

[I'll fire 'political weapons' if need arises: Zardari](#)

The News, 1 January 2010

KARACHI: President Asif Ali Zardari has said he is equipped with 'political weapons', which he will use when the time comes or the need arises. Talking to a private TV channel, the president said some "political actors" were at work against the government, Geo News reported. He said there was a complete harmony between the Army and the civilian leadership on the military operation in the tribal areas. He said the opinion of the military establishment had always been heard and paid heed to.

http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26397

[Gilani, Mukhtar to mediate between Zardari, Kayani](#)

The News, 2 January 2010

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and Defence Minister Chaudhry Ahmad Mukhtar are trying to remove misunderstandings between the Army leadership and President Asif Ali Zardari, while, on the other hand, they are also ready to face any "extraordinary situation". It is learnt that Prime Minister Gilani will arrange a meeting between President Zardari and Chief of Army Staff General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani in a few days. Both the president and the prime minister will discuss important security issues with General Kayani before the expected visits of US Commander in Afghanistan General Stanley McChrystal and US Defence Secretary Robert Gates.

http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26426

[South Korea Renews Offer of Liaison Offices](#)

NYT, 4 January 2010

SEOUL, South Korea — President Lee Myung-bak renewed a proposal on Monday that South and North Korea open liaison offices in each other's capitals to facilitate dialogue. Such offices would be the first standing channel of official contact between the governments, which remain divided by a heavily armed border after the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce, not a permanent peace treaty. The two maintain a military hotline. North Korea did not immediately respond to Mr. Lee's offer.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/05/world/asia/05korea.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

[Hatoyama vows Futenma decision by May](#)

Asahi Shimbun, 4 January 2010

Declaring he had no intention of "wasting time," Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama reiterated Monday his government's intention to decide by May where to relocate the Futenma U.S. military airfield. Speaking at his first news conference of 2010, Hatoyama said the government has "firmly set a fixed target date" on deciding where to relocate the heliport functions of U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, situated in Ginowan, Okinawa Prefecture.

<http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY201001040193.html>

[Hatoyama eyes 'good outcome' on Futenma](#)

Asahi Shimbun, 5 January 2010

Declaring he had no intention of "wasting time," Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama reiterated Monday his government's intention to decide by May where to relocate the Futenma U.S. military airfield. Speaking at his first news conference of 2010, Hatoyama said the government has "firmly set a fixed target" for deciding where to relocate the heliport functions of U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, situated in Ginowan, Okinawa Prefecture.

<http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY201001050175.html>

[Redeploy army in border districts: BJP](#)

The Hindu, 5 January 2010

BJP on Tuesday demanded the redeployment of the army in rural areas of the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu and Kashmir and sophisticated weapons for Village Defence Committee members to instill confidence among the people there. In a memorandum submitted to Governor N N Vohra here, senior party leader Kuldeep Raj Gupta claimed that due to the shifting of the army, people in rural areas of Rajouri and Poonch were feeling unsafe and insecure and were migrating to other places.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article76132.ece>

[Armed forces capable of safeguarding Pakistan: Zardari](#)

The News, 5 January 2010

KARACHI: President Asif Ali Zardari said on Monday that the armed forces of Pakistan were capable of safeguarding the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. He was addressing the 92nd officers commissioning parade of the Pakistan Navy at the Pakistan Naval Academy. "Pakistan is a peace-loving nation and we are willing to go an extra mile to resolve all issues through dialogue. We sincerely hope that the solutions we achieve are just, principled and long-lasting. However, our desire for peace must not be taken as a sign of weakness," the president said.

http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26485

[China, Singapore seek to further military ties](#)

People's Daily, 6 January 2010

China and Singapore pledged to further boost military cooperation at a high level meeting of senior military officers on Wednesday. "The Chinese and Singaporean armed forces have conducted diversified and pragmatic cooperation, and maintained a good momentum of development of their relations," said Chinese Defense Minister Liang Guanglie when meeting with Singapore's Chief of Army Neo Kian Hong in Beijing.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6861590.html>

[China, India hold 3rd round of defense consultation](#)

People's Daily, 9 January 2010

China and India held the third round of defense consultation here Wednesday, according to a press release from the Information Office of China's Defense Ministry Friday. Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Ma Xiaotian and visiting Indian Defense Secretary Pradeep Kumar jointly presided over the consultation, during which they exchanged views and reached some consensus on bilateral ties, regional security, national defense policies and military exchanges and cooperation.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6864067.html>

Muttahida seeks Army's help to protect Karachiites

The News, 9 January 2010

KARACHI: The Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) Coordination Committee has appealed to the Pakistan Army, the Rangers, intelligence agencies, and "honest and unbiased" police officers to come forward and protect the innocent citizens of Karachi. "It is their legal, constitutional and professional obligation," said the MQM Coordination Committee in a press release issued here on Friday. It condemned the alleged targeted killing of party workers and members of the "Urdu-speaking community" in Karachi, and asked why the MQM workers and the Urdu-speaking community members are being attacked in the aftermath of a battle between gangs in Lyari. "Both the operations were initiated by the security forces and not terrorists. There were credible intelligence information," he told reporters here, contending that the incidents got so much attention only because it took place in Srinagar.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26566

McCain terms drone an 'effective tool' in anti-Qaeda fight

The News, 9 January 2010

ISLAMABAD: The United States on Friday clearly said that relations between Pakistan and the US both at the civil and military level were better today than they had been in decades, however there were issues of 'serious' disagreement between the two sides. A delegation of visiting US senators John McCain, Joe Lieberman, John Thune and John Barrasso made these remarks while meeting with the media at a local hotel, but they refrained from listing what these 'serious' disagreements pertained to.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26569

Govt approves Rs 35 bn raise in defence budget

The News, 9 January 2010

ISLAMABAD: The government has approved an increase of Rs 35 billion in principle in the defence budget of the country to meet the expenses being incurred on military operations in the tribal areas and to provide state-of-the-art equipment to the armed forces. Sources in the Defence Ministry and the Finance Ministry told Online on Friday that the budget allocation to the tune of Rs 343 billion was made for the armed forces in the current fiscal year that was now being increased to Rs 378 billion. The Finance Ministry has also agreed to the increase in the defence budget.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26571

[China lauds Pakistan's role in fighting terrorism](#)

The News, 11 January 2010

RAWALPINDI: China lauds Pakistan's efforts against terrorism and violent extremism and acknowledges the sacrifices rendered by Pakistan, its people and the armed forces in combating terrorism. "For all this, Pakistan deserves the praise and gratitude of the world, indeed the mankind," said visiting General Ma Xiaotian, the deputy chief of general staff of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), during the seventh round of the Pak-China Defence and Security Talks held at the Joint Staff Headquarters in Chaklala on Sunday.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26609

[Army to issue notice to Military Secretary, 3 others](#)

The Hindu, 12 January 2010

Army Chief General Deepak Kapoor on Monday decided to issue show-cause notice to four senior officers named in a land scam in Darjeeling, amid speculation that soon-to-retire Military Secretary Lt. Gen. Avadesh Prakash may escape sacking. The four officers will be given 30 days time to show cause why action cannot be taken against them for issuing a No-Objection Certificate (NOC) to a private realtor in Siliguri to purchase a 70-acre land adjacent to the Sukna military station.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article79196.ece>

['India wants cordial, peaceful relations with Pak and China'](#)

The Hindu, 15 January 2010

With his doctrine of two-front war with Pakistan and China having received vehement protest across the border, Army Chief General Deepak Kapoor on Friday said India wanted to foster "cordial and peaceful relations" with both the nations. "India has always believed in maintaining peaceful and cordial relations with its neighbouring countries," Gen. Kapoor told his troops, senior officers and foreign dignitaries here on the occasion of 62nd Army Day.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article80679.ece>

[Govt clarifies report on French subs deal](#)

The News, 23 January 2010

ISLAMABAD: While commenting on a news report telecasted by some news channels, a spokesman for the government has said the purchase of equipment by the Armed Forces of Pakistan is done through a proper competitive process under the supervision of the Ministry of Defence, says an official press release. President Asif Ali Zardari was neither the president nor the prime minister nor the defence minister when the submarines referred to the news item were purchased. The then 'Admiral' responsible for this purchase was investigated by the Accountability Bureau, but no allegation of misdoing could be established by the investigation authorities against Asif Ali Zardari.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26833