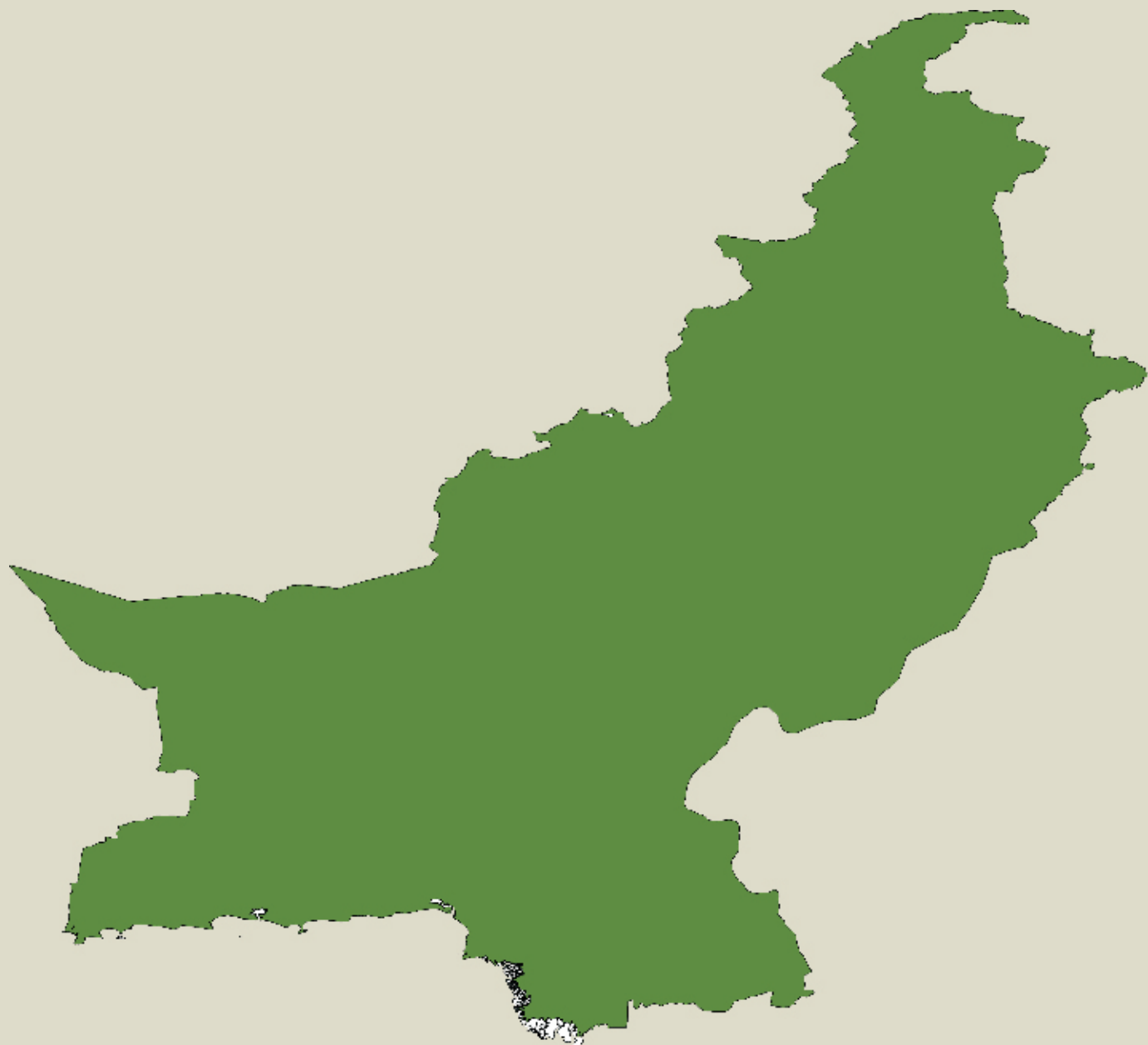


November (16-30) 2016

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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PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST NOVEMBER (16-30) 2016

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PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST, November (16-30) 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-Islami
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 seems to be no improvement in the atmosphere, as far as the relations between India and Pakistan is concerned. The cross-border firing and skirmishes have become a daily affair both sides blaming each-other for the provocation. On political front too, there is a hardening of positions. Pakistani Defence Minister Khawaja Asif recently argued that every Indian war aggression would be responded instantly and befittingly. In response to the recent cross-border firing, Gen. Rahell Sharif stated that his soldiers had given befitting reply to Indians by killing around four dozens of their personnel. He did not stop here but went on argue that Modi had now come to know the capabilities of our armed forces.

The apex court of Pakistan raised some vital questions regarding the quality of evidence submitted by PTI. The court stated that the 680-page submission had nothing to do with Sharif family's properties in London. The court observed that the newspaper clippings were only good for selling snacks and could not be considered as evidence. The court made its displeasure known to PTI's counsel. The court was also not happy to hear another explanation from Sharif camp regarding the purchase of London flats. The court also observed that both the parties were doing their best to ensure that in the end the court formed a commission itself to decide the Panamagate.

The scope area and the total worth of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been widening ever since the two countries made a formal announcement for the first time. It has become a trend to include many new projects into the orbit of CPEC. Recently, Divisional Superintendent Railways Muhammad Anif Gul made it clear that the new railway track from Spanzan to Kuchlak would be part of the CPEC and five railway statins of Balochistan would also be upgraded. Members of both civilian and military establishment, who dominated the power centre, seem to be obsessed about the project and its success. It has become a routine for the leaders to issue the statements that the CPEC would transform Pakistani economy and Pakistanis would benefit out of it. Balochistan Chief Minister Sanaullah Zehri's remark that CPEC would promote social contacts in the province is totally in sync with the claims made by federal government.

Dr Ashish Shukla

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

NATIONAL POLITICS

Two more militant outfits banned, *The Dawn*, November 19¹

The federal government has banned two more militant outfits for their involvement in terrorist activities across the country, it emerged on Friday (November 18). The move to proscribe the Jamaat-ul-Ahrar and Lashkar-i-Jhangvi Al-Alami came after recent attacks on sectarian grounds in different parts of the country were claimed by the two groups, said a senior official on Friday. A spokesman for the interior ministry confirmed the development and said that the decision was made only a few days ago. Referring to a revised list of banned organisations available on the website of the National Counter Terrorism Authority (Nacta), a senior official in Sindh's security establishment said: "The two organisations were added to the banned outfits' list on Nov 11." The updated list on Nacta website shows a total of 63 outfits that have been proscribed by the federal government.

PTI, PML-N not serious: Khawaja, *Daily Times*, November 20²

Pakistan Peoples Party's Senator Dr. Karim Khawaja has said that both Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) are not serious about fair investigation of Panama leaks scandal and thus the country is engulfed in political instability. In a statement issued by PPP Media Office Islamabad Senator Khawaja said that Nawaz Government has only one way out of this crisis and that is to accept all four demands by PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. He said that PML-N and PTI are ignorant of issues faced by the people of this country. Country has no clear foreign policy and economy is dwindling resulting in increasing problems for the masses. About PTI Chairman he said that Imran Khan has psychological problems and he does not trust anyone so he always treads alone.

PAC powerless to eliminate graft: Shah, *The Dawn*, November 22³

Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah on Monday (November 21) expressed frustration over parliament's helplessness in recovering the public money stuck due to corruption and irregularities in various government departments. Mr Shah, the chairperson of the Public Accounts Com-mittee, presented three reports and called for a "drastic restructuring" of the PAC. Addressing the National Assembly, Mr Shah called for legislation to make the committee "independent", more effective and useful.

¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1297314/two-more-militant-outfits-banned>

² <http://dailytimes.com.pk/e-paper/2016-11-20/lahore/7917/50613>

³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1297860/pac-powerless-to-eliminate-graft-shah-tells-na>

ATC sentences five to death, *The News*, November 23⁴

An anti-terror court sentenced five people to death Wednesday (November 23) over the killing of a Christian couple who were lynched and burned in a kiln after being falsely accused of blasphemy. The deaths of Shahzad Masih and Shama Bibi caused outrage in the country and saw other Christian families living near their home in Punjab flee the area in fear. The illiterate couple had been falsely accused of tossing out pages of the Holy Quran. Blasphemy is legally punishable by death in Pakistan, where even unproven accusations can stir violence.

MNAs, senators win a hefty pay raise, *The Express Tribune*, November 24⁵

A crucial cabinet huddle on Wednesday (November 23) approved a more than 100% increase in the salary of federal lawmakers, raising eyebrows at a time when the government is facing political challenges both at home and abroad. The summary approved by the cabinet proposed raising the basic salary of MNAs and senators from Rs44,630 to Rs150,000, of federal ministers from Rs114,897 to Rs200,000, ministers of state from Rs106,281 to Rs180,000, National Assembly speaker and Senate chairman from Rs119,008 to Rs205,000, and the salary of Senate deputy chairman and NA deputy speaker from Rs110,085 to Rs185,000.

Opposition continues to embarrass govt, *The Dawn*, November 30⁶

The government appeared helpless to run the National Assembly on Tuesday (November 29), failing to ensure everything from house and party discipline to the presence of ministers and officials in house, and ended up having to extend the length of the session that was supposed to end on Nov 29, much to the chagrin of the opposition. Deputy Speaker Murtaza Javed Abbasi was also at a loss and couldn't seem to handle all the curveballs that were being thrown his way during proceedings on the private members' day, which lasted just over three hours. Things began to go wrong when Mr Abbasi first called for discussion on a resolution moved by Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl's Naeema Kishwar Khan, regarding gas loadshedding in the country.

⁴ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/167116-ATC-sentences-five-death-burning-Christian-couple>

⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1242716/mnas-senators-win-hefty-100-pay-raise/>

⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1299524/opposition-continues-to-embarrass-govt-over-failure-to-manage-na>

THE PANAMA PAPERS

SC questions quality of PTI's evidence, *The Dawn*, November 16⁷

The Supreme Court on Tuesday (November 15) questioned the quality of the evidence presented by the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) and deplored that their 680-page submission had almost nothing to do with the Sharif family's London properties. Pointing at PTI's counsel Hamid Khan, Justice Sheikh Azmat Saeed observed that it seemed as if the petitioners were trying to bury the truth under their evidence that consisted mostly of newspaper clippings, which were only good for selling pakoras the day after publication.

Qatari letter changes PM's stance: SC, *The Dawn*, November 16⁸

The Supreme Court was not pleased on Tuesday (November 15) to hear yet another explanation for how the Sharif family paid for its London properties, observing that both sides were doing their best to ensure that the court would eventually have to form a commission to decide the Panamagate case. "This document has completely changed the public stand of the prime minister," Justice Asif Saeed Khosa observed after the Sharif children's newly-engaged counsel, Mohammad Akram Sheikh, presented before the court an attested letter from a former Qatari prime minister.

PM not telling SC the truth: Imran, *The Nation*, November 17⁹

A day after the Sharif family submitted documents as evidence before the SC about their sources of money used for the purchase of properties in Mayfair, Chairman PTI Imran Khan took a jibe at the prime minister and said that the premier was not telling the truth before the apex court. Khan, while addressing the convention of the Insaf Students Federation (ISF), the student wing of the PTI, said that the prime minister was not telling the truth about the money trail of Mayfair properties in the Supreme Court (SC).

SC unhappy with PTI's 'meandering arguments', *The Dawn*, November 18¹⁰

The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) did not have a good day in court on Thursday (November 17) after it unwittingly shouldered the burden of proving the allegation that the prime minister and his children had laundered money to purchase their London properties. [...] "Instead of going into mind-numbing rhetoric, the counsel should have relied on the documents submitted by the prime minister and his family members," Justice Sheikh Azmat Saeed observed, adding that Mr Khan's case should be that the documents the

⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1296665/sc-questions-quality-of-ptis-evidence>

⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1296666/qatari-letter-changes-pms-stance-on-london-properties-sc>

⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/17-Nov-2016/pm-not-telling-sc-the-truth-imran>

¹⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1297071/sc-unhappy-with-ptis-meandering-arguments>

respondents are relying on were wrong. "Please focus on the [case] at hand," Justice Saeed advised the petitioner's counsel, adding that the court could not draw any conclusion on the basis of the prime minister's speeches. "You should have put them in to bat within five minutes of your arguments," Justice Saeed said while chiding the PTI counsel for not questioning the respondents directly. He also expressed the apprehension that the way proceedings were going, this hearing would likely continue until the year 2099.

Hamid Khan excuses himself from Imran's case, *The Nation*, November 22¹¹

The PTI founding member Hamid Khan has regretted to become attorney of Pakistan Tehreek Insaf (PTI) Chairman in disqualification reference filed against Imran Khan in Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). The reference seeking disqualification of Imran Khan and Jahangir Tareen came up for hearing before ECP on Tuesday (November 22). Counsel for PTI Hamid Khan regretted to contest the case and in his place Naeem Bukhari appeared before the ECP. Naeem Bukhari stated that Hamid Khan had excused to contest the case and it was his personal decision. Therefore time be given to him to understand the case. The ECP has adjourned the case till 5th December. Meanwhile, Jahangir Tareen has submitted his reply before the ECP. It is pertinent to mention here that PTI lawyer Hamid Khan had earlier regretted to contest case of Panama leaks.

Govt fails to get bill passed in NA, *The Nation*, November 25¹²

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government, despite having a two-thirds majority in the National Assembly, on Thursday (November 24) failed to get "The Pakistan Commissions of Inquiry Bill, 2016" passed due to lack of quorum in the house. The government bill provides for the constitution of a powerful commission for investigation into Panama Papers issue as well as other issues. According to the government, the scope of the commission will be wider and it will have all the authority to constitute special teams of experts as well as international teams to get the required information. Opposition parties, seemingly waiting to take the government to task over its handling of the Panama Papers issue, announced to boycott the session, citing lack of quorum. The session had to be adjourned as not more than 40 lawmakers were present during the proceeding. Opposition Leader in NA Syed Khursheed Shah accused the government of encouraging corruption by tabling the bill.

¹¹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/22-Nov-2016/hamid-khan-regrets-to-contest-imran-khan-disqualification-case>

¹² <http://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2016-11-25/page-5/detail-5>

24th amendment a bid to save PM: JI chief, *The Dawn*, November 30¹³
Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) emir Senator Sirajul Haq on Tuesday (November 29) claimed that the 24th amendment to the Constitution was an attempt to save Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif from the Panama leaks probe. Addressing a press conference, the JI chief said that the government was striving to formulate laws that would undermine the authority of the apex court at a time when the Panama leaks case was under trial at the Supreme Court. "There are efforts to get the 24th amendment approved from parliament unanimously," he said. "But this is not fair and we will oppose the draconian law." The 24th Constitution Amendment has recently been presented in the National Assembly that provides for the right of appeal against suo motu cases and is said to be against Article 184(3) of the Constitution that pertains to cases filed directly at the Supreme Court. Sirajul Haq said that the amendment was an effort to restrict the powers of the higher judiciary.

PROVINCIAL POLITICS

No interest in MQM, says Musharraf, *The Dawn*, November 16¹⁴
Although rumours refused to die down about retired Gen Pervez Musharraf's desire to take control of a unified Muttahida Qaumi Movement, the former military dictator claimed on Tuesday (November 15) that he was not interested in the MQM and he wanted to do "something" for the betterment of the Urdu-speaking community. "I have sympathy for the Mohajirs but no interest in the MQM," he said in an interview with Dawn News. "I will try to do something for the betterment of the Mohajir community."

APC vows to continue struggle for KP rights, *The Nation*, November 16¹⁵
Representatives of various political parties in All Party Conference (APC) welcomed the Chinese investment in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project and made it clear that they do not want any confrontation with federal government on this issue of national importance. They said they will fight constitutional and political battle for due share of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. The APC was convened on the request of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) which was chaired by party provincial Ameer Mushtaq Ahmad Khan and was held at Markazi Islami Peshawar.

¹³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1299531/24th-amendment-a-bid-to-save-pm-ji-chief>

¹⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1296677/no-interest-in-mqm-says-musharraf>

¹⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/newspaper-picks/16-Nov-2016/apc-vows-to-continue-struggle-for-kp-rights>

PPP reorganises its Punjab chapters, *The Dawn*, November 21¹⁶

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) will start selecting its district and city presidents in Punjab from Tuesday (November 22). In this regard, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will meet the candidates from the Rawalpindi division in Lahore. Eight months after the dissolution of the party organisations in the province, the PPP is all set to nominate the office-bearers in cities and districts before its foundation day on November 30. The PPP chairman dissolved the party organisations in four provinces on April 13 and appointed a five-member committee to reorganise the party in Punjab and Sindh. In Punjab, the committee comprised of Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Chaudhry Farooq, Nadeem Afzal Chan, Nadeem Asghar Kaira and Chaudhry Manzoor.

EDITORIALS AND OPINION

Floppy and sloppy, Cyril Almeida, *The Dawn*, November 20¹⁷

*THE good thing about the PTI is that it's predictable: floppy and sloppy when it seems to matter most. Performance anxiety, as it were. The bad thing about the PTI is that it's not interested in institutions. Not parliament, not the courts, not the systems of government. [...]*The Supreme Court option was not the PTI's choice. In fact, the court option was a manifestation of the PTI's failure. The goal, after all, had been to oust the government. The instrument for that was supposed to have been the lockdown. That failed and it failed spectacularly. And when it failed, the court arguably helped salvage the situation and mitigate the PTI's ignominy — something the PTI is aware of, but cannot admit.

Seeking The Spotlight, Editorial, *The Nation*, November 23¹⁸

While the rest of the political parties are decreasing the clamour following Panama, in steps the young PPP scion, Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari with his four demands, threatening a long march come December if all four are not met. December is an eventful month for PPP for reasons other than this as well, the President of the party, Asif Zardari is making his much-anticipated return, though the timing coinciding with a change at the head of the institution he chagrined before his departure has been deemed a fortunate coincidence. [...] It seems that PPP has picked four issues at random, that have no connection to one another, only because the government has been called out on all in the past. This threat of going the protest route if the government does not agree to the demands reeks of political opportunism. Reports of the government

¹⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1297690/eight-months-after-dissolving-them-ppp-reorganises-its-punjab-chapters>

¹⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1297388/floppy-and-sloppy>

¹⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2016-11-23/page-6/detail-0>

considering agreement on all four implies that the ruling party still sees hope in PPP, as a buffer against the politics of PTI.

Karachi operation, Editorial, *The Dawn*, November 25¹⁹

ALTHOUGH the outgoing army chief's counterterrorism efforts in the tribal areas have been widely cited as his biggest success, many have also lauded his involvement in bringing a semblance of peace to Karachi. On a recent farewell visit to Corps V, Karachi, Gen Raheel Sharif told his men that the results of the ongoing law-enforcement operation in the Sindh capital must not be reversed with the change of command in the army. The president also echoed these concerns on Wednesday. [...] To truly consolidate the gains of the three-year-old operation, the authorities — specifically the provincial government, the elected mayor, the police force and the military — must look at the bigger picture. While a militarised approach to policing — by having the Rangers spearhead the operation — may have brought temporary respite, *in the long term, peace in Karachi can only be established through a depoliticised, professional local police force recruited on merit, and that knows the city and its problems.*

FOREIGN POLICY

Economic ties with Pak beneficial for US: report, *The Dawn*, November 19²⁰

The US State Department has said in a report that America's economic partnership with Pakistan directly benefits the United States by creating well-paying jobs at home. The report noted on Thursday (November 17) that Pakistan was a growing country of over 190 million and a partnership with it promoted US businesses and exports, and advanced scientific progress in critical areas. *The document follows reports in the US media that the partnership only benefits Pakistan, which gladly accepts US economic and military assistance but pays little attention to Washington's strategic interests in that region.* Media reports accused Pakistan of continuing to support religious extremists targeting US forces and their Afghan allies in Afghanistan.

Don't let america shun Pak: Sharif to diplomats, *The Nation*, November 21²¹

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has asked his diplomatic corps to make sure the United States does not shun Pakistan after Donald Trump takes over as president in January, The Nation has learnt. Senior officials at the Foreign Ministry said that Pakistan was aiming to win enough confidence of the new

¹⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1298459/karachi-operation>

²⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1297289/economic-ties-with-pakistan-beneficial-for-us-report>

²¹ <http://nation.com.pk/editors-picks/21-Nov-2016/don-t-let-america-shun-pakistan-sharif-tasks-diplomats>

US president that keeps Pakistan “in the game” – an effort to stop the US from being too close to India. *The officials said Pakistan was aware of the challenges during Trump’s presidency but was hopeful that the new president would acknowledge Islamabad’s commitment to peace and fight against terrorism.* Two senior diplomats in the US – Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani and permanent envoy to the UN Maleeha Lodhi – are already at work.

Pakistan sign deals for Al-Khalid up-gradation, *The News*, November 23²²

Pakistan signed two agreements today at the IDEAS 2016, one with Turkey for supply of 52 Super Mushshak aircrafts and another one with Ukraine for up-gradation of Al-Khalid tanks. Pakistan Aeronautical Complex (PAC) signed a deal with Turkey for supply of 52 Super Mushshak training aircrafts. These state-of-the-art training jets have been in high demand from various African and Middle Eastern nations. The aircraft has a service ceiling of 22,000 feet, and a maximum speed of 268km/h. Range of the aircraft is reported at 814 kilometres. Heavy Industries Taxila (HIT) signed a MoU with Ukraine for the up-gradation of 200 Al-Khalid-1 tanks. Ukraine will provide engines for them. Al-Khalid Main Battle Tank (MBT) is a result of joint venture between the HIT and China North Industries Corporation (NORINCO). It is powered by a Ukrainian 6TD-2 liquid-cooled diesel engine.

Pakistan warns against using water for coercion, *The News*, November 24²³

A top Pakistani diplomat has called on the world community to ensure that international agreements on waterways such as the 1960 World Bank brokered Indus Waters Treaty between India and Pakistan were not undermined through unilateral or coercive measures. “Access to water is a fundamental right that must be protected at all times,” Ambassador Maleeha Lodhi, Pakistan’s permanent representative to the UN told the Security Council while warning against any use of water as an instrument of coercion and war.

EDITORIALS AND OPINION

Discussing Afghanistan, Editorial, *The News*, November 24²⁴

The power structures we have come to expect to dominate South Asia are slowly being replaced. The disaster that is the US war in Afghanistan means fewer countries trust it or expect it to deliver stability. *The election of Narendra Modi in India has made it all but impossible for Pakistan to maintain good relations with its Eastern neighbour. China, thanks to the CPEC, has made a bold bid to be the primary political player in the region. And now Russia is*

²² <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/167103-Pakistan-sign-deals-for-Al-Khalid-up-gradation-supply-of-Super-Mushshak-jets>

²³ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/167164-Pakistan-warns-against-using-water-for-coercion>

²⁴ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/167247-Discussing-Afghanistan>

trying to make its influence felt in the region too. [...]Russia is clearly hoping to dislodge Indian hegemony in South Asia by overtly supporting its neighbours and becoming more involved in regional issues. [...]Russia has made other moves recently showing it is ready to pursue a closer alliance with Pakistan. At the Brics summit in India, Russia and China were at the forefront of moves to block India from adopting a resolution denouncing Pakistan as a terrorist state. Russia also carried out joint military exercises with Pakistan, a clear thumb in the eye for India, which has traditionally been a Russian ally. The US, meanwhile, has drifted every closer to India and at the UN General Assembly meeting in September it even held a trilateral meeting with India and Afghanistan without inviting Pakistan.

MILITARY AFFAIRS

Army chief wants return of all TDPs by December, *The Dawn*, November 16²⁵
The Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Raheel Sharif on Tuesday (November 15) directed the authorities concerned to ensure return of the remaining Temporarily Dislocated Persons (TDPs) by end of the year. During his visit to North and South Waziristan agencies, the COAS inaugurated various development projects and was briefed about the progress of return of TDPs, stabilisation operations and development projects in Fata, said a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations.

Modi learnt about our capability: COAS, *The Express Tribune*, November 17²⁶
The day seven Pakistani soldiers died in unprovoked shelling by India troops along the Line of Control (LoC), 11 Indian servicemen were also killed in retaliatory fire from the Pakistani side of the de facto border, revealed army chief General Raheel Sharif on Wednesday (November 16). "So far, 40 to 44 Indian soldiers have been killed in skirmishes," the army chief said in an informal chat with journalists at the Presidency where he was attending a dinner hosted by President Mamnoon Hussain in honour of his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan. [...]Gen Raheel said Indian Premier Narendra Modi must have fully realised by now what Pakistan's armed forces were capable of. "He [Modi] knows what we are doing and what we can do. He has come to know that aggression is counterproductive," he added.

Navies of Pakistan, China begin joint exercise, *The Dawn*, November 18²⁷
The Pakistan Navy (PN) and the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy of China began their fourth joint exercise on Thursday. The exercise will continue

²⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1296674/army-chief-wants-return-of-all-tdps-by-december>

²⁶ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1233917/modi-learnt-capable-army-chief/>

²⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1297067/navies-of-pakistan-china-begin-their-fourth-joint-exercise>

till Nov 21. Though the two navies have held joint exercises three times before, the fourth one, which includes harbour and sea phases, is significant because it is aimed at promoting maritime security and stability in the region with focus on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). This was the underlying message at a media briefing on the exercise held at the Fleet Headquarters. Commodore Mirza Foad Amin Baig, Commander 18th Destroyer Squadron, told the media that the fourth exercise carried far more importance in the context of the CPEC project.

Navy chief visits ships in joint exercise with China, *The Dawn*, November 21²⁸
Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral Mohammad Zakaullah paid a sea visit to Chinese Navy ship Handan on Sunday (November 20) during the ongoing joint exercise by the Pakistan Navy and the People's Liberation Army (Navy). The exercise, being held in the Arabian Sea between the two brotherly navies from Nov 16 to 21, covers a wide spectrum of maritime and naval operations by ships, helicopters, maritime patrol aircraft, joint boarding operations by special forces, air defence exercises, communication drills and joint manoeuvres by ships of both navies. Commander of Pakistan Fleet Vice Admiral Syed Arifullah Hussaini accompanied the CNS during the visit. [...]The naval chief said that the Pak-China friendship was highly valued and continued cooperation between the two countries had proven to be a source of strength for both of them.

An honourable exit begins, *The Nation*, November 22²⁹

A man of integrity and professional commitment, a leader of an iron will marked with clarity of purpose, an accomplished general immensely loved by his people – Raheel Sharif- is retiring to pavilion after playing a wonderful three-year innings. *Accomplishment of peace and stability was “no ordinary task”, he told a huge gathering of army soldiers and Rangers at the Lahore Garrison yesterday, as he officially began his farewell visits. “Our sacrifices and joint national resolve helped us in offsetting all odds against [the] country,” said the general, who led his people from the front against the monster of terrorism with significant success. “We are fully prepared to respond to any challenge and no one can dare cast an evil eye on Pakistan,” Gen Raheel said, as the country is at an undeclared war with India which has been shelling across the borders in Kashmir and near Sialkot for months, and carrying out subversive activities in Pakistan for years.*

²⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1297644/navy-chief-visits-ships-in-joint-exercise-with-china>

²⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/22-Nov-2016/an-honourable-exit-begins>

Kayani's extension strengthened govt: Zardari, *The Dawn*, November 22³⁰
Former president and Pakistan Peoples Party co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari has said that the then PPP government had become stronger following an extension given to then army chief Gen Ashfaq Parvez Kayani. "Extension to...General Kayani strengthened me as well as the parliament," he said during an interview to Geo News on Monday, part of which was broadcast on Sunday. In reply to a question about the extension to the current army chief, Mr Zardari chose to be non-committal, "It is the prerogative of the current government to give the extension or not."

To continue Raheel's legacy: Asif, *The Express Tribune*, November 22³¹
Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Monday (November 21) said the new leadership of Pakistan Army should carry forward the success and legacy of outgoing Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif. Asif said the Pakistan Army has been fighting an ongoing war against terrorism successfully. "The completion of these 'campaigns' would be the responsibility of the new Army chief," he added. [...]The Pakistan Army and its new chief will have to carry forward the tradition of success maintained during the last three years of Gen Raheel's tenure. He further added that the institution had earned good will and respect, which must be upheld.

'You served nation well'; PM, *The News*, November 23³²
Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif Wednesday (November 23) hosted a farewell reception for the outgoing Chairman Joint Chief of Staff Committee, General Rashad Mahmood, here at the PM House. In his remarks at the luncheon, the prime minister said General Rashad Mehmood performed his duties with skill competence and complete commitment. The prime minister said General Rashad was chosen for this prestigious position for his leadership qualities and because of his vision for armed forces as more versatile and responsive outfits.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Unfinished agenda needs focus, Abbas Nasir, *The Dawn*, November 19³³
WHILE political battles and legal wrangling continue to grab our attention, as will the new army chief's appointment, partially addressed issues, which threaten the very existence of our 69-year-old nation, continue to serve up reminders that there remains an unfinished agenda. [...]Whosoever replaces

³⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1297853/kayanis-extension-strengthened-ppp-govt-parliament-zardari>

³¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1239250/new-army-chief-carry-forward-gen-raheels-legacy-khawaja-asif/>

³² <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/167114-You-served-nation-well-PMs-glowing-tribute-to-outgoing-CJCSC>

³³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1297153/unfinished-agenda-needs-focus>

Gen Raheel Sharif as the chief of army staff will have to settle into the role quickly as a hostile regional environment will not allow the luxury of a long settling-in period. Equally challenging will be the internal security situation. Most of the senior lieutenant generals, who are said to be among those likely to be considered for the top slot, are said to be battle-hardened and sufficiently experienced to ensure a smooth transition. However, individuals do make a difference.

Whom not to choose, Imtiaz Alam, *The News*, November 24³⁴

The speculation mills are running at an all-time high, with lobbyists busy round the clock to promote their favourites as a very popular, successful and domineering COAS is about to step down. [...]With US president-elect Trump dangerously reshaping the world and the kind of alarming appointments he is making, such as of Gen Michael Flynn as his national security adviser, Pakistan must hurry to remove the remaining skeletons in our closet and try a peace offensive in the region. That is what is required most and you need a thinking and resilient person who will take a backseat and listen to the advice of diplomats who cannot defend the indefensible chasm between the stated policy and the contrary deeds on the ground. [...]While making the two crucial appointments, the prime minister must think of the already marginalised civilian space and the need for a less conflict-oriented regional strategy. Forget about your 'own men'; find someone in the best national interests and preserve a shaky democratic transition.

ECONOMIC ISSUES

Nawaz dragging Pak into debt: Bilawal, *The Express Tribune*, November 22³⁵
Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has been dragging the country deeper into debt over the past three years, Chairperson of Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari was quoted as saying in a statement issued by the party. According to him, the PML-N government had burdened the nation with an additional Rs8 trillion in foreign and domestic debts. [...]“*The amount is more than one-thirds of total national debt accrued during the past 66 years since the country’s independence,*” he said.

Pakistan economy growing..., *The Express Tribune*, November 23³⁶
[...]Confidence in Pakistan is growing, with the International Monetary Fund claiming in October that the country has emerged from crisis and stabilised its

³⁴ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/167251-Whom-not-to-choose>

³⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1238876/burdening-nation-nawaz-dragging-pakistan-deeper-debt-says-bilawal/>

³⁶ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1240343/pakistan-economy-growing-enough/>

economy after completing a bailout programme. Its credit rating has improved, while there are encouraging signs of foreign investment, such as a massive Chinese infrastructure project officials routinely call a “gamechanger”.

CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

CPEC rail track in the offing, *The Nation*, November 16³⁷

Divisional Superintendent Railways Muhammad Anif Gul said Tuesday (November 15) that new railway track from Spanzan to Kuchlak will be laid under CPEC and five railway stations of Balochistan including Quetta Railway Station will be upgraded. Addressing a press conference after inaugurating conference hall at Railways office, DS Railways also came hard on those corrupt elements of the department. “Stringent action will be taken against corrupt elements in the department,” resolved DS Railways. He said those who have encroached railway lands should return these voluntarily otherwise authorities would get it evacuated.

Azad Kashmir seeks share in CPEC, *The Dawn*, November 18³⁸

The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) government is in contact with the federal government for a ‘reasonable’ share in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, a senior official said on Thursday (November 17). “The 1,124 megawatts Kohala hydropower project is part of the CPEC and is of vital importance for the socioeconomic uplift of Azad Kashmir,” said Chief Secretary Sikandar Sultan Raja in a statement. He said that the Kohala project would bring huge investment to the AJK private sector which would not only create hundreds of jobs and subsequently enhance the living standards of local population but would also significantly increase revenues.

Leverage Through CPEC, Editorial, *The Nation*, November 21³⁹

The Indian media has played up the fear of a few Pakistani lawmakers about India jumping on to the CPEC bandwagon and then taking the reins. However, there is not too much to worry about if the facts are taken into consideration. While it is true that the CPEC would serve to benefit all neighbouring countries, since the corridor is geographically within Pakistani territory, this can only happen if they are on good terms with Pakistan. In any case, if there was a risk that China would use the corridor to boost trade with India, the realisation comes two years too late. However, looking at Chinese designs in the region, Pakistan benefits the most from the CPEC.

³⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/national/16-Nov-2016/cpec-rail-track-in-the-offing>

³⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1297045/azad-kashmir-seeks-share-in-cpec>

³⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/21-Nov-2016/leverage-through-cpec>

CPEC to promote social contacts: Zehri, *The Express Tribune*, November 23⁴⁰
Chief Minister Balochistan Nawab Sanaullah Zehri has said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would become an important source of promoting contacts in the province. "Construction of highways will help strengthen social contacts," he said. He expressed these views to DS Railway Haneef Gul who called on him here on Tuesday. DS Railway briefed the chief minister about Gwadar Mastung Railway Line, Quetta Mass Transit System and restoration of Sibi Harnai Railway Line. Vice Chairman Board of Investment Khowaja Humayun Nizami was also present in the meeting. DS railway informed the chief minister that 40% of restoration work of Sibi-Harnai Railway line has been completed, adding that according to the scheduled time this project would have to be completed in 2018 but the pace of work has been expedited and this project would be completed in August 2017.

EDITORIALS AND OPINION

State Bank report, Editorial, *The Dawn*, November 20⁴¹

THE latest annual report of the State Bank of Pakistan echoes much of the same view held by the IMF and other independent economists: the economy has stabilised, but a lot of the work needed to mend it remains to be done. At the heart of the stabilisation are two central facts. The fiscal deficit has shrunk to 4.6pc of GDP, down from the 6pc plus average it had maintained for the previous half decade, and down by 0.7pc from last year; and foreign exchange reserves have risen to cover seven months of imports, the most comfortable position they have been in for more than half a decade. Taken together, all that these two data points tell us is that some breathing room has opened up, but that if key structural reforms are not undertaken, the situation could reverse quickly. This is the central message of the annual report and it deserves to be heeded.

SECURITY SITUATION

TERRORISM

IS cell busted, *The Dawn*, November 18⁴²

The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) claimed on Thursday to have busted an eight-member cell of the militant Islamic State (IS) group, following arrest of the outfit's Lahore chief in a raid on his house in the Cantonment area. According to the CTD, the cell was not only recruiting militants but also radicalising youths and transporting them, along with their families, to Syria or Afghanistan. It was also allegedly working to develop its capacity to

⁴⁰ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1240149/cpec-promote-social-contacts-zehri/>

⁴¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1297384/state-bank-report>

⁴² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1297047/is-cell-sending-recruits-to-syria-afghanistan-busted>

establish organisational structure of IS in Pakistan. A senior CTD officer told Dawn that the busted IS cell was planning to announce 'vilayat' in Pakistan (an administrative unit of a sovereign state under a 'caliphate') in the coming months.

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND FATA

Three FC men killed, *The Express Tribune*, November 22⁴³

At least three officers of the Frontier Constabulary (FC) were killed and five others injured when an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded during a funeral in Bashirabad area of Peshawar on Tuesday (November 22). "Three officials were killed and three others were injured in the blast," SSP Operations Sajjad Khan told *The Express Tribune*. The IED, targetting an FC convoy was planted on the road, he said. Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) splinter group Jamaatul Ahrar claimed responsibility for the attack in an email sent to the media. The deceased have been identified as Hanif Jamal, Yasirullah and Khalid. According to reports, FC officials, along with several others were attending funeral prayers of the press club's former president's mother.

BALUCHISTAN

Two suspected militants killed, *The Dawn*, November 19⁴⁴

Two alleged militants were shot dead in a clash with security forces in the Dera Bugti area on Friday. Official sources said the Frontier Corps (FC) had launched an operation in the Doi Wad area of Dera Bugti district on a tip-off about the presence of militants involved in attacks on security forces, gas installations and other subversion activities. In a heavy exchange of fire, which went on for two hours, the suspected militants were killed. "Both militants who were killed in the firing belonged to the banned Baloch Republican Army (BRA)," said an FC spokesman.

Four security personnel shot dead, *The Dawn*, November 20⁴⁵

At least four security personnel were shot dead by suspected militants on Fatima Jinnah road area of Quetta on Saturday evening (November 19), said police officials. "Armed men opened fire at Frontier Corps and police personnel on Quetta's Fatima Jinnah Road. One FC soldier and a police constable died on the spot, while two other FC personnel succumbed to their injuries on the way to hospital," said a police official. "Two passersby also sustained bullet wounds as result of the attack and were rushed to nearby civil hospital Quetta for medical treatment," the official added.

⁴³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1239163/three-fc-men-killed-blast-funeral-peshawar/>

⁴⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1297290/two-suspected-militants-killed>

⁴⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1297343/four-security-personnel-shot-dead-by-suspected-militants-in-quetta>

People rejected foreign sponsored terrorists: Raheel, *The News*, November 22⁴⁶

As part of his farewell visits, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Raheel Sharif visited Quetta on Tuesday (November 22), where he addressed officers and troops of Southern Command and Frontier Corps Balochistan, said the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a statement. The army chief said that the people of Balochistan had clearly rejected foreign sponsored terrorists and helped the state in busting their network. While paying glowing tributes to the officers and soldiers of Southern Command and Frontier Corps, he said, "the tide in Balochistan has been turned against terrorists and their sympathizers, and large number of Ferraris were surrendering. We will continue to work with the provincial and federal governments towards greater security and stability".

Man killed, three hurt in Chaman blast, *The Dawn*, November 22⁴⁷

A person was killed and three others, including two security personnel, were injured in a remote-controlled bomb attack on Monday in the Boghara Road area of Chaman, a town near the Pak-Afghan border. Official sources said the intended target had been an army vehicle that was passing through the area when the bomb exploded. The improvised explosive device had been planted under a causeway near Boghara Road. It went off as an army truck carrying security personnel was crossing the causeway. A 25-year-old man died on the spot and three others were injured. "The man killed in the blast was passing through the area on a motorcycle," a senior police officer said, adding that the injured include two security personnel and a passerby. The security personnel travelling in the army vehicle received minor injuries.

SINDH

Two gangsters gunned down, *The Nation*, November 21⁴⁸

Two suspected members of the Lyari gang war were killed while five suspects including political workers were arrested in separate raids and encounters in different parts of a city, here on Sunday. A suspected criminal was killed during an alleged encounter with the police in PIB Colony. Police said that the accused was arrested in injured condition during an exchange of fire with the police when the police conducted a raid at the criminals' hideout in Old Sabzi Mandi area. SHO Safdar Mashwani said that the accused Yousuf belonged to gang war while ASI Tariq of the PIB Colony police station was also wounded during an exchange of fire. Both the suspect and the police officer were taken to Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) where the injured suspect was

⁴⁶ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/166858-People-of-Balochistan-has-rejected-foreign-sponsored-terrorists-Gen-Raheel>

⁴⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1297854/man-killed-three-hurt-in-chaman-blast>

⁴⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/national/21-Nov-2016/two-gangsters-gunned-down-in-karachi>

later succumbed to his injuries during treatment. The police also claim to have recovered weapons from his possession.

Rangers recover huge quantity of arms ammunition, *The News*, November 23⁴⁹
Pakistan Rangers Sindh on Wednesday recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition from a house during a raid in Gadap Town area of metropolis. According to a statement, the weapons were likely to be used by an active militant wing found hidden at secret places in the house. The arms and ammunition were kept in the house for use in target killings and other incidents of lawlessness in the city. The recovered ammunition include a LMG, a 7mm, a 8 mm gun, two SMGs, a 9mm pistol, three 30 bore baby SMGs, three 12 bore repeaters, three TT pistols, one 32 bore revolver, and 1650 rounds of SMGs, 350 rounds of 8mm, 50 rounds of 12 bore, 50 rounds of 30 bore and 17 magazines.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Perpetuating sectarianism, Amir Rana, *The Dawn*, November 20⁵⁰

THE recent surge in sectarian violence has done two things. First, it has highlighted the challenges and vulnerabilities the country's security and law-enforcement forces face in countering terrorism. Second, it has brought to the fore some critical, long-standing questions about the state's resolve and efforts to counter religiously inspired extremism, mainly violent sectarianism. Violent sectarian organisations are apparently shifting their territorial focus while law-enforcement agencies struggle to chase and trace their networks. There is, however, something more worrisome: how are these groups able to restructure and revive themselves so soon after their networks are weakened and leaders eliminated? The question becomes more critical in the context of the recent rebirth of Lashkar-i-Jhangvi (LJ) as Lashkar-i-Jhangvi al-Alami (LJ-A).

Terror List, Editorial, *The Nation*, November 21⁵¹

In a revised list of banned organisations by National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), the Jamaat-ul-Ahrar and Lashkar-i-Jhangvi Al-Alami have been declared banned terrorist organisations. This brings the total of banned organisations up to 63 – 63 organisations, that the state has officially classified as terrorist, when we have room for not even one. While it is an encouraging step to add these two outfits to the list, the real problem is how to deal with such groups and eliminate them. A ban is just not enough for militant groups that openly confess to orchestrating attacks. It is just the first and smallest step. It is not hard to continue existing under another name. Members

⁴⁹ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/167112-Rangers-recover-huge-quantity-of-arms-ammunition>

⁵⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1297389/perpetuating-sectarianism>

⁵¹ <http://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2016-11-21/page-6/detail-0>

of the 63 groups have to be stopped from living freely in our society and there are measures that the state can take to do this. [...] *There is a dire need to monitor and check the re-surfacing of the outfits that have been banned, and NACTA could serve this role if there was will behind such action.* The establishment of joint intelligence directorate still appears to be a distant dream.

RELATIONS WITH INDIA

India biggest irritant to regional peace: Nisar, *The Nation*, November 17⁵²

Interior Minister Nisar Ali Khan and former prime minister of United Kingdom David Cameron held a meeting in London and exchanged views on Pakistan-UK bilateral relations, the regional situation and other issues of mutual interest. [...] *The interior minister also raised the issue of Indian involvement in the internal affairs of Pakistan, terming India as the biggest irritant to peace in the region. He said Pakistan would not be brow beaten by such tactics.* The brazen and unprovoked killing of our soldiers will not go unchallenged, Nisar said. The interior minister put the onus for the deterioration of Indo-Pak relations squarely on India. Regarding the Kashmir issue, he said that Pakistan was ready to discuss the issue of Kashmir without conditions. He said Pakistan would continue to support the just rights of the Kashmiri people and their struggle.

Indian minister's statement is a threat to peace: FO, *The Dawn*, November 19⁵³

The Foreign Office on Friday (November 18) said the statement of the Indian defence minister questioning his country's no-first-use of nuclear weapons policy was a "manifestation of India's doublespeak and a threat to the region's peace and security". "Such statement from a person no less than the defence minister of a country that has repeatedly and constantly heightened tensions with aggressive posture is a threat to regional and global peace," Foreign Office spokesman Nafees Zakaria said at a weekly press briefing. Indian defence minister Manohar Parrikar had stated last week that "instead of saying that India won't use nuclear weapons first, it should say it is a responsible nuclear power". The spokesman said India's claim of 'no first use of nuclear weapons' could not substitute the restraint measures as proposed in Pakistan's standing offer of 'Strategic Restraint Regime'.

India, Israel 'biggest terrorist' countries: Rabbani, *The Nation*, November 20⁵⁴

⁵² <http://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2016-11-17/page-2/detail-7>

⁵³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1297302/indian-defence-ministers-statement-on-nuclear-first-use-a-threat-to-peace-fo>

⁵⁴ <http://nation.com.pk/national/20-Nov-2016/india-israel-are-the-biggest-terrorist-countries-raza-rabbani>

Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabbani on Sunday (November 20) termed India and Israel as the biggest terrorist countries on earth. Rabbani said that India and Israel have always tried to destabilize Pakistan. The Senate chairman went on to say that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his party Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won the election on the basis of Hindu nationalism. It should be noted that Pakistan Navy had successfully intercepted an Indian submarine and prevented it from entering Pakistani waters. Maritime Security Agency arrested 'Indian nationals' who were trying to enter Pakistan by cross the western sea border. Pakistani troops on Saturday (November 19) brought down an Indian drone which violated country's airspace Rabbani also said that politics of interest is at rise.

Pakistan to counter LoC aggression, *The Nation*, November 21⁵⁵

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said that Pakistan will instantly and befittingly respond to every Indian war aggression, and added that the enemy in this way wants to divert the world's attention from the burning issue of Kashmir and its atrocities. "Pakistan is fully capable of responding to any aggression and the enemy (India) must not misconstrue Pakistan's desire for peace as weakness," he added while talking to newsmen here. He said that Pakistan would respond India with full force, if it continues to target the civilian population in Pakistan along the Line of Control (LoC) and Working Boundary. He said that Pakistan would counter the situation on all levels.

Pakistan, India lawmakers meet in Dubai, *The Dawn*, November 22⁵⁶

Strained relations notwithstanding, lawmakers and agriculture and livestock experts from India and Pakistan met in Dubai on Sunday (November 20) for the fourth round of a dialogue on sharing experiences. The dialogue was facilitated by PILDAT, a think tank, and included Senator Mohsin Leghari, who chaired the dialogue, MPAs Mehmoodur Rashid and Jahanzaib Khan Khichi (of the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf), Qazi Adnan Fareed and Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan (of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz), Vickas Hassan Mokal (of the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid), Dr Amanullah and Dr Masood Rabbani of the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore, and agriculturist Hamid Malhi from Pakistan. The participants from India included former Indian minister Mani Shan-kar Aiyar, Haryana Legislative Assembly Speaker Kanwar Pal and deputy speaker Santosh Yadav (of the Bharatiya Janata Party), Haryana MLAs Lalit Nagar (Congress), Parminder Singh Dhull (Lok Dal), CNN IBN editor Jyoti Kamal, Indian Express assistant

⁵⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/21-Nov-2016/pakistan-to-counter-loc-aggression-at-all-levels>

⁵⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1297855/pakistan-india-lawmakers-meet-in-dubai-share-experiences>

editor Man Aman Singh Chhina, and Dr M.J. Khan of the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture.

Pakistan dismisses soldier's mutilation, *The Express Tribune*, November 23⁵⁷

Calling them baseless and fabricated, Islamabad has strongly dismissed reports regarding mutilation of the body of an Indian soldier after an alleged attack across the Line of Control (LoC) in Indian occupied Kashmir (IOK). Indian media on Tuesday (November 22) claimed that in a cross LoC attack suspected militants killed three Indian soldiers and later mutilated body of one of them. "These reports are a fabrication and a blatant attempt to malign Pakistan," said a statement issued by the Foreign Office on Tuesday (November 22). It said the Pakistan Army – with its professional approach – is neither involved in any such unethical and non-professional activity nor it does support any such action. "However, Pakistan is fully prepared and ready to respond to any misadventure across the LoC, Working Boundary or International Border," the statement said. On Tuesday, Pakistan also summoned a senior Indian diplomat at the foreign office to record a strong protest over the continued ceasefire violations by the Indian troops along the LoC.

10 civilians, 3 soldiers martyred, *The News*, November 23⁵⁸

Indian shelling across the LoC caused the martyrdom of ten Pakistani civilians and caused injury to several others, including children, on Wednesday (November 23). Three soldiers also embraced martyrdom due to Indian shelling. India violated the ceasefire agreement between both countries yet again when it started shelling across the Line of Control, according to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). [...]Indian border security forces targeted Bagh, Shahkot, Jora, Battal, Karela, Baghsar and Tatta Pani sectors. Local administration official Sardar Waheed said firing was continuing, preventing ambulances from reaching the scene. "Indian troops targetted a civil Bus near LoC (the Line of Control) in Neelam (sic) valley," the military said in an emailed statement. In a separate statement it said that "intense firing" was ongoing. "The death toll in the bus firing is nine now," Neelum Valley police chief Jamil Mir told AFP.

⁵⁷ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1240151/attempt-malign-pakistan-dismisses-report-soldiers-alleged-mutilation/>

⁵⁸ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/167098-Both-sides-trade-fire-across-LoC-as-India-violates-ceasefire-again>

DGMOs make hotline contact, *The News*, November 23⁵⁹

Hotline contact was established between Pakistan and Indian Army DGMOs. Discussing single point agenda, Pakistan Army DGMO demarched his Indian counterpart for targeting civilians' bus, by Indian troops, with innocent civilians inside on LoC towards Pakistan side.

Nine dead in Indian shelling, *The Express Tribune*, November 24⁶⁰

Indian forces targeted a passenger bus in Azad Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday (November 23), killing at least nine people and wounding another nine as well. "Indian troops targeted a civil bus near LoC [Line of Control] in Neelum Valley," the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement. The bus en route to Muzaffarabad from Kel was hit by Indian mortars near the Lawat Kanari Bala area of Neelum Valley, some 99km from the AJK capital, police and local administration officials told *The Express Tribune*. The military media arm initially put the death toll from the bus attack at four and the number of wounded at seven. But Neelum Valley police chief Jamil Mir later said the number of deaths had risen to nine.

Targeting of civilians unprofessional: COAS, *The News*, November 24⁶¹

Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Raheel Sharif held a special meeting at Corps Headquarters Rawalpindi on Wednesday (November 23) to review the situation at the Line of Control (LoC). The focus of the meeting was on Wednesday's civil bus attack which resulted in martyrdom of innocent passengers. According to ISPR, Indian troops targeted a civil Bus near LoC in Neelum valley in which four embraced shahadat while seven were injured. *"Deliberate targeting of innocent civilians was unprofessional and unacceptable," the Army Chief observed. Gen. Raheel appreciated the morale of the troops and the most befitting response given by them. Any future violations must also get instant and effective response, he added.*

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Cross-LoC aggression, Editorial, *The Dawn*, November 16⁶²

THE death of seven Pakistani soldiers, announced by the military's media wing on Monday, as a result of cross-LoC Indian shelling is tragic and deserving of the strongest condemnation. The incident once again underscores the

⁵⁹ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/167121-DGMOs-of-Pakistan-and-India-make-hotline-contact>

⁶⁰ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1242704/unprovoked-shelling-nine-dead-indian-troops-shell-civilian-bus/>

⁶¹ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/167127-Deliberate-targeting-of-civilians-unprofessional-unacceptable-COAS>

⁶² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1296578/cross-loc-aggression>

dangerously frayed state of Pakistan-India relations in the aftermath of September's Uri attack. Disturbingly, there are no signs that the belligerence will end soon. [...] *While open talk of war has died down to a large extent post-Uri, the constant LoC and Working Boundary violence has the potential of escalating into a more dangerous confrontation. There may be little appetite for war in the two establishments – if one ignores the shrill cries of the super hawks and armchair warriors in the media.* But, unless the guns fall silent, further loss of civilian or military life caused by such aggression could see temperatures rise further, exacerbating the current diplomatic stand-off – over the past few weeks, both India and Pakistan have expelled each other's diplomats for indulging in "undesirable activities". *If not checked, this exchange of vitriol on the diplomatic front, coupled with the exchange of firepower across the LoC and Working Boundary, could also result in similar aggression along the international border.*

Pak-India tensions, Editorial, *The Dawn*, November 21⁶³

Is it brinkmanship or something more? With the decade-old ceasefire along the LoC already in tatters, *India appears determined to find new avenues of provocation against Pakistan. Over the weekend, first an Indian submarine attempted to intrude into Pakistani waters, according to official accounts, and then a small Indian surveillance drone was knocked down after it strayed across the LoC, again according to official statements.* While each incident may individually seem small and both sides will likely dispute what really occurred, it is alarming that incidents, especially one involving a submarine, are taking place at the moment. [...] *With the election of a hawkish Donald Trump in the US, Mr Modi may even now be gambling that the year ahead will see closer cooperation between India and the US and more pressure on Pakistan from the new American administration to address US and Indian concerns about specific militant groups allegedly operating on Pakistani soil.* So the combination of pre-existing preferences and the introduction of a new, unpredictable factor in the election of Mr Trump may be the cause of a fresh spike in Pakistan-India tensions. Perhaps all sides, including the incoming US administration, should pay heed to the words of the outgoing team in Washington.

Not mere pinpricks, Shirin M. Mazari, *The News*, November 24⁶⁴

India's Modi and his BJP government continue their aggressive designs against Pakistan. Beginning with sporadic attacks along the Line of Control (LoC) and the Working Boundary (WB), the Modi government moved on to convert these into more regular attacks with an increase in occurrence followed now by a

⁶³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1297563/pak-india-tensions>

⁶⁴ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/167250-Not-mere-pinpricks>

qualitative increase in intensity. Some would say these continue to be mere pinpricks to divert Pakistan's attention away from Indian brutality against Kashmiris in Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK). However, while there may be some truth in this assumption, it is becoming increasingly clear in recent weeks that the Indian military is not simply conducting an Operation Diversion but is in fact conducting a large-scale exploratory exercise designed to test out a new military doctrine. After all, the Cold Start Doctrine went into cold storage after Pakistan developed the Nasr missile.

EXCERPTS FROM URDU MEDIA & SELECT JIHADI LITERATURE

India's aggression and International silence, Editorial, *Jang*, November 16⁶⁵
According to experts, one main reason for India's war-mongering attitude (jung-i-junoon) was Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's religious/racial bias which has even increased after the victory of Donald Trump who shared Modi's ideology. Second reason was that Pakistan lacked diplomatic skills and despite having a strong case in Kashmir, it was not able to present it as it should have in the world capitals. In contrast, India was quite successful in its propaganda against Pakistan on terrorism...Pakistan should launch a strong diplomatic offensive for implementation of the UN Resolutions on Kashmir. Terrorism has not ended in Pakistan. Political crisis has also affected country's foreign and security policies. Because of this, India, under the patronage of America, is finding it easier to resort to war-mongering and create a war-like situation on the LoC and the Working Boundary. Our Army and nation are ready to meet this challenge. India will have to understand that wars would not resolve any issue; therefore it should hold dialogue for resolving all the pending issues with Pakistan.

Muslims and Pakistan, enemy of India, Israel, Editorial, *Ummat*, Nov. 16⁶⁶
Firing from the Indian side continues along the LoC. Few days back seven Pak-soldiers were martyred in such firing; Pakistan's retaliation caused four-times more damage on the Indian side. [...] India does not care about lives of its people because it desperately wants to divert attention from the Kashmir crisis. Whenever the freedom movement in Kashmir intensifies, India gives a free hand to its Army for carrying out atrocities in Kashmir....India is also

⁶⁵<http://e.jang.com.pk/11-16-2016/karachi/pic.asp?picname=215273>

⁶⁶<http://ummat.net/2016/11/16/news.php?p=idr1.gif>

worried about the CPEC. It has taken out its frustration on the innocent Kashmiris. Its army is killing and blinding them. *Instead of taking note of such incidents, the international community and the UN are asking India and Pakistan to resolve their issues through dialogue.* When a country is not ready for dialogue, *this repetitive counseling of the international community of holding dialogue only shows its indifference and insensitivity.* **If the criminal and the victim are to resolve issues between themselves, then what is the need of the UN?** India did not either accept the UN Resolutions on Kashmir or any mediation over the issue. *It not only reflects its arrogance but also its weaknesses as well. These are good days for India. Earlier only Russia and Israel were its supporters; now even America is supporting it.*

If in India there is an extremist (*inteha pasand*) Hindu, Narendra Modi, as the Prime Minister, in the US, Donald Trump has just been elected as its President. He made his anti-Muslim views clear in his campaign. When America, India and Israel along with all non-Muslim countries are inimical towards Pakistan, our rulers, the politicians, were busy pulling each other's legs. [...] *Given the bad situation in Pakistan and the vested-interest politics here, this news would not go down well with the patriots in our country that the Israeli president Reuven Rivlin was on an eight-day visit to India. He would sign defence and economic agreements with India. The whole world knows that hostility against the Muslims and the lone Islamic nuclear power state, Pakistan, is being led by India and Israel. And as a friend of these two, America has been actively hurting Pakistan's interests at their behest.* [...] Every year, around 40,000 Israelis visit India. Majority of these are the ones who have had a career in the Israeli Army....Israel has always been forthcoming in supplying weapons to India and in 2007 it worked with India on a \$2.5 billion project to build missile carrying jets.

The nature of the relationship between these two countries could be judged from the fact that last year, when the Indian Prime Minister was in Turkey for G-20 summit, his security was provided by the Mossad and MI5. If India-Israel relations were limited to bilateral trade alone, no one should have a problem but given their enmity with the Muslims and Pakistan, we cannot ignore it.

Only one antidote to India: Al-Jehad, Al-Jehad, Naveed Masood Hashmi, *Daily Ausaf*, November 25⁶⁷

I have written this many a times that India understands only the language of force (*Bharat laton ka bhoot hai*). Until our forces infiltrate into India and beat it on its own territory, it is not going to stop its mischief. People trying to placate India through dialogue and empty threats are only living in fools' paradise

⁶⁷<http://epaper.dailyausaf.com/popup.php?newsrc=issues/2016-11-25/961/1003.gif>

(ahmaqon ki Jannat). The soul of Satan (devil) has fully captured the consciousness of the Indian Hindus. Narendra Modi has the same devilish soul which can be crushed by an Islamic force (Islami sipah salar) of the kind that was led by Honourable Sultan Mahmood Ghazni (R.A) and attacked Somnath 17 times and unfurled the Islamic flag over there. Mahmood Ghazni could identify the extremist Hindus better because he was a true Muslim, a convinced idol-breaker.

But our rulers and media believe in idol-worship, and therefore they are unable to identify the extremism among the Hindus and the threats emanating from it. The incompetence of our media stands exposed as the Kashmiris are being killed. It is happy that peace prevails in Pakistan. *Gifts are being sent to the Indian rulers. Hindu extremists are now in power in Delhi and our rulers are (read Nawaz Sharif) welcoming (jhappiyan dal rahe hain) the biggest terrorist of the world (dunya ka sub se bada dahshatgard), Narendra Modi, in Raiwind and Jati Umra..... (followed by impassioned rhetoric on Kashmir)*

If Narendra Modi's *Dajjal* army is killing passengers in a bus or attacking ambulances, these are the consequences of these policies. [...] *India would never stop these activities if we keep talking to them. We need to teach them a lesson. ...Remember, we keep counting our dead and injured, and have lost half of our territory; we have seen our young generation getting swayed by Indian culture beamed through our media. Do we have any other option other than Jihad to set India right? No. India has only one antidote – Al-Jehad, Al-Jehad.*

Bajwa as Army Chief a tough message for India, Ummat, November 27⁶⁸

...Given the tension on the LoC, General Qamar Bajwa has been appointed as new Army Chief. General Bajwa was appointed as Commander of largest Tenth Corps (Rawalpindi) in 2011 by then Army Chief Ashfaq Kiyani. The Tenth Corps is responsible for defending country on the LoC. [...] According to the sources, the timing of appointing Bajwa as Army Chief was important. There is a war-like situation along the LoC because of India's aggression. There could be a nuclear war because of miscalculation. Because General Bajwa has served on the LoC, he would be better placed to respond to the situation. His appointment is a strong message to India that the policy started by General Raheel Sharif is going to be continued. [...] *According to the sources, general Bajwa played an important role as the Inspector General of Training and Evaluation and made changes in the Pakistani Doctrine concerning use of nuclear and tactical nuclear weapons. Giving a strong answer to any aggression has been the cornerstone of the new Pakistani nuclear Doctrine.*

⁶⁸<http://ummat.net/2016/11/27/news.php?p=story1.gif>

Pakistan has adopted the policy of maximum deterrence instead of minimum deterrence.

If you stop water, there will be blood, Hafiz Saeed, *Daily Ausaf*, November 28⁶⁹
In a public meeting in Faisalabad, the chief of *Jamaat-ud-Dawa, Pakistan*, Prof. Hafiz Saieed said that because of repeated human rights violations by India, separatist movements were getting stronger in India day by day. He held that India had illegally occupied Hyderabad Deccan, Gurdaspur, Junagarh, and Kashmir among others. He appreciated the services of the Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif and said that he would be remembered for a long time. He said in the same breath that the new Army Chief Bajwa would also fight the enemies of Islam and Pakistan with strong hands.

He warned 'Modi Sarkar' to keep it in mind that if water did not flow in the rivers, there would be bloodshed. Pakistanis, he said, were not afraid of threats from India and if India did not restrain itself and reverse its aggressive policy towards Pakistan, then Kashmir along with all the dams that India has built in the state, would become part of Pakistan. [...] Saeed said that wars were not to be fought with weapons alone, the people of Pakistan needed to understand the measures taken by the opponent and scotch their plans. He was of the opinion that because of the resolve of the Kashmiris, freedom of Occupied Kashmir was going to be independent very soon.

India feels threatened by Gen. Bajwa, Editorial, *Daily Ausaf*, November 28⁷⁰
Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was so careful about the names that even his close ones could not get any clue about it and nobody raised a finger on his selection. [...] In our view the Prime Minister has chosen a fearless leader, thoroughly professional, and famous in the military circles as the new Army Chief. His views about terrorism as a nuisance are quite clear. *For him, terrorism is the biggest threat for Pakistan. To deal with Indian aggression, the new Chief would design a new strategy. Since relationship with India is in decline, there is a far greater responsibility on his shoulders now and the whole nation will watch him very closely as to how he is going to defend his country against India's aggression and terrorism. Immediately after the announcement, there was shock and surprise in India and the Indian leadership is quite worried.*

⁶⁹<http://dailyausaf.com/latestnews/2016-11-28/8231>

⁷⁰<http://epaper.dailyausaf.com/popup.php?newssrc=issues/2016-11-28/1132/1001.gif>

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

Place	Date	Description	Killed	Injured
Balochistan				
Dera Bugti ⁷¹	19/11/2016	Two militants killed	2	0
Quetta ⁷²	20/11/2016	Four soldiers shot dead	4	2
Chaman ⁷³	22/22/2026	Man killed in blast	1	3
KP & FATA				
Peshawar ⁷⁴	22/11/2016	Three FC men killed	3	0
Sindh				
Karachi ⁷⁵	21/11/2016	Two gunned down	2	1

⁷¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1297290/two-suspected-militants-killed>

⁷² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1297343/four-security-personnel-shot-dead-by-suspected-militants-in-quetta>

⁷³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1297854/man-killed-three-hurt-in-chaman-blast>

⁷⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1239163/three-fc-men-killed-blast-funeral-peshawar/>

⁷⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/21-Nov-2016/two-gangsters-gunned-down-in-karachi>