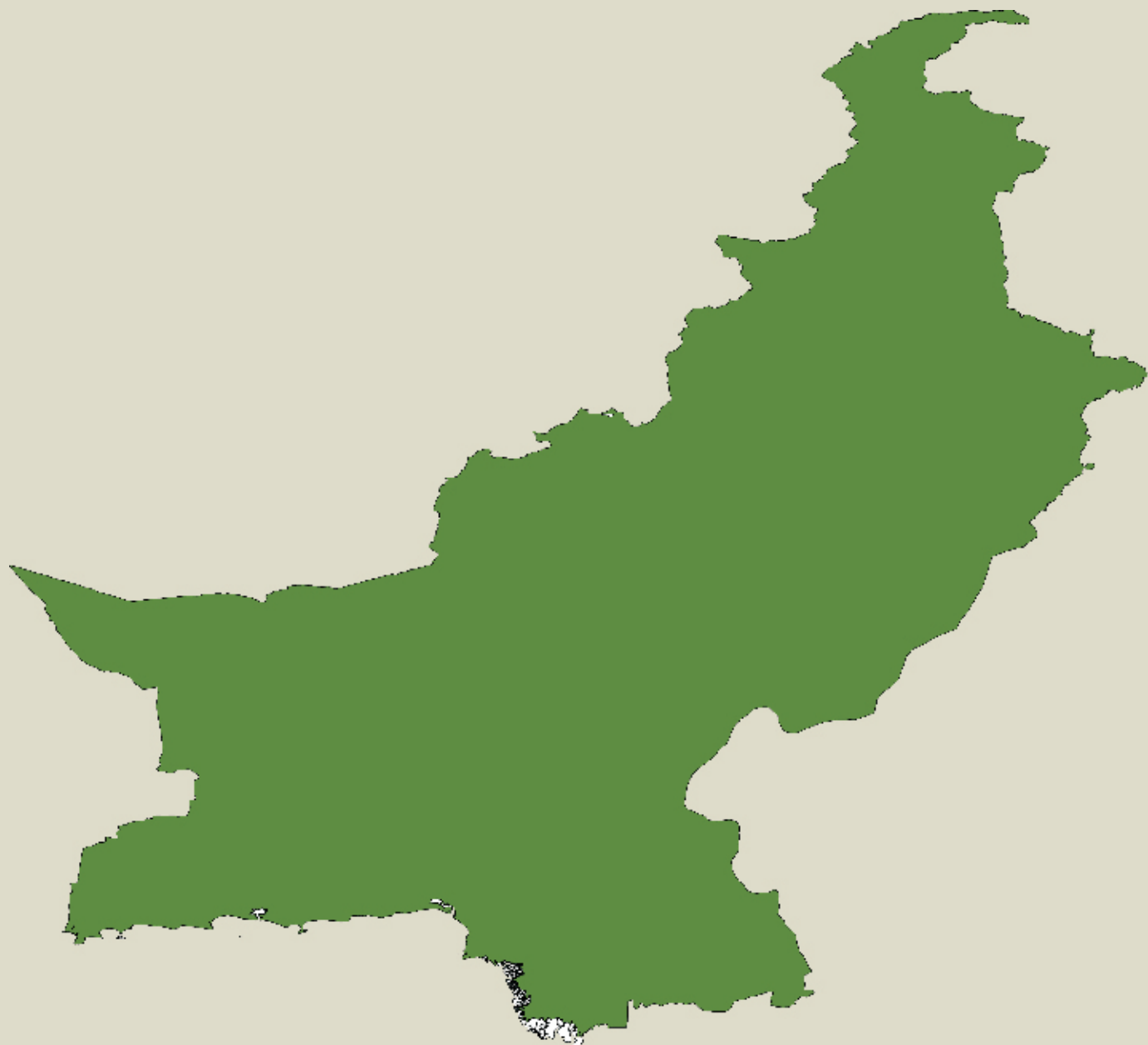


October 2015

PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST

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



*Prepared by
Ashish Shukla &
Manzoor Ahmed Bhat
(Research Assistants, 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, OCTOBER 2015

CONTENTS

.....	0
ABBREVIATIONS.....	2
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS	3
NATIONAL POLITICS.....	3
PROVINCIAL POLITICS.....	5
EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS.....	8
FOREIGN POLICY	12
ECONOMIC ISSUES	24
FISCAL ISSUES	24
INVESTMENT	25
SECURITY SITUATION	26
TERRORISM	26
KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND FATA.....	28
BALOCHISTAN	29
EXCERPTS FROM URDU MEDIA & SELECT JIHADI LITERATURE	45
STATISTICS	52
BOMBINGS, SHOOTINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES.....	52

ABBREVIATIONS

ANP: Awami National Party
APC: All Parties Conference
ATC: Anti-Terrorism Court
CPEC: China- Pakistan Economic Corridor
ECP: Election Commission of Pakistan
IHC: Islamabad High Court
IMF: International Monetary Fund
ISI: Inter-Services Intelligence
ISPR: Inter Services Public Relations
JI: Jamaat-i-Islami
JuD: Jamat-ul- Dawa
JUI-F Jamiat-Ulema-e-Islam (Fazal)
KP: Khyber Pakhthunkhwa
LHC: Lahore High Court
MQM: Muttahida Qaumi Movement
NAP: National Action Plan
PAT: Pakistan Awami Tehreek
PML-N: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz
PPP: Pakistan People's Party
PTI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
QWP: Qaumi Watan Party
TTP: Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

NATIONAL POLITICS

PPP ex-MPA, 25 others join PTI, *The Dawn*, October 4¹

PPP's former MPA Chaudhry Mohammad Shabbir and 25 others from the party and the PML-N have announced joining the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf. The announcement was made at a ceremony in the presence of PTI Punjab organiser Chaudhry Sarwar, Opposition Leader in the Punjab Assembly Mian Mahmoodur Rasheed and MPA Mian Aslam Iqbal. The new entrants to the party expressed their confidence in PTI chief Imran Khan.

Changes in corridor route echo in KP Assembly, *The Dawn*, October 7²

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly through a unanimously adopted resolution on Tuesday (October 6) opposed changes in the original plan of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), saying it would create disharmony amongst the federating units. ***"The Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa resolves and recommends to the federal government that the national consensus evolved on May 28, 2015 in APC should be implemented in letter and spirit,"*** said the resolution. The resolution was moved by parliamentary leader of QWP Sikandar Hayat Sherpao.

No change in CPEC route, says president, *The Dawn*, October 7³

President Mamnoon Hussain has said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will be built along the stipulated route, with Balochistan being the main beneficiary of the project. ***"It will bring a major change in the economy of the entire region," the president added. [...]"The army has established a new division which will provide full security to the Chinese working on this important project," Mr Mamnoon said.*** The president said some elements were spreading rumours despite a clear decision taken at a conference, attended by all political parties, that there would be no change in the corridor.

Imran brands Nawaz 'most corrupt', *The Nation*, October 8⁴

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan Wednesday (October 7) declared Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif as the 'most corrupt person' in the country, private TV channels reported. ***"Sharif is the biggest tax evader of Pakistan.***

¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1210752/ppp-ex-mpa-25-others-join-pti>

² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1211484/changes-in-economic-corridor-route-echo-in-kp-assembly>

³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1211387/no-change-in-cpec-route-says-president>

⁴ <http://nation.com.pk/national/08-Oct-2015/imran-brands-nawaz-most-corrupt>

He only paid Rs470 in four years in taxes. Even Zardari was better than Nawaz in governance and controlling corruption in the country," said Imran Khan while addressing a public gathering in Okara. "The PM's job has become only begging the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for more aid," Khan alleged.

MQM 'returning' to parliament, *The Nation*, October 10⁵

The MQM yesterday (October 9) decided to take back their resignations from the parliament, after staying away from parliamentary politics for almost two months. The fourth largest political party took this decision following the government's nod to form a five-member 'Grievance Redressal Committee' in a week to address their issues. [...] "MQM will start taking back its resignations from Monday (October 12)," said Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, after successful talks with MQM at Punjab House. Both the sides also agreed on an MoU, he added.

'PPP to fight back in 2018 election', *The Dawn*, October 18⁶

Pakistan People's Party Senator Saeed Ghani has said the local elections in Punjab are not his party's target. "Our target is 2018 general elections and not the local polls in Punjab," he told Dawn after attending a corner meeting at UC-236 in Green Town here on Saturday (October 17). He said the PPP was making preparations for the 2018 elections and the local polls here would help achieve its target. [...] **At the corner meeting, Mr Ghani said the government should dispel the impression that the army was more powerful than itself. "In order to dispel the impression that the army is more powerful than the government, the prime minister should take all parties on board and speak to the army.** Pakistan is facing terrorism and we need national coherence," he said.

ECP begins investigation of 'vote transfer', *The Nation*, October 20⁷

ECP has sought reports from District and Provincial Election Commission as it begins to start investigations regarding transfer of votes from NA-122 to other constituencies. Secretary Election Commission Babar Yaqoub has said that Chaudhary Sarwar is being provided all the details on his insistence. He said that allegations of alterations to voter lists are under investigation. [...] **He argued that deploying army at every polling station in local body elections is not a viable solution.** Earlier, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf prepared a six-point 'charge sheet' against the ECP. The charge sheet has reportedly unearthed startling revelations according to which PTI claims it and PML-N were given different electoral lists.

⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/10-Oct-2015/mqm-returning-to-parliament>

⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1213847/ppp-to-fight-back-in-2018-election>

⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/national/20-Oct-2015/ecp-begins-investigation-of-vote-transfer>

PROVINCIAL POLITICS

Liaquat Jatoi accuses PPP of kidnapping candidates, *The Dawn*, October 4⁸

Accusing Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) MNA Rafique Ahmed Jamali of getting six rival candidates kidnapped to prevent them from filing their nomination papers for union council seats, former Sindh chief minister and MPA Liaquat Ali Jatoi has called for ensuring the entire local government election process under the supervision of the army and paramilitary force.

Jl supports PTI in NA-122, PP-147, *The Express Tribune*, October 5⁹

Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) announced on Monday (October 5) its support for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in the upcoming by-polls in NA-122 and PP-147 Lahore. "Upon the directives and consultations received from the party's central leadership we have decided to support PTI in NA-122 and PP-147," JI's Lahore chief Mian Maqsood said while addressing a joint press conference with PTI's Punjab organiser Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar.

Khan is a confused 'rotu', *The Nation*, October 8¹⁰

PML-N leaders while addressing railway workers at Lokoshed yesterday (October 7) criticised PTI chief Imran Khan calling him a confused 'rotu' (weeper) and anti-development. **Campaigning for the upcoming by-elections in NA-122 they said that Imran Khan will be responsible if Chinese investment worth \$46billion is cancelled.** They charged Khan for advocating ignorance and obscurantism to the masses.

Wattoo: Murder is a conspiracy against party, *The Nation*, October 10¹¹

President Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Punjab, Mian Manzoor Ahmed Wattoo has declared the murder of the party candidate in LG election from Okara, Malik Aslam Channa as a result of conspiracy against his party which enjoys public support. In a statement issued on Saturday (October 10), Manzoor Wattoo has said that the deceased Malik Aslam Channa was the President of the PPP from the PP-188 from where he was elected four times to various people's representative forums.

Zulfiqar Mirza to form own political party, *The Dawn*, October 18¹²

Former Sindh home minister Zulfiqar Mirza on Saturday (October 17) announced that he had decided to form his own political party after having

⁸<http://www.dawn.com/news/1210680/liaquat-jatoi-accuses-ppp-of-kidnapping-six-candidates>

⁹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/967559/by-polls-ji-announces-support-for-pti-in-na-122-pp-147-lahore/>

¹⁰<http://nation.com.pk/national/08-Oct-2015/khan-is-a-confused-rotu>

¹¹<http://nation.com.pk/national/10-Oct-2015/murder-of-ppp-candidate-conspiracy-against-party-manzoor-wattoo>

¹²<http://www.dawn.com/news/1213751/zulfiqar-mirza-to-form-own-political-party>

been sidelined from the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) for the past many years. Mirza said that he had taken the decision after consulting his supporters and other "senior friends" in the country. [...] "**Creation of the Kalabagh Dam is not in the interests of Pakistan," Mirza said** on the occasion, adding that the people of Punjab will be presented with facts on the matter. The new party will follow principles laid out by Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto, said Mirza.

Protests against coal-based power plant in Hub, *The Dawn*, October 19¹³

Hundreds of people held a demonstration in the industrial town of Hub on Sunday (October 18) against a coal-based power plant being built in the area by Hubco power company. The protesters, including residents of Gadani, were of the view that the coal-based plant would create environmental problems for people and the marine life.

Tribal people to decide fate of Fata: Muqam, *The Dawn*, October 19¹⁴

The decision about merger of Fata into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would be taken by the tribal people themselves, said PML-N senior vice president Eng Amir Muqam. Talking to journalists here on Sunday (October 18), he said that no one had the right to comment on merger of Fata into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as the decision would be taken by tribal people.

QWP rejoins KP coalition government, *Daily Times*, October 21¹⁵

Two Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) legislators took oath as ministers to join Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Pervez Khattak's cabinet on Tuesday (October 20) as their party joined the PTI-led provincial coalition government after almost 20 months. [...] Provincial Governor Mahtab Ahmad Khan administered the oath to QWP's Sikandar Khan Sherpao and Anisa Zeb Tahirkheli. Anisa Zeb Tahirkheli will serve as minister for Mines and Minerals as well as Labour and Manpower while Sikandar Sherpao will be the senior minister for Home and Tribal Affairs as well as Irrigation departments.

MQM candidates return challenged, *The Dawn*, October 29¹⁶

Taking exception to the alleged intimidation with the aim of getting Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) candidates elected uncontested, leaders of major contesting parties, including the Pakistan Peoples Party, in

¹³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1214019/protests-against-coal-based-power-plant-in-hub>

¹⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1213993/tribal-people-to-decide-fate-of-fata-muqam>

¹⁵ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/21-Oct-2015/qwp-rejoins-kp-coalition-government-after-20-months>

¹⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1215995/ppp-other-parties-challenge-uncontested-return-of-mqm-candidates>

the Hyderabad local government election without naming it have accused the returning officer concerned of having leaked out confidential information about their candidates to that party. "Many of our candidates were harassed and prevented from filing their nomination papers," PPP district president Zahid Bhurgari along with local leaders of the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI), Jamiat Ulema-i-Pakistan-Noorani (JUP-N) and Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) told a press conference here on Wednesday (October 28). After restraining its rival candidates from filing their nomination papers, the party came out with the claim that 22 of its candidates for the slots of chairmen and vice-chairmen had returned unopposed in the second phase of the LG election, the leaders said.

Due share in CPEC to solve issues: ANP, *The Dawn*, October 29¹⁷

Awami National Party leader and MNA Ghulam Ahmed Bilour has said that the federal government should give due share to the militancy-hit Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in \$46 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project instead of announcing meagre packages after a disaster hits the province. He said that China wanted this corridor to develop those parts of the country where it was facing religious extremism. The federal government here should do the same as sheer force can't end militancy and extremism, he said. ***"Development is the only way to end extremism in provinces like Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan," said the senior ANP leader.***

PML-N is MQM of Punjab, *The Nation*, October 30¹⁸

Calling the ruling party as MQM of Punjab, Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan yesterday (October 29) warned government of besieging the inspector general of police office if the killers of his party activists were not arrested. Khan's two party activists Khurram Shahzad and Arif had allegedly been killed by the ruling party workers in Yakki Gate area of the provincial capital four days ago during election campaign.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Sharia doesn't ask women to cover: CII, *The Dawn*, October 20¹⁹

The Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) continued its tradition of focusing on issues concerning women at its 200th meeting, on Monday (October 19). ***The meeting, chaired by Maulana Mohammad Khan Sherani, ruled that covering***

¹⁷<http://www.dawn.com/news/1216136/due-share-in-cpec-not-meagre-packages-to-solve-issues-anp>

¹⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/national/30-Oct-2015/pml-n-is-mqm-of-punjab>

¹⁹<http://www.dawn.com/news/1214319/sharia-doesnt-ask-women-to-cover-face-hands-or-feet-cii>

the face, the hands up to the wrists and feet was not mandatory for Muslim women. [...] Apart from the Sharia description of the veil, the **CII reiterated its old stance against co-education** and described it as an unhealthy practice for society. It ruled that education should be imparted to boys and girls separately, even at the early levels.

Another nine convicts hanged in Punjab, *The Nation*, October 21²⁰

Authorities hanged nine more convicted murderers on Tuesday (October 20), bringing the total number of executions to around 250 since the government lifted a moratorium on the death penalty last December. [...] The latest executions took place in Lahore, Attock, Faisalabad, Sargodha and Bahawalpur in Punjab.

ATC indicts 20 in Youhanabad lynching case, *The Dawn*, October 29²¹

An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) indicted 20 suspects in the Youhanabad lynching case of two men in Lahore on Wednesday (October 28). All suspects pleaded not guilty before the court. ATC judge Muhammad Qasim heard the lynching case in which a mob brutally killed two men in the aftermath of the deadly church bombings in Lahore's Youhanabad area on March 15 earlier this year.

UN to give back \$2.3 mn for BB murder inquiry, *The News*, October 29²²

Pakistan has managed to extract a commitment of \$ 2.3 million from the United Nations owed to the country from the residual amount earlier given by Islamabad for an inquiry into former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's assassination. Due to the efforts of Pakistan's Mission to the UN in New York, the UN is now prepared to return this money from the \$3.5 million contributed by former president Asif Ali Zardari's government.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Do citizens matter?, Rasul Baksh Rais, *The Express Tribune*, October 1²³

... The organised groups, lobbies and powerful interests with wealth and skills at their disposal have captured the biggest political space in the developed world, while the traditional power elite in countries like ours have given no space to anyone. They reserve the slots for the next generation of their families and friends. Their monopoly over all sources of power, social, economic and political, is unquestionable. **The 'democratic' competition is**

²⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/21-Oct-2015/another-nine-hanged-in-punjab>

²¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1215932/atc-indicts-20-in-youhanabad-lynching-case>

²² [http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-202328-Pakistan-to-get-\\$2.3-mn-from-UN-from-BB-murder-inquiry](http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-202328-Pakistan-to-get-$2.3-mn-from-UN-from-BB-murder-inquiry)

²³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/965238/do-citizens-matter/>

just a regular pattern of replacing one group with another. Pakistan has yet to see a power shift ..[favouring] the non-elite sectors of society.

A vulnerable minority, Editorial, *The Dawn*, October 7²⁴

Persecution can be overt at times, subtle and insidious at others; and most people would likely agree that it is an ugly, despicable thing. **However, there is one minority community in Pakistan — the Ahmadis — against whom persecution of both kinds not only exists but is celebrated as a virtue** by sections of the majority. [...]Years of institutionalised discrimination against the Ahmadi community and its persistent vilification have led to a situation where even the mass murder of its members in Lahore on May 28, 2010 failed to elicit the kind of public outrage that such carnage should have merited — and has done so in the case of similar attacks on adherents of other minority faiths.

Institutions of restraint, Ishrat Husain, *The Dawn*, October 7²⁵

The apex committees consisting of civil and military leadership represent an innovative model of governance to suit the country's peculiar needs. This exceptional arrangement has been made because of pervasive weaknesses in the institutions of the rule of law and accountability. [...]It may be recalled that such action was also taken by Ayub Khan, Yahya Khan and Zulfikar Bhutto; by the army in the 1990s; and NAB in the early 2000s. However, such highly visible but ad hoc actions make a temporary difference; they do not leave any lasting imprint. What is required is broad-based institutional reform. **That, however, is a long, arduous process. Instead, a more selective approach can be adopted in which some key institutions that can act as restraints on maladministration of justice and rule of law, mis-governance and abuse of excessive discretionary powers could be strengthened in the next three to four years.** This would have spillover effects on other institutions too.

PML-N forever?, Cyril Almeida, *The Dawn*, October 11²⁶

[...]First, though, conventional wisdom. 2018 will be a two-horse race and the battleground will again be Punjab. PML-N v PTI — may the best man win. [...]PML-N will have the advantage because, well, it's delivered a bunch of things and Punjab is super fond of Mian Sahib, even if it hasn't quite warmed to the younger Sharif. PTI will have learned from 2013 and will position itself to grab a bunch of seats, but it will still fall short. Ultimately, the party won't have the machine to move it up from second to first. That's the conventional wisdom and it seems fairly reasonable. [...] **By now, here in 2015, it's become**

²⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1211332/a-vulnerable-minority>

²⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1210918/institutions-of-restraint>

²⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1212287/pml-n-forever>

fairly obvious: the PML-N is about as rubbish at governing as the PPP was. The PPP knew they were rubbish, didn't care that they were rubbish, and decided early on to enjoy themselves as much as they could for as long as they could. From there was born the legend of The Worst Government the Country Has Ever Had, 2008-2013.

A win by a whisker, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, October 12²⁷

A win is a win, no matter the margin and the PML-N will be pleased at its victory in the Lahore NA-122 by-poll.....Despite statements by the PML-N leadership claiming that the party's stance vis-a-vis rigging in the 2013 elections has been vindicated, it has had the democratic equivalent of a solid kick in the posterior, only just winning in NA-122 and losing to the PTI in the fight for the Punjab Assembly seat in PP-147. **The results are the clearest indicator since the general election that there is a shift of sorts in the electoral dynamics in the direction of the PTI, which was able to mount and sustain an electoral campaign in the PML-N heartland.**

Lessons for PTI and PML-N, Editorial, *The Dawn*, October 13²⁸

..Sadly, the PTI remains the chief culprit, and it is with that party's leadership that the story must begin. For years now, the PTI's politics of agitation have held the country virtually hostage. [...]Perhaps Imran Khan believes that the PTI's best chance at success in the next general election is to keep the political waters churning at all costs until then. But it does not appear to be working. The PTI does not seem to be getting any closer to its goal of overthrowing the PML-N from its dominant position in Punjab.

About military domination, Editorial, *The Nation*, October 20²⁹

A subtle and little noticed form of threat to democracy is when institutions and individuals exceed their constitutional authority and trespass into the domain of other constitutional institutions," said Asif Ali Zardari, in what can be called his subtle little way of criticising the military. [...] **Compared to other politicians – who can't stop waxing lyrical about the armed forces – Zardari has been the only one that has the daring to call a spade a spade.** The armed forces have done stellar work in the battlefield, but they have also interfered in civilian jurisdictions; they have their own courts, their own law enforcement agency in the shape of the Rangers, they need to be consulted in most matters of policy, and are now even supplanting non-governmental civilian institutions – as the PMDC incident testifies. **A bare faced coup is not the only threat to democracy, a steady and shadowy jostling for power is**

²⁷ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/971773/a-win-by-a-whisker/>

²⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1212655/lessons-for-pti-and-pml-n>

²⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/20-Oct-2015/the-ppp-myth>

equally destabilising for the democracy, and perhaps even more nefarious than a coup.

PTI's Tireless Tirade, Editorial, *The Nation*, October 21³⁰

The latest development of the never-ending injustice against the PTI is that the party has called a multi-party conference of opposition on October 22 over the issue of alleged rigging of PML-N in NA-122 by-polls. ***The date is critically chosen to coincide with the Prime minister's much-awaited meeting with President Obama in Washington.*** This time surprisingly Chaudhry Sarwar is PTI's forerunner in the fight against the status quo, announcing to raise the matter of election rigging in Pakistan at an international level, claiming ***despite losing the NA-122 seat to Ayaz Sadiq that the PML-N cannot win any election without rigging.*** The party alleges that it has gathered proof of large-scale vote transfer from Lahore's NA-122.

Too early to write PPP's epitaph, Nazish Brohi, *The Dawn*, October 27³¹

MANY obituaries have been written about the PPP post-2013 elections but the party defies simplistic epitaphs. The criticisms are valid: corruption, governance failure, lack of internal democracy, nepotism, alienation of stalwarts, induction of sycophants and the bitterness of jiyalas. But these charges aren't new. We now hear that Asif Zardari betrayed Benazir Bhutto's PPP, earlier we heard that Benazir betrayed Z.A. Bhutto's PPP; earlier still, it was said that ZAB himself betrayed the party's original conception. ***Betrayal is a recurring theme in ideological politics globally. But it's no coincidence that the moment that political commentators predict it will be nearly impossible for the PPP to make a comeback is the same moment analysts point out that an overt military coup is no longer probable.***

Time to move on Khan!, Imtiaz Gul, *The Express Tribune*, October 28³²

Can Imran Khan's charisma survive the cacophony that has almost exclusively centered around the 2013 general election results? Or will the goodwill for his mission i.e., ensuring transparent elections, rule of law, meritocracy and good governance fade under his seemingly arrogant, self-righteous confrontationist approach? Regardless of the outcomes of the recent by-elections in Punjab, the PTI's Pakistan-origin supporters and sympathisers abroad have begun asking the aforementioned questions.Time to move on Khan.

³⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/21-Oct-2015/pti-s-tireless-tirade>

³¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1215612/game-over>

³² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/980150/time-to-move-on-khan/>

FOREIGN POLICY

CM opens Chinese consulate, *The Dawn*, October 1³³

Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif inaugurated Chinese consulate in Muslim Town, Lahore on Wednesday (September 30) on the eve of the national day of China. He also hoisted Chinese flag on the building.

US may reimburse \$375m under CSF: Dar, *The Dawn*, October 1³⁴

Defending the controversial \$500 million Eurobond launch as a success, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said on Wednesday (September 30) that the United States was expected to reimburse in a few days about \$375m to Pakistan under the Coalition Support Fund (CSF). ***“Positive news on the CSF is that reimbursements for the Sept 2014 quarter would be available to us over the next 3-4 days,” he said*** at a news conference after returning from the US to report approval by IMF of \$504m tranche, launch of the expensive \$500m Eurobond and other meetings.

US giving precision strike technology: Jilani, *The Express Tribune*, October 5³⁵
The United States is helping Pakistan fight militants in its tribal areas by providing precision strike technology to its air force, the country’s envoy in Washington said on Sunday (October 4). [...]Regarding US efforts to assist Pakistan with the situation in the tribal areas, the envoy said Washington is also helping Islamabad rehabilitate tribespeople displaced by the military operations against terrorists.

Pakistan seeking US help on civil nuclear energy, *Daily Times*, October 9³⁶

The Foreign Office said on Thursday (October 8) Pakistan is seeking cooperation of the international community, including the United States, on civil nuclear energy. ***“There should be non-discriminatory approach on nuclear issues, including access to peaceful use of nuclear energy,” Foreign Office spokesperson Qazi Khalilullah told a weekly briefing in Islamabad.***

Islamabad to assist talks with Taliban, *The Express Tribune*, October 9³⁷

Pakistan on Thursday (October 8) said it will facilitate another round of peace talks between Kabul and the Taliban provided that both sides are willing to re-engage with each other, hinting at a shift in its policy towards

³³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1210085/cm-opens-chinese-consulate>

³⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1210161/us-may-reimburse-375m-under-csf-in-3-4-days-dar>

³⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/967419/us-providing-precision-strike-technology-to-pakistan-jilani/>

³⁶ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/09-Oct-2015/pakistan-seeking-us-help-on-civil-nuclear-energy>

³⁷ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/969932/signs-of-a-policy-shift-islamabad-to-assist-talks-if-both-kabul-taliban-willing/>

reconciliation in Afghanistan. "Pakistan supported and hosted the first round of intra-Afghan dialogue for peace and reconciliation [in early July] and if both sides agree to it, we are ready to offer our cooperation to them for future talks," Foreign Office (FO) spokesman Qazi Khalilullah said at his weekly news conference.

Inviting Arabs to hunt pillar of foreign policy: govt, *The Dawn*, October 18³⁸

The federal government has asked the Supreme Court to reconsider a ban on hunting houbara bustard by foreign dignitaries, saying the restriction was adversely affecting the country's already-weakened relations with the Gulf states in the wake of turmoil in the region. "The petition involved a question of fundamental importance having direct bearing upon foreign relations of the federation with the Gulf states," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs pleaded in a petition seeking a review of the Aug 19 verdict.

Pak-Turkey joint air exercise comes to end, *The Dawn*, October 18³⁹

Joint exercise conducted by the air forces of Pakistan and Turkey— code name "Tusap Raiders"— concluded on Sunday (October 18). "The Turkish Air Force contingent comprising five F-16s (Fighting Falcons), combat pilots and technical ground crew participated in the exercise conducted from October 5 to 17, 2015," read the statement quoting PAF spokesman Air Commodore S M Ali.

Refrain from fanning S. Asian instability, *The Dawn*, October 18⁴⁰

Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz while speaking to BBC Urdu on Saturday (October 17) said the United States (US) should refrain from fanning instability in South Asia. [...]Sartaj said "Our main priority is to protect national interest and security, and we will not compromise on this." ***He said efforts were under way to make Pakistan a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), and expressed hope that both Pakistan and India would be accepted as members of the NSG together.*** Sartaj Aziz said the US can maintain whatever kind of relations it wishes to with India, but at a time when Pak-India relations are tense, the super power should not increase strategic and conventional imbalance in the region to the extent that there is a threat to regional security.

³⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1213909/inviting-arabs-to-hunt-is-pillar-of-foreign-policy-govt>

³⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1213928/pak-turkey-joint-air-exercise-comes-to-end>

⁴⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1213915/us-should-refrain-from-fanning-s-asian-instability-sartaj>

US to sell Pakistan eight F-16 fighter jets: report, *The News*, October 22⁴¹

The United States is preparing to sell eight new F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan, a leading US newspaper reported Thursday (October 22), the same day Nawaz Sharif was scheduled to meet President Barack Obama in Washington. The US Congress was notified about the proposed sale of the additional fighters days ago, although it was unclear if the White House plans to announce the sale of the aircraft during Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit to the US, said the report published in the *New York Times*.

Biden acknowledges Pak's crucial role in WoT, *The News*, October 22⁴²

Nawaz Sharif held a meeting with US Vice President Joe Biden over breakfast at the latter's residence in Washington on Thursday (October 22). Both sides reviewed Pak-US bilateral relationship as well as discussed issues of mutual interest. Both leaders also discussed regional, political and security issues especially Pak-US cooperation in the war against terrorism. They reaffirmed their commitment to remain closely engaged to achieve lasting peace and stability in the region. Nawaz and Biden also agreed on the need to closely coordinate for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan.

Nawaz, Obama vow to strengthen ties, *The News*, October 22⁴³

Nawaz Sharif met with US President Barack Obama at the White House on Thursday (October 22). ***The meeting, scheduled for 75 minutes, went on for two hours.*** The US president welcomed PM Nawaz at the White House. [...] ***President Obama said Pakistani community was playing an important role in development and progress of the United States.*** The president said the United States also wanted to enhance its cooperation with Pakistan in science and technology.

Pakistan, US want Afghan Taliban on the table, *Daily Times*, October 23⁴⁴

US and Pakistan on Thursday (October 22) called upon the Afghan Taliban leaders to enter direct talks with Kabul and work towards a sustainable peace settlement. ***President Obama affirmed Pakistan's role as a key counter-terrorism partner and recognized the sacrifices that Pakistani civilians, military, and law enforcement personnel have made over the years as they confront terrorism and militant groups.*** He expressed particular appreciation

⁴¹<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-201595-US-to-sell-Pakistan-eight-F-16-fighter-jets:-report>

⁴²<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-201637-Biden-meets-Nawaz,-acknowledges-Paks-crucial-role-in-war-against-terrorism>

⁴³<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-201651-Nawaz,-Obama-meet-in-Washington,-vow-to-strengthen-ties->

⁴⁴<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/23-Oct-2015/pakistan-us-want-afghan-taliban-come-to-the-table>

for Pakistan's ongoing support to degrade and ultimately defeat al Qaeda and its affiliates, noting that this partnership has helped to decimate the group's leadership and operational capacity and has disrupted plots against the US homeland.

Kabul suspicious of Pak role in peace process, *Daily Times*, October 28⁴⁵

Afghanistan Chief Executive Dr Abdullah Abdullah has said he has suspicions over Pakistan's role in the peace process after Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's "refusal" to act against Afghan Taliban. **He was commenting on the premier's remarks that Pakistan could not bring Taliban to the negotiating table "and be asked to kill them at the same time."** "We heard Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif clearly on fight and peace talks with Taliban. If Pakistan cannot fight insurgency, we cannot trust they would not support insurgents," he said while addressing Afghan Council of Ministers on Tuesday (October 27). "We are not sure they will encourage the Taliban to peace." Abdullah's remarks indicate the two-headed National Unity government is in no mood to end the deadlock in the negotiations with the Taliban that Pakistan had brokered in early July.

Civil-mil leaders discuss Afghan peace, *The Express Tribune*, October 28⁴⁶

Pakistan's top civil and military leadership concurred on Tuesday (October 27) that '**willingness and seriousness' of the Afghan government is necessary for the resumption of the peace talks** stalled by the confirmation of death of Afghan Taliban spiritual leader Mullah Omar earlier this year. This was the gist of a civil-military huddle convened at the Prime Minister House in Islamabad. [...] **However, sources said several issues, including the prime minister's Washington visit and army chief Gen Raheel Sharif's upcoming trip to the US, came up for discussion.**

Terror common enemy of Pakistan, Iran: Nawaz, *The Nation*, October 30⁴⁷

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif yesterday (October 29) said terrorism was the common enemy of Pakistan and Iran. In a meeting with Iran's Supreme National Security Council Secretary Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani here (Islamabad), Sharif said Pakistan was determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism. **He said the government was committed to stopping terrorists from using its soil to further their nefarious agenda. He affirmed Pakistan wanted peace in Afghanistan as its stability was in the interest of all the neighbours, including Iran.** [...] The prime minister said Pakistan and Iran were brotherly

⁴⁵ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/28-Oct-2015/kabul-suspicious-of-pak-role-in-peace-process>

⁴⁶ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/980433/civil-military-leaders-discuss-afghan-peace/>

⁴⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/national/30-Oct-2015/terror-common-enemy-of-pakistan-iran-nawaz>

countries and shared deep historic and cultural ties. **He added Chabahar and Gawadar ports' operational activity would complement each other as sister ports.** [...] Analysts believe Islamabad naturally wants to improve its ties with Iran and Afghanistan amid tensions with India. **"Secure borders with Afghanistan and Iran will place Pakistan in a better position to speak to India," a commentator said.**

No timeline set for Pak action against LeT: US, *The Nation*, October 30⁴⁸

The United States is not setting a timeline for Pakistan to take action against outfits like Lashkar-e Taiba, a State Department spokesman has said, while asserting that Islamabad takes the mission to combat terrorists 'very seriously'. "We're not dictating to Pakistan the timeline under which they would or would not undertake operations against that or any other terrorist group," State Department Spokesman John Kirby told the daily press briefing on Wednesday (October 28). [...] **"We know that they know that these are serious threats,** we know that they know how much it matters not just to the region but to the world. And it's a difficult problem to crack," Kirby said.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Pakistan's Afghan predicament, Zahid Hussain, *The Dawn*, October 7⁴⁹

The fall of Kunduz seems to have set in motion a domino effect with the Afghan Taliban forces threatening to overrun the other neighbouring northern Afghan provinces. Baghlan could be the next. Fierce fighting is also reportedly raging in Badakhshan and Faryab as the Afghan government forces face their most serious test yet. [...] **A real problem for the Afghan security forces is the crisis of confidence that has been more than evident in Kunduz, where over 7,000 soldiers failed to defend the city against a far fewer number of insurgents.** [...] **The Taliban escalation is a clear indication of Mullah Mansour consolidating his control over the group. Any challenge to his leadership seems to have vanished after the son and brother of Mullah Omar finally pledged their allegiance to the new emir.** It has also proved wrong the widespread perception of the insurgent group disintegrating after the death of their 'supreme leader'. [...] It is unfair to put the entire blame on Pakistan for the military debacle and the current political instability in Afghanistan. **A flawed US military strategy and the failure of a fractious Afghan power elite are largely responsible for the present state of affairs in the strife-torn country. Yet, there is no denying that most of the Taliban leaders operated from their bases in Pakistan and received invaluable logistical support to keep the insurgency going.**

⁴⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/national/30-Oct-2015/no-timeline-set-for-pak-action-against-let-us>

⁴⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1211334/pakistans-afghan-predicament>

A working transaction, Cyril Almeida, *The Dawn*, October 18⁵⁰

The ally from hell. The desi mother-in-law. They're our enemy. No, we're their enemy. It's that time again — Pak-US is in the news. ***Trouble is, the relationship is so old, the lines so rehearsed that it's easy to forget what's really going on. The standard line is that both sides are lying to each other, and at least one side is lying to itself. But they're not.*** Hawks in America argue we — the army, really — are duplicitous and experts at milking naive American politicians. ***As of Sept 30, the US has transferred \$31.3 billion in all types of aid, military and civilian, to Pakistan since 2002. That's a little more than \$2bn a year.*** It is supposedly a great con. ***Dumb Americans getting their pockets picked by a crafty Third World junta.*** But what, really, has the US paid Pakistan for? ***Basically, since 9/11 and the US-led war in Afghanistan that began in Oct 2001, the Americans have engaged with us for three reasons. One, to help them wage war in Afghanistan. Two, to help wage war on Al Qaeda in the Af-Pak arena. Three, to keep terrorists away from our nuclear weapons. On all three counts, we have apparently screwed the Americans. The Taliban are our allies. OBL was our guest. And we've gone and built so many nukes, big and small, that it's a bigger headache than ever.*** Ergo, Pakistan is the ally from hell.

Placating China, Editorial, *Daily Times*, October 20⁵¹

[...]With the much-hyped development megaproject of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in its infancy and an arms deal where China would sell Pakistan eight submarines set to take place, ***it is clear that the China-Pakistan relationship is as important to Chinese economic and strategic ambitions as it is to Pakistan's developmental goals.*** Amidst the rosy narrative of camaraderie, however, ***it seems that China has concerns about Pakistan's lackadaisical and contradictory approach towards Islamist militants present on its territory, and to address those silently communicated worries, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif is in Beijing making the right noises.*** The issue of contention for the Chinese is the presence of members of the Uighur militant group East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) in the tribal belt of Pakistan. [...]While it is hard to verify Asif's claims due to restricted media access in the tribal belt, it is crucial that the spirit of his statement is followed through. ***Pakistan cannot persist with the policy of having dual policies towards militants.***

Ally, not a threat, Haider Nizamani, *The Dawn*, October 27⁵²

⁵⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1213809/a-working-transaction>

⁵¹ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/editorial/20-Oct-2015/placating-china>

⁵² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1215610/ally-not-a-threat>

The joint statement of Nawaz Sharif and President Obama issued last week provides a good overview of the present and future trajectory of bilateral ties between the two **'disenchanted allies'**. It is a long statement covering a wide range of issues. There are several instances where the word 'terror' has been used and Afghanistan is mentioned far more than India. [...] ***Is there any big takeaway for Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif? Yes — the reaffirmation that “a mutual commitment to democracy is a key pillar of the US-Pakistan partnership”.***

The latest visit, M. A. Niazi, *The Nation*, October 30⁵³

Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif completed his visit to the White House without having made any concessions on the nuclear programme, and without obtaining a civilian nuclear accord. Though Mian Nawaz avoided the chits that bedevilled his last visit, ***getting a promise of eight F-16s allowed him some claim of having looked after the military. The US newspaper report that Pakistan had developed tactical nuclear weapons was confirmed by its Foreign Secretary, but he denied that there was to be any deal involving Pakistan giving up these weapons in exchange for a civilian nuclear accord, as well as entry to the Nuclear Suppliers Group, which involve accepting IAEA safeguards.*** These weapons were developed because of a military need not out of some whim. They do not play any great-power role, and ***are strictly for battlefield use.*** They represent an attempt to restrict the use of nuclear weapons, and prevent them having a strategic application. ***At first sight, this is achieved, because they are meant to be used if India applies its Cold Start Doctrine,*** which involves attacking Pakistan with a reduced mobilisation time, by a series of armoured thrusts from Punjab and Rajasthan. Pakistan would counter by using tactical nuclear weapons on concentrations of armour before they attacked.

Obama's decision and Taliban reaction, Zafar Iqbal Yousafzai, *Daily Times* October 30⁵⁴

The US troops' extension seems to have had a deteriorating effect on the security situation in Afghanistan rather than bringing peace and stability to this war-ravaged state. Obama's decision of a US pull-out extension has been severely looked at by the Taliban. ***“It is a joke. They will have to leave Afghanistan but they will damage the peace process through these tactics” the Taliban said in a statement. This statement shows that the Taliban are willing to dupe as again with a peace process but for that a US withdrawal is a pre-requisite.*** [...] In the current flux of events, the Afghan president, Ashraf Ghani, seems stuck between the devil and the deep blue sea. On one hand, he

⁵³ <http://nation.com.pk/columns/30-Oct-2015/the-latest-visit>

⁵⁴ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/opinion/30-Oct-2015/obama-s-decision-and-taliban-reaction>

is under pressure from inside the country and in parliament regarding his overtures to Pakistan while on the other hand he sees that without Pakistan's cooperation achieving peace and stability in Afghanistan is impossible. Hence, he has no choice but to bridge his differences with Pakistan and stop the blame game that may pave the way for peace talks with the Taliban.

MILITARY AFFAIRS

SC accepts plea challenging military court ruling, *The Dawn*, October 1⁵⁵

The top court has admitted a constitutional petition for preliminary hearing against the military court's verdict to award death sentence to an alleged militant. ***Supreme Court's senior judge Justice Mian Saqib Nisar while rejecting the registrar office's objections on Wednesday (September 30) directed to fix the constitutional petition next week.*** Saleh Bibi through her counsel Asma Jahangir filed a petition under Article 184(3) of the Constitution against the award of death sentence to her husband by the military court.

No Islamic State in Pakistan: Raheel, *The Express Tribune*, October 3⁵⁶

Army chief General Raheel Sharif has said Pakistan would not allow "even a shadow" of Islamic State and termed the group a greater threat than al Qaeda. ***"As far as IS is concerned, in Pakistan, even a shadow of IS would not be allowed," Sharif said*** in an address to The Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies in London on Friday (October 2).

ATC issues non-bailable warrant for Altaf Hussain, *The Dawn*, October 4⁵⁷

An Anti-Terrorist Court (ATC) in Quetta issued non-bailable warrant for the arrest of MQM Chief Altaf Hussain on Saturday (October 3), it has been learnt. The judge of Quetta ATC, Jan Muhammad Gohar, issued non-bailable arrest warrants of Altaf Hussain for provoking hate and violence against the state and national institutions in his speeches.

China to build four submarines in Karachi, *The Dawn*, October 7⁵⁸

China will build in Karachi four of eight submarines that it is selling to Pakistan. Minister for Defence Production Rana Tanveer Hussain told at the inauguration of the Defence Export Promotion Organisation (DEPO) Display Centre in the federal capital that the deal for the acquisition of submarines

⁵⁵<http://tribune.com.pk/story/965456/for-preliminary-hearing-sc-accepts-plea-challenging-military-court-ruling/>

⁵⁶<http://tribune.com.pk/story/966695/would-not-allow-even-a-shadow-of-islamic-state-says-army-chief/>

⁵⁷<http://www.dawn.com/news/1210676/quetta-atc-issues-non-bailable-arrest-warrant-for-altaf-hussain>

⁵⁸<http://www.dawn.com/news/1211363/china-to-build-four-submarines-in-karachi>

from China had been finalised and four of them would be built here (Karachi). [...]Navy has been pursuing different options for expanding its submarine fleet. **Naval officials say that more submarines were needed to address force imbalance with India**, which too is increasing and modernising its fleet of submarines.

Row over ad about 'unknown Rangers', *The Dawn*, October 7⁵⁹

A row erupted between police and the Pakistan Rangers, Sindh, on Tuesday (October 6) when police issued advertisements in local dailies seeking public assistance in tracing of at least six missing persons allegedly picked up by "unknown Rangers" from parts of Orangi Town. [...]“The advertisements titled ‘announcement’ also carried photograph of each missing person and sought public support appealing to them to share information about the missing persons if anyone had any so that their recovery could be made possible,” said a police official citing content of the advertisements.

Anti-Rangers ads conspiracy against peace, *The News*, October 7⁶⁰

A spokesman for the paramilitary force said anti-Rangers advertisements printed in newspapers by a police officer were a conspiracy against peace in the city (Karachi). In a statement the spokesman added the purpose of the advertisements was to harm the ongoing operation in Karachi. The spokesman further said the content of the advertisements was based on lies and there was a planned strategy to degrade the Rangers performance.

Explanation sought from KP govt about calling army, *The Dawn*, October 7⁶¹

The Peshawar High Court on Tuesday (October 6) directed the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa advocate general to submit a detailed explanation on behalf of provincial government that under what law the security forces were called and stationed in different parts of the province by the government. A bench comprising PHC Chief Justice Mazhar Alam Miankhel and Justice Irshad Qaiser also directed the advocate general, Abdul Lateef Yousafzai, to submit the correspondence between the provincial and federal governments through which the former had requested the latter for calling the security forces in aid of civil power in the province. [...]The PHC chief justice had taken suo motu contempt notice of the issue involving a series of incidents, happened in close succession, where the free travelling of the chief justice and judges was halted and they were misbehaved by the army personnel at checkpoints despite sharing with them in advance their travel plan.

⁵⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1211360/row-over-ad-about-unknown-rangers>

⁶⁰ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-199960-Anti-Rangers-ads-conspiracy-against-Karachi-peace:-Rangers-spokesman->

⁶¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1211486/explanation-sought-from-kp-govt-about-calling-army>

PAF joins operation against Chhotu gang, *The Nation*, October 8⁶²

Pakistan Air Force (PAF) has also joined a joint operation being conducted by Police and Rangers against Chhotu gang dacoits in Kachcha area of Rojhan Mazari tehsil. Two PAF gunship helicopters have targeted the suspected hideouts. One security person was killed and 9 were injured in firing by robbers so far. That joint operation, with 500 police personnel and Rangers, is underway since four days.

SSP Investigation suspended over anti-Rangers ads, *The News*, October 8⁶³

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Investigation Latif Siddiqui has been suspended for sending a covering letter for the publication of anti-Rangers advertisements in local newspapers on Tuesday (October 6).

Rangers arrest Rabita Committee member, *The News*, October 8⁶⁴

The Muttahida Qaumi Movement claimed Thursday (October 7) that a member of its central coordination committee (Rabita Committee) Kamal Mallick has been arrested by Rangers personnel. According to the MQM, Mallick was arrested when Rangers carried out a raid on his residence in Karachi's North Nazimabad area in the wee hours of Thursday (October 8).

Afghans among 40 suspects arrested, *Daily Times*, October 9⁶⁵

The law enforcement agencies arrested 40 suspects and recovered arms from them during a search operation in Kohat on Thursday (October 8). Kohat DPO said that heavy contingent of police and other security forces launched operation against the criminals in Oblan, Kohat, checked the CNICs and inquired about other information regarding the residents of the locality. The law enforcement agencies nabbed 40 suspects including several Afghan nationals who failed to clarify their identity and licences for the arms.

Army wants better managed Afghan border, *The Express Tribune*, October 9⁶⁶

Days after the top US military commander in Afghanistan said that the military operation by the Pakistan Army in the tribal border areas had forced militants across the Durand Line, military commanders in Rawalpindi on Thursday (October 8) discussed ways to shore up ways to plug the porous

⁶²<http://nation.com.pk/national/08-Oct-2015/paf-joins-operation-against-chhotu-gang>

⁶³<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-199985-SSP-Investigation-Latif-Siddiqui-suspended-over-anti-Rangers-ads>

⁶⁴<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-200014-Rangers-arrest-Rabita-Committee-member-Kamal-Mallick:-MQM>

⁶⁵<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/09-Oct-2015/afghans-among-40-suspects-arrested>

⁶⁶<http://tribune.com.pk/story/969901/shutting-the-door-army-wants-better-managed-afghan-border/>

border. [...] "External security situation was comprehensively discussed with particular emphasis on the situation in Afghanistan and border management issues on Pak-Afghan border," the statement added.

Two MQM workers handed into Rangers custody, *The Nation*, October 10⁶⁷

Rangers presented two MQM workers in an anti-terrorism court (ATC) today, to seek their physical remand. The Rangers law officer appeared before the court and said that Kamal Siddiqui and Noman Arif were wanted for further investigation in target killing, extortion and other heinous cases. The law officer pleaded the court to hand over the alleged criminals for a 90-day physical remand. The court handed over the accused into Rangers custody for physical remand.

Rangers launch special operation in Sindh, *The Dawn*, October 13⁶⁸

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah has said that since Muharram and local government elections are taking place simultaneously, the intelligence and law enforcement agencies will have to be more vigilant as banned outfits have started re-emerging with new names. [...]The Rangers would carry out a special operation in coordination with the police and the counterterrorism department against activists of proscribed organisations.

8 suspects in Safoora carnage arrested, *The Dawn*, October 13⁶⁹

The Senate Standing Committee on Interior was informed on Monday (October 12) that 14 people allegedly involved in Karachi's Safoora carnage had been identified and eight of them arrested. Inspector General of Police, Sindh, Ghulam Haider Jamali also informed a meeting of the committee presided over by its chairman, former interior minister Rehman Malik, that about 25 people were involved in the incident. **He said the accused were highly qualified, some having masters and PhD degrees in Islamic Studies, and they were influenced by the Caliphate philosophy of late religious scholar Dr Israr Ahmed.** They wanted to implement the 'Islamic Caliphate' in the country, he added. Mr Jamali said the accused had formed their own terrorist group and remained consecutively associated with banned militant organisations like Lashkar-i-Jhangvi, Al Qaeda and the self-styled Islamic State.

Nation has unshakable trust in army: COAS, *Daily Times*, October 21⁷⁰

⁶⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/national/10-Oct-2015/two-mqm-workers-handed-into-rangers-custody>

⁶⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1212727/rangers-launch-special-operation-in-sindh-against-banned-outfits-ahead-of-muharram>

⁶⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1212648/8-suspects-in-safoora-carnage-arrested>

⁷⁰ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/21-Oct-2015/nation-has-unshakable-trust-in-army-coas>

Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif on Tuesday (October 20) said the people of Pakistan have 'unshakable trust in their armed forces', as he acknowledged the sacrifices rendered by the army in the ongoing anti-terror operation. The army chief during a visit to the Frontier Corps Headquarters in Peshawar paid tributes to the sacrifices rendered by the force fighting 'hand in glove' with the army in anti-terror operation, according to a series of tweets issued by DG ISPR Lt Gen Asim Bajwa.

Op Zarb-e-Azb has entered decisive phase: PM, *The News*, October 22⁷¹

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif held a meeting with members of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee and members of the Congress in Capitol Hill. The prime minister informed the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee members led by Chairman Bob Corker that the military operation Zarb-e-Azb has achieved its initial targets and entered a decisive phase.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Musharraf's talk, Editorial, *The Dawn*, October 4⁷²

It seems that ***our infatuation with 'saviours' in uniform remains unwavering, even after the uniform has long been set aside***. So it is with retired Gen Pervez Musharraf who has been holding forth on several forums and, in the process, ***burnishing the argument for the military's apparently 'reluctant-but-necessary' foray into politics***. [...] ***Each khaki intervention — invariably on the pretext of 'saving the country' — has progressively undermined political institutions*** to a point where civilian misrule has become a self-fulfilling prophecy, and the denunciation of the democratic system a national pastime. The unvarnished truth is that democracy has never been allowed to take root in this country; elections have been manipulated and governments destabilised; and many of the so-called political mafias have flourished with the encouragement of the establishment that has used them for its own cynical purposes. [...] At the same time, it must be said that the ***political class has contributed in full measure to its own degradation*** by its flagrant disregard for the needs and aspirations of the people. ***Moreover, the judiciary — the upholders of the law and Constitution — has more often than not through Pakistan's history, given legal cover to interruptions in the democratic process instead of strengthening its institutional underpinnings***. Lastly, the media — divided and corporatised — has also taken the path of least resistance instead of exploring the long-term, corrosive effects of military 'oversight'.

⁷¹<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-201582-Op-Zarb-e-Azb-has-entered-decisive-phase,-says-PM-Nawaz>

⁷²<http://www.dawn.com/news/1210722/musharrafs-talk>

Janjua's appointment as NSA, Editorial, *The Dawn*, October 26⁷³

In the appointment of recently retired army general Nasser Khan Janjua as the country's new national security adviser there are two stories. ***The first story is the military's attempt to wrest away seemingly any space from the civilian government in the national security and foreign policy domains.*** In capturing the NSA slot, there are several advantages to the military. The NSA is an important job and ***offers direct access to the civilian side of key foreign countries***, which only awkwardly have been able to officially liaise with the military thus far. [...]The government is bereft of foreign policy ideas, as demonstrated once again by the White House meeting with US President Barack Obama last week. ***Even on India, the only foreign policy issue the prime minister has shown sustained interest in, there have been a series of errors, culminating with Ufa, which has virtually eliminated any possibility of civilian initiatives on India.*** If the military has eagerly grabbed space for itself, it is partly ***because a three-term prime minister and his veteran advisers have proved utterly inept in the foreign policy and national security domains.***

A narrow security paradigm, Zahid, Husain, *The Dawn*, October 28⁷⁴

Finally, the prime minister has ***appointed a full-time national security adviser.*** The move was long overdue given Pakistan's dire internal security and fast-changing geostrategic environment at a time when there is an urgent need for a more coherent strategy to deal with multiple challenges. Although the government had established a national security secretariat, it has never been fully functional. [...] ***But the choice of a recently retired army general with no experience outside his own institution does not inspire hope of a significant change in approach beyond the narrow defence prism.*** [...] A major problem is that neither the government nor the military is willing to accept the modern concept of national security and continue to still see it as a purely military matter. [...] ***Notwithstanding the rhetoric, there is no indication of the government changing its narrow approach. The appointment of a retired general is a clear testimony to that.***

ECONOMIC ISSUES

FISCAL ISSUES

Pakistan heading towards economic revival: PM, *The Nation*, October 10⁷⁵

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif Friday (October 9) said Pakistan was heading towards an economic revival as its economy turns around and promises a bright future for the people of the country. He said the country will also get

⁷³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1215353/nsa-appointment>

⁷⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1215832/a-narrow-security-paradigm>

⁷⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/10-Oct-2015/pakistan-heading-to-economic-revival-pm>

rid of load shedding in 2018, the year marked for next general elections when his government's ongoing term expires.

ENERGY

China for addition of 660MW in Thar project, *Daily Times*, October 21⁷⁶

The Chinese government has agreed to increase financing in Thar Coal project to boost the generation capacity of Thar Block-II from 660 to 1,320 megawatt (MW). [...] **After deliberations, the Ministry of Water and Power was successful in convincing the Chinese side that expansion of mining and power generation at Thar Coal was critical for enhancing energy security** and reduction in electricity tariff in the long run. Both countries agreed to add another project of 660MW for Thar Block-II and increase the mine size from 3.8 MTPA to 6.5 MTPA in priority list of CPEC projects.

INVESTMENT

Panel asks govt to prioritise to CPEC's western route, *The Dawn*, October 27⁷⁷

The Parliamentary Committee on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has recommended to the government that the western route of the project should be built as a dual carriageway at the outset and, eventually, there should be a motorway linking Gwadar with the rest of the country.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

IMF's report card, Editorial, *The News*, October 8⁷⁸

[...]The IMF report [to some extent] **paints a gloomy picture**, with most of the targets set by the international financial institution still unmet. **The report has contradicted official claims on recoveries and circular debt in the power sector.** Bill recoveries have actually declined in the current fiscal year while circular debt is still two percent of GDP. [...]Given that the IMF Mission Chief Harold Finger has **pointed to the power sector as a priority**, the government's performance in the sector has been poor. [...]The IMF has disassociated itself from the decision to issue \$500 million in Eurobonds at over eight percent interest. [...]Even though] **the IMF report....paints a rosy picture due to low inflation, robust growth and balanced risks.....**it points to increased risks including issues in implementation, legal challenges to surcharges, and political and security conditions.

⁷⁶<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/20-Oct-2015/china-agrees-for-addition-of-660mw-in-thar-coal-project>

⁷⁷<http://www.dawn.com/news/1215637/parliamentary-panel-asks-govt-to-give-priority-to-cpecs-western-route>

⁷⁸<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-8-344357-IMFs-report-card>

SECURITY SITUATION

TERRORISM

ATC sentences political activist to 19 years in prison, *The Dawn*, October 1⁷⁹

An anti-terrorist court (ATC) in Karachi handed down on Wednesday (September 30) a collective sentence of 19 years to a man in cases related to possession of explosive material and an illegal weapon. **Obaidur-Rehman, who is said to be a political activist, was found guilty of carrying explosive substances and an unlicensed weapon in Sohrab Goth area of Karachi last year.**

SC upholds death sentence for Qadri, *The Express Tribune*, October 7⁸⁰

The country's top court upheld on Wednesday (October 7) the death sentence for former elite force guard Mumtaz Qadri for killing former Punjab governor Salmaan Taseer. A three-judge bench of the Supreme Court headed by Justice Asif Saeed Khosa scrapped a plea seeking to revoke Qadri's death sentence.

None of Punjab seminaries teaches extremism, *The Nation*, October 8⁸¹

Punjab law minister and chairman of cabinet committee for law and order Rana Sana Ullah disclosed on Wednesday (October 7) that the government carried out surveillance of over 500 religious school (seminaries) but none of them was found involved in teaching extremism. Addressing a meeting held here (Multan) at Circuit House to review arrangements for Muharram, he added that no seminary of Punjab taught extremism and the surveillance results disclosed that these institutions taught only Quran and Hadith.

We don't want more missing persons: Nisar, *The Nation*, October 10⁸²

Federal Interior Minister Chaudary Nisar has said that the continuation of missing persons' policy is not the government's strategy, Waqt News reported. He was addressing a press conference. "A case will be registered against the criminal and no one will be arrested without proper reason," he claimed. The minister stated that Frontier Core (FC) is our own institution and it should treat people well to win their hearts. "FC must not target common citizens rather it should root out terrorism," Nisar said.

Police chief says Da'ish active in Sindh, *The Express Tribune*, October 13⁸³

⁷⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1209969/atc-sentences-political-activist-to-19-years-in-prison>

⁸⁰ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/968851/sc-upholds-death-sentence-for-salmaan-taseers-killer/>

⁸¹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/08-Oct-2015/none-of-punjab-eminarities-teaches-extremism>

⁸² <http://nation.com.pk/national/10-Oct-2015/we-don-t-want-more-missing-persons-nisar>

⁸³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/971987/police-chief-says-daish-active-in-sindh/>

The Sindh police chief said on Monday (October 12) that the Islamic State group was active in the province and that the ultra-extremist Middle Eastern group had links with the banned sectarian militant outfit Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ). [...] He said investigations into the Safoora carnage revealed that Abdul Aziz, the kingpin of the group, had escaped to Syria and was involved in almost all the recent terror attacks along with his lieutenant Azhar Minhas. "These two most-wanted men are affiliated with the LeJ and are influenced by late Islamic scholar Dr Israr Ahmad's philosophy of Islamic caliphate."

All Uighur militants eliminated: Khawaja Asif, *The Dawn*, October 18⁸⁴

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Sunday (October 17) said Pakistan has eliminated all members of the Uighur militant group the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) from its territory, but must remain vigilant to ensure they don't return. [...] "The fight against ETIM is our own fight. It's not only China's fight. It's a joint fight against ETIM, between Pakistan and China, so there is absolutely no difference of opinion on the elimination of ETIM from our tribal areas," he added.

Pak police take custody of five LeJ suspects in Dubai, *The News*, October 22⁸⁵

The Punjab police have taken five suspects of the proscribed Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) into their custody, who were apprehended earlier with the help of Interpol. The suspects have been brought back to Lahore, sources told Geo News on Thursday night (October 21). The suspects face charges of involvement in the murder of 14 people including Allama Nasir Abbas. [...] The suspects have been identified as Haroon Bhatti, Ahmed Yar, Ayaz, Ghulam Mustafa and Tariq Nawaz.

Nurseries in Punjab behind attacks in Sindh, *The Dawn*, October 27⁸⁶

Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah said on Monday (October 26) there were nurseries of terrorism in Punjab which were also involved in attacks inside Sindh. He called for action against such 'nurseries' and said the Sindh government was trying to fight the menace with limited resources and it needed the federal government's cooperation to finish it off.

Alleged terrorist in Italy, handed over to Pakistan, *The News*, October 29⁸⁷

⁸⁴<http://www.dawn.com/news/1213920/all-uighur-militants-eliminated-from-pakistani-territory-khawaja-asif>

⁸⁵<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-201631-Pakistan-police-take-custody-of-five-LeJ-suspects-in-Dubai>

⁸⁶<http://www.dawn.com/news/1215584/nurseries-of-terrorism-in-punjab-behind-attacks-in-sindh-khursheed>

Alleged terrorist Usman Ghani with links to a banned organization was arrested in Italy with the help of Interpol and was brought back to Pakistan early Thursday morning (October 29). Ghani who is said hails from Swabi was wanted in Pakistan for multiple cases of terrorism including suspected links to the Peshawar attack.

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND FATA

Tribal leader killed in Bannu IED blast, *The Dawn*, October 4⁸⁸

Tribal leader Syed Ali succumbed to injuries sustained during an improvised explosive device (IED) blast in Nullah Tochi on Sunday (October 4). His son, who was with him at the time, was also injured in the blast.

Militant groups in Bara asked to surrender, *The Dawn*, October 13⁸⁹

Security officials in Bara have warned all militant groups belonging to the Qambar Khel tribe to either surrender their weapons till October 22 or face action. Addressing a jirga of the tribe's elders on Monday (October 12), Commandant Mehsud Scouts Ayub Sakhera cautioned the militants groups and their affiliates that their houses would be razed and their family members would be arrested if they failed to comply with the official orders.

21 militants killed in military air strikes in Tirah, *The News*, October 22⁹⁰

Pakistan's military said on Thursday (October 22) that it had killed 21 militants in air strikes in a restive north-western tribal area bordering Afghanistan. The strikes were carried out late Thursday (October 22) in the Rajgal and Tirah areas of the lawless Khyber tribal district, where Taliban militant and local Islamist groups are active.

Pakistani drone kills several militants in NWA, *The News*, October 22⁹¹

Several terrorists were killed when Pakistani-made 'Burraq' drone carried out an operation in North Waziristan tribal agency, the ISPR said on Thursday (October 22). According to the military's public relations wing, the 'Burraq' drone fired missiles and destroyed several militant hideouts as well. Sources added that it was the first night strike by Burraq with pinpoint accuracy.

Seven FC men killed in SWA cross-border attack, *Daily Times*, October 28⁹²

⁸⁷<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-202316-Alleged-terrorist-arrested-from-Italy,-handed-over-to-Pakistan>

⁸⁸<http://www.dawn.com/news/1210846/tribal-leader-killed-in-bannu-ied-blast>

⁸⁹<http://www.dawn.com/news/1212755/militant-groups-in-bara-asked-to-surrender>

⁹⁰<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-201621-Military-jets-pound-militant-dens-in-Tirah-valley:-21-killed>

⁹¹<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-201650-Pakistani-made-Burraq-drone-kills-several-militants,-destroys-hideouts-in-NWA->

At least seven Frontier Corps (FC) personnel were killed on Tuesday (October 27) morning in firing from the Afghan side of the border in the Angoor Adda area of South Waziristan Agency. "The terrorists opened heavy fire from across the Pak-Afghan border early on Tuesday," the ISPR said.

BALUCHISTAN

Two witnesses testify in Akbar Bugti murder case, *The Dawn*, October 1⁹³

An anti-terrorism court adjourned on Wednesday (September 30) the hearing of Nawab Akbar Bugti murder case to Oct 21 after recording testimonies of two witnesses. **Former DSP of Dera Bugti Abdul Fatah and Constable Mohammad Musa of Sibi police's crime branch testified before judge Jan Mohammad Gohar.** [...] Talking to reporters after the hearing, Mr Musharraf's counsel Syed Akhtar Shah said that there was no concrete evidence of his client's involvement in the death of Akbar Bugti.

One Levies personnel killed, two injured, *The Dawn*, October 4⁹⁴

A Levies personnel was killed on Saturday (October 3) while two other sustained injuries in an armed attack targeting the vehicle of Assistant Commissioner Kalat. "One assailant was also killed when Levies personnel retaliated to the attack," said Tufail Baloch, the Deputy Commissioner of Kalat. The injured Levies personnel were shifted to an area hospital where their condition was said to be stable. The dead assailant is yet to be identified by security forces.

Three terrorists killed in Awaran, *The Nation*, October 8⁹⁵

At least three terrorists were killed and arms and explosives recovered during operation of security forces here on Wednesday (October 7). According to details, the security forces conducted operation against anti-State elements in Mashkey and Pailar areas of district Awaran of Balochistan. During separate actions exchange of fire took place between the security forces and extremists in which three terrorists were killed.

Two security personnel, three militants killed, *The Dawn*, October 20⁹⁶

Two security personnel and three suspected militants were killed on Monday (October 19) in an explosion and armed clashes in Balochistan's Panjgur and

⁹²<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/28-Oct-2015/seven-fc-men-killed-in-swa-cross-border-attack>

⁹³<http://www.dawn.com/news/1210148/two-witnesses-testify-in-akbar-bugti-murder-case>

⁹⁴<http://www.dawn.com/news/1210693/one-levies-personnel-killed-two-injured-in-balochistan>

⁹⁵<http://nation.com.pk/national/08-Oct-2015/three-terrorists-killed-in-awaran>

⁹⁶<http://www.dawn.com/news/1214150/two-security-personnel-three-militants-killed-in-balochistan>

Harnai districts. "Two security personnel were killed in Khost area of Harnai district," said Khan Wasey, spokesperson for Frontier Corps (FC). The FC spokesperson added that security forces were conducting a search operation in the area, when security personnel stepped on a landmine.

Terror attack shakes Quetta, *The Dawn*, October 20⁹⁷

A blast in a local bus killed at least 10 people, two of them children, on Sariab road here on Monday (October 19). Twenty-two people were injured, six of them seriously. The bus was going to Sariab mills area in the outskirts of Quetta, carrying 35 to 40 passengers from the city bus terminal when the blast took place near an overhead bridge.

Two policemen martyred by gunmen in Chaman, *Daily Times*, October 21⁹⁸

Two policemen were martyred and a man was injured in an incident of firing on Tuesday (October 20) at Boghara Raod in Chaman, Killa Abdullah District. According to police sources, two policemen Abdullah and Safar Muhammad were patrolling the road when unidentified armed men opened fired at them and fled from the scene.

Ten people dead in Bolan Imambargah blast, *The News*, October 22⁹⁹

Ten people were killed while several others received injuries when a blast ripped through an Imambargah in Bhaag area of Bolan on Thursday (October 22), said Balochistan Home Minister Sarfaraz Bugti.

SINDH

Vehicle of Lyari SP fired at, attackers killed, *The Dawn*, October 1¹⁰⁰

Lyari Superintendent Police, Aftab Nizamani on Wednesday (September 30) survived an attempt on his life while two attackers were killed by police in retaliatory firing. Police sources said that Nizamani was accompanied by his squad and patrolling in Chakiwara area of Lyari when unknown gunmen opened fire on his car.

Engineer belonging to Hizbut Tahrir arrested, *The Dawn*, October 7¹⁰¹

Police on Tuesday (October 6) claimed to have arrested an engineering and business graduate, who has allegedly been working for a banned organisation

⁹⁷<http://www.dawn.com/news/1214199/terror-attack-shakes-quetta>

⁹⁸<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/21-Oct-2015/two-policemen-martyred-by-gunmen-in-chaman>

⁹⁹<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-201644-Ten-people-dead,-several-hurt-in-Bolan-Imambargah-blast>

¹⁰⁰<http://www.dawn.com/news/1209951/vehicle-of-lyari-sp-fired-at-attackers-killed>

¹⁰¹<http://www.dawn.com/news/1211330/engineer-belonging-to-hizbut-tahrir-arrested-for-distributing-pamphlets>

in Karachi's south district, in the Boat Basin area of Clifton. The suspect, Owais Raheel, targeted educated youngsters in the Defence and Clifton areas in order to use them "for illegal activities" with a view to implementing "Khilafa" in the country, the police said. He graduated from the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) and the NED University of Engineering and Technology and joined the banned Hizbut Tahrir (HT) in 2007, said a senior official.

Three terrorists killed in Karachi shootout, *The News*, October 29¹⁰²

Three terrorists were killed in alleged exchange of fire with police in Karachi's Orangi Town late on Wednesday (October 28). Police, on a tip-off, launched search operation in Mominabad where exchange of fire took place with the militants. In retaliation, three terrorists were killed while one managed to escape. Police also recovered arms from the possession of the accused. According to SSP West Zafar Mahesar, one terrorist has been identified as Khan aka Shero and he was involved in several cases of murder.

PUNJAB

Four suspects in Khanzada attack killed, *The Express Tribune*, October 1¹⁰³

Four terrorists suspected of involvement in the suicide attack that killed Punjab home minister Col (ret'd) Shuja Khanzada were killed in a Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) raid near Lahore, Express News reported on Thursday (October 1). According to reports, security forces raided a house near Badur village resulting in a gun battle. Four suspects were killed in the retaliatory fire while another four managed to flee, a CTD source said.

Govt for sectarian purge in Punjab, *The Express Tribune*, October 5¹⁰⁴

The federal government is planning a massive swoop to cleanse the impoverished southern Punjab of terrorist groups, particularly those fuelling sectarianism, as part of the National Action Plan (NAP) against terrorism. [...] ***Pakistan has denied the organised presence of IS on its soil but acknowledged that it is not oblivious to the potential threat posed by the ultra-extremist group that has set up a self-styled Islamic caliphate on large swathes of land in Syria and Iraq.*** [...] The move to go after sectarian groups is seen as a major shift in Pakistan's policy as in the past Islamabad used to avoid taking such outfits head on. The killing of Malik Ishaq, the co-founder of the banned sectarian extremist group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, in a police

¹⁰²<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-202291-Three-terrorists-killed-in-Karachi-shootout>

¹⁰³<http://tribune.com.pk/story/965571/four-suspects-linked-to-khanzada-attack-killed-in-ctd-raid/>

¹⁰⁴<http://tribune.com.pk/story/967440/decisive-action-govt-prepares-for-sectarian-purge-in-southern-punjab/>

encounter in July was believed to be part of the government's changed strategy towards sectarian outfits.

5 'most wanted terrorists' killed in Sheikhpura, *The Nation*, October 10¹⁰⁵

A major terror plot ahead of Muharram was foiled today morning, when at least five most wanted terrorists were killed during an encounter including Kala Qari, a banned organization's commander, were killed during clash with the counter-terrorism force in Sheikhpura district. According to reports, the law enforcement personnel conducted a raid on a tip-off regarding presence of terrorists inside a farmhouse near Khanpur canal. The security personnel faced armed resistance as they entered the premises and five terrorists including Kala Qari and Kashif alias Kashi were killed during exchange of fire.

PML-N UC candidate shot dead, *The Dawn*, October 20¹⁰⁶

A PML-N candidate for the upcoming local body elections was shot dead in the Misri Shah police precincts on Monday (October 19). Police said Imran, 45, and Mohsin Shah belonged to Wahdat Colony and were friendly with each other before candidates for the elections were announced.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Qadri's sentence, Editorial, *The News*, October 8¹⁰⁷

We have more clarity and less chaos over the country's controversial blasphemy law following the decision by a three-member bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Justice Asif Saeed Khosa. [...] ***The bench held that criticising the blasphemy law cannot be considered blasphemy.*** [...] The court also noted ***there was no evidence that the late Taseer had committed blasphemy in all the video clips and press cuttings put before it***, even if he had sought a repeal of the law. Just as significant were Justice Khosa's remarks, as the verdict came in on Wednesday, ***that accepting that an individual had the right to act alone as an accuser, jury and executioner would amount to ushering in chaos.*** There should be no notion of victory or loss in this case. ***We must all just hope the law has won, and an attempt to defend murder defeated.***

Hanging Mumtaz Qadri, Kunwar Khuldune Shahid, *The Nation*, October 8¹⁰⁸

[...] Not only did the three-judge bench, headed by Justice Asif Saeed Khosa, scrap the plea against Qadri's death sentence, it also crucially accepted the

¹⁰⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/10-Oct-2015/5-most-wanted-terrorists-killed-in-sheikhpura>

¹⁰⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1214286/pml-n-uc-candidate-shot-dead>

¹⁰⁷ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-8-344356-Qadri%E2%80%99s-sentence>

¹⁰⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/columns/08-Oct-2015/hanging-mumtaz-qadri>

government's appeal against Islamabad High Court (IHC) dropping the terrorism charge over the murder of Salmaan Taseer in 2011. **Mumtaz Qadri is now officially a terrorist on the verge of being judicially executed.** [...]While hanging Mumtaz Qadri would herald a new dawn for Pakistan's stance on terrorism, without the eradication of the Islam-specific blasphemy laws, the Islamist tree would keep bearing its jihadist fruits. [...] **More essential than executing Qadri the man, is the elimination of Qadri the cult. This isn't possible without proverbially hanging the cult of Ilam Din and revisiting the status of Muslim marauders like Mohammed bin Qasim and Mahmood Ghaznavi, and 7th century Arab warriors, as "our" heroes.** Even more significant is the need to reconsider our blind adherence to the narrow, antediluvian and imperialist ideologically that is monolithically, and ubiquitously, sold as Islam. There is more to a Muslim's identity than theological adherence and it's adopting Muslim pluralism that will breed religious coexistence in Pakistan. This would in turn create a society that is democratic, humanistic and tolerant enough to abolish the capital punishment.

Qadri verdict, Editorial, *Daily Times*, October 9¹⁰⁹

The credibility of Pakistan's judiciary has long been held hostage by extremist elements that operate in the country with impunity. Assassinations or threats to the lives of judges, lawyers, human rights activists and government officials have ensured that in matters pertaining to religiously motivated violence, not only has justice been compromised but the debate on the matter itself is suppressed brutally. **Therefore it is nothing short of landmark bravery for the Supreme Court (SC) to stand up to this overbearing climate of fear and intimidation and uphold the death sentence of Mumtaz Qadri for assassinating Governor Salman Taseer** and reinstate the terrorism charges against him. [...] **The court, in another positive step, suggested making false blasphemy accusations a grave crime with a possible life sentence.**

Mumtaz Qadris and Aasia Bibis, *Zeeba T Hashmi*, *Daily Times*, October 9¹¹⁰

[...]We silently keep witnessing how the clergy, which have been emboldened by the laws and amendments to the Constitution introduced by General Zia ul Haq during his draconian reign in Pakistan, have formed a powerful lobby for advocating their version of puritanical Islam. Indeed, there is a very strong voice coming not just from the religious right wing but also from political persons who openly support Mumtaz Qadri for killing Governor Salmaan Taseer over his alleged 'blasphemy'. **It is quite ironic to note that the PPP, the political party to which Salmaan Taseer himself belonged, came into an**

¹⁰⁹ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/editorial/09-Oct-2015/qadri-verdict>

¹¹⁰ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/opinion/09-Oct-2015/of-mumtaz-qadris-and-aasia-bibis>

alliance with the Sunni Tehreek, a group that is a strong supporter of Mumtaz Qadri, to campaign for the general elections in 2013. [...] On the other hand, there is a defenceless woman who has been charged with a crime she has been repeatedly denying and has been given the death sentence on religious grounds by both the sessions court and the high court. Here we see two religiously motivated crimes carried out by two different people, which amount to capital sentence according to the law. But is this justice equal for both these crimes? [...] **There is a need to understand the difference between a blasphemer and a murderer. Unless this difference is realised, Qadris will continue to be the heroes here and Asia Bibis the villains.**

Surge in terror, Editorial, *Daily Times*, October 21¹¹¹

A new spate of terrorist violence is emerging in the country. Evil mongers let loose all hell on the passengers of a bus in Quetta only a week after the Taunsa attack. [...] **Though Operation Zarb-e-Azb has caused a considerable reduction in terrorist activities and controlled militancy to some extent, yet it does not mean that all terrorists have been wiped out and militancy has been completely eliminated.** Rather, they have started carrying out scattered attacks in small towns instead of targeting big cities where the deployment of security forces has increased. ...It is high time that the federal government should intervene and bring the concerned departments and security agencies together against all terrorist groups.

The Uighur Militants, Editorial, *The Nation*, October 20¹¹²

[...] Beijing is accused of intensifying a crackdown after street protests in Xinjiang in the 1990s, and again in the run-up to the Beijing Olympics in 2008. Beijing is accused of exaggerating the threat from Uighur separatists in order to justify repression in the region. **That being said almost 200 people died in ethnic riots in Urumqi, the administrative capital of Xinjiang, in July 2009.** One of the sparks for the violence seems to have been the deaths of two Uighurs in clashes with Han Chinese at a factory thousands of miles away in southern China. Such penchant for violence cannot be tolerated by any government, be it in China or in Pakistan. Occasional attacks on Chinese targets suggest Uighur separatism remains a potent and potentially violent force and hence Pakistan will not hesitate to deal with such dangerous elements.

Educated militants, Hajrah Mumtaz, *The Dawn*, October 26¹¹³

Several years ago, an international newspaper compiled a list of the names of some 15 or 20 militants from different parts of the world, tried and convicted

¹¹¹ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/editorial/21-Oct-2015/surge-in-terror>

¹¹² <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/20-Oct-2015/the-uighur-militants>

¹¹³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1215354/educated-militants>

for involvement in various terror attacks. It gave merely their names, the atrocity they helped perpetrate, and their field of study and educational qualifications. [...]The majority had engineering and other similar science backgrounds (though not pure or theoretical science or mathematics). A couple had nursing degrees, and there were a few business/MBA/economics degrees listed. ***There was no name associated with a liberal arts or social science background. This seems to make sense.*** The fields of study/work listed above can be described as amongst those where questions tend to have black and white answers, training minds thus in thinking in similarly compartmentalised terms. Things are either right or wrong; by extension, minds not trained to think very creatively or flexibly would be more susceptible to similar rigidity in ideology and outlook. [...]I'm thinking of that list now because in Pakistan, a long-held and cherished myth about militancy and terrorism seems finally being exposed: that these issues are a 'madressah problem', that people become susceptible to these forms of violence because of indoctrination, low literacy, a lack of educational and employment opportunities, and a resultant grudge. This is true. But it is not a madressah problem alone. In recent months, a couple of high-profile arrests have shown that those with access to top-end education and employment aren't immune to the danger either.

Looking beyond security, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, October 27¹⁴

While the much touted security measures taken by the government and the law-enforcement agencies may have succeeded in reducing the frequency of sectarian and terror attacks in major cities, the fact is that extremists remain able to strike in smaller towns where security is perhaps not so tight. [...]It seems as if sectarian outfits have continued to operate in the country despite the ban placed on them and turned their attention to places where they believe it will be easier to strike and where security deployment will be weaker. [...]***Since we cannot keep a watch on each and every militant, we need to create a social environment which guards against sectarianism.***

Cross-border attack, Editorial, *The Dawn*, October 29¹⁵

The ***killing of seven Frontier Corps personnel near the border with Afghanistan in South Waziristan*** is a grim reminder of the tensions in the region that, if not managed carefully, can explode. Thus far the incident does not appear to have forced a hardening of rhetoric by either side, and the Pakistan military has not contradicted speculation that the attack was the work of Afghan-based anti-Pakistan militants as opposed to Afghan border security forces. That suggests an unwillingness to allow the overall Pak-

¹¹⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/979459/looking-beyond-security/>

¹¹⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1216007/cross-border-attack>

Afghan relationship to deteriorate once again — something that should be welcomed cautiously.

RELATIONS WITH INDIA

PM urges India to pledge not to use force, *The Dawn*, October 1¹⁶

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif urged India on Wednesday (September 30) to pledge with Pakistan not to use force or the threat of force under any circumstances. The prime minister used his address to the UN General Assembly to propose four peace measures, which include demilitarising of Kashmir and an unconditional withdrawal of troops from Siachen. **“Our peoples need peace to prosper. Peace can be achieved through dialogue, not disengagement,” he said.** Mr Sharif said the steps he was suggesting in this “new peace initiative” were “the simplest to implement”:

“One, Pakistan and India formalise and respect the 2003 understanding for a complete ceasefire on the Line of Control in Kashmir.” For this purpose, he called for the expansion of the UN Military Observers Group for India and Pakistan to monitor the observance of the ceasefire. “Two, Pakistan and India reaffirm that they will not resort to the use or the threat of use of force under any circumstances.” This was, he said, a central element of the UN Charter. “Three, steps be taken to demilitarise Kashmir.” “Four, agree to an unconditional mutual withdrawal from Siachen Glacier, the world’s highest battleground.”

[...]Mr Sharif noted that since 1947, the Kashmir dispute has remained unresolved and relevant UN Security Council resolutions too have remained unimplemented. “Three generations of Kashmiris have only seen broken promises and brutal oppression. Over 100,000 have died in their struggle for self-determination,” the prime minister noted. “This is the most persistent failure of the United Nations.” Mr Sharif said that when he assumed office in June 2013, for the third time, one of his first priorities was to normalise relations with India. “I reached out to the Indian leadership to emphasise that our common enemy was poverty and underdevelopment. Co-operation, not confrontation, should define our relationship,” he said. But India ignored his gestures and today ceasefire violations along the Line of Control and the Working Boundary were intensifying, causing civilian deaths including women and children, Mr Sharif said. The prime minister also blamed India for fomenting troubles in Pakistan. **“Wisdom dictates that our immediate neighbour refrains from fomenting instability in Pakistan. The two countries**

¹⁶<http://www.dawn.com/news/1210158/pm-urges-india-to-pledge-not-to-use-force-under-any-circumstances>

should address and resolve the causes of tension and take all possible measures to avert further escalation," he said.

Four-point peace plan, way forward: PM, *The Express Tribune*, October 3¹¹⁷

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said on Saturday (October 3) that his four-point peace roadmap is the only way forward. "There is no other solution, we have given a proposal for peace in the region," PM Nawaz said while addressing the media in London. Responding to a question regarding India rebuffing his peace roadmap with a 'one-point' peace proposal of its own, the premier said, **"India will have to follow the peace plan sooner or later and the sooner they do the better it will be."** "India will not gain anything by pointing fingers at Pakistan," he added. "Animosity has only impeded the development process." Further, the premier said the proxy war against Pakistan from across the border should come to an end. Referring to three dossiers handed over to the UN secretary general on Friday (October 2) containing evidence of India's involvement in fomenting terrorism and instability in their country, PM Nawaz said, "All evidence regarding the involvement of India's premier spy agency, RAW, in terrorist activities in Pakistan have been submitted."

PM hopeful India will consider his peace plan, *The Dawn*, October 4¹¹⁸

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said on Saturday (October 3) that sooner or later India would have to consider the four-point peace proposal he presented at the United Nations General Assembly. [...] **Mr Sharif said Pakistan had the evidence of involvement of Indian spy agency RAW in subversive activities and had shared it with the United Nations.** He was confident that the dossiers Pakistan handed over to the UN would have considerable impact.

Samjhota Express returns from Wagah, *Daily Times*, October 9¹¹⁹

Indian authorities on Thursday (October 8) requested Pakistan Railways not to send the Samjhota Express over security concerns. **The Delhi-bound Samjhota Express, carrying both Indian and Pakistani passengers, was called back from the Wagah border to the Lahore Railway Station after Indian authorities cautioned their Pakistani counterparts of disruptive protests by farmers in Indian Punjab province.** [...] Railway officials will issue certificates to allow the Indian nationals, whose visas to visit Pakistan are set to expire, to extend their stay in the country till Monday (October 12).

¹¹⁷ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/966632/four-point-peace-plan-only-way-forward-pm/>

¹¹⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1210805/pm-hopeful-india-will-consider-his-peace-plan>

¹¹⁹ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/09-Oct-2015/samjhota-express-returns-from-wagah-over-security>

Kashmir must for India talks, *The Nation*, October 10¹²⁰

The civil and military leadership has ruled out any talks with India without Kashmir on the agenda and decided to fully help Afghan government in checking movement of militants across the border. At a meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, focusing national security it was also agreed to gear up the ongoing operation against militants in the country. [...]A foreign ministry official said Pakistan's civil and military leadership was not ready to hold talks without Kashmir being on the table. "India wants to exclude Kashmir from the agenda to make Kashmir irrelevant. We can't betray Kashmiris. No talks with India can be complete without Kashmir," he said.

Ayub wanted Kashmir for not attacking India, *The Nation*, October 16¹²¹

US premier spy agency CIA former official Bruce Riedel has said that former President Ayub Khan had demanded Kashmir from US in return for not attacking India during China-India war in 1962. He made this claim in his new book entitled "JFK's Forgotten Crisis: Tibet, the CIA and the Sino-Indian war." [...]Pakistan was of the view war between China and India in war of borders and it should not be seen in the perspective of cold war and Communism. But US was seeing it in the prism of attack by a Communist power on a democratic country. ***He observed that the main reason behind not attacking India by Pakistan in 1962 was that Pakistan would have been left isolated by enraging US and UK.*** According to the then US Ambassador in India, Ayub Khan was fully opposed to US advice. But when he was told that President Kennedy would make this request by writing him a letter then he became ready to lend his ears to it. But he laid this pre condition that US should promise to adopt a stern attitude against India on Kashmir issue in return for it. Riedel said " if we look into it then Ayub Khan was stating US and Pakistan should jointly force India to hand over Kashmir to Pakistan on the fashion China was occupying India's territory.

UN agenda incomplete minus Kashmir settlement, *The Nation*, October 16¹²²

Pakistan told the United Nations on Wednesday (October 14) that its decolonisation agenda would be incomplete without settling the decades-old Kashmir dispute on the basis of Security Council resolutions. "The inalienable right to self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir is recognised and acknowledged by several Security Council Resolutions," Ambassador Maleeha Lodhi, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told the

¹²⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/10-Oct-2015/kashmir-must-for-india-talks>

¹²¹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/16-Oct-2015/ayub-khan-demanded-kashmir-from-us-for-not-attacking-india-reidel>

¹²² <http://nation.com.pk/national/16-Oct-2015/un-agenda-incomplete-without-kashmir-settlement-pakistan>

General Assembly's Special Political and Decolonisation (Fourth) Committee. [...] **"It is the most persistent failure of the United Nations."** Pakistan hoped that the 70th anniversary of the United Nations would spur the organisation into action on one of the oldest items on the UN agenda.

RAW may try to kill PM, warns Punjab govt, *The Dawn*, October 18¹²³

The Punjab home department said on Saturday (October 17) it had received intelligence reports warning that RAW could carry out attempts on the lives of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Jamaatud Dawa (JuD) chief Hafiz Muhammad Saeed. An official of the home department said on Saturday (October 17) the warning was received two days ago that RAW (Research and Analysis Wing), India's intelligence agency, had already tasked its agents to kill the prime minister and the JuD chief.

Shiv Sena storms BCCI HQ, *The Express Tribune*, October 19¹²⁴

A meeting between Pakistan and India's cricket boards officials was cancelled on Monday (October 19) after Shiv Sena workers stormed the Mumbai office of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). [...] **The Shiv Sena, which rules Maharashtra in alliance with the BJP, says it will not allow any engagement with Pakistan.** However, PCB Chairman Shahryar was still optimistic despite the incident. Talking to the Indian media, Shahryar said, "I was invited by Shashank here and the mindset is that we have signed an MoU and we should honour it."

India's extremists don't want improved ties: Basit, *The Dawn*, October 20¹²⁵

Pakistan High Commissioner to India Abdul Basit says extremist elements in India were opposed to improvement in their country's ties with Pakistan, Radio Pakistan reported. [...] Earlier this month, Shiv Sena activists had also attacked Sudheendra Kulkarni, the organiser of former Pakistani foreign minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri's book launch to protest the event which was being held in Mumbai. **Basit, speaking on the programme, also said that Pakistan wished to hold a dialogue with India over a range of issues, including terrorism and Kashmir.** The Pakistani envoy to India also expressed regret over the rise of violence in Maharashtra state, and said the attacks of Hindu extremists on Muslims in India were a cause for concern.

¹²³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1213905/raw-may-try-to-kill-pm-warns-punjab-govt>

¹²⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/975395/shiv-sena-protest-leads-to-cancellation-of-pakistan-india-cricket-meeting/>

¹²⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1214347/indias-extremist-elements-dont-want-improved-ties-with-pakistan-basit>

Tactical N-arms to ward off war threat, says FO, *The Dawn*, October 20¹²⁶

Pakistan has made low-yield nuclear weapons to bridge the gap for war that India had created through its cold-start doctrine, Foreign Secretary Aizaz Chaudhry told a news briefing on Tuesday (October 20). This is the first concrete explanation from a senior Pakistani official on how Islamabad plans to deal with New Delhi's so-called cold-start doctrine, now renamed the proactive strategy. It also is a rare explanation of Pakistan's decision to make tactical nuclear weapons to deal with the possible threat of an Indian aggression. [...] ***"Our nuclear programme is one dimensional: stopping Indian aggression before it happens. It is not for starting a war. It is for deterrence," the foreign secretary said.*** [...] He explained that Pakistan's "low-yield, tactical nuclear weapons" would make it difficult for India to launch a war against Pakistan while remaining under the nuclear threshold. "Our argument is, when you are a nuclear power, you do not create spaces for war. War is no more an option," the foreign secretary said. "We have plugged the gap India had created. We have the right to do so."

Pak, India asked to include Kashmiris in talks, *Daily Times*, October 21¹²⁷

World Kashmir Awareness Secretary General Dr Ghulam Nabi Fai has said that Kashmir is not a bilateral issue between Pakistan and India, but an internationally recognised issue of right to self-determination. Addressing a gathering of friends of Kashmir here in New Jersey, he said that Kashmiri leadership should be included in the dialogue process between Pakistan and India.

Indian response disturbs Pak desire: Nawaz, *The Nation*, October 21¹²⁸

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif during his official visit in Washington said India's response to efforts for peace has not been encouraging. Addressing the Pakistani-American community in Washington, he said Pakistan wants friendly relations with all its neighbours, including India. ***"If we sincerely want to bring peace to the region, we will have to resolve the Kashmir issue, adding, "The entire world knows that Kashmir is the root cause of tension in the region."*** Nawaz also expressed Pakistan's desire for peace in Afghanistan and said that Islamabad would continue to play its role in this regard. He reiterated Pakistan's resolve to root out terrorism.

¹²⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1214196/tactical-n-arms-to-ward-off-war-threat-says-fo>

¹²⁷ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/20-Oct-2015/pakistan-india-asked-to-include-kashmiris-in-talks>

¹²⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/national/21-Oct-2015/indian-response-disturbs-islamabad-s-desire-nawaz-sharif>

India and Pakistan must talk, says US, Daily Times, October 23¹²⁹

The United States on Wednesday (October 21) said normalisation of India-Pakistan relations was vital not only for both countries but also for the entire region. State department spokesperson **John Kirby said India and Pakistan "stood to benefit from practical cooperation," and the U.S. encouraged both India and Pakistan to engage in direct dialogue aimed at reducing tensions.** "steps that initiate closer regional trade and energy ties we believe will create jobs, lower inflation, and increase energy supply," he said. Kirby was answering questions on a meeting between U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and visiting Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Grateful over Geeta's return: Modi, The Dawn, October 27¹³⁰

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed gratitude on the return of Geeta, the deaf and mute Indian girl who was stranded in Pakistan for more than a decade, and thanked the Edhi family for looking after her. Modi announced a contribution of INR10 million for the Edhi Foundation. **"What the Edhi family has done is too priceless to be measured but I am happy to announce a contribution of Rs10 million for their foundation," he tweeted on Monday (October 26).** [...]But in a tragic twist just hours after arriving in Delhi, Geeta told officials she did not know the Mahato family from India's eastern state of Bihar. "She recognised one family after we showed her their pictures. But after meeting the Mahato family today, she could not recognise them," Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj said at a press conference alongside Geeta. [...] "Swaraj said Geeta would be placed in an institution if DNA test results confirmed that the family was not hers and would keep searching for her real one. "The family has submitted their blood samples and Geeta has also given her samples. We will have scientific proof before handing her to any family," she said.

Edhi declines Indian PM Modi's donation, The Dawn, October 28¹³¹

Celebrated humanitarian Abdul Sattar Edhi on Tuesday (October 27) declined the offer of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to donate 10 million Indian rupees to his charity. "Abdul Sattar Edhi has thanked Mr Modi and politely declined to accept his announced financial help," Edhi Foundation Spokesman Anwar Kazmi said.

¹²⁹ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/23-Oct-2015/india-and-pakistan-must-talk-says-us>

¹³⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1215497>

¹³¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1215734>

Kashmiris observe Black Day, *Daily Times*, October 28¹³²

Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) and the world over observed Black Day, Tuesday (October 27), to convey to the world that India's occupation of Jammu and Kashmir is totally illegal, unjust and contrary to the Kashmiris' aspirations. The day was marked with complete shutdown in occupied Kashmir, call for which was given by the veteran Hurriyet leader, Syed Ali Gilani and other Hurriyet leaders.

Indian intransigence obstructing talks, NA told, *Daily Times*, October 28¹³³

A parliamentary body of National Assembly on Tuesday (October 27) was informed that Pakistan is ready to hold talks with India on all outstanding issues, including Kashmir dispute, but the Narendra Modi government wants to discuss only terrorism and such stubborn attitude was responsible for the suspension of talks.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Dossiers on India, Editorial, *The Dawn*, October 4¹³⁴

[...]Never before, however, has the state here tried to formally substantiate its allegations. That changed this week with the handover to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's office of three dossiers containing evidence of Indian involvement in Karachi, Balochistan and Fata. The dossiers were originally to be handed over to Indian officials, but after the cancellation of the NSA talks and with no meeting transpiring on the sidelines of the UNGA, the Pakistani government appears to have decided to take up the matter with the world body itself. [...] **Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policy of effectively not talking to Pakistan is perhaps as much a danger today as the threat posed by non-state actors — when the state itself closes the door on dialogue, all manner of hawkish and non-state elements in both countries tend to get mobilised.** [...]If anything, the petulant reaction of the Indian government to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's four points suggests that bilateral tensions are unlikely to subside or dissipate anytime soon.

One country, three policies, Cyril Almeida, *The Dawn*, October 4¹³⁵

[...]So now we have this dossier business. One each for Karachi, Balochistan and KP/Fata. Each filled with irrefutable proof. Each painting Pakistan the victim, India the aggressor. Each to achieve what, really? No one seems to know. Don't bother asking the civilians. **Some familiar with the contents**

¹³² <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/28-Oct-2015/kashmiris-observe-black-day-against-indian-occupation>

¹³³ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/28-Oct-2015/indian-intransigence-obstructing-talks-na-told>

¹³⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1210724/dossiers-on-india>

¹³⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1210729/one-country-three-policies>

thought it lucky the Indians weren't willing to receive the dossiers. Because, had the Indians been embarrassed into receiving them, they may have gleefully splashed the contents around the world — so shoddy being either the work of the dossiers' compilers or, worryingly, of the intelligence-gatherers themselves. [...]The week in the UN has confirmed a new reality: Pakistan has three India policies. There's Nawaz, as epitomised by Ufa. There's the FO, with its technocratic, self-congratulatory cleverness — the four points at the UNGA. And then there's the boys and their dossiers.

Vajpayee, Modi and a shared DNA, Jawed Naqvi, *The Dawn*, October 6¹³⁶

IT is, of course, a fallacy that there is a hierarchy of agreeable and less agreeable Hindutva ideologues. As such, it could be a Brahminical myth that Modi of a lower caste is by some yardstick worse than Vajpayee in his communalism. Modi is coarse. Vajpayee was urbane. Little else sets them apart. [...] **If Modi has outdone Vajpayee in the practice of communal politics it is because he won the brute majority to pursue his agenda, thrice in Gujarat as chief minister and now as prime minister.** [...]However, neither grudging peace with a neighbour nor a state of perpetual confrontation can alter the Hindutva DNA Modi shares with Vajpayee or with his more ingenious mentor Advani.

The larger picture, Moeed Yusuf, *The Dawn*, October 13¹³⁷

[...]The real problem is that I find an overwhelming majority of those who matter in this country fixated on perceived realities about India and convinced that they have no option but to take notice. The Modi government's approach to Pakistan has further cemented this tendency. The result is that India is back at the fore of our national discourse, and in a simplistic way that emphasises these 'facts' to justify the need to stand our ground, lest we convey any sense of weakness in response.

The UN summit and Pak-India relations, Syed Hamzah Saleem Gilani, *Daily Times*, October 21¹³⁸

The Prime Minister (PM) of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif, in his UN address, once again extended a gesture of friendship to India by proposing a four-pronged strategy to resolve regional issues and settle outstanding disputes, including Kashmir. India's negative media propaganda and disinclination to reciprocate are indications that peace promotion is not one of the top priorities of Modi's government. [...]Unfortunately, the Indian government has decided to latch

¹³⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1211117/vajpayee-modi-and-a-shared-dna>

¹³⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1212657/the-larger-picture>

¹³⁸ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/opinion/21-Oct-2015/the-un-summit-and-pak-india-relations>

onto the tragedy of 26/11. **The demands made by the Indian government in connection with 26/11 are so unrealistic that Pakistan, inclined to resolve the issue, could not do anything because no concrete evidence was ever given by India.** [...]Pakistan's weak point up till now has been corrupt rulers; because of their malpractices they have lacked the moral courage and the required strength to settle issues with India. Secondly, stability in Pakistan has never been, and can never be, the priority of corrupt rulers. The panacea for peace between India and Pakistan lies in resolving the issue of Kashmir. It is just not comprehensible that India maintain its present stance on Kashmir and peace prevails in the region.

Modi's India...Pakistan's opportunity, Ayaz Amir, *The News*, October 23¹³⁹
Narendra Modi is the best thing that could have happened to Pakistan. He is making India look like General Zia's Pakistan. Can there be a bigger favour to Pakistan than that? [...]Hindutva ideology is a form of Nazism. Call it native or saffron Nazism. It is based on the racist notion that India is a Hindu nation with no place for Muslims or people of other faiths. **The opportunity for Pakistan in this mess is clear. For too long Pakistan has been seen as a haven of bigotry and intolerance. And it has been vilified and denounced for the same. Now India is becoming a Hindu Pakistan, or what Pakistan had become before it decided to tackle the monster of religious extremism.** [...]We don't have to match India missile for missile and bomb for bomb. We make our own bazookas, our own tanks, and our own nuke bombs. In any rational calculation this is more than enough deterrence. We have a strong army, a strong air force. **We need better schools and colleges, more research, more knowledge. We should have greater confidence in ourselves and we should learn to talk less about India and the Indian threat.** Not in nuclear arms but in tolerance, enlightenment, rationality and understanding we must be seen as superior to India...and in music too and in the arts. [...]To sum up, **Narendra Modi is a godsend to Pakistan. More power to Hindutva, more power to the saffron Nazism of the RSS, the spiritual fountainhead before which the Indian prime minister bows.** If we master our internal weaknesses, expand the sphere of enlightenment and tolerance, there is nothing that we have to fear from any other quarter.

Geeta in India, Editorial, *Daily Times*, October 28¹⁴⁰

The heart-warming case of life imitating art was nearing its conclusion, but for a late twist in the tale that has increased the 'filmy' factor in Geeta's story. Geeta, the hearing and speech impaired young woman who got stuck on the

¹³⁹<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-9-347285-Modis-India%E2%80%A6Pakistan's-opportunity>

¹⁴⁰ <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/editorial/28-Oct-2015/geeta-in-india>

wrong side of the border for more than a decade, finally landed in India on October 26 with great fanfare. After accidentally crossing into Pakistan, the then pre-pubescent girl could not identify herself or where she came from due to her condition and was consequently taken care of by the Edhi Foundation all these years. The campaign to return her to her home was galvanized due to the popularity of the Bollywood film Bajrangi Bhaijaan, whose story dealt with a similar case with nationalities reversed. Thus, a truly remarkable and humanitarian tale of cooperation between citizens and governments of two countries who are otherwise caught in escalating tensions has been improbably witnessed.

EXCERPTS FROM URDU MEDIA & SELECT JIHADI LITERATURE

INDIA, PAKISTAN AND KASHMIR

Growing Hindu extremism in India against Pakistanis is a cause of concern, *Daily Ausaf*, October 20.¹⁴¹

The Pakistani Senator and Minister for communications and Broadcasting Parvez Rashid has expressed his concerns against growing Hindu extremism in India. He condemned the malicious campaign of RSS and Shiv Sena against Aleem Dar and PCB chairman Sheryar Khan and Najam Sethi. ***The more problematic is Indian silence over these issues; but if anything untoward happens India will be responsible. The Indian government must ensure the security and safety of Muslims and discourage all those elements who are creating misconceptions and are fanning trouble between India and Pakistan.*** He asked India not to let these extremists affect the relations between the two countries. He was speaking at National Police executive seminar.

How long will Nuclear Pakistan tolerate Indian terrorism, Editorial, *Daily Nawai Waqt*, October 23.¹⁴²

Pakistan finally handed over the proof of Indian intervention in Pakistan to America. These documents prove that India is involved in terrorist activities in FATA, Balochistan and Karachi. ***The details of the funds and ammunition provided by RAW is also there in the documents given to America. Nawaz Sharif has also given proofs to John Kerry. In return, John Kerry assured Nawaz Sharif that they will continue their support for energy and economic needs.*** He praised Pakistan for their efforts in operation Zarb-e-Azb and made it clear that Pakistan's role is very important for peace in Afghanistan.

¹⁴¹ http://www.ausaf.pk/wp-content/uploads/2015-10-20/news/detail_6.php

¹⁴² <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-paper/Lahore/2015-10-23/page-14/detail-5>

Nawaz's America trip: Some important points, Editorial, *Daily Ummat*, October 19.¹⁴³

Pakistan has conveyed to America that they should not do anything to alter the balance of power in South Asia. If anything like that happens that will surely have negative consequences for peace in the region. Sartaj Aziz has said that America can have any kind of relationship with India but that should not be at the cost of regional peace. Before Nawaz Sharif left for America, **Sartaj Aziz said in his interview to British Broadcasting service and government TV separately that Pakistan is eligible for the membership of Nuclear Suppliers group. For America India is eligible for this group but in case of Pakistan they don't have a clear policy.** On the agenda of Nawaz Sharif he said during the PM's visit to America the core issues that would be discussed included defence cooperation, India-Pakistan crisis and the political situation of Afghanistan. **According to some sources, Nawaz Sharif delayed his visit for some days because he wanted some details from American administration and only after he received the details, Nawaz Sharif would leave from Pakistan.** The National Security Advisor, Sartaj Aziz, and foreign Secretary have already reached Washington. The director of ISI, Gen Rizwan Akhter, has already paid a visit to US; he will submit his report to Prime Minister before the latter leaves for America.

India Preparing for war, Sikendar Khan Baloch, *Nawai Waqt*, October 9.¹⁴⁴

It seems that Indian leaders and army officers are suffering from a disease which forces them to regularly threaten Pakistan. Indian Brigadier S K Chema said in a conference in Srinagar that "there is an option of targeting army headquarters in Rawalpindi and we should do what Americans did against Usama Bin Laden." The Indian army chief also hinted towards war with Pakistan. Not only army officers but Narendra Modi won election because of his anti-Pakistan rants...India is preparing for a war with Pakistan. **This time military exercise is going on in Rajasthan which will continue till last week of November. Besides India's 21st core, the major portion of Southern Forces is also present there.** The main battle tanks of India, T.72 and T.90 are used in the exercise. **Interestingly, an imaginary line has been drawn and the area beyond that line is considered as enemy's area...to have military exercise in this region raises some doubts as our border from Sadiq Abad to Sukur is weak and is called the 'soft underbelly' of Pakistan.**

Kashmir needs constant diplomatic engagement, Editorial, *Daily Nawai Waqt*, October 5.¹⁴⁵

¹⁴³ <http://ummat.net/2015/10/19/news.php?p=idr1.gif>

¹⁴⁴ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2015-10-09/page-14/detail-1>

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has demanded United Nations to implement the U.N. Security Council Resolution regarding Kashmir. The OIC also demanded that human rights violation should be immediately stopped and the people should be given all the basic human rights as enshrined in the United Nations Human Rights Charter.

The Foreign Ministers of Muslim countries met under the president ship of Kuwait Foreign Minister Shaikh Sabah al Khaled al Sabeh and unanimously passed this Resolution. The National Security Advisor, Sartaj Aziz represented Pakistan. He emphasized that Kashmir problem is a longstanding dispute between India and Pakistan which needs to be resolved according to UN Resolutions. ***Meanwhile Prime Minister of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif while addressing the media persons in London made a point that seriousness is required for peace and security in the region and the attitude which India is showing currently will in no way bring peace in the region. Later or sooner India will have to accept our demands and implement the Resolutions.*** The Prime Minister said that we have apprised world leaders about the atrocities perpetrated by Indian forces in Kashmir. Hundreds of thousands of Kashmiris have given their lives for freedom.

Bone of contention is the "Kashmir problem", for which India shares all the blame. India's seven lakh soldiers are stationed in Jammu and Kashmir, who have made life hell for the residents. Pakistan has been extending moral support to these pro-Pakistan Kashmiri people whom India calls terrorists.

To convince India on Kashmir is the real Test for the UN, Editorial, *Daily Nawai Waqt*, October 8.¹⁴⁵

Pakistan has once again reiterated that instead of enlarging the Security Council it should be made more transparent, democratic and accountable. ***In this regard, former spokesman of Pakistan Foreign Office Tasneem Aslam, while addressing a press conference on 70th year of the United Nations said that those who have not shown any interest in implementing the UN Resolutions have no right to be a permanent of Security Council.*** He added that although United Nations has succeeded in resolving many complex issues during last 70 years, there are issues which it could not be resolved. ***The issue of Kashmir and Palestine are as old as the United Nations and have not been resolved yet.*** He added that Pakistan has always shown willingness for dialogue. *He stressed that United Nations should act as a more "responsible agency" so that it is capable in getting the Resolutions implemented as soon as possible.*

¹⁴⁵ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2015-10-05/page-14/detail-0>

¹⁴⁶ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2015-10-08/page-14/detail-0>

Pakistan was in no way opposed to any proposition of the organization, but it should reflect the hopes and aspirations of the majority of the population. If United Nations failed to resolve Kashmir problem, this will be is a big question mark on its working. So it is imperative for all members of United Nations to get its Resolutions implemented in letter and spirit. **Argentine Ambassador lauded the speech of Tasneem Aslam, but emphasized that United Nations should not forget its failings.** So it should make sincere efforts to solve Indo-Pak problems.

Fresh evidences of Indian interferences collected, Editorial, *Daily Jang*, October 17.¹⁴⁷

The spokesman of Pakistan Foreign Office has once again strongly reacted on India's meddling in the internal affairs and said that some Indian elements within our country are very active in anti-national activities and this attitude needs to be immediately changed. **The spokesman expressed his deep concern about some Afghans, who while staying in India, have been hatching conspiracy to degenerate our country.** India's involvement in the anti-Pakistan activities and interfering in our domestic affairs is no more a secret. From North Waziristan to Balochistan and from Balochistan to Karachi, there is no such place left, where Pakistan does not have solid evidence of Indian involvement in terrorism related activities.

To give India tough time Nasir Khan Janjua is being made NSA, Saif ullah Khalid, *Daily Ummat*, October 20.¹⁴⁸

To give India tough challenge in talks, Nasir Khan Janjua will soon be appointed as the new National Security Advisor of Pakistan. According to authentic sources, both civilian and military establishment are on the same page on this appointment; however the final decision will be taken by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif after he returns from USA. The military leadership chose him to take a strong stand in security issues with India and America. **He is the person who worked with civilian government in Balochistan and didn't let RAW to succeed there. He has the potential to defeat Indian National Security Advisor in any dialogue process....**

PAKISTAN-AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan: whose win and whose loss?, Saleem Safi, *Daily Jang*, October 6.¹⁴⁹

¹⁴⁷ http://e.jang.com.pk/10-17-2015/karachi/pic.asp?picname=06_02.gif

¹⁴⁸ <http://ummat.net/2015/10/20/news.php?p=story1.gif>

¹⁴⁹ http://e.jang.com.pk/10-06-2015/lahore/pic.asp?picname=08_07.gi

...whatever former president Gen. Parvez Musharaf did immediately after 9/11 was not wrong and anyone at the helm at that time would have done the same. But had Parvez Musharaf answered three most important questions then we would have never faced the humiliation for last fourteen years. **The first question was whether America was our friend or foe, secondly, is Taliban a challenge or an asset for Pakistan and lastly, does the stability of Afghanistan favour Pakistan or not.**

Unfortunately after fourteen years we are again facing the same situation. We are allies of America but their primary suspects as well. We tend to be friends of Afghanistan but are seen as their enemy number one. We fight against Taliban in Pakistan but at the same time support Afghan Taliban tooth and nail. We believe that talking to Pakistan Taliban is a sin but on the other side facilitate talks between Afghan Taliban and Afghan government. If we do not open our eyes and think on several important issues then political isolation would be permanently our destiny. **What we need to think today is that whether in current state of regional geopolitics we should be allies of America or China and Russia. Pakistan needs to come out clear on whether the rise of Afghan Taliban serves its interests or not and given the links of Pakistan Taliban and Afghan Taliban, can Pakistan be safe in the presence of Taliban or their dominance in Afghanistan.** Policy towards Iran should be very clear. If we move forward without genuinely addressing these important questions then our foreign policy will never be effective and confusion will be perennial....

Afghan Taliban rejected unity with TTP, Daily Ummat, October 23.¹⁵⁰

Afghan Taliban rejected the offer of coordinating with TTP. The Taliban spokesperson said that till now we do not have any such plan. TTP had on Thursday claimed that they will launch operations jointly with Afghan Taliban but when contacted the Afghan Taliban spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid outrightly rejected it.

Our fight is against Pakistan and for now our policy is 'sab say pehlay Pakistan': Mohammad Khurasani, Ummar Media, October 22.¹⁵¹

The news about our proposed coordination with Afghan Taliban is baseless as no E-mail was sent from Mohammad Khurasani. People should desist from spreading such news, claimed Umar Media, purportedly run by TTP.

¹⁵⁰ <http://ummat.net/2015/10/23/news.php?p=news-02.gif>

¹⁵¹ <https://umarmedia.wordpress.com/2015/10/22/%DB%81%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B1%DB%8C-%D8%AC%D9%86%DA%AF-%D9%BE%D8%A7%DA%A9%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B3%DB%92-%DB%81%DB%92-%D8%A7%D9%88%D8%B1-%D9%81%DB%8C-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D8%A7%D9%84-%DB%81%D9%85%D8%A7/>

Who is behind declining popularity of Gen. Raheel Sharif, Daily Ausaf, October 21.¹⁵²

In the recent democratic survey the PILDAT found the popularity of Gen. Raheel Sharif is declining and showed him less popular than Nawaz Sharif. It has kick-started a new debate. Most people have held that the survey does not reflect the actual reality. Various agencies have also raised their concerns about the objectives and timing of this survey. Some think tanks are now trying to find out why this survey was conducted at this moment and who is behind this project. **According to the PILDAT survey the most popular person at present in Pakistan is Nawaz Sharif with 75% approval rating. He is followed by the chief minister of Punjab Shahbaz Sharif with 72% approval rating and at third position is Army Chief Gen. Raheel Sharif with 69% approval rating.**

ISI official hanged by TIA in Waziristan, Umar Media, October 9.¹⁵³

Taliban Intelligence arrested an ISI official and hanged him in Waziristan. [The report does not provide any further details and prompts the reader to click on a video link, which is not working.] However, such claims suggest that the TTP, far from being discouraged by the army operations, has been attacking security officials regularly in different areas of Pakistan.

The agreement with Russia on LNG pipeline will be a game changer, Editorial, Daily Jang, October 18.¹⁵⁴ Pakistan and Russia have signed an agreement that includes construction of 11 km gas pipeline from Karachi to Lahore. This will be good for the economy of Pakistan and it will have positive impact on regional and global politics. **For the agreement, the talks had started in Ufa between Russian president and prime minister of Pakistan. According to the agreement the Russian company, Rostec global, will complete the construction work of this pipeline in two years and then after twenty five years the pipeline will become property of the government of Pakistan and till that time the net profit from pipeline will lessen the debt.** The importance of the agreement can be gauged from the fact that Vladimir Putin will come to Pakistan to lay the foundation stone of this project.

Daesh won't dominate in Pakistan, Editorial, Daily Jang, October 15.¹⁵⁵

¹⁵² http://www.ausaf.pk/wp-content/uploads/2015-10-21/news/detail_11.php

¹⁵³ <https://umarmedia.wordpress.com/2015/10/09/the-video-link-of-isi-official-hanged-by-tia-in-waziristaan-agency-muhammad-khurasani/>

¹⁵⁴ http://e.jang.com.pk/10-18-2015/lahore/pic.asp?picname=08_01.gif

¹⁵⁵ http://e.jang.com.pk/10-05-2015/lahore/pic.asp?picname=10_02.gif

As we know, operation Zarb-e-Azb has now reached its final stage and the Pakistan army is committed to uproot all terrorists from Pakistani soil. At present, apart from al Qaeda a new terrorist group, Daesh, has swept all over the Islamic world which has captured not only Syria and its adjoining areas but also some other Muslim countries in Middle East, which are under its influence.

The Pakistan army Chief General Raheel Sharif, during his official tour to London, addressed Royal United Institute for Defence and Security, where he talked about the scourge of terrorism in the world. Referring to Daesh, General Raheel explained, it could be more dangerous than al Qaeda and at present it has engulfed the whole of the Muslim world. Meanwhile, Gen. Raheel clarified that Pakistan army would not allow even the shadow of Daesh (ISIS) to fall upon Pakistan. **While this statement was made, Gen. Raheel Sharif was seen to be frowning, because of the fact that some people in Pakistan are nowadays interested in joining Daesh, which could result in dangerous situation for Pakistan.** Gen. Raheel said: "I feel ISIS has become a challenge for us." Afghan Taliban and Afghan government should immediately come to table for reconciliation. **He has pressed upon Afghan government to resume dialogue with Taliban to avoid any disastrous situation in future.** Thereafter, he reiterated that although we won't allow Daesh to strengthen its roots here, it was very necessary that we should keep close surveillance on internal security developments and keep the ghost away from Pakistani soil and make all efforts to thwart its growth. Needless to say, it is a matter of serious concern for all of us. It should be dealt severely to provide some space of peace to our future generations.

MISCELLANY

Supreme Court has upheld death sentence of Mumtaz Qadir, Editorial, *Nawai Waqt*, October 9.¹⁵⁶

The Supreme Court of Pakistan has once again rejected Mumtaz Qadri's appeal against death sentence for murdering former Punjab Governor Salman Taseer. While upholding death sentence Supreme Court has upheld article C-295 pertaining to blasphemy, under which he was prosecuted by Appellate Court. If any law is promulgated in a country its sole objective is to maintain law and order so that peace prevails in the country. Again if there is any case against a criminal then to prove whether he is guilty or not is the responsibility of judiciary only. **On the contrary if people take law into their hands and start killing people then there will be no peace but chaos.** It is under these circumstances that Pakistan Supreme Court upheld the death sentence of the culprit Mumtaz Qadri and added these remarks. In a civilized

¹⁵⁶ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2015-10-09/page-14/detail-9>

society, we have to inculcate within ourselves a sense of tolerance and discipline which we are very much lacking. ***We should stop acting like a judge the way Mumtaz Qadri did.***

Suggestion of Referendum in Gilgit-Baltistan, Arif Bahar, *Daily Jasarat*, October 14.¹⁵⁷

The Senate Committee for Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir Affairs has decided to introduce a Bill in Senate for making Gilgit-Baltistan a province of Pakistan. ***In this regard, Mr.Rehman Malik, former Interior Minister came out with a proposal of holding 'Referendum' in Gilgit-Baltistan. The members were apprised that the 2009 Presidential Order, more powers were given to Gilgit-Baltistan by establishing Legislative Assembly and government similar to provincial governments.***

STATISTICS

BOMBINGS, SHOOTINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES

(Select incidents culled out from the Pakistan media)

Place	Date	Description	Killed	Injured
Balochistan				
Balochistan ¹⁵⁸	4/10/2015	Levis personal killed	1	2
Awaran ¹⁵⁹	8/10/2015	Three terrorists killed	3	0
Panjgur and Harnai ¹⁶⁰	20/10/2015	Two security personnel and three terrorists killed	5	0
Quetta ¹⁶¹	20/10/2015	Terror shakes Quetta	10	22
Chaman ¹⁶²	21/10/2015	Two policemen martyred	2	1

¹⁵⁷ <http://jasarat.com/news.php?date=14-10-2015&news=03&category=columns>

¹⁵⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1210693/one-levies-personnel-killed-two-injured-in-balochistan>

¹⁵⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/08-Oct-2015/three-terrorists-killed-in-awaran>

¹⁶⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1214150/two-security-personnel-three-militants-killed-in-balochistan>

¹⁶¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1214199/terror-attack-shakes-quetta>

¹⁶² <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/21-Oct-2015/two-policemen-martyred-by-gunmen-in-chaman>

Bolan ¹⁶³	22/10/2015	Ten people died, several injured	10	--
FATA				
Angoor Ada ¹⁶⁴	28/10/2015	7 FC men killed	7	0
Punjab				
Lahore ¹⁶⁵	1/10/2015	Four suspects killed	4	0
Shekhupura ¹⁶⁶	10/10/2015	Five terrorists killed	5	0
Lahore ¹⁶⁷	20/10/2015	PML-N UC candidate shot dead	1	0
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa				
Bannu ¹⁶⁸	4/10/2015	Tribal leader killed	1	1
Tirah ¹⁶⁹	22/10/2015	21 militants killed	21	0
Sindh				
Lyari ¹⁷⁰	1/10/2015	Attackers killed	2	0
Karachi ¹⁷¹	29/10/2015	Three terrorists killed	3	0

¹⁶³<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-201644-Ten-people-dead,-several-hurt-in-Bolan-Imambargah-blast>

¹⁶⁴<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/28-Oct-2015/seven-fc-men-killed-in-swa-cross-border-attack>

¹⁶⁵<http://tribune.com.pk/story/965571/four-suspects-linked-to-khanzada-attack-killed-in-ctd-raid/>

¹⁶⁶<http://nation.com.pk/national/10-Oct-2015/5-most-wanted-terrorists-killed-in-sheikhupura>

¹⁶⁷<http://www.dawn.com/news/1214286/pml-n-uc-candidate-shot-dead>

¹⁶⁸<http://www.dawn.com/news/1210846/tribal-leader-killed-in-bannu-ied-blast>

¹⁶⁹<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-201621-Military-jets-pound-militant-dens-in-Tirah-valley:-21-killed>

¹⁷⁰<http://www.dawn.com/news/1209951/vehicle-of-lyari-sp-fired-at-attackers-killed>

¹⁷¹<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-202291-Three-terrorists-killed-in-Karachi-shootout>