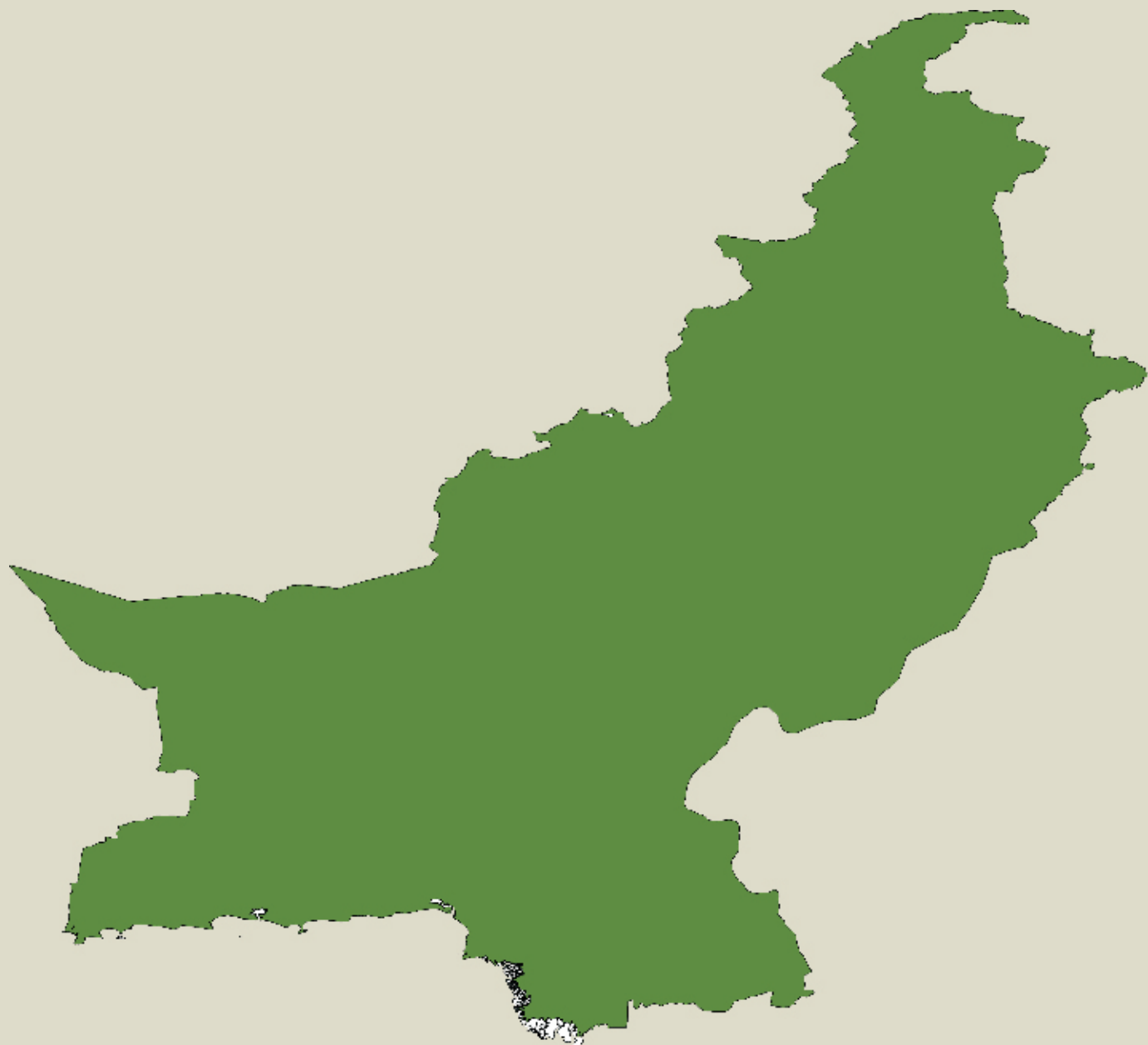


*December (1-15) 2016*

# PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST

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



*Prepared by  
Dr Ashish Shukla &  
Nazir Ahmed  
(Research Assistants, Pakistan Project, IDSA)*

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INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE  
STUDIES & ANALYSES  
रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

# PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST DECEMBER (1-15) 2016

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**INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES**

1-Development Enclave, Near USI

Delhi Cantonment, New Delhi-110010

PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST, December (1-15) 2016

CONTENTS

.....	0
<b>ABBREVIATIONS</b> .....	2
<b>EDITOR'S NOTE</b> .....	3
<b>POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS</b> .....	5
NATIONAL POLITICS.....	5
THE PANAMA PAPERS.....	8
PROVINCIAL POLITICS.....	9
EDITORIALS AND OPINION .....	10
FOREIGN POLICY .....	11
EDITORIALS AND OPINION .....	13
<b>MILITARY AFFAIRS</b> .....	16
EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS .....	20
<b>ECONOMIC ISSUES</b> .....	20
CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR.....	20
EDITORIALS AND OPINION .....	21
<b>SECURITY SITUATION</b> .....	22
TERRORISM.....	22
KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND FATA .....	23
BALOCHISTAN.....	23
PUNJAB .....	25
SINDH.....	26
<b>RELATIONS WITH INDIA</b> .....	26
<b>EXCERPTS FROM URDU MEDIA &amp; SELECT JIHADI LITERATURE</b> .....	32
<b>STATISTICS</b> .....	36
BOMBINGS, SHOOTINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES .....	36

## ABBREVIATIONS

ADB: Asian Development Bank  
AIIB: Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank  
ANP: Awami National Party  
APC: All Parties Conference  
ATC: Anti-Terrorism Court  
CPEC: China- Pakistan Economic Corridor  
CTD: Counter Terrorism Department  
ECP: Election Commission of Pakistan  
IED: Improvised Explosive Device  
IHC: Islamabad High Court  
IMF: International Monetary Fund  
ISI: Inter-Services Intelligence  
ISPR: Inter Services Public Relations  
JI: Jamaat-i-Islaami  
JuD: Jamat-ul- Dawa  
JUI-F Jamiat-Ulema-e-Islam (Fazal)  
KP: Khyber Pakhthunkhwa  
LHC: Lahore High Court  
MQM: Muttahida Qaumi Movement  
NAB: National Accountability Bureau  
NADRA- National Database and Registration Authority  
NAP: National Action Plan  
PAT: Pakistan Awami Tehreek  
PML-N: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz  
PPP: Pakistan People's Party  
PTI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf  
QCG: Quadrilateral Coordination Group  
QWP: Qaumi Watan Party  
RRG: Rapid Response Group  
TTP: Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan

## **EDITOR'S NOTE**

After a long spell of tension at the LoC and international border, a lull in cross-LoC exchanges between the two armed forces has been witnessed. However, the political temperature in Pakistan, especially over Kashmir, is not subsiding. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif reiterated Pakistan's moral, political and diplomatic support to the "freedom struggle" of the people of Kashmir. His Chief of Army Staff Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa too echoed this view when he stated that for a lasting peace in the region the core issue of Kashmir needed to be resolved in the line with UN resolutions and aspirations of the people of Kashmir.

During the Heart of Asia Conference in Amristar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani lashed out at Pakistan for using non-state actors to destabilise the region. Although Prime Minister Modi did not name Pakistan for the terrorist activities in the region, President Ghani was blunt enough to turn down a Pakistani offer of \$500 million for development. Instead, he suggest that Pakistan should use the funds to counter terrorists inside their own country that create problems for other neighboring counties of South Asia.

In a quite disturbing development, Maulana Masroor Nawaz Jhangvi, the son of infamous cleric Haq Nawaz Jhangvi, who was supported by the banned sectarian outfit Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat (ASWJ) defeated the ruling PML-N candidate in a by-poll held for Punjab Assembly's Jhang constituency. PPP Chairman Bilwawl Bhutto argued that the Jhang by-election result had buried Pakistan's National Action Plan (NAP). He even demanded the removal of Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan and threatened to launch a "Go Nawaz Go" campaign if his demands were not fulfilled.

The tension between government and the opposition over Panamagate is continuing. Jamaat-e-Islami has urged the apex court of Pakistan to appoint Enquiry and Trial Commission and declare the Panama Leaks papers as its basic documents. The JI Chief Sirajul Haq in his freshly filed application in the Supreme Court has also pleaded to make all person and their family members and business partners respondents whose name appeared in the Panama list. PTI Chairman Imran Khan too urged the apex court to decide the case itself instead of forming a judicial commission to hold an inquiry into the leaks. He was of the view that a commission would only be fruitful when Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif resigned from his post.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has somewhat become the new national anthem of Pakistan which everyone sings proudly. In addition to

Pakistan Army's Special Security Division (SPD), Navy has recently assembled a "Task Force-88" for the seaward security of the Gwadar port and protection of associated sea lanes against both traditional and non-traditional threats. The task force comprises Ships, Fast Attack Craft, Aircraft, Drones, and Surveillance Assets. Besides, marines would also be deployed at sea and around Gwadar for security operations.

Some of the media reports suggest that CPEC was also reviving a number of loss-making entities of Pakistan. As per one newspaper report, the Public Accounts Committee had asked the Privatisation Commission to remove the State Engineering Corporation from the list of organisations to be privatized because its loss-making subsidiaries were set to become profitable after the launch of the CPEC.

**Dr Ashish Shukla**

## **POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS**

### **NATIONAL POLITICS**

**ECP tells PTI to submit documents, *The Dawn*, December 2<sup>1</sup>**

*The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday (December 2) told the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) to submit required documents relating to its foreign funding or face consequences.* A full bench of the ECP headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sardar Mohammad Raza, which had taken up the case involving alleged collection of funds from illegal sources, asked the PTI to produce all financial instruments sought by the petitioner “without fail” and “much before” the next hearing set for Jan 16.

**Bilawal warns of ‘secret deal’ with Baloch leaders, *The Dawn*, December 2<sup>2</sup>**

*[...]“Some politicians from Balochistan are striking an underhand deal with Nawaz Sharif, sacrificing interests of the province for their personal ones,” Bilawal told a convention of the party’s Balochistan chapter workers here on Thursday (December 2). “The PML-N’s Balochistan government is more loyal to Takht-i-Raiwind (a reference to the Sharifs residential quarters) than the Baloch as people are being kept in the dark about many important decisions.” He pledged to restore confidence of the people of Balochistan in democracy and announced setting up organisations of the party in the province down to tehsil level.*

**PTI to rid country of corruption in 90 days: Imran, *The Nation*, December 3<sup>3</sup>**

*Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan has pledged his party will rid the nation of major corruption within 90 days after coming to power. [...]The PTI chairman said, “We have to catch big criminals and send them behind bars.” He came hard on the NAB and FBR chairmen for not investigating major corruption cases. He said corruption in Pakistan was preventing potential investors from investing in the country. “A society prospers when corruption is overcome. Investments are not coming in because of corruption,” Khan claimed.*

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1299907/foreign-funding-case-ecp-tells-pti-to-submit-documents-or-face-consequences>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1299898/bilawal-warns-of-secret-deal-between-nawaz-baloch-leaders>

<sup>3</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/03-Dec-2016/pti-to-rid-country-of-corruption-in-90-days-says-imran>

**Imran's decisions helped Nawaz: Khursheed**, *The Nation*, December 3<sup>4</sup>

*[...]Speaking to media persons in Lahore, PPP leader Khursheed Shah said Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif received a lot of help due to wrong decisions and inexperienced politics of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan. He said: "Our foreign policy is quite confused and international community is surprised to see us without any regular foreign minister." He further said leaders in the current PML-N government were undemocratic and had been enjoying ties with banned outfits from day one of their regime.*

**Grand Jirga ends in a brawl**, *The Express Tribune*, December 3<sup>5</sup>

*A consultative meeting on the future of tribal areas ended in a brawl between anti and pro-reform tribal elders and their supporters. The grand jirga, called by the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), was set to screen a documentary on the future of Fata, officials told The Express Tribune. But the programme ended before its formal start. The scuffle was so intense that security staff evacuated the governor, who is also Fata's chief executive, and the K-P Assembly Speaker Asad Qaisar.*

**Jhang by-election buried NAP: Bilawal**, *The Nation*, December 4<sup>6</sup>

*PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Saturday (December 3) reiterated his demand for the removal of Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan otherwise, he threatened, his party would launch a 'Go Nawaz Go' campaign. He has already set a December 27 deadline for the acceptance of party's four-point charter of demands. [...]He said the victory of a political leader of a banned outfit in the Jhang by-election a few days ago meant the burial of the National Action Plan. "The National Action Plan does not exist anymore after the Jhang by-election," he said. Bilawal said he would become prime minister with people's support in the 2018 elections.*

**PM House, not FO, running foreign affairs: Sherry**, *The Nation*, December 4<sup>7</sup>

*Vice President Pakistan People's Party Senator Sherry Rehman yesterday expressed shock and dismay over the government's bizarre release of a readout of the phone call between President-elect Donald Trump and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The lawmaker, a former ambassador to the US, said the phone*

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<sup>4</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/03-Dec-2016/imran-s-wrong-decisions-helped-nawaz-a-lot-khursheed>

<sup>5</sup> <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1251984/provocative-comments-grand-jirga-fata-reforms-ends-brawl/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/04-Dec-2016/jhang-by-election-buried-nap-bilawal>

<sup>7</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/03-Dec-2016/pm-house-not-fo-running-foreign-affairs-sherry>



call between the two leaders took place this week to discuss future prospects between the US and Pakistan, adding: "Releasing that unabridged readout without permission represented a total breach of diplomatic norms and has placed Pakistan in a poor light."

**Wahid Baloch returns home**, *The Express Tribune*, December 5<sup>8</sup>

*Four months after he went missing, social activist and publisher Wahid Baloch finally returned home to Chakiwara in Lyari Monday afternoon (December 5). "My father came back on Monday at 2pm," his daughter, Hani Baloch, told The Express Tribune. According to his family members, Wahid had gone missing on July 26 while returning from the Toll Plaza on the Super Highway. After Wahid's mysterious disappearance, the family, along with the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) came out on the streets to hold protests and filed a petition in the Sindh High Court (SHC) as well.*

**We will see them on the streets: Bilawal**, *The News*, December 13<sup>9</sup>

*Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said on Tuesday (December 13) that if the government was scared of holding itself accountable to the parliament, then the PPP would 'see them on the streets'. Bilawal made the statement via a tweet on Tuesday (December 13). The Bhutto scion stated that the government should accept his demands immediately.*

**Imran Khan ends parliament boycott**, *The News*, December 13<sup>10</sup>

*The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Tuesday (December 13) announced to end its boycott of the parliament to table a couple of motions against Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and warned of chalking out "future course of action if the motions were not responded". "Of what use is the parliament if people can't benefit from it," he said, adding all the institutions that were supposed to ensure accountability had failed.*

**Siraj urges opposition parties to unite**, *The Nation*, December 14<sup>11</sup>

*Chief of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Sirajul Haq while appreciating the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) decision to end the boycott of the Parliament has said that the opposition parties must unite for the accountability of the rulers. Addressing the advisory body of the JI here on Wednesday (December 14),*

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<sup>8</sup> <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1254395/four-months-later-political-activist-wahid-baloch-returns-home/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/171579-We-will-see-them-on-the-streets-Bilawal-warns-govt-of-protest>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/171592-Imran-Khan-ends-parliament-boycott>

<sup>11</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/14-Dec-2016/siraj-urges-opposition-parties-to-unite-for-accountability-of-rulers>

Sirajul Haq said that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's attitude dissociating his statement in the court from his address to the nation and his speech in the National Assembly (NA) was a scar on the country's parliamentary history and had breached the privilege of the parliament.

**Hullabaloo in NA over PM 'political statement'**, *The Nation*, December 15<sup>12</sup>

*The National Assembly session yesterday witnessed intense rumpus after the speaker refused to allow PTI raise a privilege motion against the prime minister, resulting in adjournment of the proceedings. [...] Opposition Leader Khursheed Shah strongly criticised the prime minister for his lawyer's terming his statement given to parliament mere a 'political statement'. "Each word uttered in the house has much importance, as we (politicians) have faced difficulties for restoration of democracy in the country," Shah said while speaking on the point of order. Shah asked the chair to accept PPP's adjournment motion against the prime minister and referred it to the 'privilege committee'. But Speaker Ayaz Sadiq rejected it out rightly. [...] The situation turned noisy when speaker, after Shah's address, did not give floor to PTI's parliamentary leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi to speak on the issue of PM's alleged lying. The chair, amid severe protest, kept ensuring PTI to give them floor after Saad Rafique.*

## THE PANAMA PAPERS

**Ji urges SC to form probe commission**, *The Nation*, December 4<sup>13</sup>

*Jamaat Islami on Saturday (December 3) urged the Supreme Court of Pakistan to appoint Enquiry & Trial Commission and declare the Panama Leaks papers as its basic document. Ji Ameer Sirajul Haq filed the fresh application in the apex court, saying that all persons indicated in the Panama papers along with their families, children, companies and business entities be made respondents, and shall have right to submit their reply in their own defence and in rebuttal to allegations mentioned in the Panama papers.*

**SC should decide Panama Papers case: Imran**, *The News*, December 8<sup>14</sup>

Imran Khan on Thursday (January 7) said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was not in favour of forming a judicial commission to hold an inquiry into Panama Leaks case. Addressing media, the PTI chairman reposed his confidence in the Supreme Court bench that is seized with the hearing of the matter. *"We feel that the bench hearing the case is qualified. The Supreme Court should hold a hearing on daily basis," said Khan.* The SC on Wednesday (December 6) asked

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<sup>12</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/15-Dec-2016/hullabaloo-in-na-over-pm-political-statement>

<sup>13</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/04-Dec-2016/ji-urges-sc-to-form-probe-commission-on-panama-leaks>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/170669-SC-should-decide-Panama-Papers-case-Imran>

all parties in the Panama Leaks case to decide if they wanted to form a commission or not. He said that a commission will only be fruitful if the prime minister resigns. "Otherwise Nawaz Sharif will affect the working of the commission," he said.

**The Panama Hesitation**, Editorial, *The Nation*, December 11<sup>15</sup>

*Justice Zaheer Anwar Jamali's most memorable moment as the Chief Justice of Pakistan arguably is his prompt refusal to form a commission to investigate the Panama papers scandal when it just broke surface. [...] Seeing the unrest his hesitation had caused, Justice Jamali decided to finally head the bench looking into the matter, defusing the political tension, but once more it seems that the Chief Justice has no stomach to pass a judgement that can make or break a government.* Citing the winter vacations and his upcoming retirement, the Chief Justice adjourned the case till next year, virtually dissolving it and instructing all arguments to be presented anew, and hinting that even still the court will form a commission to investigate the claims rather than pass a judgment as is. The Panama scandal hearings are back at square one - and this time because of the Supreme Court.

## PROVINCIAL POLITICS

**ASWJ Karachi president detained by Rangers**, *The Dawn*, December 2<sup>16</sup>

A leader of banned Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat (ASWJ) was detained in Karachi on Thursday (December 1), according to party spokesperson. *ASWJ Karachi president Allama Rabnawaz Hanafi was apprehended by Pakistan Rangers Sindh from his residence in Khamosh Colony, Liaquatabad, said the party spokesperson Umer Mowavia.* There was no official confirmation of Hanafi's detention by the paramilitary force. The party official said that they would 'cooperate' with institutions and would 'satisfy' them as they have any reservations. However, he added that they had always condemned terrorism. The ASWJ spokesperson accused that the provincial government has gone "berserk" and was allegedly targeting supposed political rivals.

**Candidate backed by banned party wins by-poll**, *The Dawn*, December 2<sup>17</sup>

*Independent candidate Maulana Masroor Nawaz Jhangvi, supported by the banned Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat (ASWJ), won the Punjab Assembly's PP-78 by-election on Thursday (December 2) with a margin of 12,793 votes, according to unofficial results.* Mr Nawaz, son of the slain Maulana Haq Nawaz Jhangvi who founded the now defunct Sipah-i-Sahaba Pakistan, received 48,562 votes,

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<sup>15</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/11-Dec-2016/the-panama-hesitation>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1299867/ahle-sunnat-wal-jamaats-karachi-president-detained-by-rangers-says-party-official>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1299959/candidate-backed-by-banned-party-wins-by-poll>

whereas his closest rival, Azad Nasir Ansari of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, received 35,469 votes. The candidates fielded by the Pakistan Peoples Party and the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf were virtually routed, as PPP's Sarfaraz Rabbani received 3,671 votes and PTI candidate Arfa Majeed 2,821 votes.

**KP govt to get Rs70bn World Bank loan**, *The Dawn*, December 5<sup>18</sup>

*The PTI-led provincial government has come out with all guns blazing to finish its tenure on a high note as it has decided in principle to obtain Rs70 billion International Development Association's loan from the World Bank, according to sources. "The loan would be spent on those projects, which the provincial government considers capable of generating enough revenue to pay back the principal amount with interest," sources said.*

**We're making a new Pakistan in Balochistan: PM**, *The Nation*, December 14<sup>19</sup>

*Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday (December 13) has said, "The dream of Balochistan's prosperity is being realised with completion of several development projects, ensuring "a new Pakistan in the making." "A new and developed Balochistan means a new Pakistan, with an unprecedented progress never took place in history," the premier said in his address at the inauguration of a 448-kilometre-long Sorab-Hoshab road, an important segment of western route of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The PM reiterated that, "It's not only a highway but a game changer."*

## EDITORIALS AND OPINION

**RIP NAP**, Editorial, *The Nation*, December 3<sup>20</sup>

[...]Independent candidate Maulana Masroor Nawaz Jhangvi – son of the slain Maulana Haq Nawaz Jhangvi who founded the now defunct Sipah-i-Sahaba Pakistan – supported by the banned Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat (ASWJ), won the Punjab Assembly's PP-78 by-election on Thursday (December 1) with a margin of 12,793 votes, according to unofficial results. *He did so by defeating strong candidates featured by the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), forcing many to think, where did we go wrong. [...]*Perhaps most culpable is the elected government. *Considering the number of voters who turned out for Mr Jhangvi it is clear that Punjab does have a problem with extremism and militancy – a problem that seeps into the*

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<sup>18</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1300529/kp-govt-to-get-rs70bn-world-bank-loan-to-whip-up-development>

<sup>19</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/14-Dec-2016/we-re-making-a-new-pakistan-in-balochistan-pm>

<sup>20</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/03-Dec-2016/rip-nap>

*common citizenry*. While the government claimed it was going to implement the National Action Plan (NAP), it refused to do so in Punjab, blocked efforts by the military to conduct an operation, and in fact empowered these banned groups when it needed their support against the opposition, which is why this victory for Mr Jhangvi should not come as a total surprise.

## **FOREIGN POLICY**

**Pakistan supports ‘every effort’ for Afghan peace**, *The Nation*, December 4<sup>21</sup>  
[...]*Hours after his arrival, Aziz attended a dinner where he exchanged pleasantries with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Aziz was among the eight foreign ministers of the participating countries in the conference who called on Modi as a group. Sartaj Aziz shook hands with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. According to High Commissioner Abdul Basit, Prime Minister Modi on the occasion expressed well wishes for Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Talking to the media, Abdul Basit said all the participants had a joint meeting with Prime Minister Modi after the dinner during which issues relating to Afghanistan were discussed. He said Adviser Sartaj Aziz on the occasion reiterated Pakistan’s commitment for peace and stability in Afghanistan and expressed the support for every effort to be made for the purpose.*

**US worries about aid to Taliban from the region**, *The Nation*, December 4<sup>22</sup>  
*The “malign influence” of Pakistan, Russia and Iran with the Taliban-led insurgency, and concerns about future political stability of the Afghan government threaten international efforts aimed at stabilising the war-ravaged country, warns a top US commander. “We’re concerned about the external enablement of the insurgent or terrorist groups inside Afghanistan; in particular where they enjoy sanctuary or support from outside governments,” said General John Nicholson, leader of NATO’s Resolute Support Afghan mission. He told reporters at the Pentagon Friday, the Haqqani Network, which is fighting alongside the Taliban, still poses the greatest threat to Americans, coalition and Afghan partners from its sanctuary in neighbouring Pakistan. “And the Haqqanis hold five American citizens hostage right now,” Nicholson said. “I think this is worth remembering as we think about the Haqqani Network. And they remain a principal concern of ours, and they do enjoy sanctuary inside Pakistan.”*

[...]*Speaking at a UN General Assembly session late last month in New York, Russian envoy Vladimir Safronkov even called for easing UN sanctions on the Taliban for promoting peace talks between warring sides. “So, Russia has*

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<sup>21</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/04-Dec-2016/pakistan-supports-every-effort-for-afghan-peace>

<sup>22</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/04-Dec-2016/us-worries-about-aid-taliban-receive-from-pakistan-russia-iran>

*overtly lent legitimacy to the Taliban," Nicholson said. But he dismissed assertions about the Taliban's successes against rival IS fighters. Instead, he said, Afghan forces and the US counterterrorism effort are the ones taking on and "achieving the greatest effect" against loyalists of the Middle Eastern terrorist group in Afghanistan. "So, this public legitimacy that Russia lends to the Taliban is not based on fact, but it is used as a way to essentially undermine the Afghan government and the NATO effort and bolster the belligerents," Nicholson added.* The general suggested Iran maintains contacts and influence with the Taliban for similar reasons. He said Afghan officials have engaged both Iranian and Russian governments over the issue.

**Gen Bajwa witnesses Pak- China exercise, *The News*, December 8<sup>23</sup>**

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Thursday (December 8) visited National Counter Terrorism Training Centre (NCTC), Pabbi and spent his day witnessing concluding sessions of high profile training events, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) statement said. *According to the statement, Gen Bajwa saw the final day of two months long Pak- China exercise Warrior-4, which was focused on high impact counter-terrorism operations both in rural and urban areas using heliborne and special forces of both countries.* While speaking to officers and troops on the occasion, COAS noted that sharing of best experiences through series of exercises had improved counter-terror combat skills of both Chinese and Pak troops. He emphasised that such exercises have integrated the two armies and will help us to eliminate terrorism from the region. "Our newly built NCTC has been recognised as a world-class facility and is attracting other armies for training with our Army", General Bajwa said.

**Pakistan to work closely with Trump, *The News*, December 14<sup>24</sup>**

*Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Syed Tariq Fatemi has stated that Pakistan will work closely with the new US administration led by President-elect Donald Trump. "We will work closely with the administration," Tariq Fatemi said in an interview with The Washington Times. "We believe that Mr. Trump's business background and strong interest in economic ties match the vision and policies of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif,"* The Washington Times quoted Tariq Fatemi as saying in the interview, published on Tuesday (December 13).

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<sup>23</sup> <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/170666-Gen-Bajwa-witnesses-Pak-China-exercise-Warrior-4>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/171827-Pakistan-to-work-closely-with-Trump-administration-Fatemi>

**Pakistan, Russia hold consultation, *The Nation*, December 15<sup>25</sup>**

*Pakistan and Russia aim at becoming leading regional partners amid India's propaganda to isolate Islamabad, said foreign ministry officials. Citing the first 'Pakistan-Russia Consultations on Regional Issues' held here, the officials said Islamabad and Moscow were heading to a new start after the cold war rivalry where Pakistan sided with the US. We are slowly engaging in partnerships and hope to become leading regional partners in the years to come. The cold war is over now. Russia is very positive towards us," said a senior official. He said India had failed to isolate Pakistan despite its vicious propaganda. "In fact we have a new friend in Russia and (Donald) Trump's (upcoming) administration is also friendly towards us," he maintained. Yesterday, the foreign ministry said Pakistan and Russia "discussed whole range of regional issues as well as key areas of mutual interest." "These included economic cooperation and connectivity. The two sides also exchanged views on important global and regional developments," a foreign ministry statement said. The statement said the two sides decided that the next round of consultations will be convened in Moscow next year.*

## EDITORIALS AND OPINION

**The Burden Of Aid, Editorial, *The Nation*, December 4<sup>26</sup>**

Aid from the US is in a downward spiral, even as US House of Representatives passed a defence bill that pledges USD 900 million in assistance to Pakistan on Friday, down from 1.3 billion last year, and 2 billion before that. *The aid, as usual, is tied to action against the Haqqani Network. The US is clearly frustrated with the lack of action not only with the Haqqani Network, but also over Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad who allegedly orchestrated attacks in India - the country that is actually the unacknowledged problem.* Since its inception, Pakistan has allied itself with the US in an effort to bolster its position in the region to become equal to India, and the US has not let it, nor has it helped Pakistan in times of crisis including the three wars with India and the Kashmir dispute. If US expectations were not met after 9/11, Pakistan's expectations were continually strangled by the US since the 50s.

*[...]Why does Pakistan accept money when it does not intend to meet conditions? Will the Haqqanis be dealt with this time around? It is unlikely. There is a clear divergence of interests- the US wants the Haqqanis gone and Pakistan wants Indian aggression checked- and it is creating frustration and*

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<sup>25</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/15-Dec-2016/pakistan-russia-hold-consultation-on-regional-issues>

<sup>26</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/04-Dec-2016/the-burden-of-aid>

*hate in America for its long time ally.* Dependence on US aid must be decreased. Aid does not have a causal impact on development and peace in Pakistan and getting aid while not getting the terrorist is only creating a bad image abroad.

**China at the centre**, Shahid Javed Burki, *The Express Tribune*, December 4<sup>27</sup>

A world disillusioned by the rise of Donald Trump in the US and his strong preference for extreme rightist views will no doubt look for other leaders in the global system. Would China be prepared to play that role? [...] *Beijing is entering the space created by the likely withdrawal of the US from a leadership role in international trade. With the US under Trump not inclined to use its considerable economic and military leverage to stay involved in world affairs, Beijing sees an opportunity.* [...] China's various moves to create a larger presence in the global system is more of a zero-sum game than was the case when, during the years of the Cold War, the US and the Soviet Union competed for global dominance. Moscow was kept out of the many parts of the global system. While it was in the UN Security Council it was not allowed to join other global institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group. China is in these institutions and will be more effective in competing with the US from within the system rather than from the outside.

**Heart of Asia**, Editorial, *The Dawn*, December 5<sup>28</sup>

*THE Heart of Asia conference was not expected to yield any significant bilateral or multilateral breakthroughs. Among India, Afghanistan and Pakistan, the former two countries have diplomatically and verbally attacked the latter a great deal in recent months* — driving a stake through the heart of the conference. Regional stability, let alone cooperation to counter common security threats, will remain an illusion unless the major regional powers embrace dialogue. In sending foreign affairs adviser Sartaj Aziz to Amritsar, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif made the right decision; it was a clear signal that Pakistan seeks to address all regional problems through dialogue. [...] It made for riveting headlines, but in truth may have only set back further the cause of stability and peace in the region. The good faith in which Mr Aziz went to Amritsar was not reciprocated. Now the challenge for the government here will be to determine how to proceed in a hostile regional environment. While the PML-N government has had a coherent message on both Afghanistan and

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<sup>27</sup> <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1253361/china-centre-world-order/>

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1300540/heart-of-asia>



India, it has not had much by way of strategy. It has neither been able to build bridges with the two countries nor persuade hawks at home, including in the military establishment, to adopt a more sensible approach. While dialogue is and should be the only path, there must be an understanding here of how to further discussions in an atmosphere where the Afghan and Indian leaderships are explicitly rejecting this path.

**A close-up of HoA Conference**, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, December 5<sup>29</sup>

*On the face of it, the experience was not all that pleasant for Pakistan as the host, India and the main protagonist of the Heart of Asia (HoA) Conference, Afghanistan used the multilateral meet in Amritsar to gang up against Pakistan in order to vent their respective self-serving anti-Islamabad tirade. [...] Though the Indian media played up the mention of terrorism in the Declaration to mean putting Pakistan in the dock, a closer reading of the relevant point makes it very clear that it favours Pakistan, one of the world's major victims of terrorism rather than castigates it.*

**Heart Of Darkness**, Editorial, *The Nation*, December 5<sup>30</sup>

*The Heart of Asia conference has seen more productive years; when its members still had working relationships with each other, and international interest in Afghanistan was stronger. Yet the present one, held in Amritsar, could still have served as a platform to collectively address the task of rebuilding Afghanistan, and to mend these diplomatic breakdowns to some extent – even if there was a scant chance of that practically happening. However, the conference was spent deepening this divide and scoring political points, courtesy of the lead set by the Indian Prime Minister. The Pakistani delegate to the conference, Foreign Advisor Sartaj Aziz, spent the moot holding out olive branches for his neighbouring countries to take, but none seemed interested. The Afghan President and the Indian Prime Minister both seemed intent on criticising Pakistan instead. [...] This desire to bash and humiliate seemed to be the driving force; reportedly Sartaj Aziz was ignored and seated apart from other delegates. This sort of petty antic may assuage Indian sentiments and appease domestic hawks in the context of the recent escalation of tension on the border, but beyond that it does nothing.*

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<sup>29</sup> <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1254331/close-hoa-conference/>

<sup>30</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/05-Dec-2016/heart-of-darkness>

**Changing ties**, Michael Krepon, *The Dawn*, December 11<sup>31</sup>

[...]Pakistan's ties to Beijing have never been stronger, while ties to Washington are once again troubled. Nothing symbolises this shift more than CPEC. [...] *Beijing does not have a track record of philanthropy with respect to foreign investments. CPEC is not a gift; it's a mutual opportunity, accompanied with interest rates. And Pakistan is in no position to drive hard bargains.* The upswing in China-Pakistan relations extends well beyond CPEC. Beijing is also helping Pakistan by placing road blocks before India's entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group and preventing the UN from adding Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar to its listing of terrorists. In contrast, the US Defence Authorisation Act passed by the Congress conditions half of the assistance given to Pakistan on demonstrable steps against terror groups. [...] *Islamabad, Washington, and even Beijing have something to lose from these dynamics. No matter how generous Chinese infrastructure and military support turn out to be for Pakistan, having one major power benefactor is half as good as having two. Washington will have less influence to change Pakistani choices for the better, and will now need more of Beijing's help with crisis management.*

**MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**Quetta carnage mastermind eliminated**, *The Express Tribune*, December 5<sup>32</sup>

*The mastermind of the August 8 carnage at the Civil Hospital and four other high-profile terrorists were killed in a raid in Pishin district on Monday (December 5).* Around 72 people – including 53 top lawyers of Balochistan – were killed when a suicide bomber blew himself up in the midst of a crowd of lawyers who had gathered at the hospital to mourn the fatal shooting of Bilal Anwar Kasi, the president of the Balochistan Bar Association. *“Jehangir Badini alias Ameer Sahab, the mastermind of the bombing, was among five militants killed in the raid in the Huramzai area of Pishin,”* Home Minister Sarfraz Bugti told a news conference at the Chief Minister's Secretariat where he was flanked by IGP Ahsan Mehboob and Home Secretary Akbar Harifal. Two Levies officials were also wounded in the operation, he said. However, he wouldn't share details of the raid.

**Seven Major Generals promoted**, *The News*, December 9<sup>33</sup>

Seven Major Generals of the Pakistan Army were promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General on Friday (December 9), according a a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). Major General Bilal Akbar, DG

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<sup>31</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1301695/changing-ties>

<sup>32</sup> <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1254700/mastermind-quetta-hospital-carnage-eliminated/>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/170889-Seven-Major-Generals-promoted-to-Lieutenant-General-ISPR>

Rangers (Sindh), who led an operation against criminal elements in Karachi was also among the officers promoted by the army. Below is the list of those who were promoted:

1. Major General Nadeem Raza, he is presently Commandant Pakistan Military Academy
- 2 Major General Humayun Aziz, He is presently DG W&R at General Headquarters
3. Major General Naeem Ashraf, He is presently posted at National Defence University
4. Major General Muhammad Afzal, He is presently DG FWO
5. Major General Sher Afgan, He is presently IG FC Balochistan
6. Major General Qazi Ikram, he is presently DG PS at GHQ
7. Major General Bilal Akbar, He is presently DG Rangers (Sindh)

**Bilal Akbar appointed Chief of General Staff, *The News*, December 11<sup>34</sup>**

Lt. Gen. Bilal Akbar has been appointed as the Chief of General Staff of Pakistan Army, according to the ISPR. According to details, appointments and transfers for several posts within Pakistan Army have been made. Lt. Gen. Bilal Akbar has been appointed as the Chief of General Staff while DG ISI Gen. Rizwan Akhtar has been appointed as the President of National Defence University. Meanwhile Lt. Gen. Asim Saleem Bajwa has been appointed as the Inspector General Arms at GHQ. Lt. Gen. Hidayat ur Rehman Inspector General Training and Evaluation (IGT&E) at GHQ. Here is the complete list of transfers and appointments that have taken place according to the ISPR:-

1. Lt Gen Bilal Akbar has been appointed Chief of General Staff.
2. Lt Gen Rizwan Akhtar presently DG ISI has been appointed President NDU.
3. Lt Gen Nazir Butt presently President NDU has been appointed Corps Commander Peshawar (11Corps).

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<sup>34</sup> <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/171314-Gen-Bilal-Akbar-appointed-Chief-of-General-Staff-ISPR>

4. Lt Gen Hidayat ur Rehman, presently Corps Commander Peshawar has been appointed Inspector General Training and Evaluation (IGT&E) at GHQ.
5. Lt Gen Asim Salim Bajwa, presently DG ISPR has been appointed Inspector General Arms (IG Arms) at GHQ. He was posted DG ISPR in June 2012 and promoted Lt Gen in Sept 2015.
6. Newly promoted Lt Gen Hamayun Aziz has been appointed Inspector General C&IT at GHQ.
7. Newly promoted Lt Gen Qazi Ikram has been appointed Chief of Logistic Staff at GHQ.
8. Newly promoted Lt Gen Sher Afgun has been posted 31 Corps Commander (Bahawalpur).
9. Newly Promoted Lt Gen Muhammad Afzal will continue as DG FWO.
10. Newly promoted Lt Gen Naeem Ashraf has been appointed Chairman Heavy Industries Taxila (HIT).

**Lt. Gen. Naveed Mukhtar made ISI chief**, *The News*, December 11<sup>35</sup>

*Pakistan Army on Sunday (December 11) announced the appointment of Lieutenant General Naveed Mukhtar as the Director General (DG) of Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) succeeding Lt. Gen Rizwan Akhtar.* An ISPR statement announced the major transfers and postings, days after Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa assumed charge as Chief of Army Staff. According to details, appointments and transfers for several posts within Pakistan Army have been made. Former DG Rangers Sindh Lt Gen Bilal Akbar has been appointed as the Chief of General Staff and Lt General Rizwan Akhtar Baig (former DG ISI) as President National Defence University.

**Sandhurst's first Pakistani instructor**, *The Dawn*, December 13<sup>36</sup>

An officer from the Pakistan Army has returned to his alma mater, the Royal Military College at Sandhurst, to help train its cadets to fight militants. Major Uqbah Malik - a graduate of the college - has become the first instructor from the Pakistan Army in Sandhurst's 300-year history, the BBC Asian Network reported. Malik graduated from Sandhurst in 2007 and returned to his battalion

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<sup>35</sup> <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/171319-Lt-Gen-Naveed-Mukhtar-appointed-as-ISI-chief#>

<sup>36</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1301882/mqm-sitting-on-ice-block-melting-away-because-of-influx-into-city>

in Waziristan, part of the 1st Sindh Regiment. "Pakistan's role, as the world knows and acknowledges now, has been instrumental, in countering insurgency in that region," he said. His decade-long experience fighting in conflict zones in Pakistan has equipped him with the leadership skills, which, he said, is one of the most important things a cadet can possess. "When you're in the thick of the bullets, when you see your life in danger and your troops' life in danger, [your] real leadership skill needs to come out," Malik said.

**Army Chief vows to break terror nexus, *The News*, December 13<sup>37</sup>**

*Chief of Army Staff, General Qamar Javed Bajwa has vowed that nexus between terrorists in remote areas and their facilitators in urban centres will be severed whatever the amount of effort and time, ISPR said Monday (December 12).* According to a statement issued here by Inter Services Public Relations, General Qamar Bajwa spent his day at Corps Headquarters Peshawar on Monday (December 12) for an in depth briefing on current state of security operations and the way forward in FATA, KPK and Malakand Divisions. Appreciating the gains of counter terrorism operations so far, General Qamar Bajwa said that focus must remain on indiscriminate IBOs, combing ops for stabilization and consolidation. "Nexus between terrorists in remote areas and their facilitators in urban centres will be severed whatever the amount of effort and time".

**Army will stand by tribals of Fata, *The Dawn*, December 13<sup>38</sup>**

*Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Monday (December 12) said the army will stand by the tribal people of Fata and work with the government to bring about equitable development across the region, said a statement released by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).* The newly-appointed army chief made the remarks while visiting Corps Headquarters Peshawar, where he was briefed about the current state of security operations in Fata, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Malakand divisions. General Bajwa said the focus must remain on indiscriminate intelligence-based and combing operations for stabilization and consolidation of gains achieved.

**Mohammad Saeed appointed Rangers chief, *The Nation*, December 14<sup>39</sup>**

*Major General Mohammad Saeed has been appointed as director general of Sindh Rangers, said the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Wednesday (December 13).* The statement added that Major General Nadeem Anjum has

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<sup>37</sup> <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/171546-Army-Chief-vows-to-break-nexus-between-terrorists-facilitators>

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1302064/army-will-stand-by-tribals-of-fata-work-with-govt-for-development-in-region-coas>

<sup>39</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/14-Dec-2016/maj-gen-mohammad-saeed-appointed-dg-rangers-sindh>

been appointed as inspector general of Frontier Corps in Balochistan. Both Mohammad Saeed and Nadeem Anjum were promoted to Major General from the rank of Brigadier in January 2016.

## EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

**The reshuffle**, Editorial, *The News*, December 14<sup>40</sup>

The new army chief, Qamar Javed Bajwa, is quickly moving to stamp his own identity on the Pakistan Army by carrying out a major reshuffle days after taking over from Gen Raheel Sharif. *The most significant change was the replacement of ISI chief Lt-Gen Rizwan Akhtar by Lt-Gen Naveed Mukhtar. ISI heads usually serve for three years but Akhtar has been replaced only two years into his tenure and will now be the president of the National Defence University.* Mukhtar was previously heading the counterterrorism wing of the spy agency and his appointment signals that India and Afghanistan will be a priority of the new army chief. [...] *The ISI DG and the chief of general staff may be the two most important positions in the army after the army chief himself and it is interesting that both positions have been filled by men who were serving in Karachi.* Mukhtar was the corps commander in the city while Akbar was serving with the Rangers. Both have worked together in Karachi and so should find it easier to cooperate with each other in Rawalpindi. All these transfers show that Gen Qamar Bajwa is keen to mould the army in his own image. The army chief himself is considered to be easygoing and quick with a one-liner but the speed with which he has moved shows that he will be a man of action.

## ECONOMIC ISSUES

### CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

**Special force set up to guard sea lanes**, *The Dawn*, December 12<sup>41</sup>

*Pakistan Navy has assembled 'Task Force-88' (TF-88) for the seaward security of Gwadar port and protection of associated sea lanes against both conventional and non-traditional threats.* The creation of the special maritime force had been necessitated by the operationalisation of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which is expected to lead to a surge in maritime activity at Gwadar — the nodal point for CPEC — and the sea lanes. This has in turn increased the maritime susceptibilities there. *A senior PN official said the TF-88 would comprise ships, Fast Attack Craft, aircraft, drones (unmanned aerial vehicles), and surveillance assets. Additionally, marines would be deployed at*

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<sup>40</sup> <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/171642-The-reshuffle>

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1301970/special-force-set-up-to-guard-gwadar-ports-sea-lanes>

*sea and around Gwadar for security operations.* “The task force would be a force multiplier for overall security of CPEC.

**‘Crown of CPEC’ to bring prosperity**, *The Nation*, December 14<sup>42</sup>

*CJCSC Gen Zubair Mehmood Hayat yesterday said Pakistan’s economy will be strengthened from the Gwadar port, which he termed ‘the crown of the CPEC’. He hoped that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor along with the new port would also usher in an era of prosperity in the entire region.* The Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) was in Gwadar along with other members of the military top brass and a large number of civilian and Chinese officials to attend launch of a special force for CPEC maritime security and a two-day international maritime moot.

**‘CPEC reviving loss-making entities’**, *The Dawn*, December 14<sup>43</sup>

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Tuesday (December 13) asked the Privatisation Commission to remove the State Engineering Corporation (SEC) from the list of organisations to be privatised as its otherwise loss-making subsidiaries are set to become profitable after the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). This is the second time in a week when a loss-making entity has expressed the hope of its revival because of the CPEC. [...] On Tuesday (December 13), the managing director of the SEC and the Heavy Electrical Complex (HEC), another subsidiary of SEC, informed a PAC subcommittee that its sister entity, the Pakistan Machine Tool Factory (PMTF), would also become profitable as the security division created by the army to safeguard CPEC was emerging as its major client. He said earlier PMTF was selling weapons, including anti-tank guns, to the army but a few years ago the military leadership decided to procure the weapons through another source. This resulted in the sudden drop of PMTF’s production making it a loss-making entity, he added. The official, however, expressed the hope that the security division established for CPEC by the army would alone purchase weapons worth Rs700 million from the organisations in the current fiscal year.

## EDITORIALS AND OPINION

**Imminent Drought**, Editorial, *The Nation*, December 12<sup>44</sup>

*Gwadar, one of the keys to the country’s prosperity, still has many major problems that need to be addressed before it becomes one of Pakistan’s most economically active cities. One of the most major issues facing Gwadar’s development currently is an acute shortage of water that threatens to hit the city in two weeks.* Its main source of water, the Anarka Kaur Dam has reached

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<sup>42</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/14-Dec-2016/crown-of-pec-to-bring-prosperity>

<sup>43</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1302205/pec-reviving-loss-making-entities>

<sup>44</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/12-Dec-2016/imminent-drought>

the dead level, and it is hoped that the provincial authorities in Quetta's move to divert water from other sources will lead to the crisis being averted. The future of Pakistan's economic development has Gwadar as one of the centrepieces, a potential hub of trade and economic activity. But that can only happen if the port city has the provision of basic needs such as water and electricity, neither of which the city seems to have currently.

## **SECURITY SITUATION**

### **TERRORISM**

**Haqqanis enjoy sanctuary in Pak: Nicholson, *The News*, December 4<sup>45</sup>**

The Haqqani Network continues to pose the greatest threat to US troops in Afghanistan, a top US commander based in the war torn country said in Washington underlining the terror outfit uses Pakistan as a safe haven and remains America's principal concern. *"The Haqqanis still pose greatest threat to Americans and to our coalition partners and to the Afghans," General John Nicholson, Commander of US and Nato forces in Afghanistan, told reporters during a news conference here on Saturday. "The Haqqanis hold five American citizens hostages right now. I think this is worth remembering as we think about the Haqqani Network. They remain a principal concern of ours. And they do enjoy sanctuary inside Pakistan," Nicholson said during a Pentagon news conference.* Nicholson said he is looking forward to meeting the new Pakistani Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa. "I'll meet him upon my return to the region next week," he said.

**Taliban demands for cash stir fears of comeback, *The News*, December 12<sup>46</sup>**

When Pakistani shopkeeper Abdur Rahim's phone rang in mid-October, he was shocked to hear the voice of a senior militant commander demanding protection money from him and his fellow traders in the Swat Valley. The menacing call was taken seriously in a northern pocket of the country where Pakistani Taliban insurgents took partial control in 2007, before being ousted two years later in a major military operation hailed as a telling blow against Islamist violence. Locals fear that recent threats of extortion and a spate of targeted killings earlier this year mark an attempt by the Taliban to regain a foothold in the picturesque, mountainous area they once ruled with an iron fist.

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<sup>45</sup> <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/169703-Haqqani-Network-enjoys-sanctuary-in-Pakistan-claims-US-commander>

<sup>46</sup> <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/171505-Taliban-demands-for-cash-stir-fears-of-comeback-in-Pakistans-Swat-Valley>



## KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND FATA

**12 suspected terrorists killed, *The Dawn*, December 5<sup>47</sup>**

*At least 12 suspected terrorists were reportedly killed in air strikes in the Rajgal valley area of Khyber Agency on Sunday (December 4), Dawn News reported.* According to security sources several hideouts were also destroyed in the air strikes. Pakistan Air Force jets precisely targeted militant hideouts in Rajgal valley in which 12 militants were killed and several hideouts were destroyed, said security officials. [...] *The number of attacks in Pakistan has fallen around 70 per cent this year, due to a combination of a military offensive against Taliban bases along the Afghan border and government initiatives to tackle militancy.*

**Minor girl killed in North Waziristan, *The Dawn*, December 13<sup>48</sup>**

At least one minor girl died and three others sustained injuries in a roadside blast in Spinwam tehsil of North Waziristan on Monday (December 12), DawnNews reported. Security sources said the Improvised Explosive Device (IED) was planted next to the school gate which went off when the gate was opened. [...] *According to official statements, over 3,500 militants have been killed in operation Zarb-i-Azb, while the offensive forced over a million civilians to vacate their homes and move to settled areas of the country. The number of attacks in the country has fallen around 70 per cent but attacks on security and civilian targets continue to occur occasionally.*

## BALUCHISTAN

**Huge cache of arms recovered in Kohlu, *The Nation*, December 3<sup>49</sup>**

*A huge cache of arms was recovered in Manda area of district Kohlu on Friday (December 2).* According to Levies sources, security personnel seized a large quantity of arms while operating on a tip-off. Nine rocket launchers, mortars shells, 10 hand grenades, satellite phones, anti-aircraft gun along with 1,760 rounds were recovered, said the sources. While raids for the arrest of culprits were being conducted at various locations, they added. Balochistan Home Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti lauding the action of Levies personnel and announced Rs100,000 cash prize for them.

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<sup>47</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1300466/12-suspected-terrorists-killed-in-khyber-agency-air-strikes>

<sup>48</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1302041/minor-girl-killed-in-north-waziristan-roadside-blast>

<sup>49</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/03-Dec-2016/huge-cache-of-arms-recovered-in-kohlu>

**Three custom officials freed in Pasni, *The Nation*, December 4<sup>50</sup>**

*Three custom officials abducted by unknown men were recovered on Saturday (December 3), Levies officials said.* The custom officials who have been kidnapped yesterday were freed near Pasni. Among those kidnapped were Inspector Abdul Malik, constables Muhammad Yaqoob and Hafeez. No one claimed responsibility for the abduction.

**Gwadar suffers from water crunch, *The Express Tribune*, December 8<sup>51</sup>**

Gwadar, whose deep sea port is the terminal point of the multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), is fast emerging as a city of great strategic importance in the region. *Yet this evolving city suffers from huge civic problems, including extreme scarcity of potable water. Water is a rare commodity in Gwadar and its adjoining areas which often depend on water sources, located hundreds of kilometres away from the city.* Residents of the city say their water supplies are too haphazard, restricted to just an hour every week. But sometimes supplies are available only after two weeks. The entire population depends on rain-filled Ankara Kaur Dam on the outskirts of Gwadar.

**Gwadar's drinking water hits dead level, *The Express Tribune*, December 10<sup>52</sup>**

Water stored in the Ankara Kaur dam, the main source of drinking water supply to Gwadar and its surrounding areas, has fallen to the dead level, sending warning signals to the officials concerned to make alternative arrangements for meeting the demands of locals. Gwadar Deputy Commissioner Tufail Ahmed Baloch told this to a high-level meeting which was chaired by Provincial Chief Secretary Saifullah Chattha in Quetta on Thursday (December 8). He asked the provincial government to adopt an alternative plan for ensuring water supply to the residents of Gwadar. After discussing the alarming situation, the chief secretary immediately issued instructions to the departments concerned to ensure water supply to local residents using a fleet of tankers from the Belar dam and Shadi Kaur near Pasni.

**Nine injured in grenade attack, *The Dawn*, December 13<sup>53</sup>**

*Nine people were injured on Monday (December 12) when suspected militants attacked the office of National Party (NP) in Balochistan's Turbat district, police officials said.* The attackers lobbed a hand grenade inside the NP office

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<sup>50</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/04-Dec-2016/three-custom-officials-freed-in-pasni>

<sup>51</sup> <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1256981/cpecs-terminal-end-despite-rising-status-gwadar-suffers-water-crunch/>

<sup>52</sup> <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1259063/impending-water-crisis-gwadar-ankara-kaur-dam-hits-dead-level/>

<sup>53</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1302046/nine-injured-in-grenade-attack-on-national-partys-office-in-turbat>

targeting the workers inside, officials said. Three NP workers were seriously injured whereas three others suffered minor injuries. The blast also caused damage to the office. [...]The president of National Party, Senator Mir Hasil Bizenjo has condemned the incident and termed it as an act of terrorism. "We will not bow down before the elements playing in the hands of foreign powers," said Bizenjo.

**FC soldier killed in Quetta**, *The Nation*, December 14<sup>54</sup>

*Unidentified miscreants yesterday killed a Frontier Corps Balochistan soldier in Quetta.* According to details, unknown persons opened fire at the FC man in the Nawn Killi outskirts of Quetta and killed him instantly. The body of the security man was shifted to the FC hospital.

## PUNJAB

**Mob attacks Ahmadi place of worship**, *The Dawn*, December 13<sup>55</sup>

*A charged mob of around 1,000 people which reportedly besieged an Ahmadi place of worship in Chakwal was dispersed by police on Monday (December 12), officials said.* The place of worship located in the limits of the Chowas Saidan Shah police station area in Chakwal's Dhalmial district was 'attacked' by nearly 1,000 people, according to the Jamaat-i-Ahmaddiya Pakistan Spokesperson Saleem-ud-Din. Saleem-ud-Din said a mob armed with batons and weapons was throwing stones and firing on the premises. The mob was "attempting to seize Ahmadiyya property," he said.

**Two die in attack on Ahmadi place of worship**, *The Nation*, December 14<sup>56</sup>

*Police have arrested at least 27 persons belonging to Ahl-e-Sunnat and more than dozens from Ahmadi community in connection with a bloody clash that took place outside an Ahmadi place of worship (Darul Zikr) located in Dawalmial village of Chakwal on eve of Eid Miladun Nabi (PBUH), well-placed sources told The Nation on Tuesday (December 13).* On Monday (December 12), a charged mob besieged an Ahmadi place of worship in Chakwal and at least two persons were killed and more than three others were injured during a crossfire before a heavy contingent of police and army personnel brought the situation under control. The sources said the law enforcers were patrolling the village to stop further clashes.

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<sup>54</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/14-Dec-2016/fc-soldier-killed-in-quetta>

<sup>55</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1302057/mob-besieging-ahmadi-place-of-worship-in-chakwal-dispersed-by-police>

<sup>56</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/14-Dec-2016/two-die-in-attack-on-ahmadis-place-of-worship>

## SINDH

**Five Taliban militants rounded up**, *The News*, December 9<sup>57</sup>

*Police claimed to have foiled a major terror bid in Karachi and apprehended five terrorists affiliated to proscribed outfit late on Thursday night (December 8).* Police on credible information launched an action in Orangi Town No.11 and rounded up five terrorists affiliated to Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). The suspected militants have been identified as Shahzad, Noor Muhammad, Abdul Mannan, Arsalan Khan and Salman Khan.

**Police want 93 seminaries under fourth schedule**, *The Dawn*, December 12<sup>58</sup>

*The Sindh police have proposed to the provincial government to place the names of more than 90 seminaries in different cities and districts under the fourth schedule of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) to monitor their 'affairs' and 'other' activities due to their suspected terror links, it emerged on Sunday (December 11).* The proposal came days after the Sindh government directed the law enforcement agencies to crack down on drug dealers and seminaries which had links with terrorists or banned outfits. It interestingly also incorporated the provincial government's decision to register all immigrants living in the metropolis, including slum areas, and on its outskirts and develop their complete database and constituted 15 teams to launch this exercise.

**Blast 'targets Chinese engineer'**, *The Nation*, December 14<sup>59</sup>

*A 'low-intensity' blast has been reported targeting the Chinese engineer, injuring two near the National Highway in Sukkur, Waqt News reported.* According to initial reports, at least two people have been injured in the blast and the engineer remained unhurt in the explosion. According to the police statement, "Unknown accused attacked a Chinese engineer's vehicle near Rohri. Rescue teams moved [to the location]."

## RELATIONS WITH INDIA

**Pakistan will never leave Kashmir: PM**, *The Nation*, December 3<sup>60</sup>

*Pakistan will continue extending moral, political, and diplomatic support to the peaceful freedom struggle of the people of Kashmir. This was stated by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, while congratulating PML-N candidates Sardar Abdul Khaliq Wassi and Chaudhry Muhammad Siddiq for their victory in Azad Kashmir Council elections. He said Pakistan will not forget the people of*

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<sup>57</sup> <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/170751-Five-Taliban-militants-rounded-up-in-Karachi>

<sup>58</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1301885/police-want-93-sindh-seminaries-placed-under-fourth-schedule-of-ata>

<sup>59</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/14-Dec-2016/blast-heard-on-national-highway-sukkur>

<sup>60</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/03-Dec-2016/pakistan-will-never-leave-kashmiris-at-mercy-of-brutal-indian-forces-says-pm>

Kashmir, who are facing brute Indian atrocities to achieve their birth right to self-determination. The Prime Minister urged the PML-N leaders to focus their energies for the development and progress of Azad Kashmir.

**Pakistan can wait if India does not want talks: Basit, *The Nation*, December 3<sup>61</sup>**

*Pakistan High Commissioner to New Delhi Abdul Basit on Friday (December 2) said that "Pakistan is not begging for dialogue. If India is not ready, we can always wait."* In a comprehensive interview with Indian newspaper "The Hindu", Abdul Basit discussing the increasing hostility between India and Pakistan highlighted "the need to break the impasse" between the two countries. *He said "Talking to each other is inevitable. Whether it happens one year down the road or three years down the road." Speaking in relation to the possibility of talks at the Heart of Asia conference, Basit said that Pakistan remains open to "any proposal for talks from the Indian side," adding during the conference attention must remain on Afghanistan. "Whether or not there are bilateral talks, our adviser is coming because Afghanistan is important for us, its stability and economy are important for us so we will participate constructively," Basit said. [...]*Basit added. He highlighted that in the past Pakistan has taken action against "proscribed" militant groups such as Jaish-i-Muhammad and Lashkar-i-Taiba. *About PM Modi's recent statement on Indus Water Treaty, Abdul Basit pointed out that Indus Water Treaty is a permanent treaty as it can neither be changed nor abandoned unilaterally.*

**Kashmir solution 'a must for lasting peace', *The Nation*, December 3<sup>62</sup>**

*Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa has said that LoC violations by India will be responded with full force, as he also stressed resolving 'the core issue' of Kashmir for a lasting peace in the region. "Each violation of any kind must be responded with full force in the most effective manner," said Gen Bajwa while talking to troops during his visit to the Line of Control (LoC) on Friday (December 2). He directed the troops to keep the highest level of vigil at all times and said that Indian aggressive posture solely aims to divert the attention of the world from atrocities being committed by its troops in Indian-occupied Kashmir. The army chief said that the core issue of Kashmir will have to be resolved between the two countries in the line with UN resolutions and*

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<sup>61</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/03-Dec-2016/pakistan-can-wait-if-india-does-not-want-talks-basit>

<sup>62</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/03-Dec-2016/kashmir-solution-a-must-for-lasting-peace>

aspirations of the people of Kashmir to achieve a lasting peace in the region. The army chief was given a briefing on the prevailing security situation along the LoC in the wake of recent violations and escalation by Indian troops.

**Delhi, Kabul plan air cargo link over Pakistan, *The Nation*, December 4<sup>63</sup>**

*India and Afghanistan are likely to announce an air cargo service on Saturday (December 3) to help increase trade that both say is stymied because of their tense political relations with Pakistan that lies between them.* Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi were meeting in the northern Indian city of Amritsar, a short distance from the Pakistan border, for the Heart of Asia conference aimed at stabilising Afghanistan. [...] *Officials say the focus of the air cargo service is to improve landlocked Afghanistan's connectivity to key markets abroad and boost the growth prospects of its fruit and carpet industries while it battles a deadly Taliban insurgency.* [...] An Indian government source attending the meeting in Amritsar said air cargo route details were still being worked out and could include Kandahar as a point of origin for shipping fruit directly to India. *Indian foreign ministry official Gopal Baglay, who oversees Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran, said several proposals were being discussed to improve Afghanistan's trade and transport links. "There have been many ideas on how to enhance connectivity, overcome current challenges and also expand the trade basket," he said.*

**India restricts salaries of Pak HC staffers, *The Nation*, December 4<sup>64</sup>**

Demonetisation has added further strain in Indo-Pak ties. Pakistan High Commission has given a note verbale, known as an informal protest in diplomatic parlance, as its staffers were facing difficulties in withdrawing salaries in dollars from the banks. Sources in the Pakistan Embassy told The New Indian Express that the diplomats and staffers posted in the High Commission were asked to produce documents to support the need for the withdrawal of money. *"We have not been asking for anything unusual. The bank not only asked us to produce documents they also refused to give me more than \$1,000," one of the officials said. The salary accounts of the Pakistan High Commission staff are in RBL Bank, an Indian private bank. As per norms, diplomats can withdraw up to \$5000 without giving any reasons. Pakistan has alleged that the development has nothing to do with demonetisation as missions of other countries are not facing such problems.* The High Commission has called this a breach of Vienna Protocol and considering the trajectory of the ties between the two countries, this could have retaliatory repercussions for Indian Embassy staffers in Islamabad.

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<sup>63</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/04-Dec-2016/delhi-kabul-plan-air-cargo-link-over-pakistan>

<sup>64</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/04-Dec-2016/india-restricts-salaries-of-pak-hc-staffers>

**India's efforts will not go very far: Sartaj**, *The Express Tribune*, December 5<sup>65</sup>  
*Hours after attending the Heart of Asia conference in Amritsar, Adviser to PM on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz said on Sunday (December 4) that India's efforts to divide Afghanistan and Pakistan will not go far as "we are next-door neighbours". "We don't need any pressure on counter terrorism because we have done more than any other country to eliminate it," he told reporters in Islamabad. "Our relations with Afghanistan stand independently... there is a lot interaction because we are next-door neighbours...India's efforts to divide us will not go very far."*

**Ghani, Modi lash out at Pakistan in Amritsar**, *The Dawn*, December 5<sup>66</sup>

*Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi joined hands to lash out at Pakistan on terrorism as the subject took centre stage at the inauguration of the sixth Heart of Asia ministerial conference on Sunday (December 4) in Amritsar. The theme of the conference is 'enhanced cooperation for countering security threats and promoting connectivity in the Heart of Asia region', and speculation was rife that India and Afghanistan would seek to pin Pakistan on terrorism. Ashraf Ghani opened the conference by snubbing a \$500 million pledge from Pakistan for development projects in Afghanistan, saying Afghanistan 'needs aid to fight terrorism', Times of India reported. "We need to identify cross-border terrorism and a fund to combat terrorism. Pakistan has pledged \$500m for Afghanistan's development. This amount can be spent to contain extremism," Ghani said, directly addressing Foreign Affairs Adviser Sartaj Aziz who was in attendance at the two-day moot. [...]Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his opening remarks termed terrorism "the biggest threat to Afghanistan's peace and the region," Indian media reported. Although the Indian premier did not refer explicitly to Pakistan in his speech at the Heart of Asia conference, Modi has vowed to step up a drive to isolate Pakistan diplomatically following the Uri army base attack in September, which it blames on Pakistan – an allegation Islamabad denies. [...]Addressing the moot, Modi said, "We must counter terrorists and their masters. We must demonstrate strong collective will to defeat terror network that cause bloodshed and spread fear." "Silence and inaction on terror in*

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<sup>65</sup> <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1253033/modi-ghani-take-swipe-pakistan-heart-asia-conference/>

<sup>66</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1300452/ghani-modi-lash-out-at-pakistan-on-terrorism-at-heart-of-asia-moot-in-amritsar>

*Afghanistan and the region will only embolden terrorists and masters and those fund them," he said.*

**Simplistic to blame one country for violence: Aziz, *The Dawn*, December 5<sup>67</sup>**

*The Heart of Asia conference concluded in Amritsar on Sunday (December 4) on an unhappy note for Pakistan, which was criticised roundly as a base for militant groups whom the conference statement described as a big threat to peace and security in the region. The statement named Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed and the Haqqani group as posing threats to region together with other groups fomenting terrorism in the neighbourhood and beyond. Foreign Affairs Adviser Sartaj Aziz countered the claim, calling the criticism 'simplistic'. However, there was relief for Pakistan as the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan too came up for criticism together with Jundullah. [...]"We remain concerned by the gravity of the security situation in Afghanistan in particular and the region and the high level of violence caused by the Taliban, terrorist groups, including ISIL/DAISH and its affiliates, the Haqqani network, Al Qaeda, Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, East Turkistan Islamic Movement, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, TTP, Jamaatul Ahrar, Jundullah and other foreign terrorist fighters," the statement said.*

**WB urges Pak, India to resolve disputes amicably, *The News*, December 13<sup>68</sup>**

*The World Bank today announced a pause in the separate processes initiated by India and Pakistan under the Indus Waters Treaty to allow the two countries to consider alternative ways to resolve their disagreements, a statement said on Tuesday (December 13). The announcement temporarily halts the appointment of a Neutral Expert, as requested by India, and the Chairman of the Court of Arbitration, as requested by Pakistan, to resolve issues regarding two hydroelectric power plants under construction by India along the Indus rivers system. Both processes initiated by the respective countries were advancing at the same time, creating a risk of contradictory outcomes that could potentially endanger the Treaty. "We are announcing this pause to protect the Indus Waters Treaty and to help India and Pakistan consider alternative approaches to resolving conflicting interests under the Treaty and*

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<sup>67</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1300553/aziz-says-its-simplistic-to-blame-one-country-for-violence>

<sup>68</sup> <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/171578-World-Bank-declares-pause-to-protect-Indus-Waters-Treaty>



*its application to two hydroelectric power plants," said World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim.*

**Lull in LoC exchanges raises hope**, *The Nation*, December 14<sup>69</sup>

*A lull in cross Line of Control (LoC) exchanges between Pakistan and India has raised hopes for calm along the LoC in Kashmir and working boundary after weeks of exchanges of fire that caused casualties on both sides, Chinese media has reported.* The escalation started after a group of suspected militants attacked an army base in Indian-controlled Kashmir in September, leaving 19 Indian soldiers dead, with Indian officials blaming the Pakistan-based "Jaish-e-Mohammad" group and hurling accusations at Pakistan. *Although guns had been silent along the LoC over the past two weeks, there has been no let-up in diplomatic tensions between the two countries and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi renewed his criticism of Pakistan in his speech at the Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference in Amritsar, India, on Dec. 4, Xinhua news agency said in a news analysis.*

**India asked to stop persecution of Kashmiris**, *The Nation*, December 15<sup>70</sup>

*Pakistan has said that no improvement in relations with India is expected as long as it does not change its negative attitude and stop persecution of defenceless Kashmiri people. Foreign Office spokesperson Nafees Zakaria stated this in an interview with Radio Pakistan.* He regretted that the Indian side has missed many opportunities of normalization of relations with Pakistan due to its negative attitude which it manifested by sabotaging the SAARC conference as well as the recently held BRICs and Heart of Asia moots. The spokesperson said that the ongoing movement in Occupied Kashmir cannot be linked with terrorism but it is the just struggle of local people for their right to self-determination. No other country gives weightage to Indian argument which links the movement with terrorism, he said.

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<sup>69</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/14-Dec-2016/lull-in-loc-exchanges-raises-hope-for-falling-tension-between-pakistan-india>

<sup>70</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/15-Dec-2016/india-asked-to-stop-persecution-of-kashmiris>

**EXCERPTS FROM URDU MEDIA & SELECT JIHADI LITERATURE**

**Unfounded expectations of the Opportunists**, Editorial, *Ummat*, December 1<sup>71</sup>

The new army Chief general Qamar Bajwa after taking over the command has said that he expects the situation on the LoC with India to improve. He also asked the journalists for proper reporting related to the issues of national security so that the morale of the Army can be maintained at a high level. He also said that if there would be no controversial reporting by the media then the Army would keep them in the loop on everything...

It was a matter of happiness for the countrymen that despite all the wishes of the opportunists, the replacement of the leadership in the Army was peaceful. The outgoing Army Chief General Raheel Sharif said in his speech that the situation in the region was tense and challenges for Pakistan had not ended. *The people who tried to find differences in approach between the old and new Army chiefs were of the view that the new Army Chief was in favour of better relations with India, which was supported by the [civilian] Government.*

However, this is not true. The outgoing Army Chief threatened India that it should not consider Pakistan's silence as its weakness. India has always disturbed peace but Pakistan Army was ready for any challenge. The new chief, General Qamar Bajwa chose not to say anything regarding India and Pakistan relations. Instead he, while talking to media persons, said that that he expected better situation along the LoC, which was the wish of every Pakistani....Internal challenges also demand our close attention.

*There is no contradiction between the statements of the two Army Chiefs. One has passed through tough challenges and other was coming with new expectations. Anyone trying to emphasise on differences between the two, is not a well-wisher of neither Pakistan nor Pakistanis.*

**General Bajwa on the move**, Editorial, *Jang*, December 2<sup>72</sup>

General Bajwa, after taking over as Army Chief, first went to the GHQ and paid tribute to the martyrs. Then he went to Peshawar and paid a visit to North-Waziristan. His visit to the fronts, immediately after assuming command, showed that General Bajwa was determined to eliminate terrorism from the country. [...] He also said that the war against terrorism would continue and there will be no reverses on the successes achieved so far....*However, we need to be careful about terrorists still hiding in Afghanistan.* Terrorism is indeed a

<sup>71</sup><http://ummat.net/2016/12/01/news.php?p=idr1.gif>

<sup>72</sup><http://e.jang.com.pk/12-02-2016/karachi/pic.asp?picname=225004>

nuisance in the country and the way the new Army Chief has taken it on, the nation feels proud about that.

**India trying to besiege Hafiz Saeed, *Ummat*, December 4<sup>73</sup>**

The cunning (*makkaar*) Modi Government is now trying to entrap Hafiz Saeed with the help of the new Trump administration. The audio tape of Hafiz Saeed talking to young Kashmir martyr Burhan Wani, one day before he achieved martyrdom, was recently aired by the Indian CNN News-18 channel on December 2 as part of this conspiracy. It is reported that Burhan Wani had asked Hafiz Saeed that Lashkar-e-Taiba and Hizbul Mujahidin should unite for *Jihad* against Indian security forces in Kashmir. According to the CNN News, from his jungle hideout Burhan had called Hafiz Saeed and the conversation was recorded by the Indian intelligence agencies in which Burhan Wani asked for more support from Lashkar-e-Toiba.

[...]The Modi Government has been after Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar from the very first day it assumed office and it is building pressure on the Obama administration to force Pakistan to act against both of them. So far, it has failed in its efforts. Now it has set up a full team in the US to influence the Trump administration to build pressure on Pakistan.

*Jammat-ud-Dawa* chief Hafiz Saeed has rejected the Indian allegation that he was talking to Burhan Wani in secret. Talking to *Ummat* he said that "Burhan Wani was a Mujahid politician of Kashmir. He was very strong. He was in touch with the Kashmiri political leadership and media. He wanted Kashmiris to unite and launch a strong independence movement. Even though he was killed, his wish has come true. Five months have passed since his death, but the independence movement in Kashmir is going strong.."

[...]On the question that India was trying to show that Kashmiri movement was being supported from outside, Hafiz Saeed said "The people of occupied Kashmir are always raising pro-Pakistan slogans; unfurling Pakistani flags, even in front of the Indian Army. I talk to all the Kashmiri leaders including Syed Ali Shah Gelani and Shabir Shah every day. Can this be labelled as interference? If Burhan Wani talked to me what is the big deal in that! We do not recognise the LoC; it is an arbitrary cease-fire line. The whole of Kashmir is one, which is a part of Pakistan."

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<sup>73</sup><http://ummat.net/2016/12/04/news.php?p=story2.gif>

**“The Reality about Haqqani network”**, Editorial, *Jang*, December 10<sup>74</sup>

Pakistan has already made grave sacrifices in its fight against terror. Still India and Afghanistan have been alleging that Pakistan is supporting terrorism. These are baseless and disappointing and meant to sabotage all efforts aimed at regional peace and stability.

America has also joined this anti-Pakistan enterprise with the deputy spokesperson on Foreign Affairs accusing Pakistan of allowing the Haqqani network of Taliban to operate out of its soil against Afghanistan. He said recently that Pakistan and Kabul should join hands to counter terrorism. *The Pak foreign office Spokesperson Nafees Zakaria responded to Washington, New Delhi and Kabul in the same way by saying that the bases of Al Qaida, TTP, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar and Haqqani Network were all operating in Afghanistan and the Indian intelligence agency RAW along with the Kabul Government was using Afghan territory for launching terrorism against Pakistan.* The fact that eight senior leaders of the Haqqani network were killed in Afghanistan proves the point that it is based in Afghanistan.....

Meanwhile, on his visit to New Delhi, American Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter declared India as America’s important defence partner after meeting Indian Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar. *This is a proof of the US-India-Afghanistan alliance which is a concern, not only for Pakistan but whole world. The deceleration released after the meeting mentioned that both the countries would strengthen bilateral defence cooperation and would not allow any state to sponsor terrorism in the region.*

*The text of the declaration reflects clearly that Pakistan remains the target of this alliance.* [...] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has been repeatedly saying that Pakistan wanted to cooperate with all countries for regional peace and stability. In this context, there is a contradiction about the allegation against Pakistan regarding the Haqqani Network and the reality on the ground, which needs to be cleared. Pakistan should pursue its national interest rather than engaging in the debate on who is a good or bad terrorist.

**Naval Task Force to protect Gwadar and CPEC**, Editorial, *Jang*, December 15<sup>75</sup>

Gwadar is important for Pakistan’s, economy and security. According to the Chief Minister of Baluchistan Nawab Sanuallah Zehri, CPEC was a game changer not only for Pakistan and China but for whole world. Because of this, some foreign powers are trying to sabotage the the project. In this context, to protect the Gwadar port and related Sea routes coming under the CPEC, the

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<sup>74</sup><http://e.jang.com.pk/12-10-2016/karachi/pic.asp?picname=229608>

<sup>75</sup><http://e.jang.com.pk/12-15-2016/karachi/pic.asp?picname=231904>

Pakistan Navy has created a special force which is a revolutionary step. This task force would comprise of ships, fighter jets and drones which would be equipped with advance weaponry...The armed forces of Pakistan and China have already taken the responsibility for the security of the project extending from Gwadar to Kashgar. The Pakistan Navy's special task forces will help in defeating the designs of the adversaries of Pakistan and China.

**The point of having such a custodian?** Editorial, *Ummat*, December 15<sup>76</sup>

The World Bank by rejecting arbitration between India and Pakistan has stopped acting on the requests of the countries. The World Bank was the custodian of the Indus Water Treaty. Pakistan had asked the World Bank to look into the issue of *Kishanganga* dam being constructed by India, in violation of the principles of the treaty. While India had asked for neutral expert, Pakistan had sought to take the issue to the permanent court of arbitration. The World Bank has now rejected both the requests saying that India and Pakistan should resolve the issues between themselves.

[...] *Whether it is the United Nations, the World Bank, or any other financial institution or international forum, Pakistan should realise that no one is going to stand with it against India.* If the World Bank, the custodian of the Indus-Water Treaty, has now decided against taking impartial decision against India's hydro-aggression (*aabi dehshatgardi*) then what is the point of having this institution as the custodian of such an important treaty? *To ask the two countries to resolve their issues bilaterally was equal to upholding India's position.* When India is not ready to resolve issues of water and Kashmir and did not accept arbitration by any third party, how are talks possible! In such circumstances, the role of the international institutions is quite disappointing especially when they support the aggressor. This is also a poor reflection on Pakistani diplomacy.

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<sup>76</sup><http://ummat.net/2016/12/15/news.php?p=idr1.gif>

## STATISTICS

### BOMBINGS, SHOOTINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES

(Select incidents culled out from the Pakistan media)

Place	Date	Description	Killed	Injured
<b>Balochistan</b>				
Pishin <sup>77</sup>	05/12/2016	Five militants killed	5	0
Turbat <sup>78</sup>	13/12/2016	Nine injured at NP office	0	9
Nawan Killi <sup>79</sup>	14/12/2016	Soldier killed	1	0
<b>KP &amp; FATA</b>				
Rajgal <sup>80</sup>	05/12/2016	12 killed in airstrikes	12	0
Spinwam <sup>81</sup>	13/12/2016	Minor killed in blast	1	3
<b>Punjab</b>				
Dawalmial <sup>82</sup>	14/12/2016	Two died in clash	2	3*
<b>Sindh</b>				
Sukkur <sup>83</sup>	14/12/2016	Two injured in blast	0	2

<sup>77</sup> <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1254700/mastermind-quetta-hospital-carnage-eliminated/>

<sup>78</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1302046/nine-injured-in-grenade-attack-on-national-partys-office-in-turbat>

<sup>79</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/14-Dec-2016/fc-soldier-killed-in-quetta>

<sup>80</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1300466/12-suspected-terrorists-killed-in-khyber-agency-air-strikes>

<sup>81</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1302041/minor-girl-killed-in-north-waziristan-roadside-blast>

<sup>82</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/14-Dec-2016/two-die-in-attack-on-ahmadis-place-of-worship>

<sup>83</sup> <http://nation.com.pk/national/14-Dec-2016/blast-heard-on-national-highway-sukkur>