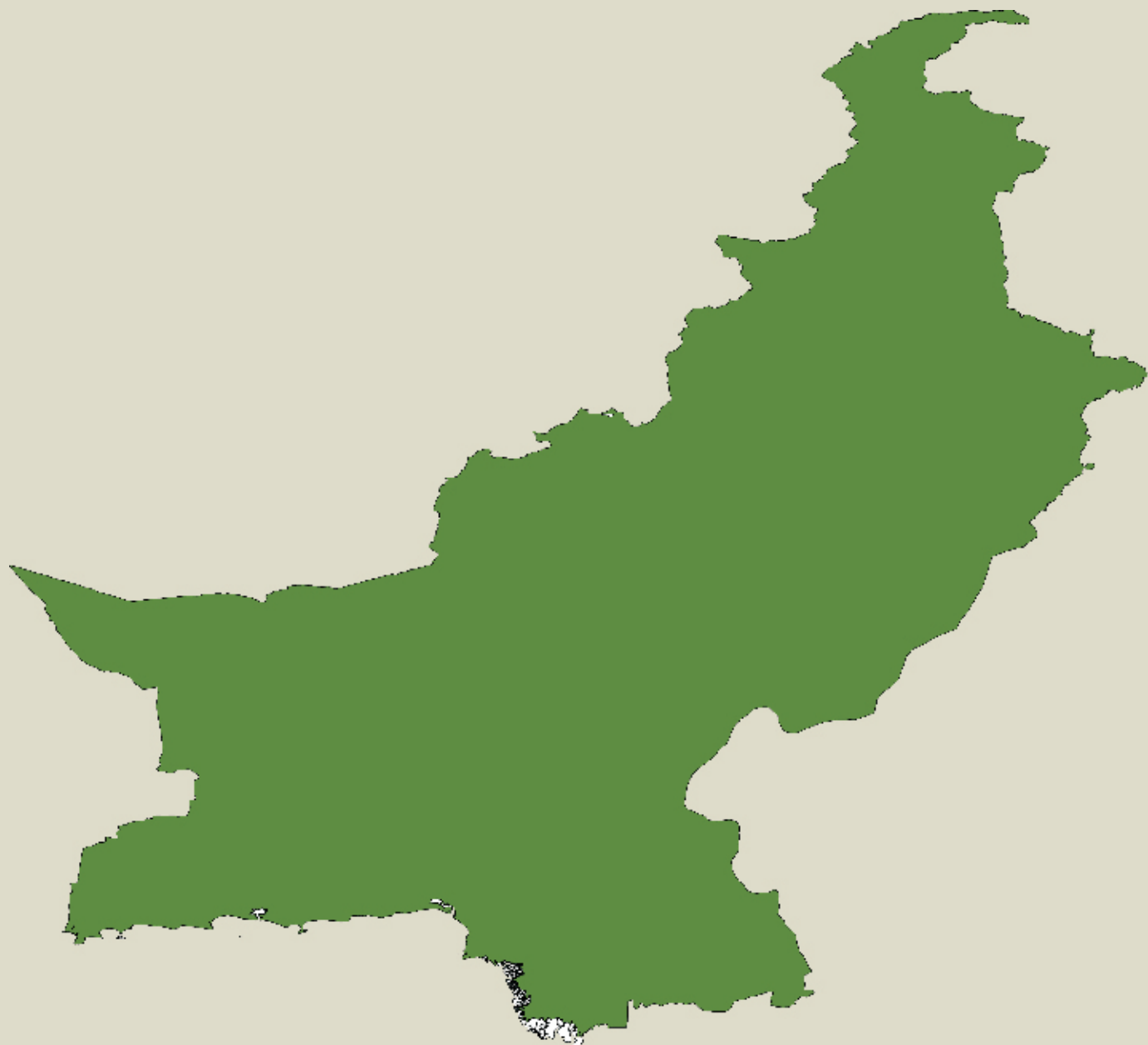


July 2015

PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST

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



*Prepared by
Ashish Shukla &
Manzoor Ahmed Bhat
(Research Assistant, Pakistan Project, IDSA)*

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INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE
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रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST, JULY 2015

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ABBREVIATIONS

ANP: Awami National Party
APC: All Parties Conference
ATC: Anti-Terrorism Court
CIA: Crime Investigation Agency
CPEC: China- Pakistan Economic Corridor
CTD: Counter Terrorism Department
ECP: Election Commission of Pakistan
FBR: Federal Board of Revenue
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
KKH: Karakoram Highway
KP: Khyber Pakhthunkhwa
LHC: Lahore High Court
MQM: Muttahida Qaumi Movement
NAB: National Accountability Bureau
Nacta: National Anti-Terrorism Act
NAP: National Action Plan
NEC: National Economic Council
PML-N: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz
PML-Q: Pakistan Muslim League Quaid
PTI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

NATIONAL POLITICS

Imran warns of bloody revolution, *The Express Tribune*, July 2¹

Terming the 2013 general elections 'the most controversial', Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman **Imran Khan said on Wednesday that when governments can't be changed through the ballot, then the only option left is a 'bloody revolution' or 'martial law'**. [...]He said 22 political parties had put a question mark on the 2013 elections and the arguments of the Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) had endorsed PTI's point of view about rigging in the polls. "The ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) had printed millions of additional ballot papers with the help of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to alter the election results."

Inclusive development top priority, says Ahsan Iqbal, *Daily Times*, July 3²

[...]Ahsan Iqbal on July 2 said that ensuring united and strong Pakistan through shared prosperity and inclusive development is the top priority of the government. "The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will bring dividends to all the provinces and regions of the country, and would strengthen the federation through equal development," he said. [...] **He pointed out that Gwadar would be connected to Khunjerab through multiple routes as the port would serve different markets and destinations across the region.** He said that the **western alignment of the CPEC is the first and foremost priority of the government, which would be operational by December 2016.** Three different routes include: route 1 from Gwadar-Quetta-Zhob-DI Khan-Islamabad to Khunjerab; route 2 from Gwadar-Sukkur-Indus Highway to Khunjerab; and route 3 from Gwadar-Sukkur-Karachi Peshawar Motorway to Khunjerab.

Dar rejects proposal to privatise Neelum-Jhelum project, *The Dawn*, July 7³

On July 6, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar rejected proposals for privatisation of the Neelum-Jhelum hydropower project **to meet a financing gap caused by an escalation of its cost by 52 per cent.** Informed sources said the cost of the 969MW strategic project **had risen to Rs 418 billion from Rs274bn** approved at the fag-end of the PPP government. A revised PC-1 finalised with fresh cost estimates is awaiting clearance by the Central Development Working Party and the Executive Committee of National Economic Council. [...] **After**

¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/913358/imran-warns-of-bloody-revolution/>

² <http://dailytimes.com.pk/national/03-Jul-2015/inclusive-development-top-priority-of-govt-says-ahsan-iqbal>

³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1192822/dar-rejects-proposal-to-privatise-neelum-jhelum-project>

completion, the project is estimated to produce more than Rs45bn worth of “cheaper and cleaner” energy every year and contribute over Rs5bn annually to the Azad Kashmir government. It will also improve Wapda’s financial position and replace some of the expensive thermal projects being run on imported furnace oil. **The project located near Muzaffarabad in Azad Kashmir envisages diversion of water from the Neelum river through a 42km tunnel underneath the Jhelum river.**

NAB submits 150 mega corruption cases to SC, *The Nation*, July 8⁴

National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on July 7 submitted before the Supreme Court of Pakistan a report of 150 mega corruption cases, involving high-profile figures like Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, his brother and Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif, former premiers, ministers and top bureaucrats.**The document shows that NAB is conducting an inquiry against the Sharifs for building a road at the cost of Rs 126 million in the suburbs of Lahore to facilitate traffic to their sprawling Raiwind estate where the ruling family resides.** [...]The report reveals that former president Asif Ali Zardari **is facing probes for corruption of billions of rupees and for having assets beyond resources.** Former premiers **Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and Raja Pervaiz Ashraf** are also facing probes. Former prime minister **Raja Pervaiz Ashraf is being scrutinised for the rental power plants (RPP) case.** The NAB list shows the **incumbent finance minister Ishaq Dar is also being investigated for corruption.** Some other prominent persons under investigation include former ambassador to US **Hussain Haqqani**, former interior minister **Aftab Khan Sherpao** and former Balochistan chief minister **Nawab Aslam Raisani.**

Top leaders’ integrity & NAB’s inaction exposed, *The Nation*, July 8⁵

During the past three decades, a total of eleven elected prime ministers ruled the country.....While Junejo and Benazir are no more in this world, and Shaukat Aziz left the country shortly after completing his term, all other prime ministers, except Balochistan’s Jamali, are facing NAB cases. [...]To set the record right, Mr Junejo was an honest leader.....and the name of Benazir Bhutto has not been mentioned in the list of mega corruption cases because she died while Swiss money cases were still pending. Now, it is Mr Asif Ali Zardari who is a party in those cases. ...But what is...regrettable is the failure of the NAB to take the pending cases to their logical conclusion. **Had the apex court not really forced it, the NAB would not have presented the list. The performance of the NAB is simply disappointing. Corruption is widespread in**

⁴ <http://nation.com.pk/national/08-Jul-2015/nab-submits-150-mega-corruption-cases-to-sc>

⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/08-Jul-2015/top-leaders-integrity-nab-s-inaction-exposed>

society but the NAB doesn't seem very active to deal with the corrupt. It is perhaps for this reason that the NAB is taken to mean "No Action Bureau".

Afghan peace talks justify my stand: Imran, *The Dawn*, July 9⁶

Afghan peace talks have provided PTI chief Imran Khan a chance to **defend his stance on talks with Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)**. [...] Going to his twitter handle the PTI chairman shared his thoughts with his over 2.6 million followers, saying, **"Ironic how I was attacked for suggesting peace talks & now Pak is hosting, with US approval, talks between Afghan govt & Taliban in Pak."**

NAB submits list of mega corruption cases before SC, *The Dawn*, July 13⁷

On July 13, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) submitted a modified report on 150 mega corruption cases before the Supreme Court of Pakistan (SC). Earlier on July 7, NAB officials had submitted a list before the SC as per the court's directives. [...] However, the court had expressed dissatisfaction over the report and had asked NAB to include two additional columns in the report for further details. **Interestingly, the NAB record lacks the details of cases against some top figures, including Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Shahbaz Sharif, former president Asif Ali Zardari and former Pakistani envoy to the US Hussain Haqqani.**

Govt fails to activate PPO courts, *The Nation*, July 15⁸

An official of the Ministry of Law told *The Nation* on July 14, that the Protection of Pakistan Ordinance (PPO) which has been promulgated to defeat the menace of terrorism and establish protection and peace in the country is not working. **The seriousness of the government authorities can easily be assessed from the working of a PPO court in Lahore which has not heard even a single case since its establishment.**

JuD raps govt for 'annoying' Kashmiri leaders, *The Dawn*, July 16⁹

The Jamaat-ud-Dawa has criticised Islamabad for what it called annoying Kashmiri leadership to appease New Delhi. **Abdur Rehman Makki told an iftar dinner here on Wednesday that the government was losing trust of the Kashmiri leadership and damaging the freedom movement by taking one-sided steps for building friendship with India and resorting to back-channel**

⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1193351/afghan-peace-talks-justify-my-stand-imran>

⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1194194/nab-submits-revised-list-of-mega-corruption-cases-before-sc>

⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/national/15-Jul-2015/govt-fails-to-activate-ppo-courts-an-official-divulges-no-funds-or-infrastructure-provided-for>

⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1194797/jud-raps-govt-for-annoying-kashmiri-leaders>

diplomacy. He demanded the government should review its policies and not “damage” the Kashmiri freedom movement, which was at its peak at present.

Thousands arrested in Zarb-e-Azb: Fatemi, *The News*, July 24¹⁰

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Tariq Fatemi has said that thousands of terrorists had been arrested in operation Zarb-e-Azb and they will be brought to justice soon. In his address at Heritage Foundation, USA, Fatemi said, “**Over 190,000 Pakistan military personnel are taking part in Zarb-e-Azb, launched 13 months ago.**” Pakistan has cleared Shawal area near Pak-Afghan border, he maintained. Fatemi **lauded the efforts of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, saying that he was playing effective role to restore peace.**

PM forms panel to review criminal laws, *The Express Tribune*, July 31¹¹

In an attempt to improve the justice system, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif **constituted a committee of nine jurists to review the criminal laws of the country.** The ministry of law, justice and human rights divisions, in a statement, revealed that the committee has been asked to present its recommendations within six months. [...]According to the notification, Attorney General for Pakistan Salman Aslam Butt will be heading the committee while the other members include PBC Vice Chairman Azam Nazeer Tarar, Supreme Court Bar Association president Fazl-e-Haq Abbasi, former SCBA president Kamran Murtaza, former SCBA president Asma Jahangir, Rasheed A Rizvi advocate, Muhammad Akram Quraishi, Khawaja Haris Ahmad and Abdul Lateef Afridi. PBC’s secretary will act as secretary of the committee.

ECP orders parties to submit asset details, *The Express Tribune*, July 27¹²

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has **requested all political parties to submit details of their assets latest by August 29, 2015.** Under the Article of the Political Parties Order 2002, all the political parties in the country are required to submit a consolidated statement of accounts of the party duly audited by a Chartered Accountant within 60 days of close of the financial year. Along with a financial statement, parties are also required to submit a certificate signed by the party leader stating that the party did not receive any funding from sources, which is prohibited under the Political Parties Order, 2002. **Any party failing to submit its statement of accounts under Article 13**

¹⁰ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-192011-Thousands-of-terrorists-arrested-in-operation-Zarb-e-Azb-Fatemi>

¹¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/929664/strengthening-justice-system-premier-forms-panel-to-review-criminal-laws/>

¹² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/927262/ecp-orders-political-parties-to-submit-asset-details/>

will not remain eligible to obtain election symbol for contesting elections National and Provincial Assemblies.

Defence secretary, ISI chief issued notices, *The Dawn*, July 7¹³

Islamabad High Court (IHC) Justice Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui, hearing a petition seeking ***recovery of a lawyer who went missing along with an accused in FIA's prosecutor murder case***, observed that the court order issued on July 3, 2015 summoning secretary defence and ISI representative in the case was not complied with. The court then ***directed the DG ISI to depute an officer of director or above rank to brief and assist the court in the matter***. But neither the representative of ISI nor secretary defence appeared before the court. The judge remarked that he could issue contempt of court notices for secretary defence.....***The lawyer Hammad Dadan went missing on June 20 while he was with his cousin Abdullah Umar and Ammar Dadan.***

NCHR wants its observer in military courts, *The Express Tribune*, July 23¹⁴

National Commission on Human Rights (NCHR) Chairman Justice (ret'd) Ali Nawaz Chowhan has desired that an observer from the commission should be allowed to review proceedings of the military courts, recently formed to try hardcore terrorists. ***"This commission should be allowed to have an observer there at the military courts," said Justice Chowhan, who has recently assumed office of the powerful commission.....***Justice Chowhan observed that the issue of missing persons could be solved through political means. "Though I'm still studying this issue, ***my personal opinion is that all people held during insurgency either by intelligence agencies or the military should be reported.*** The agencies should detain a person only on the basis of solid evidence," he said. ***"Agencies should report the missing person's case in the court of law,"*** he added.

JUDICIAL COMMISSION REPORT

Aitzaz says 2013 polls can be declared unfair, *The Express Tribune*, July 2¹⁵

PPP's counsel Aitzaz Ahsan said on July 1, that the 2013 parliamentary elections could be declared unfair on the basis of missing Form 15s from polling bags. [...]Ahsan submitted that the 2013 election records have been tampered with and its evidence has been presented before the inquiry commission. "Form 15 is a very sacred document. Punjab pattern of electoral rigging had been used in the last general elections."

¹³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1192782/defence-secretary-isi-chief-issued-notices>

¹⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/924844/fair-trial-nchr-wants-its-observer-in-military-courts/>

¹⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/913327/missing-form-15s-aitzaz-ahsan-says-2013-polls-can-be-declared-unfair/>

It was '70 punctures' and not 35: Imran Khan, Daily Times, July 5¹⁶

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman, Imran Khan on July 5 said '35 punctures' is only a tip of the iceberg as it has now come to everyone's knowledge that much worse took place in the general elections of 2013. Imran Khan said that actually it was '70 punctures' and not just 35.

2013 polls conducted 'fairly and in accordance with law', The News, July 23¹⁷

A three-judge inquiry commission investigating alleged rigging in the 2013 general election has stated in its final report that the polls were "organized and conducted fairly and in accordance with the law". Noting lapses by the Election Commission of Pakistan, the three-judge commission states in the report that **"it cannot be said...that the elections were not a true and fair reflection of the mandate given by the electorate"**.

Altaf for JC to expose elements behind PTI sit-in, The News, July 23¹⁸

MQM Chief Altaf Hussain has called for formation of a judicial commission comprising Supreme Court judges to expose the elements that allegedly facilitated and financed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf sit-in last year. **He said workers of the PTI should quit the party after proposed commission laid bare the facts. The MQM chief said the commission should probe as to who was backing Imran Khan to wrap up democracy in Pakistan through sit-in.** On July 24, speaking at a press conference in Karachi, MQM leader Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said¹⁹ **"Imran Khan and his party should be asked from where they got billions of rupees which they spent to organise the sit-in,"** adding: "The government should also investigate the statement of Defence Minister Khawaja Asif **in which he alleged that [the then] ISI chief was behind the PTI's sit-in.....**Time has come for political parties and all democratic institutions to be united and hold all those accountable who want to derail democracy."

JC report: Maulana Fazl criticises PTI, The News, July 23²⁰

Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman says **leadership of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has done nothing except for**

¹⁶ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-190230-Much-worse-took-place-in-2013-polls-than-just-35-punctures:-Imran-Khan>

¹⁷ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-191959-2013-polls-conducted-fairly-and-in-accordance-with-law:-JC-report->

¹⁸ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-191994-Altat-for-judicial-commission-to-expose-elements-behind-PTI-sit-in>

¹⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1196213/mqm-asks-govt-to-find-out-pti-sit-ins-source-of-funding>

²⁰ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-191975-Judicial-commission-report:-Maulana-Fazl-criticises-PTI->

politics of allegations. Reacting over the Judicial Commissions report into poll rigging, the Maulana said **those who levelled allegations have been exposed.**

Imran Khan accepts JC report, will react later, *The News*, July 23²¹

PTI chairman Imran Khan has said he accepts the Judicial Commission report into allegations of election rigging but he would be able to comment on July 24 after reading the finding of the panel. Speaking to media Khan said “I would now see the report as it has been issued on the internet,” said Khan, adding that Mian Nawaz Sharif was “a lucky man to have read the commission report”.

Commission report, Editorial, *Daily Times*, July 24²²

.....After the findings of the Commission, the PTI chairman should stand by his commitment made in the MoU signed between the negotiating panels of the PTI and PML-N. It was written in the terms of reference of the inquiry commission that all parties would accept the decision of the commission. There should not be any adventurism now. [...] **The PTI chief needs to tender an apology to the nation for causing a huge dent to the economy or at least admit his fault for launching a protest movement that was based on rumours and 'political statements'.**

A frivolous case, Cyril Almeida, *The Dawn*, July 26²³

.....Basically, the commission found that the **PTI had spun administrative anomalies into a vast conspiracy** — but, at the most cursory of probing, the conspiracy collapsed into very ordinary explanations of a quintessentially Pakistani administrative cock-up..... *There's little that can be kept secret at the constituency level. The commission didn't — couldn't — say it, but the PTI case was frivolous. It was, though, a frivolity based on Imran Khan's deadly serious quest to knock out the government and become prime minister. But we knew that already. Onwards, to the next PTI gimmick.*

CM Punjab congratulates nation on JC report, *The News*, July 23²⁴

On July 23, Chief Minister Punjab Shahbaz Sharif congratulated everyone on the judicial commission report but said “The damage caused to the nation and economy is still being felt because of the sit-ins which were held because of allegations of rigging during the elections.”

²¹ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-191967-Imran-Khan-accepts-Judicial-Commission-report,-will-react-later->

²² <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/editorial/24-Jul-2015/commission-report>

²³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1196382/a-frivolous-case>

²⁴ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-191957-Nation-still-suffering-from-economic-impact-of-sit-ins:-Shahbaz->

PPP, JUI-F and ANP ask PTI chief to apologise, Daily Times, July 24²⁵

Sindh Information Minister Nisar Khuhro asked PTI Chairman Imran Khan to apologise to the nation. He said that **Kaptaan had wasted precious time of the nation during his 126-day sit-in in Islamabad last year**. Khuhro added that the Chinese president's visit to Pakistan was also postponed due to the protest. Awami National Party (ANP) leader **Haji Adeel demanded an apology from the PTI chief on behalf of the people** who suffered due to the 126-day-long sit-in. Sacked PTI leader Javed Hashmi said he was expecting same decision from the judicial commission. [...]He added that **Imran Khan wanted to destroy the entire system on the directives of "someone"**. Hashmi also said **some people had stepped aside after using Khan**. [...]Chief of his own faction of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, Fazlur Rehman, said that after the submission of the judicial commission's report **those levelling charges against the federation stand exposed**. He also demanded that Imran Khan apologise to the nation.

JC verdict is against ECP: Imran Khan, Dawn, July 25.²⁶

PTI chairman Imran Khan said on July 25, that it is not him but Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif who should apologise over the JC report, as all political parties are in agreement that there was rigging during the 2013 general elections.... **Imran lashed out at the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), saying "ECP had no idea of how the elections were being conducted."** He quoted the judicial commission report which said "ECP had no coordination with provincial election commissions." Imran appreciated the performance of the judicial commission and said there was no conspiracy and the military's leadership was not involved. He lauded the chief justice saying "The chief justice brilliantly conducted this probe. He was alert, listening to every word, remembering every detail. But we had higher hopes.....We accepted the results for bringing transparency and for the sake of democracy's future." He also said "Initially I wanted them to open only four constituencies as a sample case to probe alleged rigging, but it took them a year to do so," said the PTI chief....Why did it take them two years and four months to get a judicial commission report?" **Responding to a question, Imran said "PML-N forced us to initiate street protests. We accept the JC's decision but we will be the most formidable opposition for them in the assembly," he said.**

PTI not abiding by its agreement, Dar tells NA, The News, July 27²⁷

²⁵ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/24-Jul-2015/ppp-jui-f-and-anp-ask-pti-chief-to-apologise>

²⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1196336>

²⁷ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-192364-PTI-not-abiding-to-its-agreement,-Dar-tells-NA>

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar presented the agreement between the federal government and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) regarding the Judicial Commission (JC) report in the National Assembly on July 27. Dar said that the PTI was not abiding to its agreement as **according to the written contract, it is stated that if the elections are found to be transparent and fair, then the PTI will take back all its allegations of rigging.** [...]The finance minister also added that the PTI had endorsed the agreement regarding the Inquiry Commission. PTI Leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi responded to Dar in the National Assembly today and said **"Instead of being on the streets today, we are in the Assembly, so it's a step forward which should be recognised.**

Imran unfazed by party lawmakers' unseating, *The Express Tribune*, July 31²⁸
Unmoved by the looming threat of seeing his party ousted from the National Assembly, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan has said the PTI will contest the elections again and win its way back into the legislative house if its lawmakers are unseated. Speaking in Lahore on July 30 after holding meetings with his party's district organisers, Imran said **the PTI did not need anyone's support to stay in parliament as it had won the seats after taking part in the elections. "If the resignations are accepted, the party will contest elections and return to parliament," he said.**

MQM & ALTAF HUSSAIN

MQM be labelled terrorist outfit: Bugti, *Daily Times*, July 1²⁹
Balochistan Home Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti on June 30 demanded that the MQM be labelled as a terrorist organisation and banned forthwith over its alleged involvement in anti-state activities. [...]The minister also said "India's RAW is behind terrorist activities in Balochistan and Karachi,"

Rangers have made Sindh an occupied province: Altaf, *The Dawn*, July 4³⁰
Criticising the ongoing targeted operation in Karachi, MQM chief Altaf Hussain on July 4 alleged that the Rangers had turned Sindh into what he called an "occupied province", a press release on the party's website said. **"Sindh is burning and MQM workers are being treated like prisoners of war,"** said the MQM chief, adding that that Sindh Chief Minister **Syed Qaim Ali Shah's attitude in this regard had been irresponsible.** He further lamented that PPP Co-Chairman Asif Zardari's dealings with the MQM had taken a disappointing turn.

²⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/929617/ouster-from-parliament-imran-unfazed-by-party-lawmakers-unseating/>

²⁹ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/01-Jul-2015/mqm-be-labelled-terrorist-outfit-bugti>

³⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1192331/rangers-have-turned-sindh-into-an-occupied-province-altaf>

Imran need not woory: MQM Rabitta Committee, Daily Times, July 5³¹

[...]“Whether to take a legal action against BBC or not is MQM’s problem, therefore, Imran Khan need not worry too much about this matter,” the MQM’s Rabitta Committee said in reaction to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan’s statement on July 5. The Committee said the entire nation is aware of ‘which source Imran Khan is getting finances from to run his political campaign’. **The MQM body said Imran Khan’s life from the playground to politics is a sum of leveling allegations against others.** It said Imran Khan only remembers Karachi on the occasions of collecting funds and elections.

FIRs registered against Altaf Hussain, The Express Tribune, July 13³²

Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan on July 13 said that **foul language used against security forces by MQM chief Altaf Hussain will not be tolerated**, adding that it may be taken up with British authorities, Express News reported. On July 12, the MQM chief had cast doubts on the efficacy of the Rangers operation in Karachi **likening the conduct of the paramilitary force with how the Indian army treats people in the disputed Kashmir territory.** [...]Nisar said that speeches of MQM chief are **touching the borders of extreme provocation, alleging that Altaf spoke the ‘language of Pakistan’s enemies.’**

Resolutions against Altaf, Imran in Sindh Assembly, The News, July 15³³

The MQM and PTI submitted resolutions against each other’s party leaders in the Sindh Assembly on July 15. The PTI submitted a resolution against MQM Chief Altaf Hussain’s statement. PTI leader Arif Alvi said the British government was hiding the money laundering issues, adding that he would be going to the British High Commission on July 15 to discuss this issue.

Altaf: Govt implicating MQM leaders in false cases, The News, July 16³⁴

MQM chief Altaf Hussain has accused the government of implicating his party’s leaders in fake cases as number of FIRs against him surpasses 100 early on July 16. The FIRs are lodged across the country against the MQM chief for delivering ‘hate speech’ and ‘inciting violence’. In a statement issued from London, he said that MQM leaders and elected representatives have

³¹ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-190241-Imran-Khan-need-not-worry-about-BBC-and-MQM:-Rabitta-Committee>

³² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/920134/no-tolerance-for-foul-language-nisar-says-govt-will-approach-uk-against-altafs-latest-outburst/>

³³ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-191217-Resolutions-submitted-against-Altaf,-Imran-in-Sindh-Assembly->

³⁴ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-191286-Altaf-accuses-govt-of-implicating-MQM-leaders-in-false-cases>

been restricted to their homes. "Majority of sector and unit office bearers of MQM have been arrested," said Hussain.

PTI lodges a complaint against Altaf to British HC, *The Nation*, July 15³⁵

Upping the ante of their political attacks, PTI late on July 15, dealt another blow to MQM chief Altaf Hussain through an open letter written to British High Commissioner Philip Barton, urging London to take action against Hussain's derogatory remarks against Pakistan's armed forces.

MQM presents memo against Imran in UK, *The News*, July 15³⁶

The MQM on July 15 presented a memorandum against Imran Khan in the UK High Commission, in a tit-for-tat move shortly after PTI submitted the memorandum against its chief Altaf Hussain over alleged hate speech. Speaking to media, MQM leader Farooq Sattar said Imran Khan, who was not appearing before a court despite being summoned abroad, couldn't level allegations against MQM.

MQM responds to PTI, files FIR against Imran, *The Nation*, July 15³⁷

The MQM in the early hours of July 15 submitted an application to lodge a case against PTI Chairman Imran Khan for allegedly using offensive language against Army generals. The decision came soon after an application was filed at Darakhshan Police Station here by PTI leaders Ali Zaidi and Faisal Vawda against MQM chief Altaf Hussain.

MQM, PPP created crisis, says JI leader, *The Dawn*, July 22³⁸

Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) leader Liaquat Baloch has said MQM chief Altaf Hussain hatches conspiracies against the solidarity of the country while sitting in London. He said the PPP and the MQM had created crisis in national politics.Mr Baloch accused Asif Ali Zardari and the Sindh government of giving a free hand to the terrorists of MQM in Karachi to kill innocent people.***Mr Baloch said the only solution to the problems of people and ills affecting the country lay in imposition of Islamic laws.***

PROVINCIAL POLITICS

NA committee for delay in Punjab, Sindh LG polls, *Dawn*. July 25, 2015³⁹

³⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/15-Jul-2015/pti-lodges-a-complaint-against-alfat-to-british-hc>

³⁶ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-191249-MQM-presents-memo-against-Imran-in-UK-High-Commission->

³⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/national/15-Jul-2015/mqm-responds-to-pti-s-complain-files-an-fir-against-imran>

³⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1195546/muttahida-ppp-created-crisis-in-national-politics-says-ji-leader>

The National Assembly's standing committee on parliamentary affairs recommended on July 24 that local government elections in Punjab and Sindh planned for Sept 20 be put off in view of floods in the two provinces. The committee, headed by Mian Abdul Rahman, had previously recommended holding of polls in a phased manner to avoid recurrence of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa-like mismanagement.

Big blow to PPP as Okara fort falls to PTI, *The Nation*, July 2⁴⁰

In a major setback for PPP, two of its stalwarts from central Punjab joined PTI on July 1, following a meeting with chairman Imran Khan. Former state minister for information and incumbent PPP information secretary Syed Samsam Ali Shah Bokhari and former provincial minister of labour and manpower and PPP Punjab Labour Wing president Ashraf Sohna announced their joining in a ceremony at Khan's Bani Gala residence. Dozens of former PPP workers and office bearers from Okara district...also formally joined PTI at the ceremony.

PML-N MPA suspended for holding dual CNICs, *The Nation*, July 2⁴¹

Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on July 1 suspended Punjab Assembly membership of PML-N's Abdul Waheed Chaudhry for holding two Computerised National Identity Cards (CNICs). Abdul Waheed Chaudhry was elected MPA from Multan's PP-196 in 2013 general elections on ruling party's ticket. He was later assigned portfolio of Minister for Prisons Punjab.

PTI's Khattak accused of victimising political opponents, *The Dawn*, July 5⁴²

PPP's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) provincial general secretary Liaqat Shabab has termed the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ehtesab Commission as a tool to victimise political opponents. "I was arrested on charges of committing corruption of Rs5 billion, but after 35 days of investigation the authorities failed to prove any corruption against me," he told reporters at his hujra on July 4, a day after being set free by court on bail.

FIA and NAB have no jurisdiction to conduct raids in Sindh, says Qaim, *The Dawn*, July 7⁴³

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah on July 7 said that the NAB and the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) had no jurisdiction to conduct raids in

³⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1196210/na-committee-calls-for-delay-in-punjab-sindh-lg-polls>

⁴⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/02-Jul-2015/big-blow-to-ppp-as-okara-fort-falls-to-pti>

⁴¹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/02-Jul-2015/pml-n-mpa-suspended-for-holding-dual-cnics>

⁴² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1192445/khattak-accused-of-victimising-political-opponents>

⁴³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1192718/fia-and-nab-have-no-jurisdiction-to-conduct-raids-in-sindh-says-qaim>

Sindh. MQM Chief Altaf Hussain on the praised the stance taken by Qaim Ali Shah on the issue of giving additional powers to FIA. [...] **"People of Sindh must wake up now and make a united effort for making their province autonomous by ending the current occupied status,"** said Altaf, adding that **Sindh has been treated as a colony for the past 68 years.** The MQM chief further urged parliamentarians from Sindh to set aside their ideological differences and launch a united effort for the legal and constitutional rights of Sindh.

ANP says KP on verge of liquidation, *The Dawn*, July 7⁴⁴

ANP central general secretary Mian Iftikhar Hussain has said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is on the verge of liquidation due to ill-planned policy of the PTI-led coalition government. In a statement issued on July 7, he said that incompetent ministers were misguiding PTI chairman Imran Khan through incorrect facts and figures. **He said that the previous government had prepared feasibility studies of 24 hydel power generation projects in the province.**

PTI won't support national govt demand: Alvi, *The Nation*, July 8⁴⁵

PTI will **not become part of any alliance with former military ruler Pervez Musharraf's proposed Muttahida Muslim League** or the Pakistan Awami Tehrik (PAT) **to launch an anti-government campaign in the coming weeks** as the party believes the demand for a national government is "unconstitutional". **"We are for the rule of law. We cannot support a campaign of those whose demands are unconstitutional. The formation of a national government is not in our constitution"**, senior PTI leader Arif Alvi said while talking to *The Nation* in Islamabad on July 8.

Sharifs say all loans settled by Dec 2014, *The Dawn*, July 9⁴⁶

'Offended' at the inclusion of its name in a list of mega scandals submitted by the NAB to the Supreme Court, members of the Sharif family sought to clarify its position on July 9. "The Sharif family has paid Rs5.22 billion by December 2014 **under the head of all loans, mark-up, cost of fund and other charges payable by Ittefaq Foundries and a consortium of banks has issued clearance certificates in this regard,**" Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif said at a press conference as "a representative of the Sharif family". **"There is no example of such a big settlement in the banking history of Pakistan where besides capital, mark-up of 17 years, cost of fund and other charges have been paid,"** he said, showing the bank certificates.

⁴⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1192832/anp-says-kp-on-verge-of-liquidation>

⁴⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/08-Jul-2015/pti-won-t-support-national-govt-demand-alvi>

⁴⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1193270/sharifs-say-all-loans-settled-by-dec-2014>

Sindh govt extends Rangers' special powers for a month, *The Dawn*, July 9⁴⁷

The Sindh government issued a much-awaited notification in the early hours of July 9 morning, ***extending the special policing powers assigned to Rangers in the province for a month, after a high-level meeting between senior officials at the CM House.*** Special policing powers assigned to Rangers in the province, which have in the past been extended every few months via orders from the provincial government, had expired on at midnight – July 8, 2015. Syed Qaim Ali Shah held a meeting with PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari before this. It had also been reported on local media that Asif Zardari talked to Qaim Ali Shah via telephone from Dubai earlier July 7, asking him to expedite the process.

PTI provincial minister, 10 others arrested by NAB, *The Dawn*, July 10⁴⁸

PTI Provincial Minister for Mines and Minerals Ziaullah Afridi was arrested on corruption charges on July 9 following a proceeding by the Ehtesab Commission in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. *The commission claims that the minister was involved in misuse of power for non-transparent leasing of contracts pertaining to land.*

Civil-mil approach to realise Balochistan as trade hub, *The Nation*, July 11⁴⁹

Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Raheel Sharif has said ***that potential of Balochistan as a regional hub for energy and trade will only be realised with a collective civil and military approach*** for its security and development. During his visit to Headquarters Southern Command, Quetta, he commended FC and other law-enforcement agencies for bringing noticeable improvement in the law and order situation of the province.

PTI targets PM for 'not raising' issues with Modi, *The Nation*, July 11⁵⁰

PTI leader and spokesperson to Chairman Imran Khan Dr Shireen Mazari July 10 expressed dismay over the manner in which Nawaz Sharif appeased India in his meeting with the Indian PM in Ufa. ***At a time when the Indian leadership is actively targeting Pakistan in all international forums, from the UNSC to the BRICS and SCO Summits, the Pakistani PM was unable to use the opportunity to put forward Pakistan's case,*** especially in relation to terrorism and Indian involvement in the same especially in Balochistan, said Dr Mazari in a statement.

⁴⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1193244/sindh-govt-extends-rangers-special-powers-for-a-month>

⁴⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1193390/pti-provincial-minister-10-others-arrested-by-nab>

⁴⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/11-Jul-2015/civil-mily-approach-to-realise-balochistan-as-trade-hub-coas>

⁵⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/11-Jul-2015/pti-targets-pm-for-not-raising-issues-with-modi>

Zardari 'buries the hatchet' with military, *The Nation*, July 11⁵¹

PPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali **Zardari has been able to mend fences with the military leadership after the last month's tirade created tensions**, aides said on July 10. "There is no more any misunderstanding. The issue has been amicably resolved", PPP leader Qamar Zaman Kaira said while talking to *The Nation*. "The PPP has time and again assured the military leadership that the party has a lot of respect for the military and does not intend to question their integrity", he added."Asif Ali Zardari too had not spoken against the military leadership but some actions of the Rangers. The federal government has now promised that the Rangers will not violate their limits", he remarked.

Non-Muslim tribal elders appointed in Khyber, *The Express Tribune*, July 12⁵²

For the first time in the history of the tribal belt, four non-Muslim tribesmen have been awarded the lungi [turban] and appointed as tribal elders in Khyber Agency.According to a communiqué issued from the Peshawar DC office on April 28, **Gurmeet Singh, Narinjan Singh, Wilson Wazir and James Michael were to be added to the list of lungi holders**. The decision has now formally been announced by the political administration. "It is a momentous achievement. After struggling for years we will now finally be treated as equals in Fata," said Wazir, talking to *The Express Tribune*. An estimated 2,500 Christians reside in two subdivisions of Khyber Agency. "We now have an identity – a tribal one." He said it was time the same is extended to other administrative units of the tribal belt.

LEAs violating law, constitution in Karachi: Dr Sattar, *The News*, July 27⁵³

MQM MNAs on July 27 walked out of National Assembly session to register their protest against the ongoing Karachi targeted operation, terming it discriminatory. Speaking from outside the National Assembly building, MQM leader Dr. Farooq Sattar alleged that **violation of law and constitution is being carried out by 'the law enforcers' in Karachi. He said MQM was being made the target of political vengeance and even the party's senators were being harassed**.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Altaf's outburst, Editorial, *Daily Times*, July 1⁵⁴

⁵¹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/11-Jul-2015/zardari-buries-the-hatchet-with-military>

⁵² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/919212/first-time-ever-non-muslim-tribal-elders-appointed-in-khyber-agency/>

⁵³ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-192368-LEAs-violating-law,-constitution-in-Karachi:-Dr-Sattar>

⁵⁴ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/editorial/01-Jul-2015/altaf-s-outburst>

[...]While addressing the party leaders and workers at the Lal Qila ground by phone from London on June 29, he warned that *there would be a war in every nook and corner if he were forcibly removed from the MQM's chairmanship*. He said that ***conspiracies are being hatched to implement a 'minus-Altat' formula***. He swore that the MQM has no links with RAW. Rather ***he declared the Indian spy agency an enemy of Pakistan as well as the enemy of the MQM***. He said that his party workers were ready to fight alongside the army in case of conflict with India. ***The MQM chief has a right to defend himself, but the warning he has delivered during his speech is not appropriate***. The statement was tantamount to incitement to violence when the state is already grappling with the problem of terrorism. ***Being the chief of a mainstream political party, Altat Hussain should think twice before uttering such inflammatory words***.

The 'B' Team, Editorial, *The Nation*, July 2⁵⁵

The PML-N could be collapsing from the inside and be wreaking havoc on the outside, yet, it remains on top. In contrast the PPP has lost the plot, and the game, and somehow even made the mistake of being seen as unpatriotic. ***This is a new era in the politics of Pakistan, where the 'A' team is team-status quo, friends with the military and infallible in the face of election rigging and disruptive protest politics***. And who knew the PTI would become an 'A' team, the only team that is able to give the PML-N a good kick in the shins.The PML-N has left Zardari in the lurch. ***Zardari was mistaken when the supported the PML-N during the dharna days, a chip that he has been unable to cash. Zardari was supposed to be the fox, a cunning statesman, a master planner... yet we can see his party and politics collapsing in front of him like a house of cards***.

The mockery of democracy, Jalees Hazir, *The Nation*, July 2⁵⁶

The number of those with a blind faith in our current democracy project is dwindling.....Naturally, with Zardari and Altat Hussain as the poster-boys of democracy these days, they have a tough job. Their sermons on civilian supremacy have stopped making sense for another reason. ***While they'd like to paint General Raheel as a villain for encroaching upon civilian turf, the public is hailing him as a hero for doing exactly that***.....These problems won't go away even if a better crop of leaders is brought forth through fair and free elections. ***Something more radical is needed to make the system responsive to public needs and representative of their aspirations. We need to restructure our federation and scrap the parliamentary system with a view to separate the executive from the legislature***.

⁵⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/02-Jul-2015/the-b-team>

⁵⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/columns/02-Jul-2015/the-mockery-of-democracy>

Editors Note: In his column "Vilifying Democracy" Khurram Husain in Dawn, on July 02, 2015, exhorts fellow Pakistanis not to vilify democracy and target individual political leaders for that would not produce any good to them. He underscores the importance of the system and argues that without getting the basics right, even military rule and law and operations won't work.⁵⁷

The bigger picture, Editorial, *The Dawn*, July 2⁵⁸

[...]So it was this Tuesday (June 30) that **before Prime Minister Sharif travelled down to Karachi, he met Gen Sharif and discussed issues of great import**. Given institutional histories, Prime Minister Sharif can hardly be faulted for wanting to be seen to be close to and working with his generals, while Gen Sharif would equally like to send a message to his rank and file and officer corps that he is lobbying for the military's institutional concerns at the highest levels. **When the Karachi operation was launched in September 2013, there appeared to be significant civilian ownership and some clear political leadership**.... Today, examining the all-too-familiar picture of Gen Raheel seated on the left and the prime minister on the right during one of the army chief's frequent visits to the prime minister's office, **is there any sense other than the military leadership is the one with the initiatives and the ideas and the civilian government simply acquiesces or indicates to what extent it can go along with the military leadership's initiatives and ideas?**

Baseless allegations, *The Express Tribune*, July 4⁵⁹

Nearly a year after it first surfaced, the "35 punctures" story has been revealed to be — nothing. Why the PTI wasted the public's time over a claim which cannot be substantiated in a court of law is rather difficult to fathom.The use of political rhetoric in an irresponsible manner and making unsubstantiated allegations do not in any way behoove a party of national stature, which is regarded as a change agent and is set to play an important role in shaping the country's future.

Implementation of NAP, Editorial, *The Dawn*, July 6⁶⁰

....What the state appears to want to do is to **continue with the selective push against certain kinds of anti-state militants while treating the so-called pro-state and pro-Pakistan militant and extremist organisations as a problem for another day**. But that will only delay the inevitable. As years of cutting peace deals and delaying military operations in Fata eventually proved, **coexistence**

⁵⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1191703>

⁵⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1191698/the-bigger-picture>

⁵⁹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/914349/baseless-allegations/>

⁶⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1192556/implementation-of-nap>

of the state and radical Islamist militant groups is simply not possible, let alone advisable.....NAP is grossly underfunded, as is Nacta, the counterterrorism authority, and as are the various programmes for building counterterrorism capabilities in the provinces, especially the urban areas....

Investigating Sindh, Editorial, *The Nation*, July 8⁶¹

Chief Minister Sindh, Qaim Ali Shah.....has come out challenging raids conducted by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and the Federal Investigation Authority (FIA) in Sindh, **saying that he considers it an invasion**. He claims that Sindh already has departments investigating the crimes that the NAB and FIA are looking into, and that without his permission, these raids by the centre “interfere with provincial autonomy”. [...]A man of his experience should also know that while convention dictates that the Chief Minister be informed before the centre carries out investigations in the province, **but it is merely a formality; not a procedural necessity on which the investigation depends, and certainly not an issue to decry on national television as Qaim Ali Shah has so dramatically done**.

Editor’s note: The Dawn Editorial “Sindh CM’s accusations” also analyses the same issue in a different way. It argues that, despite federal government’s clarification, “there is something Sindh-specific about FIA and NAB’s recent crusades” and “Sindh appears to be the inordinate focus of interest by federal investigators in recent months.” It also underlines that “while the federal government has ...tried to suggest that ..the Sindh crackdown [is] entirely coordinated and led by the PML-N, there are clear and worrying signs that much of what is happening is occurring at the behest of the security establishment behind the scenes....A Sindh government that is at odds with not just the federal government but the military is a dangerous development in an ostensibly democratic framework.” ⁶²

A sinking ship, Rasul Bakhsh Rais, *The Dawn*, July 8⁶³

Recent defections from the PPP in Punjab, along with its poorest-ever showing in the 2013 elections in the largest province, have not gone unnoticed by its political rivals.....Some of the ministers of the PPP who left it recently **didn’t sound convincing when saying what they said about the party**.**The real reason behind such defections is our culture of power politics that forces, or maybe incentivises, the turncoats to change political tracks as soon as they see the fortunes of their party dwindling**. [...]One cannot be sanguine about the PPP regaining its glory days. Those are perhaps over. But what does the fall of the PPP hold for the rising PTI? The turncoats will

⁶¹ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/08-Jul-2015/investigating-sindh>

⁶² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1192990>

⁶³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/916601/a-sinking-ship/>

simply enjoy the ride and quickly disembark when the going gets rough. Beware.

Report on corruption, Editorial, *The Dawn*, July 9⁶⁴

The report submitted by the National Accountability Bureau to the Supreme Court listing ***the details of 150 cases being pursued by NAB inspires little confidence***. For one, the list appears to be a casual exercise, giving only a broad outline of the cases with names and the “gist of allegation”, with amounts arbitrarily put down. ***Many of the cases are over a decade old, yet are listed as “inquiry under progress”***. The history of pursuing corruption cases in Pakistan is a chequered one mainly because of the repeated compromises struck between parties on account of political interference, the selective nature of the allegations, and political motivations behind many of the charges. ***It is worth noting the absence of names from the armed forces on the list. Why is it that three generals named in the Asghar Khan case, against whom the Supreme Court ordered legal proceedings, have still not been prosecuted?***

Rangers’ stay in Karachi extended, Editorial, *The Dawn*, July 10⁶⁵

The renewal of the Sindh Rangers’ mandate to stay in Karachi has rarely made the news. ***That wasn’t surprising, considering that the paramilitary force — whose mandate can be extended for a maximum of four months — has been deployed in Karachi since 1989***, in some capacity or the other, to assist the city police in maintaining law and order. But what was routine once is no longer so, since the Rangers — ***who were given special powers of policing and arrest in late 2013 — have turned their guns, so to speak, on individuals in the provincial government for their purported misdeeds***. ...There is good reason why the Sindh government’s tribulations are being met by the public with either indifference or outright support for the Rangers’ actions. It is thus that the politicians compromise themselves, and undermine democracy in the process.

Editor’s note: An editorial in *Daily Times*, “Ranger’s Stay” argues that the extension was granted after Zardari made a call to the Sindh Chief Minister. The editorial also underlines that both MQM and PPP are upset with the Ranger’s operations.⁶⁶

The democracy debate, Hasan Askari Rizvi, *The Express Tribune*, July 13⁶⁷

⁶⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1193206/report-on-corruption>

⁶⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1193461/rangers-stay-in-karachi-extended>

⁶⁶ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/editorial/10-Jul-2015/rangers-stay>

⁶⁷ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/919523/the-democracy-debate/>

There is a broad-based consensus in favour of a democratic and representative political order. However, the debatable question is whether***we need to focus on the substance and quality of democracy***which means two things: 1) constitutionalism, the rule of law and civil and political rights; 2) delivery of basic services to common people..... Democracy in Pakistan falters on both counts....***Military activism from the sidelines is better than direct military rule. It creates a mixed or hybrid civil-military system where the governments are elected, while the military assumes an active role in security and administrative affairs from the sidelines. However, such a civil-military relationship is not stable because its boundaries change depending on the issue at hand and the relevant political context.*** If and when the military decides to go after hardline militant groups in Punjab or adopts both direct and indirect measures to control corruption, relations between the military and the PML-N government may get strained. Such a situation will require patience and prudence from both the civilian leadership and the military top brass to maintain equilibrium in civil-military relations, which is a prerequisite for maintaining stability and a semblance of democracy in Pakistan.

Not by force alone, I. A. Rehman, *The Dawn*, July 16⁶⁸

The ongoing debate on the Rangers' mandate in Karachi and its time frame is apparently missing the central issue, namely, a mega metropolitan city's need for a democratic, efficient and corruption-free civic administration. [...]The main issue in Karachi is its need for a political understanding between the provincial government and the city's representatives on the one hand and among the latter's various ethnic groups on the other. [...]It is to be regretted that the respite offered by the grant of special powers to the Rangers has not been used to meet Karachi's two foremost needs — de-weaponisation of society and creation of an urban police that relies more on intellect and technology than brute force.***There is no reason to believe that the military leaders are not aware of the risks in accepting calls to clean the civilian stables. They should be candid enough to tell the civil arm of the state to learn to carry its cross.***

16 MQM men arrested over extortion charges, *The Express Tribune*, July 2⁶⁹

Sindh Rangers arrested 16 MQM workers late on July 1 night for allegedly extorting money from Karachi's Rizvia society. "At least 1,000 receipts for donations and Rs 31,500 were recovered from the men," a Rangers press release said. [...]“We will not allow any political or religious party to collect donations or *fitra* by force,” the statement said, adding those who hold press

⁶⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1194683/not-by-force-alone>

⁶⁹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/913491/rangers-arrest-16-mqm-men-over-extortion-charges/>

conferences in support of the arrested will be seen as supporters of such elements.

FOREIGN POLICY

AFGHAN TALKS

Afghan govt holds direct talks with Taliban, *The Nation*, July 8⁷⁰

Members of Afghan government team on July 7, **launched the long-awaited dialogue process with Taliban representatives in Islamabad** in their first official face-to-face discussions. Confirming the development while speaking in Oslo, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif **called holding of the talks "a major breakthrough....I hope there will be a positive outcome which will certainly be very helpful for peace and stability in Afghanistan....**There may be certain spoilers, but we should make sure that nobody tries to derail this process as it is not only the obligation of Afghanistan, Pakistan and other parties, but also the obligation of international community." In Islamabad, the Foreign Office said "As part of the commitment to facilitate an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process, **Pakistan is hosting a meeting between representatives of the Afghan government and Tehreek-e-Taliban Afghanistan (TTA)**. Further details will be shared later. The representatives of USA and China are attending as observers." ...Well-informed sources...said that Afghanistan's Deputy Foreign Minister **Hikmat Khalil Karzai and Haji Din Muhammad, member, High Peace Council (HPC) and former Jihadi commander**, flew to Islamabad two days back at the overt invitation of Pakistan. [...]The sources said Taliban side was represented by **Maulvi Jalil and Qari Din Muhammad**. A source privy to the development said the two sides drove to Murree, a hill resort, after Iftar amid tight security. However, another source said the delegation returned to Islamabad after a key member of Afghan Taliban based in Quetta made it to the federal capital for meeting the guests sent by the Afghan unity government. The sources said talks between the Afghan government's delegation and Taliban will continue until a tangible breakthrough is made. [...]According to sources, the development in Islamabad is **continuation of peace talks with Taliban held in May in Urumqi city of China** (which was denied by Afghan Taliban). **The Afghan delegation in China was led by Mohammad Masoom Stanikzai** who until last week was one of the key members of High Peace Council, the country's peace-negotiating body.

Taliban leadership endorsed Murree process, *The Express Tribune*, July 14⁷¹

⁷⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/08-Jul-2015/afghan-govt-holds-direct-talks-with-taliban>

⁷¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/920397/elusive-peace-in-afghanistan-taliban-had-leaderships-nod-for-murree-process-says-aziz/>

Pakistan's foreign policy wizard Sartaj Aziz said on July 13, that **'key leaders of the Afghan Taliban' had attended last week's rare face-to-face meeting with Afghan government officials in Murree with the approval of their Central Leadership Council.** Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Khalil Hekmat Karzai, who had led the high-level delegation from Kabul in the talks with the Taliban on July 7, had earlier confirmed this. **"The people we met in Pakistan were representing Akhtar Mansoor (Taliban's acting chief) and their Central Shura (council),"** Karzai had told the media in Kabul upon his return from Murree. **"Yes, there will be some people who could try to sabotage the peace process,"** Aziz said. He was satisfied with the outcome of the Murree meeting. "It was very productive. It was the first time Afghan government officials and the Taliban sat across the table. The talks were open. It is a good beginning and we will see how it proceeds," he added. **"I'm satisfied with the process. I call it a breakthrough."**

Towards Afghan reconciliation, Editorial, *The Dawn*, July 9⁷²

It was the sign that perhaps all those on the side of peaceful conflict-resolution were looking for: the Pakistani state getting directly involved in bringing together representatives of the Afghan government and the Afghan Taliban to effectively discuss the possibility of a peace and reconciliation process. That the US and China also had observers present at the Murree meeting suggests that it was a concerted, international effort — exactly what Afghanistan needs. **To be sure, a peace process needs to be Afghan-owned — without the government and the Taliban leadership fully on board, there is no possibility of stability in Afghanistan** — and final terms will have to be negotiated directly between the state and the insurgents. But regional and international support for a peace process is also key.....Yet, welcome as it is to see the Pakistani state play a frontline role in a possible peace process, there is still a long, long way to go and much can go wrong.**Much as the world may want a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan, does the Taliban's leadership share that vision? And even if it does, can the leadership convince the rank and file to lay down their arms, especially when the new generation has known nothing but war?** There are, as ever, many unanswered questions in Afghanistan.

Talking to the Haqqanis, Muhammad Amir Rana, *The Dawn*, July 12⁷³

The Haqqani group was represented in the Murree talks. But it is not clear if and how the group can influence the overall peace process and make commitments on behalf of the Afghan Taliban. **While keeping them on board in the larger process, a parallel prudent course could be to engage the**

⁷² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1193207/towards-afghan-reconciliation>

⁷³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1193858/talking-to-the-haqqanis>

Haqqanis in separate, direct talks.....The real enemy of peace talks lies in the divisions within Taliban ranks.....According to media reports, many field commanders have already threatened that they would either set up another group or join IS if the Taliban's political wing does not stop negotiations with Kabul. ***A few days before the recent Murree talks, the Hizb-i-Islami Afghanistan's head Gulbuddin Hekmatyar announced his support for IS.*** It appears as if he did not get a desired position in the Taliban-led negotiation team. ***At the same time, it also indicates that IS is emerging as an alternative and spoiling force in Afghanistan. [...]Contrary to the Quetta Shura, the Haqqanis are still a unified group. They are considered Afghanistan's most potent insurgent movement.....***Prospects of direct engagement by the Haqqanis in the peace process are bright. Though they have declared in the past they will back the Mullah Omer-led peace process, they have not ruled out the possibility of direct talks with the Afghan government.....***Pakistan has perhaps more leverage over the Haqqanis and can facilitate a direct channel for their talks with the Afghan government....If a ceasefire is brokered with the Haqqanis, it will bring down the level of violence in more than 50pc of Afghanistan.***

After Murree, Moeed Yusuf, *The Dawn*, July 21⁷⁴

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's efforts to woo the Taliban to the negotiating table have received a fresh lease of life — courtesy Pakistan. Prior to the much-publicised Murree meetingGhani was growing increasingly frustrated and demanding harsher measures to squeeze the Taliban leadership, but to no avail. This was puzzling, especially since the Pakistani security establishment seems to have got their diagnosis about Ghani and the current situation in Afghanistan dead right. One finds clear recognition within the establishment that Ghani is the best available partner for Pakistan; that he will not be able to sustain his Pakistan policy at home if talks with the Taliban don't move ahead; that a failure of Afghanistan's incumbent national unity government would potentially mean expanded civil war in the country, and this would inevitably cause spillover, including creating greater space for the Tehreek-i-Tali-ban Pakistan to operate out of Afghanistan. The Murree talks have solved the mystery of Pakistan's role to a large extent. It is clear that more was happening than we knew.....In as much as the Murree meeting has been declared a formal beginning of the reconciliation process between Kabul and the Taliban and that Mullah Omar has blessed it publicly, this is a significant breakthrough. And yet, we may be ignoring the real elephant in the room: the relationship between the Taliban leadership backing talks and those fighting on the ground.

⁷⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1195341/after-murree>

Mullah Omar dies, Editorial, *The Dawn*, July 31⁷⁵

In death, Mullah Omar has proved to be as controversial as he was in life. After overnight speculation on when, where and how the Taliban supreme commander had died, ***the Afghan Taliban appear to at least have put to rest speculation that one of the world's most famous recluses may be still be alive.....***Why did the Afghan Taliban try and hide Omar's death and only confirm it once the Afghan government had leaked the news to the media? ***Only two weeks ago, the Afghan Taliban had claimed Mullah Omar had issued his standard pre-Eid missive. Were they lying then? Or have they been dissembling for years now?*** More importantly, ***from a dialogue perspective, has a group within the Afghan Taliban been lying about the internal cohesion of the Taliban and trying to use Mullah Omar's name to win a settlement with the Afghan Taliban that it cannot guarantee?.....***Whoever takes over the Afghan Taliban now ***will have that much of a harder time trying to win over the faction committed to defeating the Afghan state militarily.*** The role of the outside powers too hardly seems benign in the present scenario.Either the outside powers are utterly clueless or recklessly naïve to have believed news of Mullah Omar's death could remain hidden.

OTHER ISSUES

'Hillary wanted to take action against Pak army leaders', *The Nation*, July 2⁷⁶

Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was advised to quietly *take* action against Pakistani military leaders who gave support to Al-Qaeda and its affiliates, ***according to media reports citing an email sent to her when she held that post.*** "I believe that coercive measures are more likely to be effective if they are targeted against military leaders who give support to AQ (Al-Qaeda) and its allies," Samuel Richard "Sandy" Berger, who served as the United States National Security Adviser for President Bill Clinton from March 14, 1997, until January 20, 2001, wrote in an email dated October 3, 2009, which was declassified by the State department on June 30.....***"Assuming we have adequate intelligence, we can go after bank accounts, travel and other reachable assets of individual Pakistani officers, raising the stakes for those supporting the militants without creating an inordinate backlash,"*** he said. ***"Blunter measures of coercion, like conditioning our assistance, are more likely to be counterproductive.*** Given the level of distrust for us among the Pakistani people, they would see this as another sharp swing of the US pendulum which would harden their attitudes and make greater

⁷⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1197420/mullah-omar-dies>

⁷⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/national/02-Jul-2015/hillary-was-advised-to-take-action-against-pak-army-leaders>

cooperation very difficult for the Pakistani people to accept," he said. Berger, in his email, notes that there may be greater leverage in giving the Pakistanis incentives to be more aggressive. "Of course, the military's calculation is most important. I'm not sure what is on their shopping list these days **but we would need to balance what would move the needle on AQ against undercutting our effort to get them to shift their strategic focus away from India,**" he wrote. **"At the same time, we can be as forward leaning as possible in support of their counterinsurgency capabilities (equipment, training, whatever material, intelligence and other assistance we can give them if they move into Waziristan** - including relief for displaced persons).

Despite differences, Pak to work with Afghan President, *The Nation*, July 2⁷⁷
Despite a flurry of vitriolic statements by Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani, **Pakistani officials say they are still willing to work with the Afghan leader.** "We want Ashraf Ghani to succeed," a top Pakistani security official told *The Nation* in an exclusive interview on July 1. "However, the ground condition in Afghanistan is not to our liking or to that of the Afghan president. That is why he is feeling frustrated," the official said. **Afghan President Ashraf Ghani was quoted as saying earlier this week that Pakistan has waged an 'undeclared war' against Afghanistan for the last 14 years.** Mr Ghani has also recently written a letter to the Pakistani authorities, urging them to take action against Taliban leadership based inside Pakistan.

Era of proxy wars should end in South Asia: Olson, *The Dawn*, July 5⁷⁸
While praising sacrifices of the Pakistan Army and Zarb-e-Azb's "disruptive effect on terrorists" in North Waziristan Agency, US Ambassador Richard Olson has said : **"I think the era of proxy war in South Asia should come to an end"**, and added that they should end regardless of who was behind such wars in the region.....About the possibility of emergence of the self-styled ISIS phenomenon in Pakistan and Afghanistan, Ambassador Olson said that **institutions of the states in this [South Asia] region were "much stronger and certainly in the case of Pakistan it had well-established state authority, [and a] very capable and established military....It is important to support capacity of the institutions in Pakistan and Afghanistan to counter such threats."**

Incoming US military chief lists key interests, *The Express Tribune*, July 12⁷⁹

⁷⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/national/02-Jul-2015/despite-differences-pakistan-keen-to-work-with-afghan-president>

⁷⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1192446/era-of-proxy-wars-should-end-in-south-asia-olson>

⁷⁹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/919257/stakes-in-pakistan-incoming-us-military-chief-lists-key-interests/>

The United States has three strategic interests in Pakistan, according to the general expected to become the next chairman of US Joint Chiefs of Staff. In his confirmation hearing before a panel of the US Senate on July 9, Gen Joseph F Dunford Jr listed these interests as **preventing al Qaeda's resurgence, preventing nuclear proliferation and promoting regional stability**.**Ties with Pakistan are fundamental to US national security interests, said Gen Dunford. "It is in our interests to have an enduring partnership with Pakistan.** He said: **"Pakistan has cooperated with the US in our operations against al Qaeda and other terrorist organisations. Their actions in North Waziristan and other areas of western Pakistan have disrupted groups that are a threat to US personnel and objectives in Afghanistan"** and the US "will need to continue cooperation to defeat al Qaeda, support Pakistan's stability and achieve lasting peace in Afghanistan."

Iran deal to benefit Pakistan, says Sartaj, The Nation, July 15⁸⁰

Pakistan on July 14 welcomed the comprehensive nuclear agreement reached between Iran and the six world powers. The Foreign Office spokesman in a statement said Pakistan as a neighbouring country has also reiterated that **reciprocal confidence-building measures relating to Iran's nuclear programme augur well for peace and security in the region**.....He expressed the hope that the landmark **deal on the Iran nuclear programme will remove all hurdles in building the long-awaited multi-billion gas pipeline**.

Pak, Afghan forces in deadly border clash, The Nation, July 2⁸¹

At least two Pakistani security personnel were injured and an Afghan soldier was killed in a border clash early June 30. According to an ISPR statement, an **RPG-7 rocket and few rounds of small arms were fired on Angoor Ada gate from Afghan side due to which two Pakistani security personnel were injured**. Pakistani troops responded and killed one Afghan security personnel. **The latest round of fighting, which took place between the Afghan province of Paktika and the Pakistani region of South Waziristan, began after Pakistan began building a new border installation along the Durand Line**, according to officials from both countries. **The disagreement escalated into open combat on with the two sides trading rockets and small-arms fire for several hours**. Afghan officials claim a Pakistani watchtower was also hit. **Sediqi alleged that the construction the Pakistani forces were undertaking violated mutual understandings and "Afghan forces are authorised to take action to prevent such attempts**. Pakistani spokesman General Bajwa, however, rejected the allegation. **"The activity did not constitute violation of the border because it was being undertaken on our side,"** he added.

⁸⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/15-Jul-2015/iran-deal-to-benefit-pakistan-says-sartaj>

⁸¹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/02-Jul-2015/pak-afghan-forces-in-deadly-border-clash>

British aid to Pakistan to continue, *The Express Tribune*, July 23⁸²

Britain's Minister of State for International Development Desmond Swayne met Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on July 22 and discussed with him economic assistance the UK will be providing to Pakistan. The visit comes on the heels of Pakistan's decision to reverse a ban on the activities of Save The Children International in the country after the UK threatened to sever economic ties with Islamabad. It also coincides with the finalisation of UK's bilateral economic assistance plan for the next five years (2016-2020). **Although the UK has not yet revealed the exact amount of aid earmarked for Pakistan, Islamabad is expected to receive roughly \$1 billion in assistance.** The plan is expected to be finalised in the next two months. **Under the outgoing plan (2006-2015), the UK committed \$2.1 billion in aid to Pakistan. A significant amount of it has already been disbursed.**

Pakistan calls for comprehensive plan to defeat IS, *Daily Times*, July 24⁸³

Pakistan has called for comprehensive strategy to defeat the movement of Islamic State militant group, motivated by an ideology of hate and gruesome violence.....In her remarks, Maleeha pointed out that the Islamic State, which controls large parts of Iraq and Syria, posed a spreading threat to security across the Middle East, North Africa and beyond. "A comprehensive strategy is needed military, political, economic and social to defeat this movement, motivated by an ideology of hate and gruesome violence." **In Iraq, the envoy said that the Islamic State must be confronted and rolled back by the state, not sectarian militias.** She said that success would come only if the minority population was fully assured of its safety and human rights. On the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, she said that **Israel's inflexible posture had frozen prospects for a resumed peace process.**

ECONOMIC ISSUES

FISCAL ISSUES

Super tax on 'rich' and companies to fund Zarb-e-Azb, *Daily Times*, July 1⁸⁴

The Finance Ministry has directed the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to issue notification **for collecting funds for Operation Zarb-e-Azb through a super tax net.** The FBR subsequently has decided to collect a 'super tax' from

⁸² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/924716/international-development-british-aid-to-pakistan-will-continue-says-minister/>

⁸³ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/24-Jul-2015/pakistan-calls-for-comprehensive-plan-to-defeat-is>

⁸⁴ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/01-Jul-2015/funding-operation-zarb-e-azb-fbr-to-impose-super-tax-on-rich-individuals-companies>

those who annually earn Rs 500 million or more profit to fund the ongoing military operation in the tribal areas to eliminate terrorism from the country. [...] **The Finance Ministry also directed FBR to impose 4% tax on income of banks and 3% on income of other companies and individuals from July 1.** In the budget 2015-16, the federal government has proposed a 4% one-time super tax on banking companies and 3% on individuals and other companies having an annual income of Rs 500 million.

Dar sets up committee on banking transactions tax, *The Dawn*, July 9⁸⁵

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar set up on July 8, a 19-member committee to resolve the issue of imposition of 0.6 per cent withholding tax on banking transactions and other matters related to the Federal Board of Revenue. At a meeting with representatives of the business community, the finance minister clarified that the withholding tax on banking transactions would apply only to non-filers. In a way it meant to persuade non-filers to enter the tax net, he said. Mr Dar assured the businessmen of resolving all issues related to the FBR.

Expatriates' remittances stabilising economy, *The Dawn*, July 29⁸⁶

As many as 4.1 million Pakistanis have been working in different countries and sending millions of dollars in foreign exchange to the country. This was stated by Minister for Overseas Sadruddin Shah Rashdi while briefing the Senate standing committee on overseas Pakistanis at the parliament house on July 28.

ENERGY

NEC approves proposals on energy, communication, *Daily Times*, July 10⁸⁷

The National Economic Council's (NECs) Executive Committee, in its meeting chaired by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on July 9, approved important proposals relating to energy and communication. At the outset, a proposal from the Ministry of Water and Power on **evacuation of power from 1,200MW Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG)-based combined Cycle Power Plant at Balloki**, was discussed at length. The committee chairman, while approving the proposal at a **rationalised cost of Rs 3433 million**, remarked that possibility of foreign funding by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) might be explored for this project.

⁸⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1193301/dar-sets-up-committee-on-banking-transactions-tax>

⁸⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1197033/expatriates-remittances-stabilising-economy-says-minister>

⁸⁷ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/10-Jul-2015/nec-approves-proposals-on-energy-communication>

INVESTMENT

ADB funds \$220mn flood reconstruction project, *Daily Times*, July 10⁸⁸

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of Pakistan on July 9, signed an agreement to invest \$220 million in rebuilding infrastructure damaged by the 2014 floods, and to increase the country's disaster risk management capacity. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, who is also the ADB governor, witnessed the signing of the agreement by Saleem Sethi, secretary Economic Affairs Division, and Werner E Liepach, ADB country director, a statement of the Bank said.

CPEC western alignment Completed, *Daily Times*, July 24⁸⁹

The Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) has completed 502 kilometres of the 870 kilometres road connecting Pakistan's deep sea Gwadar port with the western alignment of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the Pakistan army said on July 22.....***The daunting task of constructing the 870 kilometres road, which forms the western route of CPEC, and is very risky in terms of security, was assigned to FWO by Pakistan's army chief General Raheel Sharif.....***Officials say, despite heavy odds, the construction of the 502 kilometres stretch was ***completed in less than one and a half years***, which adds to an average construction of approximately 1.5 kilometres per day on international standards, which is unprecedented in the field of road construction throughout the world. [...] ***The 3,000 kilometres-long corridor, a network of roads, railways and pipelines linking China's restive west to the Arabian Sea through Pakistan, will pass through Pakistan's poor Balochistan province where a long-running separatist insurgency had raised questions about the plan's feasibility.***

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

IMF review, Editorial, *The Dawn*, July 5⁹⁰

THE latest review of progress under the Extended Fund Facility Pakistan signed in 2013 ***tells us more about the International Monetary Fund than it does about Pakistan. Despite serious weaknesses in the economy, the Fund is content to pronounce that progress is "encouraging, thanks to strong performance under the programme"***. Performance has indeed been strong — but only when viewed with one eye.....Falling exports, industry shutting down, collapsing investment, spiralling consumer spending, rising bank profitability even as advances to the private sector shrivel up, are all

⁸⁸ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/10-Jul-2015/adb-and-pakistan-sign-220m-flood-reconstruction-project>

⁸⁹ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/24-Jul-2015/cpec-western-alignment-502-kilometres-of-road-completed-in-record-time-by-fwo>

⁹⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1192410/imf-review>

unhealthy signs for the real stakeholders in Pakistan's economic health. **But for external creditors, the only points of interest are the country's creditworthiness and its capacity to meet debt-service obligations.** And that is the only area in which the Fund has given the government's economic performance a clean bill of health, because that is the only area that the Fund really cares about.

The post-IMF agenda, Ishrat Husain, *The Dawn*, July 13⁹¹

In August 2016, Pakistan will complete the final review of its extended arrangements with the IMF. In the absence of major hiccups, the country would be able to heave a sigh of relief. The crisis risks that loomed large in 2013 would have eased and stabilisation reduced macroeconomic imbalances. [...] **Where the Fund finds lack of progress is in "the long-standing barriers to sustainable, strong and inclusive growth" as these relate to intractable structural policy and governance reforms.** It has identified these as key risks for the future.....**First, Pakistan's growth record for the last 25 years is the worst among South Asian countries.....**Second, **these stabilisation gains can soon dissipate** if oil prices start rising, external or domestic shocks or unanticipated adversities hit us and the international capital flows dry up. Third, **we have to generate enough fiscal and external resources domestically in order to service the debt which would become due for payment in 2017** and beyond. If we rush again to the IMF for another bailout we would have earned the distinction of being the country with the most prolonged borrowing in the world.....

SECURITY SITUATION

TERRORISM

PM, COAS discuss Zarb-e-Azb, Indian interference, *Daily Times*, July 1⁹²

Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif met Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on June 30, discussed matters relating to Operation Zarb-e-Azb as well as return, rehabilitation and resettlement of Temporarily Displaced Persons (TDPs). **The political and military leadership agreed on raising the issue of Indian interference in the country at the international level and decided to present solid evidence in the UN on this count.**The army chief took the PM into confidence during the meeting that country's security agencies **have credible evidence on Indian interference in Pakistan and due to which Indian face will be exposed before the world.**

⁹¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1194054/the-post-imf-agenda>

⁹² <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/01-Jul-2015/pm-coas-discuss-zarb-e-azb-indian-interference>

No evidence about JuD's links with LeT: minister, *The Dawn*, July 8⁹³

The government has ruled out the possibility of proscribing Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) in the near future and says there is no evidence of the charity organisation having been formed in place of the outlawed Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). Minister for States and Frontier Region retired Gen Abdul Qadir Baloch told the Senate on behalf of Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan during the question hour on July 7 that ***the United Nations Security Council had in a resolution listed the JuD as LeT with a new name, but no supporting evidence had been shared with Pakistan to establish the connection.....*** He said two charities – ***Khuddam-ul-Islam and Jamaat-ul-Furqan – had been proscribed by the government for having been formed in place of the banned Jaish-i-Muhammad.*** He said Al-Akhtar Trust and Al-Rasheed Trust had been listed by the UNSC and Al-Rehmat Trust and Al-Anfaal Trust by the United States for their alleged links with Jaish-i-Muhammad.

Govt to use Daesh, not IS, as terror group's name, *The Dawn*, July 10⁹⁴

The Foreign Office appears to have decided not to call a Middle Eastern terrorist outfit by its preferred name 'Islamic State' and instead refer to it as 'Daesh', an acronym the group hates. ***"I would refer to the outfit as Daesh as there is nothing Islamic about it,"*** Foreign Office spokesman Qazi Khalilullah said in reply to a question at his weekly media briefing on July 9.French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius was among the first leaders who ***avoided calling the group with its preferred name and US and Australian leaders followed.*** There have also been calls by Muslim scholars for calling the group Daesh in a move to de-legitimise it.

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND FATA

ANP local leader shot dead in Charsadda, *The Dawn*, July 2⁹⁵

A local leader of the Awami National Party (ANP), Dost Muhammad Khan, was gunned down by unknown assailants on June 30 in Utmanzai area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Charsadda district. According to police sources, two motorcycle-riding gunmen opened fire at a local office of the ANP as a result of which Dost Muhammad Khan alias Khan Baba was killed on the spot.

Terrorist belonging to banned organisation arrested, *Daily Times*, July 3⁹⁶

The Special Police Unit (SPU) arrested a terrorist belonging to a banned outfit and recovered arms from him on July 2. The SPU on a tip-off conducted the

⁹³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1193106/no-evidence-about-juds-links-with-let-minister>

⁹⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1193522>

⁹⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1191868/anp-local-leader-shot-dead-in-charsadda>

⁹⁶ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/national/03-Jul-2015/terrorist-belonging-to-banned-organisation-arrested>

operation in Sarband area of the city during which the terrorist of the defunct organisation was arrested. Arms were also recovered from the possession of the detainee identified as Muhammad Rafique. **He had admitted of his involvement in the attack on the Police Girls School, Acheeni Bala, during 2011. The detainee was shifted to an undisclosed location for further interrogation.**

PML-N district leader shot dead in Swat, Daily Times, July 3⁹⁷

Unidentified armed men shot dead the district leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) on July 2 and escaped the scene. The police said that the incident took place in Shamoza locality of the city where firing by unidentified miscreants killed PML-N leader Adalat Khan on the spot.

TTP claims killing peace committee member, The Dawn, July 4⁹⁸

The outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has claimed responsibility for the killing of Malik Said Agha Jan, a member of the peace committee in Bajaur Agency who was targeted by armed men on July 2. Talking to reporters on phone from an unspecified location here on July 3, TTP spokesman Mohammad Khorasani said Malik Said Agha Jan was on their hit list because of his support of the government against Taliban. **He said they would continue to attack the tribal elders who motivated people against the Taliban.**

Child among two injured in Peshawar explosion, The Dawn, July 8⁹⁹

At least two people, including a child, were injured July 8 in an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast that took place on Ring road in Peshawar's Achini Bala area. Eyewitnesses said the explosion occurred when a security forces' convoy passed near the area. A truck was also damaged as a result of the blast. SP Cantt Umer Farooq told DawnNews that the IED was planted on the roadside.

Militants blow up boys school in Khyber, The Express Tribune, July 10¹⁰⁰

A government-run boys' school was blown up using explosives by unidentified militants in the Malakdin Khel area of Khyber Agency on Thursday, officials said. The school was targeted in the early hours of Thursday morning, sources from the area said, adding that there were no casualties. They identified the school as the government boys primary school in the Haji Sher Bahardar Kalay.

⁹⁷ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/national/03-Jul-2015/pml-n-district-leader-shot-dead-in-swat>

⁹⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1192287/ttp-claims-killing-peace-committee-member>

⁹⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1193137>

¹⁰⁰ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/918178/militants-blow-up-boys-school-in-khyber-agency/>

14 militants killed in NWA airstrikes, *The Nation*, July 15¹⁰¹

At least 14 militants including key commanders were killed after fighter jets pounded their hideouts in North Waziristan Agency on Tuesday. According to details, fighter planes of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) targeted militant positions in Alwara area of North Waziristan Agency as a result of which at least 14 militants including a key commander were killed. Militant hideouts targeted in the airstrikes were also destroyed completely.

Three terrorists sentenced in Swat, *The Dawn*, July 15¹⁰²

An anti-terrorism court here on July 14 sentenced three terrorists including two Afghan nationals to 58 years collective imprisonment in two different cases. According to a press release issued from the office of the district police office, the court presided over by Judge Mohammad Amin Kundi announced verdicts in two different cases, sentencing the three accused to imprisonment. It said that the sentenced persons identified as Mohammad Karim, a resident of Hayatabad Mingora and Wahidullah and Hasan Khan alias Sajid of Jalalabad, Afghanistan were involved in terrorist activities in Swat. They were arrested by Swat police on June 14, 2014 when they were allegedly planning a terrorist attack in Mingora.

IS presence cannot be ignored, says KP police chief, *The Dawn*, July 16¹⁰³

Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Nasir Khan Durrani said on July 14 said presence of the self-styled Islamic State cannot be ignored in KP. "It is wrong to say IS does not have a presence in KP," said Durrani. "IS's presence in Pakistan is not a new phenomenon, **members who belonged to the outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) have switched sides in some cases,**" said the top police official of KP. But Durrani assured that the situation was under control. "**Frequency of terrorist attacks has witnessed a noticeable drop in comparison to the last four years,** which is due to concentrated efforts by the army and law enforcement agencies," said Durrani.

Five suspected militants arrested from Khyber Agency, *The Dawn*, July 31¹⁰⁴

Security forces arrested five suspected members of the banned TTP in Khyber Agency on July 30. According to security sources, the arrested militants were wanted in criminal cases, including attacks on security check posts and

¹⁰¹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/15-Jul-2015/14-militants-killed-in-nwa-airstrikes>

¹⁰² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1194582/three-terrorists-sentenced-in-swat>

¹⁰³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1194429/is-presence-cannot-be-ignored-says-kp-police-chief>

¹⁰⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1197370/five-suspected-militants-arrested-from-khyber-agency>

installations. A suspected TTP commander from Khyber Agency, Ababel, was also amongst those arrested. He was also allegedly involved in multiple attacks on security forces in the area.

'Four TTP militants arrested', *The Dawn*, July 9¹⁰⁵

Security forces arrested four suspected members of the banned TTP **in the Nawan Killi area** late on July 8 night. Official sources said the arrested militants were wanted in criminal cases, including explosions and target killings. **"They belonged to the banned TTP's Sajna group,"** a spokesman for the Frontier Corps said.

Khyber operation completed: DG ISPR, *The News*, July 16¹⁰⁶

Director General (DG) ISPR Major General Asim Saleem Bajwa in an interview with BBC said the operation in Khyber Agency had been completed. He added that first phase of the operation in Shawal had almost reached its completion. The DG ISPR said Operation Zarb-e-Azb was proceeding successfully and the Pakistan Army wanted to complete it as soon as possible but no timeframe could be set.....**He added that militants had moved to Shawal after North Waziristan had been cleared.**

End of Khyber-II, Editorial, *The Dawn*, July 4¹⁰⁷

On the first anniversary of the ongoing Operation Zarb-i-Azb on June 15, the military wrapped up Operation Khyber-II in the Tirah region. [...]The principal threat in the Tirah region came from the TTP; the Mangal Bagh-led Lashkar-i-Islam; a breakaway TTP faction, the Jamaatul Ahrar; and sundry foreign militants. [...] **It should be noted that Operation Khyber-II has not resulted in actual physical control by the military of all three passes from Tirah into Afghanistan — though the unreclaimed valleys of one of the three passes can, according to the military, be controlled by aerial firepower because the military now occupies the peaks over them.** This means two things. One, Operation Khyber-II may require another phase for the total recapture of Tirah. Two, the military **may apparently be forced into the continued use of air strikes in the Rajgal and Kachkol valleys to prevent the movement of militants until winter.** [...]From this point onwards, the post-operation challenge is a familiar one: **the military can hold and secure terrain, but it will only ever return to some semblance of long-term normality if the civil administration is allowed to function — and if the civilians show some ownership of the project.**

¹⁰⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1193303>

¹⁰⁶ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-191212-Khyber-operation-completed:-DG-ISPR>

¹⁰⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1192179/end-of-khyber-ii>

Reclaiming FATA, Sikander Ahmed Shah, *The Dawn*, July 5¹⁰⁸

....The conclusion of the operation [Khyber] should witness **the replacement of the bulk of military units with law-enforcement bodies in the region**. At the same time, however, it is important to deliberate upon and plan for the various challenges that the state will face in maintaining peace and security in the region.....**Effective peace-building also requires the removal of draconian and over-inclusive legal provisions currently operative in Fata. Many laws go against fundamental rights**.The autonomous status accorded to Fata by the British Raj and inherited by Pakistan, and the executive control exercised over the region through the Frontier Crimes Regulation, still in place, were attempts to further colonial imperatives in pre-Partition times by **depriving Fata inhabitants of a universally recognised legal system**.

Integrating FATA, Editorial, *The Dawn*, July 9¹⁰⁹

...We have seen several task forces and commissions established in the past to suggest reforms in Fata.....Some recommendations are common to all these endeavours: these include **extending judicial and parliamentary domains to Fata by amending Article 247 of the Constitution and reforming the draconian Frontier Crimes Regulation**. However, implementation still seems a far cry. **Two reasons appear at the core of non-implementation of these suggested reforms**. The first and foremost is the **state's unwillingness to see Fata through a development-centred paradigm** rather than a security-centred one.The second reason is **resistance by a minuscule class of vested interests** that has perks and privileges in the present dispensation. ...However, the prerequisite for all this is that the **state's strategic orientation towards Fata undergoes a shift towards development and integrative orientation**.

BALUCHISTAN

Brother, nephew of BLF leader among 14 killed, *Daily Times*, July 1¹¹⁰

At least 14 militants from a banned outfit, including the brother and nephew of a Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF) leader, were killed in a search operation in Mashky area of Awaran District on June 30. According to the Frontier Corps spokesman Khan Wasseey, **Frontier Corps Balochistan carried out the search operation against the BLF militants in Mashky area of Awaran District**. "14 militants, including BLF leader Dr Allah Nazar's brother, and nephew, were killed and some others sustained injuries," he

¹⁰⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1192435>

¹⁰⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1193217>

¹¹⁰ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/01-Jul-2015/brother-nephewof-blf-leaderamong-14-killed>

said and added that a security man was killed and two others sustained injuries in exchange of firing. ***The guerrilla militant leader's brother commander Safar Khan, nephew Shahik Baloch, and two other main commanders, Ballach and Shahjhan, were killed in the operation, said Wassey.***

'Operation' in Awaran criticised, Dawn, July 25, 2015¹¹¹

The Baloch National Front (BNF) and Baloch Human Rights Organisation (BHRO) have accused security forces of killing and injuring people during the ongoing operation in Awaran district. The BHRO supporters held a demonstration outside the press club on July 24.In a statement, a BNF spokesman claimed that the operation had been continuing for six days. He alleged that aerial shelling and ground action had left dozens of people killed or injured. Bodies of two women and four elderly men were found in the area, according to the statement.

Rival countries trying to lure our youth: Baloch, Daily Times, July 1¹¹²

Chairing a high-level meeting on law and order in Turbat on June 29, Balochistan Chief Minister Malik Baloch ***expressed satisfaction over the improvement of law and order in Balochistan, and particularly in his constituency, Turbat.*** [...]Citing growing foreign influence in the region Dr Malik Baloch said that ***"we are living in a conflict zone where many international forces seeks to create disturbance for their interests"***. "There was specific political thoughts in Balochistan and some rival countries ***are attempting to lure our youth, but we have to show patience and sincerity to discourage our enemies,***" he said and added, therefore, ***the provincial government has unveiled an amnesty for the ferraris who seek to lay down their arms.***

'Taliban behind killings of policemen last month', Daily Times, July 3¹¹³

Quetta Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Abdul Razzaq Cheema has said that the Taliban militants were responsible for the killings of eight police personnel in Quetta during the last month. He expressed these views while addressing a press conference at the CCPO Office Quetta on July 2. ***He said the banned organisation, after killing the police personnel, chanted the slogans 'Taliban Zindabad' and fled the scene.*** He said that in the past, the

¹¹¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1196203/operation-in-awaran-criticised>

¹¹² <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/01-Jul-2015/rival-countries-trying-to-lure-our-youth-baloch>

¹¹³ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/national/03-Jul-2015/taliban-behind-killings-of-policemen-last-month>

law enforcement agencies have eliminated the Taliban terrorists from Quetta but now they are active again. "We are taking action against them," he added.

Three gunned down in Turbat and Pasni, *The Dawn*, July 4¹¹⁴

Three people were killed and two others injured in incidents of firing in Turbat and Pasni area of Gwadar district on July 3. Police said assailants on a motorbike opened fire in Nasirabad area, some 20km off Turbat town on July 3 evening, killing two people and injuring two others.....The deceased were identified as Muhammad Akbar and Abdul Latif and the injured as Abdul Qadeer and Sajjad. Turbat Deputy Commissioner Mumtaz Baloch said the cause of the double murder was an old enmity between two groups.

Quetta blast leaves one dead 15 hurt, *Daily Times*, July 5¹¹⁵

One person was killed and 15 others injured when a blast ripped through Bacha Khan Chowk here on Sunday. The blast took place near a shopping centre in the area. According to police, it appears that the bomber was carrying the explosives to some other target but his mishandling caused them to explode at Bacha Khan chowk.

Three suspected militants killed in Quetta, *The Dawn*, July 7¹¹⁶

At least three suspected militants were killed in a targeted operation carried out by security forces in Quetta's adjoining Eastern Bypass area July 6. A security official, who requested anonymity, told *Dawn News* that a targeted operation was launched by security agencies and Frontier Corps (FC) in the Eastern Bypass area during which three suspected militants were killed. ***According to security officials, one of three militants killed in the operation appears to be an Uzbek national, as indicated by his facial features.***

Multiple terror bids foiled in Balochistan, *The Dawn*, July 7¹¹⁷

Security forces on July 6 foiled multiple terror bids and seized a large quantity of weapons and explosives from Balochistan's ***Sherani and Killa Abdullah districts***. Security sources told *Dawn* that an intelligence-based raid was conducted in district Sherani's Kapip area, which resulted in the arrest of a suspected militant. Security forces said they recovered 40 rockets, 10 rifles, seven hand grenades and other arms and ammunition from the arrested suspect. ***The weapons were being brought to Balochistan from the country's volatile tribal belt, when the raid was conducted by security agencies.***In

¹¹⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1192262/three-gunned-down-in-turbat-and-pasni>

¹¹⁵ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-190235-Blast-near-Bacha-Khan-Chowk-in-Quetta>

¹¹⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1192801/three-suspected-militants-killed-in-operation-near-quetta>

¹¹⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1192716/multiple-terror-bids-foiled-in-balochistan>

other raids, security forces arrested eight suspected militants in the Mastung and Dera Bugti districts of Balochistan.

Jaish-ul-Islam chief killed in Quetta, *The Nation*, July 8¹¹⁸

Security forces killed ***the leader of an anti-Shia militant group during a targeted operation early on July 7 on the outskirts of Quetta***, security officials said. Jaish-ul-Islam, a relatively new movement that considers Shias as apostates, has claimed many of the recent attacks on Hazaras. ***It is similar to the larger Lashkar-e-Jhangvi***, which has carried out large attacks against Shias, who the movement says should leave the country. The Frontier Corps and intelligence agents acted on a tip to conduct the Quetta raid, according to FC spokesman Khan Wasey ***Jaish-ul-Islam's chief, Mehmood-ur-Rehman Rind, was killed along with two other militants, he said.***

Two men killed in 'police encounter', *The Express Tribune*, July 14¹¹⁹

At least two alleged suspects were killed and many injured by the police in Kalat on July 13. SHO Muhammad Yousuf told *The Express Tribune* that the police were carrying out a search operation in Kalat when they came under fire. In a retaliatory reaction, the police killed two suspects and injured many others. "The suspects were involved in the kidnapping of an ASI and extortion," SHO Yousuf claimed. The deceased were identified as Abdul Jabbar and Abdul Hameed.

Four key militants arrested in Quetta, *The Nation*, July 15¹²⁰

The Frontier Corps (FC) and police on Tuesday arrested as many as four key terrorists in a joint operation and seized heavy amount of weapons from their possession. According to sources in police, security forces and police jointly conducted an operation on a tip-off and apprehended four militants belonging to banned outfit.

Nine 'militants' killed in Mashkay operation, *The Dawn*, July 21¹²¹

Nine suspected militants, two of them leaders of a banned militant organisation, were killed in a gunbattle with security forces in Mashkay tehsil of Awaran district. Home department's officials said on July 20 that personnel of Frontier Corps had been carrying out an intelligence-based search operation in an area of Mashkay when an exchange of fire took place with militants. The gunbattle continued for hours in the mountainous area in which both sides used heavy weapons. The officials said that at least nine

¹¹⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/national/08-Jul-2015/jaish-ul-islam-chief-killed-in-quetta>

¹¹⁹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/920373/power-feud-two-men-killed-in-police-encounter/>

¹²⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/15-Jul-2015/four-key-militants-arrested-in-quetta>

¹²¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1195388/nine-militants-killed-in-mashkay-operation>

suspected militants were killed and some others injured, adding that a large number of weapons was seized from militant hideouts. They claimed that those killed belonged to the banned Baloch Liberation Front.

Attack on SSP kills 2 policemen, terrorist, *The Nation*, July 28¹²²

An attack on Senior Superintendent Police (SSP) Saryab left 1 terrorist dead while 2 police personnel lost their lives. SSP Saryab emerged unscathed from the incident. According to the police, SSP Zahoor Babar Afridi was attacked when the police was transferring an injured women after clashes between 2 groups took place.

At least two killed in Quetta 'target killing', *The Dawn*, July 29¹²³

At least two people were killed when armed men opened fire at a vehicle, in what is termed by police as an incident of target killing on Quetta's Sabzal Road on July 28. The victims, who have been identified as Raz Muhammad and Muhammad Tahir, died on the spot. Their bodies were shifted to Civil Hospital Quetta for postmortem. The assailants escaped unhurt from the scene of the crime.

Commander among two militants killed, *The Express Tribune*, July 31¹²⁴

At least two militants, including a local commander of a banned outfit, were killed and nearly a dozen suspected militants were arrested in various targeted search operations in Balochistan on July 30. According to the Frontier Corps (FC) spokesman FC forces and security agencies launched a search operation on a tip-off against militants in the Wadh area of Khuzdar. "**A commander of Lashkar-e-Balochistan and his aide were killed in an exchange of fire,**" he said. At least 11 suspected militants were rounded up in different search operations in Panjgur and Quetta on July 30.

Four suspected militants arrested in Quetta raids, *The Dawn*, July 8¹²⁵

Four suspected militants were arrested July 8 during raids conducted by a joint team of law enforcement agencies in parts of Quetta. Intelligence and police personnel carried out raids on Quetta's Qambrani and Hudda areas. Security sources told Dawn News that the suspects belong to banned outfits.

Rupture in the Baloch insurgency, Editorial, *The Dawn*, July 2¹²⁶

¹²² <http://nation.com.pk/national/28-Jul-2015/attack-on-ssp-kills-2-policemen-terrorist>

¹²³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1196890/at-least-two-killed-in-quetta-target-killing>

¹²⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/929609/balochistan-unrest-commander-among-two-militants-killed-national-2-3/>

¹²⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1193143/four-suspected-militants-arrested-in-quetta-raids>

¹²⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1191700/rupture-in-the-baloch-insurgency>

The decade-old insurgency in Balochistan is no longer the monolith that it had so far appeared to be. [...] **For several years, the unity between the various militant groups has been a distinguishing feature of the Baloch insurgency**; areas of their operations even overlapped in many places without reports of friction. **That seems to have effectively come to an end with the death of veteran Baloch nationalist Khair Bux Marri in June last year when a rift between his sons Mehran and Hyrbyair — who heads the BLA from self-exile in London — led to the creation of the UBA** with other groups also aligning themselves with one side or the other. Such a rupture was perhaps inevitable at some point: **prolonged militant movements become susceptible to internal crises stemming from differences over ideology and/or finances, which can then lead to disagreements about operational strategies**. Where the security forces are concerned, **the fracturing of the insurgency offers a tactical advantage for them to comprehensively crush the movement**. [...]

Recent events indicate there is, at last, perhaps some realisation that a new approach is needed. **There was the announcement of an amnesty for Baloch militants turning their backs on violence, and an initiative to hold talks with the Khan of Kalat in London is in the works as a means of reaching out to hardliner separatist leaders**. However, unless the state discards its old proxies and prejudices, and takes the long view that actually addresses legitimate Baloch grievances, the province will remain a powder keg.

SINDH

CM favours National Action Plan, *Daily Times*, July 1¹²⁷

Chief Minister (CM) Qaim Ali Shah on June 30 said implementation of National Action Plan (NAP) is imperative and its implementation should be done accordingly. **“Whatever assignment the Sindh government has been entrusted under national action plan should be given top priority. It is our commitment and we have to fulfil it,”** he said at a cabinet meeting. **He said 661 banned religious outfits have been identified. Since January 2015, 447 terrorists/criminals have been killed and 41,077 arrested by Sindh police, he said. He said government has adopted zero tolerance in this case. Since 2015, some 753 cases under loudspeaker Act have been registered and 417 arrested. Over all 24 cases of producing/distributing hate material have been registered and 28 arrested**.....Talking about establishment and deployment of a dedicated counter terrorism force, Soomro said CTD has been notified with initial force of 100 personnel. [...] **The secretary said out of 9,590 seminaries as many as 6,503 have been registered. In the unregistered seminaries 517,696 students, including foreigners, were getting religious education, he said.**

¹²⁷ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/sindh/01-Jul-2015/cm-favours-national-action-plan>

ATC issues arrest warrant for ASF assistant director, *Daily Times*, July 6¹²⁸

An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Karachi issued an arrest warrant on July 6 for the Assistant Director of Airport Security Force (ASF) in the Karachi airport attack case. The ATC said that Assistant Director ASF, Muhammad Iqbal is a plaintiff in the case and despite several notices has not appeared in court. Three suspects were arrested in the Karachi airport attack case; Sarmad Siddiqui, Nadeem alias Burger and Asif Zaheer. As many as 28 persons, including personnel of ASF and 10 foreign militants were killed during the attack, while TTP and Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (UMI) had claimed the responsibility for the attack.

PUNJAB

Keep students away from 'preacher' terrorists, *Daily Times*, July 1¹²⁹

Intelligence reports on June 30 indicated that **terrorists posing as preachers could use engineering and medical students for their nefarious designs**. The reports have been conveyed to all medical and engineering institutes, besides all universities of the province. Punjab Home Minister Shuja Khanzada**said that mosques on the campuses should be closely monitored and no one should be allowed to stay in the mosques at night.**

Qaeda Pakistan chief killed, *The Nation*, July 2¹³⁰

Al-Qaeda head in Pakistan was killed in Kala Shah Kaku operation by the law enforcement agencies on June 28. Punjab Home Minister Col (r) Shuja Khanzada, addressing a news conference here on July 1, said **Qaeda head Abdali blasted the suicide jacket he was wearing during the operation carried out late July 28 night by security forces on a militant hideout**, 20 kilometres away from the central Lahore.....The minister said due to successes in operation Zarb-e-Azb and Khyber-II, the terrorists were fleeing Pakistan and going across the frontiers. **He said Qaeda operatives out of frustration had planned attack in Lahore that was foiled.**

Prayer leader gets 10-year jail for hate speech, *The Dawn*, July 4¹³¹

Anti-terrorism court judge Khalid Arshad on July 3 awarded 10-year and four months jail term to the **prayer leader of a mosque at Qaimpur Town** near Hasilpur, about 90km from Lahore, for delivering hate speech. He was also

¹²⁸ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-190303-Airport-attack:-ATC-issues-arrest-warrant-for-ASF-assistant-director>

¹²⁹ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/01-Jul-2015/keep-students-away-from-preacher-terrorists-punjab-tells-universities>

¹³⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/02-Jul-2015/qaeda-pakistan-chief-killed-in-kala-shah-kaku-raid>

¹³¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1192238/prayer-leader-gets-10-year-jail-for-hate-speech>

awarded Rs0.7m fine. **The convict, Maulana Abdul Ghani, was arrested by the Qaimpur police after he delivered the speech against a sect about two months back.** Meanwhile, the ATC announced **judgements in four other cases pertaining to the distribution of hate literature.** Muhammad Waqas was awarded sentence of 3.5 months with a fine of Rs5,000, Rafiq Ahmed three months jail along Rs5,000 fine, Muhammad Zahid, three months and fifteen days while Talib Husain was given sentence of 3.5 months with Rs5,000 fine.

Brothers 'funding TTP with ransom money' arrested, *The Dawn*, July 8¹³²

Crime Investigation Agency claimed on July 7 to have arrested two suspects allegedly linked with banned TTP, involved in kidnap for ransom and recovered illegal weapons, along with Rs3 million in cash, from them. According to a news release, a CIA team led by SP Umar Virk carried out raids on the information provided by intelligence agencies and nabbed the **two suspects -- Mukarram and Moazzim -- of Dera Ismail Khan** while they were heading to the tribal area. **The suspects were brothers and had links with the TTP's Matiur Rehman group based in Miramshah,** the CIA police said. **The group was allegedly also involved in an attack on Gen Musharraf.** The suspects during interrogation confessed to have committed several kidnappings for ransom.

Wagah attack: two facilitators arrested, *Daily Times*, July 10¹³³

The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Lahore police arrested two facilitators of terrorists involved in the Wagah bombing and recovered explosives from their possession. Making important progress in the Wagah attack of November 2, 2015, the CTD arrested two culprits who had assisted the terrorists in carrying out the attack in which 55 people were killed. The police recovered explosives from the possession of the detainees, **who were identified as Hussainullah and Syed Jan alias Gunji.**

Policeman, 'militant' encounter in Faisalabad, *The dawn*, July 29¹³⁴

A police constable and a suspected militant were killed while three other policemen were injured in an encounter at People's Colony on July 28. Police officials stopped a car (ICT-LV-231) on Jaranwala Road on suspicion. The car occupants opened fire killing constable Haseeb on the spot and injuring others. The policemen returned fire which led to the death of a militant but his three accomplices fled leaving the vehicle behind. **Police said they recovered 10 hand grenades, two Kalashnikovs, four pistols and live bullets from the vehicle.**

¹³² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1193064/brothers-funding-ttp-with-ransom-money-arrested>

¹³³ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/10-Jul-2015/wagah-attack-two-facilitators-arrested>

¹³⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1197084/policeman-militant-encounter-death-in-faisalabad>

Lashkar-i-Jhangvi chief killed in Muzaffargarh, *The Dawn*, July 29¹³⁵

Malik Ishaq, chief of banned sectarian outfit Lashkar-i-Jhangvi, his two sons Usman and Haq Nawaz, and 11 others were killed in an alleged exchange of fire with police personnel late on July 28 night. At least six policemen were injured in the alleged encounter. Ishaq and his sons were arrested by the CTD a week ago. Following their latest arrest, the police had interrogated them and had subsequently taken them to Shahwala in Punjab's Muzaffargarh district to aid the police in recovering weapons and explosives, sources in the CTD said. **The encounter appears to have taken place as militants attacked security forces and tried to free Ishaq who was killed in the ensuing exchange of fire, security sources say.**

Guns in the night, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, July 31¹³⁶

As the only account of the incident of how Malik Ishaq was killed comes from the police, it is difficult to avoid speculating that there were elements of 'set-up' about it, **that the encounter may have been staged with the deliberate purpose of permanently removing a man whose toxic message and lethal activities continued unabated, despite being behind bars.** Also dead was the deputy leader of the LeJ, Ghulam Rasool, and there will now be a battle for succession within the LeJ that is unlikely to be bloodless. [...] **Whilst we must welcome the successes of the law-enforcement agencies, we also have a growing concern that our justice system seems to be failing in its job of bringing people like Malik Ishaq to justice.** Extra-judicial 'justice' can never be a long-term solution for the problem of sectarian violence that the country has faced for long. The rule of law is for everybody to abide by, including the police, and it is flouted at our peril.

Lack of evidence?, Editorial, *The Dawn*, July 10¹³⁷

Perhaps one of the main reasons why militancy continues to thrive in Pakistan is that **the government refuses to emerge from its state of denial where certain extremist outfits are concerned.** The remarks made by Minister for States and Frontier Regions Abdul Qadir Baloch in the Senate on July 7 are a reflection of this. Mr Baloch said that as **there was no evidence to link Jamaatud Dawa with Lashkar-e-Taiba, it would not be possible to proscribe the former**, which he termed a 'charity' outfit. The statement seems to echo the 'good militant, bad militant' line apparently pursued by Pakistan's security establishment. **While the minister is yet to discover any solid evidence, and while JuD chief Hafiz Saeed may deny all links, the fact is that**

¹³⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1197098/lashkar-i-jhangvi-chief-malik-ishaq-two-sons-killed-in-muzaffargarh-encounter>

¹³⁶

¹³⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1193459>

Jamaatud Dawa and LeT enjoy a symbiotic relationship.....Hafiz Saeed was a key figure in LeT and it is no coincidence that **both groups' infrastructure and memberships overlap**. The minister's remarks in the Senate point to the persistent problem of militant groups rebranding themselves after proscription and carrying on as usual.

The terror of fighting terror, Rafia Zakaria, *The Dawn*, July 29¹³⁸

On July 25, *The New York Times* published a report on the conditions in Pakistan's **covert internment centres where those suspected of affiliation with the Pakistani Taliban are detained**. Those incarcerated in these special prisons usually return dead or do not return at all....The report alleges there is little public outcry in Pakistan on this issue....The irony of *The New York Times* report was not the deficiencies of truth: **extra-judicial killings, torture, unwarranted condemnations, lack of accountability and vengeful resurrection of executions are all crude and unjust realities of the Pakistani present**. The odd twist in the report lay instead in the implication that the condition of having become terrible in the fight against terror was Pakistan's exclusive condition. In one illustrative instance, the report notes that the US State Department has continued to supply Pakistan with weapons and military aid despite being entirely aware of the country's poor human rights record.**What is notable is the fact that a terror-fighting superpower (the US) and a terror-afflicted wannabe power (Pakistan) are both flouting the rule of law and the requirements of justice in their efforts to apprehend terrorists.**

RELATIONS WITH INDIA

US urges Pak-India to work 'bilaterally', lessen tensions, *The Nation*, July 2¹³⁹

The United States wants India and Pakistan to work "bilaterally" to resolve some of their differences so as to ease tensions between them. "I think our position hasn't changed, that we want tensions between India and Pakistan to be reduced," spokesman John Kirby told reporters at the daily press briefing on Tuesday.

India rejects Pak offer to assist SAARC satellite project, *The Nation*, July 2¹⁴⁰

India has rejected Pakistan's offer **to provide "technical" and "monetary" support to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious SAARC satellite project**, maintaining that it was a "gift" by the country to its neighbours. During a meeting of space experts from SAARC countries to discuss the

¹³⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1196988/the-terror-of-fighting-terror>

¹³⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/02-Jul-2015/us-urges-pakistan-india-to-work-bilaterally-to-lessen-tensions>

¹⁴⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/02-Jul-2015/india-rejects-pakistan-offer-to-assist-in-saarc-satellite-project>

modalities of the project last week, **India also did not favour suggestions that it should be brought under the ambit of SAARC, asserting that deliberations at bloc level would delay the launch of the satellite on December 8, 2016**, the SAARC Day when the government intends to do so.

Pakistan shared no evidence, says US, *The Dawn*, July 2¹⁴¹

So far **Pakistan has not shared with the United States any evidence of India's involvement in terrorist activities inside its territory**, says the US State Department. During a recent visit to Washington, Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary had said that Pakistan had evidence of India's involvement in such activities. "I am not aware of any such delivery," said US State Department spokesman John Kirby when asked at a news briefing if Pakistan had shared those proofs with the United States.

India funds militants in Kashmir to counter ISI, *The Express Tribune*, July 4¹⁴²

In the first admission of its kind, former chief of India's premier spy agency (RAW) said **Indian intelligence agencies have over the years paid militants and separatists, along with mainstream politicians and political parties in Indian Kashmir to compete with Pakistan's spy agency, ISI**. "So what's wrong? What is there to be so shocked or scandalised by. It's done the world over," former RAW Chief AS Dulat said, while speaking to NDTV's Barkha Dutt. Elaborating, Dulat said the Indian government quite often paid for the air fares, medical treatment and general upkeep of even hardened pro-Pakistan separatists like Syed Ali Shah Geelani. "One of India's most wanted terrorists Syed Salahuddin was in touch with me and was ready to leave Pakistan and return to India", he said.

Indian troops resort to unprovoked firing, *The News*, July 6¹⁴³

Indian security forces resorted to **unprovoked firing in Charwah sector of the Working Boundary near Sialkot on July 5 evening**, which was befittingly responded by the Pakistani side. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Indian troops opened unprovoked firing which was responded by Pakistan Rangers in a befitting manner.

PML-Q concerned about RAW in Karachi, Balochistan, *The News*, July 8¹⁴⁴

¹⁴¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1191762/pakistan-shared-no-evidence-says-us>

¹⁴² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/914740/india-funded-militants-in-kashmir-to-counter-isi-ex-raw-chief/>

¹⁴³ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-190263-Indian-troops-resort-to-unprovoked-firing-in-Charwah-sector>

¹⁴⁴ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-38492-PML-Q-concerned-over-RAWs-activities-in-Karachi-Balochistan>

President of Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid-e-Azam (PML-Q) Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and senior leader Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi on July 7 expressed their grave concern on **disclosures about the involvement of India terrorist activities in Balochistan and RAW activities in Karachi.**

Nawaz, Modi hold meeting in Russia, *The Dawn*, July 10¹⁴⁵

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi met on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Ufa, Russia. **The meeting, which took place in Ufa's Congress Hall, lasted for 45 minutes. Adviser to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz and Special Assistant to PM on Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatemi were also present at the meeting.**

Modi accepts invite for first Pakistan visit, *The News*, July 10¹⁴⁶

"Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif reiterated his invitation to Prime Minister Modi to visit Pakistan for the SAARC Summit in 2016. **Prime Minister Modi accepted that invitation,**" said a joint statement from the governments after the two leaders met in Russia. Briefing the newsmen about the meeting, Pakistan Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry said the two prime ministers condemned terrorism in all its forms. **They agreed to cooperate to eliminate this menace in South Asia.** Chaudhry said the meeting was **held in a cordial atmosphere and both sides exchanged views on bilateral relations and regional issues.** Indian External Affairs Secretary Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said the two countries have **also agreed to hold a meeting in New Delhi to discuss matters pertaining to elimination of terrorism.** He said an early meeting between DG Indian border security force and DG Rangers Pakistan will be held which will be followed by the meeting of DGMOs. He also said a decision has been taken to release fishermen in each other's country with boats within a period of 15 days. **He said a mechanism will be devised to facilitate religious tourism.**

Nawaz, Modi recognise responsibility to peace, *The Nation*, July 11¹⁴⁷

In a breakthrough meeting in Russia on July 10, the prime ministers of Pakistan and India recognised their "collective responsibility" to bring peace and promote development in the region. After months of stalemate and recriminations, Modi and Sharif spoke for around an hour, on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Ufa, and discussed

¹⁴⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1193592/nawaz-modi-hold-meeting-in-russia-discuss-matters-of-mutual-interest>

¹⁴⁶ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-190703-Modi-accepts-invite-for-first-Pakistan-visit-joint-statement>

¹⁴⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/national/11-Jul-2015/nawaz-modi-recognise-responsibility-to-peace>

entire gamut of issues between the two countries. [...] **Their meeting ended with Indian premier accepting an invitation from Nawaz Sharif to attend a regional (Saarc) summit in Islamabad next year, signalling a new thaw in ties between the nuclear-armed rivals.Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and his Pakistani counterpart Sartaj Aziz will meet in New Delhi to discuss all issues connected to terrorism, the statement said....**The statement also made commitments on some of the most contentious issues between them, including speeding up efforts to bring those behind the 2008 Mumbai attacks to justice.

India upset over Pak economic successes, says Dar, *The Nation*, July 11¹⁴⁸

At a time when Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi were holding a meeting in Russia to diffuse tensions, a close aide to the PM told Senate on July 10 that **Pakistan will always give a befitting response to any Indian aggression. "We have not closed our eyes. We are not beggars and will come forward with honour,"** Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said while responding to a call attention notice from PPP's Sussi Palejo **about destruction of infrastructure along the Working Boundary due to heavy Indian shelling.However, as member of the National Security Committee, he said, he could say that attaining peace was the clear policy of their government.**

Malik condemns Indian PM's 'rudeness', *The Nation*, July 11¹⁴⁹

Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Interior **Senator Rehman Malik** has condemned Indian Prime Minister Modi **for his undiplomatic and inappropriate attitude.** "Pakistan is a sovereign nuclear state and has always desired good relations based on mutual respect with its neighboring countries but unfortunately on the other side, **Indian prime minister has always expressed hate against Pakistan which is strongly condemnable,"** he added. Rehman Malik said that **the recent meeting of Narendra Modi with Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif clearly demonstrates how much disrespectful Modi was towards Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.** Commenting on the meeting, he said that **Modi acted like the 'Tsar of Russia' while receiving prime minister who was made to walk through a long corridor towards Modi's chair/throne who didn't show the slightest courtesy under the diplomatic norms for his Pakistani counterpart to walk a few steps forward to receive him.**Welcoming the meeting between Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi, Senator Sherry Rehman said on Friday that the PPP has always supported a constructive peace

¹⁴⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/national/11-Jul-2015/india-upset-over-pak-economic-successes-says-dar>

¹⁴⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/11-Jul-2015/malik-condemns-indian-pm-s-rudeness>

process, yet the joint statement issued after such an important meeting should have reflected Pakistan's concerns clearly and precisely as well.**Sherry said the PPP welcomed Pakistan and India's entry to the SCO and said that now the attention of the world was on the region**, of which Pakistan and India are the linchpin.

More information needed to expedite Lakhvi trial, *The Dawn*, July 13¹⁵⁰

Adviser to PM on Foreign Affairs and National Security Sartaj Aziz said July 12 that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had told his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi during their meeting in Ufa, Russia that **more information is required to conclude the Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi trial**— the alleged mastermind 26/11 Mumbai attacks....He added that the July 10 meeting achieved one major objective — reducing tensions in order to create an environment for meaningful talks on all significant issues for both countries."We all know what those outstanding issues are," Sartaj said. **"Kashmir of course tops the list of outstanding issues, but there are other important issues like Siachen, Sir Creek, water and interference in Pakistan."****Sartaj reiterated that both sides have also agreed to revive Track II dialogue to explore ways of resolving issues that have been lingering for a long period of time** and need to be resolved in order to enhance peace in the region.

Talks sans Kashmir impossible: Aziz, *The Express Tribune*, July 13¹⁵¹

Adviser to PM on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz on July 12 said while addressing a press conference at the Foreign Office in Islamabad: **"No formal dialogue between Pakistan and India will take place unless Kashmir is part of the agenda"**.

Wardag flays Nawaz's 'silence' before Modi, *The Nation*, July 15¹⁵²

Tehreek-e-Istaqlal Central President Rehmat Khan Wardag said that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in his recent meeting with his counterpart Narendra Modi could not talk effectively on the issues causing tension between Pakistan and India especially on Kashmir. He (Nawaz) did not talk regarding negative activities of RAW in Pakistan which is beyond comprehension, Wardag said Talking to *The Nation* in Attock. **He said war is not a solution to any problem however bilateral talks must be on equality basis.**

Pakistan shoots down Indian spy drone near LoC: ISPR, *The News*, July 15¹⁵³

¹⁵⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1194215/more-information-needed-to-expedite-lakhvi-trial-pakistan-tells-india>

¹⁵¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/919939/talks-sans-kashmir-issue-with-india-impossible-aziz/>

¹⁵² <http://nation.com.pk/national/15-Jul-2015/wardag-flays-nawaz-s-silence-before-modi>

Pakistan military shot down an Indian spy drone along the Line of Control, according to Inter Services Public Relations on July 14. ***The spy drone, used for photography, was downed in Bhimber area near LoC after it intruded in Pakistani territory, the ISPR said.***

One killed in Indian troops' unprovoked firing, *The News*, July 16¹⁵⁴

At least one person was killed in Indian Border Security Force's (BSF) unprovoked overnight firing in Umranwali sectors near the Working Boundary here early on July 16. Sources told Geo News that Punjab Rangers retaliated the unwarranted firing. Responding in befitting manner they silenced the Indian guns.

Hurriyat leaders attend Pak Embassy Eid Milan, *The Dawn*, July 21¹⁵⁵

Mirwaiz Maulvi Umar Farooq, chairperson of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), along with other notable separatist Kashmiri leaders attended an Eid Milan hosted by Pakistani High Commissioner to India, Abdul Basit. ***"We hope foreign secretaries of both countries will meet soon to start the dialogue process, and we would like to discuss all issues of importance between Pakistan and India,"*** said Abdul Basit while speaking at the occasion. "Pakistan will continue to raise the issue of Kashmiri self-determination," added Basit. **Earlier, separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani, who is chairperson of his own faction of APHC, had decided against attending the 'Eid Milan' in a surprise move.** Geelani had decided to boycott the invitation from the Pakistani High Commission, as he had attributed his decision to Pakistan's stance on Kashmir, which he said appeared to be "wavering" and "inconsistent". **Chairman of pro-independence Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) Yasin Malik had also decided to boycott the Eid Milan function.** The decision came after a marathon meeting between Yasin Malik and Syed Ali Shah Geelani. ***The Pakistani High Commission had earlier invited the resistance Kashmiri leadership for an Iftar party on July 4 but later cancelled it without any explanation.*** Reliable sources confirmed that the Pakistani High Commission decided to call off the Iftar party with an apparent aim of not to "annoy" India and help create a "conducive atmosphere" for the meeting between Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi.

UN awaiting UNMOGIP report on truce violation, *The Dawn*, July 22¹⁵⁶

¹⁵³ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-191238-Pakistan-shoots-down-Indian-spy-drone-near-LoC:-ISPR-->

¹⁵⁴ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-191305-One-killed-in-Indian-troops-unprovoked-firing-at-Working-Boundary>

¹⁵⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1195493/hurriyat-leaders-attend-pakistan-high-commissions-aid-milan>

The spokesman to the United Nations secretary general has confirmed that the UN Mission in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) is investigating Pakistan's allegation of ceasefire violations by India. Responding to a question at a briefing on Tuesday, deputy spokesman Farhan ul Haq said that since there was no report from the UNMOGIP so far "I have nothing to say". According to an ISPR press release, the UNMOGIP was asked by Pakistan Army to "use its good offices to investigate Indian ceasefire violation".

Nawaz sends mangoes to Modi, *The Express Tribune*, July 22¹⁵⁷

In a bid to normalise escalating border tensions between the two neighbouring countries, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif sent a box of mangoes to his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi, *The Hindustan Times* reported. ***"Mangoes were delivered to Modi through official channels even as Pakistan was accusing us of flying a drone into its airspace,"*** an official told *Hindustan Times* on the condition of anonymity.

India tightens security on Pakistan border, *The Express Tribune*, July 27¹⁵⁸

India tightened security on its border with Pakistan on July 26 after gunmen stormed a police station in Indian Punjab, killing six people and injuring several others. Armed police were exchanging fire with the gunmen, who were holed up in the police station in Gurdaspur district near the border with Pakistan, officials said.Indian police sources said the attackers had entered India from Pakistan a couple of days ago in Jammu and Kashmir, to the north. Jitendra Singh, a junior minister in Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office, said he did not rule out Pakistan's involvement.Indian Home Minister Rajnath Singh said he had spoken to the head of India's Border Security Force and "instructed him to step up the vigil on India-Pakistan border". "The situation is under control," Singh told reporters.

India has spiked border violations: Pak Army, *The Nation*, July 28¹⁵⁹

Pakistan military on July 26 said ***there has been a sudden spike in border and airspace violations by India along the LoC in Kashmir and Sialkot Working Boundary.....Indian troops committed 35 ceasefire violations since 9th of last month, said a statement issued on July 26 by ISPR, the media wing of Pakistan military.*** India is exhibiting aggressive posturing through enhanced movement of troops, ***extensive reconnaissance, targeting of civilians and increased use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and drones violating***

¹⁵⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1195592/un-awaiting-unmogip-report-on-truce-violation-by-india>

¹⁵⁷ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/924413/amid-border-tensions-nawaz-sends-modi-mangoes/>

¹⁵⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/927118/india-tightens-security-on-pakistan-border-after-punjab-attack/>

¹⁵⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/28-Jul-2015/india-has-spiked-border-violations-pak-army>

airspace of Pakistan, it said. The statement said that one such drone mission was flown on 15th of this month by India in which it **intruded from Jaurian Sector of Indian Occupied Kashmir and it was flying over Banchirian Sector near Bhimber** when Pakistani troops shot it down. Some of the images and video clips released by the ISPR clearly prove that the quadcopter started its flight from an Indian post and entered into Pakistani territory. ISPR said the data recovered from the internal memory of the drone provides irrefutable evidence that it was flown by Indian Army for reconnaissance inside Pakistan side of LOC.

India resorts to unprovoked shelling on LoC, *The Express Tribune*, July 31¹⁶⁰

India's Border Security Force (BSF) once again resorted to 'unprovoked' firing at the Line of Control (LoC) on Thursday night. "Indian troops resorted to unprovoked heavy weapons and small arms firing on the Line of Control in Battal sector last evening," Radio Pakistan reported, quoting the ISPR. According to ISPR, Pakistani troops befittingly responded to Indian shelling and firing.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Trade and trust, Kamal Monoo, *The Nation*, July 8¹⁶¹

One of Nawaz administration's underrated virtues is its keenness to enhance Pakistan's trade. [...]Still, I don't know why this leadership has chosen to liberalise trade and economic linkages with India on such a priority basis and that too without doing proper homework on the subject; **the last trip to Delhi earlier this year by the Commerce Minister to move post-haste with the NDMA (Non Discriminatory Market Access), later with the added acronym RB (on a Reciprocal Basis), was rather premature and quite ill timed**, to say the least. [...]The reality is that not just in the context of Pakistan and India but even from a SAARC perspective, **initiatives on further freeing up trade in South Asia or between specific SAARC countries to promote overall intra-regional trade - say between Pakistan and India or Bangladesh and Pakistan or India and Bangladesh, etc - without first entering into comprehensive agreements on regional (SAARC) trade as a whole, will just not help.whatever you may say about the benefits of free trade, most of those benefits have already been realised and further liberalisation in its current form can only help India and not Pakistan.** And second, as I see it, the big problem here is one of trust.**India, as we know has a history of either being clever with the 'finer print' or simply reneging on its promises made at the time of signing agreements; a recent report by CUTS International and India's behaviour in WTO Geneva meeting in 2014 bear testimony to this.** So

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¹⁶¹ <http://nation.com.pk/columns/08-Jul-2015/trade-and-trust>

given this Indian past, you naturally want reassurance that the people negotiating the deal are, a) competent and b) listening to valid concerns of the real stakeholders. **Regrettably, the present governmental team responsible for negotiating international trade deals falls short on both these counts.**

A tale of two meetings, Cyril Almeida, *The Dawn*, July 12¹⁶²

Afghan Taliban meet Afghan government. Everyone looks to Pakistan. Nawaz meets Modi. Everyone looks to Modi, and wonders what the boys here make of it. The good news is that we're in the news for the right reasons. Security via diplomacy and peace tables. The bad news is that the real action is elsewhere — and those elsewheres may be undermining the good news. **Without the boys on board, it doesn't matter who's in Delhi. Pak-India can't be figured out or even worked on if civ-mil hasn't been figured out or even worked on.** If we can figure that out sitting over here, you can imagine what a hawk sitting in Delhi would make of it. **Talk to Nawaz when the boys won't listen? Uhuh.** And that arrogance and complacency is what makes the hawk in Delhi the best friend of the boys here: **the boys get status quo, but Delhi gets the blame. Security via diplomacy and peace tables is always good news. But when the real action may be elsewhere, brace yourself for bad news.**

Back On Track?, Editorial, *The Nation*, July 15¹⁶³

.....The reputation and efficacy of Track II diplomacy has been marred by regular interruptions due to terrorist attacks. Much depends whether the current uneasy peace between the countries can be maintained..... **The elephant in the room, Kashmir, was not on the list. This was despite the fact that Aziz had said earlier on that Pakistan would not start a dialogue with India unless the Kashmir dispute was on the agenda. ...Our policy [on Kashmir] might be clear, but if we never get to bring it up at a discussion with Indian diplomats we cannot move towards a resolution.** The Indian refusal to use the K-word seems to imply that they think that Kashmir is a part of India— end of discussion. **Indian leaders have to realise that they are not a superpower yet, and not as intimidating as they think they are. A bigger economy, a bigger population, and a nuclear weapon, do not give them squatting rights over a disputed territory.**

Editor's Note: The Dawn Editorial "Back-channel talks" welcomes the initiative taken by India and Pakistan to start back-channel talks. The omission of Kashmir from the joint statement is good in a way, editorial suggests, because of the adverse public opinion in both the countries. However, the editorial

¹⁶² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1193857/a-tale-of-two-meetings>

¹⁶³ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/15-Jul-2015/back-on-track>

also suggests caution as India did not give any indication of establishing durable peace with Pakistan.

Conflict resolution, Editorial, *The Dawn*, July 22¹⁶⁴

Until the political leadership of the two countries decide that peace is not just a priority but a necessity too, the most that will happen is the ***ad hoc management of tensions***. In truth, however, the political leaderships need help from other constituencies — in particular, the respective security establishments of Pakistan and India. ***Here in Pakistan, while it is relatively clear that the military leadership is not spoiling for a fight with India, particularly as it struggles to contend with massive and sprawling domestic security concerns, there is a sense that it is unwilling to consider the full dividends of a comprehensive peace.*** Instead, the military's approach seems largely rooted in the past — a perhaps ***rightful insistence on the resolution of decades-old disputes with a wrongheaded resistance to proposing new ideas and avenues to achieve peace.*** Meanwhile, the Indian government and its security establishment appears to think that Pakistan can either be isolated or bullied into submission. Where is the vision in that? ***Pakistan and India deserve more than what their respective leaderships are providing at the moment.***

Indo-Pak conundrum, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, July 26¹⁶⁵

....***The only time India showed any interest in finding a mutually acceptable solution to the dispute was in 2001 at the Agra Summit.*** The setting for the Summit, too, was seemingly orchestrated by India with guns at the Line of Control (LoC) falling silent by mutual consent. ***But the attempt failed at the eleventh hour because of misreading of the situation by the hawks in Atal Behari Vajpayee's cabinet and the mistimed bluster of then Pakistan president Pervez Musharraf.*** [...]Except for the Agra Summit where it showed an inclination to discuss Kashmir threadbare, ***New Delhi has never shown, all through these nearly 67 years, a willingness even to consider Kashmir as a problem needing bilateral negotiations for its resolution.*** It has, however, on a number of occasions indicated that it would like to cement the LoC into a permanent border between the two countries. This is not acceptable to Pakistan. ***But perpetual confrontation with India also does not suit us.******We could see the ebbing freedom struggle gaining new momentum, with the urgency in the struggle being provoked by the Indian prime minister's clandestine attempts to strip Kashmir off its special status.***

¹⁶⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1195524/conflict-resolution>

¹⁶⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/926405/indo-pak-conundrum-is-there-a-way-out/>

EXCERPTS FROM URDU MEDIA & SELECT JIHADI LITERATURE

London Police's Stance on Tariq Mir— Result of pressure from Indian High Commission, *Daily Ummat*, July 1, 2015.¹⁶⁶

The clarification coming from the spokesman of London Police on the Tariq Mir case was the result of direct pressure from Indian High Commissioner in London. **Indian government had strong apprehensions that accepting Tariq Mir's original statement would give Pakistan a chance to expose India in the UN General Assembly(UNGA).**Pakistan wanted to catch India red-handed with regard to illegal and un-called for interference in Pakistan's internal affairs. For this reason, Indian High Commission worked tirelessly to thwart Pakistan's attempts to destroy its image. The B.B.C. sources revealed that the leaked-out statement by Tariq Mir was genuine and part of legal documents available only with the London Police. It was very difficult to disown these documents and rescue Indian government. However, under pressure from the Indian HC, British legal experts were called in to prepare new statements at the end of the day. In the new statement **only that part of Tariq Mir's statement was scrapped, which was not related to the murder case of Imran Farooq.**

Indian intervention to be raised at all fora, Editorial, *Daily Dunya*, July 1, 2015.¹⁶⁷

India's intervention in our internal matters will not be tolerated anymore and the decision to raise the issue at UNGA is welcome. **India's funding to terrorists, separatists and anti-national elements operating inside Pakistan is not a new phenomenon. This has been going on for the past 10 years. Many anti-national elements and groups have been getting funds, arms and ammunition and training by India. Indian Consulates located in Afghanistan have been providing funds and facilities to the enemies of our country.** Unfortunately, our agencies have been rather inefficient in tackling this problem. Come what may, we have to bring this issue before the UN. **It is now our religious duty to present all these evidences before the world community.** We should also call for a meeting of Foreign Ministers of O.I.C. and apprise them about illegal Indian interference in our domestic affairs. **We should call for a meeting of Pakistani ambassadors** and tell them to acquaint the leaders of their accredited countries about India's illegal activities inside Pakistan and ask them to condemn this issue with all vehemence.

¹⁶⁶ <http://ummat.net/2015/07/01/news.php?p=new-01.gif>

¹⁶⁷ http://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2015-07-01&edition=LHR&id=1771667_87909932

Safoora Goth and Al Qaeda-RAW Collaboration, Malik Jehangir Iqbal, *Hilal*, Vol. 51, No. 12, p.19.

....When during Mumbai attacks some people besieged the whole city, the England cricket team cancelled their scheduled tour and left. After some days, they returned saying that "we stand by India in these tough times". **What has India done— other than killing innocent Kashmiris and spreading terror in Pakistan— to deserve such show of solidarity while not a single word was uttered in defence of a frontline ally like Pakistan?** The Indian defence minister has again said that they would support terrorism in our side of Kashmir. This is to obstruct the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Moreover, India is quite riled by the Pakistan Army chief's visit to Kabul and the growing cooperation between the two countries. **The Agreement between intelligence agencies of the two countries has made India restless which shuts the doors for India to play its dirty tricks there...Authentic sources have now revealed that RAW was indeed involved in the Safoora Goth incident.** Interestingly, all the four persons who were arrested over the incident belonged to Al-Qaeda. **Enemy's enemy is a friend and here Al-Qaeda and RAW have now developed strong links with each other. Thanks to this coalition, RAW now makes use of suicide bombers and Al-Qaeda and has developed safe heavens in cities like Karachi. RAW is thus using many players throughout Pakistan.it works in the name of TTP in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, uses the label of BLA in Baluchistan, works under the banner of some NGO's in Punjab and in the name of some political parties in Sindh.**

India's nefarious plans to sabotage Pakistan's economic projects, Editorial, *Daily Dunya*, July 10, 2015.¹⁶⁸

It has become crystal clear that India could never become Pakistan's friend. It is beyond one's comprehension why some sections in Pakistan still nurture illusions of developing friendly relations with our neighbour. Needless to say, India has been engaged in carrying out incessant militant attacks inside Pakistan. India's involvement in terrorist activities has increased in recent years. **You name any place – Baluchistan, FATA, Karachi or any city – everywhere one finds RAW's footprints.** Now when Pakistan is set upon the road to economic progress, India's intelligence agency RAW has been found frantically engaged in destabilizing our country's economy. It seems a bitter pill to swallow for India. For last few years, there are strong apprehensions among various section of Pakistan civil society that **India cannot tolerate Pakistan's economic development. This is evidently clear from the fact that India ensured that Kala Bagh dam would not be built by funding some groups in Pakistan who opposed such a venture.**

¹⁶⁸ http://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2015-07-10&edition=LHR&id=1786900_25890318

India should learn a lesson after losing a drone, Editorial, *Daily Ummat*, July 17, 2015.¹⁶⁹

Pakistan army brought down an Indian spy drone near Line of Control.... **India should know that Pakistan also has drones that can carry missiles and capture photographs as well.** If India didn't refrain from sending its drones to our region then we also have the capability to use our drones against India and target its cities... **Those in Pakistan who want to have trade relations with India and have high hopes about such relationship must realize that India can never be our friend especially when it has a hardcore Hindu and extremely biased Narendra Modi as its prime minister.** For most of the Indians, partition was a bad idea. For them, it was like cutting the holy cow (*Gaw Maata*) into two pieces and they will always try to have their *akhand bharat*. For this reason, they are against the freedom of Kashmir. India has besieged Kashmir with its seven lakh forces.

Nawaz Sharif should tell the Nation why he didn't raise Kashmir issue in Ufa, Editorial, *Daily Nawa-i-Waqt*, July 11, 2015.¹⁷⁰

Although media has reported that both countries have accepted to resolve all outstanding issues, the absence of Kashmir in the final declaration signed by two leaders reduces it to just a photo session.... Pakistan should not expect anything positive from such meetings with India as behaviour of Indian leaders clearly demonstrates that they do not want better relations with Pakistan. Last year, India cancelled the foreign secretary level talks and before that Manmohan Singh also flared up tension on border instead of coming to Pakistan. The current Prime Minister has himself issued anti-Pakistan statements on several occasions and has openly advocated weakening of our country. How can one hope that he would come with a solution of Kashmir to Pakistan?

Kashmir and Kashmiris cannot be ignored, Editorial, *Daily Jehan Pakistan*, July 16, 2015.¹⁷¹

In any bilateral level talks between India and Pakistan, 'Kashmir' will always be the core issue. It is the reality which one could not ignore at any stage. Let both the countries make progress on several other issues and development projects. But the fact remains that until the problem of Kashmir is resolved according to hopes and aspirations of Kashmiris there will not be peace between India and Pakistan.

¹⁶⁹ <http://ummat.net/2015/07/17/news.php?p=idr1.gif>

¹⁷⁰ , <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2015-07-11/page-14/detail-7>

¹⁷¹ http://www.jehanpakistan.com/epaper/detail_news.php?news=%2Fepaper%2Fepaper%2FIahore%2F160715%2FP12-001.jpg#sthash.hcdd7llc.dpbs

Afghanistan and Extremism: some bitter Realities, Saleem Safi, *Daily Jang*, July 4, 2015.¹⁷²

ISIS influence is spreading very fast in Afghanistan especially in provinces close to Pakistani border where they seem to be fighting in collaboration with some sections of the Pakistan Taliban. Shahidullah Shahid and the TTP Chief in Kurram have already shifted their allegiance to Al-Baghdadi. **There is a theory doing the rounds that Afghan government and NATO forces are allowing ISIS to make inroads into Afghanistan to weaken the Taliban.** If this is true then it would be problematic for Pakistan because TTP and ISIS collaboration and Afghan government's support to ISIS will not serve Pakistani interests.

Afghan government-Taliban Talks, Editorial, *Nawa-i-Waqt*, July 9, 2015.¹⁷³

Ironically, Pakistan is busy in operation against Taliban in its own territory while acting as a bridge between the Afghan government and Afghan Taliban initiating a dialogue process. One thing becomes clear from this is that Pakistan still believes in good Taliban and bad Taliban theory.

A good news, Saleem Safi, *Daily Jang*, July 12, 2015.¹⁷⁴

Afghan government had always held different views about Pakistani government and military establishment but this time **talks were organized by the ISI and the foreign secretary was representing the Pakistani government.** Afghan government cannot say anymore that the civilian government of Pakistan and the military leadership were on different pages and derailed the process.

Provincial status for Gilgit-Baltistan would be detrimental to Pakistan's interests, Editorial, *Daily Muhasib*, July 9, 2015.¹⁷⁵

President of Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Yaqub has stated that **any effort by Pakistan to accord provincial status to Gilgit-Baltistan could be detrimental and would have far-reaching negative consequences...**After Eid festival, government of Azad Kashmir would convene a meeting of All Parties' Hurriyat Conference and would **register its protest to the federal authorities in Islamabad** in this regard....**The political leadership in Pakistan, who do not have any knowledge of history and geography of Gilgit-Baltistan region, have ruined the spirit of freedom movement of Kashmir.**

¹⁷² http://e.jang.com.pk/07-04-2015/lahore/pic.asp?picname=10_07.gif

¹⁷³ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2015-07-09/page-14/detail-9>

¹⁷⁴ http://e.jang.com.pk/07-12-2015/karachi/pic.asp?picname=07_07.gif

¹⁷⁵ <http://mahasib.com.pk/muzzaffarabad/story.php?param=2s.jpg>

Pakistan-China-Russia Joint military Exercises, Editorial, *Daily Nawa-i-Waqt*, July 7, 2015.¹⁷⁶

Pakistan, Russia and China have decided to have joint military exercises on the occasion of International Defense Games scheduled to be held in August this year. Venezuela, Egypt and Belarus will also participate in these exercises. Pakistan and Russia have only now come closer to each other and as a result they have resumed bilateral relations. **This was very much required to maintain balance of military power in the region.** Very recently, Pakistan Army Chief Gen. Raheel Sharif visited Russia. During his visit, he discussed issues like terrorism, spread of arms and exchanged views on political and military problems facing the region. **Let us not forget that before this, Pakistan and Russia never had any economic or any other kind of bilateral agreement...Such close defence collaboration with Russia would contain the ever-expansionist policy of India.....This would obviously send the signal to Uncle Sam to abandon its policy of upgrading political and military status of India in the region. All big powers should join hands to foil all American plans to elevating India to a position of sardar in South Asia region.**

Wafadar Kutta Aur us ka Gham, *TTP's Umar Media*, July 13, 2015.¹⁷⁷

You might have seen in America that people love to have dogs. Dogs are the only best friends of Americans because they know how untrustworthy their fellow Americans can be. Interestingly, dogs are available in every size and colour and they are very loyal to their bosses who feed them. Whenever the boss is in danger, the dog takes all kinds of risks to get him out of that. **Unfortunately same is the case with Pakistan army which always dances to the tunes of America. The Americans love dogs so much that they raise memorials in their honour when they die. John Kerry displayed a similar gesture when he laid wreaths at the graves of Pakistan army men during his last visit to Pakistan.**

STATISTICS

BOMBINGS, SHOOTINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES

(Select incidents culled out from the Pakistan media)

Place	Date	Description	Killed	Injured
Balochistan				
Quetta ¹⁷⁸	1/7/2015	Brother, nephew BLF	15	2

¹⁷⁶ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2015-07-07/page-14/detail-8>

¹⁷⁷

https://umarmedia.files.wordpress.com/2015/07/11703165_612462608895448_8090085570802493620_n.jpg

¹⁷⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1185604/fc-kills-13-suspected-mustung-carnage-militants>

Turbat, Barkhan and Gwadar ¹⁷⁹	5/7/2015	leader among 14 killed Five Baloch Militants Killed	6	0
Quetta ¹⁸⁰	5/7/2015	Quetta blast leave one dead 15 hurt	1	15
Quetta ¹⁸¹	6/7/2015	Security official, two others killed in Quetta	4	3
Quetta ¹⁸²	7/7/2015	Three suspected militants killed	3	2
Quetta ¹⁸³	8/7/2015	Jaish-ul Islam chief killed in Quetta	1	0
Quetta ¹⁸⁴	14/7/2015	Two men killed in police encounter	2	0
Mashkay ¹⁸⁵	21/7/2015	Nine militants killed	9	--
Quetta ¹⁸⁶	28/7/2015	Attack on SSP, kills 2 policemen, terrorists	4	0
Quetta ¹⁸⁷	29/7/2015	At least two killed in Quetta target killing	2	0
Quetta ¹⁸⁸	31/7/2015	Commander among two militants killed	2	1
FATA				
Angoor Ada ¹⁸⁹	1/7/2015	Pak, Afghan forces in deadly border clash	0	2

¹⁷⁹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/915115/five-baloch-militants-killed-in-gunfights/>

¹⁸⁰ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-190235-Blast-near-Bacha-Khan-Chowk-in-Quetta>

¹⁸¹ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-190292-Security-official,-two-others-killed-in-Quetta-firing>

¹⁸² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1192801/three-suspected-militants-killed-in-operation-near-quetta>

¹⁸³ <http://nation.com.pk/national/08-Jul-2015/jaish-ul-islam-chief-killed-in-quetta>

¹⁸⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/920373/power-feud-two-men-killed-in-police-encounter/>

¹⁸⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1195388/nine-militants-killed-in-mashkay-operation>

¹⁸⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/national/28-Jul-2015/attack-on-ssp-kills-2-policemen-terrorist>

¹⁸⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1196890/at-least-two-killed-in-quetta-target-killing>

¹⁸⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/929609/balochistan-unrest-commander-among-two-militants-killed-national-2-3/>

¹⁸⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/02-Jul-2015/pak-afghan-forces-in-deadly-border-clash>

North Waziristan ¹⁹⁰	15/7/2015	14 militants killed in North Waziristan	14	0
Punjab				
Lahore ¹⁹¹	2/7/2015	Qaeda Pakistan chief killed	4	3
Faisalabad ¹⁹²	29/7/2015	Policeman, militant encounter death	2	3
Lahore ¹⁹³	29/7/2015	Lashkar-e-Jhangvi chief killed	14	6
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa				
Swat ¹⁹⁴	3/7/2015	PML-N District Leader Shot Dead	1	0
Peshawar ¹⁹⁵	9/7/2015	Child among two injured in Peshawar explosion	0	2
Sindh				

¹⁹⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/15-Jul-2015/14-militants-killed-in-nwa-airstrikes>

¹⁹¹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/02-Jul-2015/qaeda-pakistan-chief-killed-in-kala-shah-kaku-raid>

¹⁹² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1197084/policeman-militant-encounter-death-in-faisalabad>

¹⁹³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1197098/lashkar-i-jhangvi-chief-malik-ishaq-two-sons-killed-in-muzaffargarh-encounter>

¹⁹⁴ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/national/03-Jul-2015/pml-n-district-leader-shot-dead-in-swat>

¹⁹⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1193137/child-among-two-injured-in-peshawar-explosion>