

Nine Maldivians arrested in Waziristan

Minivan News, 1 April 2009

Nine Maldivians have been arrested with weapons near the Pakistani-Afghan border, the minister of defence and national security has revealed. According to Ameen Faisal, none of the detainees had criminal records, but Minivan News has learnt that one, Ali Shafeeq, 25, of R.Kandholhudhoo, had been arrested for his involvement in the bomb blast in September 2009, which injured 12 tourists in Male's Sultan Park. He was later cleared of all charges and released

Missile Strike Said to Kill 10 in Pakistan

New York Times, 1 April 2009

PESHAWAR, Pakistan -- Missiles fired from a suspected American drone struck a militant training camp in northwest Pakistan on Wednesday, killing at least 10 people in an attack apparently aimed at one of the area's most important Taliban leaders, Hakimullah Mehsud, according to news reports, militants and an intelligence official. Mr. Mehsud escaped unhurt, the intelligence official said, speaking in return for anonymity. The attack was the first of its kind in the Orakzai region, which lies southwest of Peshawar and close to the border with Afghanistan, residents said.

Mehsud threatens more attacks

Daily Times, 1 April 2009

PESHAWAR: Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) chief Baitullah Mehsud on Tuesday claimed responsibility for the attack on a police training academy in Lahore and suicide attacks in Islamabad and Bannu, and warned of further attacks in Pakistan in the coming days and later in the US. "These (attacks) were in reaction to (US) drone strikes in the Tribal Areas," Baitullah Mehsud told BBC Urdu over the telephone from an undisclosed location

Ankara summit : Pak-Afghan leaders to discuss security today

Daily Times, 1 April 2009

ANKARA: President Asif Ali Zardari arrived here on Tuesday to represent Pakistan at the third Ankara summit. Turkey has hosted the talks between Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Zardari that will focus on security and intelligence sharing to reduce tensions over militant attacks along their border. Turkish Environment Minister Veysel Eroglu and Governor Ankara Kemal Onal received Zardari at the Ankara airport. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, who is in The Hague to attend the UN-backed conference on Afghanistan, will join the president. Chief of Army Staff General Ashfaq Kayani and ISI Director General Lt Gen Shuja Pasha will also attend the summit. Karzai will also arrive in Ankara from the Netherlands.

US reserves 'right of last resort' in Pakistan

Daily Times, 1 April 2009

WASHINGTON: General David Petraeus, the head of the US Army's Central Command, said on Monday his country reserved right of last resort for attacks inside Pakistan. Speaking to the FOX News in the context of the Obama administration's preparations for stepping up the fight against Al Qaeda and the Taliban, the general added however that the US government would prefer to enable the Pakistani military to do the job itself

J-K infiltration sends tremors; high-level meeting tomorrow

Daily Excelsior, 1 April 2009

NEW DELHI : Amid reports of large-scale infiltration by militants mainly belonging to Lashker-e-Taiba, a high-level meeting to be chaired by Union Home and Defence

Secretaries will be held in Kashmir tomorrow to review the security situation. Home Secretary Madhukar Gupta and Defence Secretary Vijay Singh will discuss with the state government officials about the recent long encounter taking place along the Line of Control in North Kashmir and the preparedness in meeting the challenge ahead of general elections

Army Commander briefs Guv about security situation

Daily Excelsior, 1 April 2009

JAMMU : General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Northern Army Command Lt Gen P C Bhardwaj today met Governor N N Vohra and briefed him about the overall security situation in the State, an official spokesman said. The Army Commander and the Governor reviewed issues relating to the recent attempts of infiltration from across the Line of Control (LoC) and discussed other significant developments having a bearing on the overall security environment in the State, the spokesman said

Indian buses not being allowed to ply on Pak roads : Official

Daily Excelsior, 1 April 2009

AMRITSAR: In the wake of the terror attack on the Police Training Academy in Lahore, Pakistan has stopped the movement of Indian buses beyond the Wagah border for security reasons, an Indian official said today. Lahore-bound Indian buses are being evacuated at the Wagah border and their passengers shifted to Pakistani tourist buses for their onward journey due to rising security concerns following the attack on the Academy, an official posted at the international Attari check post said. After the attack at the Police Training Centre close to the Wagah border, security agencies in Pakistan are apprehensive that Indian buses could be next on the target of terrorists

Anjali Waghmare willing to defend Kasab

Hindu, 1 April 2009

Mumbai (PTI): A day after seeking time to consider appearing in the 26/11 attacks trial, advocate Anjali Waghmare on Wednesday informed a special court that she was willing to represent arrested terrorist Mohammed Ajmal Amir Kasab. Ms. Waghmare had on Tuesday asked the court for a day to think over whether she wanted to represent Kasab following protests by Shiv Sena activists outside her residence in Worli after she was appointed defence counsel by the special court.

Manmohan, Obama concerned over growing terror in AfPak

Hindu, 1 April 2009

London (PTI): Setting the tone for their first meeting, U.S. President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Wednesday voiced deep concern over the growing hold of terrorist elements in Pakistan and Afghanistan with the Indian leadership getting increasingly worried over the dangerous situation in its neighbourhood. Mr. Singh, who will meet the new American leader here on Thursday immediately after the conclusion of the G20 summit, said that "the epicentre of terrorism" was in Pakistan and "the world community has to come to grips with this harsh reality"

Troops encircle over 200 Tigers

Daily News, 2 April 2009

The entire Puthukudiyiruppu township and Iranapalai area came under Security Forces control last evening with 58 Division troops and 53 Division troops surrounding the last terrain controlled by the LTTE in the North East of Puthukudiyiruppu after capturing Pachchapulmudai junction the last supply route connected to the No Fire Zone from the mainland under 58 Division troops control. A senior military official told the Daily News that fierce fighting raged North East of Puthukudiyiruppu as 58 Division and 53 Division troops surrounded the last square kilometer stretch under LTTE after 58 Division advanced from

the North to South and 53 Division moved in a south to north direction.

Militants Storm Government Office in Afghanistan, Killing 13
New York Times, 2 April 2009

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Five suicide bombers stormed a government office in Kandahar on Wednesday morning, killing 13 people, including two provincial government officials, and wounding 14. One militant detonated a car bomb at the entrance gate of the provincial council office, as the others stormed the compound with assault rifles and hand grenades. Seven civilians and six police officers were killed in the 20-minute gun battle, which ended when two of the militants blew themselves up in the main hall, said the provincial police chief, Matiullah Qati

14 terrorists enter Islamabad, Lahore: intelligence report
Daily Times, 2 April 2009

LAHORE/PESHAWAR: Intelligence agencies have warned law-enforcement agencies of the entry of 14 terrorists into Islamabad and Lahore, a private TV channel reported on Wednesday. According to the report, the men are disguising themselves as preachers. It recommends beefing up security at important government and private buildings, hotels, and other public places.

Security being reviewed for Azad, Mufti, besides Abdullahs
Daily Excelsior, 2 April 2009

JAMMU : Security was being reviewed for protection of Congress leader Gulam Nabi Azad, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti and Farooq Abdullah, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said today. The review comes in the backdrop of the Centre writing to all states to ensure tight security for nearly 40 VIPs and asking these leaders not to conduct any surprise visits during the electioneering

Mumbai terror architect crafts infiltration surge
Hindu, 2 April 2009

SRINAGAR: Ever since the massacre in Mumbai in November 2008, intelligence services across the world have searched, without success, for one of its architects: a Lashkar-e-Taiba commander known only by the twin aliases Muzammil and Yusuf. Now, highly-placed police and intelligence sources have told The Hindu, the man who had hands-on responsibility for the tactical training of the terrorists as well as pre-assault reconnaissance, has resurfaced in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-administered Kashmir. And he has been commanding a surge in infiltration that has sparked off some of the most intense fighting seen along the Line of Control in years

NWFP 'at war', governance becoming difficult: Hoti
Daily Times, 3 April 2009

PESHAWAR: The NWFP is at 'war' and governance of the province is "becoming difficult", Chief Minister Ameer Haider Hoti said on Thursday. "Financial turmoil in the province has resulted in the birth of various problems," he told officers training at the National School of Public Policy during a briefing. He said the federal government should provide "enormous funds" to the province, as its people were "fighting a war for the survival and existence of the whole country". "FATA-like conditions are slowly developing in other parts of the country after starting in the settled districts of the province. There is a need for the other three provinces, in collaboration with the federal government, to help us because ignoring these conditions today could cause severe problems tomorrow," he added

400 terrorists waiting to sneak into J&K ahead of polls: Army
Daily Excelsior, 4 April 2009

NEW DELHI: Amidst reports that 400 trained terrorists were waiting to sneak into Jammu and Kashmir to disrupt coming Lok Sabha polls, the Government has ordered stepping up of security in the border State to thwart any attempts to cause violence ahead of the elections. After a visit by Home Secretary Madhukar Gupta and Defence Secretary Vijay Singh to meet top State officials this week, the order for heightened vigil was issued, Army sources said here today. There are intelligence inputs that 400 trained terrorists of Lashkar-e-Toiba are waiting to infiltrate into Jammu and Kashmir to disrupt the polls. We have stepped up our alertness to prevent both infiltration and attacks, the sources said

Terror, naxalism, communalism challenges to nation: PM Hindu, 4 April 2009

New Delhi (PTI): Identifying terrorism, naxalism and communalism as challenges to the nation, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday said the "ferocity" of these "disturbing and disruptive" elements has to be understood and ways should be devised to defeat these. He also voiced concern over recent developments in Pakistan and other neighbouring countries, saying South Asia is in "turmoil" and India's development is affected by the events in the region. "There are today forces which seek to destabilise our economy and polity," Mr. Singh said addressing the IAS probationers at his residence here.

Pakistan aid tied to tackling terrorism threat, says Obama Daily Times, 5 April 2009

STRASBOURG: Release of additional US aid for Pakistan will be dependent on how Islamabad tackles the threat of terrorism, US President Barack Obama said on Saturday at the end of a NATO summit. "I informed our allies that despite difficult circumstances we are going to put more money into Pakistan, conditional on action to meet the terrorist threat," he told a news conference

Intercepts suggest Taliban presence in Kashmir valley Daily Excelsior, 5 April 2009

NEW DELHI : The militancy scenario in Jammu and Kashmir may change as wireless and satellite intercepts suggest presence of a group of nearly 15 'Taliban' militants in higher reaches of Kupwara in north Kashmir. While all central security forces and agencies and the Army are tight-lipped over the development, sources in the Home Ministry said wireless messages of a group of militants holed up in Chowkibal area of Trehgham in Kupwara were intercepted. Another such communication was heard in Lolab area, also in Kupwara, they said. The intercepts, the sources claimed, were enough to "shock" the security agencies as one group identified itself as being part of the Taliban which had crossed the Line of Control using the Global Positioning System (GPS)-enabled maps

Sri Lanka captures last LTTE bastion; 420 rebels killed Hindu, 5 April 2009

Colombo (PTI): Moving closer to "annihilating" the LTTE, Sri Lankan troops captured their last stronghold of Pudukudiriirippu and pushed the rebels into a narrow 'no-fire zone' packed with civilians after killing at least 420 Tamil Tigers in heavy fighting in the north. LTTE supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran, second-in-command Pottu Amman and other senior commanders of the guerrillas are believed to be holed up in the 20 sq-km safety zone, the military said today and accused the rebels of using the tens of thousands civilians as "human shields"

26/11: Hafiz Saeed, three others challenge detention Hindu, 5 April 2009

Lahore (PTI): LeT founder Hafiz Saeed, who was put under house arrest by Pakistan government after his outfit was blamed for the Mumbai attacks, has challenged his

detention in the Lahore High Court, along with three of his associates. A petition filed by Saeed and his aides Amir Hamza, Col (retired) Nazir Ahmed and Mufti Abdur Rehman in the Lahore High Court said they should be produced before the court so that it could see that they had been detained unlawfully

More Drone Attacks in Pakistan Planned

New York Times, 7 April 2009

WASHINGTON — Despite threats of retaliation from Pakistani militants, senior administration officials said Monday that the United States intended to step up its use of drones to strike militants in Pakistan's tribal areas and might extend them to a different sanctuary deeper inside the country. On Sunday, a senior Taliban leader vowed to unleash two suicide attacks a week like one on Saturday in Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, unless the Central Intelligence Agency stopped firing missiles at militants. Pakistani officials have expressed concerns that the missile strikes from remotely piloted aircraft fuel more violence in the country, and some American officials say they are also concerned about some aspects of the drone strikes

Pakistan's Chief Justice Assails Attorney General Over Taliban Flogging

New York Times, 7 April 2009

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — The newly restored chief justice of Pakistan displayed his reputation as a human rights advocate and a prod to the government on Monday, when he hauled the attorney general and other officials before the Supreme Court and rebuked them over the flogging of a 17-year-old woman in the Taliban-controlled area of Swat. The chief justice, Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, assailed the officials for laziness and self-importance, and challenged them for not taking up the case until it became a national scandal in recent days, when a video showing the woman pinned to the ground and repeatedly whipped by a Taliban commander was broadcast on Pakistani television

Editorial: Facing reality

News, 7 April 2009

The suicide blast outside an Imambargah in Chakwal on April 5, killing 22 and adding to the rising toll extracted by sectarian violence, is another terrible atrocity we find ourselves subjected to. What is though a positive development is the admission by the adviser on interior that the bombing and other recent terrorist attacks, including that on a police check post in Islamabad that killed eight FC personnel, are the work of Pakistanis. It is not clear how, why or when this light has suddenly dawned on the man responsible for safeguarding our security, but certainly it makes a change from the past tendency to immediately point fingers in the direction of neighbouring countries

Taliban Shura hiding in Balochistan, says Admiral Mullen

Daily Times, 7 April 2009

ISLAMABAD: The top leadership of the Taliban is hiding in Balochistan province, Admiral Mike Mullen, the US Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff, has said. Pakistan lies at the core of America's strategic concerns, said Richard Holbrooke, the new US Special Envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Alertness along J&K will neutralise infiltrators

Daily Excelsior, 7 April 2009

NEW DELHI : Terror groups aided by Pakistan's state agencies are making determined efforts for infiltration into Jammu and Kashmir and security forces are maintaining a "heightened sense of vigil" to thwart those attempts, Home Minister P Chidambaram said here today. "There is a determined effort to infiltrate across the international border and the Line of Control ... But our security forces are on alert and have been able to neutralise

these infiltrators in the last three or four weeks," he said at a press conference at the AICC headquarters here

Strengthen security for 11 CMs, Centre tells DGPs

Hindu, 7 April 2009

New Delhi (PTI): Amid intelligence inputs suggesting threat to 11 chief ministers of different states from terrorists and naxals, the Centre has sent an advisory to the police chiefs to review their security. The ten chief ministers include Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh, Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee (West Bengal), Mayawati (Uttar Pradesh), Naveen Patnaik (Orissa), Ashok Chavan (Maharashtra), Narendra Singh Modi (Gujarat) and Omar Abdullah (Jammu and Kashmir), official sources said.

UN team arrives for BB's murder probe

Daily Times, 8 April 2009

ISLAMABAD: A six-member team of the United Nations (UN) arrived in Islamabad on Tuesday, to prepare the ground for an international fact-finding commission to look into the assassination of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto. According to sources, the UN investigation team – during its three-day stay in Pakistan – would meet senior officials from various ministries. The team would also meet police and officials from law-enforcement agencies. An inspection of the site where Benazir was assassinated on December 27, 2007, is also on the agenda of the team – which includes legal experts, field support, political experts and consultants.

No information about presence of Taliban in Kashmir: Army spokesman

Daily Excelsior, 8 April 2009

SRINAGAR: There was no information about the presence of Taliban in any part of the Kashmir Valley, including frontier district of Kupwara, a Defence Ministry spokesman said here today. He told UNI that so far there was no information that any Taliban militant had infiltrated into this side from Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK)

Militant plan to blow up railway track foiled, IED defused

Daily Excelsior, 8 April 2009

SRINAGAR: Security forces today thwarted militants plan to blow up railway track in south Kashmir when they detected and defused a powerful 25 kg liquid Improvised Explosive Device (IED). Official sources told UNI a security force party on routine patrolling noticed a cylindrical shell near the track at village Khelan in Pulwama district several hours before a train was to pass the area.

U.S. concerned over reports of Taliban trying to enter India

Hindu, 8 April 2009

New Delhi (PTI): The U.S. on Wednesday voiced "grave concern" over reports that Pakistani army is helping Taliban to infiltrate into Kashmir and said Washington was making efforts to address issues related to support for terror groups. "I have seen the same reports which you speak about ... Those are grave concern and we continue to address those," U.S. Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen told reporters here when asked to comment on reports that Taliban fighters are trying to cross over into Jammu and Kashmir with the help of Pakistan army.

Pottu Amman in command?

Daily News, 9 April 2009

Unconfirmed military sources said that Pottu Amman, the so-called intelligence leader of the LTTE had taken the overall command of the outfit with Prabhakaran's fast deteriorating

mental health condition and Velawan has been appointed as new military chief. "Civilians who sought refuge with the Security Forces have told that Pottu Amman has issued strict orders to LTTE cadres manning the borders of the No Fire Zone (NFZ) to shoot at any civilian who dares to escape from the NFZ. The orders have been given following the LTTE's recent debacle in Puthukudiyiruppu East", defence sources said.

Biden says Osama hiding in FATA

Daily Times, 9 April 2009

Biden says Osama hiding in FATA

LAHORE: Taliban and Al Qaeda leaders, including Osama Bin Laden, are hiding in Pakistan's Tribal Areas, US Vice President Joe Biden said on Wednesday. "In the FATA ... that is a war on terror. That's where Al Qaeda lives. That's where Bin Laden is. That's where the most radicalised part of the Taliban is," Biden told CNN's Wolf Blitzer. "The situation ... in other parts of the world, they aren't all related to terror," he said in response to a question if the Obama administration had stopped use of the phrase "global war on terror".

Taliban will soon capture Islamabad, says Mullah Nazeer

Daily Times, 9 April 2009

MINGORA: Pakistani Taliban commander Mullah Nazeer Ahmed said in an interview with Al Qaeda's media arm, Al-Sahab, that the Taliban would soon capture Islamabad. Pakistani Taliban factions had united and would take their war to the capital, he said. "The day is not far when Islamabad will be in the hands of the mujahideen."

Worries mount on LTTE threat to Sonia

Hindu, 9 April 2009

Worries mount on LTTE threat to Sonia

NEW DELHI: India's intelligence services have become increasingly concerned about the prospect of an election-time attack by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam on top political leaders, including Congress party chairperson Sonia Gandhi. Sources in the intelligence services have told The Hindu that while there is no substantive intelligence to indicate that assassinations or attacks have been ordered by the LTTE, the inflammatory language being used by the terrorist group's supporter in India was a cause for concern

Editorial: Expansionist aims

News, 10 April 2009

It would be foolish to say this had not been expected. For months it has been quite clear the Taliban have now set their sights on the whole of NWFP, and indeed on the entire territory of Pakistan, not just on the remote northern areas where they have so far concentrated their efforts. One day, not very long from now, we may see women being flogged on the streets of Islamabad or Lahore or Karachi; our Armani-suited elite may be forced into shalwars that rise above the ankle and made to grow unruly beards. The signs of what the Taliban plan are visible everywhere. There is no point living on in a state of denial. Taking advantage of the peace accord, hordes of the Taliban from Swat have now moved south into the Buner region. They have made it quite clear they intend to take control of the area and impose the same restrictions that now rule life in Swat. Local people from Buner have sworn they will resist – but the task is not so easy. Already at least two members of a 'Lashkar' that dared to oppose the Taliban have been slain. The militants will no doubt kill others as they endeavour to spread their tentacles into Buner – and then after that to other parts of NWFP. The people of Buner and elsewhere face terrible danger

Violence in Balochistan after 3 Baloch leaders killed

Daily Times, 10 April 2009

QUETTA: The mysterious killing of three leading Baloch nationalist leaders – who were

allegedly arrested by intelligence agencies last Friday – have sparked a wave of massive protests and violence all over Balochistan that has so far killed one police official. Police found the decomposing bodies of the three Baloch leaders – veteran politician Ghulam Mohammad Baloch and Lala Munir of the Balochistan National Movement (BNM) and Sher Muhammad Baloch of the Baloch Republican Party (BRP) – in Pidrak area of Turbat district on Wednesday evening.

No threat to Sonia, says LTTE; don't believe, says Sri Lanka Hindu, 10 April 2009

Colombo (PTI): The LTTE has refuted reports that there was a Tamil Tiger threat to Congress chief Sonia Gandhi and her children, a claim rejected by the Sri Lankan Government which on Friday cautioned India not to trust the outfit as it has a "well-organised" international network. The Home Ministry in New Delhi had last week issued an alert to States to provide tight security cover during the visit of Congress President Sonia Gandhi and her children — Rahul and Priyanka — as they face a threat from LTTE.

Assam: One dead, 14 injured as ultras attack train Hindu, 10 April 2009

Haflong (PTI): A CRPF man was killed and 14 passengers were injured when Dima Haram Daogah (Jewel) ultras opened fire at a running train at Wadengdisa station in Assam's North Cachar hill district on Friday. The DHJ ultras, armed with automatic weapons, fired from a hill top at the Badarpur-Lumding Barak Express as it left the Wadengdisa station under Maibong police station, 60 km from here.

2/3rd of terror plots probed in UK originated from Pakistan: Brown Daily Times, 11 April 2009

LONDON: Two-thirds of the terror plots investigated in the United Kingdom originated from Pakistan, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said on Friday. In an interview with Al Jazeera English television, Brown said Pakistan "has got the problems of an economic set of difficulties at the moment but also groups of terrorists in their country operating from their country"

India behind Liberty, Manawan attacks: CCPO Daily Times, 11 April 2009

LAHORE: Terrorists involved in last month's attacks on the Sri Lankan cricket team near the Liberty roundabout and at the Manawan Police Training School have links with India, CCPO Pervaiz Rathore said on Friday. He was talking to reporters at the foundation laying ceremony of a hospital at the Qila Gujjar Singh Police Lines. He said the police had gathered concrete evidence in this regard. While refusing to disclose the proof, Rathore said the police would make that public at the appropriate time. He said the police and intelligence agencies had jointly interrogated terrorists arrested during the attack on the school. He said they had confessed to their links with India.

Kashmir's 'Kasab' story casts light on NWFP threat Hindu, 11 April 2009

NEW DELHI: For the past week, prime-time television news has been saturated with lurid speculation on the prospect of an invasion by the Taliban, fuelled by an early spring surge in infiltration across the Line of Control. Now, the Jammu and Kashmir police have found one of the hundreds of jihadists who have made up that surge: a 15-year-old boy with only the beginnings of a beard, hiding, paralysed by fear, behind a clump of rocks in the north Kashmir mountains.

Infiltration to rise due to polls; women trained across LoC:Gen Kapoor
Daily Excelsior, 14 April 2009

NEW DELHI : Cautioning that infiltration attempts from across the border were expected to rise before the general elections, Army Chief General Deepak Kapoor today said there were reports of women being trained on the other side of the Line of Control. However, a three-tier defence system had been put in place on the Line of Control (LoC) to deal with any situation as the Army was aware of plans to escalate infiltration bids in the run-up to the polls, Gen Kapoor told on the sidelines of an international seminar here

Pak finds DNA identical to Kasab's
Asian Age, 14 April 2009

April 13: Pakistan on Monday said it will not be possible to continue its investigation of the Mumbai terror attacks with the information given to it by India. The information, it said, was "not specific" and included identical DNA samples but from two persons — slain terrorist Mohammed Ismail and the only terrorists captured alive, Ajmal Kasab. "We need specific information. We cannot continue investigations with general information. We have asked India to give us specific details," said Mr Rehman Malik, the head of Pakistan's interior ministry

India willing to provide more info to Pak on Mumbai attacks
Hindu, 14 April 2009

Jangipur (WB) (PTI): A day after Pakistan sought more specific information from New Delhi on its probe into the Mumbai attacks, India on Tuesday agreed to provide the same, but said Islamabad should not delay investigations on the pretext of clarifications. "I have just had a discussion with our Foreign Secretary. We have received the papers (from Pakistan). We are examining them and if there be further information necessary, then we will give them the further information," External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee told newsmen here.

Rs 5m reward for information on Baloch leaders' killing
Daily Times, 15 April 2009

QUETTA: Interior Adviser Rehman Malik on Tuesday announced a reward of Rs 5 million for anyone providing information regarding those involved in the killing of three Baloch nationalist leaders in Turbat. The interior adviser also said a committee — headed by the Balochistan police chief — would be formed to probe the killings. Malik was accompanied by Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Aslam Raisani and Home Minister Zafar Zehri

Nizam-e-Adl against rights, democracy: US
Daily Times, 15 April 2009

WASHINGTON/LAHORE/PESHAWAR: The White House said on Tuesday the Nizam-e-Adl Regulation accord signed by the Pakistani government with the Taliban to put part of the country under Islamic law was against human rights and democracy, AFP reported. White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said President Barack Obama's administration believed that "solutions involving security in Pakistan don't include less democracy and less human-rights. The signing of that denoting strict Islamic law in Swat valley goes against both those principles"

Kasab appears in court, demands Pakistani lawyer
Hindu, 15 April 2009

Mumbai (IANS): The lone terrorist captured in the Mumbai terror strike, Mohammed Ajmal Amir Kasab on Wednesday demanded a Pakistani lawyer to defend him as the trial started here with his assigned counsel Anjali Waghmare being removed on grounds of "professional misconduct". Kasab, the prime accused in the Nov 26-29 Mumbai terror attack in which over

170 people were killed, was present in person for the first time in the Special Court in the Arthur Road Central Jail, where the 26/11 trial opened for the first time under a tight security blanket

Shootout in Karbi Anglong, IEDs recovered
Hindu, 16 April 2009

Diphu, Assam (PTI): Gunfight erupted between security forces and militants at a polling station in Karbi Anglong district while two powerful IED were recovered in Assam's Autonomous District (ST) constituency where voting was held in the first phase of Lok Sabha elections day. BSF personnel deployed a polling station at Kharsing Athoi school in Karbi Anglong district exchanged fire with Karbi Longri National Front (KLNLF), who had allegedly planted an IED in the area which was recovered by the securitymen.

Taliban Exploit Class Rifts in Pakistan
New York Times, 17 April 2009

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — The Taliban have advanced deeper into Pakistan by engineering a class revolt that exploits profound fissures between a small group of wealthy landlords and their landless tenants, according to government officials and analysts here. Supporters of Islamic law on Thursday in the Swat Valley, a Pakistani region where the Taliban exploited class rifts to gain control. The strategy cleared a path to power for the Taliban in the Swat Valley, where the government allowed Islamic law to be imposed this week, and it carries broad dangers for the rest of Pakistan, particularly the militants' main goal, the populous heartland of Punjab Province.

Terror camps still 'existing' on other side of LoC: Army
Daily Excelsior, 17 April 2009

NEW DELHI : The Army today said that terror training camps are still "existing" on the other side of the Line of Control and Pakistan is continuing its "support" for infiltration into India. "The camps, which were there on the other side are still existing ... There is definite support for infiltration from the other side," Army Chief General Deepak Kapoor said

Mumbai terror attack trial begins, Kasab wants to retract
Hindu, 17 April 2009

Mumbai (PTI): The trial in the Mumbai terror attack case opened on Friday with the sole surviving terrorist Mohammed Amir Ajmal Kasab seeking retraction of his confession and the prosecution saying he and the other killed terrorists were given military and intelligence training in Pakistan. The trial commenced with the new defence lawyer S G Abbas Kazmi, appointed by the court after Anjali Waghmare was replaced, filing an application that Kasab wanted to retract his statement made before a magistrate.

Editorial: Call this defence?
Indian Express, 18 April 2009

The murder of 11 Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) men in the NALCO siege in Orissa exposed Naxal savagery and state ineptness. Now come revelations of the pathetic conditions the jawans lived in. As this newspaper reported on Friday, 14 jawans were provided with just one fan in the summer heat; 26 jawans were left to share a single toilet; the water provided to them was muddied with impurities. If this were a factory, it would be a sweatshop. And it would be illegal.

FBI and foreign experts will depose in 26/11 terror case
Hindu, 18 April 2009

Mumbai (PTI): Foreign experts, including members of Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), would be examined by the prosecution to throw light on Global Positioning System (GPS)

equipment and cell phones used by Mohammed Amir Ajmal Kasab and nine others to strike terror last year. Disclosing to the court the evidence gathered against Kasab, the lone terrorist captured during the November 26 terror strikes, and other accused, special public prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam said on Saturday 100 potential witnesses from a list of 1,820 would be examined to establish the role of the accused in the crime

'Kasab', Ismail had planned to attack Malabar Hill locality
Hindu, 18 April 2009

Mumbai (PTI): Mohd Amir Ajmal 'Kasab', the lone terrorist captured during the Mumbai terror strikes last November, and his team member Abu Ismail had plans to strike at the VIP locality Malabar Hill area, where bungalows of Governor, Chief Minister and other important Maharashtra ministers are located, a court was told here on Saturday. However, the plan could not take off as only Ismail knew the plan and he was killed in a police encounter, special public prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam told judge M L Tahilyani.

Sporadic incidents in Assam
Hindu, 18 April 2009

Guwahati: An estimated 60 to 65 per cent votes were cast in the first phase of polling for the three Lok Sabha constituencies of Assam — Silchar, Karimganj and Autonomous District — that went to the polls on Thursday. The polling was marred by sporadic incidents of violence and alleged incidents of rigging and snatching of electronic voting machines. Brisk polling was reported in Silchar constituency where Union Minister for Heavy Industries Santosh Mohan Dev is seeking a third consecutive term and is locked in a multi-cornered contest with the former Union Minister, Kabindra Purakaystha, of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and AUDP president Badruddin Ajmal

27 killed in Hangu suicide attack
Daily Times, 19 April 2009

HANGU: At least 27 security personnel were killed and 55 others were injured in a suicide attack on a security checkpoint in Doaba area of Hangu district on Saturday, hospital sources said. Locals told Daily Times that the attack on the checkpoint, about 45 kilometres southwest of Hangu, took place at around 4:15pm when security forces personnel were visiting the area for the inspection

No pardon for Prabhakaran: Rajapaksa
Hindu, 22 April 2009

Colombo (PTI): Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa on Wednesday said there will be no amnesty for Tamil Tiger supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran as he has "spurned chances for pardon" by not giving up arms. "The LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran has spurned the possibility of pardon by us. In doing so, by not giving up arms and surrendering as required, he must now face the consequences of his acts," he said.

Editorial: Hearts and minds
Indian Express, 22 April 2009

As it prepares for what is being viewed as the final offensive against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, Colombo has the onerous responsibility to minimise a great humanitarian tragedy that is about to unfold in north-eastern Sri Lanka. The government of Sri Lanka must make and be seen as making every possible effort to save the thousands of Tamils who are being held hostage by the LTTE in a very small area that had been declared a no-fire zone until now. Given its brutal record, the LTTE has not shocked anyone by attacking the fleeing Tamil civilian population. If Colombo is itching to wrap up a prolonged military campaign against the secessionist rebels, there should be no doubt that the LTTE will try and leverage the trapped Tamil population as a human shield until the bitter end.

Centre admits around 50 militants infiltrate into J and K

Daily Excelsior, 22 April 2009

NEW DELHI : The Centre today admitted that around 50 terrorists had infiltrated into Jammu and Kashmir through the Gurez sector and said the entire security apparatus was alert to ensure peaceful Lok Sabha elections in the border state. The extent of the infiltration was given by the Home Ministry while dismissing as "grossly exaggerated" reports that 158 terrorists had sneaked into the state through the Gurez sector in North Kashmir

TTP says Osama welcome in Swat: Taliban reject peace accord

Daily Times, 22 April 2009

MINGORA/LAHORE/NEW DELHI: Swat Taliban have said they are not bound to honour the peace accord between the government and cleric Sufi Muhammad, a private TV channel reported on Tuesday. According to the channel, they said the NWFP government had signed the deal with Tehreek-e-Nifaz-e-Shariat-e-Muhammadi, and not with the Taliban

US urges Pakistanis to oppose ceding territory to Taliban

Daily Times, 23 April 2009

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said on Wednesday that Taliban advances pose "an existential threat" to Pakistan and urged Pakistanis worldwide to oppose a government policy yielding to them. Pakistanis "need to speak out forcefully against a policy that is ceding more and more territory to the [Taliban]," Clinton said, underscoring "the seriousness of the existential threat posed to the state of Pakistan by the continuing [Taliban] advances, now within hours of Islamabad.

Taliban closing in on Islamabad: Fazl

Daily Times, 23 April 2009

ISLAMABAD: JUI-F chief Fazlur Rehman warned in a speech in the National Assembly on Wednesday that the Taliban were closing in on Islamabad. "You talk about Swat and Buner, but according to my information, they have reached Kala Dhaka and Tarbela. And if they continue advancing, there will be only Margalla Hills between them and the federal capital," he said. He blamed the "civil war-like situation" on former president Pervez Musharraf's decision to join the US-led war on terror. He said the fallout would also affect India and China

Kasab ordered to undergo age tests to see if he is juvenile

Hindu, 24 April 2009

Mumbai (PTI) A special court on Friday ordered Ajmal Kasab, the lone surviving gunman on trial over the Mumbai attacks, to undergo dental and bone tests to determine his age following his claim that at the time of the strike he was a 'juvenile' which would help him escape the gallows. Judge M L Tahilyani allowed special public prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam to examine witnesses comprising doctors and the jailor at Arthur Road prison on April 28 to prove his claim that Kasab, a Pakistani national, was above 18 and not a juvenile at the time of commission of offence.

Two militants killed in an encounter in Baramulla

Daily Excelsior, 24 April 2009

SRINAGAR: Two militants were killed in an encounter with the security forces at Wakanpora-Sopore, 55 kms from here, in Baramulla district of north Kashmir today, police said. The encounter broke out between the ultras and the security forces in the wee hours today, when a team of 29 Rashtria Rifles and special operations group of local police has launched a search operation after getting specific information that the militants were holed up in a house

40 infiltrators killed in Kupwara, Gurez: Army Hindu, 26 April 2009

SRINAGAR: Forty militants, who infiltrated the Line of Control, have been killed in the Kupwara and Gurez sectors in the past few days. But more are waiting to cross over, Army authorities said on Saturday. Two major infiltration bids had taken place in the two areas. A massive combing operation was on in the Gurez sector. "You will soon come to know of the details," Brig. Gurmeet Singh, Brigadier-General Staff at the Srinagar-based 15 Corps headquarters, told a press conference.