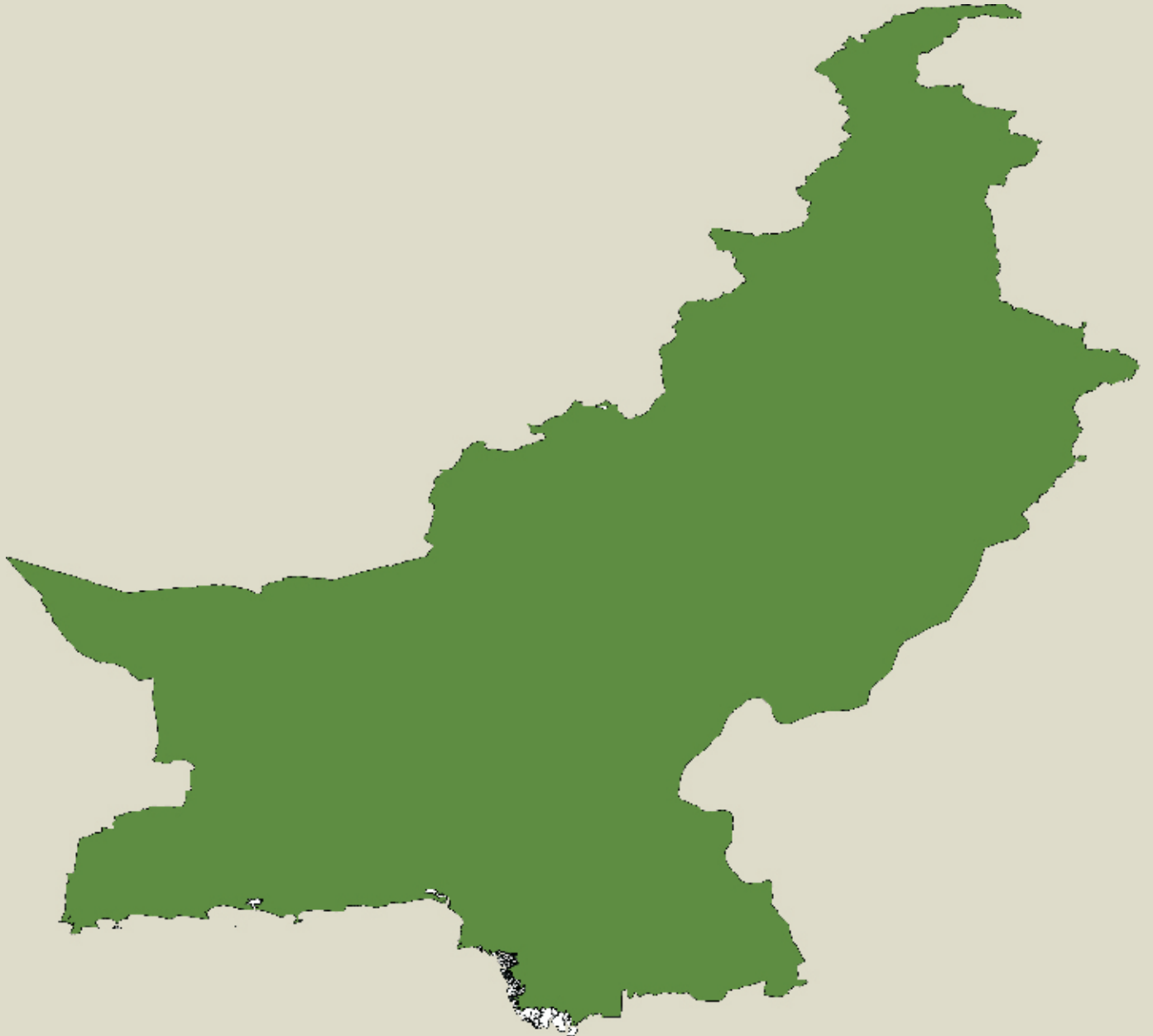


March 2019

# PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST

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



*Prepared by*  
Dr. Zainab Akhter  
Dr. Nazir Ahmad Mir  
Dr. Mohammad Eisa  
Dr. Ashok Behuria

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INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE  
STUDIES & ANALYSES  
रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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**INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES**

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## PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST, March 2019

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#### Editorial

The month began on a good note for India with External affairs minister Sushama Swaraj attending the inaugural session of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) meeting in Abu Dhabi on the first day of the month, where she was invited as a guest of honour. OIC is a powerful and influential group

of Islamic countries and India's representation for the first time at this platform was looked upon as a diplomatic success in India as well around the World. It has to be noted that in the past any attempt to India was influenced by Pakistan which on few occasions (1969) got the invite withdrawn. This time when Pakistan could not influence the OIC decision, it chose to stay away from the meeting in protest of the Indian participation. The Pakistani media both vernacular and English has linked this development to Pakistan's failure to negotiate over India in the OIC and equated it to the decreasing influence of Pakistan in the group. Experts argue that the entry of India in OIC, even as an honorary member or guest will counter check Pakistan's monotony over the discussion of Kashmir in the forum.

Another interesting development this month was yet another attempt by China to block India's bid to declare and enlist Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist, arguing that it needs more time to evaluate the issue. The Pakistani media emphasized the point that China is its strong ally and Indian attempts to break the bond will go in vain. Interestingly China has argued that the international community should also focus on the Kashmir dispute while making such demands, this was largely covered by the media in Pakistan. Disappointed by China's move, the US directly approached the Security Council with a proposal to blacklist Masood Azhar that would subject him to a global travel ban, an assets freeze and an arms embargo. The Pakistani media predicts that the US has set up a potential clash with China with this move and if moved in the UNSC it will be vetoed by China.

The forced conversions of Hindus is not a new phenomenon in Pakistan, this month two young Hindu sisters Reena and Raveena from Sindh only 16 and 14 years of age was forcefully tricked to embrace Islam and married off into Muslim families. The English media to some extent covered the issue and also the protests by civil society groups along with the Hindu community over the alleged abduction and forced conversions. While there was no coverage of the same in Urdu and broadcast media.

**Zainab Akhter**

## POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

### **Afzal's killing, Huma Yusuf, Dawn, 11 March<sup>1</sup>**

But the saga is about so much more. It highlights all the chronic weaknesses of the state: the continuing grip of parallel justice systems; the weaponisation of Pakistani society and ease of conducting extrajudicial killings; the collapse of rule of law; the complicity of state institutions such as local authorities and the police; the inability of the media to deliver accountability; the failures of civilian law enforcement. Pakistan has spent the past few days engaging in grandstanding: its prime minister is statesman-like, its F16s are better than their MiGs, it is decisive in its crackdown on proscribed groups. *But this seems inappropriate in the face of Afzal's killing. What's the value of sovereignty if your police can't protect, your courts can't deliver justice, and your news outlets can't reveal the truth?* Our leaders are obsessed with big-ticket infrastructure projects, the endless scheming that geopolitical relations demand, the conspiracy theories, and the existential crises that prop up our security policies well beyond the reach of critique. Until the killing of every Pakistani citizen is deemed an equal — and equally unacceptable — outrage, and until the state takes responsibility for delivering justice to all, all its other claims to glory will ring hollow.

### **US-Pakistan relations, Editorial, Daily Times, 12 March<sup>2</sup>**

Complexity of US and Pakistan ties perfectly make them frenemies. No matter what the two sides state regarding their relations, it would always be considered a love-hate relationship. The Taliban may be ready for talks and perhaps, peace could be achieved in Kabul sans any major hindrance. Nevertheless, Washington's strategy for South Asia would be tied to security and economic factors. Its containment of China policy is already in jeopardy while India is still reeling from a major diplomatic setback received at the hands of Islamabad. This makes Pakistan an indispensable 'ally'-albeit on reluctant grounds. *The Trump administration knows that disposing off Islamabad would be a lethal mistake in the context of the Afghan peace process. History is cruel but learning from it teaches not to repeat the mistakes of the past.* This is the key reason for US-Pakistan relations to sustain over the decades even if they were bumpy on certain points. To renew the ties to an acceptable level, mutual trust should be sustained, and focus should shift from security to economic angle. This is the only way to build a lasting relationship based on realpolitik.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.dawn.com/news/1468933/afzals-killing>

<sup>2</sup> <https://dailytimes.com.pk/364139/us-pakistan-relations-2/>

### **A fragmented OIC? Khurram Minhas, *Daily Times*, 14 March<sup>3</sup>**

Since its establishment, OIC has never been seen as pro-India. The participation of India in the meeting displays growing Indian influence in the Muslim world in general and the Arab world in particular. The participation of India in the meeting has paved the way for its permanent membership in the organisation, an age-old desire of New Delhi. Objectively, India can positively contribute in capacity building of the OIC by using its strong political clout in Southeast Asia and the West. The human resource of India, its technological advancements and economic strength can add value to the organisation. Notably, the OIC had condemned the tragic Babri Mosque incident in 1992 as well as communal riots in Gujrat in 2002. OIC often equated the Kashmiri dispute with the Palestine issue. In several joint communiqué of the OIC, Jammu and Kashmir (JK) was referred to as “occupied territory”. *However, it seems that this platform, which is currently available to Pakistan, has also been neutralized by India. It has been able to do so through persistent diplomatic maneuvering.* To conclude, owing to mounting political and economic clout and its very large Muslim population, one can calculate that Pakistan will no longer be able keep India from a permanent membership of the OIC, which means the organization will witness further fragmentation.

### **Flames of bigotry, Editorial, *Dawn*, 22 March<sup>4</sup>**

Over the decades it has repeatedly capitulated to self-proclaimed guardians of public morality and allowed them to define ‘acceptable’ norms of behaviour. Instead of being a bulwark against bigotry and intolerance, it has institutionalised religious discrimination, soft-pedalled hate speech and ignored the denunciation of individuals, or even entire segments of the populace, as apostates and/or traitors. Given the state’s historical appeasement of right-wing elements, at times to preserve tactical political alliances, the censorious voices and puritanical narratives have become ever more strident. Consequently, progressive thinkers and opinion-makers — or even anyone perceived to be so, such as the slain professor — find themselves extremely vulnerable to violence. A crackdown against extremist organizations may be ongoing and much needed. But what is to be done about a mindset that considers it incumbent on people — the ‘right’ kind of people, that is — to ‘purify’ society, by coercive means if necessary? *It may be an uncomfortable*

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<sup>3</sup> <https://dailytimes.com.pk/364842/a-fragmented-oic/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.dawn.com/news/1471171/flames-of-bigotry>

*truth, but terrorist and sectarian outfits who commit wholesale slaughter are only an extreme manifestation of the same prejudiced, judgmental mindset.*

### **Stopping forced conversions, Editorial, Daily Times, 25 March<sup>5</sup>**

Religious minorities continue to be the targets of heinous crimes in Pakistan. The abduction, forced religious conversion and marriages of two teenage Hindu girls from Ghotki, Sindh is yet another grim reminder of the state of minority rights in the Islamic Republic. Such incidents are hardly a rare occurrence. Hindu to Muslim conversions in Sindh seem to be exclusively underage girls or women of marriageable age who disappear and later emerge to reveal they had eloped with Muslim men and converted to Islam freely. The fact that there are hardly any Hindu men or older women who convert to Islam reveals the grim reality behind this facade. *Quite often, the women or girls also seem to belong to poor scheduled class families while their new Muslim families are powerful and influential. These incidents are also shockingly frequent. Human Rights activists have revealed that at least 25 forced conversions of Hindu girls and women take place in Umerkot's Kunri and Samaro talukas alone.*

### **Death of dialogue, Huma Yusuf, Dawn, 25 March<sup>6</sup>**

*We now live in a time so alienated from the concept and value of meaningful dialogue, that even a flicker of disagreement or dissent creates such profound unease that it provokes accusations of treason or blasphemy, all too often used to justify death.* Rather than learn lessons over the past decade, we have simply mainstreamed hate, extremism and the practice of taking the law into one's own hands. He sentencing to life imprisonment of two more accused in Mashal Khan's killing was a reminder how that outspoken young man who sought to champion students' rights was silenced through false blasphemy accusations and lynching, rather than debate. The death of dialogue is a global phenomenon thanks to the noise of 24/7 media, the power of the sound bite, the rise of the celebrity politician, and the far right resurgence. *But in Pakistan – which is weaponised, brutalised by a decade of terrorism, and traumatised by a history of martial law – the lack of dialogue means the only language we know is violence. God help the nation that speaks by killing.*

### **Forced conversions in an Islamic state, Asif Shar, Daily Times, 29 March<sup>7</sup>**

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<sup>5</sup> <https://dailytimes.com.pk/369208/stopping-forced-conversions/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.dawn.com/news/1471742/death-of-dialogue>

<sup>7</sup> <https://dailytimes.com.pk/370796/forced-conversions-in-an-islamic-state/>



*In today's Pakistan religious minorities have little voice in the society. Although Pakistan became a Muslim majority state after the partition yet the Hindus managed to retain a degree of social influence mostly in the province of Sindh where they were known as successful merchants.* Understanding the aforementioned verse is the dire need of the hour because there are many people who have not only tarnished the real image of Islamic injunctions but have also defaced the soft picture of Pakistan in front of the global community. Even they face social discrimination till today, and are often cut off from their own community at large. There are several lingering questions in an ordinary and intellectual mind, which still remain unanswered by the people who are accomplice in such activities of the crime. The culprits have not answered yet that why only Hindu daughters are embracing Islam, why not Hindu boys? Why only minors are willing to accept the religion, why not mature one? Coerced conversion to Islam has compelled Hindu merchants to leave the country and migrate to India. Every year, at least, we loose 5000 Hindus - leaving for India. *Therefore, it is dire need of hour to provide proper interpretation of Islamic preaching. To help the hapless is believer's duty. The revealed Book unequivocally gives message on Peace, Tolerance, Forgiveness and Humanity.*

#### **Ironies of the Afghan war, Zahid Hussain, Dawn, 29 March<sup>8</sup>**

The very fact that the Americans are now negotiating their withdrawal plan with the group their forces had ousted from power almost 18 years ago tells the story of a war gone wrong. Even if the world's greatest military power believes that it has not lost the war, it has not won it either. The Americans are now sitting across the table with the same men who they incarcerated and declared terrorists. Surely, each one of those representing the Taliban in the negotiations has a story of struggle, of being in power and a life in detention. *But Mullah Baradar has played a much greater role in building the insurgency, notwithstanding his long period in detention. His elevation to the top rung of the Taliban leadership indicates the influence he wields, particularly among the fighters.* Baradar's release shows the Trump administration's desperation to find a political solution to the Afghan crisis. Although he seldom participates in the larger meetings between the two sides, his presence there helps to clear a roadblock. Whenever there was an indication of talks breaking down, Khalilzad would call on him and the problem would be mostly sorted out. But his health seems to have been sapped by nearly a decade of detention. *Certainly, the war has intensified while they have been engaged in serious negotiations. It is going to be a classic war-war, talk-talk situation. There are still sticking points that could cause the negotiations to go on for much longer.*

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.dawn.com/news/1472565/ironies-of-the-afghan-war>

## SECURITY SITUATION

**What a war!**, Najam Sethi, *The Friday Times*, 01 March<sup>9</sup>

It is true that the weight of international opinion is sympathetic to India's position that non-state actors based in Pakistan continue to sponsor "terrorism" across *Pakistan's borders with India, Afghanistan and Iran. Pakistan is also struggling to acquit itself before the FATF.* Its economy is weak and cannot take the strain of any serious military conflict. It is therefore understandable that PM Imran Khan should sue for "peace" while appearing to be strong after showing-off a burning aircraft wreckage and captured Indian pilot. On the other side, however, PM Narendra Modi is in a bit of a fix. After the first air raid across Pakistan's border, with tall claims of "300 terrorists killed" and all aircraft returning unscarred to base, he was riding high. But after the "victory" was exposed as being hollow, followed by the loss of two aircraft and a pilot in captivity, his ratings are falling and pressure is mounting to "do something" to redress the balance. *The US is seriously involved in fashioning a quick and "honourable" exit from Afghanistan in the next few months with Pakistan's "critical" assistance. Should Pakistan's facilitation to the US on its western border waver at this juncture because of its focus on the conflict with India on its eastern border, the US would be a big loser because its exit strategy is time-barred by the next US elections.*

**FATF action plan**, Editorial, *Dawn*, 07 March<sup>10</sup>

Having narrowly averted being blacklisted in February, the government must not allow history to repeat itself. The same steps have been taken by previous governments as well, only to be allegedly stymied by the powerful handlers that these groups have. *The presence of these groups drove Pakistan towards a difficult position internationally and imposed a steep economic cost as the country's financial system was flagged as being open to risk of terror financing.* However, whatever action was taken was clearly not enough, and the country slipped back onto the grey list. Today, we face the prospect of being put on the blacklist if concrete steps are not evident to what will undoubtedly be a skeptical FATF audience in June. These groups and their existence on Pakistani soil have become much more than a nuisance and an embarrassment.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.thefridaytimes.com/what-a-war/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.dawn.com/news/1468123/fatf-action-plan>

It is quite clear that none of them should have any presence here. *The finance secretary's remarks suggest that Pakistan had a difficult time at the Paris meetings of FATF last month. Eight organizations were named in the FATF press release issued afterwards. This is unusual, because while these groups have always been at the heart of Pakistan's dealings with FATF, they had never been named previously.*

### **Mainstreaming of jihadists, Zahid Hussain, Dawn, 13 March<sup>11</sup>**

Perhaps the thorniest issue pertains to the question of dealing with the thousands of activists affiliated with extremist groups that have continued to operate despite being outlawed. In a countrywide swoop, the authorities have reportedly taken control of scores of religious schools and arrested several activists of groups like Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and Jamaatud Dawa (JuD), listed as terrorist entities by the UN Security Council. *It is not the first time such actions have been taken against these groups. It has almost become a ritual to clamp down on them after each crisis and under international pressure.* Almost all previous actions against these groups had proved largely cosmetic. There was hardly any serious effort to take the campaign to its logical conclusion. As a result, these groups kept resurfacing after the pressure was over. This has been evident over the last 15 years since a decision was taken to outlaw jihadist and extremist religious groups, manifesting a nonchalant approach towards a most serious security and diplomatic challenge. *Political expediency and the old habit of creating distinctions between 'good' and 'bad' militants made it harder to deal with the problem.*

### **Jaish in the spotlight, Editorial, Dawn, 18 March<sup>12</sup>**

This has led India to call for action against the group, particularly against its head Masood Azhar. While India has been thirsting for revenge in the post-Pulwama period, its efforts to blacklist the Jaish and its chief are not altogether altruistic. Delhi has made an all-out effort to prevent the Kashmir issue from being internationalized, and is presenting itself as a victim of 'terrorism' to take the focus of the international community away from its brutal tactics in the held region. Indeed, all of Pakistan's attempts at talks or acting on CBMs have been held back by the Modi regime's single-point agenda — to portray Pakistan as a hub of jihadi activity. *However, away from the Indian stance, there is still a case to be made for Pakistan's clamping down further on the Jaish and others of its ilk — for its own security. The dangers of the path adopted by the Jaish are clear. Masood Azhar's aim was to blur the distinction between pro-*

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.dawn.com/news/1469360/mainstreaming-of-jihadists>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.dawn.com/news/1470328/jaish-in-the-spotlight>

*Kashmir jihadi groups and those subscribing to sectarian militancy within Pakistan.* If the world wants to blacklist Masood Azhar, there should be no hesitation on Pakistan's part. Neither should China use 'technical reasons' to block such a move. There are no 'good' or 'bad' militants groups; all have either caused or are capable of wreaking havoc in the country. That outlook is hopefully a thing of the past now, as the prime minister has promised that no groups will be allowed to use Pakistani territory for militant activities.

**Tackling terrorism, Imtiaz Alam, *The News*, 25 March<sup>13</sup>**

I don't understand why Pakistan should carry the burden of opprobrium. Such a listing of Hafiz Saeed and his successive fronts did not make any difference and he and his successive fronts survived international sanctions and successive bans, embarrassing Pakistan's official national stance against terrorism of all hues. Masood Azhar being listed would not have been of any consequence. The National Action Plan is being revisited and a countrywide operation is underway to take over the assets of 68 proscribed outfits and put their activists under protective custody. Such measures were also taken in the past but they failed to achieve the desired results. *The proscribed organizations re-emerged with new names and continued to embarrass Pakistan. Their amirs or spiritual-cum-military chiefs refused to take a backseat as they tried to reinvent their outfits for mainstream politics and welfare platforms.* When it comes to the FATF, though, we need to show the task force that we will not be lenient towards rogue elements, something we have officially vowed we will not do. Otherwise, who will take us seriously? Extremist ideologies and militias were allowed to flourish for too long without giving any serious thought about their far-reaching adverse consequences....*On the other side, Pakistan struggles to assure a suspecting world regarding its to-be-tested resolve to put an end to the use of its territory for terrorism against any country, India in particular.*

## URDU & ELECTRONIC MEDIA

### Electronic

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/448340-tackling-terrorism>

**Will there be delay in taking action against the banned organizations?  
Capital talk with Hamid Mir, *Geo News*, 06 March<sup>14</sup>**

Hamid Mir informs that Pakistan is taking action to restrict the activities of the banned organizations and has arrested 44 people related to the organizations in the recent raids. It has also yet again banned the FIF and JuD and has over taken many mosques and seminaries in Punjab. Hamid Mir asks the guests if this crackdown by Pakistan will not appear to have taken under international pressure post the Pulwama attack. One of the guest General Kayum refutes the anchors argument and underlines that these proscribed organizations were banned before by the government in 2014 but action against them was not implemented at that time. Now the government is taking action although there is a bit delay. He adds that *Pakistan has to fulfil the requirement of the Security Council (UN), FATF and also has to look into the dossier handed by India. But he underlines that the dossier should be made public so that people know what India demands from Pakistan.* Aarif-ullah Hussaini another guest underlines that if these organizations do not respect the writ of the state then action should be taken against them. When asked about how Pakistan should go further after the actions taken against banned militants, Ajaz Wani suggests that *Pakistan should be very careful in taking action against any organization and individual as these are some madrassas formed before partition also. Only if there is actionable intelligence should action be taken otherwise there should be a proper mechanism for them to be integrated in the mainstream he added.*

## Urdu

**Taliban-America talks and the war-situation, Gen. (R) Mirza Aslam Beg, *Daily Khabrain* 05, March<sup>15</sup>**

Ongoing Taliban-America talks failed last week. *Reasons for the failure were: i), America wants five years' time to withdraw from Afghanistan; ii), America has imposed sanctions on the Taliban which it is not ready to remove; iii) America included its advisor Scot Miller in the talks who was responsible for torturing the Taliban members in the Guantanamo Bay.* The Taliban, after seeing him, walked out and ended the talks. The Taliban perceived inclusion of Miller as humiliation and decided to carry out serious attack against America. They decided to target American base in Shorab district in Helmand

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<sup>14</sup><https://www.geo.tv/shows/capital-talk/230157-capital-talk-will-there-be-a-delay-in-taking-action-against-the-banned-organisations>

<sup>15</sup> <http://epaper.dailykhabrain.com.pk/popup.php?newsrc=issues/2019-03-05/80679/04.jpg>

Province. *The attack took place on 28 February and went on for 48 hours. 397 American and Afghan-soldiers were killed and weapons were destroyed. Nine Taliban militants were part of the 'Operation Al-Khandaq'. ...* America continued its brutal-activities across Afghanistan this year and targeted women, children and others. Houses were destroyed by bombs. Madrassas, markets and health centers were bombed. The Afghans were at the receiving end. That is why the attack was carried out. Because of this situation, there is no progress on the agreement between the two parties. The talks are, however, going on in Qatar and proposal are set forth by the working group. *The Taliban is adamant on its position: i) leave us and the Afghan-nation and we will decide our future by ourselves; ii) Withdraw from Afghanistan in six months' time; iii) End all sanctions on us; iv) Release our prisoners; v) You destroyed Afghanistan and you will have to rebuild it; vi) We were cheated after the Soviet withdrawal in 1989. This time we are vigilant.* It is blessing on us that on the one hand our enemy India is failing because of its own Prime Minister and our army's reaction and on the second hand the Taliban has brought the only super power on its knees.

**We will not be silent on action against Madarsas: Fazlur Rahman, News, Jasarat, 7 March<sup>16</sup>**

Head of Jamaatud Ulama-e- Islam (F) Mulana Fazlur Rahman said in a press conference in Banu that we have repeatedly said in past that this government was brought to power with specific agendas. USA predicted about good news before announcement of Indian pilot was made by 12 hours. *Asia Maseeh was released in blasphemy case under Europe's pressure. With the national action plan in action, raids on Madrasas started.* We will condemn if attacks on Madrasas continued. Actions are taken on statement against Hindu community but no action against those who violate Allah's order. Mulana further said when Pak army went to border to fight with India we have given them strength.

**90% people in Pakistan want to see Islamic rule: Rashid Naseem, News, Jasarat, 13 March<sup>17</sup>**

Deputy Amir (head) of Jamat-e-Islami Pakistan Rashid Naseem said while addressing the participants of central training center that demand of Islamic rule is continuously on rise in Pakistan. Different international and national surveys tell that more than 90% Pakistanis wish to see Islamic rule in their country. Now it is duty of religious organizations to accelerate their efforts and struggle for prevailing of religion. He further observed that millions of youths are ready to sacrifices everything for Islam and Pakistan. If they are guided in

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<sup>16</sup> <https://www.jasarat.com/2019/03/07/190307-88-34/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.jasarat.com/2019/03/13/190313-08-9/>

appropriate way they will be great asset. He also outline that seeing this sprit and zeal for Islam even secular and liberal organizations forced to raise slogans like *Riyast-e- Madina Model*. Future belongs to Islam. An organization which practices Islamic tenants can only convert Pakistan in welfare Islamic state.

**China again delayed the resolution in UNSC against Masood Azhar, Editorial, Ausaf, 15 March<sup>18</sup>**

A real and tested friend of Pakistan, China has cut the net, spread by India, to *declare Pakistan a terrorist country and bring it under global financial embargo*. To make failure four times of an attempt to defame Pakistan globally and isolate it in international community is an admirable step. Chinese Foreign Ministry's spokesperson Looking said that we will continue play our responsible role. This issue could be solved by dialogue only. He asked international community to press India for respectful solution of Kashmir issue. India has expressed its dismay on Chinese veto. While China by diverting the Indian attempt to declare Masood Azhar as terrorist has created storm and earthquake in New Delhi's political corridor. *We think the four times unsuccessful attempt by India in UNSC is a proof that Indian and American claims do not carry any truth. Pakistan's so called friend USA has put all efforts to declare Masood Azhar as global leader earlier too. Even Indian attempts are triggered by USA.*

**The Daesh puzzle, Gen. (R) Mirza Aslam Beg, Ummat, 29 March<sup>19</sup>**

On 25 March, *New York Times* carried an article titled 'The ISIS Caliphate is Gone but ISIS is Not' (*The Article appeared in the WSJ, instead of NYT, and was titled The ISIS Caliphate is Gone- But ISIS Will Be Back*<sup>[A]</sup>). Daesh type of group appeared first 1,400 years ago as the Khawarij (the Kharijites) when the Islam got divided into two groups. Second time it appeared under the leadership of Abu-Bakar Baghdadi. *Daesh was divided into three groups, i.e. Syrian, Iraqi and Ahmed Kheshegi and comprised of 3 to 4 thousand Arab fighters. Though they have been defeated in Syria but they continue to threaten these countries. According to J.F. Jafery, 'There are 15 to 20 thousand armed fighters of Daesh in Syria and Iraq. However, their recruitment and spread is much faster than the pace with which they being terminated.'* In 2014, I had written an article arguing that emergence of *Daesh* is not new or surprising. This came from a community that has been at the receiving end. They rose up to revenge the

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<sup>18</sup>[https://www.dailyausaf.com/epaper/popup.php?newssrc=issues/2019-03-15/76559/p\\_1001.gif](https://www.dailyausaf.com/epaper/popup.php?newssrc=issues/2019-03-15/76559/p_1001.gif)

<sup>30</sup> <http://ummat.net/2019/03/29/news.php?p=idr2.gif>

[A] <https://www.heritage.org/terrorism/commentary/the-isis-caliphate-gone-isis-will-be-back>

injustices done to them. ... *America and its allies are the cause for the cruelties in Iraq and Syria and for the sanctions on Iran. They fuel sectarianism in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria, Iraq and Palestine.* To promote liberal thinking, the concept of political Islam was discarded. It is tragic that Pakistan has been caught in Shia-Sunni conflict for decades. Every effort is being made to break the resolve of the nation. ... *Is it not enough that on 14 February 2019 American led conference in Warsaw designed a plan to further incite Shia-Sunni conflict! The responsibility for that was given to Israel that it should act against Iran. While India was shouldered with the responsibility to deal with Pakistan so that South Asia, Central Asia and the Asia-Pacific come under its influence.* Trump is in delusion as he thinks he cannot eliminate *Daesh* by force; it could not do anything to Al-Qaeda, despite all its power. ... America and its allies need to understand and plan in a sensible way. But they do not know how to address the problem. Military forces has become part of their strategy. Obama had understood that and said: 'It is shameful that a person with opposite ideology becomes our President, who has no clear foreign policy; you cannot expect that he will not adopt irresponsible and wrong way.'

**Seeking peace is not our weakness, Mushtaq Ahmed Qureshi, Jang, 28 March<sup>20</sup>**

Unless and until the Kashmir issue is settled, India and Pakistan relations will remain tense. There will be scuffles on the borders as well. Whenever there is an attack in India, New Delhi blames Pakistan. *Pakistan has, to protect its territory, established a China made Air Defence System on its Eastern border with India. It has been laced with land to air LY-80 missiles and five units of IBIS 150 Radar for surveillance.* Most unfortunate part is that it blames Pakistan and efforts are made at the world level for proving that Pakistan supports terrorists in Kashmir. This is said that the fighters in Kashmiri raise Pakistan flags. Do not take our peace offer as a sign of our weakness. Peace is important for both the countries.

## STATISTICS

### BOMBINGS, SHOOTINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES

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

Place	Date	Description	Killed	Injured

<sup>20</sup> [https://e.jang.com.pk/03-28-2019/lahore/pic.asp?picname=06\\_011.png](https://e.jang.com.pk/03-28-2019/lahore/pic.asp?picname=06_011.png)



<b>Khyber Pakhtunkhwa</b>				
Landikotal <sup>21</sup>	05/03/2019	Militants attack army check-post in Loy Shalman	00	00
<b>Balochistan</b>				
Chaman <sup>22</sup>	05/03/2019	3 people injured in bomb blast in SW Pakistan	00	03
Panjgur <sup>23</sup>	14/03/2019	2 killed, 7 injured in bomb blast in SW Pakistan	02	07
Nasirabad <sup>24</sup>	17/03/2019	4 Killed, 10 injured in blast on train track in Pakistan	04	10
Ziarat <sup>25</sup>	20/03/2019	Taliban kill 6 Pakistan police in Balochistan	06	00
<b>Islamabad</b>				
Karachi <sup>26</sup>	22/03/2019	Pakistani religious scholar attacked in Karachi	02	02

<sup>21</sup><https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/439871-militants-attack-army-check-post-in-loy-shalman>

<sup>22</sup> [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-03/05/c\\_137868826.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-03/05/c_137868826.htm)

<sup>23</sup> [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-03/14/c\\_137895101.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-03/14/c_137895101.htm)

<sup>24</sup><https://www.khaleejtimes.com/international/pakistan/3-killed-seven-injured-in-Pakistan-train-explosion-123>

<sup>25</sup><https://thedefensepost.com/2019/03/20/taliban-kill-6-pakistan-police-in-balochistan-checkpoint-attack/>

<sup>26</sup> [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-03/22/c\\_137916300.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-03/22/c_137916300.htm)

