

[It's now for parliament to play its role: Gilani](#)

Dawn, 1 August 2009

KARACHI, Aug 1: Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said on Saturday that all institutions, including the parliament and the judiciary, were discharging their responsibilities under the Constitution, calling on all to respect it. Talking to journalists after a meeting with the KESC management at its head office, he said the Supreme Court had played its role by declaring the Nov 3, 2007, actions of former president Pervez Musharraf as illegal and unconstitutional and now it was for parliament to play its role

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/its-now-for-parliament-to-play-its-role-gilani-289>

[SC demolishes Musharraf's unconstitutional edifice](#)

News, 1 August 2009

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court, in its landmark verdict, on Friday declared the actions taken on November 3, 2007, by former military dictator General (R) Pervez Musharraf as unconstitutional and invalid. The apex court declared all judges of the superior courts who took oath by showing personal loyalty to the former military dictator on November 3, 2007, in violation of the order of the seven-member bench of the apex court as illegal and the court ordered them to stop function forthwith

[Are benefits taken under NRO legal, anymore?](#)

News, 1 August 2009

ISLAMABAD: The judgment is clear: NRO no longer thrives as a perpetual presidential ordinance without the usual 120 days life span. The SC has given another 90 days, starting today, for parliament to either turn it into an act of parliament or watch it dissolve into nothingness. But the real question is not about what happens on this front but whether the benefits taken under NRO are legal in nature; are they transactions that shall be treated as past and closed transactions even if the ordinance is allowed to lapse or will they become alive once the ordinance dies.

[26/11: India responds to latest queries](#)

Hindu, 2 August 2009

NEW DELHI: India's response to the latest set of questions sent by Pakistan in connection with their investigations into the 26/11 terror attack in Mumbai has been handed over to the Pakistan High Commission here. Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram said on

Saturday that a seven-page response with annexures was given to the External Affairs Ministry for transmission to the Pakistani government

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/08/02/stories/2009080256560100.htm>

Council of Common Interests reconstituted

News, 2 August 2009

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday reconstituted the Council of Common Interests (CCI), with Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani as its chairman. Spokesperson for the president Farhatullah Babar said the president reconstituted the council on the advice of the prime minister. Besides the prime minister as its chairman, other members of the council included the chief ministers of the four provinces and the nominees of the federal government, including Minister for Privatisation Syed Naveed Qamar, Minister for Communications Dr Arbab Alamgir Khan and Minister for Livestock and Dairy Development Humayun Aziz Kurd

http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=23623

Alleged desecration of Holy Qura'an

News, 2 August 2009

TOBA TEK SINGH: Six people were burnt alive and at least 19 others were injured in the Christian Colony in Gojra, as riots broke out on Saturday in the town following an incident of alleged desecration of the Holy Qura'an by three Christians in Chak No 95-JB two days ago. More than 50 houses were set ablaze by an angry mob. Later, an injured person identified as Akhlas also succumbed to his injuries in a hospital.

http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=23622

Schools reopen in Swat

News, 2 August 2009

MINGORA: Educational institutions reopened across the militancy-hit Swat Valley on Saturday but the attendance of students remained low. Addressing a press conference, president of the All Private Schools Management Association Khurshid Ahmed Khan said the students had been exempted from paying fees of the past three months. He appealed to the government to compensate the people for the losses they had incurred during the military operation

http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=23625

Judgment leaves NRO beneficiaries nervous

News, 2 August 2009

WASHINGTON: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has, as expected, set the stage for far-reaching judicial, legal and political changes in the country with its landmark judgment on Friday night in the PCO judges case. Some parts of the judgment are clear and categorical and an attempt has been made not to rock the boat and destabilise the present set-up but the window for selective decisions later has been kept wide open.

Pakistan: India has not given enough material against Saeed

Hindu, 7 August 2009

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan appears to have taken the firm position that India has the responsibility of providing it with the evidence to enable it to take action against Hafiz Saeed, founder of the Lashkar-e-Taiba which is blamed for the November 2008 Mumbai attacks. India has sought action against Mr. Saeed as part of its larger demand

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/08/07/stories/2009080760101200.htm>

Malik says JuD banned, but status still unclear

Hindu, 7 August 2009

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Interior Minister Rehman Malik told Parliament on Wednesday that the Jamat-ud-Dawa was among 25 groups that had been banned under the 1997 Anti-Terrorism Act. Mr. Malik said this in a written reply to a question in the National Assembly on the number of militant organisations banned by Pakistan

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/08/06/stories/2009080658770100.htm>

Hakimullah debunks death claim

News, 11 August 2009

PESHAWAR: The government's claim about killing of the top leadership of the banned Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) suffered a serious blow on Monday when another militant commander Hakimullah Mehsud, who was declared dead in an intra-group clash, approached the media to announce that he was alive. In a telephone call to journalists from an undisclosed location, Hakimullah said: "Look, I am here, safe and sound." The 30-year-old Hakimullah once again claimed that the outlawed TTP chief, Baitullah Mehsud was alive and promised that his videotape would be soon be delivered to the media

http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=23802

Militants on the run, Army to stay in Swat: Gilani

News, 11 August 2009

MINGORA: Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani has said

security forces with the help of the people of the Malakand Division have defeated militants who are now on the run and the Army will stay in the area till the reconstruction of the affected areas and rehabilitation of the displaced persons. Speaking at a gathering of local elders here on Monday, the prime minister said the terrorists would soon be eliminated and the government would not allow any one to challenge its writ again in the valley

http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=23803

Al-Qaeda can install its own man to run TTP: Malik

News, 11 August 2009

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rehman Malik has said the al-Qaeda could install its own man to run the banned Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) after Taliban leaders were killed in a shoot-out at their Shura meeting. In an exclusive talk with a private TV channel, Rehman Malik said the al-Qaeda was active across the border and it would try to induct its own man to run the banned organisation with the consultation of those who were supplying weapons and funds to the Taliban

http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=23805

Pakistan holds up N-arms control talks

Dawn, 11 August 2009

GENEVA, Aug 10: Pakistan on Monday held up the resumption of nuclear arms control negotiations at the UN Conference on Disarmament as it asked to reopen a work plan already agreed on by the main nuclear powers. The Pakistan delegation on Monday said it wanted fresh discussions on procedural questions in a draft text detailing the various heads of negotiating groups and the timetable for the talks

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/pakistan-holds-up-narms-control-talks-189>

Khan of Kalat ups the ante

Dawn, 12 August 2009

QUETTA, Aug 11: The Khan of Kalat, Mir Suleman Dawood, announced on Tuesday formation of a council for 'independent Balochistan' and rejected any reconciliation with the government of Pakistan without the mediation of European Union and United Nations. Addressing reporters from London on telephone, he said the council would ensure the creation of an independent state of Balochistan

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/khan-of-kalat-ups-the-ante-289>

Provinces warned about Sipah-i-Sahaba: minister

Dawn, 12 August 2009

ISLAMABAD, Aug 11: The government told the National Assembly on Tuesday it had asked provinces to keep a watch on the banned Sipah-i-Sahaba group, which is accused of fomenting recent violence in the Punjab province's Jhang and Gojra towns. Interior Minister Rehman Malik acknowledged there was a lot of truth in concern voiced by an opposition lawmaker from Jhang who said the government must act against the extremist religious group to avoid the kind of situation it had to face in Swat valley of the North West Frontier Province after Taliban rebels were allowed to thrive there

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/police-register-case-against-musharraf-289>

10 Taliban killed in drone attack

Dawn, 12 August 2009

WANA, Aug 11: A US drone fired missiles into a suspected Taliban hideout in the Sam area of South Waziristan on Tuesday, killing 10 militants. According to officials, this was the same area where another drone attack last week resulted in the reported death of Baitullah Mehsud. An official said the house attacked on Tuesday was owned by Abdur Rahim Berki known to have links with the Baitullah Mehsud group and served as a training facility

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/10-taliban-killed-in-drone-attack-289>

'US ready for reconciliation with rank-and-file Taliban'

Dawn, 12 August 2009

WASHINGTON, Aug 11: The top commander of US and Nato forces in Afghanistan on Tuesday vowed his troops would prevail in the war and said he was open to reconciling with rank-and-file Taliban. "We will win. The Taliban won't win. But we will also have to deal through good and bad days, and good and bad months," Gen Stanley McChrystal told US National Public Radio. The US commander's comments came after he told the Wall Street Journal in an interview published on Monday that the Taliban had momentum in the war

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content->

library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/us-ready-for-reconciliation-with-rankandfile-taliban-289

CJ asked to form larger bench for NRO cases

News, 13 August 2009

ISLAMABAD: A two-member bench of the Supreme Court on Wednesday suggested to the chief justice of Pakistan to constitute a larger bench to examine the cases in which relief was granted under the National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO). The bench, comprising Justice Shakirullah Jan and Justice Raja Fayyaz Ahmad, was hearing an appeal of a former assistant director of FIA, Fazal Ahmed Jat, against rejection of his relief plea under the NRO by the Sindh High Court

14 killed as rival militants clash in SWA

News, 13 August 2009

PESHAWAR/WANA: Fourteen people were killed and several others injured in deadly clashes between militants affiliated with Baitullah Mehsud and pro-government tribal commander, Haji Turkistan Bhattani, in the troubled South Waziristan Agency (SWA) on Wednesday. Some reports quoted Turkistan Bhattani as having said that 60-70 people had been killed in the daylong fierce fighting between his men and the rival group led by Asmatullah Shaheen Bhattani

Far-reaching Fata reforms unveiled

Dawn, 14 August 2009

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari announced on Thursday political, judicial and administrative reforms for the tribal areas, allowing political activities in Fata, setting up an appellate tribunal, curtailing arbitrary powers of political agents, giving people right to appeal and bail, excluding women and children from the territorial responsibility clause and envisaging audit of accounts by the auditor general. Addressing a ceremony held in the Presidency to mark the 63rd Independence Day, the president announced the reforms package that had been worked out in consultation with all stakeholders and approved a day earlier in a meeting. Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani attended the meeting

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/news/pakistan/13+far-reaching+fata+reforms+unveiled-za-12>

'PML-Q will not support move against Musharraf'

Dawn, 14 August 2009

KARACHI: Pakistan Muslim League-Q chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain has said his party will not become a party to any move in parliament against former president retired General Pervez Musharraf. Addressing a press conference at the residence of Sindh PML-Q chief Haleem Adil Shaikh here on Thursday, Mr Hussain said that he had talked to Muttahida Qaumi Movement chief Altaf Hussain by telephone earlier in the day

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/news/pakistan/12-pml-q+will+not+support+move+against+musharraf--bi-02>

Tribal chieftain among 14 killed in SWA clashes

Dawn, 14 August 2009

PESHAWAR/WANA: It seems target killing has once again started in the violence-hit South Waziristan as four persons, including a prominent pro-government tribal chieftain, were killed and three others injured in a bomb blast in Wana on Thursday. Also, fighting between the pro-government militant commander, Turkistan Bhattani and Baitullah Mehsud-led Taliban continued for the second consecutive day on Thursday at Sur Ghar area near Srarogha in South Waziristan in which, officials said, 10 more people were killed

http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=23863

Beyond borders

News, 14 August 2009

The Khan of Kalat has become the latest to talk of the possibility of autonomy for Balochistan – or parts of the province. His words follow similar sentiments expressed by the controversial men who represent Baloch nationalism. These people are traitors for some, heroes for others. The fires fuelled by the nationalist quest though burn on in the province. The killing of two policemen in Quetta appears to be the latest act of violence stemming from these unfortunate motives. Under the present government there have so far been meaningless comments about beginning a reconciliation process there. Anger in the province has been on the rise in recent months as a result of several murders of key nationalists and comments made by people including the interior minister in the Senate

http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=192967

PM holds dictator responsible for terrorism

News, 15 August 2009

Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Friday described terrorism as the biggest challenge of his government and said that the country faced this menace due to wrong decisions of the dictator, vowing that his government would eliminate it with the resolve and determination of the people and through the policy of reconciliation and consultation

Forwards in FATA
News, 15 August 2009

What should have happened years, possibly decades, ago has finally been done. The president has announced a far-reaching reform plan for the Federally Administered Tribal Areas. Befittingly enough, the plan, which aims to pull the tribal areas into the mainstream of Pakistan, was announced on the eve of Pakistan's 63rd Independence Day. In the past, romanticised notions of tribal 'autonomy' and 'honour' have prevented the state from offering the impoverished people of these areas the rights they should enjoy as citizens. Finally, there has been a recognition that there is nothing desirable at all about relegating some 3,341,000 people to lives lived in squalor and illiteracy. Less than 35 per cent of households in the area live above the poverty level, per capita income is half the national average of US \$500 and the literacy rate is still below 20 per cent. Access to even rudimentary healthcare is extremely limited. As a result maternal and infant mortality rates are among the highest in the world. It is hard to see in this situation even a modicum of 'honour'

Imposition of emergency rule
News, 16 August 2009

ISLAMABAD: Former president General Pervez Musharraf was never formally given the mandate by the corps commanders to promulgate the November 3, 2007, Provisional Constitution Order (PCO) that has been termed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. "It had never been on the agenda of any of the commanders' conferences. General (retd) Pervez Musharraf chaired the 104th commanders' conference and it was the last of the conferences chaired by him. He did not even give a hint about his plan to impose the so-called emergency that was a virtual martial law against the judiciary," well-placed defence sources said

http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=23892

'Army has nothing to do with Musharraf's trial'

News, 16 August 2009

SHEIKHUPURA: Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said on Saturday that the Army had nothing to do with the trial of Pervez Musharraf and his case would be dealt with according to the law. He expressed these views while talking to the media after inaugurating the Atlas Power Plant here. "The Army has nothing to do with the trial of Pervez Musharraf and we have no sympathy or love for him," he said while answering a question about the demand of PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif for the trial of Musharraf and the possibility of interference of the Army in the issue.

http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=23889

[Baitullah's men kill 17 rival militants in SWA](#)

News, 17 August 2009

PESHAWAR/WANA: Unidentified armed men killed 18 Taliban militants on the Wana-Ladha Road in South Waziristan, sources said on Sunday. The dead militants were affiliated with the Mullah Nazir group. Taliban sources in Wana told The News that the bullet-riddled bodies of 18 slain Taliban were shifted to Wana on Sunday evening. They said the militants had gone to the Paktika province in Afghanistan to fight the US-led coalition forces and were returning home when they were attacked by the armed men. The sources said the militants had come back to Pakistan and were hoping to reach Shakai after passing through the territory of the Mehsud tribe

http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=23905

[Energy crisis tops Pak-US agenda](#)

News, 17 August 2009

ISLAMABAD: The United States on Sunday assured Pakistan to extend full help and cooperation to resolve its energy crisis so that bilateral relations between the two countries could be further strengthened in all fields. This was announced by Special Envoy of American President on Pakistan and Afghanistan Ambassador Richard Holbrooke while addressing a joint press conference with Foreign Minister Shah Mehmud Qureshi here at the Foreign Office following bilateral talks

http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=23901

[Pakistani terrorist groups planning more attacks: Manmohan Hindu, 18 August 2009](#)

NEW DELHI: Stressing that cross-border terrorism remains a most pervasive threat, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Monday said "there is credible information of ongoing plans of terrorist groups in

Pakistan to carry out fresh attacks.” Inaugurating the Chief Ministers’ Conference on Internal Security, he cautioned: “The area of operation of these terrorists today extends far beyond the confines of Jammu and Kashmir and covers all parts of our country.”

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/08/18/stories/2009081856770100.htm>

Banned SSP chief killed in Khairpur

Dawn, 18 August 2009

KHAIRPUR, Aug 17: Allama Ali Sher Hyderi, chief patron of the Ahl-i-Sunnat Wal Jamaat Pakistan and a leader of the now defunct Sipah-i-Sahaba Pakistan, and his driver were gunned down here on Sunday night. A companion of the religious leader was injured. One of the attackers was killed by Allama Hyderi’s guards.

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/banned-ssp-chief-killed-in-khairpur-889>

Baitullah’s lieutenant held in Islamabad

Dawn, 18 August 2009

ISLAMABAD, Aug 17: A team of police and security agencies arrested a commander of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan along with an aide here on Monday. Sources told Dawn that Saifullah, who acted as a mediator between Baitullah Mehsud’s TTP and Al Qaeda, was staying in a house with Zaid Akram and some “high-value” targets for treatment of injuries he had received in a drone attack in Afghanistan or Waziristan last month

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/baitullahs-lieutenant-held-in-islamabad-889>

Punjab government ‘takes over’ sugar mills

News, 21 August 2009

LAHORE: In what is bound to prove an immensely popular action with angry masses, the Punjab government on Thursday took over the ‘unofficial control’ of all 43 sugar mills in the province and deputed its employees to check and register the stocks. The rather drastic step was taken after the owners of these mills reportedly refused to sell sugar at the government fixed rates. Punjab Food Minister Malik Nadeem Kamran confirmed to The News that government teams had been sent to the sugar mills to verify the stocks

60 militants surrender in Swat

News, 21 August 2009

MINGORA: Some 60 militants, including two relatives of Swat Taliban chief Maulana Fazlullah, laid down their arms and surrendered to security forces on Thursday. Also, four more bodies, believed to be of militants, were recovered from the Charbagh and Nawagai areas. The surrendered militants were presented before the media by Lt-Col Akhtar Abbas of the Swat Media Cell (SMC). District Coordination Officer (DCO) Atifur Rehman was also present on the occasion

[US energy help not linked to IP gas project: FO](#)

News, 21 August 2009

ISLAMABAD: While welcoming the US offer to help Pakistan overcome its acute energy shortage, the government says that there is no linkage between the US assistance and the Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline project. "We are facing energy deficiency and this has an adverse effect on our economy. The US government and administration realises this. While we welcome US assistance in this regard, there is no linkage between this and the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project," said the spokesman at the Foreign Office at the weekly media briefing

[Zardari appreciates China's handling of Xinjiang unrest](#)

Dawn, 22 August 2009

BEIJING, Aug 21: President Asif Ali Zardari backed China's policies in its tense Xinjiang region ahead of his latest visit to the giant neighbour he has wooed as a strategic and economic counterweight to the West, Chinese state media said. Mr Zardari arrived in China on Friday for his fourth visit since taking office last year, underscoring his government's hopes that Beijing can help shore up Pakistan's economic and diplomatic standing

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/zardari-appreciates-chinas-handling-of-xinjiang-unrest-289>

[Pressure groups blamed for sugar crisis](#)

Dawn, 22 August 2009

ISLAMABAD, Aug 21: The government admitted on Friday that because of pressure from certain interest groups it could not import sugar earlier despite warnings about an impending shortage. Replying to questions at a meeting of a Senate committee, Minister for Industries and Production Manzoor Wattoo said the issue of sugar shortage had come up at a couple of meetings of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) but the government could not take any decision

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/pressure-groups-blamed-for->

sugar-crisis-289

[Hakeemullah Mehsud new chief, says Faqir](#)

Dawn, 23 August 2009

KHAR, Aug 22: Militant commander Faqir Mohammad, who had proclaimed himself as successor to slain Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud only a couple of days ago, announced on Saturday that the much younger Hakeemullah Mehsud was the new leader of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan. Faqir's statement to the media, however, compounded the confusion over Baitullah Mehsud's successor amid reports of infighting within militant groups over leadership and TTP's vast assets, including cash and weaponry

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/hakeemullah-mehsud-new-chief,-says-faqir-389>

[Beijing to help build dam in Northern Areas](#)

Dawn, 23 August 2009

HANGZHOU (China), Aug 22: Pakistan and China on Saturday signed a memorandum of understanding for construction of Bunji dam in Northern Areas. The agreement was signed on behalf of Pakistan's ministry of water and power and China's Three Gorges Project Corporation by the Chairman, Board of Investment, Saleem Mandviwala, and Li Yang'an. The ceremony was attended by President Asif Zardari.

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/beijing-to-help-build-dam-in-northern-areas-389>

[Ex-mill price fixed at Rs45: GST on sugar cut by 50pc](#)

Dawn, 23 August 2009

ISLAMABAD, Aug 22: The government has reduced general sales tax on sugar by 50 per cent and fixed the ex-mill price of sugar at Rs45 per kilogram, inclusive of all taxes, for three months starting from Sunday, the first of Ramazan. The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani at the Prime Minister's House on Saturday. The meeting also decided to lift restrictions on the inter-provincial movement of sugar and wheat

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/exmill-price-fixed-at-rs45-gst-on-sugar-cut-by-50pc-389>

[Why treason trial is not doable](#)

News, 23 August 2009

KARACHI: When Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani hinted in the National Assembly on Wednesday that institution of a treason case against Pervez Musharraf was not “doable”, he was actually alluding to those unwritten assurances provided to the former military ruler from the ruling coalition, military leadership and Pakistan’s trusted international friends in the week that followed his resignation from the office on Monday, August 18, last year, according to most informed political and security sources

NRO not linked to Musharraf’s trial: PM

News, 25 August 2009

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Monday said the National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) is something else and trial of former president Pervez Musharraf under Article 6 is another thing. “There is no comparison between the two,” he said while replying to a question by newsmen at Chakri near Rawalpindi, where he had gone to condole with Leader of Opposition Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan over the death of his brother Lt- Gen (retd) Iftikhar Ali Khan

China ties cornerstone of foreign policy: Zardari

News, 25 August 2009

GUANGZHOU, China: President Asif Ali Zardari and Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi on Monday discussed bilateral and international issues and expressed their resolve to further strengthen bilateral ties. During a meeting which took place at the White Swan Hotel, where President Zardari is staying, there was a complete unanimity of views on various regional, bilateral and international issues

Interpol issues red notice against Hafiz Saeed

Dawn, 26 August 2009

LAHORE: Interpol has issued a Red Corner Notice (RCN) against Jamaatud Dawa chief Hafiz Saeed, Times of India reported on Tuesday. Hafiz Saeed has been charge-sheeted by India for masterminding the attacks in Mumbai on Nov 26 last year. The notice, according to the newspaper, will make it difficult for Pakistan to let the JuD chief roam freely

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/news/pakistan/12-interpol+issues+red+notice+against+hafiz+saeed--bi-11>

Time not ripe for new province: Gilani

Dawn, 26 August 2009

MULTAN: Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said that the

government was facing multiple challenges and raising the issue of a new province in south Punjab at this stage would destabilise the country. Talking to reporters after the inaugural ceremony of the Agro Food Processing facility on Tuesday, the prime minister said that country was facing problems such as lawlessness, terrorism and poverty and the government was utilising all of its resources to overcome these national problems

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/news/pakistan/12-time+not+ripe+for+new+province+gilani--bi-09>

Jets pound militant positions in South Waziristan

Dawn, 26 August 2009

PESHAWAR: Jets and helicopter gunships pounded militant positions in South Waziristan on Wednesday, officials said, in a fresh assault on Taliban militants in the lawless tribal belt. The bombardment in the northwestern region comes after the death of Pakistani Taliban chief Baitullah Mehsud and as analysts urge Pakistan to exploit apparent rifts in the militant leadership. The strikes hit about 40 kilometres east of South Waziristan's main town Wana, security and military officials said, with a handful of troops and militants killed in the bombing and clashes

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/news/pakistan/04-jets-pound-militant-positions-south-waziristan-qs-14>

Shutter down strike observed in Balochistan

News, 27 August 2009

QUETTA: A shutter down and wheel jam strike was observed in different parts of the province on Wednesday on the third death anniversary of Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti. Three persons were killed and five others, including police personnel, sustained injuries in separate incidents of firing and a motorcycle bomb blast while various electricity installations were blown up

War against militancy

News, 27 August 2009

PESHAWAR: The NWFP government and opposition political parties on Wednesday unanimously demanded an additional five per cent share for the province in the upcoming National Finance Commission (NFC) award to compensate for the losses suffered during the anti-terror war. A unanimous resolution, adopted by the participants of the government-sponsored All Parties Conference (APC), urged the federal government for immediate payment of Rs 251 billion dues to the

NWFP on account of net hydel profit

Taliban seen as regrouping: report

News, 27 August 2009

ISLAMABAD: An agreement by two top leaders of the Pakistani Taliban to share power following their chief's killing is a sign the al-Qaeda-allied movement is regrouping, but questions remain whether the network is as united as it seeks to appear. Two intelligence officers warned Wednesday that the group's new leader, Hakimullah Mehsud, may stage high-profile attacks in Pakistani cities to show it is still in business and avenge the death of his chief Baitullah Mehsud.

'26/11 terrorists accessed email from 10 IP addresses, 5 from Pak'

Times of India, 27 August 2009

MUMBAI: Wanted accused in the 26/11 attack case had communicated with terrorists using an email ID which was accessed from ten IP addresses -- five from Pakistan, two USA, two Russia and one Kuwait - a cyber law expert informed the special trial court in Mumbai on Wednesday. Kharak_telco@yahoo.com was the email ID used by wanted accused while communicating with terrorists via Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) through New Jersey-based Callphonex, Mukund Pawar, Crime Branch inspector, told special public prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam during examination in the court <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/NEWS/India/26/11-terrorists-accessed-email-from-10-IP-addresses-5-from-Pak-/articleshow/4937795.cms>

Interpol issues Red Corner notice against Hafiz Saeed

Times of India, 27 August 2009

NEW DELHI: Interpol has issued a Red Corner Notice (RCN) on Tuesday against Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed, who has been chargesheeted. Earlier, government sources said that the CBI, which acts as the nodal agency for all dealings with Interpol, has already written to the world police body, based on the 26/11 chargesheet, to get an RCN issued against Saeed who was let off by the Lahore High Court as Islamabad didn't press charges against him

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/NEWS/India/Interpol-issues-Red-Corner-notice-against-Hafiz-Saeed/articleshow/4934172.cms>

Balochistan dominates Zardari, Altaf meeting

News, 28 August 2009

LONDON: President Asif Zardari and Muttahida Qaumi Movement Quaid Altaf Hussain on Thursday agreed to continue their coalition despite differences in many areas. The resolve came during a long meeting between them. President Asif Zardari was assisted by Interior

Minister Rehman Malik, former federal minister Dr Asim, Pakistan's ambassador to the United States Hussain Haqqani and his wife MNA Farah Naz Ispahani, presidential spokesman Farhatullah Babar and Pakistan's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom Wajid Shamsul Hasan while Altaf Hussain was aided by Shipping Minister Babar Ghauri, central coordination committee members Saleem Shahzad, Mustafa Azizabadi, Muhammad Anwar and Advocate Muhammad Anis. Asifa Bhutto Zardari was also present by her father's side

http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=24153

21 Khasadars killed in Torkham suicide attack

News, 28 August 2009

LANDIKOTAL: Twenty-one members of the Khasadar force were killed and 27 others sustained injuries when a suicide bomber hit Torkham checkpoint on the Pak-Afghan border in the Khyber Agency on Thursday. Official sources said the bomber approached the area by foot and then triggered his suicide jacket to blow himself up at the border post that serves as the crossing point between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=24154

10 dead in US drone strike in SWA

News, 28 August 2009

PESHAWAR/WANA: Ten suspected militants were killed and five others injured in a US drone attack on an alleged militant compound at Ragh village of Kaniguram town in the South Waziristan Agency (SWA) on Thursday afternoon. Some reports said three victims were foreign militants, whose bodies were immediately shifted to an unknown location by insurgents. Their nationality could not be ascertained. Tribal sources told The News two US drones had been flying over Kaniguram town since Thursday morning and fired three missiles at an alleged militant compound in the afternoon

http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=24155

Gulf oil money fuels Taliban, says Holbrooke

News, 28 August 2009

ISTANBUL: America's special envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan says the deadly Taliban insurgency in those countries relies heavily on funding from the oil-rich Persian Gulf. Such money even outpaces the cash gathered from Afghanistan's multibillion-dollar exports of opium and heroin, said Richard Holbrooke, in an interview with CNN. "It seems to be more from individuals carrying money in their suitcases," Holbrooke said. "Sometimes they are taking advantage of the

pilgrimage [to the Muslim holy cities of Makkah and Madina]. Sometimes from Hawala [an informal international system for money transfers]. Sometimes from charities.

Interpol issues Red Corner Notice against Abu Hamza

Times of India, 28 August 2009

NEW DELHI: Interpol on Wednesday issued Red Corner Notice against a Lashker-e-Taiba terrorist wanted in connection with Mumbai terror strikes in November last year. The Interpol issued notice against Abu Hamza, accused of motivating and training the 10 terrorists sent to Mumbai for carrying out the terror strike

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/NEWS/India/Interpol-issues-Red-Corner-Notice-against-Abu-Hamza/articleshow/4937471.cms>

LHC lifts restrictions on Dr Qadeer

News, 29 August 2009

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court has ordered to lift restrictions on renowned nuclear scientist Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan and summoned the district magistrate and the Islamabad DIG on September 4. The LHC in its verdict while ordering to lift ban on the movement of the nuclear scientist till further orders said Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan can go anywhere of his own choice. The court issued notices of contempt of court to the district magistrate and the DIG. Dr AQ Khan had challenged his official protocol, terming it violation of his fundamental rights. His counsel Barrister Syed Ali Zafar argued before the court of Justice Ijaz Ahmad Chaudhry that Dr Khan had earlier filed a petition challenging his virtual house arrest by the Musharraf regime under the garb of providing security. He submitted that after lengthy arguments, the Islamabad High Court had declared Dr Khan to be a “free citizen”

http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=24171

From a Troika to a Quartet

News, 29 August 2009

WASHINGTON: Pakistan has entered into a make-or-break, decisive phase for the political system and the next few weeks have become so critical that any slip by any of the main institutional players could cause a major catastrophe and land the country into deep trouble. The three pillars of the so-called troika, namely the president, the prime minister and the Army chief, have now been joined by another major pillar, the chief justice of the Supreme Court and the troika is practically now a quartet

http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=24172

'UK sensitive to Pakistan needs'

News, 29 August 2009

LONDON: Britain Prime Minister Gordon Brown said on Friday that his country was sensitive to Pakistan's needs and that's why not only had it enhanced its economic aid to Pakistan but was also pushing the EU countries for opening trade opportunities for Pakistani products. Brown expressed these views at 10 Downing Street in his hour long talks with President Asif Ali Zardari, who called on him to discuss regional and international issues and bilateral relations, especially in the context of the fight against Islamist extremists in Afghanistan and Pakistan and the need for greater cooperation to defeat the "shared threat" of terrorism

http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=24170

Can climate change bridge India-Pak divide?

Times of India, 30 August 2009

NEW DELHI: Can climate change transform the dynamics between India and Pakistan as both countries face similar environmental challenges? Environment minister Jairam Ramesh believes it can certainly be a start, as he prepares to host environment ministers from SAARC countries for a special session on climate change and Copenhagen on October 19-20 to evolve common strategies both in international climate change negotiations and within the region

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/NEWS/India/Can-climate-change-bridge-India-Pak-divide/articleshow/4949126.cms>

War is suicidal, let's go for talks: Qureshi

News, 30 August 2009

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Saturday hit out hard at statements issued by India, as Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi warned New Delhi that a war would be suicidal. "War is suicidal. When war is not an option, the only option left is talks," he said while talking to newsmen at the Foreign Office here. The minister was asked to comment on a statement made in Barmer, in which Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh had said relations with Pakistan were not conducive for the two sides to have talks at any level.

http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=24192

Hameed Gul admits he formed IJI

News, 30 August 2009

ISLAMABAD: Former chief of the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) Lt-Gen (ret'd) Hameed Gul on Saturday disclosed that the PPP could have got landslide victory in 1988 elections, if the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad

(IJI) had not been formed. Talking to a private TV channel, he said: "Yes, we had such reports and apprehension of massive PPP victory." Gul said they feared that the PPP was returning to power after the execution of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. I take the responsibility of forming the IJI, though it was not my idea," Hameed Gul said

http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=24196

Gilgit-Baltistan gets internal, political autonomy

News, 30 August 2009

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Saturday unanimously approved the new Gilgit-Baltistan Empowerment and Self-Governance Ordinance 2009 to give more internal and political autonomy to the Northern Areas. "All the stakeholders were taken on board prior to getting the approval from the cabinet to give internal and political autonomy to the Northern Areas, which shall be now be called Gilgit-Baltistan," said Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani while addressing a press conference here on Saturday at the PM Secretariat after chairing a special cabinet meeting

http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=24191

'Pakistan illegally modified missiles'

Hindu, 31 August 2009

New York: Validating New Delhi's fears that Islamabad was using U.S. security aid to beef up its military against it, the Obama administration has accused Pakistan of illegally modifying the Harpoon anti-ship missile and maritime surveillance aircraft P-3C for potential land attacks against India. The New York Times reported in a front page story that the U.S. lodged a protest in this regard with Pakistan Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani in June, adding to the tension between the two countries

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/08/31/stories/2009083157700100.htm>

Suicide bomber kills 16 police cadets in Swat

Dawn, 31 August 2009

MINGORA, Aug 30: A terrorist blew himself up inside a police training centre in Mingora on Sunday, killing 16 recruits of the newly-formed Community Police Force and injuring four others. Officials said that about 50 cadets of the force were getting training at the centre when the bomber sneaked into the parade ground and detonated explosives strapped to his body

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/suicide-bomber-kills-16-police->

Troops brace for decisive offensive

Dawn, 31 August 2009

PESHAWAR, Aug 30: With Baitullah Mehsud dead, troops may be bracing for a new round of offensive against the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan in the days and weeks ahead to prepare the ground for a decisive assault on South Waziristan, knowledgeable sources say. The military and paramilitary operations against the remaining pockets of militants will resume after a wait-and-see strategy in the aftermath of the death of the TTP chief in a drone attack in the first week of this month, resulting in a power struggle that many in the military and security establishment believe also led to the death of Baitullah's key lieutenant Hakeemullah

Pakistan denies it modified American anti-ship missile

Dawn, 31 August 2009

ISLAMABAD, Aug 30: Pakistan rejected accusations its army illegally modified American-made missiles to increase its land-strike capability, denying that it reconfigured anti-ship weapons in a way that could target India. The denial was in response to a news report that the Obama administration made a diplomatic protest to Pakistan's prime minister over the alleged alterations to the anti-ship missiles Islamabad bought in the 1980s

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/pakistan-denies-it-modified-american-antiship-missile-189>
