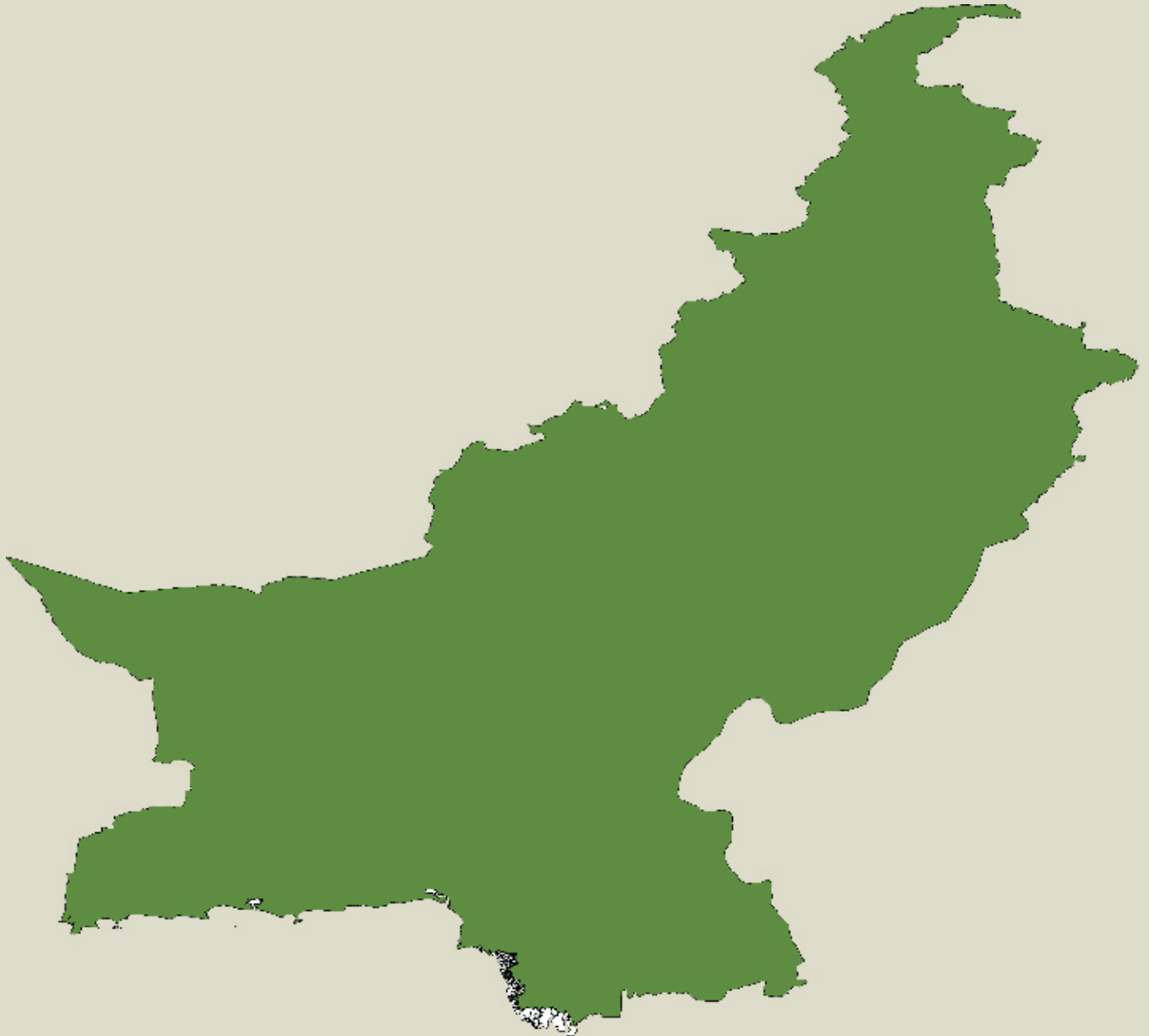


October (1-15) 2016

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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रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST, OCTOBER (1-15) 2016

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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

There seemed to be a hue and cry over India's surgical strike targeting terrorist launch-pads at several locations along the LoC. Both the security establishment and civilian leaders refused to acknowledge even the existence of strike. Instead they termed it cross-border raid. Pakistan's High Commissioner to India, Mr. Abdul Basit on record stated that no surgical strike had been conducted by the Indian military. It was only a cross-border firing. Both vernacular and English press took this line and argued that Indian claim was unfounded. The Pakistani side also resorted to their old propaganda that India was trying to divert international attention from human rights violations in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Besides condemning Indian action at the border, the "AJK" President Sardar Masood Khan argued that New Delhi was trying to hoodwink world opinion.

There seems to be no end in sight, as far as the Panama Paper leaks are concerned. Both, the opposition and the government is refusing to come down from their positions. PTI chairman Imran Khan again has asked his supporters to reach Islamabad on October 30 as part of his anti-corruption campaign. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, on his part, has asked the Election Commission to dismiss all applications before it as it lacks the power to hear such petitions. The opposition accused Nawaz Sharif of delaying and blocking the investigation.

The English daily Dawn columnist Cyril Almeida filed a report on October 6 which underlined the prevailing tensions in the civil-military relations. The report mentioned that in a meeting civilian government bluntly told the top military leadership that inaction against the militant was leading to Pakistan's international isolation. It also reported an extraordinary verbal confrontation between Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif and ISI DG Rizwan Akhtar. Soon after the publication of the report, Cyril Almeida's name was placed in the Exit Control List (ECL). The government denied the claims made in the report and the PMO termed the content of the report speculative, factually incorrect and misleading. The Dawn did not budge. It stood by the reporter and the story filed by him. There was a barrage of criticism in the English press against the action of the government. The whole drama around the Dawn report highlighted the nature of civil-military relations in Pakistan.

The controversy over the CPEC projects is often downplayed in Pakistan. The government claims it to be an all-out solution of Pakistan's all economic problems while the smaller provinces and their leadership demand their due share in the multibillion project. Recently, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif argued

that Balochistan province would turn out to be the major beneficiary of this project. Akhtar Jan Mengal, the Chief of Balochistan National Party-Mengal, contradicted Prime Minister and demanded that the federal government make all accords signed regarding Gwadar and CPEC public.

The apex court of Pakistan, during a hearing on Orange Line Train case, remarked that Pakistan was functioning like an empire. The Chief Justice of the top court even stated that the masses must stand up to the undemocratic attitude of the government. Earlier, PPP leader Aitzaz Ahasan had lashed out at the federal government for not taking enough action against the banned outfits.

Dr Ashish Shukla

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

NATIONAL POLITICS

Fazl rejects report of Fata reforms committee, *The Dawn*, October 3¹

JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has shown reservations over the report presented by Fata reforms committee in the Parliament, saying it includes incorrect statistics. He was addressing a 'Paigham-i-Aman conference' here (Timergra) on Sunday (October 2) that was attended by JUI workers and elders of Lower Dir, Upper Dir and Bajaur Agency. [...] The JUI-F chief said that tribal people were patriotic citizens of the country but they were displaced in the name of war against terrorism. He said that Fata was declared a hub of terrorism and tribesmen were tortured, displaced and insulted. Mr Rehman said that the future of Fata should be decided according to the wishes of tribal people.

Aitzaz called for action against banned outfits, *The Express Tribune*, October 6²

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Senator Aitzaz Ahsan has lashed out at the federal government for failing to implement National Action Plan in its true spirit to take action against "non-state actors [who are] operating freely in the country". *"The government has completely failed to implement NAP in reference to acting against non-state actors... until non-state actors keep [freely] taking out rallies in Islamabad, Lahore, Faisalabad and Karachi, [the government] will be accused of terror," Aitzaz told lawmakers while addressing a joint session of the National Assembly on Thursday (October 6). The PPP leader criticised the government for not categorically refuting the Indian accusations of Pakistani involvement in the Uri attack in held Kashmir. "Just saying Pakistan has nothing to do with Uri attack is not a categorical denial... [it is like] as if we are not completely sure whether our non-state actors were actually behind it."*

Bills against rape, honour killings passed, *The Express Tribune*, October 7³

As part of pro-women legislation, the Parliament unanimously passed on Thursday (October 6) the anti-honour and anti-rape bills. *Under the new law, relatives of the victim would only be able to pardon the killer of capital punishment, but they would still face a mandatory life sentence of twelve-and-a-half years.* In the anti-rape bill, a provision to conduct DNA tests on both the alleged victim and perpetrator has been added for the first time. Rape of minors, as well as the mentally and physically ill, would become punishable by death.

¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1287689/fazl-rejects-report-of-fata-reforms-committee>

² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1194512/aitzaz-ahsan-calls-action-banned-outfits/>

³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1194588/parliament-passes-bills-rape-honour-killings/>

Kingdom established in name of democracy: CJP, *The News*, October 13⁴

During hearing of Orange Line Train case, the Chief Justice of Pakistan remarked that an empire has been established in the name of democracy and the masses must stand up to this undemocratic attitude. A five-member bench comprising Chief Justice Anwar Zaheer Jamali, Justice Sh. Azmat Saeed, Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Justice Faisal Arab and Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan heard the case.

THE PANAMA PAPERS

Imran calls on public to reach Islamabad, *The Express Tribune*, October 6⁵

Days after the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief threatened to shut the capital following Muharram, Imran Khan has asked his supporters to reach the Islamabad on October 30 as part of his anti-corruption campaign. *“Do not be afraid of anything... step out on October 30,” he told reporters in the capital on Thursday (October 6).*

PM urges ECP to dismiss Panama Leaks petitions, *Daily Times*, October 10⁶

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has asked the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) – in a reply – to dismiss all the applications as it lacks powers to hear the petitions. Attorney General Salman Aslam Butt submitted the reply on behalf of the prime minister. The plea rejected all the allegations terming them false and unfounded. On the occasion, Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf’s (PTI) Counsel Hamid Khan said that the party hasn’t challenged the ECP’s jurisdiction and is ready to face it. PTI Spokesman Naeemul Haq said that government’s attitude on Panama Leaks clearly shows that ruling the party does not want to fight the case and applying delaying tactics.

Nawaz ‘blocking’ investigations: Bilawal, *Daily Times*, October 10⁷

Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto criticised Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for blocking every attempt at the Panama probe to protect himself on Monday (October 10). The PPP chairman lashed out at the prime minister as he said on Twitter that Nawaz is seeking disqualification of petitions submitted against him by opposition parties in light of the Panama Papers leak.

⁴ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/156887-Kingdom-established-in-name-of-democracy-CJP>

⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1194580/imran-calls-people-reach-islamabad-october-30/>

⁶ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/10-Oct-16/pm-urges-ecp-to-dismiss-panama-leaks-petitions>

⁷ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/10-Oct-16/nawaz-blocking-panama-leaks-investigations-bilawal>

PROVINCIAL POLITICS

MQM's London leadership 'sacks' Farooq Sattar, *The Dawn*, October 3⁸
Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM)'s London-based leadership on Sunday (October 2) announced the expulsion of MQM Pakistan leader Dr Farooq Sattar from the party in a statement shared by MQM leader Wasay Jalil. Wasay Jalil, and party leaders Mustafa Azizabadi, Qasim Ali Raza and Muhammad Ishfaq in a joint statement released by the party's London secretariat, announced that Dr Sattar had been expelled from the party due to "repeated betrayals to the party and the supreme leadership". [...] "Nadeem Nusrat, no one except him, is the elected convener of Muttahida Qaumi Movement and Farooq Sattar has been removed from basic party membership," said the statement.

PTI stages protest against Modi in FATA, *Daily Times*, October 6⁹
The activists of Pakistan Tehrek-e-Insaf (PTI) from Federally Administrated Tribal Areas (FATA) on Wednesday (October 5) staged a protest demonstration against the Indian forces and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the alleged Surgical Strikes inside Pakistani territory. The annoyed tribesmen carried placards and banners inscribed with anti-Modi and India slogans and chanted slogans in favour solidarity and stability of Pakistan. Haji Iqbal Afridi, central advisory council member PTI led the infuriated protesters.

Shahbaz asks other parties to show maturity, *Daily Times*, October 6¹⁰
Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif met Federal Railways Minister Kh Saad Rafique on Wednesday (October 5). Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said *that there was no room for politics of anarchy and confrontation in this present critical situation. He said that unity, consensus and solidarity were the needed and those involved in politics of confrontation should show a responsible attitude. He said that personal interests have no importance compared to national interests.*

Scotland Yard drops case against Altaf, *The News*, October 13¹¹
The Scotland Yard has decided to drop the money-laundering investigation involving Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) founder Altaf Hussain, Sarfraz Merchant, Muhammad Anwar and others. According to Geo/The News reporter Murtaza Ali Shah, the case has been dropped against Altaf Hussain,

⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1287546/mqms-london-leadership-sacks-farooq-sattar>

⁹ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/khyber-pakhtunkhwa/06-Oct-16/pti-stages-protest-against-modi-in-fata>

¹⁰ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/punjab/06-Oct-16/cm-asks-political-parties-to-show-maturity>

¹¹ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/156902-Scotland-Yard-drops-money-laundering-case-against-Altaf-others>

Sarfraz Merchant, Muhammad Anwar and others on the directives of Crown Prosecution Service. The case was dropped over insufficient evidence to prove that the money seized at Altaf's house was the proceeds of crime. Scotland Yard says no further action will be taken against Altaf in the money-laundering case.

EDITORIALS AND OPINION

Disjointed session, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, October 7¹²

It was meant to create the right optics. It started off well on the first day as the Prime Minister delivered a speech laced with some forceful one-liners. *On the second day sadly, the Joint Session of the Parliament became disjointed. The embarrassing spectacle of empty seats was compounded by the honourable members' vicious personal and partisan attacks on each other.* The intended unity over the Kashmir cause began to crumble in the din of shouting, sloganeering and desk thumping even as the Speaker tried to bring back the focus on the main issue. The damage however was done.

FOREIGN POLICY

UNSC not discussing Pak-India tensions: Russia, *The Nation*, October 5¹³

Russia's Ambassador to the United Nations Vitaly Churkin, who is the president of UN Security Council for October, declined to offer any comments on the growing tensions between India and Pakistan over Kashmir at his press briefing on Monday (October 3), saying the 15-member body has not been discussing the issue.

Refugees return in exodus from Pakistan: UNHCR, *The Nation*, October 5¹⁴

More than 200,000 Afghan refugees have been repatriated from Pakistan this year, nearly half of them in September alone, UNHCR said Tuesday (October 4), the highest number since the US toppled the Taliban in 2002. The tsunami of refugees returning to the war-torn country comes after Pakistan tightened its border controls in June and began cracking down on undocumented Afghans.

EU for Strengthening Relations, *Daily Times*, October 5¹⁵

Pakistan and the European Union (EU) welcomed the strengthening of relations between the two sides and agreed to elevate their partnership even further, according to a press release. They agreed on this during the third

¹² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1194663/disjointed-session/>

¹³ <http://nation.com.pk/national/05-Oct-2016/unsc-not-discussing-pak-india-tensions-russia>

¹⁴ <http://nation.com.pk/national/05-Oct-2016/200-000-refugees-return-in-exodus-from-pakistan-unhcr>

¹⁵ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/05-Oct-16/eu-suggests-dialogue-constructive-engagement-to-pakistan-india>

session of the EU-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue in Brussels on Tuesday (October 4) between Adviser on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz and high representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini, who is also vice president of the European Commission.

Russia frustrates Indian efforts, Md. Saleh Zafir, *The News*, October 10¹⁶

India's former ally, Russia has declined to support India on its fake surgical strike in Kashmir as the Russian government has disowned its ambassador in New Delhi who in a statement of last week supported India on so-called surgical strikes against Pakistan across the LoC in Kashmir. [...] Highly placed diplomatic sources told The News here on Sunday (October 9) that Pakistan agitated with Kremlin about the remarks of its ambassador in the Indian capital. Russia while responding to Pakistan has made it absolutely clear that the statement of its ambassador in New Delhi doesn't commensurate with the Russian position on the subject and it disapproved the observations of Ambassador Alexander Kadakin. [...] Alexander Kadakin welcomed Indian so-called raids on terrorist launch-pads across the LoC. Kadakin said the military exercise with Pakistan was in fact intended to encourage that country not to target its neighbour. "India should not be concerned about military exercises between Russia and Pakistan because the theme of the exercise is anti-terror fighting. That's in India's interests that we teach Pakistani Army not to use itself for terror attacks against India. We welcome the surgical strike. Every country has right to defend itself," Kadakin was quoted as having told an Indian news channel.

MILITARY AFFAIRS

Act against militants or face international isolation, *The Dawn*, October 6¹⁷

In a blunt, orchestrated and unprecedented warning, the civilian government has informed the military leadership of a growing international isolation of Pakistan and sought consensus on several key actions by the state. As a result of the most recent meeting, an undisclosed one on the day of the All Parties' Conference on Monday (October 3), at least two sets of actions have been agreed. First, ISI DG Gen Rizwan Akhtar, accompanied by National Security Adviser Nasser Janjua, is to travel to each of the four provinces with a message for provincial apex committees and ISI sector commanders. The message: military-led intelligence agencies are not to interfere if law enforcement acts against militant groups that are banned or until now considered off-limits for civilian action. [...] Second, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has directed that fresh attempts be made to conclude the Pathankot investigation and restart the

¹⁶ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/156228-Russia-frustrates-Indian-efforts-to-isolate-Pakistan>

¹⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1288350/exclusive-act-against-militants-or-face-international-isolation-civilians-tell-military>

stalled Mumbai attacks-related trials in a Rawalpindi antiterrorism court. *Those decisions, taken after an extraordinary verbal confrontation between Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif and the ISI DG, appear to indicate a high-stakes new approach by the PML-N government.*

Indian tyranny at its peak: Raheel, *The Express Tribune*, October 6¹⁸

Army chief General Raheel Sharif said on Thursday (October 6) that Indian tyranny in held-Kashmir had reached its peak. He made the remarks while addressing passing out PAF cadets at Risalpur. He called on the world to take notice of the situation. *“India is distorting facts to hide its atrocities in Kashmir which have crossed all limits,” General Raheel said.* The Army chief also made it clear that any aggression from the enemy would not go unpunished as the nation’s armed forces were prepared to respond to an entire spectrum of threats.

Agencies working in line: PM’s Office, *The Express Tribune*, October 7¹⁹

The spokesman of the Prime Minister’s Office has strongly rejected the story published in the Daily Dawn of October 6, 2016, regarding purported deliberations in a meeting on security issues. The spokesman has termed contents of the story not only speculative but misleading and factually incorrect. “It is an amalgamation of fiction and fabrication. The fact that the report itself states that none of the attributed statements were confirmed by the individuals mentioned in the story clearly makes it an example of irresponsible reporting.”

Raheel satisfied with operational preparedness, *The Dawn*, October 9²⁰

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Raheel Sharif on Sunday (October 9) expressed satisfaction over the operational preparedness of troops deployed along the Line of Control (LoC) in a visit to the area, said an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) statement.

Military denies seeking action against Almeida, *The News*, October 11²¹

Pakistan’s military has not demanded action against the Daily Dawn and its staffer who penned a report about a conversation between a ruling party leader and chief of the Inter-Services Intelligence at a high level security meeting that took place on Oct 7, Geo News quoted unnamed security officials as saying on

¹⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1194401/armed-forces-prepared-give-befitting-response-threats-general-raheel-sharif/>

¹⁹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1194909/agencies-working-line-state-policy-pms-office/>

²⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1289052/army-chief-gen-raheel-satisfied-with-operational-preparedness-of-troops-along-loc>

²¹ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/156595-Military-denies-seeking-action-against-Dawn-staffer-report>

Tuesday (October 11)). *"We have never sought action against the newspaper and the journalist, we haven't asked for putting anybody on ECL" Shahzeb Khanzada, host of Geo News current affairs show, quoted the military sources as saying. The military officials said action was sought against those who leaked the highly sensitive information from an important meeting instead of those who reported the issue. "We have reservations as to why the story was distorted," the sources said.*

Dawn journalist on ECL, *The Dawn*, October 11²²

The name of Dawn journalist Cyril Almeida has been put on the Exit Control List, officials said on Monday night (October 10). It is not immediately known why his name has been placed on the ECL, but it is widely believed that the government restriction on his travel came following the publication of the story titled "Act against militants or face international isolation, civilians tell military" in the Oct 6 edition of Dawn.

World used Dawn report as charge-sheet, *The News*, October 13²³

Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan on Thursday (October 12) said Dawn's reporter Cyril Almeida was put on the Exit Control List to carry out the investigation into the report on a high level security meeting. Terming the news item incorrect, the Interior Minister told a press conference he will meet representatives of journalists' bodies on October 14 to discuss the matter. *He said the Dawn reporter stood by the story even after conceding that nobody confirmed the news. "Why was the story published when everybody denied it," he said adding that the matter should have ended and the story should not have been carried by the English daily. "The journalist said he stood by the story...investigation is imperative now".*

Government lifts travel ban on Almeida, *The Express Tribune*, October 14²⁴

The government on Friday (October 13) lifted a travel ban imposed on Cyril Almeida's, three days after the senior journalist was put on the no-fly list for publishing a 'controversial' story. "It has been decided to delete the name of Cyril Almeida...from the Exit Control List," an official memorandum issued by the Ministry of the Interior said. The decision was made by Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan after a meeting with representatives of CPNE and APNS in Islamabad. [...]Talking to the delegation, Chaudhry Nisar said unverified and speculative news items on national security issues must be refrained. "Reiterating full support to freedom of press and independence of

²² <https://www.dawn.com/news/1289412/dawn-journalist-on-ecl>

²³ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/156907-Entire-world-used-Dawn-report-as-charge-sheet-against-Pakistan-Nisar>

²⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1198902/government-decides-strike-cyrils-name-off-ecl/>

media and as a good-will gesture, the interior minister ordered removal of the name of journalist from the ECL," said a statement. *"Removal of name of the journalist would in no way affect the ongoing inquiry into the matter and the inquiry would continue to its logical conclusion."*

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Blame it on Raheel, Ayaz Amir, *Daily Times*, October 11²⁵

The prevailing narrative – and it's worth finding out from where it has sprung up and how it has spread like a virus – is 'isolation'. We are alone in the region and relations with the United States, godfather to our various elites, are frayed. What's responsible for this dread isolation? Our jihad predilection of course – the soft corner for all the musketeers of jihad, Hafiz Saeed, Maulana Masood Azhar, the Haqqanis et al – and who's responsible for this fatal course? Why, the army of course, and since it is Gen Raheel Sharif leading the army the subtle message is that it all comes down to him. It really is his fault. Most ordinary Pakistanis may look upon the general as a hero for leading from the front and being a decisive commander...rolling back the tide of radical Islamism in Fata and restoring a semblance of peace to Karachi. But circles close to the ruling party, the PML-N, are painting him – ever so subtly – as the father of isolationism.

How to Lose Friends And Alienate People, Editorial, *The Nation*, October 12²⁶

It is a disturbing day when civilian and military top leadership meet to lecture the media on how to do their job. Couched in the familiar and nauseating mantra of protecting "vital state interests", the resulting action from the meeting was just a few hours later – the addition of Dawn's Cyril Almeida to the Exit Control List. [...]Instead, how dare the government and military top brass lecture the press on how to do their job. How dare they treat a feted reporter like a criminal. And how dare they imply that they have either the right or the ability or the monopoly to declare what Pakistan's "national interest" is. Or even more laughably, what "universally acknowledged principles of reporting" are. Since the government would counsel us, the press, on how to do our job, we would like to offer some advice for them, on how to better do theirs. [...]Salvage your own newly-minted reputation as a government envious of Kim Jong Il's press management. For yesterday's statement, and the government's actions, there can be no feeling, save of contempt. And for Mr Almeida, nothing but solidarity. More power to you, and to your pen. The press stands with you.

²⁵ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/156389-Blame-it-on-Raheel>

²⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/12-Oct-2016/how-to-lose-friends-and-alienate-people>

Reaction to Dawn story, Editorial, *The Dawn*, October 12²⁷

THERE are times in a news organisation's history that determine its adherence to the highest principles of journalism — its duty to inform the public objectively, accurately and fearlessly. This paper recently reported an extraordinary closed-door meeting between top government and intelligence officials where the foreign secretary briefed them on what he saw as Pakistan's growing international isolation; following this, there was a discussion on the impediments in the way of dealing with the problem of militancy in the country. The fallout of the story has been intense, and on Tuesday evening (October 11), the government placed Dawn's senior writer, Cyril Almeida, on the Exit Control List. [...] *Journalism has a long and glorious tradition of keeping its promise to its audience even in the face of enormous pressure brought to bear upon it from the corridors of power. Time has proved this to be the correct stance. Some of the most contentious yet historically significant stories have been told by news organisations while resisting the state's narrow, self-serving and ever-shifting definition of 'national interest'.* [...] As gatekeeper of information that was "verified, cross-checked and fact-checked", the editor of this paper bears sole responsibility for the story in question. The government should at once remove Mr Almeida's name from the ECL and salvage some of its dignity.

Lesson of Musharraf's coup, Mazhar Abbas, *The News*, October 12²⁸

[...] There are lessons to be learnt for both the civilian and military leadership, but are we ready to learn? Military doctrine for democracy has improved and civilians have also learnt few lessons, due to which we have witnessed two uninterrupted elections and are getting ready for the third, if all goes well, in 2018. *October in Pakistan has its own significance. On Oct 8th, 1958, the first martial law was imposed, and on October 12th, 1999, another military rule had been enforced.* In between, we saw General Yahya Khan's brief military rule and one civilian ruler followed by another long martial law, and then four unstable civilian governments. *It is October again and there is also a political crisis creeping up with Imran Khan's threat to siege Islamabad from October 30. There are some speculative stories in circulation regarding discomfort between civilian and military leaders, but no signal of extraordinary developments yet.*

²⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1289527/reaction-to-dawn-story>

²⁸ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/156812-Lesson-of-Musharrafs-coup>

ECONOMIC ISSUES

CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

Impediments to CPEC projects, Editorial, *The Dawn*, October 4²⁹

IT appears the bouquet of power-sector projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has hit a number of road blocks of late. The latest in a series of snags that these projects have run into is the Matiari to Lahore transmission line, the first private-sector initiative in power transmission that Pakistan has seen. [...] *Given the \$2.1bn cost of the line, the Chinese were asked to build the project, but the tariff that they wanted was higher than what the regulator, Nepra, could allow. The net result has been a stalemate of sorts for almost a year now. In August, Nepra approved a tariff of 71 paisa per unit, but the Chinese want a tariff of 95 paisa instead, 30pc higher, and the government is spinning all its wheels to persuade the regulator to grant the revised tariff.* [...] Earlier, the complex of power plants envisioned at Gadani was scrapped because of the costs of building the jetty. Many investments in the Quaid-i-Azam Solar Park in Punjab have landed up in litigation because the government cannot honour the upfront solar tariff it offered to woo the Chinese. [...] *In almost every case, it is being discovered that the hidden costs are large enough to erode whatever cost advantages the projects are supposed to bring.*

CPEC: A Baloch perspective, Sanaullah Baloch, *The News*, October 4³⁰

[...] *Within five years of independence Balochistan's top-grade gas was pumped and transmitted to the far end of northern Punjab, leaving the Baloch with just dust and smoke.* Jobs and scholarships went to a special class of people and gas-related industries, like fertiliser industries, were established in Punjab. Since 1948, countless promises have been made but the Baloch have only received death and despair. [...] *It's not difficult to understand that if gas, gold, coal and everything else that the Baloch have contributed over the years could not have helped them then how will a meagre share in the CPEC – \$600 million out of \$46 billion – bring miracles in the life of the Baloch?* [...] The corridor has only two components – Gwadar Port and the Gwadar airport project – without any major corridor of roads, rail and industrial infrastructure. *How will a strategic deep-sea port and an airport change the life of a poverty-hit population? Dera Bugti, Kharran, Lasbela, Awaran, Loralai, Chaghi, Kolu, Washuk and such other districts in Balochistan are listed in Asia's poorest regions.* [...] *Compared to Balochistan, the nature of projects in Punjab have a different level of impact on the economy and social development of the province. Only the 27-km length Orange Line Metro will initially benefit*

²⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1287776/impediments-to-cpec-projects>

³⁰ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/154685-CPEC-a-Baloch-perspective>

around 250,000 passengers a day which will be increased to 500,000 passengers a day by 2025. The metro line will increase mobility, accessibility, efficiency and productivity. It has already generated 10,000 direct and indirect jobs and a massive boom to central Punjab's small and medium enterprises. In addition, the large number of power projects under the CPEC in Punjab will have an immense impact on elevating the socio-economic conditions of targeted areas and population, more importantly central and northern Punjab. No such project has been initiated in Balochistan. [...] We need to be honest with ourselves – that China needed Gwadar and in return we got a multibillion dollar infrastructure, metro line, eastern route and motorways and energy projects that will be focused in particular part of Pakistan.

Balochistan will be major beneficiary: Nawaz, *The Dawn*, October 11³¹

In what appeared to be an attempt to set aside reservations of smaller provinces over the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Monday (October 10) said Balochistan would be a major beneficiary of the \$51.5 billion, Radio Pakistan reported. Chairing a meeting of PML-N's central executive committee in the capital, the premier said that the government was striving hard to overcome all challenges including terrorism and energy shortfall. The PM's statements come days after opposition lawmakers raised concerns that smaller provinces were being neglected under the CPEC during a joint session of parliament. The premier claimed that more than 10,000 MegaWatt (MW) of electricity would be added to the national grid by 2018 and briefed the meeting on various power initiatives being undertaken. He said that land had been acquired for the Diamer-Bhasha dam, a power project that has been 30 years in the making. The government, he said, has also started working on the development of coal-fired power in Thar. "Mining has started in Thar and coal-based power plants are being installed there."

Mengal wants all CPEC accords made public, *The Dawn*, October 15³²

All accords signed by the federal government regarding Gwadar and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) should be made public, said Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal, chief of the Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M), on Thursday evening (October 13). He added that it was important to pass legislation which would protect the people of Balochistan and "not let them become a minority in the port city of Gwadar". Speaking at a public meeting at the Sorag Dil ground in Gwadar, the party chief said that BNP-M was not against development but would resist any development that would deny the rights of the residents of Gwadar "and convert their majority into a minority".

³¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1289249/balochistan-will-be-major-beneficiary-of-cpec-says-pm-nawaz>

³² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1290143/mengal-wants-all-cpec-accords-made-public>

[...]According to Sardar Mengal, the "rulers are trying to snatch the sea from local fishermen who have been using it to earn their bread and butter for centuries". He said that Balochistan had been producing gas since 1952 for the entire country, including Azad Jammu and Kashmir, but Balochistan was deprived of it. He added that even now, gas was only available in a few cities in the province. Former chief minister of Balochistan Sardar Mengal discussed the Saindak Copper-Gold Project in Chagai, and said that none of the locals benefited from the gold recovering project. [...]The BNP-M president said that he had observed some change due to development. He claimed that now checkpoints had been established "and the son of the soil is asked to identify himself and inform them where he is coming from and going".

SECURITY SITUATION

TERRORISM

No role for militancy in Pakistan's policy-making, *The Dawn*, October 9³³

There's no role for militancy in policy-making and non-state actors cannot be allowed to operate from the Pakistani territory, says a parliamentary delegation from Pakistan, which completed its five-day visit to the US capital on Saturday (October 8). In a briefing to Pakistani, and later an Indian, journalists at the end of their visit, the prime minister's special envoys on Kashmir also said that the United States was doing "positive pushing and prodding" for reducing tensions between India and Pakistan.

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND FATA

Seven suspected militants killed, *The Dawn*, October 11³⁴

At least seven suspected militants were killed in air strikes carried out by Pakistan Air Force jets in the Tirah valley area of Khyber Agency on Monday (October 10). Security officials said three hideouts were also destroyed during the airstrikes. "Pakistan Air Force jets targeted militant hideouts in the Kokikhel area of Tirah valley, and at least seven militants were killed and three two hideouts were destroyed," said security officials. The details of the strikes could not be independently verified as access of media personnel is restricted in the region.

Police officer gunned down in Peshawar, *The Dawn*, October 14³⁵

A police officer was gunned down on Friday (October 14) in the Faqirabad area of Peshawar. In a separate incident, five hand grenades were recovered in the

³³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1289021/no-role-for-militancy-in-pakistans-policy-making-envoys>

³⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1289267/seven-suspected-militants-killed-in-tirah-valley-air-strikes>

³⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1289959/police-officer-gunned-down-in-peshawar>

city's Mattani area, according to the police. The police officer, identified as Rehmanullah, had been deployed at Faqirabad police station and was targeted by unidentified armed assailants as he was returning home from a vegetable market.

BALUCHISTAN

4 women killed in Quetta bus attack, *The Nation*, October 5³⁶

Gunmen riding a motorcycle opened fire on a moving bus in Quetta and killed four women in an apparent sectarian attack on Tuesday (October 4). The gunmen sprayed the vehicle with bullets in the outskirts of Quetta city. Anwarul Haq Kakar, a spokesman for Balochistan government, said the attackers stopped the passenger bus on Quetta's Kirani Road. Kakar said one of the gunmen barged inside the bus and started shooting after identifying the women as ethnic Hazara.

'Terrorist' gunned down in Balochistan, *Daily Times*, October 12³⁷

An alleged terrorist has been gunned-down during an operation by FC and intelligence agencies in Lahti area of Balochistan. According to reports, a Frontier Corps team, along with the intelligence agencies on Tuesday (October 11) conducted an operation in Lahti, during which a terrorist was killed in crossfire.

Three FC personnel gunned down in Quetta, *The Dawn*, October 14³⁸

Three Frontier Corps personnel were gunned down in Quetta's Sabzal Road area on Friday (October 14). According to police sources, suspected militants opened fire at the FC men. Two men died on the spot, whereas the third succumbed to his injuries on the way to the hospital. The bodies were shifted to a nearby hospital. The attackers escaped unharmed.

PUNJAB

Eight 'terrorists' killed in DG Khan, *The News*, October 13³⁹

The Counter-Terrorism Department on Thursday (October 13) killed eight militants in Dera Ghazi Khan during a combing operation in Punjab province, Geo News reported. Official sources said four hand grenades, an automatic rifle and four pistols were seized during the operation. " Eight terrorists were killed and three managed to flee," sources in the CTD told Geo News.

³⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/national/05-Oct-2016/4-women-killed-in-quetta-bus-attack>

³⁷ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/balochistan/12-Oct-16/terrorist-gunned-down-in-balochistan>

³⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1289960/three-fc-personnel-gunned-down-in-quetta>

³⁹ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/156916-Eight-terrorists-killed-in-DG-Khan-operation>

SINDH

Rangers kill 4 terrorists in Karachi, *The News*, October 14⁴⁰

Rangers personnel conducted an operation in the metropolis on late Thursday night (October 13), killing four terrorists. Weapons were recovered from the slain terrorists, according to the Rangers. As per details, the operation was conducted in Karachi's Gadap area.

Policeman shot dead in Karachi's North Nazimabad, *The Dawn*, October 15⁴¹

A policeman shot dead by unidentified assailants in Karachi's North Nazimabad neighbourhood on Saturday (October 15). A gunman riding a motorcycle opened fire on the police constable, later identified as Munawwar, near Ziauddin Hospital while he was on the way for duty, police said in a press release.

RELATIONS WITH INDIA

India trying to hoodwink world opinion, *The Dawn*, October 3⁴²

AJK President Sardar Masood Khan has condemned Indian violations of ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) and said that New Delhi has been making attempts to divert the attention of the international community from atrocities the occupation forces have been committing in held Kashmir. Addressing a press conference here on Sunday (October 2), he said Kashmir was an unresolved issue at the agenda of the UN Security Council and urged the world body to take appropriate action for solution of this lingering dispute.

Recoking IWT would be aggression: APC, *The News*, October 3⁴³

All Parties Conference on Monday (October 3) condemned India's threat to use water as a weapon and warned that any unilateral revocation of Indus Waters Treaty shall be taken as an act of aggression. The political leadership of the country from across the political spectrum met at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and condemned the unprovoked Indian aggression ceasefire violations and rejected Indian government's claims that Kashmir was an integral part of India.

Pakistani boat, nine fishermen captured, *The Dawn*, October 3⁴⁴

Indian Coast Guard has apprehended a Pakistani boat with nine crew members from the Arabian Sea off Gujarat, The Hindu reported on Sunday

⁴⁰ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/157018-Rangers-kill-4-terrorists-in-Karachi-operation>

⁴¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1290161/policeman-shot-dead-in-karachis-north-nazimabad>

⁴² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1287721/india-trying-to-hoodwink-world-opinion-masood>

⁴³ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/154592-Revocation-of-Indus-Treaty-to-be-taken-as-act-of-aggression-APC>

⁴⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1287705/pakistani-boat-nine-fishermen-captured-by-india>

(October 2). It said the coast guard ship Samudra Pavak apprehended the boat and its crew at around 10:15am on Sunday (October 2). According to a preliminary inquiry, crew members are fishermen.

India hired fake crowd to back Brahamdagh, *The News*, October 3⁴⁵

Baloch separatist leader Brahamdagh Bugti is playing in the hands of Indian intelligence Research and Analysis Wing (RAW). The Indian intelligence agency was behind the recent protests held against Pakistan in Geneva, which Brahamdagh Bugti led to push his agenda of vilifying Pakistan. [...]Shahzeb Khandaza, senior journalist and host of Pakistan's most popular show, produced evidence that Indian intelligence brought "paid demonstrators" from a refugee camp to the protests led by Bugti and Mehran Marri. "The protesters were nationals of countries from Far East Asia and Africa and didn't even look closer to people of Balochistan in appearance."

Pakistani, Indian troops exchange fresh fire, *The Dawn*, October 3⁴⁶

Pakistani and Indian troops exchanged fresh fire across the Line of Control (LoC) in two separate incidents on Monday (October 3), Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said. The exchange of firing occurred on the line of control in the Nezapir sector and Iftikharabad, a town in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, ISPR said. The first incident of firing took place around midnight in Iftikharabad, ISPR said, whereas the second incident was reported in Nezapir at 11:30am. "Pakistani troops are befittingly responding to Indian unprovoked firing," ISPR said. There were no reports of casualties on either sides.

It was nothing but cross-border firing: Basit, *The News*, October 4⁴⁷

Pakistan High Commissioner in India, Abdul Basit, said on Monday (October 3) that no surgical strike had been conducted by India and that only cross border firing had taken place on September 29. The Pakistan High Commissioner once again invited India for talks and said that statements against each other must be avoided. "Let's talk with each other and not against each other," he said. "The issue of Kashmir is the basic cause for conflict between the two countries," he added. [...] "On September 29, no activity took place other than cross border firing," he said. "It was said clearly in the Indian DGMO's statement that the incident occurred at the Line of Control," he added.

⁴⁵ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/154600-Indian-intelligence-hired-fake-crowd-to-back-Brahamdagh>

⁴⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1287726/pakistani-indian-troops-exchange-fresh-fire-across-loc>

⁴⁷ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/154736-Nothing-other-than-cross-border-firing-took-place-on-Sept-29-Abdul-Basit>

India resorts to unprovoked shelling, *The News*, October 4⁴⁸

Indian border forces once again resorted to unprovoked firing across the Line of Control, as Pakistani troops returned fire. According to details, India violated the ceasefire agreement between the two countries yet again and resorted to unprovoked shelling across the border. The firing began at 04:00 am in the morning and continued for a couple of hours, with brief intervals. The Pakistani troops gave a befitting reply to the Indian shelling and exchanged fire with the Indian troops.

LoC escalation detrimental to terror fight, *The Nation*, October 5⁴⁹

The political and military elite of the country yesterday stressed the need for seamless coordination between the federal and provincial governments as well as law-enforcement agencies, besides creating milestones and timelines for NAP targets to make the operations against militants more effective. Two separate meetings were held on internal and external security situation of the country with particular reference to the Line of Control and operational preparedness of the armed forces to thwart any oppressive design of India as well as the implementation on the National Action Plan.

India scaling up violations along LoC: Bajwa, *The Express Tribune*, October 7⁵⁰

India has scaled up its violations along the Line of Control (LoC), firing as many as 25,000 rounds from small arms, machine guns and mortars at the Pakistani side of the ceasefire line on Wednesday (October 5), Pakistan's top military spokesman said on Thursday (October 6). *"What we see is that there is more intensified firing along the LoC, and of course, when there is more firing, the situation does escalate. The environment also escalates when there is more rhetoric, more statements and more pronouncements by the Indian side," Lt-Gen Asim Bajwa told China's Xinhua news agency in an interview.*

Minorities protest against Modi, *The Dawn*, October 9⁵¹

Activists of minority communities on Saturday (October 8) held a demonstration against Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for issuing threatening statements against Pakistan. The protest demonstration was held under the aegis of Pakistan Minorities Alliance (PMA), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter, where the participants were holding banners and placards inscribed with anti-India slogans. Representatives of the minority groups, including Suleman Javed, Yasir Bhatti and Junaid Kokhar, were leading the protesters.

⁴⁸ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/154796-India-resorts-to-unprovoked-shelling-again>

⁴⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/05-Oct-2016/loc-escalation-detrimental-to-terror-fight>

⁵⁰ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1194858/india-scaling-violations-along-loc-bajwa/>

⁵¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1288973/minorities-protest-against-indian-pm>

Pakistan wants to de-escalate tensions: Aziz, Daily Times, October 9⁵²

Prime minister's Adviser on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz says Pakistan wants de-escalation of tensions with India for the collective good of the entire region.

In an interview, he said no progress is visible in Pakistan-Indian relations until Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is in power in New Delhi. However, Pakistan does not desire escalation of the situation. Aziz said that Pakistan will continue its diplomatic efforts to improve its ties with India. However, he made it clear that Pakistan will never compromise on its principled stand on Kashmir and continue to extend political, moral, and diplomatic support to the Kashmiris struggling to get their inalienable right to self-determination.

UNREST IN KASHMIR

Ambassador Jilani hands over dossier to US, The News, October 4⁵³

Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Jalil Abbas Jilani on Monday (October 3) met with Ambassador Richard Olson, the US Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan at the State Department and handed over a dossier containing information on the gross human rights violations by the Indian security forces in the Indian Occupied Kashmir. *Ambassador Jilani emphasized that the international community and especially the United States should take note of the inhuman and degrading treatment being meted out to the innocent Kashmiris including women and children. He said the US being a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council should impress upon India to immediately end the state sponsored terrorism against innocent civilians who have been indiscriminately targeted by Indian forces.*

Kashmiris will get independence soon: Mamnoon, Daily Times, October 6⁵⁴

President Mamnoon Hussain on Tuesday (October 4) reminded India to act responsibly, as the ongoing tension between Pakistan and India would be detrimental for both the countries and also gravely affect the entire region. He expressed optimism that Indian reign of oppression in the disputed state of Jammu Kashmir would end and the Kashmiri people would soon gain independence, as a result of which there would be peace and stability in the region, quickening the pace of progress.

⁵² <http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/09-Oct-16/pakistan-wants-to-de-escalate-tensions-with-india-aziz>

⁵³ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/154812-Ambassador-Jilani-hands-over-dossier-on-Indian-brutalities-to-US>

⁵⁴ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/05-Oct-16/kashmiri-people-will-get-independence-soon-says-mamnoon>

Pakistan reiterates demand for probe, *The Express Tribune*, October 6⁵⁵

Pakistan has reiterated its call for an independent investigation into human rights abuses in the Indian-held Kashmir. Speaking at the UN General Assembly, Pakistan's Representative to the United Nations *Maleeha Lodhi said the world must play a role to put an end to the atrocities and enable a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute. Lodhi called for a free and fair plebiscite under UN patronage to resolve the Kashmir issue.* She welcomed the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights demand for access to Occupied Kashmir.

Sarwar exposes India before House of Commons, *Daily Times*, October 12⁵⁶

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former Punjab governor *Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar has demanded mitigation of violence and terrorism in Kashmir as well as release of all detained Kashmiri leaders, including Yasin Malik.* He was addressing the members of the House of Commons in London on Tuesday (October 11) as special envoy dispatched by his party, PTI. He drew the attention of Englishmen on the Indian oppression in the disputed valley as well as its false claim of conducting surgical strikes inside Pakistan. Sarwar termed the Indian claim of conducting surgical strikes a drama, saying that everyone should remember that Pakistan possesses capability to answer any aggression of India, adding that "our army is fully prepared and ready to curtail any attack on the country's sovereignty".

The Burhan Wani factor, Qaisar Rashid, *Daily Times*, October 12⁵⁷

[...] *Unfortunately, the acuteness of Sharif's message has not been much appreciated in Pakistan. It was perhaps the first time that, at the platform of the UNGA, any leader of Pakistan dared take the name of a Kashmiri who had lost his life at the hands of Indian security forces in the Indian-held Kashmir and called him a 'freedom leader'.* Through Sharif's speech, Pakistan fulfilled its promise of supporting the Kashmir issue politically or diplomatically on behalf of Kashmiris living on both sides of the Line of Control. [...] *One of the major differences between the Kashmir uprising in 1987 and the current one in 2016 is that the former derived its inspirational strength from the struggle of Afghans against the invading Soviet army whereas the latter has been deriving its strength from the Arab Spring of 2011.* Secondly, in 1987, several militant groups sprouted in Kashmir to fight for the cause of the freedom of Kashmir whereas, this time, the movement is in the hands of common, unarmed Kashmiris, one expression of which is that hundreds of thousands of Kashmiris

⁵⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1194404/pakistan-reiterates-demand-independent-probe-iok-rights-violations/>

⁵⁶ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/punjab/12-Oct-16/sarwar-exposes-india-before-house-of-commons>

⁵⁷ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/opinion/12-Oct-16/kashmiri-intifada-the-burhan-wani-factor>

violated curfew and offered the funeral prayer of Wani, their fallen hero. Thirdly, in 1987, the nature of Pakistan-India relations had a direct bearing on Kashmir's freedom movement whereas this is no more the case now.

SURGICAL STRIKES

Indian FS admits surgical strike was a bluff, *The News*, October 14⁵⁸

The Indian foreign secretary in a recent meeting with German ambassador in New Delhi is said to have admitted that there was no "surgical strike" undertaken by the Indian Army inside Azad Kashmir. This startling information has been shared by the German authorities during a recent official meeting with Pakistan Embassy officials in Berlin. The drama of Indian "surgical strikes", which had already become a global joke, got a serious jolt with its own foreign secretary having admitted that it was a bluff.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Mounting tensions, Editorial, *The Dawn*, October 1⁵⁹

[...]What happened along the Line of Control between midnight and early morning on Thursday is a story that Indian authorities appear to be very clear about and the Indian media has reported with relish. *But virtually nothing has been independently confirmed about the events along the LoC, an area that is effectively cordoned off from the media in both countries and where the local population is unlikely to know the facts or be willing to speak candidly. What is clear is that something did happen at several points along the LoC in the early hours of Thursday morning. At the very least, Pakistani and Indian forces exchanged fire in which two Pakistani soldiers died.*

Regional isolation?, Editorial, *The Dawn*, October 2⁶⁰

ISOLATION is a word bandied about all too easily when it comes to discussing Pakistan's place in the international community. In this century alone, seemingly every other year there has been alarmist rhetoric, by external rivals and internal political neophytes that Pakistan is on the verge of global isolation. Indeed, isolation and its more draconian cousin, containment, are issues that no country with a modicum of international trade linkages and an interest in being part of the modern world should ever take lightly. [...]By any rational measure, Pakistan is far from being isolated internationally. Yet, it is undeniable that countries with which Pakistan has had long-standing relationships — relationships that are worth protecting and nurturing — are increasingly uneasy with this country's perceived policies. To the extent that

⁵⁸ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/157114-Indian-FS-admits-surgical-strike-was-a-bluff>

⁵⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1287227/mounting-tensions>

⁶⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1287398/regional-isolation>

Pakistan has legitimate interests to protect, it must do so robustly and without fear of outside opinion. Surely, however, more effective diplomacy is called for.

Modi's war, Munir Akram, *The Dawn*, October 2⁶¹

FRUSTRATED by Pakistan's refusal to bow to Indian diktat, encouraged by its strategic partnership with the US, alarmed by the renewed revolt in India-held Jammu and Kashmir and humiliated by the killing of 18 Indian soldiers in Uri, Narendra Modi is on the path of war against Pakistan. He has vowed to "isolate" Pakistan, support Baloch separatists, dam Pakistan's rivers and conduct "surgical strikes" against Pakistan. Pakistan must assess these threats objectively. Its response should be characterised by resolve, responsibility and reciprocity. [...] Isolating Pakistan will be a challenging, ultimately fruitless endeavour for India. [...] *China is a neighbour of both Pakistan and India and Pakistan's strategic partner. In a conflict, China's posture would be more relevant than America's. Beijing has advised both Pakistan and India to open dialogue and exercise restraint. But it's obvious which one needs to be restrained at present. Indian aggression against Pakistan will evoke a strong Chinese response. The third major power, Russia, which has considerable regional influence, is no longer India's all-weather ally, given Modi's rush to jump into America's strategic lap. [...] The Indians have tried, disingenuously, to portray their artillery attacks along the LoC as 'surgical strikes' to appease whipped-up public fervour in India to 'punish' Pakistan. The open Indian claim to have crossed the LoC provides Pakistan with justification to retaliate against India across the LoC at a time of its choosing.* Hopefully, Pakistan's restraint in refraining will not encourage India to try 'bolder' action which could lead to a general conflict.

Can war be an option?, Hasan Askari Rizvi, *The Express Tribune*, October 6⁶²

Indian heavy firing across the Line of Control on September 29, described by India's civilian and military leadership as a surgical strike, was meant to satisfy India's political far-right and hardline Hindu groups who were led to believe, by Indian authorities, that India would inflict a war or heavy military punishment on Pakistan for its alleged support to terrorism in Kashmir and India. [...] Modi is a victim of his tough talking against Pakistan before and after coming to power. Now, he cannot match his hostile rhetoric with the ground realities. However, his personal desire to adopt some punitive measures against Pakistan may result in more violent incidents at the LoC that have the potential to escalate into a war-like affair. There is no such thing as limited military activity. *When war is no longer an option for both countries, India will realise that unconditional dialogue is the only way to address the India-*

⁶¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1287408/modis-war>

⁶² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1194128/can-war-option/>

Pakistan problems. All the contentious issues, including terrorism and Kashmir, should be placed on the table for a constructive dialogue.

India's delusions, Shaukat Qadir, *The Express Tribune*, October 6⁶³

By definition, a surgical strike is a strike that, like a surgeon's knife, penetrates as deep as necessary, executes its task and escapes relatively unscathed. Obviously, such a strike could be executed by any service, by land, air or sea. Since the Indian claim is land based, let us examine that. But remember that this strike was intended to be "punitive". And, while depth of penetration is not necessarily a prerequisite for a punitive strike, the target must be one that insults, or at least embarrasses, and inflicts damage; or the effort is futile. From the Kel valley to the Jehlum valley is a distance of about 150 kilometers. It's rugged terrain of heights ranging from 5,000 to 19,000 feet ASL. There are a few shallow and not-very-wide valleys but, between most heights lie deep ravines. There are three major and, in this season, fairly torrential rivers: Neelum, Jhelum, and Munawwar Tawi. [...] A punitive surgical strike executed overland in this region would have to penetrate sufficiently deep to embarrass Pakistan and, in this terrain, could only be done by infiltration. I am not implying that Indian land forces could not do so but, had they done so a) it would be impossible for Pakistan to refute, since the attack would be caught by some satellite b) exfiltration of Indian soldiers would take time and would be casualty intensive. And then, it would be meaningless for India not to identify the targets they hit. Not only did the DGMO omit this but refused to respond to specific questions.

A permanent war, Hina Pervez Butt, *Daily Times*, October 9⁶⁴

Now that the nation has exhausted all the humour that a so-called surgical strike could contain lets spare some time for some critical thinking. Whether the strike happened or not should not even be the question. Firstly, because all the empirical evidence suggests that it most certainly did not take place, and secondly, because Mr Modi himself, in all his saffron glory, has somehow reluctantly admitted at a public gathering that nothing fantastical happened on our side of the LoC. The main question, however, that no one seems to be asking is whether it is really possible to stage a surgical strike against Pakistan from the eastern side of the border, and then get away with it as well.

⁶³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1194686/indias-delusions/>

⁶⁴ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/opinion/09-Oct-16/a-permanent-war>

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

Pakistan too can carry out surgical strikes: Nawaz Sharif, *Jasarat*, October 1⁶⁵
In the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Defence held on September 30, the Pakistan Army has been given green signal for all necessary action against India's aggression. The PM said that Indian aggressiveness was a threat to regional stability. Any aggression against Pakistan would be given a strong response and every Pakistan was ready for country's defence. Condemning India's threats, the PM said that Pakistan can also carry out surgical strikes. The meeting was convened to take stock of situation along the LoC.

"What a war?", Saleem Safi, *Jang*, October 1⁶⁶

Non-state militant actors and the furor the media can produce have similar results. It is a historical fact that whenever any country has used non-state militants against another country, these actors have come back to train their guns against their own masters. Media can be used to play same role of creating furore and can be used for war mongering which can go against the interests of the state. [...] India has appointed its media for this task and it is blaming everything wrong, happening not only in India but in the whole world, on Pakistan. It has also started slogans like "shining India" to project India as a great power like the United States. *The impact is such that even rickshaw pullers in Delhi and people sleeping on the streets of Mumbai think that they are citizens of a country which is a super power. [...] The reality is that India is not US and Pakistan is not Myanmar.* Pakistan is not only a nuclear power but also its nuclear weapons are stronger than India in many ways. *Pakistan has the technology to target any city in India.* It has been in war against terrorism for last fifteen years and has been able to adjust its economic development accordingly; but war with India can derail its economy.

"Surgical strike claim is a mockery", Badshah Khan, *Daily Ausaf*, October 4⁶⁷

It is said that lie has no legs to stand on. India has now backtracked on its claims that it had conducted surgical strikes in Azad Kashmir. Even the UN has denied any such strikes. On the other hand, Pakistan has facilitated the visit by international and national press to the border area. India's nervousness has exposed its lies. [...] *When Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister of India, late Hamid Gul had said: Modi is a gift for Pakistan. He will revive the debate on "the two nation theory" and today every Pakistani is restless to confront*

⁶⁵ <http://epaper.jasarat.org/2016/10/01/karachi/na-105>

⁶⁶ http://e.jang.com.pk/10-01-2016/pindi/pic.asp?picname=06_06.gif

⁶⁷ http://www.ausaf.pk/wp-content/uploads/2016-10-04/news/detail15_02.php

India. The RSS through its policies has shown that the minorities in India are not safe.

India has entered the American fold and is restless to act on its behalf like a policeman in the region, but the independence movement of the people of occupied Kashmir has broken all hopes for India. It has now resorted to conspiracies openly. On the one hand, India has been openly supporting rebels in Balochistan and has decided to air programmes in Baloch language. On the other hand, Brahamdagh has asked for Indian citizenship. All this is linked to the America-Afghan alliance and therefore America is strengthening Iran's relationship with India. The question arises, why is America encouraging India to play a role in Afghanistan? Few months back, President Obama had said that America wanted India as a reliable partner in Afghanistan. Is not that interference? Sitting thousands of kilometers away America is declaring India as a global partner; the answer to all this lies before us but we do not want to read it. Pakistan was never a strategic partner of America and never will be.. It was all long being used for safeguarding US interests. In these circumstances, Pakistan will have to better its relations with the Central Asian countries, China and with fellow Muslim countries.

Real threat is not from India, Hafiz Saeed, *Daily Ausaf*, October 6.⁶⁸

India-Pakistan tension is an important issue at this moment. The media war between India and Pakistan has reached a real war-like situation. [...] The more one is criticised, the more it appears as a sign of success for the other. First India made its claim of surgical strike. India wanted to say Uri has been avenged. [...] Our media says no surgical strike has taken place. India has no proof for that. It is true that border firing has taken place. Two Pakistani soldiers were martyred and three Indian posts were also destroyed. [...] *For us the real concern is that though there are less chances of war between two nuclear countries as that can bring havoc to both, sometimes situation may reach a point of no return. This is a possibility and therefore we should not be complacent that since we have nuclear weapons, India will not cross the line. Modi is not a normal person.* [...] We should not be afraid of India but of our bad deeds. It is very clear; if Allah is with us, we should not be afraid of anything..... Then question we face is why will Allah leave us? The answer is that if you leave Allah and His *Din*, then Allah will devoid you of His help and compassion. Otherwise, Allah will secure success for the Muslims: the reason being Muslims are the representative of Allah on earth. Allah stops helping the Muslims when they leave Allah's *Din*. I've been saying that in Pakistan we have crossed all the lines of rebellion against Allah. Allah had given us this land in

⁶⁸ http://www.ausaf.pk/wp-content/uploads/2016-10-06/news/detail14_08.php

which there was no obstruction for creating an Islamic state because majority of people were Muslims. Even after seventy years, we continue to keep the colonial laws with us. Consequently, there is no Allah's system in Pakistan. We are not ready to impose it in our country. In such a situation, which power on the earth will support us because by so doing we have dispossessed ourselves of Allah's help. It will be mindlessness to believe that anyone other than Allah can help us. No one will help us. It's Allah's decision which counts.

“Paper hero Ajit Doval embarrassed Modi”, report *Ummat*, October 6⁶⁹

Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, [...] has embarrassed Modi. Reliable sources have told *Ummat* that the script of the so called surgical strikes drama was prepared by Ajit Doval. In this regard, some selected journalists were briefed off the record about this delusionary story — how parachutes were dropped in Azad Kashmir through helicopters which returned after attacking Pakistan Army's posts. These journalists were also informed that this whole operation was monitored by Ajit Doval, Defence Minister Monahar Parrikar and the Army Chief Dilbeer Singh in a control room like the Osama Bin Laden's operation was monitored by Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. It was also claimed that a video of the surgical strike was made. Then the Indian media started the drama of 'breaking news' on this issue.

But according to sources, when Pakistan denied any such strikes, the Indian journalists asked Ajit Doval for these videos so that they could prove Pakistan wrong. But when no such strike took place, how can there be any video of it? *...According to the intelligence reports that have come to Pakistan, there is an increasing pressure on Modi within the BJP itself that Ajit Doval should be removed as NSA. ...According to sources, when Ajit Doval spoke to Nasir Janjua on the phone, his voice was choking and this telephonic conversation was enabled by the US, after it learnt that Pakistan was preparing for real surgical strikes inside India. To avert a crisis, the US made direct contact with Modi and asked him to reduce the tension. After this Ajit Doval made a call to Nasser Janjua.*

Pakistan is ready for adventure, Editorial, *Daily Ausaf*, October 6⁷⁰

[...] We think that India is facing internal frictions and Modi government is under attack from inside [over surgical strikes]. *Pakistan has handed over proof of atrocities on Kashmiris to America and isolated India internationally. Indian National Congress party has also demanded proof of the surgical strikes; the UN and the US have denied the strikes which is a moral victory for*

⁶⁹ <http://ummat.net/2016/10/06/news.php?p=story1.gif>

⁷⁰ http://www.ausaf.pk/wp-content/uploads/2016-10-06/news/detail14_03.php

Pakistan. India has resorted to heavy LoC firing and our armed forces are well equipped to give a befitting reply.

Pakistan's High Commissioner to India has said rightly that there is no space for war between two nuclear powers. As we have said earlier, ***there should be dialogue only if it is on Kashmir's independence.*** [...] Now when the Pakistan Air Force has taken over the surveillance of LoC, it can be expected that India will stop firing. The world has failed in resolving Kashmir and Palestine problems. It is time that America and other veto wielding powers should work towards implementing the UN Resolutions on Kashmir. Kashmir should be area demilitarized at all costs.

STATISTICS**BOMBINGS, SHOOTINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES***(Select incidents culled out from the Pakistan media)*

Place	Date	Description	Killed	Injured
Balochistan				
Quetta ⁷¹	5/10/2016	Four women killed	4	2
Lahti ⁷²	12/10/2016	Terrorist gunned down	1	0
Quetta ⁷³	14/10/2016	Three FC men died	3	0
KP & FATA				
Faqirabad ⁷⁴	14/10/2016	Policeman gunned down	1	0
Punjab				
D G Khan ⁷⁵	13/10/1016	Eight terrorists killed	8	0
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa				
Tirah ⁷⁶	11/10/2016	Seven militants killed	7	0
Sindh				
Karachi ⁷⁷	14/10/2016	Rangers kill four terrorists	4	0
Nazimabad ⁷⁸	15/10/2016	Policeman shot dead	1	0

⁷¹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/05-Oct-2016/4-women-killed-in-quetta-bus-attack>

⁷² <http://dailytimes.com.pk/balochistan/12-Oct-16/terrorist-gunned-down-in-balochistan>

⁷³ ⁷³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1289960/three-fc-personnel-gunned-down-in-quetta>

⁷⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1289959/police-officer-gunned-down-in-peshawar>

⁷⁵ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/156916-Eight-terrorists-killed-in-DG-Khan-operation>

⁷⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1289267/seven-suspected-militants-killed-in-tirah-valley-air-strikes>

⁷⁷ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/157018-Rangers-kill-4-terrorists-in-Karachi-operation>

⁷⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1290161/policeman-shot-dead-in-karachis-north-nazimabad>