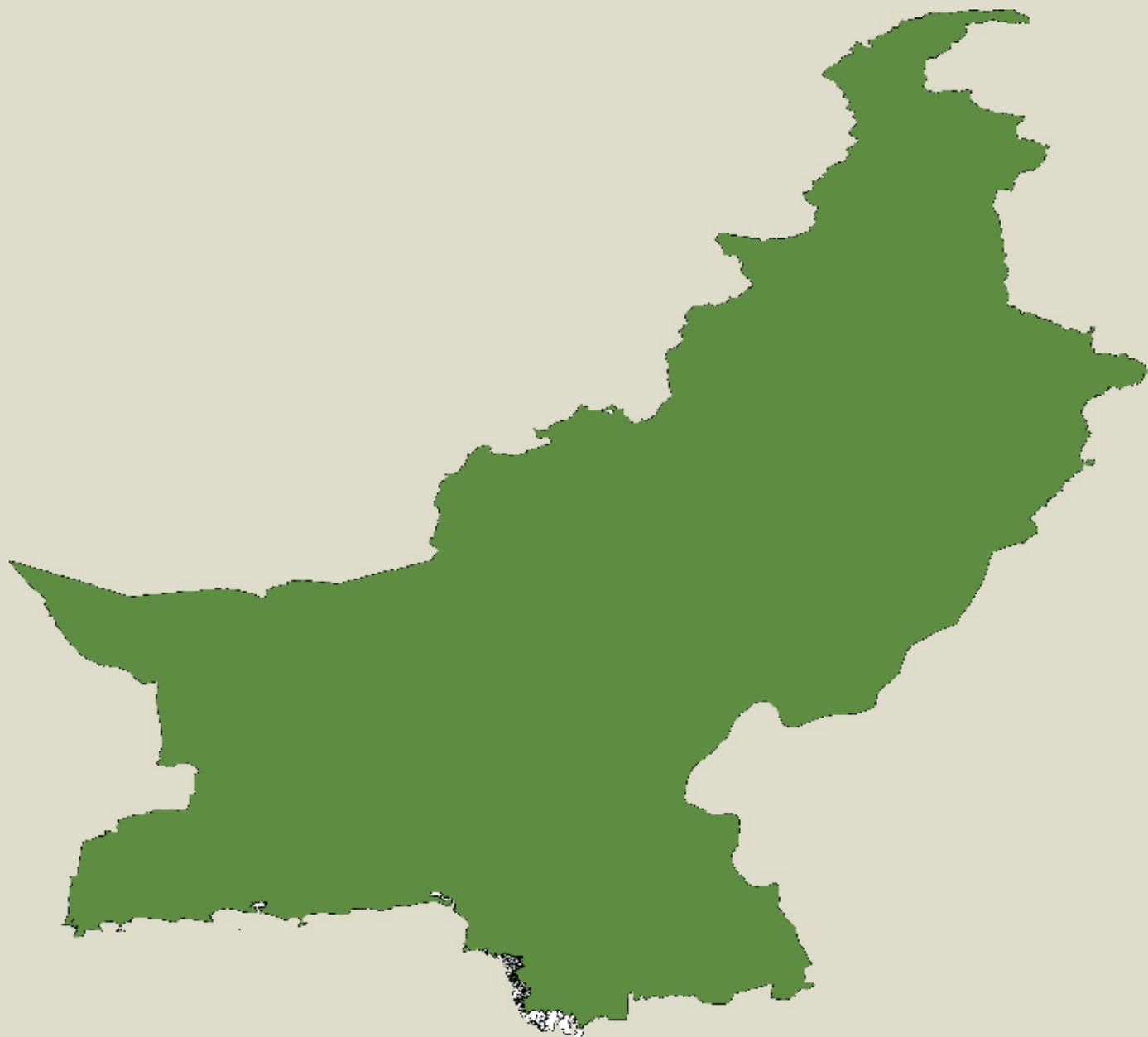


July 16-31, 2016

PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST

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



*Prepared by
Dr Ashish Shukla &
Dr Yaqoob-ul-Hassan
(Research Assistants, Pakistan Project, IDSA)*

idsa
INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE
STUDIES & ANALYSES
रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST JULY (16-31) 2016

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

Prepared by

*Dr Ashish Shukla & Dr Yaqoob-ul-Hassan
(Pak-Digest, IDSA)*



INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

1-Development Enclave, Near USI

Delhi Cantonment, New Delhi-110010

PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST, JULY (16-31) 2016

CONTENTS

.....	0
ABBREVIATIONS	2
EDITOR'S NOTE	3
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS	4
NATIONAL POLITICS.....	4
THE PANAMA PAPERS.....	5
PROVINCIAL POLITICS.....	6
EDITORIALS AND OPINION.....	8
FOREIGN POLICY.....	8
EDITORIALS AND OPINION.....	10
MILITARY AFFAIRS	12
EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS.....	15
ECONOMIC ISSUES	18
CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR.....	18
SECURITY SITUATION	19
TERRORISM.....	19
KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND FATA.....	20
BALOCHISTAN.....	20
PUNJAB.....	21
SINDH.....	22
EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS.....	22
RELATIONS WITH INDIA	23
UNREST IN KASHMIR.....	24
EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS.....	28
EXCERPTS FROM URDU MEDIA & SELECT JIHADI LITERATURE	29
STATISTICS	31
BOMBINGS, SHOOTINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES.....	31

ABBREVIATIONS

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

EDITOR'S NOTE

The ruling Pakistani elites, both civilian and military, have left no stone unturned to exploit the prevailing situation in J&K to their advantage. There is a deliberate attempt to internationalise the issue. Pakistani diplomatic missions, scattered all over the world, have been instructed to show India in bad light over Kashmir. The eulogizing of the Kashmiri militants seems to have become the top priority of the politico-security elites these days.

The panamagate issue, even after several months, is refusing to subside. The joint committee could not come up with an agreed Terms of References (ToRs) to probe the charges of corruption against the Prime Minister and his family members. Although the joint opposition has deferred its plan of street agitation and decided to bring the matter to the parliament, it is in no mood to give any respite to the ruling PML-N leadership over the issue.

Of late, the PTI has announced to hold a protest movement against the federal government. Imran Khan would lead the protest commencing from Peshawar. Pakistan Awami Tehrik (PAT) chief Dr Allama Tahir-ul-Qadri has also announced to lead a separate protest against the corrupt characters named in the Panama leaks. At a time, when the whole opposition was united and jointly moving ahead against corruption related issues, PTI's announcement confirms the largely-held view about the desperateness of Imran Khan.

Although Chief of Army Staf (COAS) Raheel Sharif has categorically stated not to take another term, many analysts believe that something is cooking behind the scene. The appearance of posters and banners across Pakistan, Imran Khan's remarks, the discussion on vernacular media, and a petition in Lahore High Court asking for an extension of tenure for the COAS could not be seen in isolation.

Pakistan officially chants the mantra of Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process in Afghanistan, however, does quite little to resolve the issue. China is a relatively new player in the game which undoubtedly wants to stabilise the situation in Afghanistan for a number of reasons but often either succumbs to Pakistani pressures or collaborates with them to immunise its Xinjiang province from terrorism related violence.

Dr. Ashish Shukla

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

NATIONAL POLITICS

Pakistan facing threat from ‘monarchy’ of Sharif: Imran, *The Dawn*, July 19¹
Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan on Monday (July 18) reiterated that *Pakistan faced no threat from the army, but it faced a threat from the “monarchy of Nawaz Sharif”*. However, instead of repeating that people would celebrate army’s takeover of government in Pakistan, he modified his earlier statement by saying that if Mr Sharif were in place of Mr Erdogan the coup in Turkey would have succeeded.

Forceful conversion and marriages, *Daily Times*, July 21²

The European Parliament Intergroup on Freedom of Religion or Belief and Religious Tolerance has released its annual report for 2015 and showed serious concerns over the minorities' situation in Pakistan, especially the issues pertaining to the country's blasphemy laws. [...]The intergroup, in its report titled "The State of Freedom of Religion or Belief in the World", while referring the blasphemy laws in Pakistan, has claimed that due to such laws, *Ahmadis suffer 37 percent of accusations and Christians 14 percent, despite constituting only two percent of the population respectively*. [...]The intergroup report further disclosed that around *700 Christian girls were abducted and forcibly married to Muslim men and converted to Islam each year in Pakistan while due to religious persecution, around 11,000 Pakistani Christian were asylum seekers in Thailand*.

Sharif lying about open-heart surgery, *The Dawn*, July 25³

A senior leader of the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) alleged on Sunday (July 24) that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had not undergone open-heart surgery in London, as was previously claimed. But this point of view isn’t necessarily shared by all members of his party. Speaking on a Dawn News programme, PTI spokesperson Naeemul Haq alleged that Mr Sharif had lied about his recent trip to London. *“I was in London recently and received information from several doctors. Some party members also visited the Harley Street Clinic to try and verify this account, but the information (about the PM’s surgery) is sketchy at best,” he told Dawn*.

¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1271706/pakistan-facing-threat-from-monarchy-of-sharif-imran>

² <http://dailytimes.com.pk/punjab/21-Jul-16/700-christian-girls-forcefully-married-to-muslims-each-year-report>

³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1273004/sharif-lying-about-open-heart-surgery-claims-pti-leader>

THE PANAMA PAPERS

Opp defers street agitation plan, *The Nation*, July 20⁴

Deferring the plan to bring people out on roads on Panama Papers probe, the joint opposition yesterday decided to take the matter to Parliament in shape of a bill based on the opposition's tailored terms of reference. Talking to media after a marathon meeting of the opposition parties in which the representatives of opposition parties including PTI, PPP, JI, ANP, MQM, PML, QWP, AML, BNP, PAT and MWM participated, PPP central leader Barrister Ch *Aitzaz Ahsan said that they had unanimously decided to move bill on Panama Papers inquiry in the Parliament and would not let the government escape from the transparent probe into the Panama leaks initiating from the family of Prime Minister.* [...] "In case the government does not show flexibility, the doors of street agitation would be open to opposition," warned Aitzaz. *It was further decided that opposition would get the resolution adopted by the provincial legislatures of Sindh and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa in support of the joint opposition bill to be tabled in National Assembly.* In case of its rejection from the National Assembly they would move the bill in the Upper House of the Parliament.

Dar again offers Imran forensic audit, *The Nation*, July 26⁵

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Monday (July 25) once again asked PTI's chief Imran Khan for the forensic audit of the two leaders' assets. *"I am once again offering Imran Khan to get conducted forensic audit of our assets from any international audit firm and whoever owns illegal assets will pay the fee," the finance minister replied to a question about PTI's protest against NAB for clearing Ishaq Dar from corruption charges.*

Taliban are 'terrorists': Imran Khan, *The Nation*, July 28⁶

"It is 'absolute nonsense' to think that I support 'extremism'," clarified Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan while speaking to an Arab TV channel about the group he is always accused of supporting. During a candid interview with Al-Jazeera, former Pakistani cricketer seemed confident when he considered the Taliban a 'terrorist' group. Answering a question raised by the presenter, the head of the PTI said, *"Yes they are [a terrorist group]. Anyone who kills innocent people is a terrorist."*

⁴ <http://nation.com.pk/national/20-Jul-2016/opp-defers-street-agitation-plan>

⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/26-Jul-2016/dar-again-offers-imran-forensic-audit-of-assets>

⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/national/28-Jul-2016/taliban-are-terrorists-i-don-t-back-them-imran-khan>

Qadri announces anti-government protest, *The News*, July 31⁷

Pakistan Awami Tehrik (PAT) chief Dr Allama Tahir-ul-Qadri on Sunday (July 31) announced anti-government protests on August 6. According to details, Qadri said that his party had decided via a consensus to hold anti-government protests on August 6 and also conduct a symbolic sit-in protest or dharna. "We will carry out protests against the corrupt characters named in the Panama leaks," he said. "This will be a united movement and not just a movement launched by the Pakistan Awami Tehrik," he said.

Imran to lead protest against govt, *The News*, July 31⁸

PTI's Naeem-ul-Haque on Sunday (July 31) announced the party's plan to start a movement to hold Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif accountable and said that it would commence from August 7. After the party's senior leadership held consultations at Bani Gala, Naeem-ul-Haque spoke to media officials and announced that the party would hold a protest movement to hold the Prime Minister accountable from August 7. The movement would commence from Peshawar and would be led by party chief Imran Khan, he disclosed.

PROVINCIAL POLITICS

Sindh Rangers not granted extension, *The Nation*, July 19⁹

The Sindh government has not yet approved summary seeking extension of Sindh Rangers' special powers in Karachi. According to details, Rangers special policing powers under Anti Terrorism Act are due to expire on Tuesday (July 19). Interior minister Sindh has not signed the summary, seeking one year extension of powers, and sent it to the law department.

Balochistan to hold polls for Kashmir elections, *Daily Times*, July 20¹⁰

Balochistan election commissioner has announced that Kashmir's general elections polling will also be held in six districts of Balochistan. The provincial election commissioner said on Wednesday (July 20) that all balloting arrangements had been finalised in Balochistan for the general elections being held in Kashmir. [...] *"People of Kashmir, living in Balochistan, have been provided facilities to cast their vote in six districts of the province for the general elections," he said. Polling stations had been established in Quetta, Dera Bugti, Loralai, Lasbela and Qila Saifullah, the commissioner said.*

⁷ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/139065-Qadri-announces-anti-government-protest-on-August-6>

⁸ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/139069-Imran-to-lead-protest-against-govt-on-August-7-Naeem-ul-Haque>

⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/19-Jul-2016/sindh-rangers-not-granted-extension-to-exercise-special-powers>

¹⁰ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/20-Jul-16/balochistan-to-hold-polls-for-kashmir-elections>

Pervaiz steals the show, *The Dawn*, July 25¹¹

To the disappointment of his detractors, both within and outside the party, soft-spoken Pervaiz Rashid has come up to the expectations of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif by single-handedly running a successful election campaign for Azad Kashmir polls. The federal information minister with the help of his confidant and political secretary to PM Dr Asif Kirmani countered all personal attacks and propaganda against the Sharifs by heads of their respective parties, namely Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Imran Khan, and stole the show through a landslide victory.

PPP to take cases against Sharifs to logical conclusion, *The Nation*, July 25¹²

Alleging that the AJK elections were neither fair nor transparent, the Pakistan People's Party declared yesterday that it would devise its future strategy in consultation with the party candidates defeated by the ruling PML-N rivals. The top leaders of the party at a meeting in Dubai yesterday decided to take references against Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Punjab Chief Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, chief minister's son MNA Hamza Shebaz, and prime minister's son-in-law MNA Capt Safdar to their "logical conclusion".

Raja Farooq Haider to be AJK PM, *The News*, July 27¹³

Raja Farooq Haider has been nominated as the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The decision was taken at a meeting of PML (N) AJK Chapter in Islamabad on Wednesday (July 27) chaired by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The meeting was attended by Federal PML-N leadership and newly elected member of AJK Legislative Assembly. The AJK-designated Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider said that he will come up to the confidence of the Party leadership. "My agenda will be merit, good governance and zero tolerance for corruption," he added.

Qaim Ali Shah resigns, *The News*, July 27¹⁴

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah resigned on Wednesday (July 27) as the Chief Minister of Sindh and presented his resignation to Governor Sindh Dr Ishratul Ebad Khan. According to details, the Chief Minister met Governor of Sindh Ishratul Ebad and resigned officially. With the resignation, Qaim Ali Shah's cabinet has also been dissolved which will be replaced by a new Sindh cabinet when the new Chief Minister is sworn in.

¹¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1272562/pervaiz-steals-the-show-for-pml-n>

¹² <http://nation.com.pk/national/25-Jul-2016/ppp-to-take-cases-against-sharifs-to-logical-conclusion>

¹³ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/138046-Raja-Farooq-Haider-Azad-Kashmirs-new-PM>

¹⁴ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/138064-Qaim-Ali-Shah-resigns-as-CM-Sindh>

EDITORIALS AND OPINION

Conspiracy Theory Central, Editorial, *The Nation*, July 26¹⁵

It seems like Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) can't pass up on a good conspiracy theory. In fact it seems to conduct its political business around it. First the Taliban's "real" and virtuous back-story was extolled, then came the grand conspiracy to deprive the rightful Prime Minister – Imran Khan, who else – of his post through election rigging, and now we hear the outlandish claim by PTI Central Information Secretary, Naeem ul Haque, that Nawaz Sharif had faked his open heart surgery to escape political criticism. *At this rate the PTI will soon be telling us that the 9/11 bombings were an inside job, Tupac Shakur is still alive, and the Freemasons secretly control the world.*

FOREIGN POLICY

2,400 displaced families return from Afghanistan, *The Dawn*, July 19¹⁶

Around 2,400 families from North Waziristan Agency, which had sought refuge in Afghanistan in the wake of the Zarb-i-Azb operation, have returned to Bannu, according to an official. He said that 5,000 families belonging to Momedkhel and Madakhel tribes and living near the Afghan border had fled to Afghanistan after the operation was launched to clear North Waziristan of militants. [...] *Meanwhile, return of internally displaced persons to their homes in North Waziristan is in progress. Officials said that 45,700 families had returned to their homes and 44,300 others were waiting for their turn.*

Bilawal demands change in foreign policy, *The Nation*, July 19¹⁷

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman **Bilawal Bhutto Zardari** on Tuesday (July 19) stated that the government had no foreign policy as there were tensions on all borders of Pakistan. Bilawal said that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif served as the country's premier thrice, adding that the PM had no excuse regarding the absence of the country's Foreign Minister. While addressing a press conference, PPP Chairman said that the time has come to work on the country's foreign policy, adding that the government was responsible for the persisting tensions on the borders.

North Korea seeks deals with Pakistan, *Daily Times*, July 20¹⁸

North Korean Ambassador to Pakistan Kim Tae Sop has said that his country – the Democratic People's Republic of Korea – wants to extend relations with

¹⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/26-Jul-2016/conspiracy-theory-central>

¹⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1271705/2400-displaced-families-return-from-afghanistan>

¹⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/national/19-Jul-2016/bilawal-demands-change-in-foreign-policy-owing-to-tensions-on-all-borders>

¹⁸ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/20-Jul-16/north-korea-seeks-deals-with-pakistan-in-all-fields>

Pakistan in all fields especially in the field of sports. During a courtesy call on Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada here on Wednesday (July 20), he discussed cooperation between Pakistan and North Korea in the field of sports such as table tennis, wrestling and Taekwondo in a way of providing coaches and players from his country.

Nato supply resumes through Torkham, *The Nation*, July 26¹⁹

Nineteen Nato Coalition forces' supply vehicles including oil tankers crossed into Afghanistan via Torkham border under tight security here on Sunday (July 24), official sources revealed yesterday. The Nato supply that had been suspended due to security reasons and tension erupted between Pakistan and Afghanistan at Torkham border was resumed after a more than two-month break. Special security arrangements were made in Landi Kotal and Torkham border besides escort was provided to the trucks on Pak-Afghan road to avoid any militants' attack.

Pakistan, China call for reconciliation in Afghanistan, *The Nation*, July 26²⁰

Pakistan and China yesterday emphasised the importance of reconciliation between the Afghan government and Taliban as an essential element for peace and stability in Afghanistan. In this context, the Chinese Foreign Minister appreciated the sincere counterterrorism efforts of Pakistan, noting that Pakistan's role against terrorism and for regional stability should be recognised, said a Foreign Ministry statement issued here after a meeting between Adviser to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the 23rd ASEAN Regional Forum in Vientiane, Laos People's Democratic Republic. In the bilateral context, both the ministers expressed satisfaction at the rapid growth in bilateral trade, which reached \$18 billion last year, making China the largest trading partner of Pakistan, it said. Wang Yi said while negotiating the second phase of FTA between the two countries, efforts would be made to increase exports from Pakistan to rectify the trade imbalance. Sartaj Aziz said Pakistan was fully committed to the timely and effective implementation of all projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Kabul carnage brings neighbours closer, *The Nation*, July 26²¹

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif yesterday rang up Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and stressed the need to further enhance cooperation between the two neighbouring countries. ***He expressed deep regret on behalf of the government***

¹⁹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/26-Jul-2016/nato-supply-resumes-through-torkham-border>

²⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/26-Jul-2016/pakistan-china-call-for-afghan-govt-taliban-reconciliation>

²¹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/26-Jul-2016/kabul-carnage-brings-neighbours-closer>

and people of Pakistan over the tragic July 23rd bombing in Kabul. The Islamic State or Daesh had claimed responsibility for the Saturday's (July 23) attack in a procession of the Hazara community which killed over 80 people and injured nearly 300.

No backing out on Afghan border management, *The Nation*, July 26²²

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif yesterday rejected the recent allegations levelled by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani that Afghan Taliban's offices were present in Pakistan, saying that nothing like Quetta Shura exists. He also told the Senate's defence committee yesterday that the new border gate on Torkham, a major crossing point on the Pak-Afghan border, is ready and will be opened on August 1. The minister said it would be difficult to control the menace of terrorism without effective border management. He said the government was effectively pursuing the management of all crossing points at border and "we will not abandon it".

Iran assures Pak of full cooperation, *The News*, July 27²³

Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security, Lt. Gen. (r) Nasser Khan Janjua was assured Iran's full cooperation with regard to alleged Indian spy Kalbhushan Yadav, during his visit to Iran on Wednesday (July 27). According to sources, Janjua met Supreme National Security Council of Iran's secretary Ali Shamkhani and held two rounds of discussions with him, both of which were successful. Sources revealed that the *Irani representative promised Janjua full cooperation with regard to the matter of Kalbhushan Yadav*. Both Janjua and Shamkhani agreed to facilitate timely intelligence sharing between both countries and meetings between the military leadership of both countries.

Bab-i-Pakistan opens at Torkham, *The Nation*, July 29²⁴

Pakistan on Thursday (July 28) named the newly constructed gate at Torkham border with Afghanistan as Bab-i-Pakistan (Pakistan Gate). A flag hoisting ceremony was held with unfurling of national flag at 6am, signaling the opening of the gate at the border crossing on the historic trade route. The flag was lowered at 7pm, marking the close of border for the day.

EDITORIALS AND OPINION

Friends And Foes, Editorial, *The Nation*, July 16²⁵

The proceedings of a hearing in the US Congress titled 'Pakistan: friend or foe' has drawn a clear line as to where the US Congress stands in reference to

²² <http://nation.com.pk/national/26-Jul-2016/no-backing-out-on-afghan-border-management>

²³ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/138048-Iran-assures-Pak-of-full-cooperation-with-regard-to-Kalbhushan-Yadav>

²⁴ <http://nation.com.pk/national/29-Jul-2016/bab-i-pakistan-opens-at-torkham>

²⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/16-Jul-2016/friends-and-foes>

Pakistan. Never has an ally lambasted another so vociferously, as the US Congress did to Pakistan in this hearing. The allegations were startling and at certain points, beyond absurd. If what was said in Congress is taken at face value, Pakistan almost sounds like one of the US' worst enemies. *The US Congress should be reminded to tone down its rhetoric, and remember that the money given in military aid is not being handed out as charity; if it were not for Pakistan, US forces in Afghanistan would have suffered a similar fate to the Soviet Union's failed conquest.*

An abortive coup, Editorial, *The Dawn*, July 17²⁶

TURKEY may have entered a turbulent and uncertain phase in its history, but until the events of this weekend there had appeared to be at least one certainty: the military had been returned to the barracks and the threat of a coup permanently eroded. [...] *It was remarkable to witness a nation and polity divided come together immediately in defence of its democratic process — the need to defend the representative system being of more fundamental importance than any partisan view of a particular government.* [...] Here in Pakistan, the failed coup in Turkey has some important lessons for the military leadership. With some sections of the public, media and the political class criticising the elected government, its governance record and some of its policy choices, there may be a temptation to justify decreasing the political and governance space of the incumbent PML-N — or even to contemplate the unthinkable and return Pakistan to the dark days of military rule. But such short-term thinking is precisely what contributes to long-term governance malaise.

Unwarranted Verbal Onslaught, Editorial, *The Nation*, July 26²⁷

President Ashraf Ghani is increasingly starting to sound like his predecessor, specifically with his targeted verbal attacks against Pakistan. On Saturday (July 23), the Afghan President went all out, and declared the Pakistani state guilty of harbouring terrorists, even going as far as saying that he could provide addresses of Afghan Taliban leaders in Quetta. *If Mr Ghani really does know as much as he claims, why has he not shared this information with his neighbour?* [...] He may not be at the helm of affairs too long, which tells us why he has seemingly lost the plot on what is to be done next. He understands that the most pragmatic diversion tactic by a country's leader is to attempt to redirect public outrage towards an outside force. If he wants to paint Pakistan as the enemy, good luck to him. But it is not a tactic that is likely to work in a country that is beset by threats internally.

²⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1271314/an-abortive-coup>

²⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/26-Jul-2016/unwarranted-verbal-onslaught>

Stand Together, Editorial, *The Nation*, July 29²⁸

[...] *There is national consensus on CPEC being instrumental for the future development of this country. For the rewards to be reaped, we must exercise patience, not only in terms of waiting for its completion, but also in letting the government do its job.* Looking to nit-pick and punch holes in terms of how many locals have been employed and so on will only cause unnecessary delays. The next two years are crucial for the future of this country. For once, let's all stand united until all of Pakistan is connected, and is ushered onto the path of development. In all other matters, we can continue to be at each other's throats.

MILITARY AFFAIRS

Imran's 'army takeover' statement, *Daily Times*, July 18²⁹

Politicians belonging to the ruling and the opposition parties have strongly condemned Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's statement on Sunday (July 17) that the 'people' would welcome a 'military takeover' in Pakistan. *The PTI chairman compared the Turkey coup attempt with the situation in Pakistan and said that Pakistanis would distribute sweets if the army takes over the country. "Democracy is threatened by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's monarchy and the people will celebrate and distribute sweets if the army takes over," he told a public rally in Azad Jammu Kashmir.* Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif tweeted minutes after Imran's speech that Imran was the 12th man of the politics and was only waiting for an accident to happen so he could play (his role). "Otherwise he (Imran) sits on the sidelines and sulks," he added.

Q backs Imran's stance on Army's popularity, *The Nation*, July 19³⁰

PML-Q leader Ch Pervez Elahi termed as true the statement of PTI chairman Imran Khan that the Pakistanis would welcome the army if it makes an attempts of coup. He added that there was no comparison between the leadership of Pakistan and Turkish. He said that present government is hoodwinking the nation regarding the provision of education and health facilities for the poor. He added that the present government has nothing to do with the people's welfare as the daily wagers are committing suicide.

Son of SHC CJ Awais Shah recovered, *The Dawn*, July 19³¹

Advocate Awais Ali Shah, kidnapped son of Sindh High Court Chief Justice Sajjad Ali Shah, has been recovered after an intelligence based operation at Tank district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Director General ISPR Lt. General Asim

²⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/29-Jul-2016/stand-together>

²⁹ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/18-Jul-16/imrans-army-takeover-statement-comes-under-severe-censure>

³⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/19-Jul-2016/q-backs-imran-s-stance-on-army-s-popularity>

³¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1271745/son-of-shc-cj-awais-shah-recovered-in-kp-raid-ispr>

Bajwa disclosed Shah's recovery on Tuesday (July 19) through a pre-dawn tweet. Three terrorists were also killed during the operation. [...] Bajwa also announced that the chief of army staff commended efforts of the Intelligence and security forces for successful operation.

PPP will stand against military coup, *Daily Times*, July 19³²

As part of its legacy, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) would follow the footsteps of Turkish people and would sacrifice their lives to save democracy if any attempt of military coup is made in Pakistan, said PPP leaders while observing the 31st death anniversary of Shahnawaz Bhutto on Monday (July 18). Dozens of party workers gathered at PPP office in Green Town to commemorate the 31st death anniversary of Shahnawaz Bhutto and raised slogans against General Ziaul Haq, his cronies and against those who they thought were supporting military interventions in Pakistan.

No threat to democracy from Army: Imran, *The Nation*, July 20³³

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan Tuesday (July 19) said that there is no danger to democracy from the army but the Kingdom of Nawaz Sharif. "Pakistani nation is more pro-democracy than Turkey and what there is need for a new leadership in Pakistan," he declared while addressing a public meeting in Dudial, Azad Kashmir on Tuesday (July 19).

Court orders seizure of Mush assets, *The Nation*, July 20³⁴

The Special Court yesterday ordered freezing of bank accounts and confiscation of properties owned by General (r) Pervez Musharraf. The high treason case against the former army chief was adjourned until he is produced either through arrest or he surrenders. The court rejected the prosecution's suggestion to hold Musharraf's trial in absentia or record his statement under Section 342 of CrPC on skype. *The court directed the State Bank of Pakistan to freeze the accounts of the former military dictator.*

50 commercial entities being run by armed forces, *The Dawn*, July 21³⁵

The Senate was provided on Wednesday (July 20) details of commercial entities being run by various wings of the armed forces in the country. In a written reply to a question asked by Senator Farhatullah Babar of the Pakistan Peoples Party, Defence Minister Khwaja Asif informed the house that *there were nearly 50 "projects, units and housing colonies" functioning in the country under the*

³² <http://dailytimes.com.pk/punjab/19-Jul-16/ppp-will-stand-against-any-attempt-of-military-coup-in-pakistan>

³³ <http://nation.com.pk/national/20-Jul-2016/no-threat-to-democracy-from-army-says-imran>

³⁴ <http://nation.com.pk/national/20-Jul-2016/court-orders-seizure-of-mush-assets>

³⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1272211/>

administrative control of Fauji Foundation, Shaheen Foundation, Bahria Foundation, Army Welfare Trust (AWT) and Defence Housing Authorities (DHAs). According to the details provided in the reply, eight DHAs were established in major cities. These DHAs — mostly created through ordinances — are in Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi-Islama-bad, Multan, Gujranwala, Bahawalpur, Peshawar and Quetta. Besides, there are 16 “projects/units” functioning under the AWT, 15 under the Fauji Foundation and 11 under the Shaheen Foundation. The house was informed that Bahria Foundation was not administrating any housing colony in Pakistan, “however, an offshore tolling type LNG project is under its consideration”.

Protest against limiting Rangers’ powers, *The Nation*, July 25³⁶

Limiting special powers of Rangers to Karachi only is a discrimination with Sindh, as criminals also live in other parts of Sindh, which should also be nabbed, said speakers of a pro-rangers’ powers demo in front of the Karachi Press Club (KPC) on Sunday (July 24). People carrying banners and flags attended the demo organised by the Pasban. *Addressing the protestors, Pasban leader Tariq Chandiwalla said that party wanted equal law enforcement in whole Sindh including Karachi without any discrimination. He asked why the rulers of Sindh are opposed to the rangers’ action in Sindh. He asked if only ‘angles’ live in Sindh?* He said like Karachi, extortionists, dacoits and target killers are being patronised in Sindh and unless action is taken against them a lasting peace cannot be established in Karachi.

Move on Pakistan chief sent to jail, *The Nation*, July 26³⁷

Chairman Move on Pakistan Party, Muhammad Kamran has been sent to district jail Faisalabad on a 14-day judicial remand, reported a private TV on Monday (July 25). According to the report, the hearing was conducted by regional magistrate Ahmed Raza during which investigation officer requested the court to extend physical remand of the culprit which was at once rejected by the judge. The court has sent the accused to district jail Faisalabad and adjourned the hearing. While talking to media, Kamran said that the case has been lodged on political basis which is unacceptable. He said that he didn’t intend to support martial law in the country.

³⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/national/25-Jul-2016/protest-against-limiting-rangers-powers-to-karachi>

³⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/national/26-Jul-2016/move-on-pakistan-chief-sent-to-jail-on-remand>

Police arrest two over suggestions army seize power, *The News*, July 26³⁸

Authorities have arrested two men in different parts of the country for suggesting that the army seize power from the civilian government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, police said on Tuesday (July 26). The arrests came after posters appeared in 13 cities seeming to invite army chief General Raheel Sharif, who is due to retire in November, to step in and rule the country. [...]Police arrested one of the men, Muhammad Islam Khan, in the northwestern town of Bannu on Monday (July 25) after he staged a poll on a street, asking people whether they were satisfied with the government or wanted the army to step in.

Extension sought in COAS's term, *The Express Tribune*, July 29³⁹

A petition has been moved in Lahore High Court seeking extension in the tenure of the chief of army staff and the corps commanders to "weed out terrorism and for welfare of the state." Advocate Rana Illmuddin Ghazi filed the petition on Thursday (July 28). [...]The petitioner said Pakistan Army had been asked to deal with this situation and Operation Zarb-i-Azb was launched. "The campaign led by the COAS has eliminated 90 per cent of the terrorists from the country," the petitioner said. He said the government of Pakistan should be grateful to the army chief for helping it establish its writ. The petitioner said the operation against the terrorists was not over. "We must allow the current military leadership to continue its work," he said.

Space for terrorists, abettors squeezed: COAS, *The News*, July 31⁴⁰

Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif on Sunday (July 31) reiterated that space for terrorists and abettors has squeezed. Inshallah the day is not far when our beloved homeland will be an icon of peace and seat of learning among the comity of nations, he said while addressing at Shundur Festival in Chitral. *He said operation Zar-e-Azb backed by the entire nation is an endeavour towards achieving lasting peace and the voyage would continue with determination and zeal in the entire country till achievement of the goal.*

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Moving on and on, D. Asghar, *Daily Times*, July 16⁴¹

[...]Streets have all kinds of banners and posters, commercial and noncommercial, often an advertisement or a political slogan. Honestly, if you do not buy that product or service, or do not subscribe to the views of a political

³⁸ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/137782-Police-arrest-two-suggestions-army-seize-power-Pakistan>

³⁹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1151497/extension-sought-coass-term/>

⁴⁰ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/139043-Space-for-terrorists-abettors-squeezed-COAS-Raheel-Sharif>

⁴¹ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/opinion/16-Jul-16/moving-on-and-on>

party or a particular candidate, you ignore and literally move on. So what is so offensive here? Those bright legal eagles who would be eager to invoke the Article six, and the argument of the banners and posters instigating treason, I humbly and respectfully disagree with that stance and I have some reasoning to defend my position. *If merely stating an opinion violates the Article six, then how about the nightly ring masters and their expert guests who repeatedly state the same mantra without fail almost every night? If that violates Article 6, then why do none of these programmes are taken off air?* There is a particular character that claims to be the voice of the “angels” who reminds us almost every night that a new date is set for the “much needed takeover.”

A hidden awakening?, Cyril Almeida, *The Dawn*, July 17⁴²

[...]It is a further article of faith that the Turkey muddle cannot happen here — a coup, if it is to come, will only ever come from the very top. Organised, disciplined, unified, top-down. No funny business from the middle ranks. But can he, even if he wanted to? [...] *Presumably, he wouldn't be as amateurish as the Turkish mid-rankers have been. The ground would be prepared, a narrative spun and a chasm opened between the approval ratings of the ousted and the incoming. It would be sold as the necessary thing to do.* In response, it's hard to imagine Nawaz pulling an Erdogan and flying back from London or taking to the streets in Lahore. And the N-League is no party of street protests, its voter seemingly the more passive kind. But a subdued N-League supporter doesn't mean support for the democratic process itself is subdued. The numbers actually suggest the opposite: the Pakistani electorate is the most active it has ever been in its history.

Imran's odd logic, Editorial, *The Dawn*, July 19⁴³

He has done it again. Misreading current events, recent history and the will of the people, Imran Khan has claimed that there would be celebrations in the country if a military coup ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif from office. [...] Nearly as offensive as Mr Khan's thoughts is his grasp of international events. Clubbing together the ousters of Saddam Hussein, Hosni Mubarak and Muammar Qadhafi, Mr Khan suggested that the reason for their fall was that the people had turned on them. While all three were deeply problematic leaders and categorically not democrats — indeed, each of the three relished their reputation as a dictator — their fall was because of a variety of reasons. [...] Bizarrely, Imran Khan does not even appear to understand what transpired in Turkey over the weekend. *Mr Erdogan is a deeply divisive leader and the only reason he is not the all-powerful president he wants to be is because the electorate has baulked at giving him the majority necessary to amend the*

⁴² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1271321/a-hidden-awakening>

⁴³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1271629/imrans-odd-logic>

Constitution. But when a coup was attempted, the Turkish people and political class came together to defend the democratic process, not simply save Mr Erdogan. The Turkish public has realised what Mr Khan has evidently still not grasped: democratic continuity is non-negotiable. Indeed, it is political leaders like Mr Khan who appear to be a persistent threat to the democratic process.

Media and civil-military harmony, S H S Gilani, *The Nation*, July 19⁴⁴

[...]The most tricky part of this campaign, to prove civil-military disharmony, lies in the corruption-elimination drive of the Pakistan Army. As we all know that General Raheel Sharif included corruption as part of terrorist activity because money from corrupt practices was fueling the nefarious agendas of terrorists. Right when Sindh-cleansing was at its peak and corruption-gurus were being brought to justice the issue of Panama papers surfaced which gave a new paradigm to some individuals to redefine, on their own, the parameters of civil-military relations. [...] *CPEC project is a true reflection of civil-military harmony. China would have never gone this far if there was a shadow of doubt that civil-military relations are not well-grooved.* We should honour and promote the, long awaited, healthy civil-military relations rather than to create an atmosphere of distrust and uncertainty just to quench the excitement-thirst. General Raheel Sharif has revitalised the, slow-breathing civil-military relations; he surely deserves the nation's respect not scorn!

A new chief, Cyril Almeida, *The Dawn*, July 31⁴⁵

[...]Being chief is serious business, being double chief exponentially more so. If Raheel were to stay, he'd need a damn good reason. But the reasons are all in the opposite direction, ie towards going home, and listing them isn't all that difficult. *Raheel is not Kayani. If there's one thing that defines Raheel, it's that he isn't Kayani.* [...]So, what exactly would Raheel be sticking around for until 2019? *An extension would destroy him. Fuelling a lot of the extension speculation is the PML-N itself. Behind the scenes and on background, the party has a mischievous tale to tell: the chief is seeking an extension, apparently.* It is a silly story, but with a sly purpose. The story politicises the chief, making him out to be cut from the same cloth as everyone else. And the story masks what the PML-N really wants — that the chief take an extension. Retire in November and Raheel can walk away the greatest chief in a generation. Stay on and he becomes one of us or, worse, one of them: a politician.

⁴⁴ <http://nation.com.pk/columns/19-Jul-2016/media-pathogens-and-civil-military-harmony>

⁴⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1274313/a-new-chief>

ECONOMIC ISSUES

Gwadar port ops with new firm to start by Dec, *The Nation*, July 29⁴⁶

Gwadar deep sea port is set for commencement of operations with new Chinese port operator China Overseas Ports Holding Company in December this year, sources said yesterday. Pakistan has granted 40-year concession to the Chinese company which is currently working implementing expansion and development plan creating cargo handling capacity upto 300 million tons a year. [...]According to the sources in Gwadar Development Authority (GPA), the existing Multipurpose Terminal has not even been utilized to its full capacity. On the other hand, the new operator M/s China Overseas Ports Holding Company has commenced container service on short scale loaded with sea food from Gwadar Port. The sources said that work various projects including provision of electric power and fresh water, hinterland connectivity as well as Free Zone of the port is going on in day and night.

CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

PML-N unwilling to share CPEC control?, *The Dawn*, July 18⁴⁷

[...]The project seems to have become another source of tension between the civilian and military leaderships, and security sources tell Dawn that, as of late, *the Chinese have been suggesting that the government formally rope in the army to ensure smooth execution of the project. A security official privy to the development said the Chinese were “unhappy with the overall management of the project, particularly the involvement of various ministries”, which were causing unnecessary delays.* They envisioned the creation of a separate ministry or authority to deal exclusively with the CPEC. Asked if the military leadership was also interested in assuming a formal role in the implementation and monitoring of the project, the official said the corridor was crucial to the country’s economic and strategic interests. “Therefore, we are ready for any role that will help make it a success.”

Who Controls The CPEC?, Editorial, *The Nation*, July 19⁴⁸

[...]Sun Weidong, the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, even called on Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif in June to reiterate Chinese concerns for the management of the project and the Army’s extended role beyond providing security. Considering that the COAS has played an exemplary role in trying to keep out of civilian affairs over the past three years and does not believe in extending his role in a larger capacity than what is his duty, such demands by the Chinese will most likely be met with an assurance that the government will manage the CPEC in a timely and efficient manner and deliver the project as

⁴⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/national/29-Jul-2016/gwadar-port-ops-with-new-firm-to-start-by-dec>

⁴⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1271483>

⁴⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/editorials/19-Jul-2016/who-controls-the-cpec>

promised. *The army is already playing an integral role in providing security to the project as it created a special security division for the protection of Chinese engineers, project directors, experts and workers employed for the CPEC.* A total of 10,000 troops have been dedicated to this purpose out of which 5,000 will be from the special services group of the Pakistan Army who are specially trained for counter-terrorism and security.

Power project under CPEC runs aground, *The Express Tribune*, July 25⁴⁹

An electricity transmission project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is said to have become unviable reportedly owing to the government's decision to give priority to power projects in Punjab. The \$2.1-billion, 878-kilometre-long Matiari-Lahore Transmission Line was planned to supply 4,000 megawatts of electricity produced from coal in Sindh to cities in Punjab. This scheme was among the priority projects that China and Pakistan wanted to complete by December 2018 in the first phase of the CPEC construction. [...]The Matiari-Lahore power line is the seventh CPEC project facing problems. The water and power ministry has already given warnings to the sponsors of five energy-sector projects located in south to either complete them by 2018 or face deletion from CPEC.

CPEC security 'Army's duty', *The Nation*, July 29⁵⁰

Terming CPEC project a game changer, Army Chief General Raheel Sharif yesterday said that security of the project is Pakistan Army's national undertaking. "(Pakistan) will leave no stone unturned to ensure its timely completion and uninterrupted success," the ISPR quoted General Raheel as saying. General Raheel was speaking at the 89th Foundation Day ceremony of China's People's Liberation Army in Islamabad Thursday (July 28).

SECURITY SITUATION

TERRORISM

War against terrorism in closing stages: Fatemi, *Daily Times*, July 13⁵¹

Special Assistant on Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatemi has said that Pakistan had made significant strides in the struggle against terrorism, through Operation Zarb-e-Azab which was in its final stages. While speaking during a meeting with British Deputy Commander Op Resolute Support Lt. Gen. Sandy Storrie, Fatemi highlighted the continuous positive trajectory of Pakistan-UK bilateral relations. Both sides expressed satisfaction on the ongoing defence cooperation between the two countries. Fatemi hoped that the current constructive and

⁴⁹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1148561/power-project-cpec-runs-aground/>

⁵⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/29-Jul-2016/cpec-security-army-s-duty>

⁵¹ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/13-Jul-16/war-against-terrorism-in-closing-stages-through-zarb-e-azab-fatemi>

close collaboration in bilateral defence and security matters would be strengthened in the coming years. He appreciated the UK's assistance in counter-terrorism and reaffirmed commitment to working in partnership against shared threats.

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND FATA

Seven killed in Dir blast, *The Nation*, July 19⁵²

At least six members of local peace committee and their driver killed in a roadside blast in Doogdara area in Sheringle subdivision of Dir Upper yesterday. The police said the members of local peace committee were on their way to Sheringle from Talawkas area of Doogdara when a remote improvised explosive device planted on the roadside went off near Badarkani locality. As a result, the six members of peace committee including its head Khan Mohammad, Sher Zaman, Habibullah Jan, Adil Khan, Mohammad Jan and Malik Samiullah as well as driver of their vehicle Kabeer Khan died in the blast. Their bodies were rushed to the Sheringle hospital.

2 TTP hideouts destroyed, *The Nation*, July 25⁵³

The security forces destroyed two hideouts of a commander of banned outfit Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) on Monday (July 25). According to reports, the security forces conducted search operation against extremists in Upper Orakzai Agency and demolished two hideouts of terrorist commander. The militants however, managed to escape from the area as they got prior information of the operation of the security forces. Meanwhile the CTD Peshawar arrested a prominent TTP commander who was involved in terrorist activities in Hazara division. Arms were also recovered from his possession.

BALUCHISTAN

One militant killed in Kalat district, *The Dawn*, July 18⁵⁴

Security forces on Sunday (July 17) claimed to have killed a militant during a security operation in Balochistan's Kalat district. Five suspected militants were also arrested during the operation, said Khan Wasay, spokesperson for the Frontier Corps (FC). "An operation was conducted Nimargh area of Kalat district," confirmed the FC spokesperson. A cache of arms and ammunition was also recovered from the possession of the miscreants, added Wasay. "The dead and arrested militants belonged to an banned organisation." Said Wasay.

⁵² <http://nation.com.pk/national/19-Jul-2016/seven-killed-in-dir-blast>

⁵³ <http://nation.com.pk/national/25-Jul-2016/2-ttp-hideouts-destroyed-in-orakzai-commander-arrested-in-peshawar>

⁵⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1271410/one-militant-killed-five-arrested-in-baluchistans-kalat-district>

Suspected militants kill JUI-F leader and son, *The Dawn*, July 25⁵⁵

Suspected militants killed Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) leader Mufti Ehtisham-ul-Haq and his son in Balochistan's troubled Kech district on Sunday (July 24). Levies sources said armed assailants opened fire at the former district chief of JUI-F and killed him on the spot along with his son. Assailant drove away on their motorcycle after the attack," security sources were quoted as saying.

Blast in Quetta, *The News*, July 27⁵⁶

At least one person was killed while five others were injured in a bomb blast at Quetta's Sariab road. According to the Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS), the bomb was detonated through a remote-controlled device. Over two kilogramme of explosive material was used in the explosive, the BDS added. Sources said that a rickshaw driver who sustained injuries during the blast succumbed to his wounds during treatment at a hospital.

PUNJAB

'Daesh' commander nicked in Gujrat, *The Nation*, July 20⁵⁷

An alleged commander of IS known as Daesh was arrested during an intelligence-based operation by the Counter-Terrorism Department here on Tuesday (July 19). According to sources, acting on a tip-off, the CTD personnel raided a hideout in Gujrat Tuesday morning (July 19) and arrested an alleged commander of Daesh. The CTD also claimed to have recovered weapons, CD and banned literature from the suspect's possession. The outlaw has been shifted to undisclosed location for further investigation. Identity of the accused could not be ascertained yet.

Two suspected BLA members arrested, *The News*, July 25⁵⁸

Two suspected militants are arrested from Rajanpur in Punjab on Monday (July 25), Geo news reported. According to the police, the suspected militants belonged to the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA). Six kilograms of explosive material, remote control devices and two pistols were also recovered from the arrested suspects.

⁵⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/25-Jul-2016/suspected-militants-kill-jui-f-leader-son-in-balochistan>

⁵⁶ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/138080-Blast-in-Quetta-one-killed-5-injured>

⁵⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/national/20-Jul-2016/daesh-commander-nicked-in-gujrat>

⁵⁸ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/137537-Two-suspected-BLA-members-arrested-from-Rajanpur>

SINDH

Two military personnel killed, *The News*, July 26⁵⁹

Unknown assailants opened fire on a vehicle of security personnel, killing two officers in Saddar area of Karachi on Tuesday (July 26). According to the media reports, the deceased security personnel were identified as Abdul Razzaq and Khadim Hussain. They died on the way to hospital. [...] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif strongly condemned the terrorist attack on military personnel in Karachi and vowed not to let the terrorists derail the operation to cleanse the city of such elements. The Prime Minister directed the Ministry of Interior and government of Sindh to hunt down the perpetrators. "We will not allow the terrorists to derail the ongoing operation for restoration of peace in Karachi," the Prime Minister said in a statement released by the PM's Media Office.

Pakistani Taliban claim responsibility, *The News*, July 27⁶⁰

A Pakistani Taliban faction has claimed responsibility for Tuesday's (July 26) killing of two military officers in the southern city of Karachi, a spokesman for the Islamist group said. The killings were the latest attacks in the busy port city of 20 million people, where paramilitary forces have been cracking down on Islamist militants and criminal gangs for almost three years. The officers were killed as they were on the Pakistani Taliban faction's "target list", Ehsan Ullah Ehsan, the spokesman for the group, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, said late on Tuesday (July 26).

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Educated terrorists, M. M. Ali, *The Nation*, July 22⁶¹

[...]An alarming number of people, including many highly educated individuals, are led to believe that a fabled campaign is being conducted against Islam, which aims to weaken the Muslim world. Many would deem it appropriate to join terrorist organisations in order to counter the oppression of the antagonists of Islam. [...] *However, because most of the terrorist attacks carried out are located in Muslim-majority nations, it follows that a resentment of the West cannot be the sole reason why an educated person would join a terrorist organisation.* Indeed, many do so after being persuaded to believe that it is the only approach that will improve the current state of the Muslim world. [...] While the military operation in progress in KP, FATA, and Karachi has been, undoubtedly, effective, this alone will remain inadequate in preventing the propagation of the ideology of terrorism, or discouraging

⁵⁹ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/137779-Two-Intelligence-personnel-killed-Karachi-gun-attack>

⁶⁰ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/138042-Pakistani-Taliban-claim-responsibility-for-Karachi-military-killings>

⁶¹ <http://nation.com.pk/columns/22-Jul-2016/educated-terrorists>

young, well educated persons from terrorist acts. On the contrary, it may even further strengthen their will to do so. *It would also be necessary that the government draw up a counter-terrorism narrative, making effectual use of the media, i.e. television, radio broadcasts, newspapers, leaflets, and the Internet, especially social media, which is being employed as a method by radical Islamists for self-promotion and recruitment, in order to depict the undisguised barbarism of the ideology of terrorism.*

RELATIONS WITH INDIA

LHC declares plea against Modi as inadmissible, *The Nation*, July 25⁶²

Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday (July 24) declared plea seeking case against Indian Prime Minister Nerender Modi as inadmissible. Chief Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah heard the case during which the plaintiff's lawyer alleged that *Indian brutalities in held Kashmir are being carried out on the directives of Modi*. He said that the Kashmiris have been stranded in their houses by imposing curfew. *He said that the Indian atrocities are deplorable and therefore, the court should take action against PM Modi*. The lawyer also urged to launch investigation into the matter under terrorism provisions. LHC CJ retained the objection and directed the claimant to contact subordinate court in this regard.

Pak, India border forces agree to enhance contact, *The Nation*, July 29⁶³

Border forces of Pakistan and India have reached a consensus to seek solution to irksome issues through enhanced contact and communication at all levels. It was decided in a Bi-annual three-day meeting held between Pakistan Rangers and India's Border Security Force (BSF) that concluded yesterday at Punjab Rangers headquarters in Lahore. Representatives from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Pakistan Rangers (Sindh), Anti-Narcotics Force and Survey of Pakistan also attended. Spokesman for Rangers said that the talks are regular feature and held alternately in Pakistan and India. The dialogue process provides an opportunity not only to discuss and resolve border management issues at bilateral level but also strengthen the mutual confidence between the two border guarding forces.

No talks with India sans Kashmir, *The Nation*, July 29⁶⁴

Declaring liberation of Occupied Kashmir a 'national objective', Pakistan yesterday ruled out possibility of the Composite Dialogue with India without

⁶² <http://nation.com.pk/national/25-Jul-2016/lhc-declares-plea-against-indian-pm-modi-as-inadmissible>

⁶³ <http://nation.com.pk/national/29-Jul-2016/pak-india-border-forces-agree-to-enhance-contact-to-resolve-issues>

⁶⁴ <http://nation.com.pk/national/29-Jul-2016/no-talks-with-india-sans-kashmir>

having Kashmir issue on the agenda. *“Kashmir will be the core issue in any (broad spectrum) dialogue with India, whenever it takes place,”* Foreign Office Spokesman Nafees Zakaria told the weekly press briefing here at the Foreign Office. “Kashmir is our national objective” and Pakistan would continue to support Kashmiris’ right to self-determination, he declared.

UNREST IN KASHMIR

Christians protest against Indian forces’ brutality, *The Dawn*, July 19⁶⁵

Members of the Christian community took out a procession here (Quetta) on Monday (July 18) to condemn Indian security forces’ atrocities in held Kashmir. They demanded that the United Nations and other international human rights organisations take notice of the killing of innocent Kashmiris and brutal use of force by Indian security forces.

Pakistan exhorts world to back oppressed Kashmiris, *The Nation*, July 20⁶⁶

Federal Minister for Defence, Water and Power *Khawaja Asif urged the international community to use its complete influence for globally pressuring India for the peaceful solution to the burning Kashmir Issue as per the aspirations of the Kashmiris.* Addressing a meeting of the Kashmiri people residing in Sialkot and Narowal districts on the Kashmir’s Accession to Pakistan Day, he said that Pakistan was taking up the issue of mounting Indian atrocities in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir at all the international forums very positively and effectively. *Expressing complete solidarity with the Kashmiri people, Asif said that the oppressed people of the Occupied Jammu and Kashmir wanted to be affiliated with Pakistan and continuous hoisting of the Pakistani flags in the Held Valley shows the determination of the Kashmiri people for the purpose.* Addressing a meeting of the Kashmiri people at Pasrur city here, Federal Minister for Law and Climate Change Zahid Hamid said that the sacrifices of thousands of innocent Kashmiri martyrs would become fruitful, as the sun of freedom of the Held valley from Indian yoke will rise soon.

Kashmir freedom wave not to subside: PM, *The Nation*, July 20⁶⁷

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said that being a stakeholder in the Kashmir issue, the whole Pakistani nation is observing the Black Day today in protest against atrocities in the Indian-occupied Kashmir. In a message on the Black Day, the prime minister said that Pakistan stands with the Kashmiris in every hour of trial and this relation is not only based upon religion, civilisation and

⁶⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1271701/christians-protest-against-indian-forces-brutality>

⁶⁶ <http://nation.com.pk/national/20-Jul-2016/pakistan-exhorts-world-to-back-oppressed-kashmiris>

⁶⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/national/20-Jul-2016/kashmir-freedom-wave-not-to-subside-pm>

humanity but also related to blood. *"We will never leave Kashmiris alone and their case would be fought at all the diplomatic, political and human rights fora," he reiterated. He said that the current freedom wave in Kashmir would not subside and when nations arose in such a way, nothing could stem their way towards freedom.* India had no other option but to accept its defeat before the heroic struggle, he said.

Kashmir crisis: what next?, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, July 24⁶⁸

[...] *Hopefully Pakistan would be smart enough this time around not to go meddling into IHK as it did in the 1990s, which damaged the cause of the Kashmiris' freedom struggle immensely and provided India with the clout to beat Pakistan with in global capitals.* The dim-witted Kargil misadventure only substantiated the Indian propaganda. [...] Pakistan will now be bringing up the issue of the Kashmir violence at the UN's Human Rights Council, urging the body to send its observers to IHK to determine the facts of the atrocities being committed by the Indian forces. This was decided at the meeting of the National Security Committee presided over by the prime minister. India needs to realise that it won't be able to tackle the situation in Kashmir using its traditional methods.

Only Kashmiris can decide the future, *The Dawn*, July 25⁶⁹

Adviser to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz, reacting to Indian Minister for External Affairs Sushma Swaraj's statement on Kashmir, stated on Sunday (July 23) that a verdict on the future of Kashmir can only be given by the people of Kashmir. "Such a verdict on the future of Kashmir can only be given by the people of Kashmir and not by the External Affairs Minister of India." Aziz added the right to self-determination has been given to the people of Kashmir by the United Nations Security Council. *"It is high time that India allowed the people of Jammu and Kashmir to exercise this right through a free and fair UN supervised plebiscite," stated the foreign affair adviser. Aziz further said the world will accept the decision taken by the Kashmiri people, and it is their choice to either integrate with Pakistan or India.* [...] "India cannot ignore the fact that over 200,000 Kashmiris participated in the funeral prayers of Burhan Muzaffar Wani in 50 different locations throughout Indian-occupied Kashmir, despite strict curfew which still continues 15 days after Wani's extrajudicial murder on 8 July 2016," replied Aziz to Swaraj's earlier statement.

⁶⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1147868/kashmir-crisis-next/>

⁶⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1272904/only-kashmiris-can-decide-the-future-of-kashmir-aziz-tells-swaraj>

Kashmir clashes ‘can take Pakistan, India to nuclear war’, *The Nation*, July 25⁷⁰

The long ignored suffering of the Kashmiri people carries with it the world’s greatest risk of full-scale nuclear war between two long-standing adversaries. [...]Pakistan and India now sit on roughly 120 nuclear warheads each – enough to eradicate life from earth several times over – and if the 1989-2002 conflict between the two countries, a violent cycle that led to at least 50,000 deaths according to Human Rights Watch and as many as 90,000 dead Kashmiri Muslims according to retired Congressman Edolphus Towns (D-NY), is any indicator then the situation could escalate rapidly towards a doomsday scenario.

Pakistan gives shut-up call to India, *The Nation*, July 25⁷¹

Pakistan yesterday gave a shut-up call to India saying it has no right to decide the future of Kashmir. Adviser on Foreign Affairs *Sartaj Aziz said the “verdict on the future of Kashmir” can only be given by the “people of Kashmir not by the external affairs minister of India”*. His comments came after his Indian counterpart Sushma Swaraj accused Islamabad of an ‘unabashed embrace of terrorism’ and warned its stated goal of detaching Kashmir from India ‘will not be realised to the end of eternity’. Sushma’s attack was targeted directly at Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif who told a rally last day in Azad Jammu and Kashmir that the held Kashmir would soon become part of Pakistan. Nawaz said the freedom movement cannot be stopped and will be successful as he prayed for the people of Kashmir suffering from the brutality of Indian forces.

Can we help Kashmir?, Ayesha Siddiqi, *The Express Tribune*, July 27⁷²

[...]In this age of the ‘war on terror’, states seem to have obtained greater sanction to use force. Burhan Wani, as the Kashmiri writer Basharat Peer has written in his piece in *The New York Times*, was not a real threat to the Indian state. [...]The real tragedy that has happened with the current Kashmir struggle and its dejected youth is this age in which struggles are no more struggles but acts of terrorism. Over the past three decades, state apparatuses from around the globe and national security machines have played with the pedigree of protests. [...]Within Pakistan, the jihadi groups and all those trying to gain public attention are very critical of the government not taking action. Notwithstanding that the current political dispensation is eager to improve links, there is not a lot it can do militarily. The last option was exhausted during the Kargil war. When asked during a DCC if the military could push further to capture the valley, General (retd) Musharraf had responded in the

⁷⁰ <http://nation.com.pk/national/25-Jul-2016/kashmir-clashes-can-take-pakistan-india-to-nuclear-war>

⁷¹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/25-Jul-2016/pakistan-gives-shut-up-call-to-india-on-kashmir>

⁷² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1150754/can-help-kashmir/>

negative. Given the current international scenario, most of Pakistan's international friends, including the Chinese or an older infatuation such as the US, would not recommend upping the ante in Kashmir through regular forces or non-state actors.

Won't let Kashmiris down: PM, *The Nation*, July 28⁷³

Pakistan has reiterated its support to Kashmiris in their struggle for right to self-determination as the people in the occupied valley continues to suffer Indian oppression. Over 50 people have been killed since July 8 as occupying authorities responded with brute force to mass protests breaking out across Kashmir against the killing of a young freedom fighter, Hizbul Mujahideen operational commander Burhan Wani, by Indian soldiers. *Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif yesterday said Pakistan will continue to extend moral, diplomatic and political support to the Kashmiri people in their just struggle to the right of self determination.* Addressing a party meeting, in Islamabad in which Farooq Haider was nominated as new PM of Azad, Jammu and Kashmir, Nawaz said Pakistan will continue to effectively highlight the Kashmir issue on international fora. It is the basic right of the Kashmiris that the "Kashmir dispute is resolved according to the UN resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people," he added.

Cooling down Kashmir, Pervez Hoodbhoy, *The Dawn*, July 30⁷⁴

[...]Wani's killing was also a clear slap in the face for India's Supreme Court which, on July 8, had curtailed the immunity enjoyed thus far by the Indian armed forces. Specifically, its ruling declared that every armed person in a disturbed area, including Kashmir, may not be necessarily considered an enemy but, even if he turns out to be an enemy, excessive use of force is still not legally permitted. [...]The indigenisation of the Kashmir movement, increased difficulty of penetration, and the grave domestic and international political costs of using proxies suggests a new path for Pakistan. It can make a virtue out of necessity by cracking down upon Kashmir-oriented militant groups still operating from its soil. Such groups have turned out to be a menace to Pakistan's society and armed forces, apart from taking legitimacy away from those fighting Indian rule. No one sees the Kashmir dispute having a solution in the foreseeable future.

⁷³ <http://nation.com.pk/national/28-Jul-2016/won-t-let-kashmiris-down-says-pm>

⁷⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1274090/cooling-down-kashmir>

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Pakistan's confused India policy, Javid Husain, *The Nation*, July 19⁷⁵

The martyrdom of Kashmiri freedom fighter Burhan Wani and the tragic circumstances surrounding it have once again brought home the fundamental and enduring strategic, political and cultural contradictions between Pakistan and India. [...] *While the government and the people of Pakistan have indeed unequivocally condemned Indian atrocities in IOK, recent developments have also underlined the confused and transitory character of Pakistan's India policy.* [...] All that we see from time to time is a statement or a declaration relating to India and/or Kashmir with little attention to the formulation of a well-considered, coherent and long-term India policy. In the absence of such an India policy, we will remain the victim of confusion and contradictions in our thinking about India, lack of clarity about the goals to be achieved, and sudden changes of direction in dealing with India as has been the case in the past.

Indian minister's visit, Editorial, *The Dawn*, July 30⁷⁶

[...] With Indian Home Minister Rajnath Singh set to visit Islamabad next week, the regular schedule of Saarc ministerial meetings will yet again provide an opportunity for India and Pakistan to discuss cooperation rather than simply talk past each other. [...] While Pakistan's stance on the recent Kashmir unrest has been principled and in line with diplomatic norms, India prefers to focus on the lack of movement on the Pathankot investigation and the long-stalled Mumbai attacks-related trials. It is an old conundrum: what Pakistan wishes to discuss, India does not; what India wants of Pakistan, Pakistan is reluctant to cooperate on. Yet, it is possible for both sides to reiterate their fundamental positions while looking for opportunities at the margins to create a better political and diplomatic environment between the two countries.

⁷⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/columns/19-Jul-2016/pakistan-s-confused-india-policy>

⁷⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1274037/indian-ministers-visit>

EXCERPTS FROM URDU MEDIA & SELECT JIHADI LITERATURE

Matter of Modi's credibility, Editorial, *Daily Ummat*, July 22⁷⁷

The killing and maiming in Indian occupied Kashmir has not only stirred Pakistani leaders but also the world leaders against the atrocities against Kashmiris. *It is for the first time in the history that Indian media and opposition leaders have talked about atrocities committed against Kashmiris by the Indian security forces.* [...] Security forces are attacking ambulances and attendants who are carrying injured to hospitals. *When Modi and his ministers failed to control the situation in Kashmir, they started blaming Pakistan.* [...] These days, India is ruled by the person who, while being Chief Minister of Gujarat, had murdered thousands of people. Before becoming the Prime Minister, Modi was not even allowed to enter the United States. The Google too had included him one of the world's biggest criminal. Later, Google was asked to delete the reference.

Only Kashmiris can decide their Future, Editorial, *Jung*, July 26⁷⁸

The recent uprising in occupied Kashmir against atrocities committed by Indian forces has unravelled Indian rulers. *This mass movement is a referendum. It is so strong and powerful that even chief minister of the occupied Kashmir has to ask India to talk to Pakistan. She also requested to revoke AFSPA. Yet Indian rulers are not showing any compassion. Instead they are accusing Pakistan for Kashmir unrest.* Nawaz Sharif after winning the AJK elections expressed that the day is not too far when Kashmir will join Pakistan. Reacting to Nawaz Sharif's statement, Indian foreign minister said Nawaz Sharif's dream will not come true even till doomsday. Reacting on Sushma Swaraj's statement Sartaj Aziz's statement was full of reason and logic. He said only Kashmiris can decide their future through self-determination. Since last seven decades, Kashmiris fight for freedom has not weakened. By keeping the Kashmir issue alive, Kashmiris have shown to the world that only Kashmiris can decide their future and India can't take away this right from Kashmiris.

China's trust on Punjab, *Nawa-i-Waqt*, July 27⁷⁹

Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif met the deputy Prime Minister of China in Beijing where both decided to strengthen the tie between the Communist Party and Muslim League (N). During the discussion deputy Prime Minister said that China is aware about the importance of Punjab in economic relations

⁷⁷ <http://ummat.net/2016/07/22/news.php?p=idr1.gif>

⁷⁸ http://e.jang.com.pk/07-26-2016/karachi/pic.asp?picname=06_02.gif

⁷⁹ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/editorials/27-Jul-2016/494071>

with Pakistan. China is investing \$46 billion on economic, energy and communication projects in Pakistan. *Many projects have already been completed in Punjab with Chinese help and many more are under construction. China's Axim Bank is funding the construction of Lahore Orange Metro train.* During this recent trip to China, Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif signed MoU on Industrial Park. Chinese private sector will invest in the Industrial Park in Lahore. Industrial Park will cost 20 billion rupees. China is investing in Punjab at the time when opposition parties are accusing government for corruption. It shows China's trust in Punjab government. Credit should be given to Shahbaz Sharif for his relentless efforts. Other provinces of Pakistan should learn from Punjab in completing unfinished projects.

Cohesion between the two Sharifs on CPEC, Editorial, *Nawa-i-Waqt*, July 30⁸⁰
Army Chief Raheel Sharif has again reiterated that CPEC would be completed on time and army was ready to take the responsibility to secure the corridor. [...] *CPEC is undoubtedly a game changer; it will connect Pakistani markets with China. CPEC is a guarantee for our bright and prosperous future. That is the reason why our enemy India is feeling bad about CPEC. India can't see Pakistan stable and prosperous. India also knows that if CPEC becomes operational, it will make China strong enough to become a super power and can challenge American supremacy.* Therefore, China knows the importance of the corridor. They are very much interested in completing the project. It is in the national interest of Pakistan that CPEC should not be made controversial. [...] Like army Chief, Shahbaz Sharif also made it very clear that CPEC will eradicate poverty and terrorism in Pakistan. The only need of the hour is that politicians should refrain from making CPEC controversial and they should let CPEC be completed on time.

⁸⁰ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/editorials/30-Jul-2016/494958>

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

Place	Date	Description	Killed	Injured
Balochistan				
Kalat ⁸¹	18/7/2016	One militant killed	1	0
Quetta ⁸²	27/7/2016	Blast in Quetta	1	5
FATA				
Bajaur ⁸³	12/7/2016	Two terrorists killed	2	0
Punjab				
Okara ⁸⁴	13/7/2016	Police killed six terrorists	6	2
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa				
Doogdara ⁸⁵	19/7/2016	Seven killed in dir	7	0
Sindh				
Manghopir ⁸⁶	8/7/2016	Two terrorists killed	2	1

⁸¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1271410/one-militant-killed-five-arrested-in-balochistans-kalat-district>

⁸² <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/138080-Blast-in-Quetta-one-killed-5-injured>

⁸³ <http://nation.com.pk/national/12-Jul-2016/2-terrorists-killed-while-planting-explosives>

⁸⁴ <http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/13-Jul-16/security-forces-kill-six-alleged-terrorists-in-okara>

⁸⁵ <http://nation.com.pk/national/19-Jul-2016/seven-killed-in-dir-blast>

⁸⁶ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/133382-Police-kill-two-terrorists-in-Manghopir>