

### **'Ghost' hackers worm into govt. computers**

**Kuensel, 1 April 2009**

Eleven computers in Bhutan's foreign ministry and one in the labour ministry were among a thousand odd computers worldwide hacked by an international cyber espionage network called GhostNet. A 53-page report, titled "Tracking GhostNet: Investigating a Cyber Espionage Network", stated that Bhutan is one of 103 countries, where nearly 1,300 computers were hacked. 30 percent of them, including those in Bhutan, have been classified as being important. In a related development, a Japanese IT consultant Mama San told Kuensel that he had found the same virus in four to five other computers in Bhutan in early March before the above report came out. "The same virus was something new then and, although I ran many anti-virus programmes, I was not able to remove the virus or trace its source," said Mama San.

### **Uphold judicial supremacy: CJ**

**Kathmandu Post, 1 April 2009**

KATHMANDU, March 31 - Chief Justice Kedar Prasad Giri broke the silence on Tuesday and said the judiciary has not been able to function independently due to increasing political intervention. Giri said the judiciary had been forced to become a mute onlooker when some people "dissatisfied" with court verdicts hit the streets defying the supremacy of the court. Giri -- who spoke at the inaugural session of the National Conference of Judges organised by the Supreme Court -- was referring to the recent demonstrations by Maoists and their senior leaders, including Finance Minister Baburam Bhattarai's remarks against the Supreme Court

### **PM unveils list of confessed corrupts**

**Daily Star, 1 April 2009**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina tonight disclosed in parliament a list of 456 persons, mostly government officials, who confessed to have committed corruption before the now defunct Truth and Accountability Commission. (List is available) They were exempted from corruption charges on confession. The immediate past caretaker government constituted the Tac led by Justice Habibur Rahman Khan. The commission confiscated the wealth they reported to have accumulated through corruption. In reply to AL lawmaker Muhibur Rahman Manik, the prime minister disclosed the list

### **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

### **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

### **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"

### **PM aide gets House summons**

**Kathmandu Post, 2 April 2009**

KATHMANDU, April 1 - The prime minister's foreign policy advisor Hira Bahadur Thapa, former member of National Human Rights Commission Ram Dayal Rakesh and Amar Yadav have lodged complaints against Suresh Pradhan, Ramswarth Raya and Suk Dev Sah -- the ambassador designates to Germany, United Kingdom and US respectively -- at the Parliamentary Hearing Special Committee (PHSC). After receiving serious complaints, the PHSC meeting on Wednesday decided to summon Thapa and Rakesh on April 5 to obtain further evidences against Pradhan and Raya. In response to the notice inviting all interested people to lodge complaints against Pradhan, Raya and Sah, the complaints were lodged

### **Gearing up for local government elections**

**Kuensel, 2 April 2009**

2 April, 2009 - The election commission of Bhutan (ECB) expects to start the formal process for conducting local government elections by August 2009. The ECB, during its first annual conference, reviewed work on delimitation of local government demkhongs (constituencies) and proposed a strategy to conduct local government elections. "If the law (Local Government Act 2007) is in place by July or earlier, the process could begin by August," said election official. The LG Act will be discussed in the coming summer session of parliament.

### **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.

### **ACC chief resigns**

**Daily Star, 2 April 2009**

Eighty-five days after the AL-led government assumed power, Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury resigned today for 'personal reasons.' Chowdhury, who took the most challenging task to fight corruption during the Fakhruddin-led caretaker government, sent his resignation letter to the president this afternoon. There had been widespread speculation over his resignation triggered by some awkward situation created since the political government assumed power. Chowdhury confirmed his resignation at a press conference at 4:00pm at the ACC office

### **Maldivian arrested in Syria for drugs**

**Minivan News, 2 April 2009**

A 28-year-old Maldivian man has been arrested in Syria for drug possession, according to Haveeru. Hassan Ilyas, 28, of Ahimaage in Lhaviyani atoll Isdhoo, was working on a foreign ship when he was arrested at Tartous, a Syrian port, on 26 December 2008. A spokesperson from Goodwill Private Limited, the company who had contracted him out, said Maldivians were now banned from travelling with the Greek company Charter World Shipping to Brazil

### **Pakistan and Afghanistan pledge military cooperation**

**Daily Times, 2 April 2009**

Pakistan and Afghanistan pledge military cooperation

ANKARA: Army chiefs and intelligence officials from Afghanistan and Pakistan, led by their presidents, pledged military cooperation against extremists at the Turkish-sponsored talks on Wednesday. Turkish President Abdullah Gul, who chaired the talks, said the participation of the respective chiefs of staff, land forces commanders and senior intelligence officials was "the most important" element of the talks, the third of their kind since 2007

### **Editorial: In whose name?**

**Indian Express, 2 April 2009**

Editorial: In whose name?

The diplomatic big tent at The Hague this week yielded an expected but nonetheless significant achievement. At a meeting of delegates from about 70 countries to discuss Afghanistan, American and Iranian representatives met on the sidelines. The US and Iran have a record of cooperation, however brief, on countering the Taliban in the months after 9/11. But a meeting on the sidelines between Richard Holbrooke, US President Barack Obama's special envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, and Mohammad Mehdi Akhondzadeh, who headed the Iranian delegation, has the potential to ease the confrontationist tension in West Asia. But as the global community tries to get a grip on the slide in Afghanistan, a law proposed by the Hamid Karzai Government must arrest their attention.

### **PM seeks Finnish support**

**Kathmandu Post, 3 April 2009**

KATHMANDU, April 2 - Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal on Thursday apprised the Finnish Parliament -- Eduskunta -- of the progress in the peace process and constitution-making in Nepal. Dahal appealed to Finland to provide qualitative political and economic

support to Nepal. The prime minister also attended a meeting of the private sectors of Nepal and Finland, inviting Finnish investors to invest in Nepal in mutually beneficial sectors, including energy, infrastructure, tourism and waste management

### **Govt to end segregation of tourists and locals**

**Minivan News, 3 April 2009**

New government policy aims to end thirty years of segregation between tourists and locals in the Maldives by introducing community-based tourism. The plan is to create budget to mid-market tourist villages owned and run by locals in order to distribute the wealth generated from the tourism industry more evenly

### **Food and essentials sent to Mullaitivu's trapped civilians**

**Daily News, 3 April 2009**

The UN World Food Program dispatched 1,030 metric tonnes of essential food items on Wednesday to trapped civilians in Mullaitivu on the ICRC chartered vessel. The Navy is providing assistance and safe passage to transport the food items. Navy spokesman Captain D.P.K. Dassanayake said MV City of Dublin carried over 1,030 mt. of food items in addition to medical items and emergency health and shelter kits. The cargo will be handed over to the Government Agent in Mullaitivu to be distributed among the displaced.

### **Judge Rules Some Prisoners at Bagram Have Right of Habeas Corpus**

**New York Times, 3 April 2009**

WASHINGTON — A federal judge ruled on Thursday that some prisoners held by the United States military in Afghanistan have a right to challenge their imprisonment, dealing a blow to government efforts to detain terrorism suspects for extended periods without court oversight. In a 53-page ruling that rejected a claim of unfettered executive power advanced by both the Bush and Obama administrations, United States District Judge John D. Bates said that three detainees at the United States' Bagram Air Base had the same legal rights that the Supreme Court last year granted to prisoners held at the American naval base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba

### **Process of war crimes trial kicks off April 8**

**Daily Star, 5 April 2009**

The process of holding trial of 1971 war criminals will begin on April 8 with the appointment of the chief investigating officer. UN Resident Coordinator Renata Lok-Dessallien during a meeting with Law Minister Barrister Shafique Ahmed and Home Minister Adv Sahara Khatun today proposed to send experts in assisting the government to hold the trial. Talking to reporters after one-hour and 45-minute meeting at the Law Ministry, Renata said she assured the government of UN's cooperation in holding the war criminals trial in international standard.

### **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"

### **Opposition leader's remarks on BDR mutiny were motivated: PM**

### **Daily Star, 7 April 2009**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said in the House that Opposition Leader Khaleda Zia's remarks on the February 25-26 Palkhona carnage were provocative and motivated. In her speech right after the speech of Khaleda Zia, the leader of the House said the people wanted to know whether the former PM wanted to spread a civil war in the country on failure to grab power

### **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.

### **Maoists expel alleged killer UML, NC say they smell rat**

#### **Kathmandu Post, 9 April 2009**

KATHMANDU, April 8 - YCL cadre Sujit B.K., prime suspect in the death of Youth Force cadre Prachanda Thapa, fled from the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Wednesday. B.K., who had been asked to surrender by Unified CPN (Maoist) was subsequently expelled from the party. The Maoist secretariat expelled B.K on Wednesday, a day after it had asked him to surrender himself to the police

### **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 Velupillai Prabhakaran 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.

### **Appointment of war crime investigators in 3 days**

#### **Daily Star, 9 April 2009**

The government today decided to appoint an investigation agency in three days and prosecutors in 15 days to probe the genocide committed by collaborators of the Pakistan Army during the War of Liberation. It will also form a tribunal to try the war criminals of 1971. "This (appointments) will be done shortly," said Law Minister Shafique Ahmed after an inter-ministerial meeting at the home ministry chaired by Home Minister Sahara Khatun.

### **No AfPak solution without India: US**

#### **Asian Age, 9 April 2009**

April 8: The United States expects India to play a bigger role regionally and globally, and a top American official said here on Wednesday that New Delhi's involvement was vital for stabilising the situation in Afghanistan. "We can't settle issues like Afghanistan [and] many other issues without India's full involvement," US special envoy for the AfPak region Richard Holbrooke said towards the end of a five-day tour of Afghanistan, Pakistan and India

### **China and US to work together for Pak-Afghan peace**

#### **Daily Times, 17 April 2009**

BEIJING: The United States and China have agreed to work together on bringing peace

to Afghanistan and Pakistan, officials said on Thursday following a visit to Beijing by US special envoy Richard Holbrooke. Holbrooke left China after holding talks with Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi and leading cabinet official Dai Bingguo during a two-day trip

**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.