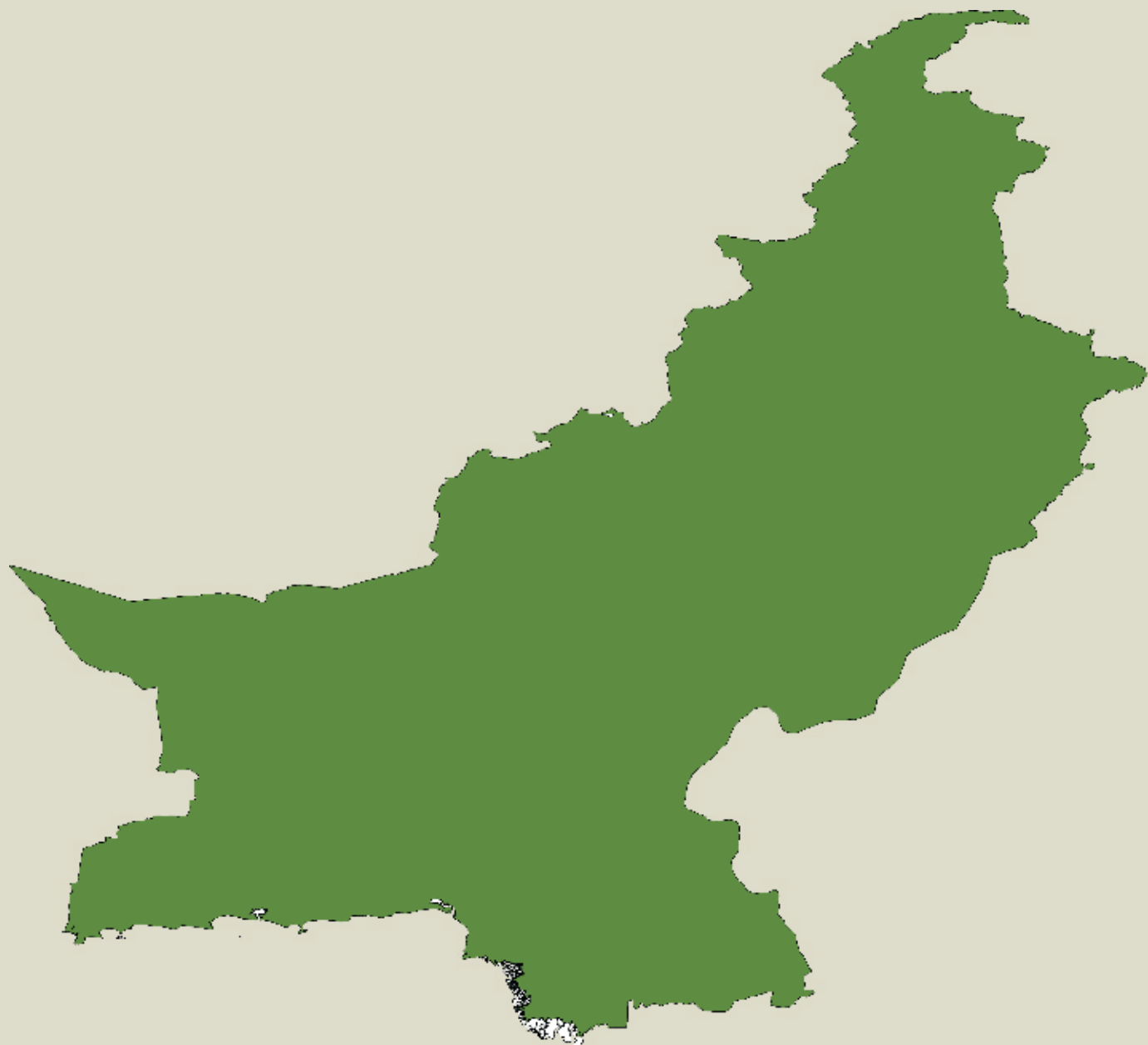


January 2015

PAKISTAN NEWS DIGEST

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



*Prepared by
YaqoobulHassan
and Shreyas Deshmukh
(Interns, 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, JANUARY 2015

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ABBREVATIONS

ANP: Awami National Party
APC: All Parties Conference
ATC: anti-terrorism court
BNP: Baluchistan National Party
CGS: Chief of General Staff
CSF: Coalition Support Fund
ECP: Election Commission of Pakistan
ETIM: East Turkistan Islamic Movement
FPA: Foreign Project Assistance
FTA: free trade agreement
IBRD: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
IDEAS: International Defence Exhibition and Seminar
IDPs: Internally Displaced Persons
IMF: International Monetary Fund
IMU: Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan
IRGC: Iranian Elite Revolutionary Guards Corps
ISPR: Inter Services Public Relations
ITMP : Ittehad-e-Tanzeemat-e-Madaris Pakistan
JEC: Joint Economic Commission
JI: Jamaat-i-Islami
JSMM: Jiye Sindh Muttahida Mahaz
JuD: Jamat-us- Dawa
JUI-S: Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Islam-Sami
KP: Khyber Pakhthunkhwa
MQM: Muttahida Qaumi Movement
NACTA: National Counter-terrorism Authority
NAP: National Action Plan
NFC- National finance Commission
NIGC : National Iranian Gas Company
NIOC : National Iranian Oil Company
PAA: Pakistan Army Act
PBS: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
PIA: Pakistan International Airlines
PkMAP: Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party
PML-N: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz
PPP: Pakistan People's Party
PTA: preferential trade agreements
PTI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
SNGPL: Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited
TTP: Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan
USAID: United States Agency of International Development

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

PROVINCIAL POLITICS

I can never part ways with PPP: Fahim, *The Express Tribune*, January 4¹

Pakistan People's Party stalwart Makhdoom Amin Fahim on January 4 hosed down speculation of him attempting to create a forward block within the party due to differences with the party leadership. Speaking to reporters after a meeting with former president Asif Ali Zardari at Bilawal House in Karachi, Fahim said, "My relationship with the PPP is not such that I can part ways with it." Fahim and Zardari met amid reports that Fahim has decided to part ways with the party after being constantly sidelined. "He was neither made the opposition leader in the National Assembly nor was his son inducted in the Sindh government as a chief minister, which was promised by Benazir Bhutto," a senior PPP leader and close aide of the PPP stalwart told media on condition of anonymity. Recent differences emerged following a PPP convention held in Lahore, where Zardari criticised many senior leaders, advising them to leave the party, the sources added. Further, the former president had appointed Sherry Rehman as vice president of PPP a while ago, without the consultation of Fahim, who reportedly expressed reservations over the decision. After Fahim met former president General (retd) Pervez Musharraf, the main accused in the Benazir Bhutto murder case, rumour had it that Fahim was set to join an 'anti-PPP' group.

ANP, MQM call for army operation in Karachi, *Dawn*, January 6²

The senators belonging to the MQM and the ANP demanded on January 5 a military operation against terrorists in Karachi. The demand came when ANP's Shahi Syed drew the Senate's attention to what he called the continued targeted killing of his party's workers as well as Pakhtuns in the city. The opposition senators also staged a token walkout with the ANP members to express solidarity with them. Chairman Nayyar Bokhari sought a report from the Sindh government on targeted killings in Karachi. Supporting the ANP's call for the military action, Nasreen Jalil of the MQM said it was her party which had been demanding an army operation against terrorists in Karachi where Taliban were strengthening their presence. The senator said she had even written a letter to the prime minister on the issue.

¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/817019/i-never-can-part-ways-with-ppp-fahim/>

² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1155138/anp-mqm-call-for-army-operation-in-karachi>

Bleak future: Half of Balochistan's population without access to school, *The Express Tribune*, January 14³

Adviser to Chief Minister Balochistan on Education Sardar Raza Mohammed Badech on 13 painted a very gloomy state of education in the province when he revealed that almost of half of Balochistan's population does not have access to schools. While addressing a seminar on Education Governance, Government and Media Partnership to Enhance Accountability organised by MISHL at the Quetta Press Club, Badech claimed that there are only 12,500 schools for over 22,000 human settlements across the province. *"We need Rs25 billion to fill this huge gap,"* he said, adding that it would not be enough to fill the gap even if the provincial government spends the entire development budgets of ten years on education. He further said that *"there are almost 7,000 schools with just a single room and single teacher in the province."* According to the adviser, about 1.8 million children, who makes more than 65 per cent of the children in the province, are out of schools. While 1.1 million children go to school, merely 50,000 make it to matriculation and only 30,000 receive higher education, he added. Terming the state of education in the province as sad, Badech laid the blame on lack of resources and poverty. *"The prime reason for this grim situation is poverty because we do not have enough resources."*

Sindh Assembly deputy speaker slams SHC judgement on conversion case, *Dawn*, January 16⁴

Sindh Assembly Deputy Speaker Syeda Shehla Raza was on January 15 highly critical of the Sindh High Court order that allowed what she described as an 'underage girl' to go with her husband, though there was a law that prohibited marriages of girls aged less than 18 years. She said the women complaint centre provided an opportunity to the women in distress for seeking recourse to legal way. She said that women were being empowered politically and socially. She said that the Sindh Women Parliamentary Caucus had got Anjali Kumari, who was named Salma after her conversion to Islam, medically examined that proved she was even younger than 14 years. *"But after allowing her to express free will, the court ruled that she may go with her husband,"* the deputy speaker said.

Will apply resolute focus towards KP development, *The News*, January 18⁵

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan said on 18 January from now on his complete focus will be dedicated to the development of KP and he will

³<http://tribune.com.pk/story/820739/bleak-future-half-of-balochistans-population-without-access-to-school/>

⁴<http://www.dawn.com/news/1157277/sindh-assembly-deputy-speaker-slams-shc-judgement-on-conversion-case>

⁵<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-172252-Will-apply-resolute-focus-towards-KP-development:-Imran-Khan>

make sure that it emerges as better province than others. Addressing PTI's convention here, Imran Khan said the police system has been transformed in KP and reforms are also being introduced in public hospitals. He said one billion trees will be planted in the province and work will be carried out towards making the cities clean besides providing clean drinking water to the people. Imran Khan regretted that there was no sign of merit in the country and alleged that all the institutions had been politicized. "*Nawaz Sharif has also introduced N-League in the country's bureaucracy,*" he criticized. He said financial resources should be applied on human beings and not on projects like Metro Bus service.

Efforts underway to ensure Balochistan's development, *The News*, January 19⁶

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has cited past neglect as the reason Balochistan lagged behind in socio-economic development and stressed that both federal and provincial governments were taking measures to ensure growth and peace in the province. Addressing the inaugural session of Balochistan Development Forum on January 19, the Prime Minister said development of Balochistan was close to his heart and despite constraints the federal government provided substantial resources to supplement the efforts of the provincial government to address the needs of its people. The Prime Minister mentioned some already taken corrective measures in shape of 7th NFC Award *Aghaz-e-Haqooq-e-Balochistan*, 18th Amendment and substantive allocations for development projects. He said as the developmental gaps were huge it was imperative that synergies be created by development partners civil society and foreign and local investors to give new impetus to developmental efforts. Prime Minister Sharif said that the federal government had also launched a project at a cost of Rs. 4 billion in collaboration with the provincial government for construction of houses for earthquake victims of Awaran District.

Speaker Sindh Assembly accepts resignation of 4 PTI members, *The Express Tribune*, January 21⁷

Speaker Sindh Assembly Agha Siraj Durrani on January 21 morning accepted the resignations of four PTI members. The members had earlier resigned in protest against alleged rigging in the general elections of 2013. Durrani confirmed that the resignations were forwarded to ECP. The members included Samar Ali Khan, Khurram Sherzaman, Hafeezuddin, Seema Zia and Hafeezuddin. The Sindh Assembly was the first legislative body to accept

⁶<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-172320-Efforts-underway-to-ensure-Balochistans-development:-PM->

⁷ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/825062/four-pti-members-resign-in-sindh-assembly/>

resignations filed by the PTI lawmakers, as they had also resigned from the National Assembly in August 2014 but their resignations have been pending confirmation.

Bilawal Bhutto may soon join Pakistan Muslim League: Arbab Ghulam Rahim, *The News*, January 22⁸

Former Chief Minister and Pakistan Muslim League Quaid leader Arbab Ghulam Rahim said on January 22 that PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari would soon join his party. Speaking to the media, Rahim said that Pir Pagara's prediction would soon become true as Bilawal would join the PML-Q. He went on to say that, Pakistan Muslim League Functional's stance as well as the MQM position regarding Sindh would be the same in the Assembly. Meanwhile, Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Memon, regarding Rahim's statement, said that Arbab Ghulam Rahim was not a person of clear stance.

Sindh being looted on different pretexts, claims Palejo, *The News*, January 29⁹

Chief of Qaumi Awami Tehreek, Ayaz Latif Palejo, said that Sindh was being looted on different pretexts since the creation of Pakistan. He said that Gen Zia, Gen Musharraf, the Muslim League and the Pakistan People's Party looted the people of Sindh from time to time. He was addressing the Mohabbat-e-Sindh Rally at Jamsahib near Nawabshah. Palejo said that the PPP exploited the people of Sindh emotionally by invoking the memory of Benazir Bhutto now and then. He alleged that the PPP governments misappropriated relief funds provided by foreign countries and NGOs during floods. Palejo said that the PPP even exploited the assassination of Benazir Bhutto.

Sharjeel asks MQM to expel criminals from its ranks, *The News*, January 30¹⁰

The additional IG is accusing the MQM on the basis of prejudice, alleged Faisal Sabzwari, a leader of the MQM, while talking to Shahzaib Khanzada in Geo News programme 'Aaj Shahzaib Khanzada Kay Sath' on January 28 Sabzwari said that Shakeel Ouj and Sibte Jaffar were MQM supporters and their murder was part of the conspiracy to destroy Karachi and the intelligentsia. The MQM leader said that the CID officials had declared the Sindh Amir of a banned organisation as the murderer of Shakeel Ouj and they

⁸ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-172649-Bilawal-Bhutto-may-soon-join-Pakistan-Muslim-League:-Arbab-Ghulam-Rahim>

⁹ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-298727-Sindh-being-looted-on-different-pretexts-claims-Palejo>

¹⁰ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-298923-Sharjeel-asks-MQM-to-expel-criminals-from-its-ranks>

also arrested him. Sabzwari said that police officials had been posted on the basis of kinship. He said if they accepted the notion that MQM workers were not picked up by plainclothesmen but that they had been kidnapped, they would like to ask them if it was not the job of the government to recover the kidnapped people. The MQM leader said that Sohail Ahmed was the 36th activist of the party who was killed "extra-judicially" since the targeted operation began. Sabzwari alleged that 15,000 MQM activists were killed extra-judicially during PPP governments in the past.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Consensus developed to bring amendments in Army Act, *The News*, January 1¹¹

The government and political parties have agreed to amend Army Act instead of bringing amendments in the constitution. The consensus developed in the meeting of legal committee of political parties here on December 31 2014. Sources said the meeting was attended by Ishaq Dar, Aitzaz Ahsan, Afrasiyab Khattak and Mushahid Hussain. Barrister Farogh Naseem and Hamid Khan were not present. They added that Farogh Naseem and Hamid Khan had given mandate to other parties. The participants of the meeting agreed to withdraw decision of amendments in the constitution and developed consensus to amend the Army Act. Sources privy to the meeting said the circle of military courts will be increased and these courts will trial the terrorists.

If PML-N not indulged in rigging it has nothing to fear of JC: Imran, *The News*, January 1¹²

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan has said that if his party accepts ruling party PML-N formula on Judicial Commission, even if rigging is established there will be no provision for it to be exposed. In a message on twitter, Imran Khan further tweeted, if ruling party accepts PTI's formulation on Judicial Commission and PML-N has not indulged in rigging then it has nothing to fear.

¹¹<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-170379-Consensus-developed-to-bring-amendments-in-Army-Act>

¹²<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-170395-If-PML-N-not-indulged-in-rigging-it-has-nothing-to-fear-of-JC:-Imran>

Proposed amendment: Draft of constitutional cover finalized, *The Express Tribune*, January 2¹³

Top civilian and military leaders finalised a blueprint for offering constitutional cover to military courts during a crunch meeting on January 1 moving ahead with the roadmap for executing a 20-point National Action Plan, sources privy to the development. Subsequently Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif summoned all the parliamentary leaders on January 2 so that he could take them into confidence and seek their unanimous support. The prime minister is hoping to garner support for the draft of proposed constitutional amendment as well as the National Action Plan from an all parties conference attended by PPP co-chairman Zardari as well. Following a few leaders' objection on provision of constitutional cover/amendment to the proposed military courts to try civilian terrorists, PM Nawaz held hours-long meeting at the PM House.

Accused tried in military court will have no right to appeal in civilian court, *The News*, January 4¹⁴

The accused to be tried by military courts under the proposed amendment in the PAA have no right to appeal in any civilian superior or subordinate court but may avail such facility available in the PAA. "*The army has its own appellate authority to hear appeals against the decisions of courts martial, but the civilian judiciary has no power to exercise,*" a noted lawyer. Another advocate, Col (R) Inamur Rehman, said that after the confirmation of death sentence, imposed by a military court, by the COAS, the convict can challenge it in the court of appeal of the Pakistan Army, but not in any civilian judicial forum. He said the lawyers defending the accused persons are authorised to appear before the military courts. The army will arrest, investigate and try the alleged terrorists. The proceedings are held in-camera.

Empowering military courts to try civilian terror suspects: NA to vote on bills, *Dawn*, January 4¹⁵

The National Assembly convened on January 3 during which it is likely to vote on two government bills aimed to set up constitutionally protected military courts to try civilian terrorism suspects for up to two years. One bill seeks to amend the constitution to bar challenges before the superior courts and fix a two-year limit for the new legislative measure, and the other to amend the Pakistan Army Act of 1952 to extend the scope of the proposed

¹³<http://tribune.com.pk/story/816025/proposed-amendment-draft-of-constitutional-cover-finalised/>

¹⁴<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-294181-Accused-tried-in-military-court-will-have-no-right-to-appeal-in-civilian-court>

¹⁵<http://www.dawn.com/news/1155048/empowering-military-courts-to-try-civilian-terror-suspects-na-to-vote-on-bills-today>

speedy trial military courts to try civilians charged with crimes of terrorism and extremism. Earlier on Saturday, the Minister in charge of Law, Justice and Human Rights, Senator Pervaiz Rashid, had introduced both the bills immediately after the house met. The house adopted, without any objection, his two motions to suspend a section of the rules of procedure and conduct of business to exempt the drafts from scrutiny by standing committees of the house so they could be passed on the next working day on January 5.

PPP against military courts bill approval on ZAB birth anniversary, *The News*, January 6¹⁶

The parliamentary party of Pakistan People's Party on January 5 expressed its reservations on granting approval to the bill for establishment of military courts on the birth anniversary of the party's founding leader Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. The meeting of PPP's parliamentary party chaired by Khursheed Shah and Aitzaz Ahsan decided that the former will demand of the government not to approve the bill on January 5, as the day marks the birth anniversary of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. During the meeting, Senator Aitzaz Ahsan gave briefing on various aspects in connection with the settin

Parliament gives thumbs up to military courts, *The Express Tribune*, January 7¹⁷

Both the upper and lower chambers of parliament on January 6 gave their ringing endorsement to the establishment of military courts for speedy trial of terror suspects by way of passing the 21st Constitutional Amendment Bill 2015 and the Pakistan Army Act 1952 (Amendment) Bill 2015. The Constitutional Amendment Bill was passed in the National Assembly with 247 votes – 14 votes more than the required two-thirds majority. In the Senate, 78 lawmakers in a house of 104 balloted in favour of the bill. The amendment bill – aimed at stemming the rising tide of militancy and terrorism – was not opposed by any member present inside the house. However, mainstream political parties, including Pakistan PTI, JUI-F and JI did not take part in the voting.

Speedy trial: Military courts to try nearly 3,400 terrorists, *The Express Tribune*, January 7¹⁸

As President Mamnoon Hussain signed the 21st Constitutional Amendment Bill 2015 and the Pakistan Army Act 1952 (Amendment) Bill 2015 into law on January 7, officials said cases of nearly 3,400 suspected terrorists are likely to be sent for trial to military courts which will start functioning on January 21.

¹⁶<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-170840-PPP-against-military-courts-bill-approval-on-ZAB-birth-anniversary>

¹⁷<http://tribune.com.pk/story/817933/endorsement-parliament-gives-thumbs-up-to-military-courts/>

¹⁸<http://tribune.com.pk/story/818571/speedy-trial-military-courts-to-try-nearly-3400-terrorists/>

"Cases of around 3,000 suspected 'jet black terrorists' arrested during the military operations in Swat, South and North Waziristan agencies and 300 to 400 terror suspects being tried at anti-terrorism courts in the provinces will be sent to the military courts," a senior government functionary told. Provincial home departments after vetting suspected terrorists will send their cases to the interior ministry – the final authority to decide whether a case will be sent to a military court or the courts established under the Protection of Pakistan Act (PPA), said the official who declined to give his name. "The military courts that will operate under the Judge Advocate General (JAG) Branch of the Pakistan Army will most likely start working after two weeks," he added.

MQM calls Maulana Fazl sympathizer of Taliban, terrorists, *The News*, January 9¹⁹

Muttahida Qaumi Movement leader Qamar Mansoor on January 8 accused JUI-F chief Maulana Fazl ur Rehman of being the sympathizer of the outlawed Taliban and terrorists. Addressing a press conference here, MQM leader Qamar Mansoor, flanked by other Rabitta committee members, said his party chief Altaf Hussain had quoted Quranic verses in the light of which hypocrites can be identified and that it is clear that Maulana Fazl ur Rehman has adopted the way of hypocrites. He said Maulana Fazl exhibited a biased mindset on the matter of holding the Taliban to account, adding that MQM had already presented its stance over Saulat Mirza and Ajmal Pahari. *"Saulat Mirza has been behind the bars for the last 15 years, while Ajmal Pahari has never been convicted by any court"*, Mansoor said.

Establishing military courts has saved future generations: Zardari, *Dawn*, January 11²⁰

Pakistan People's Party co-chairman and former Pakistan president Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday said by supporting the formation of military courts his party has helped secure the lives of future generations. Speaking to PPP members during a gathering in Lahore, Zardari said that his party has helped save the country from a civil war. The former president also said that in the current situation, political parties along with state institutions need to work towards reconciliation. Zardari said taking the oath of office during the tenure of General (ret'd) Pervez Musharraf was necessary at that time and that in the current situation one has to be realistic while making decisions. He said the PPP was the country's largest political party which cannot be weakened.

¹⁹<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-171189-MQM-calls-Fazl-ur-Rehman-sympathizer-of-Taliban,-terrorists>

²⁰<http://www.dawn.com/news/1156380/establishing-military-courts-has-saved-future-generations-zardari>

Attacks from Afghan soil have Indian involvement: Sartaj Aziz, Dawn, January 12²¹

Adviser to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz said on January 11 that India is using Afghan soil to carry out attacks on Pakistan, however, adding that Indian involvement had decreased since the adoption of a joint Pak-Afghan policy to not to let their soils be used against each other. Responding to a question on the Kashmir issue, the adviser said that since the formation of the Modi government, the Indian stance on the matter was non-cooperative. "The stance of the previous governments in India was subtle, but the Modi-led government said that if Pakistan is to maintain good ties with India, then it should compromise on Kashmir," he said, adding that India wanted resumption of dialogue on its own terms and conditions which were not acceptable to Pakistan. Aziz said Pakistan still wanted to establish better ties with India, adding that when the PML-N came into power following the May 2013 elections, national security and better relations with neighbouring countries were foremost on the government's agenda.

ATC indicts Musharraf in Akbar Bugti murder case, Dawn, January 14²²

An ATC in Quetta on January 14 indicted former military ruler Gen (retd) Pervez Musharraf in a case pertaining to the murder of Baloch nationalist leader Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti. Nawabzada Jamil Akbar Bugti, son of Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti, had nominated the former president and other high-ups in the murder of his father. The Balochistan High Court had already issued arrest warrants of the accused persons. Despite the ATC's repeated orders, the former military dictator did not appear in the court today. Zeeshan Cheema, lawyer of the former president, informed the court today that his client was suffering from an illness and therefore he could not appear in the court. The judge said that only a medical board can confirm whether Musharraf is suffering from any illness.

Those involved in petrol crisis will not be spared, The Express Tribune, January 19²³

Chairing a meeting to address the fuel shortage in the country, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif vowed on January 19 that all those responsible for the current petrol crisis will not be spared. On 18, the premier cancelled all his official engagements in order to chair meetings to address the deepening crisis. The meetings will discuss fuel management, focusing on the provision of

²¹<http://www.dawn.com/news/1156539/attacks-from-afghan-soil-have-indian-involvement-sartaj-aziz>

²²<http://www.dawn.com/news/1156954/atc-indicts-musharraf-in-akbar-bugti-murder-case>

²³<http://tribune.com.pk/story/824088/no-one-involved-in-petrol-criss-will-be-spared-pm/>

immediate relief to the people. Important decisions are expected to be taken during the meeting, including taking to task those responsible for the current shortage and ensuring measures are taken to bridge the supply-demand gap. Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Shahid Khaqan Abbasi along with other officials are in attendance.

Senate elections for 52 seats to be held on March 3, *The News*, January 20²⁴

The Election Commission of Pakistan has issued the schedule for the Senate election to be held on March 3 for 52 vacant seats. The parties are expected to convene meetings of their bodies concerned to short-list the candidates. Half of the Upper House of Parliament will become vacant, as 32 senators will bow out on completion of their terms. According to the schedule, nomination papers will be received on February 12 and 13 and their scrutiny will be held on February 16 and 17.

Govt is willing to do everything to implement National Action Plan, *The News*, January 21²⁵

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said the implementation of the National Action Plan is the key objective, and the government is willing to do everything to achieve it — even if it involves a special allocation of funds. Addressing the three-hour long meeting which was underway at the PM house on Wednesday, the prime minister said, *“military courts are soon to be constituted and the cases to be tried in these courts are being selected through a process.”* He went on to add that all stakeholders would have to work hand in hand to implement NAP. *“The government will lend its support to the provinces. All resources should be utilised to implement the NAP,”* he added. Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif, Sindh Chief Minister Qaim Ali Shah, K-P Chief Minister Pervez Khattak and Balochistan Chief Minister Malik Baloch are present at the meeting as well as Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, Interior Minister Chudhry Nisar Ali Khan, COAS General Raheel Sharif and K-P Governor Sardar Mehtab Khan Abbasi.

Sirajul Haq terms bill as propaganda against Islam, seminaries, *The News*, January 22²⁶

Jamaat-e-Islami Amir, Sirajul Haq on January 21 said propaganda is being created against Islam and seminaries by passing a bill in the Parliament and, therefore, JI has chosen not to endorse it. Addressing the Seerat Conference in

²⁴<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-172409-Senate-elections-for-52-seats-to-be-held-on-March-3>

²⁵<http://tribune.com.pk/story/825072/national-action-plan-high-level-meeting-commences-in-pm-house/>

²⁶ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-172595-Siraj-terms-bill-as-propaganda-against-Islam.-seminaries>

Lahore, Sirajul Haq said it seems the entire blame for terrorism had been squarely placed on Seminaries. He said sentiments of the Muslims are being hurt by naming the bill as religious extremism. The JI Amir demanded of the United Nations to declare religious blasphemy an unforgivable crime.

PTI won't return to controversial assemblies, *The News*, January 25²⁷

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan on January 24 said that the government should constitute a judicial commission in a straightforward manner and PTI lawmakers would not return to the controversial assemblies. He said that a big fraud had been unearthed in the NA-122 constituency. He warned the government that he had enough street power to shut down the entire country if it did not constitute the judicial commission to probe the alleged rigging in the 2013 general election. Talking to the media here after his return from Saudi Arabia, where he performed Umrah along with his spouse, Imran said his party was giving time to the government but it should not be construed that they had stepped back from their demand [for a judicial commission].

Senate briefing: Evidence regarding India's interference conveyed to US, *The News*, January 27²⁸

The Senate Defence Committee was informed on January 26 that COAS General Raheel Sharif during his visit to the US conveyed evidence to them regarding India's interference in Pakistan. The committee chaired by Mushahid Hussain, was briefed by Defence Secretary Lt Gen (Retd) Alam Khattak and was told that the COAS communicated to the US that India was interfering with Pakistan's affairs. The committee was also told that the US reassured Pakistan of assisting to capture or kill Mullah Fazlullah in Afghanistan and that efforts are still underway. Khattak also said that Pakistan was informed by the US that drone strikes were carried out on Fazlullah's hideout but he escaped. According to sources, the committee was told that the US would provide Pakistan 1 billion USD this year under the CSF.

Governor Punjab Chaudhry Sarwar resigns after making anti-govt remarks, *The Express Tribune*, January 29²⁹

Governor Punjab Chaudhry Sarwar resigned from his post on January 29 following a conversation with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif over statements the governor had made regarding the government's foreign policy. Sources

²⁷<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-35455-PTI-wont-return-to-controversial-assemblies-Imran>

²⁸<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-173075-Senate-briefing:-Evidence-regarding-Indias-interference-conveyed-to-US>

²⁹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/829511/governor-punjab-chaudhry-sarwar-resigns/>

in the PM House told the media that the premier had principally decided to remove Sarwar owing to multiple reasons but particularly because of recent statement by Sarwar on the government's failure to secure Obama's visit to Pakistan. Sarwar had censured the Foreign Office for US President Barack Obama visiting India and not Pakistan and termed it a "failure" on part of the country's foreign policy. "I sent my resignation to the President House and PM House last night," Sarwar confirmed while speaking to Express News. "I will address a press conference at 2pm today to share further details." Sarwar was reportedly eyeing the foreign minister's post. However, according to sources, the prime minister had refused to accept his request. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif accepted Sarwar's resignation.

FOREIGN POLICY

Pak-US strategic dialogue to be held in Islamabad this month, Dawn, January 1³⁰

Foreign Office spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam on December 31 said that the fresh round of strategic dialogue between Pakistan and the United States would be held in Islamabad this month while US Secretary of State John Kerry will lead the American delegation in this regard. The spokeswoman said that Pakistan and India had exchanged lists of prisoners under the consular access agreement between the two countries, while the lists of nuclear installations and facilities as per the December 1988 agreement on prohibition of attacks on the sites were also exchanged. Aslam said that 526 Indian prisoners, including 476 fishermen and 50 other civilians, were in custody of Pakistani authorities, whereas Indian officials had provided a list of 385 Pakistani prisoners to the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi. That list includes 132 fishermen and 253 other civilians, she said. "Our records show that 510 Pakistani prisoners, including 150 fishermen and 360 other civilians, were being kept in Indian jails," she added.

Kerry visit discussed as US Ambassador calls on PM Nawaz, Dawn, January 5³¹

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on January 5 met US Ambassador to Pakistan Richard Olson and expressed hope that all aspects of Pakistan-US ties would be discussed and cooperation would be reviewed during the upcoming strategic dialogue scheduled to take place in Islamabad on Jan 14. The US envoy had called on the premier at the latter's official residence in the federal

³⁰<http://www.dawn.com/news/1154430/pak-us-strategic-dialogue-to-be-held-in-islamabad-this-month-fo>

³¹<http://www.dawn.com/news/1155060/kerry-visit-discussed-as-us-ambassador-calls-on-pm-nawaz>

capital. During the meeting, matters relating to Pak-US relations with particular reference to the scheduled visit of US Secretary of State John Kerry came under discussion. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and Special Assistant to PM on Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatemi were also present at the meeting. Both sides finalised policy points and papers to be discussed with Secretary Kerry. The strategic dialogue scheduled for Jan 14 would be the second ministerial-level meeting since the dialogue resumed in 2013. Three editions were held in quick succession in 2010 before the dialogue was suspended in the aftermath of the May 2011 Abbottabad Operation

No Kerry-Lugar fund for Pakistan since 2013: US, Dawn, January 6³²

The United States said on Monday that no funds have been issued to Pakistan from the Kerry-Lugar-Berman provision since 2013. At a news briefing at the State Department, spokesperson Jen Psaki also rejected an Indian suggestion that it had issued a certification to Pakistan. Last week, the Ministry of Finance announced in Islamabad that the US Congress had cleared an instalment of \$532 million of civilian aid to Pakistan from the Kerry-Lugar-Berman bill. The ministry said that they received the information from the US ambassador in Islamabad who met Pakistani officials last week to prepare for Secretary of State John Kerry's visit to Islamabad later this month. "*Congress has not been notified of a request, Congress has not approved a request,*" Ms Psaki told the briefing when asked to comment on statements issued in Islamabad and New Delhi. She noted that some media reports had also suggested that an approval has been made in the past, which was incorrect, as no approval has been made from the Kerry-Lugar-Berman bill since 2013. An additional funding, however, could not be ruled out in future, she said, adding that there were other provisions, besides Kerry-Lugar-Berman, that were used for providing funds to Pakistan.

Kerry-Lugar aid: US double-counts old projects to inflate aid numbers, The Express Tribune, January 8³³

When it comes to aid for Pakistan, American bureaucrats like to engage in double counting to make the numbers look bigger than they really are. Despite legislation that commits the United States to offer \$7.5 billion in aid to Islamabad after 2009, it appears that Washington wants to count \$266 million of its pre-2009 aid as part of the amounts disbursed under the Kerry Luger Berman aid program. The Obama administration has included seven pre-Kerry Luger projects on its list of Kerry-Lugar-funded projects. As of the end of 2013, the USAID booked \$357 million in expenses towards these projects,

³² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1155205/no-kerry-lugar-fund-for-pakistan-since-2013-us>

³³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/818578/kerry-lugar-aid-us-double-counts-old-projects-to-inflate-aid-numbers/>

including \$266 million that were incurred between 1997 and 2009. The total projected cost of these projects is \$481 million, and they form part of the \$4.4 billion that the US has so far pledged under the Kerry-Lugar aid package. The revelation of this double-counting comes days before US Secretary of State John Kerry, who co-authored the legislation that bears his name, is scheduled to visit Pakistan on January 12. Kerry is scheduled to meet Finance Minister Ishaq Dar to discuss bilateral economic cooperation.

US supports efforts of Pakistan against terrorism', *The News*, January 8³⁴

The US supports efforts of Pakistan to counter terrorism and bring perpetrators to justice. Spokesperson of the US State Department, Jen Psaki said, "*We support efforts to counter terrorism and bring perpetrators to justice, believe – but we believe it's important efforts be consistent with principles of due process.*" To a question, she said US was getting more information about setting up of the military courts in Pakistan.

PM Nawaz meets King of Bahrain, discusses bilateral ties, *The News*, January 8³⁵

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on January 7 met King of Bahrain Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa at Sakhir Palace and discussed matters for further strengthening of bilateral relations between the two countries in various fields. King of Bahrain Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa also hosted a banquet in honour of PM Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. Prime Minister of Bahrain Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Crown Prince Shaikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, four deputy Prime Ministers of Bahrain, Speaker of Shura Council and Chairman of Council of Representatives along with high ranking. Cabinet Ministers were also present. Nawaz Sharif invited the King of Bahrain to attend first ever Islamic Summit on Science and Technology in Islamabad later this year. He also appreciated Bahrain's offer of setting up a medical college in Pakistan.

Military courts: US calls for ensuring due process, *Dawn*, January 9³⁶

The United States has urged Pakistan to ensure that its decision to try civilian terrorism suspects in military courts is "*consistent with principles of due process*". At a US State Department news briefing, spokesperson Jen Psaki also asked Pakistan to provide more information about the move but refrained from condemning it. The issue has been raised at the State Department's news briefings several times since last week, when Pakistan began the process of

³⁴<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-171134-US-supports-efforts-of-Pakistan-against-terrorism->

³⁵<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-171121-PM-Nawaz-meets-King-of-Bahrain,-discusses-bilateral-ties>

³⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1155812/military-courts-us-calls-for-ensuring-due-process>

amending its laws to try civilian terrorism suspects in military courts. But the department avoided getting involved in the controversy, although several European governments and key human rights groups have criticised the decision. But when the Pakistani parliament made the required amendments on Wednesday, the State Department was ready with a carefully worded response. *"We're seeking additional information as the Pakistani government adopts measures necessary to institute them,"* Ms Psaki said.

Pakistani politicians in Kabul: Solution to challenges will take time, says Ghani, *The Express Tribune*, January 11³⁷

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has said that the solution to the challenges faced by Pakistan and Afghanistan could take time but his government would adopt all possible measures to resolve them. *"To overcome the challenges we face is time-consuming with many obstacles ahead. However, the new government of Afghanistan is committed to removing the problems,"* said the Afghan leader during a meeting with a delegation of Pakistani politicians at the presidential palace in Kabul on Saturday. The delegation included Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party chief Mahmood Khan Achakzai, Qaumi Watan Party leader Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao and Awami National Party's Afrasiab Khattak. They were visiting Kabul on the invitation extended by President Ghani during his visit to Islamabad in November, last year. *"The government of Afghanistan will continue with joint efforts and consultations, and will exert its utmost efforts to strengthen people-to-people contacts at all levels between Pakistan and Afghanistan,"* Ghani said, according to a statement issued by the Afghan presidential palace.

Kerry arrives in Pakistan on two-day visit, *The News*, January 12³⁸

US Secretary of State John Kerry is arriving in Islamabad on two-day official visit. Kerry will hold meetings with PM Nawaz Sharif and Advisor to PM on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz during his visit. Sources said US Secretary of State, in his strategic talks with Pakistani leadership, will exchange views on Pak-Afghan ties and tense situation with India.

Pak-US anti-terror co-op to strengthen, *The Nation*, January 13³⁹

US Secretary of State John Kerry who arrived on January 12 on a two-day visit expressed his country's resolve to continue supporting Pakistan in effectively combating terrorism and tackling other challenges. John Kerry, regarded as Pakistan's friend, met Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif soon after arrival and co-

³⁷<http://tribune.com.pk/story/820024/pakistani-politicians-in-kabul-solution-to-challenges-will-take-time-says-ghani/>

³⁸<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-171541-Kerry-arrives-in-Pakistan-on-two-day-visit-today>

³⁹<http://nation.com.pk/national/13-Jan-2015/pak-us-anti-terror-co-op-to-strengthen>

chaired the first round of Pak-US ministerial level strategic dialogue with Adviser to Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz. Aziz earlier received Kerry on his arrival at the Islamabad international airport. At his meeting with the prime minister, US Secretary of State John Kerry expressed the resolve to continue supporting Pakistan in tackling major challenges, including terrorism and extremism. Extending condolences of the US government on the Peshawar incident, Kerry said terrorists were the common enemy of the two countries. Nawaz said the United States was a vital component of Pakistan's foreign policy and appreciated President Obama's message of friendship and cooperation in the aftermath of the Peshawar attack. Nawaz Sharif focused on greater market access for Pakistani products and US investment in Pakistan. He also appreciated US support for Dasu and Diamer-Bhasha dam projects.

Kerry urges Pakistan to fight militants threatening Afghan, Indian and US interests, *The Express Tribune*, January 13⁴⁰

The United States is set to boost its security and intelligence cooperation with Pakistan to step up its offensive against militants, Secretary of State John Kerry said on January 13. Kerry is in Islamabad to hold strategic dialogue with Pakistani officials on the direction of future ties. In a joint press conference with Advisor of Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs and National Security Sartaj Aziz, Kerry said the US was committed to deepening its security relationship with Pakistan in order to eliminate threats in the border area and elsewhere. He said Pakistan must fight militant groups that threaten Afghan, Indian and US interests. "The tragedy of December 16 is really a reminder of the serious risk of allowing extremists to find space, and be able to command that space and operate within it," Kerry said. He said all militant groups such as the Pakistani and Afghan Taliban, the Haqqani network and Lashkar-e-Taiba "continue to pose a threat not just to Pakistan and its neighbours but also to the United States and the world." "Make no mistake the task is a difficult one and it is not done," Kerry said. "We all have a responsibility to ensure that these extremists are no longer able to secure a foothold in this country or elsewhere."

PM Nawaz arrives in Saudi Arabia to meet ailing King Abdullah, *Dawn*, January 15⁴¹

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif arrived in Riyadh on 14 on a scheduled visit to inquire about the health of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia. Prime Minister Nawaz was received by Riyadh's governor Prince Turki bin

⁴⁰<http://tribune.com.pk/story/821083/kerry-says-concerned-by-violence-on-india-pakistan-border/>

⁴¹<http://www.dawn.com/news/1157170/pm-nawaz-arrives-in-saudi-arabia-to-meet-ailing-king-abdullah>

Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, Ambassador of Pakistan to KSA Manzoor-ul-Haq and other senior officials. Prime Minister Nawaz will convey good wishes and prayers for the king's early recuperation on behalf of the Government of Pakistan and its people. The Foreign Office said that the premier will also hold talks with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud. Both leaders will exchange views to enhance relations between the two countries in areas of mutual interest. Moreover, cooperation in the economic, defence and security sector along with increasing manpower from Pakistan to the kingdom would also be discussed. Prime Minister Nawaz's visit to Saudi Arabia is the third high-level contact between the two countries in less than a year.

US welcomes reports of Pakistan's plan to ban Haqqanis, *The Express Tribune*, January 16⁴²

The United States said on January 15 that it welcomed reports that Pakistan was planning to outlaw the Haqqani network and other militant groups linked to violent extremism. Earlier on January 15 senior security officials said that a formal announcement of the ban on the Haqqani network and 11 other militant organisations would be made in "coming days." The Pakistani government did not respond when asked by Reuters to confirm the report. In Washington, a spokesperson for the US State Department said the United States welcomed reports of the planned ban. "This is an important step towards eliminating terrorist activity in Pakistan," Marie Harf told a regular news briefing. She added that she was aware an announcement was planned, but did not know when this would happen. Harf noted that US Secretary of State John Kerry had just visited Pakistan, where he had "wide-ranging conversations with the Pakistanis about counter terrorism." "Certainly he emphasised that we are committed to deepening our security partnership with Pakistan," she said.

Pakistan seeks to strengthen defence ties with Russia: FO spokesperson, *The Express Tribune*, January 16⁴³

Pakistan considers the ongoing dialogue with Russia as productive and intend to develop ties in various spheres including defence and energy products, Foreign Office spokesperson Tasnim Aslam told Russian news agency Tass. "Russia and Pakistan are trying to enhance and develop relations in many areas; Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Ishaq Dar has recently visited Moscow where a meeting of the inter-governmental working group for energy issues took place. It was very useful," Aslam said. She further added that "we received Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu in Pakistan last year; they held fruitful

⁴²<http://tribune.com.pk/story/822623/us-welcomes-reports-of-pakistans-plan-to-ban-haqqanis/>

⁴³<http://tribune.com.pk/story/822622/pakistan-seeks-to-develop-defence-ties-with-russia-fo-spokesperson/>

discussions and adopted a set of measures aimed to strengthen defense cooperation. Now, time has come to materialise them in real life." When she was questioned on whether Pakistan had planned to buy military hardware and weapons from Russia in a sign of developing defence contacts, she said that opportunities to expand and strengthen the existing ties always appeared as relations continue to develop. *"This is equally true of the purchases of military equipment and Russian investments in Pakistan and the development of infrastructure in our country by Russian companies,"* she said.

Obama's visit to South Asia to help reduce tension in region: Sartaj, *The Express Tribune*, January 26⁴⁴

Adviser on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz expressed the hope that US President Barack Obama's visit to South Asia will help reduce tension in the region. Talking to reporters here, he said that the cherished goal of progress and prosperity in the region cannot be achieved without good relations between Pakistan and India. He said that peace in the region is in the interests of everyone. Replying to a question the advisor said that US Secretary of State John Kerry was apprised of Pakistan's reservations on various issues during his recent visit to Islamabad.

Indo-US nuclear deal will be detrimental for South Asia, *The News*, January 28⁴⁵

Pakistan's top national security and foreign affairs adviser said on January 27 that a new nuclear deal signed between the US and India during President Barak Obama's recent trip to New Delhi will be detrimental to stability in South Asia. India reached a civil nuclear agreement with the US during Obama's visit on Sunday, giving it access to civilian nuclear technology and breaking a deadlock that has stalled the deal for years. *"The operationalization of Indo-US nuclear deal for political and economic expediencies would have a detrimental impact on deterrence stability in South Asia,"* Advisor to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz said in a statement.

Close strategic partnership with Pakistan will continue, *The Express Tribune*, January 31⁴⁶

The United States said it would continue to have a close strategic partnership with Pakistan. State Department Spokesperson, Jen Psaki in Washington said that the United States' relationship with Islamabad is strong and vital for its strategic needs. With continued tension between India and Pakistan and

⁴⁴<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/26-Jan-2015/obama-s-visit-to-south-asia-to-help-reduce-tension-in-region-sartaj>

⁴⁵ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-173227-Indo-US-nuclear-deal-will-be-detrimental-for-South-Asia:-Aziz>

⁴⁶ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/830647/close-strategic-partnership-with-pakistan-will-continue-us/>

shelling on the line of control and the Working Boundary, the spokesperson said that the two countries should enter into a dialogue for a peaceful resolution of their issues.

MILITARY AFFAIRS

Military courts: Army concerned over rifts among political leaders, *The Express Tribune*, January 2⁴⁷

Pakistan's top military brass is increasingly worried about differences emerging among political parties over the establishment of military courts out of fear that the strong consensus achieved against terrorism would not be overshadowed by 'smaller issues.' The controversy came under discussion during 1 January meeting of corps commanders presided over by army Chief General Raheel Sharif at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi. A statement issued by ISPR suggested that military commanders emphasised the need to keep intact the consensus achieved against terrorism following the massacre at the Army Public School in Peshawar. "The corps commanders hoped that the much wanted and precious wider political consensus achieved against terrorism is not lost to smaller issues," the military's media wing said. The reference to smaller issues is related to the ongoing controversy regarding the establishment of military courts to ensure the speedy trial of hardcore terrorists. Initially, during the multiparty conference, the country's civil and military leadership agreed to set up special courts manned by military officers. Later, however, PPP and PTI voiced their reservations over the move.

IDPs, military operation discussed at KP apex committee meeting, *Dawn*, January 4⁴⁸

Rehabilitation of internally displaced persons and ongoing military offensives against Taliban militants in tribal areas were discussed at the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Apex Committee meeting, held January 4 to coordinate security and to implement the recently approved NAP. According to an ISPR statement, COAS General Raheel Sharif assured the forum that Pakistan Army will join hands with political government and Fata administration to expedite the return of IDPs as per already prepared plan in phases, beginning next month, and ensure a comprehensive resettlement.

⁴⁷<http://tribune.com.pk/story/816046/military-courts-army-concerned-over-rifts-among-political-leaders/>

⁴⁸<http://www.dawn.com/news/1155042/idps-military-operation-discussed-at-kp-apex-committee-meeting>

Nation stands united to fully uproot menace of terrorism: COAS, *Dawn*, January 5⁴⁹

Chief of Army Staff, General Raheel Sharif on January 4 said following the Peshawar School terrorism act, entire nation stands united to fully uproot the menace of terrorism and extremism. He was speaking at the Provincial Apex Committee meeting for KPK and FATA was held at Peshawar, said a statement of ISPR. Besides the COAS the meeting was attended by Governor KPK, Chief Minister KPK, senior Provincial Govt and FATA Secretariat Officials and Peshawar Corps Commander. The Apex Committee is a newly formed mechanism to coordinate security and to implement the recently approved NAP, at each province level. The forum discussed the prevalent internal security situation in FATA and the Province in the context of National Action Plan and also reviewed the progress of ongoing operations Zarb-e-Azb and Khyber and return plan of TDPs.

ISI chief, Afghan president agree to boost anti-terror cooperation, *The Express Tribune*, January 11⁵⁰

Inter-Services Intelligence chief Lt Gen Rizwan Akhtar on January 11 met Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani in Kabul and discussed ways to boost anti-terror cooperation, according to the Afghan Presidential Palace said. It was Akhtar's third visit to Afghanistan since he assumed office in November 2014. He first travelled to Kabul just after taking charge as ISI chief, while in December he accompanied the army chief in the aftermath of the Peshawar school attack. "The President of Afghanistan Mohammad Ashraf Ghani received Pakistan intelligence ISI chief Lt General Rizwan Akhtar in his office on Sunday," the Presidential Palace said. "In the meeting both sides discussed ways to further strengthen joint efforts against terrorism and extremism," the statement added. They also talked about peace and security in Afghanistan, Pakistan and the region, among other matters. A Pakistani security official confirmed the visit but refused to comment on the nature of the meeting. "The Afghan statement is enough and we will not add anything more," he said when approached for Pakistani version.

Message loud and clear: Army chief for zero tolerance against religious terrorism, *The Express Tribune*, January 13⁵¹

Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif has given a clear message to the rank and file that he intends to maintain "zero tolerance" against religious and

⁴⁹<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-170769-Nation-stands-united-to-fully-uproot-menace-of-terrorism:-COAS>

⁵⁰<http://tribune.com.pk/story/820139/isi-chief-afghan-president-agree-to-boost-anti-terror-cooperation/>

⁵¹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/821021/message-loud-and-clear-army-chief-for-zero-tolerance-against-religious-terrorism/>

sectarian terrorism. "The army chief has clearly given the message to his institution that his policy is of no tolerance and only those outfits will be allowed to survive that totally abandon militancy and do not resist the state's push in cleaning the country from the menace of terrorism," a source privy to the meetings chaired by the army chief confirmed on the condition of anonymity. On the issue of the war on terrorism, General Raheel Sharif is absolutely clear that all the sectarian outfits have to disarm and stop activities against each other, he said. "In various all parties conferences (APCs) and in meetings with the heads of federal and provincial governments, the army chief has conveyed that since the prime security institution of the country – Pakistan Army – is aligning to the new realities vis-à-vis war on terror and dealing with religious militant organisations, the political leadership should also not allow any kind of compromise on this account," he said.

COAS leaves for London on three-day official visit, Dawn, January 14⁵²

Chief of Army Staff Gen Raheel Sharif on January 14 left for London on a three-day official visit. During his visit to London, the army chief will meet senior British political and military leadership and will also interact with think tanks and strategic institutions. Sources told Dawn that Gen Raheel will take British military and political leadership into confidence over Pakistan's perspective on the regional security situation, with particular reference to Afghanistan and eastern borders. The COAS is also expected to brief British leaders on Pakistan's war against terror and the ongoing Operation *Zarb-i-Azb*. Pakistan's military in mid-June had launched an all-out operation, named '*Zarb-i-Azb*', against Taliban militants in the region which is still under way. Moreover, months into *Zarb-i-Azb*, the army also launched Khyber 1, an operation to clear out militant strongholds in the tribal region of Khyber.

General Raheel Sharif meets British PM David Cameron, The News, January 15⁵³

Chief of the Army Staff General Raheel Sharif called on British Prime Minister David Cameron here on January 14, said the Inter-Services Public Relations. According to the ISPR, issues ranging from prevention of foreign funding of terrorists and exchange of intelligence information to coordination in anti-terrorism efforts between the two countries came under discussion during the meeting. It said that the army chief reached London on a three-day official visit and was accorded guard of honor upon his arrival. General Sharif also met British Defence Secretary to discuss regional security and stability in Afghanistan. Director General ISI Lieutenant General Rizwan Akhtar and

⁵² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1156959/coas-leaves-for-london-on-three-day-official-visit>

⁵³ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-171862-General-Raheel-Sharif-meets-British-PM-David-Cameron->

other military officials are also among the entourage of the army chief during his official visit.

Nation united against terrorism: DG ISPR, *The News*, January 20⁵⁴

Director General ISPR Major General Asim Saleem Bajwa has said that an indiscriminate operation against terrorists is being conducted and there are no good or bad Taliban, all are terrorists. In an interview on American television DG ISPR said that the major part of North Waziristan has been cleared during the ongoing operation and there is still resistance only from a small part near the Afghan border. He also said that the operation will continue till the last terrorist has been dealt with. He further said that Pakistan's stance on the terrorists is clear and the whole nation is united for the elimination of the menace. He also said that the international community should support Pakistan in their fight against terrorism. He said that the Pak Afghan relations were good and had further strengthened after the Peshawar carnage.

COAS leaves for China on two-day official visit, *The News*, January 25⁵⁵

Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif on the invitation of China left the country on a two-day official visit. According to ISPR, during his stay in China, COAS will meet Chinese political and military leadership.

Army Chief in China seeks intl coordination to win terror fight, *The News*, January 26⁵⁶

Seeking greater international focus to defeat global menace of terrorism, Pakistan's Army Chief General Raheel Sharif on January 26 said better regional coordination is the need of the hour to logically conclude ongoing fight against terrorists. The COAS held three important meetings with senior Chinese leadership today. He is currently on an official visit to the neighbouring country. "*World must understand evolving environment... greater international focus and coordination is needed to logically conclude the fight against terrorism,*" he was quoted on Twitter by DG Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Major General Asim Bajwa. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, during his meeting with Gen Raheel Sharif, said that Pakistan was China's "irreplaceable all weather friend". "*Both countries are part of a community of shared destiny,*" he added. Meanwhile, Beijing's top security official Meng Jianzhu on Pakistan-China bilateral ties said that China has "*consistent policy beyond individuals*". "*Pakistan's concern is China's concern,*" he added.

⁵⁴ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-172417-Nation-united-against-terrorism:-DG-ISPR>

⁵⁵ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-35468-COAS-leaves-for-China-on-two-day-official-visit>

⁵⁶ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-173081-Army-Chief-in-China-seeks-intl-coordination-to-win-terror-fight>

Afghan Border Police delegation calls on CGS at GHQ, *The News*, January 26⁵⁷

A high level delegation of the Afghan Border Police (ABP) led by Lieutenant General Shafiq Fazli, Commander ABP, visited General Headquarters on 26 January and met CGS Lieutenant General Ishfaq Nadeem Ahmad. According to the ISPR branch of the Pakistan Army, matters related to border security and measures to enhance the existing border coordination mechanism were discussed. The visit of Afghan delegation is part of a series of meetings planned on both sides of the border following recent visits of COAS to Afghanistan and his meetings with senior Afghan civil and military leaders. These visits are aimed at boosting military to military cooperation between the two armies.

COAS promises peace from Gwadar to Chitral, Shawal to Bajaur, *The News*, January 28⁵⁸

The Chief of the Army Staff, General Raheel Sharif, on January 27 said peace would be established from Gwadar to Chitral and Shawal to Bajaur very soon and the whole of the Fata region would be cleared of terrorists. The army chief said this during his visit to the Mohmand Agency where he received a briefing on the progress of stabilisation operations, including the ongoing development projects launched by the Army Engineers. Speaking to officers and troops on the occasion, General Raheel appreciated their professionalism, dedication and sacrifices in fighting terrorism and bringing stability to the Mohmand Agency.

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Military matters, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, January 4⁵⁹

Of course, we need our military for a great many things. It needs to protect our borders and maintain internal security. But whether we need it to run our judicial system and handle cases involving terrorism is a matter for much debate. It is unfortunate this debate did not take place before the 21st Amendment Bill setting up military courts was tabled in the National Assembly on January 3. The Bill will almost certainly be passed by parliament by two-thirds majority, required for a constitutional amendment, given that none of the political parties have spoken out against the dangers of such a

⁵⁷ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-173057-Afghan-Border-Police-delegation-calls-on-CGS-at-GHQ>

⁵⁸ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-35538-COAS-promises-peace-from-Gwadar-to-Chitral-Shawal-to-Bajaur>

⁵⁹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/816729/military-matters/>

measure and the handing over of key judicial powers to the military. At the All-Parties Conference held on January 2, each and every one of them essentially backed the creation of military courts, altering their previous position on the matter. [...]Of course we face a crisis. As the Chief of Army Staff, General Raheel Sharif, said, the military courts come because of the needs we currently confront in leading the war against militants. This may not be inaccurate. But any misuse of authority or distortion of the judicial system could only make matters worse in the long run and that is not a prospect any of us would like to consider as we continue a battle against terrorism that must be won if we are to save our country and prevent further damage from being inflicted on it.

Disservice to democracy, Editorial, *Dawn*, January 7⁶⁰

Some objected but then either abstained or voted in favour anyway; others tried to defend the law; fewer still tried to justify their vote — the somber mood in parliament yesterday, and on Monday too, suggests that politicians were at least aware of the great disservice to the democratic project they had gathered to inflict. But inflict they did and, now, with the passage of the 21st Amendment in parliament, the country must live with the spectre of anti-terrorism military courts for the next two years — assuming the civilian leadership has it within itself to deny an extension if sought two years hence. While several parliamentarians, especially from the government side, did try and claim ownership of the idea of expanding the military court regime to try civilians accused of terrorism and militancy, few who understand the structure of power in this country would have been convinced. [...]Indeed, in supporting the courts, politicians may even have found themselves on the right side of popular opinion, thereby deflecting much of the anger over Peshawar away from themselves. There was, for example, no meaningful call for urgent reform of the criminal justice system, the civilian-led state prosecution service and the police investigation process. Without those reforms, two years from now it seems highly unlikely the civilian side of the state will be in any shape to deal with anti-terrorism prosecutions. If there is one thing that has been reinforced during this sad episode it is this: the civil-military imbalance will worsen unless the civilians learn to deliver.

Terrorism on trial, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, January 9⁶¹

The complications in trying terrorists and bringing them to justice are many. This has been illustrated by the order issued by a two-member Supreme Court bench on January 9 overturning the Islamabad High Court decision to free one of the most prominent men held on terrorism charges, Zakiur

⁶⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1155305/disservice-to-democracy>

⁶¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/818852/terrorism-on-trial/>

Rehman Lakhvi, on bail of Rs1 million from Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi, where he has been held since 2009. Lakhvi is alleged to have been the key figure behind the planning of the Mumbai attacks of 2008, which killed scores of people and left Pakistan-India relations in shambles, so much so that India still views Pakistan through the prism of the Mumbai attacks. [...]The Supreme Court ruling seems to make good sense. It is obviously important, for the sake of a fair trial that time be given for all the facts to be put on record. This appears not to have happened in the Lakhvi case. The matter will now revert to the IHC which will resume hearing the case on January 12. The decision eventually reached in the matter could have far-reaching repercussions given the sensitivity of the case and the fact that New Delhi is also obviously very interested in the fate of those accused in the Mumbai attack and will be closely following developments at a time when tensions between the two nations are high. It is, therefore, imperative that justice be done, and also be seen as having been done, so that the correct message can be sent out by the courts at a time when they are under tight scrutiny.

Ideological weapons convention? Babar Sattar, *Dawn*, January 12⁶²

The 21st Constitutional Amendment will remain testament to the fact that our power elite is visionless and puny, unable to distinguish between courage and folly, incapable of realising that good optics can't cure deep-rooted problems caused by bad policy, and artful only at creating false narratives and finding scapegoats to deflect the focus from real issues. The 21st Amendment will increase the existing gap between law and justice in Pakistan. But more importantly, it will do little to address the scourge of terror. The debate around the 21st Amendment is not about sacrosanctity of the Constitution, the legal ability of parliament to amend it or the judiciary's report card. It is about the wisdom of the 21st Amendment as a means to fight terror. A subset of this question is what quality of justice must a civilised society preserve when faced with an insurgency and what balance must be struck between rights of those accused of heinous crimes and the society's collective interest in curbing individual rights to make itself safe. Even if the 21st Amendment uses the judiciary as a sacrificial lamb, the question is will it make us safer? Will military courts obliterate the terror infrastructure or just keep us distracted? The debate over the 21st Amendment is not about whether protecting terrorists is more important or our children, but about what caused the problem of terror and what is the best solution. That opposition to military courts amounts to disregard for our children is a dishonest argument and those making it should know so. [...]Terror has proliferated in Pakistan due to contradictions within our security policies and lack of implementation of the law in relation to prized ideological assets. What we need is an

⁶² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1156426/ideological-weapons-convention>

ideological weapons convention that doesn't just place moratoriums on malfunctioning assets but bans this genre altogether and moves to liquidate the existing ones. Expediently killing terrorists, judicially or extrajudicially, will not help so long as the production lines are intact. It is the military that incubated ideological weapons and it is only the military that can outlaw and dismantle them. This will first require removing any remaining contradictions between our internal security and regional security policies. Once the JUI-F and others of their ilk know from the military's anti-terror operations that military courts aren't the latest means to distinguish good terrorists from bad, they might find it easier to reimagine their politics. The 21st Amendment is a marriage of convenience. But its authors, the PML-N and the military, must recognise that it will keep the public distracted only for so long. Public opinion is fickle. It favoured disciplining the vigilante Lal Masjid brigade but turned bitterly against the disproportionate military operation. It favoured talks with TTP in early 2014 and revenge in December 2014. Who knows in what direction our transient national sentiment might flow after the next big terror attack if it happens despite the military courts?

Kerry's visit, Editorial, *Dawn*, January 14⁶³

Continuing the recent trend of workmanlike and somewhat productive meetings between Pakistani and US officials, US Secretary of State John Kerry's visit to Islamabad has gone off smoothly. There were no histrionics, no surprises and, thankfully, no American demands for Pakistan to 'do more'. The two countries appear to have found a recipe for relatively stable relations: focus on security matters; keep American aid — military and civilian — flowing; and recognise the economic importance of the relationship in terms of Pakistani exports to the US and American influence over IFIs that Pakistan is indebted to. [...] However, given the long-running divergences in the security interests of the two countries (as articulated by the Afghan and Pakistani security establishments) and the old suspicions that plague the bilateral relationship, an American role is necessary to try and make the most of the new beginning that the post-Karzai era in Afghanistan and the Pakistani military operation in North Waziristan may represent. Surely, reconciliation between the Afghan government and the Afghan Taliban and the bi-directional cross-border militancy problem should be at the top of the security agenda and it is there that a delicate three-way dance between Afghanistan, Pakistan and the US will have to play out if results are to be achieved. While the US does appear interested in actively working on the Pak-Afghan relationship, it appears far cooler to the idea of intervening in the Pak-India relationship. From army chief Gen Raheel Sharif's visit to the US late last year to the Prime Minister's Adviser on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz,

⁶³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1156817/kerrys-visit>

Pakistani officials have tried to nudge the US into suggesting to India that now is not the time to stoke tensions on Pakistan's eastern border, given the internal fight against militancy here. But thus far the US appears unwilling to do more than offer carefully worded phrases of support for stable Pak-India ties. That is not enough, as surely the American side must know.

Militants in Punjab, *Editorial, Dawn, January 16*⁶⁴

LONG in denial about Punjab's militancy problem, the PML-N appears to finally be waking up to the dangers in its home province. On January 14 Interior Minister Nisar Ali Khan briefed the prime minister on steps taken under the National Action Plan against militant groups and extremists operating in Punjab and even the scant details offered to the media make for sober reading: 14,000 individuals hauled up for investigation; 341 allegedly involved in hate speech; 1,100 warned for misuse of loudspeakers; and 41 shops closed for distributing hate material. Those numbers though surely represent only a fraction of the militancy and extremism in Punjab. Consider just a few factors: the population of Punjab is in the region of 100 million; the province has a vast mosque-madrasah-social welfare network operated by multiple groups — some of them household names, others unheard of outside the sub-regions of Punjab; and virtually nothing has been done in over a decade to clamp down on extremist and militant outfits in the province. [...] Consider that according to the interior minister's own claim, of the 14,000 individuals rounded up in Punjab since the NAP implementation has begun, a mere 780 have had some form of preliminary charges drawn up against them. What about the rest? Have they been wrongly scooped up? Where are they now? What about the hardcore terrorists and militants who do exist in Punjab — have they been allowed to slip out of the province undetected? Encouraging as it is that the PML-N is willing to acknowledge a militancy problem in Punjab, defeating the militant threat will require a great deal more transparency and determination by the state.

Terror funds, *Editorial, The News, January 18*⁶⁵

That the government plans to block the bank accounts of militant groups and organisations that fund them is an entirely unobjectionable idea which raises only one question: why, in the last decade, did no one think of taking this most basic step? Militant outfits have been getting funds from home and abroad with no apparent limit. These organisations claim that the money is for their educational and philanthropic work, but it is widely understood that they cook their books and divert the money towards other purposes. If the government is serious about choking off the funding of militant groups, it will

⁶⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1157260/militants-in-punjab>

⁶⁵ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-8-296731-Terror-funds>

begin by going after those organisations that changed their names after being banned. It shouldn't be this easy for a proscribed group to just change its name and feign innocence. [...] This is a fight that cannot be won only with small-bore measures. They will provide respite in the interim but the state's commitment will be tested by its ability to stay the course and not admit defeat. These militant groups have been given the space and freedom to thrive for decades and now this space has to be reclaimed. Choking off their funds is a starting point but the end must mean a great winding up.

A paradigm shift? Huma Yusuf, *Dawn*, January 19⁶⁶

IT has already been termed a 'paradigm shift'. Pakistan's reported decision last week to ban a number of violent extremist organisations, including the Haqqani Network and LeT front JuD, has been welcomed by the international community. The new additions to the list have been carefully chosen to emphasise the point that Pakistan no longer distinguishes between 'good' and 'bad' Taliban. The groups include those that have long been referred to by way of euphemisms such as 'strategic assets' to be used in 'asymmetric warfare'. Groups such as the Haqqani Network and Harkatul Mujahideen have long been believed to have links to the security establishment, owing to their perceived role in protecting Pakistan's interests in Afghanistan and against India. The timing of the reported ban is also telling. Announced on the heels of US Secretary of State John Kerry's visit to the country, the ban is clearly meant for an international audience, an attempt by an increasingly PR-savvy military to change the narrative surrounding its latest counterterrorism efforts. [...] There are two main reasons — one strategic and one pragmatic — why banning a violent extremist organisation remains a primarily rhetorical exercise. On the strategic side, proscription allows Pakistan to demonstrate action and clarify its stance on terrorism without having to do much else. The flourishing of a banned group can no longer be seen as the result of state complicity; it becomes instead the sure sign of the challenges that beset the state's struggle against militancy. Banning militant groups is Pakistan's way of buying time, of raising its hands and saying, 'hey, we're trying, give us some leeway, and ideally some more funding to tackle the situation'. As Sartaj Aziz's recent gaffe suggested, actual action against diverse groups is unlikely while the military's focus remains on the Pakistani Taliban and its offshoots and affiliates. Even Heracles had to deal with the Hydra's heads one at a time. The practical reason is that the grunt work involved in dismantling militant groups is ultimately the job of the police. It involves daily, almost prosaic activities, including confiscating pamphlets, arresting clerics misusing mosque loudspeakers, removing hate-inciting graffiti, and monitoring the

⁶⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1157892/a-paradigm-shift>

whereabouts of suspected militants and the informal flows of cash. But our police do not have the training or capacity to tackle terrorism in this manner, and the NAP does not prioritise their potential role. The government and military have tried on this occasion to dispel scepticism about the value of Pakistan banning extremist groups. They have pointed to the ongoing operations in Fata, which have disrupted the Haqqani group's sanctuaries. But the dialogue in the run-up to Kerry's visit casts doubts on Pakistan's counterterrorism fervour. In recent statements, public officials have sought to recast the problem of militancy as one being stoked by India. This means that even while the military clamps down on a growing number of militant groups, it retains the basic strategic calculus that led to the proliferation of these groups in the first place. Until that broader paradigm shifts, it remains unclear what the actual stance on banned outfits will be.

ECONOMIC ISSUES

FISCAL ISSUES

Foreign exchange reserves cross \$15 billion: Ishaq Dar, *The Express Tribune*, January 13⁶⁷

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on January 12 said the foreign exchange reserves of the country have crossed over \$15 billion as a result of the government's prudent policies, Radio Pakistan. "The government is committed to achieve all economic targets," the finance minister said while addressing a press conference in Islamabad. "IMF has completed five reviews on Pakistan's economy, and we are ready for the sixth review – which is expected to be held in the last week of this month," he added. He said the IMF has projected a 4.3% GDP growth for the country. "It is our utmost effort to achieve the target of 5.1%, despite the setbacks caused by flash floods and expenditures on the war on terrorism," Dar said. Further, he said the GST on oil products has been increased from 17% to 22% to achieve revenue shortfall because of the reduction in oil prices in the global market. "There is a revenue loss of \$68 billion, and the government will recover Rs17.5 billion till June 30 due to an increase in the GST on petroleum products," he said.

KP faces budget deficit of Rs67 bn in six months, *The News*, January 26⁶⁸

The budget deficit of KP has swollen to Rs67.19 billion in six months, July to December, of the current financial year, 2014-15, and the major receipts haul

⁶⁷ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/820636/foreign-exchange-reserves-cross-15-billion-ishaq-dar/>

⁶⁸ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-298186-KP-faces-budget-deficit-of-Rs67-bn-in-six-months>

Rs12.16 billion has been recorded in the FPA to the province. The finance ministry officials admitted that the revenue collected over the past six months was far below the target achieved last year for the period, when the revenue shortfall even after nine months was Rs49.66 billion. The provincial government in the current fiscal year had estimated Rs404.805 billion in both the revenue and capital receipts and set the target of Rs202.412 billion for the two quarters of the current financial year. However, at the end of the second quarter on December 31, it received Rs136 billion showing a revenue receipts shortfall of Rs67.19 billion. As a whole the provincial kitty faced the shortfall of Rs43 billion in federal revenue transfers, Rs18.19 in capital receipts and Rs6 billion in its receipts.

TRADE

Trilateral deadline: Draft of transit trade deal to be ready in 3 months, *The Express Tribune*, January 4⁶⁹

Pakistan, Afghanistan and Tajikistan have agreed to reach a conclusion in negotiations over a transit trade agreement in three months, which will provide Pakistan access to markets of five landlocked Central Asian states in return for giving rights to use its ports. The three countries set the deadline to finalise a draft during the first expert-level meeting for the Trilateral Transit Trade Agreement in Islamabad on January 3. The negotiations are taking place at a time when a bilateral transit trade deal between Pakistan and Afghanistan is going to expire later this year. The Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement, known as APTTA, will complete its time period in October this year after remaining in force for five years. The trilateral arrangement would be seen as an important step towards deepening trade collaboration among Pakistan, Afghanistan and Tajikistan. Commerce Secretary Shahzad Arbab, Afghanistan's Acting Minister of Commerce and Industry Muzammil Shinwari and Tajikistan's Deputy Minister of Commerce Saeed Rehman led their respective delegations in the meeting.

Talks with China: Pakistan unlikely to make more tariff reduction, *The Express Tribune*, January 7⁷⁰

As the second phase of talks began under the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement, Pakistan would resist the demand for more tariff concessions after its many industries became uncompetitive due to the relaxation given in the first round of talks. The free trade agreement that came into force in 2006 has kept the balance of trade in favour of China while Pakistan could not fully

⁶⁹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/816775/trilateral-deadline-draft-of-transit-trade-deal-to-be-ready-in-3-months/>

⁷⁰<http://tribune.com.pk/story/817805/talks-with-china-pakistan-unlikely-to-make-more-tariff-reduction/>

enjoy the preferential treatment due to Beijing's similar trade agreements with Asia-Pacific countries. After the first phase, China desired that Pakistan should implement the second phase that would allow its exporters concessions of up to 90% of total tariff lines, said an official of the Ministry of Commerce, who was part of the negotiations. He said Pakistan would prefer to invoke Article 8 of the treaty under which tariff reduction would be offered on selected product lines instead of general concession on all imports. If Pakistan implements the second phase, as desired by China, its textile sector will become uncompetitive. Many industries have already been wiped out over the last six years as domestic markets are flooded with cheap and low-quality Chinese products. As a result, the balance of trade has heavily been in China's favour.

Second phase of FTA: Pakistan, China fail to overcome differences, *The Express Tribune*, January 9⁷¹

Differences between Pakistan and China persisted over a further reduction in tariffs as they could not arrive at a consensus for implementing the second phase of the FTA in the latest round of talks. The third meeting of the second phase of negotiations ended without any agreement despite continuing for three consecutive days. China insisted on going ahead with the original plan that called for reducing duties on 90% of the tariff lines in order to further liberalise the trade regime. Based on an understanding that the tariff reduction modalities of the second phase of the FTA would be separate from the first phase, both sides offered different timelines for bringing down the duties, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Commerce on January 8. They agreed that these timeframes would be discussed further in the next round of negotiations scheduled to be held in Beijing at the end of March, said the ministry. They would try their best to bridge the gap between their tariff reduction mechanisms.

ENERGY

Power woes: Govt plans LNG-based power plants in Punjab, *The Express Tribune*, January 4⁷²

In another attempt to address power woes, the federal government has planned to set up 3,600 megawatts LNG-based power plants in Punjab. The plants are planned as part of the government's long-term energy policy. Additionally, it wants to add LNG-based power plants of 3,600MW capacity in the next two years at Haveli Bahadur Jang, Balloki and Bhakki near

⁷¹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/818892/second-phase-of-fta-pakistan-china-fail-to-overcome-differences/>

⁷²<http://tribune.com.pk/story/816338/power-woes-govt-plans-Ing-based-power-plants-in-punjab/>

Shahdara, Lahore. This proposal was discussed at a meeting of the sub-committee of the cabinet committee on energy that sat down on Friday chaired by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar. The panel is to meet again on Monday to finalise its recommendations for Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The move is aimed at minimising energy shortages in Punjab. After the 18th Amendment, the provinces have priority over their own resource, which has created a shortfall for gas-deficient Punjab. Chinese investors have already shown an interest to set up LNG plants and held meetings with Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif.

IP gas pipeline: Iran threatens to slap penalties for delays, *The Express Tribune*, January 18⁷³

Iran on January 17 dangled the threat of penalties against Pakistan if the later falls behind schedule in fulfilling its obligations in a multi-billion-dollar gas pipeline project that aims to export natural gas to Pakistan. *"Pakistan was bound under the contract to fulfil its commitment by starting the import of Iran's gas supplies in December 2014,"* Hamid Reza Araqi, managing director of the NIGC, was quoted as saying by the Iranian news agency FARS. *"[How things are going] it seems unlikely for Pakistan to take any (serious) measure before the end of 2015,"* Araqi said addressing a press conference in Tehran on January 17. He categorically rejected the rumours that Iran has decided not to fine Islamabad for its long delay in completing the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project. *"The terms of the contract about the fines that Pakistan should pay in case it delays fulfilling its undertakings are still alive and enforceable,"* he said in plain words.

Iran-Pakistan pipeline: Work to start as soon as sanctions go, *The Express Tribune*, January 23⁷⁴

Pakistan and Iran have reached an understanding that they will start implementing the gas pipeline project soon after sanctions imposed by the United States are lifted. *"We have agreed with them (Iran) that we will execute the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project once the curbs are removed,"* Petroleum Secretary Arshad Mirza told the Senate standing committee on petroleum and natural resources in a meeting chaired by Muhammad Yousaf on January 22. *"The agreement is between two nations under the umbrella of the United Nations, which bars us from implementation because of the embargo,"* he said. State Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Jam Kamal told the panel that Pakistan could not afford sanctions while pushing ahead with the pipeline. *"The*

⁷³<http://tribune.com.pk/story/823642/ip-gas-pipeline-iran-threatens-to-slap-penalties-for-delays/>

⁷⁴<http://tribune.com.pk/story/826186/iran-pakistan-pipeline-work-to-start-as-soon-as-sanctions-go/>

current petrol crisis has paralysed the country and you can imagine how we can face sanctions," he said. "Gas imports from Iran are subject to the lifting of sanctions, it's in the national interest."

INVESTMENT

Japan to provide \$19m for two projects, *The News*, January 29⁷⁵

Japan on January 28 signed agreements with Pakistan to provide grant aid of \$19 million for energy saving in water supply system and security improvements at Karachi and Qasim ports. According to the announcement made by Japanese Embassy here on Wednesday, Japan has agreed with Pakistan to implement two grant aid projects approximately worth 2 billion Yens through Japan JICA. The bilateral agreements for "*Detailed Design Portion of The Project for Energy Saving in Water Supply System in Lahore*" and "*The Project for Security Improvement in Karachi Port and Port Qasim of Pakistan*" were signed between H.E. Hiroshi Inomata, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, and Mr. Saleem Sethi, Secretary, EAD, in the presence of H.E. Mr. Ishaq Dar, Minister of Finance as a witness. On the same occasion, agreements on the details of implementation of these projects were signed between Mr. Mitsuyoshi Kawasaki, Chief Representative of JICA and Mr. Syed Mujtaba Hussain, Joint Secretary of EAD.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Inflation rose to 4.3pc in December, *Dawn*, January 4⁷⁶

Inflation rose to 4.3 per cent in December from 3.96pc in November, PBS said on January 1 indicating that substantial cut in local oil rates has not impacted prices of other essential commodities. The government has been lowering oil rate in line with the international trend, but the prices of basic items like meat and milk continue to rise. The average annual inflation rate for July through December was 6.08pc. Core inflation, excluding volatile food and energy prices, rose to 6.7pc in December from a year ago. It grew by a paltry 0.1pc compared with November 2014. The State Bank of Pakistan lowered key interest rate to 9.5pc in the last monetary policy announced on Nov 15; the lower inflation makes a strong case for a further decline. In December 2014, total food inflation was 3.4pc. On a year-on-year basis, prices of non-perishable food items increased by 2.69pc and that of perishable items fell by 1.52pc in December.

⁷⁵[http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-298728-Japan-to-provide-\\$19m-for-two-projects](http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-298728-Japan-to-provide-$19m-for-two-projects)

⁷⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1154510/inflation-rose-to-43pc-in-december>

Pakistan likely to get \$500m loan from IBRD, *The Nation*, January 6⁷⁷

Pakistan is expecting to receive \$500 million from the IBRD, as the country has qualified for the loan after increasing its foreign exchange reserves to \$15 billion in December previous year. "*Pakistan is expecting to receive \$500 million from the IBRD*", said a senior official of the Finance Ministry. However, he added that disbursement of aforesaid amount might take some time. Pakistan had qualified for IBRD after enhancing its reserves to \$15 billion in December. The country is now eligible for loans from the IBRD that would enable it to undertake major projects. The country was required to increase its foreign exchange reserves to three-month import bill (foreign exchange reserves around \$15 billion level) for qualifying for IBRD funding of the World Bank.

Pakistan expects \$700m under CSF by March, *The Nation*, January 18⁷⁸

Pakistan is trying to convince the United States to release two tranches worth over \$ 700 million under CSF together by March 2015, it was learnt on January 17. "*The government is trying to get released two tranches worth over \$700 million together before March 2015,*" Finance Secretary Dr Waqar Masood said. He further said the country would definitely receive one tranche worth around \$370 million during this quarter (before March) in case the US did not agree to release two tranches together. Pakistan also raised the issue of pending CSF amount with US Secretary of State John Kerry during his recent visit, sources in the Finance Ministry revealed. Pakistan has already received two tranches during the ongoing financial year 2014-2015. The country received \$371.4 million in the last week of August and \$370 million in October 2014. The amount under CSF to be released during the current quarter (January to March) would build the foreign exchange reserves. The country's reserves are currently \$15.06 billion of which \$10.37 billion are of State Bank of Pakistan and \$4.7 billion of commercial banks. The country's reserves reached \$15 billion last month with the auction of Sukuk bond and receipt of two tranches from IMF. Pakistan in late November 2014 held the auction of Sukuk bond, which generated \$1b for the national kitty. The government was expecting to have only \$500m, but the issue received a very high interest of investors that made subscription of \$2.3b. The government decided to accept offers of \$1b for the 5-year tenure at a profit rate of 6.75pc.

⁷⁷ <http://nation.com.pk/business/06-Jan-2015/pakistan-likely-to-get-500m-loan-from-ibrd>

⁷⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/national/18-Jan-2015/pakistan-expects-700m-under-csf-by-march>

Pakistan's economy to fall in 2015 as South Asian economies strengthen: UN forecast, *The Express Tribune*, January 20⁷⁹

South Asian economies are expected to grow by 5.4% in 2015, a four-year high, a report published by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations on January 19. However, Pakistan's economy is expected to fall during 2015. Due to the precarious security situation in the country, and low fixed investment, the report said, "*macroeconomic fundamentals remain fragile*" in Pakistan, in spite of the GDP rebounding to an estimated 4.2% in 2014 after robust private and public consumption. The report forecasts economic growth to fall slightly in 2015, but pick up again in 2016.

IMF forecasts 3.3% growth in 2015 for Pakistan, *The Express Tribune*, January 20⁸⁰

The International Monetary Fund on January 20 issued the economic growth forecast of Pakistan, Middle East, North Africa and Afghanistan to be 3.3 percent in 2015 and 3.9 percent in 2016 as a part of its update to the World Economic Outlook report. The IMF made the steepest cut to its global-growth outlook in three years, with diminished expectations almost everywhere except the US more than offsetting the boost to expansion from lower oil prices. On January 4, the IMF had projected Pakistan's economic growth to accelerate to about 3.7% over the next fiscal year, and to rise further in the medium-term as fiscal adjustment eases and structural reforms alleviate constraints in the energy sector. In July 2014, the government reported the actual growth rate to be 3.3 percent, while IMF projected the economic activity to pick up in 2014–15 with the recovery expected to remain fragile.

Shift in focus: Rise of Pakistan just a matter of time, says Morgan Stanley, *The Express Tribune*, January 28⁸¹

Pakistan is located in a region that will bring major changes in the world economy in coming decades primarily due to its demographics. With over 100 million people below the age of 30 aspiring to change their lives, the rise of Pakistan is just a matter of time, Morgan Stanley Chief Investment Strategist David M Darst said on January 27. "*Demographics will play a major role in coming decades. Pakistan is among those nine countries in Asia that will add another China in the next 35 years and the impact of this change will be phenomenal on the world economy,*" he said while giving a lecture on "*The World Economic Environment: Where's the Global Capital Going*".

⁷⁹<http://tribune.com.pk/story/824351/pakistans-economy-to-fall-in-2015-as-south-asian-economies-strengthen-un-forecast/>

⁸⁰ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/824596/imf-forecasts-3-3-growth-in-2015-for-pakistan/>

⁸¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/828679/shift-in-focus-rise-of-pakistan-just-a-matter-of-time-says-morgan-stanley/>

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

A fundamentally flawed fiscal policy, Dr Muhammad Yaqub, *The News*, January 6⁸²

The countries in the Far East, which were way behind us in economic and social developments up to the 1960s, have by now developed to a stage where they are the envy of our country. Even Bangladesh, which was considered to be a basket case and an economic drag when it was a part of Pakistan, seems to be marching ahead of us. Pakistan is rich in natural and human resources but is being left behind by other countries in the region. The public is at a loss to understand what is ailing the country. In a nutshell, an insincere and ineffective leadership has failed to exploit the full potential of the country and has instead dragged it towards the inglorious status of a failing state. Specifically in the economic field, the main factor for the country's poor performance is fiscal mismanagement year after year by successive governments in the last three-four decades. Notwithstanding the self-congratulatory and boastful speeches of a succession of finance ministers while presenting budgets, and endorsement of fiscal policy programmes of almost all the governments by the IMF, the public should be aware that fiscal mismanagement is in fact the mother of all economic ills in Pakistan. [...] In the period ahead, the mega infrastructure projects of questionable economic value inaugurated by the prime minister will add billions of rupees on the expenditure side. The war against terrorism is bound to increase defence expenditure. No structural reforms are in sight to reduce the flow of circular debt or contain the losses of the public sector enterprises. The overwhelming influence of the landed aristocracy and rich businessmen on the government is certain to stop it from undertaking fiscal reforms to include agricultural income in the tax net, introduce documentation to create a framework for catching the tax thieves in the business community and expanding the direct tax base or to adopt sound taxation principles to promote horizontal and vertical equity and elasticity in taxation. A government that has decided to seek advice in the fiscal area from the lobbying groups of business community and politicians belonging to the landed aristocracy in preparing the budget for FY16 will continue to indulge in fiscal mismanagement with all its adverse consequences for the economy and the people.

⁸² <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-9-294343-A-fundamentally-flawed-fiscal-policy>

Tax reform suggestions, Sakib Sherani, *Dawn*, January 9⁸³

Pakistan's tax woes are not new – it has been struggling with low tax collection for several decades. The tax issue has several dimensions which are, by now, widely recognised: the unwillingness of an affluent elite to pay their dues; the token contribution to tax revenue by the country's parliamentarians, barring a handful; widespread exemptions and privileges granted to the rich and powerful, many of which have been coded into law; a rising tax burden on honest taxpayers and formal businesses; and, finally, the growing inability of government to finance the delivery of efficient and effective public services to a burgeoning population. The on-going collapse of international oil prices has brought the distributional consequences of Pakistan's inequitable and unfair tax system into sharp relief. World oil prices have fallen by 50pc since June last year; the government, fearing a huge revenue loss, has transferred only 23pc of the benefit to consumers. [...]An indication of the magnitude of tax avoidance by the elite in Pakistan was provided by a progressive, forward-looking exercise conducted by none other than the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) in 2012. Building on a pilot version that Shaukat Tarin had instructed to be conducted as finance minister in 2009, and in which I was directly involved, the Nadra and allied databases were queried to identify well-off Pakistanis with tell-tale signs of being affluent, and matching this list with the tax register. The result was a nation-wide list of 3.2 million Pakistanis who had multiple properties, bank accounts, club memberships etc, but who did not possess a national tax number. If even half of this list is eligible to pay tax, and if the average annual tax liability of each of these people is a meagre Rs100,000 (US\$ 1000), the national exchequer would see an increase of Rs160bn in the first year alone. [...]While these initiatives, together with the review of all exemptions granted via SROs, are important first steps, they are far short of what is required. FBR now denies knowledge of any list of 3.2 million potential taxpayers, and is intent on sending out 100,000 tax notices a year – an exercise which will take 32 years at the current rate to cover all the affluent Pakistanis on FBR's own, now hidden, list of 2012. [...]

The oil mess, Editorial, *The News*, January 18⁸⁴

That Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had to suspend four top bureaucrats and executives of the oil sector as soon as he returned from Saudi Arabia on January 17 highlights the serious mess that has now turned into a major embarrassment for his government. The scenes being witnessed at petrol stations in Lahore and other cities of Punjab as well as Islamabad resemble something like a minor war with long queues of vehicles standing in the hope of obtaining the suddenly scarce supply of petrol. While reports say various

⁸³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1155752/tax-reform-suggestions>

⁸⁴ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-8-296729-The-oil-mess>

concerned ministries are shifting the blame of the crisis to others, none ready to accept responsibility, the ground situation shows no one has any immediate solution. At present, according to figures from the Association of Petroleum Dealers, supply to Lahore is 400,000 litres as opposed to the 2.5 million litres required. [...] So grave is the crisis that Edhi ambulances have stopped running and lives are at risk. People have quite literally been resorting to bicycles and the fear of darkness is descending in a very literal sense as power shortfall worsens and industrialists already face a severe shortage of energy, including gas. The scenes that have unfolded across Punjab depict the fate of a people denied anything resembling competent government. It should not have been difficult to anticipate the coming crisis and take measures to mitigate it. This has not been done. The results are before us and right now no one can say – despite assurances that the matter will be solved in a few days – when there will be any improvement in what appears to be a rapidly worsening situation combined with mass panic. Misgovernance or probably lack of governance has been given a new meaning by the oil crisis.

Economics & international clout Uzair M Younus, *The Express Tribune*, January 19⁸⁵

The catch-up effect, also referred to as the theory of convergence, argues that less developed countries grow faster than developed economies. According to this theory, over time per capita incomes in developing economies will catch up with the developed world. The fundamental basis of this theory asserts that with access to advanced technology and capital, developing countries can boost economic growth and productivity. A number of countries have been able to grow at rapid rates and in all cases, we find a commonality: a cohesive developmental strategy. The current government in Pakistan made economic growth a central pillar of its agenda. Cabinet ministers, led by the honourable finance minister, argue that the economy is on an uptrend, foreign exchange reserves are recovering, investment is occurring, and that the future is bright for Pakistan. A closer look reveals that the picture is not as rosy. Foreign exchange reserves have improved not because of export growth, but due to re-engagement with the IMF and the sale of external debt instruments. Meanwhile, domestic liabilities and debt of the government hit record highs and have grown by 13 per cent on a yearly basis. According to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the reduction in fiscal deficit to 5.5 per cent of the GDP was mainly due to one-off factors. Furthermore, the government has not paid off the circular debt this year, which now stands at more than Rs200 billion. Exports, which stood at \$24.8 billion in 2013, grew by only \$400 million to \$25.2 billion in 2014. The annual report of the SBP report highlights this

⁸⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/823802/economics-international-clout/>

problem, arguing that Pakistan “*must increase its hard currency earnings*” and that Pakistan’s “*ability to borrow from abroad ... could easily become an FX crisis*”. [...]. It is about time that the political elite of this country developed a strong development strategy that allows the country’s economy to stand on its own feet. If they fail to deliver on this, then the best case scenario is economic default, and the worst case scenario is unimaginable

SECURITY SITUATION

TERRORISM

Three special courts formed to hear terrorism cases, Dawn, January 1⁸⁶

Three special courts were formed on January 1 in accordance with the Protection of Pakistan Act to preside over cases relating to terrorism. Five special courts are to be formed in total. The three courts have been formed in Peshawar, Lahore and Quetta in accordance with the Protection of Pakistan Act passed by the Parliament in order to curb rising militancy in the country. Judge Mukarrab Khan will head the special court in Lahore, whereas Judge Zafar Khosa and Judge Anwar Ali Khan will preside over the courts in Quetta and Peshawar respectively. Sindh is also scheduled to get special courts but these are yet to be established. The latest measures come days after the country's political leadership agreed to establish military courts in order to try terror suspects in what appeared to be a virtual bypassing of the superior judiciary and the Supreme Court's 1999 verdict which had declared such tribunals as unconstitutional.

Lal Masjid’s expansionism, militant links alarms agencies, Dawn, January 4⁸⁷

Security agencies have warned the government due to his links with known militant groups and his anti-government rhetoric that the resurgence of Lal Masjid cleric Abdul Aziz poses a security threat to the law and order situation in the capital. They also stressed the need for a check on the growing number of madressahs in Rawalpindi and Islamabad who also have overt and covert links with militant groups. A report entitled ‘Activities of Maulana Abdul Aziz’, forwarded to the interior ministry by the country’s primary intelligence agency, says that the “Lal Masjid mafia” has links with militant groups and land grabbers and is currently reorganising the Ghazi Force militant group spawned by his own followers after the Lal Masjid operation. “*Activities of*

⁸⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1154418/three-special-courts-formed-to-hear-terrorism-cases>

⁸⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1155014/lal-masjids-expansionism-militant-links-alarms-agencies>

Maulana Abdul Aziz and Lal Masjid administration, if not checked / contained can subsequently create [a] serious law and order situation in [the] twin cities," the report said.

Serious concerns: Over 8,000 seminaries operate without affiliation, *The Express Tribune*, January 7⁸⁸

Over 8,000 seminaries have neither been registered with the ITMP, an umbrella of five schools of thought, nor with the ministry of religious affairs, raising a serious question over their curriculum's legitimacy and their source of funding. Following the NAP committee's recommendations, officials associated with provinces' Auqaf departments are gathering data about madaris/makatib which have never been registered with the ITMP, ministry of religious affairs or with the provincial Auqaf departments. Around 8,249 seminaries which have enrolled 0.3 million students are not registered across K-P, Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan, revealed officials, who will brief ministry of interior next week. *"These non-registered madaris/makatib did not fulfil the basic criteria set by the ministry of religious affairs,"* a senior official. Around 4,135 madaris/makatib are operating without getting proper registration from the designated authorities in K-P, the official said, adding that some 2,411 seminaries are unregistered in Punjab, 1,406 in Sindh and 266 in Balochistan, he explained.

Relative improvement: 2014 saw a 43% drop in suicide attacks, states report, *The Express Tribune*, January 7⁸⁹

Pakistan witnessed a 43% drop in the overall suicide attacks during 2014 as compared to 2013, with a decreasing trend of terrorist attacks and fatalities, which went down by 30% during the year. According to Pakistan Security Report 2014 issued by Pakistan Institute of Peace Studies on January 6, around 1,723 people were killed and 3,143 were injured during 2014 in a total of 1,206 terrorist attacks – including 26 suicide hits – carried out by militants, nationalist insurgents and violent sectarian groups. While the number of terrorist attacks decreased by 30%, the overall number of people killed and injured in these attacks also decreased by 30% and 42% respectively. The report reveals that in 436 (or 36%) of the total reported incidents, security forces and law enforcement agencies were exclusively targeted. With the exception of Punjab, which witnessed 8% rise in terror attacks with 41 reported incidents, the rest of the country saw a relative improvement with 30% decline in the number of terrorist attacks. During the year, K-P witnessed

⁸⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/817868/serious-concerns-over-8000-seminaries-operate-without-affiliation/>

⁸⁹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/817881/relative-improvement-2014-saw-a-43-drop-in-suicide-attacks-states-report/>

26% decrease with 325 attacks, Balochistan a 32% drop with 341 assaults and Karachi 40% decline with 217 attacks.

Mullah Fazlullah threatens PML-N leaders, Dawn, January 9⁹⁰

Rattled by the growing consensus in the country on taking firm action against militant groups to eradicate terrorism, the absconding chief of the outlawed TTP, Mullah Fazlullah, has threatened to go after government leaders and senior members of the ruling PML-N. In a video message released to the media, apparently recorded at his hideout somewhere in Afghanistan, he said that "from now" the PML-N "is our target". About 800 leaders and workers of the Awami National Party have been killed in KP, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas and other parts of the country during the past few years. ANP chief Asfandiyar Wali Khan escaped narrowly a suicide attack at his residence in October 2008.

Ex-TTP members pledge allegiance to Islamic State, Dawn, January 11⁹¹

An online video was released on Saturday apparently showing former militants of the TTP pledging allegiance to the Islamic State group. The video shows former TTP spokesman Shahidullah Shahid along with dozens of other militants in a wooded area. Shahid already announced his support for the Islamic State group in an audio message in October. He was later replaced by the TTP. Other militant leaders who identify themselves as from Afghanistan and Pakistan also pledge their support to the Islamic State group. The SITE Intelligence Group, a US-based terrorism monitor, said the video was released by the Islamic State group on Twitter and jihadi forums. The video is sure to raise concerns about whether the Islamic State group has found support in Pakistan and Afghanistan, a region already awash with dozens of militant groups. At the end of the video, the militants killed a man they claim to be a Pakistani soldier.

TTP chief on the run: US designates Fazlullah as global terrorist, The Express Tribune, January 14⁹²

The United States has put Maulana Fazlullah, the fugitive chief of the banned TTP, on its list of global terrorists. Maulana Fazlullah, who is believed to be hiding in northeastern Afghanistan, had claimed responsibility for the methodical killing of 150 people – 132 of them schoolchildren – at the Army Public School in Peshawar on December 16. "The Department of State has designated Maulana Fazlullah, also known as Mullah Fazlullah, as a Specially

⁹⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1155830/mullah-fazlullah-threatens-pml-n-leaders>

⁹¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1156376/ex-ttp-members-pledge-allegiance-to-islamic-state>

⁹² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/821607/ttp-chief-on-the-run-us-designates-fazlullah-as-global-terrorist/>

Designated Global Terrorist under Executive Order 13224, which targets terrorists and those providing support to terrorists or acts of terrorism," a spokesperson said in a media statement – available on the State Department website. "The consequences of these designations include a prohibition against US persons engaging in transactions with Fazlullah, and the freezing of all property and interests of Fazlullah that are in the United States, or come within the United States or the possession or control of US persons," it adds. The State Department designated the TTP as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation and a Specially Designated Global Terrorist on September 1, 2010. The TTP was also listed at the United Nations 1267/1989 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee on July 29, 2011.

Revealed: Govt decides to ban Haqqani Network, JuD, *The Express Tribune*, January 15⁹³

Pakistan has decided to ban the Haqqani Network, JuD and 10 more organisations in a move described by security analysts as a 'paradigm shift' in the country's security policy. Confirming the development, senior officials told that a formal announcement to this effect would be made in 'coming days'. The decision came a day after the US State Department declared the fugitive chief of the TTP Mullah Fazlullah as a '*Specially Designated Global Terrorist*'. Mullah Fazlullah had claimed responsibility for the December 16 bloody massacre of schoolchildren in Peshawar.

Diplomats, UN representatives visit Miramshah, *Dawn*, January 16⁹⁴

A delegation of diplomats and UN representatives visited Miramshah in North Waziristan on 15 January. According to a statement issued by the Inter Services Public Relations, Minister for State and Frontier Regions Lt-Gen (R) Abdul Qadir Baloch, Adviser to Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz and Corps Commander Peshawar Hidayat ur Rehman accompanied the delegation. The dignitaries were briefed about the operation Zarb-i-Azb by the operational commander and success achieved, so far. More than 1,000 terrorists had been killed since June 2014 when operation Zarb-i-Azb was launched. The long stretch of Mirali and Miramshah had also been cleared of militants, they were informed.

New terror watch list catalogues 5,400 militants, *The Express Tribune*, January 18⁹⁵

The government has put more than 5,400 suspected militants on a new terror watch list, in a fresh move to swiftly execute a crackdown against sympathisers, financiers and facilitators of banned outfits across the country.

⁹³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/822087/revealed-govt-decides-to-ban-haqqani-network-jud/>

⁹⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1157355/diplomats-un-representatives-visit-miramshah>

⁹⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/823183/new-terror-watch-list-catalogues-5400-militants/>

As part of implementation on the NAP against terrorism, these suspected terrorists were included in the list under the Fourth Schedule of the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997, a legal tool that allows the government to catalogue all those involved in terrorism. *"The fresh crackdown is being conducted by civilian forces with cooperation of intelligence operatives,"* an official monitoring progress on the NAP told. The KP home department has put some 2,572 suspects on the list — most of them linked with banned organisations, he revealed, adding that more than 1,896 suspected terrorists have been placed on the list by the Punjab home department. The Sindh home department placed the names of 479 suspects on the terror watch list. Similarly, the Balochistan government has identified 400 suspects, Islamabad police 50, and the Gilgit-Baltistan government has named 23 militants, the official added. The Punjab government, he said, has registered 540 cases against those who violated loudspeakers' laws while the federal capital police has also arrested 115 people and registered 176 cases against those who violated laws related to hate speech and loudspeakers.

Pakistan decides to ban Haqqani network, *The News*, January 18⁹⁶

Pakistan has outlawed the Taliban-linked Haqqani network, officials said on January 16. Senior Pakistani government officials told Reuters a formal announcement of the ban would be made *"within weeks"*. *"We have decided to ban the Haqqani network as a step in implementing the National Action Plan devised after the (Peshawar) school attack,"* said a cabinet member, referring to an massacre of 134 children by Taliban gunmen last month. *"The military and the government are on the same page on how to tackle militancy. There is no more 'good' or 'bad' Taliban. Kerry specifically pressed for action against the Haqqanis, including banning the group,"* the official added. A second official, a minister who spoke on condition of anonymity, confirmed the decision to outlaw the Haqqani group

Pakistan freezes bank accounts of Jamaatud Dawa, *Dawn*, January 22⁹⁷

In what appears to be a move towards the swift implementation of the NAP, Pakistan on January 22 said the bank accounts of JuD have been frozen and foreign travel restrictions have been imposed on Hafiz Saeed, the organisation's leader. *"Pakistan took this decision under the UN obligation and not under pressure from any other quarter including John Kerry,"* Foreign Office spokesperson Tasneem Aslam said in a briefing at the Foreign Ministry in Islamabad. Aslam said that assets of all banned organisations in the country have been frozen and that the country is taking action against terrorists with discrimination, according to a report published on Radio Pakistan.

⁹⁶ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-172093-Pakistan-decides-to-ban-Haqqani-network->

⁹⁷ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1158691/pakistan-freezes-bank-accounts-of-jamaatud-dawa>

Confusion over status of JuD, Haqqani network, Dawn, January 23⁹⁸

The Foreign Office avoided on January 22 confirming proscription of the JuD and the Haqqani network, but said that Pakistan, as a member of the United Nations, was required to act against those included in the sanctions list. "*JuD and some other organisations are listed by the United Nations. Pakistan, as a member of the United Nations, is under obligations to proscribe the entities and individuals that are listed. We take our obligations very seriously and try to meet these obligations scrupulously,*" Foreign Office spokesperson Tasnim Aslam said at the weekly media briefing. But, at the same time, the spokesperson said that "*national action or any other subsequent actions to ensure full implementation*" was the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior and Nacta, therefore only those two organisations could tell whether JuD and the Haqqani network had been banned or not.

Ghazi Force in focus after Wah bomber identified, The News, January 26⁹⁹

Amidst intelligence reports that the Lal Masjid-linked Ghazi Force was flexing its muscles to carry out some major acts of terrorism in Rawalpindi and Islamabad by using its human bombs, the investigators have identified the suicide bomber who had blown himself up at a police picket at Wah on January 20, 2015 as Kausar Ali, a former student of the Lal Masjid-run Jamia Fareedia. According to those investigating the case, the bomber was on a suicide mission and riding a Rawalpindi-bound bus when intercepted during a routine checking at a police picket on the GT road near Mughal garden area of Wah. As ASI Babar tried to body search the 25-year old suspicious man after taking him off the bus, he shouted "*Get away from me*" and hurled a hand-grenade on the policemen. The grenade missed the target and exploded a few meters away, injuring three members of a family - Jamrud Khan, Mehmood Khan and Naseem Bibi.

Military offensive in Pakistan forces militants into Afghanistan: report, The Express Tribune, January 29¹⁰⁰

A military offensive in Islamabad which eradicated militants' havens has led to Arab and Central Asian militants moving into Afghanistan, according to Afghan officials and local residents, the Wall Street Journal reported. Former and current Afghan officials say groups of militants have arrived due to the operations aimed at clearing militants from North Waziristan. Militants' families – about 400 of them – moved into Afghanistan in December, and

⁹⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1158809/confusion-over-status-of-jud-haqqani-network>

⁹⁹ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-298192-Ghazi-Force-in-focus-after-Wah-bomber-identified>

¹⁰⁰ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/829534/military-offensive-in-pakistan-forces-militants-into-afghanistan-report/>

according to Afghan officials, they live with locals in the country. The family members include those who are affiliated with the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan and al Qaeda. While their arrival may come off as threatening to a country that is already struggling with security — what with the country being confronted with a Taliban insurgency — Afghan officials say the fighters are not taking part in combat. A tribal elder from Helmand, Haji Abdul Azizi, hosted a family that were loyal to the Islamic State. *“They were six men, seven women and two children,”* he said. *“They were speaking Arabic and two of them also understood Pashto. They came in two [four-wheel drive] cars.”* He said women in the group were armed, and would take turns keeping a lookout on each other during the night.

Police have become inept over the years: think-tank report, *The News*, January 30¹⁰¹

A Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency report, yet to be released, has expressed concerns over the deteriorating situation of police in Pakistan and generated a scorecard for the PML-N government at federal and provincial levels. According to the report, police is the premier law enforcement agency tasked with maintaining peace, stability, and order in the country. It notes with concern the performance of the institution of Pakistan’s police has become questionable over the years as a result of the prolonged inefficiency and lack of any meaningful and substantial reforms. The report highlights that the police suffers from criticism for their inefficiency, and allegations of corruption and politicization. There is a major disconnect between the police and citizens of the country. As a result, the service delivery, governance and the performance of the police forces have been dissatisfactory. The report argues that since the inception of Pakistan, no real significant progress was made to reform and restructure the police. However, in year 2002, the government headed by former president Pervez Musharraf passed the Police Order 2002 to establish a politically neutral, highly accountable, operationally autonomous, and extremely professional police force. Unfortunately, it states that the very government of President Musharraf took steps that made the Police Order 2002 ineffective by making it partisan.

¹⁰¹ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-298934-Police-have-become-inept-over-the-years-think-tank-report>

LAHORE

Wagah bombing mastermind among 3 TTP militants killed in Lahore: sources, *The Express Tribune*, January 11¹⁰²

Three Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan terrorists, including the alleged mastermind of the Wagah border bombing last year, were killed in an operation conducted by security forces in Lahore on January 10, sources confirmed. The joint operation was carried out by the police and intelligence and law enforcement agencies at a house in the Burki area of the city on a tip-off regarding the presence of TTP Lahore Commander Asadullah alias Roothullah alias Qureshi, the alleged mastermind. Police officials said when the raiding team reached the area, Asadullah and his two accomplices opened fire at the raiding party after which the police fired back in retaliation. The exchange of fire continued for at least half-an-hour. When the firing stopped from the other side, the policemen entered the house and recovered the bodies of three alleged terrorists.

Islamabad police identify 198 suspected Ghazi force militants, *The News*, January 21¹⁰³

In an intelligence survey following the December 16 Peshawar school attack, the Islamabad police has identified 198 suspected members of the banned outfit, Ghazi force, which was formed following the 2007 Lal Masjid siege. In a briefing to the Senate Standing Committee on Interior, Islamabad police officials said that they carried out secret surveillance of 111 out of the 198 suspected Ghazi force members. The police also identified addresses of 65 suspected members, out of which 53 were interrogated. The officials told the standing committee that the 53 individuals were no longer associated with the Ghazi force, and that their names were also being removed from the police's watch list. Inspector General Islamabad Police Tahir Alam informed the committee that in the past three years, 247 cases of kidnapping were registered in the capital city. He said that extremist elements were also involved in luring and abducting youngsters and taking them to Afghanistan for training.

Four TTP members arrested in Islamabad, *Dawn*, January 21¹⁰⁴

Four Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan members were arrested in Islamabad, following a security forces raid on 20 January night in the area of Khanna. In

¹⁰²<http://tribune.com.pk/story/819684/wagah-bombing-mastermind-among-3-ttp-militants-killed-in-lahore-sources/>

¹⁰³<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-172511-Islamabad-police-identify-198-suspected-Ghazi-force-militants>

¹⁰⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1158460/four-ttp-members-arrested-in-islamabad>

the wake of recent terrorist activities in Rawalpindi, security forces carried out raids in Rawalpindi and Islamabad based on tip offs. According to intelligence sources, a group of terrorists from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa entered the capital to carry out a terrorist attack. The authorities did not reveal the identities of the four TTP members as other men from the group suspected to be in the capital are yet to be arrested.

IS commander arrested in Lahore, *The Express Tribune*, January 22¹⁰⁵

Security forces have arrested a commander of the ultraorthodox Islamic State group as well as two accomplices involved in recruiting and sending fighters to Syria. IS has set up a self-proclaimed caliphate on large swathes of land in Syria and Iraq after making stunning military victories against government forces in the two countries. *"Yousaf alSalafi and his two accomplices were arrested by intelligence agencies and Punjab police in a joint raid in the Shahdara neighbourhood of Lahore,"* an official told. *"IS's hate literature was also recovered during the raid,"* he added. Yousaf alSalafi, a Pakistani Syrian, confessed in subsequent interrogation that he represented IS in Pakistan. One of his associates, Hafiz Tayyab, was a prayer leader at a local mosque in Lahore and was recruiting fighters for Syria. AlSalafi was detained after crossing over into Turkey from Syria. Somehow he managed to escape and travelled to Pakistan five months later to establish a foothold for the group here, a senior police official said.

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND FATA

Infrastructure worth Rs1b turned into rubble in N. Waziristan, *Dawn*, January 1¹⁰⁶

The government's infrastructures worth one billion rupees have been turned into rubble in the conflict-stricken North Waziristan Agency, according to damage need assessment report. The line departments of Civil Secretariat, Fata have carried out damage need assessment survey of the government owned properties in Mirali and Miramshah sub-divisions of North Waziristan. Survey of the damaged infrastructure was conducted after security forces cleared these areas of militants. The report said that 115 facilities including education and health and 102 kilometres roads had been either completely or partially damaged in the affected areas. Officials said that assessment was carried out in August this year. The government has set up Temporarily Dislocated Population Secretariat in Peshawar for overseeing overall activities including damage assessment in North Waziristan Agency. A senior military officer has been appointed head of the secretariat.

¹⁰⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/825636/is-commander-arrested-in-lahore/>

¹⁰⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1154410/infrastructure-worth-rs1b-turned-into-rubble-in-n-waziristan>

Armed men open fire at Swabi school, *The Express Tribune*, January 15¹⁰⁷

With the country still reeling from the Peshawar school massacre, a school in Swabi was fired at January 15 morning. Unidentified armed men opened fire near Government Girls High School Lahore just around the time the school session was due to end. The watchmen guarding the school retaliated, however, the assailants managed to escape. No casualties have been reported so far. Confirming the incident, Swabi police officials said more security personnel were dispatched to the site while the area was cordoned off. Police said they are trying to track down the attackers. According to the residents of the Lahore East area, three men riding on a motorbike opened fire when they reached close to the main gate of the school.

Afghans asked to leave Kurram within three days, *The News*, January 19¹⁰⁸

Giving a three-day deadline to the Afghan refugees, the political administration on January 18 asked them to leave Kurram Agency within three days. An official said a large number of Afghan refugees migrated to Kurram Agency, mostly to its lower parts, during Afghan war in 80s. He said that they were initially accommodated in the camps but later they shifted to rented houses. He maintained that the administration launched several operations to oust them from the area but to no avail. He said that following the government's directives, the political administration warned them to leave the area within three days; otherwise strict action would be taken against them.

More than 8,200 terror suspects arrested in K-P, *The Express Tribune*, January 23¹⁰⁹

Law-enforcement agencies in K-P have rounded up more than 8,000 suspects in a fresh crackdown against militants, official documents revealed, as the province takes the lead in the implementation of the National Action Plan against Terrorism. According to the documents – which the K-P government submitted to the Prime Minister's Office on January 22 – some 8,281 suspects have been arrested in 2,861 fresh operations. These include 22 clerics accused of delivering hateful speeches. The K-P government has also charged the representatives of some 222 seminaries with violating loudspeaker laws. In comparison, the Punjab government has added the names of more than 2,000 suspects to the new list of terrorists, informed officials told. They added the Sindh government has placed the names of 500 suspects on the list, the Balochistan government has identified 410 suspects, authorities in Islamabad

¹⁰⁷ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/822174/armed-men-open-fire-at-swabi-school/>

¹⁰⁸ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-296948-Afghans-asked-to-leave-Kurram-within-three-days>

¹⁰⁹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/826188/more-than-8200-terror-suspects-arrested-in-k-p/>

have named 150 suspects and Gilgit-Baltistan has named 50 suspects. As part of its efforts to implement the National Action Plan, the K-P government has identified over 90 terrorist cases which are to be transferred to military courts and has allocated Rs760 million for the recovery of 615 'deadly' Terrorists.

BALUCHISTAN

Govt officials among nine kidnapped in Balochistan, Dawn, January 6¹¹⁰

Suspected activists of the banned TTP kidnapped nine people, including government officials, in the past 24 hours. "Nine people who were travelling in a passenger bus and a car have been kidnapped by armed men near Zhob," Balochistan Home Minister Sarfaraz Bugti said at a press conference on January 5. Armed men intercepted a Zhob-bound passenger bus coming from Quetta on Sunday and took away five people with them. Sources said the kidnappers checked national identity cards of the passengers and separated five people, including government officials and a student of Bolan Medical College, Quetta, from the others. The home minister said security forces had launched a search operation in Zhob and Qila Saifullah areas to recover the kidnapped people.

Gas pipeline blown up in Dera Bugti, The Nation, January 6¹¹¹

Unidentified men blew up an eight-inch diameter gas pipeline here in Pirkoh gas field area on January 5. According to Levies Force, unidentified men had attached explosive devices with the gas pipeline which went off with a bang. The gas purification supply was suspended from well No 19 to Pirkoh plant after the blast. Local administration reached the site and cordoned off the entire area.

Pakistan, Iran term border attacks a conspiracy to undermine relations, Dawn, January 12¹¹²

Pakistan and Iran on January 11 termed recent incidents along their porous border as a conspiracy to undermine relations between the two neighbors. Iranian Governor of Sistan-Balochistan, Aqai Ali Osat Hashmi arrived in Quetta on a two-day visit and met Pakistani officials to discuss border issues, trade, narcotics smuggling and other issues. The Iranian governor of Sistan-Balochistan called on Chief Minister Balochistan Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch and addressed a press conference after their meeting on January 11. "We will not allow anyone to use our soil for terror acts," Chief Minister Dr. Malik Baloch assured the visiting Iranian governor. He said that Pakistan was committed to eradicate extremism and terrorism from its soil. The Iranian governor's visit

¹¹⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1155137/govt-officials-among-nine-kidnapped-in-balochistan>

¹¹¹ <http://nation.com.pk/national/06-Jan-2015/gas-pipeline-blown-up-in-dera-bugti>

¹¹² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1156377/pakistan-iran-term-border-attacks-a-conspiracy-to-undermine-relations>

has come almost a week after Iranian border force fired rockets inside Pakistani territory that injured a minor girl in Mand Bilu area of Turbat.

SINDH

The year of encounters — police, Rangers killed 925 suspects across Karachi, Dawn, January 1¹¹³

The last days of the outgoing year saw a sudden increase in killings in 'encounters' with over 30 suspected militants gunned down by law enforcers while a total of 925 suspects were killed in such shootouts and 160 personnel of police and Rangers fell in the line of duty during the year, it emerged on December 31. The sudden spike was seen by many as 'vengeance' for the massacre of schoolchildren in the Peshawar school attack. According to official figures, 701 suspects were killed in 'encounters' with police and 224 were gunned down in shootouts with the paramilitary Rangers while 143 personnel of police and 17 of Rangers were killed in targeted attacks in the metropolis, said spokespersons for police and Rangers.

RELATIONS WITH INDIA

Exchange of fire along Indo-Pak working boundary, five killed, Dawn, January 1¹¹⁴

Exchange of fire took place in the Shakargarh sector of Narowal district late on December 31 and continued until the early hours of January 1, official sources said. This incident in which four Pakistani troopers died on the border in Jammu and Kashmir followed the killing earlier in the day of an Indian border guard, Rakesh Sharma, BSF inspector general for the Jammu Frontier said. "We have retaliated effectively ... four Pakistani rangers have been killed along the International Border in Samba sector this evening," said Sharma. Pakistan says India killed two troops invited to meeting. Pakistan claims that the latest round of incidents began when Indian border guards killed two Chenab Rangers' personnel in Shakargarh sector on Wednesday after calling them for a flag meeting on the Working Boundary. Naik Riaz Shakir and Lance Naik Mohammad Safdar, who were deputed for the meeting sought by the BSF, died amid a hail of bullets, the Chenab Rangers said.

¹¹³<http://www.dawn.com/news/1154281/the-year-of-encounters-police-rangers-killed-925-suspects-across-karachi>

¹¹⁴<http://www.dawn.com/news/1154420/exchange-of-fire-along-indo-pak-working-boundary-five-killed>

India created trust deficit: Rangers DG, Dawn, January 5¹¹⁵

Rangers DG Maj Gen Khan Tahir Bahadur Khan on Thursday said that by killing two Rangers personnel at Shakargarh Sector, India had created a trust deficit, making it impossible to resolve minor differences at post level flag meetings. Talking to the media here, he said the incident had generated the need to evolve a new mechanism to resolve minor border, Line of Control or working boundary issues with India. Maj Gen Khan said the incident was unprecedented as Indian Border Security Force had requested for a flag meeting. Pakistan Rangers sent two personnel in response and they were asked to wait despite three requests for the meeting. Ultimately, they were fired upon and injured while the Rangers were not allowed to rescue them as a result of which they expired, he said. The Rangers DG said India was responsible for the situation created as a result of the killing of two Rangers personnel. Special efforts would have to be made to evolve a new mechanism to resolve minor post level issues between the two border forces, he said.

Four Pakistani civilians killed in firing along India border, Dawn, January 6¹¹⁶

Indian Border Security Forces personnel resorted to unprovoked firing and shelling along the Working Boundary in Sialkot's Zafarwal and Shakargarh sectors on Monday killing four Pakistani civilians, the ISPR said in a statement. *"2 more civilians embraced martyrdom due to Indian unprovoked firing and shelling,"* the Pakistani military's media wing said. The ISPR said Indian border forces had resorted to shelling *"on civilian population in Shakargarh sector in villages Sukhmaal, Bheke Chak and Bhurey Chak."* *"Exchange of firing continues. Pakistani troops [are] targeting Indian BSF positions which are firing in Pakistan area,"* said the statement.

US concerned over rising Pak-India tension, The News, January 6¹¹⁷

The United States on Monday expressed concern over rising Pakistan-India tensions and the exchange of fire along the working boundary, which has claimed four Pakistani civilian lives. State Department spokesperson Jen Psaki said Washington encourages Islamabad and New Delhi to engage in a dialogue. *"We certainly remain concerned and watch over tensions along the border. We encourage dialogue between the (two) countries,"* Psaki said, when the issue of flare-up in border tensions between Pakistan and India was raised at the daily briefing. When her attention was drawn to the reports of four Pakistanis

¹¹⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1154596/india-created-trust-deficit-rangers-dg>

¹¹⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1155068/four-pakistani-civilians-killed-in-firing-along-india-border>

¹¹⁷ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-170922-US-concerned-over-rising-Pak-India-tension>

deaths in Indian fire in Sialkot sectors, the spokesperson said she did not have any confirmation but added the U.S. would obviously sympathize with families on loss of any lives. *"Our hearts will go out to the families"* for any lives lost. In response to another question, the spokesperson noted that Washington has been supporting dialogue between Islamabad and New Delhi. There have been some steps in the past and positive exchanges over the years but *"obviously more work needs to be done."*

Pak-India Dosti Bus restricted to Wagah Border, *The Express Tribune*, January 8¹¹⁸

Two months after a deadly suicide bomb attack on the Wagah border post with India left at least 60 people dead, Pakistan on January 7 took precautionary measures and curbed movement of the bi-lateral 'Dosti Bus'. DIG Operations Dr Haider Ashraf told *The Express Tribune* that the Pak-India Dosti Bus had been restricted to the Wagah Border due to terror threats. Authorities have shifted the entire bus operation to a sub-office at the border. *"We are operating the entire bus operations at the border — including arrival and departure,"* a Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation official confirmed. Per the new measures, those seeking to travel to India on the bus via Wagah, will need to make their way to the border post to board the bus to Delhi or Amritsar. Previously, the bus used to run from the PTDC office in Lahore. Similarly, those passengers travelling to Pakistan from India will now disembark at Wagah Border. Previously, passengers from India were dropped off at one of two destinations in Pakistan, either the PTDC office in Gulberg, Lahore, or at the city office in Nankana Sahib.

Fair Indian inquiry into boat incident urged, *Dawn*, January 9¹¹⁹

The Foreign Office said on January 8 that Pakistani law-enforcement agencies had begun their own probe into the "terror boat" incident claimed by India and again called upon the latter to transparently investigate the issue. *"We expect that there will be a transparent investigation by the Indian government to ascertain the facts of the incident and the circumstance in which the boat caught fire and some people got killed,"* Foreign Office spokesperson Tasnim Aslam said at the weekly media briefing. The Indian government had claimed to have intercepted a suspicious boat from Ketu Bandar (Pakistan) on the New Year night after an hour-long chase. But it was said that the crew afterwards set the boat on fire, which exploded and sank. The Indian claim was questioned not only in Pakistan but also in India, with many believing that India created the hype to heap the blame on its estranged neighbour. *"There is a debate in India and questions are being raised about the claims and circumstance under which the*

¹¹⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/818114/pak-india-dosti-bus-restricted-to-wagah-border/>

¹¹⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1155845/fair-indian-inquiry-into-boat-incident-urged>

people in the boat were targeted and boat was set on fire," the spokesperson said, adding that Delhi apparently had no "sound evidence" to substantiate its allegations.

India committed 243 ceasefire violations last year, NA told, *The Nation*, January 13¹²⁰

The National Assembly which met in Islamabad on January 12 was told that Indian forces committed 243 unprovoked ceasefire violations along the LoC and Working Boundary last year. In his written statement during question hour, the Advisor for Foreign Affairs said that Indian forces committed 71 cease-fire violations in October last. These included 30 on the LoC and 32 on the Working Boundary. He said that his Ministry took several initiatives to focus world attention on Indian forces hostile acts and urged the need to strengthen mandate of UN Military Observer Group. The Advisor told the National Assembly that Pakistan has also called upon the UN to carry out impartial inquiry into the incidents of cease-fire through the UN Observers Group. To another question, the House was told that Pakistan and the UAE are holding talks to improve scrutiny of stakeholders and the hiring process of Pakistani laborers to the UAE companies.

India helping terrorists in Pakistan, *Dawn*, January 13¹²¹

Building on recent accusatory statements by government representatives, Federal Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on January 12 claimed that India was helping terrorist groups in Pakistan to carry out "heinous acts". In an interview on DawnNews's programme News Eye, the minister alleged that India "has designs on Pakistan". "*The Taliban have links with India. Also, India's involvement in the insurgency in Balochistan cannot be ignored,*" he said. When asked to provide evidence for his claim, the minister dodged the question and proceeded to claim that a low intensity war was underway. He stated that his allegations were based as much on conviction as on experience. Public statements against India have been making their way into mainstream media. A day earlier, Adviser to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz had said that India was involved in acts carried out from Afghanistan's soil in Pakistan. Asif said that India wants to keep Pakistan busy with skirmishes on the eastern border so that the country remains distracted from the war on its western borders and the terrorism within. Military sources had also claimed on Monday that one part of US Secretary of State John Kerry's visit would focus on the sharing of intelligence reports and evidence of Indian involvement in subversive activities across

¹²⁰<http://nation.com.pk/national/13-Jan-2015/india-committed-243-ceasefire-violations-last-year-na-told>

¹²¹<http://www.dawn.com/news/1156571/india-helping-terrorists-in-pakistan-khawaja-asif>

Pakistan. The evidence is alleged to credibly identify financial support, training and provision of weapons to militants.

No question of talks with India without Kashmir on agenda: Aziz, *The Express Tribune*, January 14¹²²

National Security adviser Sartaj Aziz said on January 13 there was no question of talks with India without Kashmir on the agenda. "*The dialogue process with India would be meaningless without the core issue of Kashmir on agenda,*" the prime minister's senior aide said during a joint press conference with US Secretary of State John Kerry who is on a two-day visit to Pakistan. "*Pakistan wanted a constructive, sustained and result-oriented dialogue with India on all issues of mutual concern,*" Aziz emphasised. His statements come after Kerry earlier in the day urged India and Pakistan to return to peace talks. "It is profoundly in the interests of Pakistan and India to move their relationship forward," he told reporters in Islamabad. "*This is the hardest kind of work. It means you have to put a lot of time and effort into overcoming historical mistrust and past events, enmities,*" the secretary of state added.

Border violations by India distracting Pakistan from task at hand: Bajwa, *The News*, January 16¹²³

Director General Inter-Services Public Relations branch of the Pakistan Army, Major General Asim Bajwa addressed the Royal United Services Institute a leading think tank in London on January 15. The DG ISPR, spoke on the role of the Pakistan Army in countering terrorism, rendering great sacrifices. He explained how the army freed areas from Taliban control adding that the strategic objective was to deny them use of Pakistan's territory to achieve lasting peace. Bajwa told the think tank in his address, that with the aim of eliminating terrorism and ending militant links in the area to establish the writ of the state and to improve governance in the area, the army began its operation from the North in Bajaur agency and made its way down. He recalled how Swat was taken over by terrorists and how the army went in to eliminate them after the TTP began flogging people meting out their brand of justice. The operation was lauded by the United Nations as the most successful operation.

India asks PIA to shut its office in Delhi, *The Nation*, January 18¹²⁴

Indian authorities have issued a legal notice to PIA to shut its office in New Delhi. In the notice, sources said, Indian officials have accused that the

¹²²<http://tribune.com.pk/story/821158/talks-with-india-meaningless-without-kashmir-on-agenda-aziz/>

¹²³<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-171928-Border-violations-by-India-distracting-Pakistan-from-task-at-hand:-Bajwa->

¹²⁴ <http://nation.com.pk/national/18-Jan-2015/india-asks-pia-to-shut-its-office-in-delhi>

property for PIA office was purchased illegally. Reports quoting PIA sources said that the Indian authorities have also not extended the visas of Pakistan's national carrier staff and issued orders for Station Manager Saeed Ahmed to leave New Delhi. The case is pending in the court and according to PIA officials all the property was purchased as per Indian laws. Pakistan High Commission sources said PIA staff was being harassed by Indian agencies and the purpose of this drive was to shut Pak-India flight operations. At present PIA is running two weekly flights from Lahore to New Delhi, and if operation is closed, passengers will have to travel through Wagah Border.

Regional peace: Pakistan pressed US to tame India, *The Express Tribune*, January 23¹²⁵

Pakistan has urged the United States to use its influence for making India behave as a responsible state in order to bring stability and peace in the region. This issue was raised during the recent visit of US Secretary of State John Kerry, where he held in-depth discussions with Pakistani political and military leadership. "*Latest developments in the region particularly the ongoing operation against terrorism and the rising tension with India came under discussion,*" sources privy to the meetings held with Kerry told this correspondent on the condition of anonymity. "*Kerry was asked that President Obama should take up Pakistan's concerns related to India during his forthcoming visit to India,*" sources said, adding that "*Kerry was urged that President Obama should put pressure on Indian leadership for resumption of dialogue process with Pakistan in order to resolve all outstanding issues, including Kashmir*". The US secretary of state was apprised that Pakistan is deeply engaged in curbing the menace of terrorism and its forces are busy on the Western border, in such crucial times any disturbance on the Eastern border is disturbing this war against terrorism — which as of now remains the global concern. "*India must be told to remain in its limits.*" The sources maintained that Kerry was communicated that "*India is pursuing policy of aggression against Pakistan without any reason and intends to divert attention of Pakistani forces from the ongoing war against terrorism.*" Kerry was also asked that President Obama should convince the Indian leadership to talk on Kashmir issue as well, since lasting peace in the region can only be guaranteed with the resolution of the core issue of Kashmir, which has been lingering on due to cold Indian response.

Kasuri's passionate plea for better Indo-Pak ties, *The News*, January 25¹²⁶

Former foreign minister Mian Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri has expressed the need for a "*high degree of optimism*" in dealing with relations between Pakistan

¹²⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/826197/regional-peace-pakistan-pressed-us-to-tame-india/>

¹²⁶ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-35458-Kasuris-passionate-plea-for-better-Indo-Pak-ties>

and India as interrelations of Pakistan, India and Afghanistan took centre stage at the Jaipur Literary Festival where panelists discussed the upswing in talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan besides India's souring ties with its neighbour. *"I have read (the book of) Sanjaya Baru that supports what I have written in my book. What Baru has written supports one hundred per cent what I have written... not only on Kashmir but also on Siachen,"* Khurshid Kasuri said. *"I have given entire framework. I have written an entire chapter on Pak Army as I see it. I am not an expert on Pak military like others but whatever I have written is completely authenticated,"* he maintained. Summing up his thoughts on Indo-Pak relations, Mian Kasuri said that former Indian prime minister *"I K Gujral and I planted a sapling which I hope will be a tree now growing faster than the Indo-Pak relations."*

Obama likely to ask Modi to resume talks with Pakistan', *The News*, January 25¹²⁷

US President Barack Obama is likely to raise with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi the issue of how the two nuclear-armed neighbours can resume dialogue and reduce their hostilities when the two leaders hold talks during the American leader's shortened trip to India, *The Wall Street Journal* reported on 24 January. Citing administration officials and analysts, the newspaper noted that Obama's visit to India comes at a time of escalating tensions between India and Pakistan. The pursuit of dialogue *"is something that the United States has consistently supported, and we will continue to do so,"* Ben Rhodes, White House deputy national-security adviser, told a briefing on January 21. *"President Obama is likely to urge Prime Minister Modi to resume some kind of dialogue with Pakistan,"* White said. *"To avoid being seen as chiding his host, the president probably intends to deliver this message behind closed doors."*

Pakistan sneaks into US-India strategic vision, *Dawn*, January 26¹²⁸

President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Narendra Modi agreed on a joint strategic vision for regions straddling Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean on Sunday, but a close reading of the pact indicates a crucial role for Pakistan, though it was not named, as a conduit for carrying the proposed cooperation into Central Asia. *"To support regional economic integration, we will promote accelerated infrastructure connectivity and economic development in a manner that links South, Southeast and Central Asia, including by enhancing energy transmission and encouraging free trade and greater people-to-people linkages,"* the US-India Joint Strategic Vision for the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region said. Analysts said reference to people-to-people linkages in the Obama-Modi

¹²⁷<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-35473-Obama-likely-to-ask-Modi-to-resume-talks-with-Pakistan>

¹²⁸ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1159463/pakistan-sneaks-into-us-india-strategic-vision>

document was lifted from the standard formulae used for years in Indo-Pakistan dialogues. Moreover, the mention of Central Asia as a destination for all round connectivity was a clear give away for Pakistan's role since neither China, nor Russia or Iran could be in the minds of the signatories.

Nawaz extends wishes to Indian counterpart on Republic Day, *The News*, January 27¹²⁹

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has extended his wishes to his Indian counterpart on 66th Republic Day of India on 26 January. In his message, PM Sharif wished for the development and prosperity of the masses in the neighbouring country. The prime minister said Pakistan wants friendly and cordial ties with India, adding that the country is committed to building its relations with the South Asian rivals to safeguard mutual interest and sovereignty. He said, "*Cherished goal of peaceful and prosperous South Asia could be achieved by joint efforts in the interest of people of the region*".

Time for Pak-India dialogues not conducive: Indian HC, *The News*, January 27¹³⁰

Indian High Commissioner to Islamabad, T.C.A Raghavan has alleged that terrorist groups are enjoying freedom in Pakistan, therefore, it was hard to resume dialogues between to the neighbours. Raghavan was addressing a ceremony at Indian High Commission on the occasion of Republic Day on 26 January. The Indian High Commissioner said the real matter is not of holding dialogues but is that who should resume the process. Raghavan said conducive environment is very essential for dialogues, adding that terrorist groups are still enjoying freedom in Pakistan, therefore, it was very hard to resume dialogue. He said the role of Jamaat-ud-Dawa was clear before everyone despite ban on the group in 2008. He made it clear that it was not fair to attribute India-US relations to Pakistan, adding that India will acquire energy from every source for next 10 to 15 years. He said drone technology has several purposes other than using it against anyone.

India an important neighbour for us, *The Express Tribune*, January 28¹³¹

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on January 28 said it is important for both Pakistan and India to resolve all their outstanding issues, including the Kashmir dispute in order to ensure peace and stability in the region. Speaking to Pakistan's High Commissioner to India Abdul Basit, the premier said the country would like to have normal relations with India on basis of mutual

¹²⁹ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-173101-Nawaz-extends-wishes-to-Indian-counterpart-on-Republic-Day>

¹³⁰ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-173136-Time-for-Pak-India-dialogues-not-conducive:-Indian-HC->

¹³¹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/828878/india-an-important-neighbour-for-us-pm-nawaz/>

respect and sovereign equality. "India is an important neighbour for us," said the premier at the PM House. The prime minister also reiterated that Pakistan wants to maintain good neighbourly relations with all countries in the region. Basit called on PM Nawaz and briefed him on the status of Pakistan-India relations. Just two days ago, the premier got his words across with a letter of felicitations for his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi on India's 66th Republic Day.

Concerns to be raised about Indian hand in terrorism, Dawn, January 29¹³²

The government has decided to take a tougher approach towards India and forcefully raise its concerns over alleged Indian involvement in acts of terrorism in Pakistan. Successive governments in Pakistan always pointed to the Indian hand in terrorism, more particularly in Balochistan and tribal areas, but did not disclose specific information about the alleged role. That, a senior national security official said, would not be the case any more. The security official, who requested anonymity, said: "Terrorism allegedly patronised by India is a major concern for us and we want the Indian government to address that." The report about the government's change in tack with India vis-à-vis terrorism was shared with Dawn as Pakistan's High Commissioner to India Abdul Basit met Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for consultations on the way forward in the stalemated ties with Delhi.

Indo-US trade deal a bilateral matter: FO, Dawn, January 29¹³³

Days after US President Barack Obama travelled to India where the two countries reached a number of agreements, the Foreign Office in Islamabad said that the Indo-US trade deal was a bilateral matter between the two countries. Speaking to media representatives during the FO's weekly briefing, spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam said Pakistan also enjoyed favourable relations ties with the US. Aslam touched upon the subject while responding to a question posed during the press briefing. The Indo-US trade deal is their bilateral matter, Aslam said, adding that Islamabad also enjoyed good economic and trade ties with America and that the US was Pakistan's biggest trading partner. Last week, US President Obama visited New Delhi on the invitation of Indian premier Narendra Modi where the two discussed the future of the Indo-US relationship and also managed to sign some agreements relating to trade and energy.

¹³²<http://www.dawn.com/news/1160167/concerns-to-be-raised-about-indian-hand-in-terrorism>

¹³³ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1160200/indo-us-trade-deal-a-bilateral-matter-fo>

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Pak-India skirmish, Editorial, *Dawn*, January 2¹³⁴

Violence along the Working Boundary between Pakistan and the India-held portion of Kashmir has been a regular feature for much of the past year. Sadly, New Year's Eve was to be no exception. In typically murky circumstances, with both sides trading accusations and offering contradictory accounts, several Pakistani, and at least one Indian, border guards were killed — the only certainty being that both sides did fire on the other. What is alarming about the latest, however, is that the Pakistani version suggests that two Rangers were lured into a flag meeting with their Indian counterparts and then killed in a hail of gunfire. If true, it would be an astonishing breach of the rules of engagement and would surely make managing the peace in an already fraught environment infinitely more difficult. [...] On the Pakistani side, it seems inconceivable that with an army heavily deployed in Fata on counter-insurgency duties and a military leadership preoccupied with the response to domestic terrorism in the wake of the Peshawar carnage, conflict with India is part of the agenda at the moment. While the state here has quietly pledged to defend the eastern borders against any threat, there has been no real belligerence in evidence. Still, the ground between not wanting a fight and learning to avoid one can be wide. The political and military leadership of both sides needs to come together to bring an end to this turbulent phase along the LoC and the Working Boundary. Surely, no one could argue that distracting Pakistan from its fight against militancy is a good idea at this stage.

Rocky start, Editorial, *The Express Tribune*, January 2¹³⁵

For those looking towards better ties between India and Pakistan as the means to build a better future, 2015 did not start well. At least four Pakistan Rangers were killed as a result of firing across the working boundary dividing Pakistan and Indian-held Kashmir along the Samba sector. The Indian Border Security Force says the firing was retaliatory. This has been denied by Pakistan, which summoned the Indian deputy high commissioner to Islamabad on January 1 to complain about the incident. There were reports of continued exchanges of fire early on January 1. [...] The fact is that we badly need calm to prevail so that the process of building bilateral relations can go ahead. It is vital that New Delhi and Islamabad are able to work together for the benefit of the people of both countries. The increased strain we have seen in ties helps no one. It only encourages militant and hardline elements and prevents regional stability that is so vital for development and progress. Both

¹³⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1154533/pak-india-skirmish>

¹³⁵ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/815710/rocky-start/>

countries are urgently in need of this. The two governments need to think about how to swing things around. The start of a new year should be a good time to consider this. Right now, matters do not look very good at all. There are fears that the tension will mount still higher and this is something we simply cannot afford when there is so much to be gained by ending these unnecessary border skirmishes, which consume vital political energy and claim the lives of both security personnel and civilians.

The political economy of Pakistan-India trade, Naheed Memon, *The Express Tribune*, January 6¹³⁶

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated his government's plan to open up India's retail markets, reduce non-tariff barriers and make investing in India easier when he met US President Barack Obama a few months ago. Modi's centre-right BJP won the Indian general elections earlier this year, with Indians overlooking concerns regarding India's secularism and the fate of their Muslim minority in favour of Modi's economic vision. He promises to help recover faltering economic growth, reduce corruption and improve governance. In Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif's business-friendly government has wanted to normalise trade with India. If India chooses to become America's best friend, supported by Japan, Sino-Pakistan relations may be fortified to develop a competing nexus. Nevertheless, India does require better relations with Pakistan if it is to emerge as a South Asian superpower. Adam Smith's theory states that free trade eliminates inefficiency losses. Although market economists endorse his view, some say that concessionary FTA or PTA deliver only a discriminatory distribution of surplus. Evidence from Pakistan, which has signed six FTAs and PTAs, shows that none have had a positive impact on Pakistan's trade account. Free trade theory prescribes that if the construct of FTAs is based on comparative advantage, it leads to gains for both parties. But the Pakistan-China FTA has proved unfavourable for Pakistan's trade account with China. Many industries have lost market shares globally. This loss in competitiveness warrants attention for industries, which were close to global benchmark competitiveness, and would have either retained or acquired it if some protection was rendered. [...]Sindh shares a border with Rajasthan. Khokhrapar railway station was built 105 years ago. This service continued until the 1965 war. In 2006, Thar Express was launched but closed in a year. There was a time when a huge chunk of exports from Pakistan to India and imports from India into Pakistan took place via this border. The Sindh and Rajasthan route can be extended to Gujarat. Sindh contributes one-third of Pakistan's GDP and one-fourth of the country's population lives in this province. Gujarat is only five per cent of India's population, but it contributes 16 per cent of total industry output and 22 per

¹³⁶ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/817147/the-political-economy-of-pakistan-india-trade/>

cent of the exports. These are startling figures. Politics matter but it has its limits.

A message for Pakistan, Imtiaz Gul, *The Express Tribune*, January 28¹³⁷

President Barack Obama took many by surprise when he, disregarding protocol, warmly hugged Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 25. The act apparently overwhelmed as much as it excited those present around the two leaders and the hundreds of millions of TV viewers in and outside India. The embrace at the airport, as well as the ensuing engagements of Obama, underscored a new chapter in India-US relations. Obama's second visit to India incensed and annoyed many in Pakistan. Several analysts, officials and the right wing in particular were huffing and puffing over it. Obama snubbed us by not visiting Pakistan but our government continues to remain in a subservient mood, or at least this was how a number of observers and politicians interpreted the event. These emotive responses in Pakistan notwithstanding and regardless of the tangibles achieved, Obama's New Delhi yatra carries several messages for Pakistan. [...]Pakistan remains conflict-driven, its security crisis precipitating the consequences of an elitist-driven governance system. Various conflicts inside the country and the one in Afghanistan keep Pakistan relevant for the US, though largely in the security context. Whatever potential this country has — and it indeed can theoretically offer a lot — as of now remains untapped because of its volatility and its image as an 'untrustworthy ally'. That is why, as of now, the responsibility of dealing with Pakistan rests largely with John Kerry. Ironically, in a situation that warranted a full-time energetic foreign minister to lobby with friendly countries for Pakistan, the government apparently has left this to the Army Chief, General Raheel Sharif, to see counterparts and even political leaders in London and Beijing. The out-of-protocol hug Obama gave to Modi was, therefore, an embrace of geopolitical and commercial interests at best — shorn of any streaks of the bitter past. Pakistan's domestic situation hardly holds any promise for its relations with China to take the same path; what can we expect of a political leadership that has surrendered foreign diplomacy, parts of the judiciary and the entire gambit of security to the military establishment? The PML-N stalwarts are strategically hamstrung by parochialism and are mostly given to self-promotion rather than working for the interests of the federation. The less important but fast-paced metro bus project, and the critically crucial but snail-paced development of the new Islamabad airport, are the embodiments of this mindset.

¹³⁷ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/828539/a-message-for-pakistan/>

Impact of Obama's visit to India, Talat Masood, *The Express Tribune*, January 28¹³⁸

President Barack Obama's interview in India Today in which he has repeated the demand that Pakistan needs to make greater effort to clear the sanctuaries of militants and take action against the LeT for its involvement in the Mumbai massacre of 2008 was not surprising. It was meant to please Narendra Modi and also to maintain pressure on Islamabad. At a time when the Pakistan military is engaged in a major military operation in North Waziristan and other areas to reestablish the writ of the state at an enormous cost in terms of blood and sweat, such remarks that are meant to put pressure, in fact, have just the opposite effect. Religio-political parties opposed to military operations have always maintained that the government is fighting under pressure from the US. Their views gain credence and weaken the support of the people when US leadership makes such remarks. [...]A major achievement of the visit has been to clear the objections that stood in the way of implementing the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal signed six years ago. The breakthrough in the deadlock on nuclear agreements will facilitate the sale of US-built nuclear plants to India. With the issue of liability of suppliers sharing the cost in the event of an accident resolved, the obstacle to the purchase of these plants worth billions of dollars has been removed. Washington apparently has also lifted the condition of tracking nuclear material that is used to power nuclear reactors. This agreement will deepen and broaden the strategic partnership on a more enduring basis and elevate India's nuclear status. Of course, the level of technology transfer, price and other issues still need to be worked out. India's enhanced capacity for production of fissile material would be a source of concern for Pakistan. But anticipating this development, Pakistan has largely taken care of it by stepping up its own fissile material production in the last few years. Our counter-strategy seems to be to further strengthen the strategic partnership with China — the rising and only challenger to the US at the global level. Pakistan's deep strategic relations with China and Saudi Arabia are its countervailing assets. The army chief's visit to Beijing is part of his drive to apprise major world powers of Pakistan's efforts at fighting terrorism and seeking their support. In this connection, he has already had very successful visits to the US and Britain. His visit to Beijing, however, has provided an opportunity to send a strong signal to India that Pakistan has a highly dependable ally in China and is not alone. The remarks of Gen Fan, the Chinese vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission, after his meeting with General Sharif that the two countries are "iron brothers" is a reaffirmation of China's commitment to stand with Pakistan in its efforts to resist hegemonic pressures. The development of the China-Pakistan economic corridor linking western China

¹³⁸ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/828540/impact-of-obamas-visit-to-india/>

with Gwadar, opening to the strait of Hormuz, will also boost bilateral links. In addition, Pakistan is making efforts to improve ties with Russia, which is facing isolation due to US and Western sanctions and is inclined towards broadening its links with countries in South Asia, including Pakistan.

FROM PAKISTAN URDU MEDIA

“Al-Qaeda’s conquests in Karachi in 2014”, *Nawai Afghan Jihad*, January 2015.

Although the establishment of the office of Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) in Karachi was announced later this year, its consultative body headed by its Chief had started working since early 2014. Its Karachi branch has already accomplished following tasks in city of Karachi: (i) action against American interests; (ii) against Pakistan military; (iii) attacked the police, (iv) took action against anti-Islamic gundas; and (v) curtailed activities of anti-Islamic (Zorastrian) leaders.

Action against American Interests

On 6 September 2014, under the leadership of 2nd Lt. Zeeshan Rafeeq and Retd 2nd Lt. Owais Jakhrani, al Qaeda mujahideen captured two naval ships in the Indian Ocean: (1) PNS Zulfiqar and (2) PNS Aslat. Our basic objective was to reach US Navy and Indian Navy and destroy them, but before reaching the designated target, there erupted an skirmishes between al Qaeda mujahideen and Pakistani naval forces, which continued for about 10 hours, wherein several Naval officials were killed and many others wounded. It may be pointed out here that all our al Qaeda attackers were Pakistani ex-Commissioned officers.

Attack on the military

Al Qaeda mujahideen carried out attacks on Pakistani security forces and in two separate incidents killed two *Shia Pakistani naval officials*.

Attack on Police

Al Qaeda Karachi branch has come out with an Annual Plan for New Year 2015. It has been decided that since the Karachi Police is perpetrating a reign a terror on innocent people of Karachi and is collecting its weekly commissions (*Hafta*) and protecting the dacoits, anti-socials and highway robbers, al-Qaeda will punish them for their acts.....

Killing of pseudo-Islamic intellectuals and hafta collectors.

Our mujahideen brethren murdered 15 persons who were involved in (a) collecting weekly hafta from Muslim traders and (b) those infidels who were engaged in anti-Islamic activities. But at the time of these operations, every care was taken not to do anything which will harm the common man....

Emphasis on Salaf

We should remember and would also make sincere appeals to all the intelligent scholars of Islam to uphold the position that Islam is one and its interpretation can neither be made by the American intellectuals and their puppets nor by anyone who is pro-deen and afraid of Allah. Islam has to be practiced according to the principles laid down in Quran and Sunnah. *Only those interpretations would be acceptable to us, which were attempted by our salaf, or the first three generations of Muslims.* It is a very precious asset for us which will remain so till the doom's day (Qayamat).

....*Today, we hear a lot about "moderate Islam", "modern Islam", "meaningful Islam" etc. Actually, it is Islam made in America, which is being thrust upon us.* The media channels are peddling such new interpretations of Islam. Allama Iqbal had once said that there are some unfortunate souls, who don't understand the real meaning of Islam. *Khud badalthey nahin, Quran ko badal detey hain* (They do not want to change themselves, but are seeking to change Islam)....Whenever the followers of Islam seek to reinterpret Quran Sharif, they become self-styled mujahideen and feel they are exalted. *But they must know that they are ignoring the teachings of Quran and Islamic jurisprudence and are becoming un-Islamic.*

It should be remembered that the real, hidden purpose of the war on terror is to impose an incorrect version of Islam on the Muslims of the world. They are making all kinds of efforts to persuade gullible Muslims to live in harmony (hum-ahangi se) with falsehood (kufuria) or infidelity. This is an open insult to Islam and Allah. Before accepting the Western interpretation of Islam, it is imperative for Muslims to obtain the views of the Emirs of Jihad on the subject, for the simple reason that they would be able to take all aspects into consideration and guide us properly.

Killing of apostates

Blogger Aniq Naaz was a product of Western education (version of Islam) and was always making mockery of Islam and Nabi in her internet blogs. Our mujahideen brethren murdered her and thus made this earth a better place to live in. Similarly, another Zoroastrian convert into Islam, Professor Shakil Auj was also disrespectful to Deen-e-Islam. Our mujahideen murdered this infidel in September 2014 and performed their duty towards Allah. Remember, this is not the first instance when such infidels were targeted by Mujahideen. In the past, our mujahideen killed Dr. Farooq's for the same reason.

Message from Ayman Al Zawahiri not to join jihad spawned by IS, *Nawai Afghan Jihad*, p.28.

Oh my dear Mujahid brothers, as I understand, *some of you, who want to join the jihad in Sham (Iraq and Syria), do so because you think that by participating in such jihad you can reinforce Allah's message and give a drubbing to the Kafirs.* However, that may not be correct. Beware! Save yourselves from those

leaders who want to use you for their selfish ends, to acquire power, to gain name and fame for themselves at your cost and to serve their *jaati* or sectional/sectarian interests. Remember, even if I were to ask you to persecute our fellow Muslim mujahid brothers, you are under no obligation to obey me. *If I ask you to kill your own brothers in the name of Islam do not pay any heed to my words.* Rather, you must disregard my instructions, because if you commit such acts, I shall not be able to come to your rescue on the final day of judgment.

Message of AQIS chief Asim Umar, *Nawai Afghan Jihad*, p.26

This caravan of Jihadis will not die within Pakistan alone. It will obliterate the blood-stained border (of Pakistan on the east), enter Hindustan and reach Delhi. Let it be known to you, our ranks are full of such devoted jihadis that they will not stop at Delhi and move ahead to carry the wave of Islamic rule to Dhaka and Burma.

We remember all atrocities committed on us, by Kashif ali al Khairi, *Nawa-i-Afghan Jihad*, p.18.

In the aftermath of the Peshawar incident, the Pakistan government and its military have not only pushed the whole nation into a state of anguish and hysterical madness, but also created an atmosphere of hatred and phobia against the mujahideen..... [However,] no one heaved a sigh or shed a tear either overtly or covertly to show their sympathy for the loss of innocent lives lost in incessant attacks launched by Pakistani helicopter gunships and drones upon unarmed women children and [of mujahideen] dwelling in the far-flung qabayali (tribal) region.

Ironically, all these crazy political and military and also several religious maulanas of Pakistan have galvanized the whole nation on one platform of "hate" campaign against the Mujahideen for the barbarity perpetrated upon the so called "young flowers" (school children). The media channels have played a vital role in condemning the killing of 132 school children at the Peshawar Army School. How do these crazy wretched politicians and military leaders expect peace and tranquility to descend upon their homes? This is not possible.

It is time to ponder that there was no halt to oppression inflicted on us for 13 long years. All these years, the bodies of our small infants and school-going children were smothered by indiscriminate shooting from helicopter gun-ships. Their grieved mothers used to collect their body parts strewn around the compound of their homes. These unfortunate mothers, while burying their sweethearts made genuine complaints to Allah as to why they were suffering like this and what crime was committed by these little angels that their lives were cut short by Paki tyrants. *They were also school children like those studying in the military*

school at Peshawar. They were not terrorists. No candle-light vigil was observed for them. Needless to say, these killings continued for 13 long years. Why so?.....

Army and Navy of Pakistan;

The crusaders used Pakistan airspace, services of its army and navy and dumped thousands of tons of arms and ammunition. They resorted to carpet bombing of the tribal areas. Some figures reveal that the US and its allies undertook 57,000 sorties during this period. In the same way, these crusaders also maintained their control over Pakistan's naval facilities and made their presence felt in Pakistani territorial waters.

Lal Masjid turned into a pool of blood.

Today those characters who were involved in July-2007 massacre of Lal Masjid and Jamia Hafsa are asking the nation to observe mourning. They do not know that the wounds inflicted on the people of Pakistan by those heinous murders would never be healed that soon. We can never forget that dark chapter in our lifetime...The other day, when our students – helpless and innocent ones— were killed by a dose of white phosphorus, these Satanic elements were making merry.

Swat operation:

Let us not forget that after the attack on Lal Masjid, the wave of *Sharia and Shahadat* (martyrdom) swept throughout the country. The mujahideen of Swat and Malakand, while rejecting the hegemony of the Center, declared their own rule in areas under their control. This could not be digested by the federal government in Islamabad. They mustered all their resources to bring an end to the sharia based system proclaimed in Malakand.....

Mosques and madrasas.

Two and half year ago Maulana Fazlur Rehman [Oh yes, he is the same person, who is now openly advocating war against terrorism] *had stated that the Pakistani fauj had destroyed more than 600 masjids and madrasas. But the Mujahideen sources reveal that more than 1000 mosques and madrasas were destroyed only in Swat and Malakand.* In Swat...Pakistani helicopters targeted only mosques as it was a clear sign of Muslim habitation. Bombing of a teaching centre in Orakzai by the Pakistani Military on 25 March 2010 resulted in the death of at least 70 students. Similarly in Bajaur, Khyber, Mohmand and Kurram, Pak Military targeted mosques and madrasas indiscriminately.

Drone attacks

For last 20 years, US drones have been regularly lobbing missiles on FATA. Let us not forget that before carrying out these attacks, *they obtained all the requisite information from the Pakistani army. It is through them that particular bombing locations were identified.* So it becomes very easy for US forces to carry out their operation. According to Mujahideen sources there were 539 drone attacks during 2004-2014. This does not include hellfire bombings by Pak Military.

Missing persons

Thousands of our Muslim brethren who refused to surrender before the Pakistani military officers have been hiding in unknown secret locations. *Those who have been captured by the army are suffering in solitary cells, where they are treated very harshly. These tyrants are pulling their hair from their heads and nails from their fingers. Shias and Qadianis are employed to torture the mujahideen in innovative ways.* If they are still alive it is because of their strong resolve and determination. Not only menfolk, but also women are being tortured in same way.

Do you have the strength to fight the American war inside Pakistan? by Rab Nawaz Farooqi, *Nawa-i-Afghan Jihad*, January 2015

During a fortnight [17-31 December 2014], Pakistani military, Rangers, police and Intelligence agencies picked up about 250 mujahideen from unknown locations, made fake charges against them and executed them. These heinous crimes were committed in Kohat, Peshawar, Khyber, Hangu, Charsadah, Gujrat and Karachi. *The Pakistani army, puppet of the US, sent those mujahideen to gallows who were responsible for attacks on former army chief Pervez Musharraf and the GHQ.* This is the state of affairs in a country which was raised in the name of "La Ilaha Ilallah".

With the consent of all political parties, Pak. Military has established military courts.....*After 13 years of continuous defeat, Pak military has now rejuvenated itself and seems to be ready to jump into battle (as promised to their American bosses) to fight. This will obviously create a war-like atmosphere in the whole country.* This is being done as a reaction to the cruel mujahideen attack on young children in an Army School at Peshawar. In this connection, Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) spokesman Mohammad Khorasani, took the responsibility for Peshawar incident and *explained that there was some special medical course being conducted in the School by military officers and actually they were our target. Apart from that, we only killed those children of army officers, who had developed moustaches. From the point of view of Shariah, this is akin to the killings of Banū Qurayshah, which is quite legitimate.* He also clarified that civilians and small children were killed by firing opened by the Army. We maintained rapport with all the brothers till the end and they were following our instructions.....

Due to difficulties in communication, Peshawar incident could not be explained adequately to the leaders of mujahideen groups immediately following the incident. The Pakistani media propaganda that it was an attack on school children held sway. Therefore, the spokespersons of Afghan Taliban (Zabiullah Mujahid) and Al-Qaeda of Indian Subcontinent (Ustad Usama Mahmood) condemned the incident and held that the mujahideen should not have targeted the children.

According to some estimates, there is a strong presence of security forces today in the tribal areas. *There are about 7 lakh from the Pakistan army, 3 lakh from the air-force and navy, 7 lakh Rangers and police. Apart from this there are about 1.5 lakh officials involved in spying.* Ironically, all these persons are fighting the US-led campaign against the mujahideen. If you ponder over this issue, you will realize that these forces are sacrificing their precious lives for protecting the interests of Uncle Sam.....Please remember these small flickers of smoldering fire could turn into a bonfire; will you be able to stop it?

It is in our interest now to take stock of the ground realities. The US is withdrawing from the region along with its allies. *And as you know, the mujahideen are here to stay. They have learnt how to resist the attacks being launched on them bravely....*

India to be paid back in the right coin, *Daily Ummat*, Editorial, 2 January 2015.

...Pakistan's desire to have long-term peace with its neighbour should not be assumed as our weakness. We reserve the right to protect and preserve our sovereignty and security. It may be recalled that in this indiscriminate firing from Indian side, we have lost (i) scores of lives (ii) thousands of our cattle and (iii) lost properties worth millions of rupees....Ironically, responding to every Pakistani protest, Bharat has always reiterated that firing was started by Pakistan. But the stark reality remains that pending resolution of the Kashmir problem, such firings and allegations and counter allegations would continue. Further, the trade, commercial and cultural agencies of Pakistan and Bharat should be given to understand that Pakistan's desire for having sustainable peace should not be mistaken as its weakness and no undue advantage be taken by the Indian government. Pakistan very well knows how to retaliate blow for blow!

One more brutal aggression from Indian side, *Daily express*, Editorial, 2 January 2014¹³⁹

On 31 December 2014, Wednesday, Indian forces on the pretext of holding flag officers' meeting with Pakistani rangers in Shakkar Gashand started indiscriminate firing and killed two members of the Chenab Rangers. ...Never before had such unprovoked firing taken place in the past. *But now the Indian Defence Minister Manohar Parikar's statement comes to mind: instead of conveying condolences, he threatened to use double fire-power to retaliate any shelling from Pakistan's side.* It has been generally seen that whenever there is tension

¹³⁹ <http://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1102607294&Issue=NP-ISB&Date=20150201>

on the borders, Indian government instead of reducing the tension comes out with provocative statements. *The Indian authorities have given a 'carte blanche' to its forces to deal with the situation with full force and retaliate as they like without observing international norms.*

It may be noted that Pakistan has several times extended its hand of friendship to India but of no avail. Modi government has always been aggressive in its designs instead of having cordial relations. *Thus there is no sign of improvement in the present relations.* In these circumstances, Pakistani government should review its traditional policies and stage a strong protest in the international forums/United Nations with regard to Indian forces violating international borders.

Strict surveillance on border, *Daily Dunya*, Editorial, 7 Jan 2015.¹⁴⁰

After Peshawar incident when Pakistan formulated its National Action Plan to deal with terrorists, there has been a sudden increase in border violations by Indian security forces. *Prima facie, it appears that India is not quite happy about our resolve to fight the terrorists with full force and fury.....As we know, Pakistan has always extended a hand of friendship to India but it has unfortunately been taken as sign of weakness.*

Recently, Indian forces blasted one boat wherein which was allegedly ammunition-laden and killed 4 persons. In this connection, a letter has been sent from Sartaj Aziz to Sushma Swaraj, the Indian Foreign Minister, wherein Pakistan has demanded that those involved in the attack must be punished severely. Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmed Choudhary has also written to UNGA and Ambassadors of European Union about India's violations of international norms on the border and martyrdom of two rangers. He has urged the world leaders to put pressure on Indian authorities to stop such provocations. *One should understand this fact that ever since Modi came to power, there has been sudden spurt in border violations.....Pakistan should not nurture any illusions about India and must not take it for granted. Anything could happen from across the border at any time.* So the need of the hour is to fathom the situation carefully, so that in case there is any adventure by India, we should be fully prepared to reciprocate with full force.

Bharat's boat drama, *Daily Express*, Editorial, 7 January 2015¹⁴¹

Adding fuel to fire Mr. Manohar Parikar, Indian Defence Minister alleged that on New Year's eve, there was an incident of a Pakistani boat blowing itself up in the Arabian sea. Circumstantial evidences led him to believe that there were some evil designs hatched by the enemy [read Pakistan]. *Repercussions of*

¹⁴⁰ <http://e.dunya.com.pkdetail.php?date=2015-0104edition=LHR&id=1477832-70953201>

¹⁴¹ http://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1102614572&Issue=NP_ISB&Date=20150107

such hostile activities could be witnessed in Jammu and Kashmir. Here on the 22nd anniversary of Sopore incident on January 6, complete hartal was observed and all educational institutions, shops and offices were closed.

In the meanwhile, Pakistani Naval guards confiscated 2 fishing vessels on their entering Pakistani waters. Indian newspaper, *Indian Express*, has said that it was an act of revenge...It is high time that India should stop accusing Pakistan for everything. *Instead, it should understand that the menace of terrorism has engulfed the whole region and we should understand its gravity and should make united efforts to deal with this menace.*

Pak-Afghan relations should be normal, by Aga Masood Hussain, *Daily Dunya*, 19 Jan 2015.¹⁴²

During last few days, Pakistan's three senior politicians, Mahmood Khan Achakzai, Aftab Khan Sherpao and Afrasaib Khattak, visited Kabul and had a detailed meeting with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. During this meeting, they made comprehensive review of bilateral relations between the two countries. *They concluded that both countries should forget their past bitterness and forge ahead with hope to maintain peace and stability in the region and demanded full cooperation to wipe out terrorist elements on Pak-Afghan border.*

As per reports, one goodwill delegation from Afghanistan is scheduled to visit Pakistan soon. Before this visit President Mamnoon Hussain had visited Afghanistan to meet President Ashraf Ghani. They entertained each other with their choicest Urdu couplets and had hearty talks and thus paved ground for better bilateral relations in coming days.....

Let us not forget that during Hamid Karzai's rule, India had entrenched itself well in Afghanistan. Bharat is not only disturbing the economic conditions of Afghanistan, *but also using terrorist elements and inciting them to destabilize Pakistan.* Hamid Karzi encouraged Bharat to intensify its unholy intrigues against Pakistan. Even today, Bharat is making every possible effort to destabilize and destroy Pakistan.

In brief, Afghan govt. should outrightly reject any intervention by India in its internal affairs. Instead, it should accept Pakistan's hand of cooperation, which would be beneficial for the whole region.

Establishment of Military Courts by democratic forces in Pakistan, by Syed Muawiya Hussain Bukhari, *Nawa-i-Afghan Jihad*, January 2015.

It appears that with every passing day, the curtain is slowly drifting away from democracy and democratic institutions. Those facts which were known only to the elite can now be seen by everyone in Pakistan. After Algeria, Egypt, Bangladesh and now in Pakistan, the US, while continuing with its own democratic institutions, has prompted their leaders and military to take

¹⁴² <http://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2015-01-15&edition=LHR&id=1497101-28554827>.

over institutions of state. The establishment of "military courts" in Pakistan is one such instance. Needless to say, democratic forces in Pakistan who hitherto boasted about Parliament and the Constitution, have now come together on one platform with a slogan- "Without military Courts it is not possible to control the menace of terrorism".

....One thing is quite evident that establishment of military courts by a democratic government proves that Pakistan's democratic system has lost its credibility or it has become bankrupt.....

Let us not forget that at the time of the fall of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Jihad was not regarded as "terrorism" and Mujahid was not regarded as a "terrorist". People took Mujahid in high esteem. Most people held that Uncle Sam had not right to define "jihad" and "mujahideen". That was only for Deen (Islam) to decide. *It is regrettable that while the US is now withdrawing from Afghanistan for good after suffering a shameful defeat, Pakistan is still willing to burn its future in the furnace of the American war on terrorism....*

Obama should make sincere efforts to avoid global war, Nawa-i-Waqt, 20 January 2015.¹⁴³

Bharati Prime Minister Modi is himself a symbol of massacre of Muslims. This was evident from his anti-Muslim activities when he was Chief Minister of Gujarat. While BJP nominated him as prime ministerial candidate in the Elections, the strategy of having an anti-Muslim and anti-Pakistan policy was given shape during his Election campaign itself. No doubt, there has been zero protection of minorities especially the Muslims. Rumours were rife that with his coming in as PM, the secular position of India would be tarnished. This was evidently clear from (a) attack on Friendship Bus and Samjhota Express and gherao of Pakistani players, (b) harassment of Pakistani artists; (c) attack on Pak High Commission Office.....All the above incidents make us believe that during BJP regime, there won't be peace and tranquility in the South Asian region.

Muslim minorities have also been victimized at the hands of aggressive Hindus. In Kashmir, aggressive attitude harboured by BJP has encouraged Hindu elements to harp on independence. In this connection, Kashmiri leaders have highlighted before several international forums the terror and fear perpetrated upon Muslims in Kashmir State. When Modi Saheb came to power, he acted as per his Agenda. He intensified anti-Pakistan hysteria, killed one officer at the flag meeting and repeated border violations on LoC.

The policies of Modi govt. have reached such a climax that *on flimsy grounds, it asked PIA to close its office in Delhi*. Their visas were not extended resulting in the sudden return of PIA staff. So it could be seen that Modi govt does not

¹⁴³ <http://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/editorials/20-Jan-2015/354838>

have any regard for international norms.....We should not forget that *India's continued aggressive posture could bring both nuclear-countries face to face, which would certainly bring en masse destruction of human life.* In this scenario, world leaders, especially US President Obama who is the Chief Guest at Republic Day parade in New Delhi should seriously ponder over this issue...*During his visit President Obama should be acquainted with Modi's aggressive policies and the potential fall outs of his behaviour.....He should also emphasise on Indian leaders the inherent risks of pursuing such aggressive policies.*

Obama's visit to India: Hidden implications, Daily Ummat, 26 January 2015¹⁴⁴

Yesterday President Obama came to India on a 3 days' visit. But due to sudden death of Saudi King he curtailed his tour and could not visit Agra (Taj Mahal). This cancellation has also been attributed to security reasons. In New Delhi, both leaders, Obama and Modi, addressed joint press conference. Both expressed their concerns with regard to South Asia and international terrorism, which has prompted US President to enter into bilateral cooperation with SA countries..... India has also been given several facilities to purchase nuclear technology from the international market. *Actually, United States, by entering into nuclear and Defence cooperation with India, wants to enhance the image of India in South Asia region, which will have significant impact upon smaller nations. In this way, the US could easily exert presence upon China & Pakistan also, to maintain its hegemony.*

During this visit, President Obama has assured India (Modi govt) that it would help India to have permanent seat in United Nations Security Council. *If this be so Bharat would exercise its veto whenever it wants. And then there are zero chances that Kashmir dispute could ever be resolved.*

When we glance at history, we see that from the date of inception of Pakistan, it has been America's sincere friend. *Even during US campaign against terrorism, Pakistan has made maximum sacrifices in men and material, while Bharat had made no contribution to this.* Now suddenly, instead of Pakistan, Bharat has been near and dear to Uncle Sam! *By ignoring Pakistan, peace cannot prevail in the South Asian region. Further Bharati Hindus are very narrow-minded as compared to Pakistani Muslims who are broad-minded. The US should give it a serious thought. Pakistan deserves special attention because of its geostrategic location and its nuclear status and therefore U.S. should not sideline Pakistan.* With Pakistan's good offices the US could further strengthen its relations with China (which is an ally of Pakistan) and thus fulfill its economic interests.....

Visit of President Obama to India, Editorial, Daily Dunya, January 25, 2015¹⁴⁵

¹⁴⁴ <http://ummat.com.pk/2015/01/26/news.php?p=idr1.gif>

¹⁴⁵ <http://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date+2015-01-25&edition=LHR&ID1513158-31079792>

When President Obama visited Bharat in year-2010, he did not visit Pakistan. When asked about it he said the US had special relations with Pakistan and thus if needed a separate visit would be scheduled for Pakistan. Now he has visited India for second time but Pakistan is not on his itinerary.

By now, Obama has visited 48 countries including some South Asian countries, but he could not make it to Pakistan despite the fact that Pakistan has been America's most important ally in its campaign against terrorism. It has provided all its facilities to the US and Nato forces stationed in Afghanistan for 13 long years.....

When President Clinton visited India in 2000, he came with 300 traders and businessmen and laid the foundation of US India trade. In 2006, George Bush came to India and signed Civil Nuclear Cooperation agreement. *When Bush was asked as to why he preferred India to Pakistan, he replied that there was an important difference between India and Pakistan. Pakistan's history and its record with regard to non-proliferation gives an edge to India.*

But the fact remains that America wants to take relations with India forward with some inherent motive. *The US is keen to use India for its own benefits. It is seeking a better role for India in the South East Asian region to neutralize China's impact there.*

The main reason for sudden spurt in US-India relations today could be attributed to Modi's goodbye to India's traditional non-alignment policy and his decision to put all his eggs in the American basket. At the regional level, Bharat's present policy is synchronised with that of the US. In South China Sea, India has also adopted an anti-China stance. India has extended economic cooperation with Japan and Australia in the Indian Ocean.

Lessons from Obama's Bharat visit, Editorial, *Daily Ummat*, 29 January 2015¹⁴⁶

President Obama's historic visit to India is now over. The visit was important for many reasons. Obama is the first US president to visit India as Chief Guest for its Republic Day celebrations and he is also the first US head of state to have visited India twice. *However, on both occasions he did not care to visit Pakistan.* For this reason, there is a quiet sadness and concern among various sections of society in Pakistan. In some sections, *there is even an element of anger about his ignoring Pakistan.* Now, Pak Army Chief's visit to China is being looked at as a symbolic response to Obama's visit to India. ...

Pakistan was mentioned in the joint press briefing wherein false allegations were levelled against Pakistan. Because of traditionally bad relations between India and Pakistan, this press note aroused lot of anguish, resentment and disappointment amongst Pakistanis that Uncle Sam, despite our long-standing friendship has now given preference to India.....

¹⁴⁶ <http://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2015-01029&edition=LHR&id=1519417-74410878>

On our side, the whole world including the US knows that Pakistan has signed the NPT, while Bharat has not. In spite of this, the US has agreed to provide nuclear technology to India. The basic reasons for this being, (a) terrorist attacks conducted by Lashkar-e-Toiba and other militant agencies; and (b) the US demands for punishments to the perpetrators of Mumbai attacks. *But it is an irony that President Obama did not remember acts of tyranny perpetrated against our Muslim brethren in several provinces of India. Their houses are being set ablaze and they are being burnt alive. He did not care also to remind Indian authorities to stop these killings. He also chose to forget that Bharat has been violating the UN Security Council Resolutions for a long time. Streams of blood have been flowing due to killing of innocent Kashmiris and this continues even now. There has been no accountability about these crimes. Now Uncle Sam's hypocrisy is quite clear. Instead of asking the US authorities to redress our grievances, it is time we should make some introspection and shift our allegiance to our friend – China. As we know, Gen Raheel Sharif has made a successful visit to China. And it is believed that very soon Chinese Prime minister would also be visiting Pakistan...We should make serious efforts to revise our foreign policy and bring us even closer to China.*

STATISTICS

BOMBINGS, SHOOTINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES

(Select incidents culled out from the Pakistan media)

Place	Date	Description	Killed	Injured
Balochistan				
Sibi ¹⁴⁷	2/1/2015	FC man killed, three injured in Sibi explosion.	1	3
Quetta ¹⁴⁸	6/1/2014	Commander among 8 militants killed in Balochistan.	8	0
Quetta ¹⁴⁹	9/1/2015	Eight people injured in Quetta market blast.	0	8
Loralai ¹⁵⁰	12/1/2015	Seven FC personnel killed in Loralai checkpoint attack.	7	0

¹⁴⁷ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/815638/fc-man-killed-three-injured-in-sibi-explosion/>

¹⁴⁸ <http://nation.com.pk/national/06-Jan-2015/commander-among-8-militants-killed-in-balochistan>

¹⁴⁹ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/818717/eight-people-injured-in-quetta-blast/>

¹⁵⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1156532/seven-fc-personnel-killed-in-loralai-checkpost-attack>

FATA				
Swat ¹⁵¹	1/1/2015	Three policemen shot dead in Malakand district.	3	0
Lower Khurram ¹⁵²	8/1/2015	Four security personnel killed in Lower Kurram blast.	4	0
Khyber Agency ¹⁵³	9/1/2015	'Accidental' explosion in Khyber Agency kills seven suspected militants.	7	0
Dera Ismail Khan ¹⁵⁴	15/1/2015	ASI, two brothers, passer-by killed in DI Khan attack	4	0
Punjab				
Lahore	1/1/2015	Bomb with ball bearings in ground floor of building, in old Anarkali area which is popular on weekends	3	37
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa				
Peshawar ¹⁵⁵	4/1/2015	Blast at playground leaves five dead, 10 injured in Orakzai.	5	10
Mohmand ¹⁵⁶	5/1/2015	Polio worker injured in Mohmand blast.	0	1
Sindh				
Orangi Town ¹⁵⁷	9/1/2015	MQM activist gunned down in Orangi town.	1	2
Karachi ¹⁵⁸	9/1/2015	Al-Qaeda commander among four terrorists killed in Karachi.	4	0
Karachi ¹⁵⁹	19/1/2015	Policeman escorting polio team shot in Karachi. 20 killed, 50 injured in	1	0

¹⁵¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1154257/three-policemen-shot-dead-in-malakand-district>

¹⁵² <http://www.dawn.com/news/1155694/four-security-personnel-killed-in-lower-kurram-blast>

¹⁵³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/819109/accidental-explosion-in-khyber-agency-kills-seven-suspected-militants/>

¹⁵⁴ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-296157-ASI-two-brothers-passer-by-killed-in-DI-Khan-attack>

¹⁵⁵ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1155041/blast-at-playground-leaves-five-dead-10-injured-in-orakzai>

¹⁵⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1155055/polio-worker-injured-in-mohmand-blast>

¹⁵⁷ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-171232-MQM-activist-gunned-down-in-Orangi-town>

¹⁵⁸ <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-171246-Al-Qaeda-commander-among-four-terrorists-killed-in-Karachi->

¹⁵⁹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1158016/policeman-escorting-polio-team-shot-in-karachi>

Shikarpur ¹⁶⁰	30/1/2015	Shikarpur imambargah blast.	60	60
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DRONE STRIKES

Place	Date	Description	Casualties
North Waziristan ¹⁶¹	4/1/2015	Hafiz Gul Bahadur group targeted in N Waziristan drone strike.	17
North Waziristan ¹⁶²	15/1/2015	Drone strike kills 5 suspected militants in North Waziristan.	5
North Waziristan ¹⁶³	19/1/2015	Drone strike kills five in North Waziristan.	5
North Waziristan ¹⁶⁴	29/1/2015	US drone strike kills six in North Waziristan: officials.	6

¹⁶⁰ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1160444/at-least-60-killed-in-blast-at-shikarpur-imambargah>

¹⁶¹ <http://www.dawn.com/news/1155037/hafiz-gul-bahadur-group-targeted-in-n-waziristan-drone-strike>

¹⁶² <http://tribune.com.pk/story/822135/drone-strikes-kill-5-suspected-militants-in-north-waziristan/>

¹⁶³ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/824070/drone-strike-kills-4-in-north-waziristan-7/>

¹⁶⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/828986/drone-strike-in-north-waziristan-kills-six/>