will be IG Communication and IT (GHQ) and Lieutenant General Mazhar Jamil has been made Military Secretary in the GHQ. Major General Ahmed Hayat has been appointed ISI Deputy Director General (Analysis), Major General Abid Ejaz Kahloon has been posted as GOC the 40th Infantry Division

¹⁸¹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/599553/indigenous-defence-production-navy-inducts-first-home-built-frigate/>

¹⁸²<http://tribune.com.pk/story/599105/wary-of-pakistan-us-has-stepped-up-surveillance-report/>

¹⁸³http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\24\story_24-9-2013_pg7_5

¹⁸⁴<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/editors-picks/24-Sep-2013/generals-reshuffled>

DI Khan and Major-General Javed Bukhari has been made the new GOC 17th Infantry Division Swat.

Opinions and Editorials

Friend or foe?, *The Nation*, September 5¹⁸⁵

[...] The contents of the leaked top-secret US intelligence files serve as dire warning of a rising trust deficit haunting the Pak-US relationship, and the serious reasons behind it.... Rising Islamist militancy, its permeation into the armed forces, rogue officers -- all of it sends alarm bells ringing when referenced to a nuclear power. Everyone remembers the pack of army officers jailed in connection with Hizb-ut-Tehreer links. The fact that the GHQ was attacked with such boldness in 2009 gave rise to suspicions of inside intel provided to terrorists. Mehran base was the same. And these were the fears echoed in Pakistan. They have left much broader resonance on a jittery and vigilant United States.

RELATIONS WITH INDIA

Pakistan claims shelling kills man on LoC, Sharif pledges restraint, *The Express Tribune*, September 3¹⁸⁶

Pakistani military officials said "unprovoked Indian shelling" across the LoC had killed a 60-year-old man and injured his teenage daughter. Sharif on September 3 said Pakistan would continue to act with "restraint and responsibility".

Reports of Indian army shelling Nakyal sector, *The Express Tribune*, September 4¹⁸⁷

Indian troops allegedly fired mortar shells on Lanjot village and adjoining areas of Kotli district, some 200 kilometres from Muzaffarabad, in what is claimed to be the first ceasefire violation of September. Pakistan returned fire.

Pakistan to give India MFN status, *Dawn*, September 7¹⁸⁸

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar assured the IMF in writing during negotiations for the recently approved \$6.64 billion economic bailout package that Pakistan was moving forward with eliminating the negative list on trade with India and extending India Most Favoured Nation status, and shifting to a 'sensitive list' under the SAFTA (South Asia Free Trade Arrangement) regime to

¹⁸⁵<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/editorials/05-Sep-2013/friend-or-foe>

¹⁸⁶<http://tribune.com.pk/story/590140/nawaz-sharif-pledges-restraint-over-kashmir/>

¹⁸⁷<http://grooveshark.com#!/playlist/Chilled+Out/61065208>

¹⁸⁸<http://dawn.com/news/1041110/mfn-status-will-be-given-to-india-imf-assured>

facilitate increased regional trade. This is a reversal of Dar's position on August 12 that MFN status for India was not under consideration.

Hafeez Saeed leads rally in Islamabad, *The Daily Times*, September 7¹⁸⁹

Hafiz Saeed spoke at a rally in Islamabad on September 6, denouncing India as a terrorist state as thousands of his supporters chanted for "holy war" against India. More than 10,000 attended the rally. "*The United States and India are very angry with us. This means God is happy with us,*" he said. "*They should know there are a lot of people here who are waiting for the conquest of India,*" Hamid Gul, a former chief of the ISI intelligence service, told the crowd, "*It will be our privilege to take part in this war.*"

Mechanism to prevent LoC tensions, *Dawn*, September 13¹⁹⁰

NSA Sartaj Aziz and Indian Foreign Minister Salman Khurshid agreed on weekly meetings between the DGMOs of the two countries and a joint working group on cross-LoC CBMs to prevent escalation of tensions. They met on the side-lines of an SCO summit in Bishkek.

India violated water treaty twice: Aziz, *Dawn*, September 20¹⁹¹

NSA Aziz said the construction by India of the Baglihar Dam on the Chenab and the Kishanganga power plant on the Jhelum River *were the most serious violations of the Indus Water Treaty since 1960.*

Seven Pakistani fishermen arrested by India, *Dawn*, September 21¹⁹²

Seven Pakistani fishermen were been taken into custody by the Indian Navy from near the Kajhar Creek on September 18. They were believed to be from Karachi.

Pakistan to raise objections over four Indian hydro-power projects, *The Express Tribune*, September 22¹⁹³

The Pakistani Indus Commission delegation will raise objections over the 850 MW Rattle on the Chenab River, 1000 MW PakalDul on the Marusaadar River, 120 MW Miyar, and 48 MW Lower Kalnai hydro projectsto be constructed by India in the Chenab basin.

¹⁸⁹http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\07\story_7-9-2013_pg7_8

¹⁹⁰<http://dawn.com/news/1042799/pakistan-india-agree-on-pms-meeting-in-ny>

¹⁹¹<http://dawn.com/news/1044145/india-violated-water-treaty-twice-aziz>

¹⁹²<http://dawn.com/news/1044430/7-pakistani-fishermen-arrested>

¹⁹³<http://tribune.com.pk/story/607451/pakistan-to-raise-objections-over-four-indian-power-projects-in-kashmir/>

26/11 investigation: Pakistani judicial panel reaches India, *The Express Tribune*, September 23¹⁹⁴

A seven-member Pakistani judicial commission arrived in India via Attari on September 21 to take forward the prosecution of seven suspects, including Laskar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander ZakiurRehmanLakhvi, and cross-examine and re-examine four prosecution witnesses in the 26/11 Mumbai attacks case.

PM Singh calls Pakistan an 'epicentre of terrorism', *The Express Tribune*, September 29¹⁹⁵

PM Manmohan Singh said that he reciprocated PM Sharif's sentiments on forging a new partnership but also said Pakistan was the "epicentre of terrorism". He reiterated concerns about cross border terrorism and said that territorial integrity of J&K would never be compromised.

Sharif calls for strengthening bilateral dialogue, *The Express Tribune*, September 29¹⁹⁶

In an interview with an Indian news channel, PM Sharif said he would extend an invitation to PM Singh to come to Pakistan, visit his home town and discuss issues at length. He said the two countries needed to pick up the dialogue that broke down in 1999. He made a special mention of the Lahore dialogue of 1999 in his speech at the UN General Assembly. He reiterated an earlier proposal of having the Foreign Secretaries and DGMOs of both countries meet to discuss LoC tensions. He also said the arms race that Pakistan and India had entered into over the decades was a "massive waste".

Opinions and Editorials

Line of fire, *The Express Tribune*, September 4¹⁹⁷

[...] The Mumbai attack, demands for the heads of Muslim extremists on a plate, years-old violations of holy places on both sides and decades of atrocities, all of which remain as eternal impediments, exhumed and displayed every time the winds of peace begin to waft in. *Sabre-rattling aside, in a conventional war, the uncomfortable reality is that Pakistan would eventually and at terrible cost, lose.* The Sharif government provides what may be an extended window of opportunity in which traditional positions may be modified, but it will require restraint and statesmanship on both sides if real gains are to be made.

¹⁹⁴<http://tribune.com.pk/story/607960/2611-investigation-pakistani-judicial-panel-reaches-india/>

¹⁹⁵<http://tribune.com.pk/story/610815/with-one-eye-on-peace-manmohan-terms-pakistan-an-epicentre-of-terrorism/>

¹⁹⁶<http://tribune.com.pk/story/610804/nawaz-says-he-will-renew-his-invitation-for-indian-premier-to-visit-pakistan/>

¹⁹⁷<http://tribune.com.pk/story/599225/line-of-fire/>

Lesson not learnt, *The Daily Times*, September 9¹⁹⁸

[...] This defence day saw a plethora of religious parties on the streets showering kudos on the 1965 war martyrs, and putting feathers in the army's cap for defending the country against the aggressors India. This was the gist of Hafiz Saeed's commentary he made in Islamabad on Defence Day to a crowd of 10,000. Hafiz Saeed went all the way to the capital city Islamabad to celebrate the day, raising questions once again about the freedom granted to him in the public space. One, who paid for this elaborate arrangement, accommodating a crowd of 10,000 people? The show was provided security and those attending it given a free hand to spray verbal hatred against the 'perennial' enemy. Who gave permission for all this and was Hafiz Saeed's speech vetted before being allowed to be delivered?

Nawaz-Manmohan Meeting: What we achieved and what we lost, *Nawa-i-Waqt*, October 1¹⁹⁹

In his 75minute long meeting, Nawaz Sharif put Kashmir, Siachen, Sir Creek and India's interference in Baluchistan before PM Manmohan Singh [...] When India is making it clear that Kashmir is an integral part of India, how can we expect that they will come to the table for dialogue? [...] India has always sabotaged bilateral dialogues [...] India has shown no sign of reviving the composite dialogue and stopping aggression on the LoC. The impression one gets from the Indian media and its leaders is that the LoC will be accepted as an international border. If such discussion has been held one-on-one, then Nawaz Sharif must reveal details through the media so that there is no suspicion about his policy vis-à-vis India. The nation will never accept a compromise on Kashmir and national security with an enemy country.

Pak-India Prime Ministers Meeting, *Jasarat*, September 30²⁰⁰

Nawaz Sharif's itch to meet India's prime minister has now been satisfied. [...] The outcome of their meeting reveals that India has dominated during the whole meeting. The main reason is weak political leadership. During Nawaz Sharif's speech in UNGA, which Manmohan did not bother to attend, he talked about UN resolutions on Kashmir. In his response, Manmohan declared Kashmir as an integral part (*atootang*) of India. Thus, he closed all the doors to dialogue. Apart from this, he accused Pakistan to be an epicenter of terrorism [...] There is now no hope left for Pakistan after this meeting.

¹⁹⁸http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\09\story_9-9-2013_pg3_1

¹⁹⁹Nawaiwaqt.com.pk/editorials/01-oct-2013/245125

²⁰⁰beta.jasarat.com/column/editorial/news/126526

A Meeting with Hafiz Saeed (interview excerpts), AssaduallahGhalib, *NawaiWaqt*, September 17²⁰¹

This piece seeks to acquaint reders about the worldview of Hafiz Saeed based on a personal interaction with him. This showsSaeed's pathological attitude towards India:*Infiltration into Kashmir: ...During General Musharraf's time an unwanted unilateral ceasefire was offered to India. India took this opportunity and started fencing the border and built strong military infrastructures along the LoC. It is not possible for anybody to cross LoC now. If India is claiming that there is infiltration, it is a big lie. For that India should court-martial its soldiers; only then truth will emerge.*

Terrorism in Pakistan: Afghanistan provides sanctuary for terror groups operating in Pakistan. They are trained there and suicide belts are manufactured there. The terror that we see in Pakistan is remote controlled from there. Instead of acting as diplomatic missions, Indian consulates in Afghanistan are busy fomenting terrorism in Pakistan. Their main focus is Balochistan.

BJP Rule in India: Both the Congress and the BJP are the staunch enemies of Pakistan. I pray the BJP comes to power and, particularly, I want to see theNarendraModi asPrime Minister. During his rule Pakistanis will learn how much India wants peace.Let BJP to come to power, the love for India in Pakistan will wither away.

STATISTICS

BOMBINGS, SHOOTINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES

(Select incidents culled out from the Pakistan media)

| Place | Date | Description | Killed | Injured |
|---------------------------|------------|--|--------|---------|
| Balochistan | | | | |
| Mastung ²⁰² | 04/09/2013 | NATO truck attacked | 0 | 1 |
| Jaffarabad ²⁰³ | 04/09/2013 | Landmine blast | 0 | 2 |
| Quetta ²⁰⁴ | 05/09/2013 | Grenade attack | - | 3 |
| Quetta ²⁰⁵ | 09/09/2013 | Explosives placed on bicycle | 2 | 8 |
| Gwadar ²⁰⁶²⁰⁷ | 13/09/2013 | Gunmen kidnap and kill three Punjabi labourers | 3 | 0 |

²⁰¹ www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/columns/17-sep-2013/241585

²⁰² <http://beta.dawn.com/news/1022019/three-labourers-killed-in-nasirabad-ambush>

²⁰³ http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\04\story_4-9-2013_pg7_5

²⁰⁴ http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\05\story_5-9-2013_pg7_5

²⁰⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/601612/explosion-near-sariab-road-quetta-leaves-2-dead/>

²⁰⁶ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/603362/gunmen-kidnap-kill-labourers-in-gwadar/>

²⁰⁷ http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\13\story_13-9-2013_pg1_3

| | | | | |
|--|------------|---|-----|---------|
| Panjgur ²⁰⁸ | 13/09/2013 | Two clerics killed in shooting | 2 | 0 |
| Quetta ²⁰⁹ | 14/09/2013 | Firing by security personnel during search operation | 1 | 1 |
| Qalat ²¹⁰²¹¹ | 14/09/2013 | Eight or nine ISAF containers and oil tankers set ablaze | 1 | - |
| Quetta ²¹² | 20/09/2013 | Grenade attack | 0 | 7 |
| Sibi ²¹³ | 22/09/2013 | Remote-controlled blast | 0 | 21 |
| Pishin ²¹⁴²¹⁵²¹⁶ | 23/09/2013 | Bombing of security patrol | 4-7 | 3-5 |
| Panjgur ²¹⁷ | 29/09/2013 | Nine, including three security officials, killed in attack on security patrol | 9 | 2 |
| FATA | | | | |
| Boya Area, North Waziristan ²¹⁸ | 1/09/2013 | At least nine FC personnel killed when convoy from Datakhel to Miranshah was targeted by IED. | 9 | 20 |
| Miranshah ²¹⁹ | 08/09/2013 | Security convoy targeted | - | 2 |
| Bara, North Waziristan ²²⁰ | 09/09/2013 | 5 peace committee members killed, several kidnapped in clashes with militants | 5 | unknown |
| Miranshah, North Waziristan ²²¹ | 08/09/2013 | Militants attack security checkpoint, separate bombing | 1 | 2 |
| North Waziristan ²²² | 09/09/2013 | Terrorist killed in exchange of fire with security forces | 1 | - |
| Bara, North Waziristan ²²³ | 10/09/2013 | Three peace committee members beheaded | 3 | - |
| Khyber ²²⁴ | 13/09/2013 | NATO vehicle destroyed | - | - |
| Bajaur ²²⁵ | 14/09/2013 | Bomb kills members of pro-government militia | 2 | 4 |

²⁰⁸http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\13\story_13-9-2013_pg1_3

²⁰⁹<http://dawn.com/news/1042771/man-killed-in-firing-by-fc-personnel>

²¹⁰<http://dawn.com/news/1042797/eight-nato-containers-oil-tankers-gutted>

²¹¹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/604133/arson-attack-nine-nato-fuel-trucks-destroyed-driver-killed/>

²¹²<http://dawn.com/news/1044204/seven-injured-in-quetta-grenade-attack>

²¹³<http://tribune.com.pk/story/607949/roadside-bombing-blast-in-sibi-injures-21/>

²¹⁴<http://tribune.com.pk/story/608045/two-dead-in-attack-on-police-mobile-in-pishin/>

²¹⁵<http://dawn.com/news/1044849/bomb-attack-on-police-van-kills-five-in-pishin>

²¹⁶<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/national/23-Sep-2013/seven-including-five-policemen-killed-in-pishin-blast>

²¹⁷<http://dawn.com/news/1046035/nine-including-three-security-men-killed-in-panjgur>

²¹⁸<http://dawn.com/news/1039846/ied-blast-in-n-waziristan-kills-nine-fc-personnel>

²¹⁹<http://dawn.com/news/1041436/explosion-in-north-waziristan-injures-two-soldiers>

²²⁰<http://tribune.com.pk/story/601843/clash-in-khyber-agency-five-peace-committee-members-dead/>

²²¹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/601843/clash-in-khyber-agency-five-peace-committee-members-dead/>

²²²http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\09\story_9-9-2013_pg7_3

²²³<http://dawn.com/news/1041786/three-peace-committee-activists-beheaded>

²²⁴http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\13\story_13-9-2013_pg7_4

²²⁵<http://dawn.com/news/1042842/bomb-kills-two-pro-govt-militiamen-in-bajaur>

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|---|----|---------------------|
| Miranshah ²²⁶ | 15/09/2013 | Two soldiers killed in two bombings | 2 | 4 |
| Mohmand ^{227,228} | 25/7/2013 | Attack on dam | 3 | 7 |
| Punjab | | | | |
| Gujrat ²²⁹ | 7/9/2013 | Drive-by shooting | 7 | 3- |
| Khyber Pakhtunkhwa | | | | |
| Bannu ²³⁰ | 5/09/2013 | Bombing outside a girls' school. Mostly children killed and wounded | 11 | 3 seriously injured |
| Haji Anwar Khel ²³¹ | 5/09/2013 | Suspected militant killed during security check, one injured | 1 | 1 |
| Peshawar ²³² | 5/09/2013 | NATO tanker fired at | - | 1 |
| Kohat ²³³ | 06/09/2013 | Militants ambush buses and other vehicles, indiscriminately firing on civilians. Militants believed to be Pakistani Taliban | 6 | 1 |
| Peshawar ²³⁴ | 06/09/2013 | Bomb at police station, three policemen injured | - | 4 |
| Peshawar ²³⁵ | 06/09/2013 | Gunmen fire on a car | 8 | unknown |
| Kohat ^{236,237} | 9/09/2013 | Grenades hurled at District Police Officer's office. Exchange of fire between militants and police ensued. | 4 | 9 |
| Kohat ²³⁸ | 10/09/2013 | Two would-be suicide bombers killed by police. | 2 | - |
| Charsadda ²³⁹ | 13/09/2013 | Militants attack check-post, guard killed | 1 | - |
| Upper Dir ²⁴⁰ | 15/09/2013 | Two senior army officers killed in TTP bombing. | 3 | 2 |
| Bannu ²⁴¹ | 15/09/2013 | Attacks on tribal police | 2 | 4 |

²²⁶<http://dawn.com/news/1043059/one-security-man-killed-in-ied-attack-in-north-waziristan>

²²⁷<http://dawn.com/news/1045317/militant-attack-on-dam-in-mohmand-region-kills-three>

²²⁸http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\26\story_26-9-2013_pg1_4

²²⁹http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\07\story_7-9-2013_pg1_4

²³⁰<http://dawn.com/news/1040729/bomb-wounds-11-outside-girls-school-in-bannu>

²³¹<http://dawn.com/news/1040729/bomb-wounds-11-outside-girls-school-in-bannu>

²³²<http://dawn.com/news/1040729/bomb-wounds-11-outside-girls-school-in-bannu>

²³³<http://tribune.com.pk/story/601095/terror-hit-six-killed-in-militant-attack-on-kohat-road/>

²³⁴http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\07\story_7-9-2013_pg7_4

²³⁵<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-117141-Peshawar-firing:-Toll-rises-to-eight-as-two-more-succumbs-to-injuries>

²³⁶<http://dawn.com/news/1041638/militant-attack-in-kohat-kills-two-policemen-injures-several>

²³⁷<http://tribune.com.pk/story/602275/assault-on-court-policeman-killed-9-injured-by-militants/>

²³⁸http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\10\story_10-9-2013_pg7_4

²³⁹http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\13\story_13-9-2013_pg7_3

²⁴⁰<http://tribune.com.pk/story/604596/3-army-officers-killed-2-injured-in-upper-dir-ied-blast/>

²⁴¹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/604596/3-army-officers-killed-2-injured-in-upper-dir-ied-blast/>

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------|---|----|----------|
| Peshawar ²⁴² | 20/09/2013 | Hand grenade attack | 3 | 20 |
| Nowshera ²⁴³ | 21/09/2013 | Motorcycle shooting, PTI tribal leader killed. | 1 | 5 |
| Peshawar ²⁴⁴²⁴⁵ | 22/09/2013 | Church attacked after Sunday mass | 78 | 120 |
| Buner ²⁴⁶ | 22/09/2013 | ANP local leader killed | 1 | - |
| Lower Dir ²⁴⁷ | 22/09/2013 | Exchange of fire between alleged terrorists and security forces. Group allegedly trying to cross the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. | 12 | 2 |
| Buner ²⁴⁸²⁴⁹ | 22/7/2013 | ANP leader killed | 1 | 0 |
| Peshawar ²⁵⁰ | 24/09/2013 | IED explosion | 0 | 2 |
| Bannu ²⁵¹²⁵² | 25/09/2013 | Rocket attack on soldiers, five terrorists killed | 5 | 3 |
| Peshawar ²⁵³ | 27/09/2013 | Bomb in bus carrying government employees | 19 | 44 |
| Peshawar ²⁵⁴ | 29/09/2013 | Bomb in market place | 38 | Over 100 |
| Sindh | | | | |
| Kashmore ²⁵⁵ | 9/09/2013 | Gunmen attack check post, three constables killed. | 3 | - |

VIOLENCE IN KARACHI

| Place | Date | Description | Killed | Injured |
|---|-----------|--|--------|---------|
| Various places ²⁵⁶²⁵⁷²⁵⁸ | 3/09/2013 | Sub-inspector among those killed | 11-12 | - |
| Karachi National Stadium ²⁵⁹ | 4/09/2013 | Senior Pakistani naval officer killed, wife wounded by motorcycle gunmen | 1 | 1 |

²⁴²<http://dawn.com/news/1044038/three-killed-20-injured-in-peshawar-grenade-attack>

²⁴³<http://dawn.com/news/1044411/pti-tribal-leader-killed-in-attack>

²⁴⁴<http://tribune.com.pk/story/607734/fifteen-dead-in-suicide-attack-outside-peshawar-church/>

²⁴⁵<http://dawn.com/news/1044808/carnage-at-church-after-sunday-mass>

²⁴⁶<http://tribune.com.pk/story/607706/anp-local-leader-killed-in-buner/>

²⁴⁷<http://tribune.com.pk/story/607587/lower-dir-12-terrorists-2-security-officials-injured-in-clashes/>

²⁴⁸http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\23\story_23-9-2013_pg7_4

²⁴⁹<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/national/23-Sep-2013/anp-leader-gunned-down-in-buner>

²⁵⁰http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\24\story_24-9-2013_pg7_3

²⁵¹<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-119741-Three-soldiers-injured-in-Bannu-rocket-attack>

²⁵²http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\26\story_26-9-2013_pg7_6

²⁵³<http://tribune.com.pk/story/610166/two-killed-10-injured-in-peshawar-blast/>

²⁵⁴<http://tribune.com.pk/story/611106/peshawar-blast-kills-2-injures-10/>

²⁵⁵<https://www.google.co.in/search?q=Kashmore&aq=chrome&chrome..69i57j013.1221j0&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

²⁵⁶<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/karachi/03-Sep-2013/six-including-policeman-killed-in-karachi-firing-violence>

²⁵⁷<http://tribune.com.pk/story/599628/naval-officer-shot-dead-near-karachi-national-stadium/>

²⁵⁸http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\04\story_4-9-2013_pg1_3

²⁵⁹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/599628/naval-officer-shot-dead-near-karachi-national-stadium/>

| | | | | |
|--|------------|--|----|----|
| Lyari ²⁶⁰ | 4/09/2013 | One Ranger and three suspected militants killed in gun battle | 4 | - |
| Various places ²⁶¹ | 4/09/2013 | Six individuals killed and 12 suspects arrested in security operations | 6 | - |
| Mauripur ²⁶² | 5/09/2013 | Suspected TTP militants killed in clashes with security forces | 3 | - |
| Various places ^{263,264} | 6/09/2013 | Separate incidents of violence, ANP leader killed for not paying extortion money | 2 | - |
| Various places ²⁶⁵ | 10/09/2013 | Separate incidents of violence. One MQM worker killed. | 11 | - |
| Malir area ²⁶⁶ | 15/09/2013 | One DSP of Sindh police killed | 1 | - |
| Various places ^{267,268} | 17/09/2013 | Separate incidents of violence | 6 | 1 |
| Pakistan Hotel, Super Highway ²⁶⁹ | 17/09/2013 | Targeted killing of Ismaili man | 1 | - |
| Metroville ²⁷⁰ | 19/09/2013 | Ahmadi man shot dead | 1 | - |
| Landhi ²⁷¹ | 20/09/2013 | Hand grenade explosion near Shia imambargah | 3 | 15 |
| Quaidabad ²⁷² | 20/09/2013 | Grenade attack on imambargah | 1 | 12 |
| Mochko, Orangi Town ²⁷³ | 22/09/2013 | One ASWJ and five MQM workers killed by police | 5 | - |
| Umerkot ²⁷⁴ | 22/09/2013 | Two killed in tribal clashes between Rajar and Marree tribes | 2 | 5 |

²⁶⁰<http://tribune.com.pk/story/599628/naval-officer-shot-dead-near-karachi-national-stadium/>

²⁶¹<http://www.dawn.com/news/1040490/karachi-violence-12-suspects-arrested-two-bodies-recovered>

²⁶²<http://dawn.com/news/1040725/militants-police-clash-in-karachis-mauripur-three-killed>

²⁶³<http://dawn.com/news/1040970/local-anp-leader-among-two-killed-in-karachi-violence>

²⁶⁴http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\07\story_7-9-2013_pg12_1

²⁶⁵http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\11\story_11-9-2013_pg1_3

²⁶⁶<http://dawn.com/news/1042817/dsp-killed-in-karachi>

²⁶⁷<http://tribune.com.pk/story/605114/crime-round-up-former-uc-nazim-among-four-killed-in-the-city/>

²⁶⁸<http://dawn.com/news/1043519/karachi-violence-claims-six-lives>

²⁶⁹<http://www.dawn.com/news/1043146/ismaili-man-shot-dead-on-superhighway>

²⁷⁰<http://dawn.com/news/1043843/ahmadi-man-gunned-down>

²⁷¹<http://dawn.com/news/1044037/blast-near-imambargah-kills-three-injures-15-in-karachi>

²⁷²<http://dawn.com/news/1044156/man-killed-in-grenade-attack-on-karachi-imambargah>

²⁷³<http://dawn.com/news/1043581/five-muttahida-workers-aswj-man-shot-dead>

DRONE STRIKES

| Place | Date | Description | Casualties |
|--|-------------|--|-------------------|
| DargahMandi ²⁷⁵ | 7/9/2013 | Compound belonging to Haqqani group targeted, Mullah SangeenZadran killed | 7 |
| Shawal, North Waziristan ²⁷⁶²⁷⁷ | 22/7/2013 | Six or seven people killed in suspected militant compound. Identity of those killed remains unclear. | 6-7 |
| Dargamandi, near Miranshah, North Waziristan ²⁷⁸²⁷⁹ | 29/09/2013 | Attack on alleged militant compound | 3-6 |

²⁷⁴<http://dawn.com/news/1043551/two-killed-in-tribal-clash>

²⁷⁵http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\09\07\story_7-9-2013_pg1_5

²⁷⁶<http://tribune.com.pk/story/607743/six-killed-in-us-drone-strike-in-north-waziristan-officials/>

²⁷⁷<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/national/22-Sep-2013/us-drone-attack-kills-7-in-nwa>

²⁷⁸<http://dawn.com/news/1046271/us-drone-kills-three-in-pakistan>

²⁷⁹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/611105/drone-strike-kills-2-in-north-waziristan-2/>