

## [6 LeT militants killed in J&K encounter](#)

**The Hindu, 1 April 2010**

Six Lashkar-e-Taiba militants of Pakistani origin, who had escaped from Triyath forest after a brief encounter three days ago, were killed by security forces after they tracked them down in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday. Police and security forces tracked down the group of militants in Talli Dharaman-Sarothi belt (Triyath) of Kalakote tehsil of Rajouri district and trapped them around 2.30 pm IST, Senior Superintendent of Police, Rajouri, Shafkat Watalie told PTI, giving details of the anti-terrorist 'Operation Khoj'.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article364022.ece>

## [From Presidency to PM House](#)

**The News, 1 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: History was made at 10.50 pm on Wednesday when the Mian Raza Rabbani-led Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Reforms (PCCR) signed the draft of the 18th Amendment to delete the dictatorial amendments from the Constitution and to strengthen the parliamentary system with the transfer of powers from the Presidency to parliament and the Prime Minister House. Comprising 95 amendments to the repeatedly tampered Constitution, the proposed amendment draft of the non-partisan Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional reforms has already been dubbed as the best constitutional thing to happen since the 1973 consensus Constitution, incidentally also given with a Pakistan People's Party government in the saddle.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28096](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28096)

## [Swiss prosecutor throws ball back to Pakistan](#)

**The News, 1 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court will again have to decide whether President Asif Ali Zardari enjoys immunity in Switzerland as the Swiss prosecutor general has clearly thrown the ball back to Pakistan by stating that his country cannot prosecute the Pakistani president "because the Pakistan Constitution grants him immunity as head of state." The Swiss official statement, which came after NAB informed the Supreme Court that two letters had been sent to reopen the Swiss cases, was categorical and clear as it said, "Only the Pakistani authorities can lift the immunity to their head of state."

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28098](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28098)

## [Why Zardari delayed UN report](#)

**The News, 1 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Zardari is said to have quietly given names of four international personalities - US ex-secretary of state Condoleezza Rice, Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai, Saudi Arabia intelligence chief Prince Muqrin and the UAE intelligence chief - to the UN inquiry commission to ask them: How did they know the secret in advance that Benazir Bhutto would be killed? The UN commission has now been asked to first meet these four indirect witnesses before submitting its report on Benazir Bhutto assassination. With this new information, two and a half years old mystery also finally stands resolved that which two friendly countries had actually warned BB about attack on her life before she decided to return to Pakistan on October 18, 2007.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?id=28099](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=28099)

### [Turkey keen to cooperate with Pakistan in all fields](#)

**The News, 1 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Turkey on Wednesday expressed resolve to upgrade their strategic partnership and intensify political and economic cooperation besides jointly defeating militancy and terrorism that continue to claim scores of innocent lives in Pakistan and Turkey. The understanding came at a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and Turkish President Abdullah Gul here at the Presidency which reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations. The one-on-one meeting between the two presidents was followed by a delegation level formal talks which were attended on the Pakistan side by Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Minister for Food & Agriculture Nazar Muhammad Gondal, Interior Minister Rehman A Malik, Railways Minister Haji Ghulam Ahmed Bilour, Finance Adviser Dr Abdul Hafeez Sheikh besides other senior officials.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?id=28102](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=28102)

### [Obama focusing on ties with Pakistan, India: White House](#)

**The News, 1 April 2010**

WASHINGTON: President Barack Obama is devoting considerable time to the United States' relations with Pakistan, Afghanistan and India in order to see the security strengthened and advance mutual goals in the vitally important region, a White House spokesman said on Tuesday. "Obviously the president, as you know and as many of you have seen, has spent considerable time on our relationships with Afghanistan, Pakistan and India in order to see security strengthened and our mutual goals worked on in an important region in the world," Press Secretary Robert Gibbs said.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?id=28112](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=28112)

### [Uncertainty Remains on Pakistan Corruption Case](#)

**NYT, 1 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistani government officials told the Supreme Court on Wednesday that the country's top anticorruption agency had asked the Swiss authorities to reopen corruption charges against President Asif Ali Zardari. But Geneva's public prosecutor, Daniel Zappelli, quoted by Reuters, said that the Pakistani request had not yet reached his office and that in any case Mr. Zardari enjoyed immunity as a head of state. "Immunity is the key question," Mr. Zappelli said, according to the news agency. "We can't prosecute Mr. Zardari while he has immunity, unless Pakistan lifts that immunity. And if he doesn't have immunity, why don't they try him in Pakistan?" The exchange came a day after Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry threatened to send the top anticorruption official to jail if he did not reopen cases against Mr. Zardari within 24 hours.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/01/world/asia/01pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

### [Pakistan: our apprehensions are legitimate](#)

**The Hindu, 2 April 2010**

Pakistan has conveyed to the U.S. its concerns about Indian interference in Afghanistan, including its impact on Pak-Afghan relations. This was disclosed by

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi in the Senate on Thursday evening while taking the House into confidence on what transpired in last month's strategic dialogue with the United States. Conceding the long-standing relationship that India has had with Afghanistan, Mr. Qureshi was quoted by the Associated Press of Pakistan as saying that there was a qualitative difference with what Pakistan shared with its western neighbour and this view was communicated to the U.S.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article374289.ece>

#### **5 Pakistanis among 6 ultras eliminated**

**Daily Excelsior, 2 April 2010**

JAMMU, Apr 1: Army, police and CRPF today gunned down six dreaded militants including five Pakistanis and a local after a fierce exchange of gun-battle at Khabra forests near village Raa Bagla in Taryath area of Rajouri taking total number of militants killed in the district in less than a week to 12. With today's killing, two major groups of militants, who had infiltrated into Indian territory from Pallanwalla and Nowshera sectors during past fortnight, have almost been neutralised.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/10apr02/news.htm#1>

#### **US urges Pakistan to act against Taliban in Punjab**

**The News, 2 April 2010**

WASHINGTON: US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Robert Blake has said that Pakistan has made significant progress in the war on terror but strong action against various Taliban groups in the Punjab still needs to be taken. Talking to journalists here at the Foreign Press Centre after his recent visit to India and Pakistan, Robert Blake said he had asked the Pakistani authorities to take this action, because it was in the interest of Pakistan. "But it is up to Pakistan's security forces to decide when and what to do," he added.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28121](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28121)

#### **Letters to reopen Swiss cases not yet sent, SC told**

**The News, 2 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court was surprised on Thursday when it was informed that the letters requesting for the reopening of cases against President Asif Ali Zardari had not been dispatched to the Swiss authorities but were lying in the law secretary's house, while the attorney general told the court that the law minister was posing a stumbling block against the implementation of the NRO verdict. National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Chairman Naved Ahsan on Tuesday told the apex court that the same letters had been dispatched to the Swiss authorities for the reopening of cases against President Zardari.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28119](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28119)

#### **UN, Pakistan at odds over Benazir murder report**

**The News, 2 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations and the government were on completely different pages on Thursday, as the UN rejected Pakistan's request to reopen the independent probe into the killing of Benazir Bhutto, saying there was no need for including any further information as the report was "complete". Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi insisted that the statements from Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Afghanistan would provide valuable leads. "For example, if there is a puddle outside

my office, and I tell you to be careful when you leave, how do I know? Similarly, it would give the report more credibility if the three important statements are also recorded. My sources tell me that three countries — Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Afghanistan — have important information. I believe only one country had been approached. What we are saying is simply, 'Please don't overlook the statements from these three countries, as these were the three countries that had important information and that is why they had warned Mohtarma (Benazir Bhutto). What we are saying is: please don't overlook these three warnings," Qureshi told The News.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?id=28126](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=28126)

### [Almost too good to be true](#)

**The News, 2 April 2010**

The end of the Constitution Reform Committee's long saga is almost too good to be true, yet the handshaking and the signing of the document is real and there is no backtracking or bickering, at least not yet. So, does this mean that one can sleep in peace and wake up in a country where the rule of law has finally been established and the people of a province which was denied its due rights - even the right of a name - can now be part of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as an entity equal to the other provinces which all have their names based on the racial composition of the people who live there?

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/daily\\_detail.asp?id=232054](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=232054)

### [Pakistan seeks Red Corner Notices for Ajmal, Ansari](#)

**The Hindu, 3 April 2010**

Pakistan has decided to approach the Interpol — which facilitates cross-border police cooperation — to issue Red Corner Notices to Ajmal Kasab and Fahim Ansari who are undergoing trial in India for their involvement in the Mumbai terror attacks of November 2008. This information was provided by the Special Prosecutor of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to the anti-terrorism court that is conducting the trial of seven persons accused in the same terror attack. The seven under-trials here include Lashkar-e-Taiba operations chief Zaki-ur Rehman Lakhvi.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article387109.ece>

### [4 more Pak militants, jawan killed in Rajouri](#)

**Daily Excelsior, 3 April 2010**

JAMMU, Apr 2: Four more Pakistani militants of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) and an Army jawan were killed in another encounter with Army and police at Sadda Darkeri forests in Kalakote area of Rajouri district during day long gun-battle today. With this, a total of 16 fresh infiltrated group of militants has been eliminated in Rajouri district in a week. Five Army jawans have also sacrificed their lives. During continued search operations in Kalakote and Dharamshal areas of Rajouri district, troops of 63 RR, 61 RR and 54 RR joined by police and SOG intercepted the militants at Sadda Darkeri forests falling under the jurisdiction of Kalakote police station in Rajouri district at 8.30 am today.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/10apr03/news.htm#1>

### [Reforms package tabled in parliament](#)

**The News, 3 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: Friday turned out to be a red letter day in the parliamentary history of

Pakistan when Mian Raza Rabbani presented report of the Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Reforms in the National Assembly, which seeks to revive the Constitution in its democratic shape by repealing all amendments and distortions introduced by military rulers, including the Legal Framework Order 2002. It also seeks to transform the Prime Minister's House into the epicentre of power, devolution of power from the Centre to the federating units and safety valve for the protection of democracy by recommending that suspension and holding of the Constitution in abeyance should be declared an act of high treason under Article 6 of the Constitution.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?id=28132](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=28132)

### [The goodies promised in 18th Amendment](#)

**The News, 3 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: Some may laugh and some may not, but the hidden and not-so-hidden changes that the 18th Amendment proposes in the Constitution have a lot to cheer. A quick reading of the hefty 61-page constitutional package presented in the Parliament lays it bare that although the president has been turned into a big nobody, he still remains the supreme commander of the armed forces.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?id=28136](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=28136)

### [Gilani urges US to disburse aid package](#)

**The News, 3 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, while welcoming the US economic assistance package passed under the Kerry-Lugar law, has underlined the need for its expeditious disbursement. The prime minister was talking to Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee who along with US Ambassador Anne W Patterson called on him at the PM House on Friday. He commended Lee's contributions as the co-founder and co-Chairperson of Pakistan Caucus at the Capitol Hill and her ceaseless efforts in removing the misgivings and misperceptions on both sides to bring Pakistan and the US ever closer.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?id=28140](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=28140)

### [France says arms sale to Pakistan held up](#)

**The News, 3 April 2010**

PARIS: France's plan to sell 1.2 billion euro worth of military equipment for Pakistan's JF-17 combat aircraft has been held up, a source at President Nicolas Sarkozy's office said on Friday. Newspaper Le Monde had reported earlier that France decided to suspend the sale of electronics and missiles — the first section of a 6 billion euro contract — under pressure from India and uncertainty over Pakistan's finances. "It's a deal that's not ready from the Pakistani side," the source said, without giving further details. "For now, the state of the dossier doesn't allow us to carry on with it."

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?id=28143](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=28143)

### [Troika discusses Pak-US strategic dialogue](#)

**The News, 3 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: The troika — President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani — on Friday discussed the outcome of the Pak-US strategic dialogue. The troika also

discussed matters relating to the security situation. Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Prime Minister's Adviser on Finance Dr Abdul Hafeez Sheikh also attended the meeting. The foreign minister and General Kayani briefed President Zardari and Prime Minister Gilani on the goals and achievements of Pakistan in the strategic dialogue with the US. Sources said Foreign Minister Qureshi in his briefing said Pakistan prepared a comprehensive agenda for the strategic dialogue with the US and the outcome was in accordance with the agenda set for the strategic dialogue. The minister said that Pakistan's interests were protected during the strategic dialogue.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28151](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28151)

### **Terror infrastructure in Pak remains intact: Centre**

**The Hindu, 4 April 2010**

The government has said the terror infrastructure in Pakistan continues to remain intact and infiltration in Jammu and Kashmir remains unabated with a substantial increase in 2009. "There are reports to indicate that the infrastructure for training terrorist elements across the border continues to remain intact," the 2009-10 annual report of the Home Ministry said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article387591.ece>

### **AJK CJ booted out, finally**

**The News, 4 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: After three and a half years, the Azad Jammu and Kashmir government has sent a reference to the Supreme Judicial Council of AJK against Chief Justice of AJK Supreme Court making Justice Riaz Akhtar Chaudhry dysfunctional. In a move that cleans up some of the dirt of the Musharraf era, the senior most judge of AJK SC Justice Manzoor Hussain Gilani now heads the AJK SC.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28156](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28156)

### **Swiss cases reopening**

**The News, 4 April 2010**

LAHORE: Barrister Zafar Ullah of the Watan Party has filed an application in the Supreme Court of Pakistan, seeking withdrawal of SC directive to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to reopen Swiss cases against President Asif Ali Zardari. He filed the petition on Saturday in the Lahore registry of the Supreme Court. The petitioner stated that the president enjoyed immunity under Article 248 of the Constitution, therefore, cases against him could not be reopened.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28160](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28160)

### **US warns Pakistan against gas pipeline deal with Iran**

**The News, 4 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: The United States appears to be 'forewarning' Pakistan, about continuing with the billion dollar gas pipeline from Iran into Pakistan, but officialdom here, is relaxed, saying that China and Russia were bound to veto any further stringent measures against Iran in the United Nations Security Council, which would want to see this ambitious project wrapped up. Another country which is also not very keen on the gas pipeline, is Saudi Arabia, where presently Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi is these days, and officials say that the matter would be clearer when the minister returns home.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28163](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28163)

### [Qureshi, Saudi FM discuss bilateral ties](#)

**The News, 4 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al-Faisal held a meeting in Jeddah on Saturday to discuss the bilateral relations and regional and international issues. According to statement released by the Consulate General of Pakistan in Jeddah, Qureshi is on an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the invitation of Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al-Faisal. The foreign minister conveyed the greetings of the president and the prime minister to the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz and Prince Saud al-Faisal and stressed the need for frequent high level exchanges.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28166](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28166)

### [NA, Senate to meet separately on Tuesday](#)

**The News, 4 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has summoned separate sessions of the Senate and the National Assembly at the Parliament House here on April 6 (Tuesday). The president has summoned sessions of the two houses in exercise of the powers conferred on him by Clause (1) of Article (54) of the Constitution. The 60th Senate session will be held at 10:30 am on Tuesday.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28162](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28162)

### [Issue of access to Headley being taken up at highest level: Roemer](#)

**The Hindu, 5 April 2010**

The issue of granting India access to Lashkar-e-Taiba operative David Headley is being taken up by the U.S. government at the highest level, its Ambassador Timothy J. Roemer said on Monday as he met Home Minister P. Chidambaram here. "I just had a very successful meeting with the Home Minister where I talked about working very closely for cooperation with government of India and government of U.S. on counter-terrorism issues," Mr. Roemer told reporters after the meeting.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article388672.ece>

### [37 more militants killed in Orakzai](#)

**The News, 5 April 2010**

KALAYA: Thirty-seven militants were killed and 10 others sustained injuries during fresh clashes in lower part of Orakzai Agency on Sunday, official and tribal sources said. The sources said security forces fought pitched battles with militants affiliated with the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in Said Khalil Baba Killay and Shna Krapa areas. In the clashes, the sources said, 25 militants were killed on the spot and 10 others sustained injuries. The sources said 10 militants, whose identities could not be established, were arrested in the operation in injured condition.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28171](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28171)

### [Dysfunctional AJK chief justice reinstated](#)

**The News, 5 April 2010**

MIRPUR: Dysfunctional Chief Justice of Azad Jammu Kashmir Supreme Court Justice Riaz Akhtar Chaudhry has been reinstated with immediate effect, official sources

said. The removed ad hoc judge of the AJK Supreme Court, Justice Muhammad Azam Khan, was also reinstated to his office with immediate effect, sources told The News here on Sunday afternoon.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28170](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28170)

### [18th Amendment to block path of dictator: Zardari Says country gains strength only when people, prov](#)

**The News, 5 April 2010**

GARHI KHUDDA BUX: President Asif Ali Zardari said on Sunday that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) would continue rendering sacrifices for the rights of the masses and strengthening state institutions through democratic measures. Addressing a large gathering here after inaugurating a modern transplant centre at the Gambat Medical Institute and the sixth draw of the Wasila-e-Haq programme under the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), he said the 18th Amendment would ensure that no dictator could trample the constitution again.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28169](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28169)

### [The Swat flogging: do we need more proof?](#)

**The News, 5 April 2010**

A year has passed since we heard the screams of a girl from Swat and saw how she was flogged by the Taliban in full public view. The Taliban spokesman, Muslim Khan, admitted in clear terms that the Taliban had carried out this act. Not only did he say on international electronic media that the Taliban flogged the girl in public, he also admitted that the case had not been investigated properly before the girl was punished. In addition, he has said it on record that the punishment was not carried out in the manner prescribed by Islam, where a child is supposed to give the lashes out to women. And, he said that the girl should not have been flogged in the open, in the clear view of the public. Having heard all that loud and clear on TV, are we still wondering whether the incident took place or not? If an Islamabad-based NGO allegedly paid money to film-makers and actors in Swat to make a 'fake' video, then did the Taliban spokesman also take money to say that the Taliban indeed carried out the flogging?

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily\\_detail.asp?id=232625](http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=232625)

### [U.S. Consulate in Pakistan Is Attacked by Militants](#)

**NYT, 5 April 2010**

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — In the most direct attack on an American facility in Pakistan in years, militants mounted a multipronged assault against the United States Consulate in this northern city on Monday, using a truck bomb, machine guns and rocket launchers, Pakistani and American officials said. At least five attackers, all suicide bombers, failed to breach the outer perimeter of the compound, according to a Pakistani intelligence official, but they demolished part of an exterior wall with a large truck bomb that shook the city and sent huge plumes of brown dust and smoke into the sky. At least 6 Pakistanis were killed and 20 wounded. No Americans were killed or hurt.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/06/world/asia/06pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

### [Drones Batter Al Qaeda and Its Allies Within Pakistan](#)

**NYT, 5 April 2010**

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — A stepped-up campaign of American drone strikes over the past three months has battered Al Qaeda and its Pakistani and Afghan brethren in the tribal area of North Waziristan, according to a mid-ranking militant and supporters of the government there. The strikes have cast a pall of fear over an area that was once a free zone for Al Qaeda and the Taliban, forcing militants to abandon satellite phones and large gatherings in favor of communicating by courier and moving stealthily in small groups, they said. The drones, operated by the C.I.A., fly overhead sometimes four at a time, emitting a beelike hum virtually 24 hours a day, observing and tracking targets, then unleashing missiles on their quarry, they said.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/05/world/asia/05drones.html>

**[Senior Chinese political advisor meets Pakistani JUI delegation](#)**

**People's Daily, 6 April 2010**

Senior Chinese political advisor Wang Gang met here Tuesday with a delegation from the Jamiat-ul-Ulama-I-Islam (JUI) of Pakistan. The delegation was led by Chairman of the JUI Maulana Fazlur Rahman. The China visit by JUI marked the establishment of party-to-party relations between the JUI and the Communist Party of China (CPC), which was an important event for China-Pakistan relations, said Wang, vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6942179.html>

**['D-company provided logistic support for 26/11'](#)**

**The Hindu, 6 April 2010**

The Karachi-based D-company of the fugitive Indian underworld don Dawood Ibrahim possibly had an important role in 26/11 carnage by providing logistic support to the LeT-operatives to carry out the deadly operation, adding a new dimension to the Mumbai terror attacks. The involvement of the D-company in the Mumbai attacks has come out in a report on Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) released by the Strategic Studies Institute of the U.S. Army War College, Department of Defence, which says that the D-company is now closely tied with LeT activities in India. According to the report, Dawood is believed to have resided in Pakistan since 1993 and now owns malls, luxury homes, and shipping and trucking lines that smuggle arms and heroin into India.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article389429.ece>

**[Obama's directive for easing India-Pakistan tensions](#)**

**The Hindu, 6 April 2010**

In a secret directive, United States President Barack Obama has asked his administration to intensify efforts to make India resolve its tensions with Pakistan, a priority for the progress of the "U.S. goals in the region." He also asked his officials to intensify American diplomacy, aimed at easing tensions between the two countries, asserting that without detente between them, the administration's efforts to win Pakistani cooperation in Afghanistan would suffer, The Wall Street Journal reported.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article388913.ece>

### [45 die as bomber hits ANP meeting in Timergara](#)

**The News, 6 April 2010**

TIMERGARA/PESHAWAR: Forty-five people were killed and over 100 sustained injuries when a suicide bomber blew himself up at a public meeting of the Awami National Party (ANP) at the Timergara Rest House in Dir Lower district on Monday. The blast was very powerful that flung the human organs into the air and soaked the scene in blood. "I saw red ANP flags, red caps and blood spread all over the Rest House," said a resident, who visited the place after the blast but requested anonymity.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28189](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28189)

### [Eight killed in blasts near US Consulate in Peshawar](#)

**The News, 6 April 2010**

PESHAWAR: A series of three powerful blasts followed by heavy gunfight in a brazen suicide mission, apparently planned to target the US Consulate in Peshawar, left eight people dead and triggered panic all over the provincial capital on Monday afternoon. Around 18 people, most of them security officials, were also wounded in the blasts and firing between the attackers and security officials of the US Consulate and the nearby Army offices and residences.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28190](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28190)

### [On constitutional changes](#)

**The News, 6 April 2010**

Since Pakistan came into existence there has been a tussle between politicians and generals. When they get into power, generals seek legitimacy and the politicians seek more power. Together, they shred the constitution to pieces. The generals must remember that no matter what the causes of their takeovers, they may never be able to secure legitimacy. The politicians should remember that no amendments to the Constitution can protect them from their inadequacies and shortcomings. We seem to be going through another effort to amend our Constitution. We have a problem with the powers of the president. Agreed, that in a parliamentary form of democracy the chief executive should be the prime minister. What we should ensure is that, as in a true parliamentary system, the prime minister, the cabinet and parliament are all empowered, and not just the prime minister.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily\\_detail.asp?id=232751](http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=232751)

### [Army accused of extra-judicial killings Spokesman denies charge](#)

**The News, 6 April 2010**

WASHINGTON: The Pakistan Army is facing fresh accusations of carrying out extra-judicial killings and torture, claims which could threaten the US funding for any units singled out for abuse. The Human Rights Watch (HRW) said it had briefed the US State Department and congressional officials about the evidence of more than 200 summary executions in Swat Valley in the past eight months of suspected Taliban sympathisers. The Army denied the accusations. "Swat is open to journalists and you can conduct investigative reporting there," Inter-Services Public Relations Director General Maj-Gen Athar Abbas told Reuters in Islamabad. "Have you seen any sort of report in Pakistani newspapers?"

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28198](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28198)

### [Pakistan qualifies for civil nuclear cooperation: NCA](#)

**The News, 6 April 2010**

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan announced on Monday that it fully qualifies for equal participation in the civil nuclear cooperation at the international level. "Nuclear safety and security as well as safeguards are vehicles for facilitating the international civil nuclear cooperation," maintained the elite group of Pakistan's civil and military leaders at the highest strategic forum, National Command Authority (NCA).

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28191](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28191)

### [Eight killed in blasts near US Consulate in Peshawar](#)

**The News, 6 April 2010**

PESHAWAR: A series of three powerful blasts followed by heavy gunfight in a brazen suicide mission, apparently planned to target the US Consulate in Peshawar, left eight people dead and triggered panic all over the provincial capital on Monday afternoon. Around 18 people, most of them security officials, were also wounded in the blasts and firing between the attackers and security officials of the US Consulate and the nearby Army offices and residences.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28190](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28190)

### [Pakistan won't interfere in war trial: Shafique](#)

**Daily Star, 6 April 2010**

Pakistan will not interfere in the Bangladesh government's move to try the war criminals of 1971, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said Tuesday. Islamabad will not launch any campaign against the initiative to hold the trial of those committed crimes during the Liberation War, the law minister said quoting Pakistan High Commissioner in Dhaka as saying. "Pakistan has changed its position about holding the trial of the war criminals," Shafique told reporters after a meeting with Pakistan High Commissioner to Bangladesh Ashraf Qureshi at his secretariat office in the afternoon.

[http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest\\_news.php?nid=23085](http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=23085)

### [India and Iran's Afpak policy](#)

**The Hindu, 7 April 2010**

Iran's recent hyper-activism in neighbouring Afghanistan and Pakistan has caused considerable consternation in large parts of the globe. In media circles, think-tanks and world chanceries, high-browed mandarins and their well-healed affiliates are trying to make sense of the latest, seemingly inscrutable piece of the Persian puzzle. Yet Iran's deft moves in an area that the Persians have known well for thousands of years originate from deeply deliberated and well-grounded fundamentals. Ever since the 1979 Islamic revolution, Iran has been ceaselessly battling the threat of a direct American attack or an invasion by a third country that is backed by the United States. The Iraq war of 2003 brought the American forces in an eyeball-to-eyeball face-off along Iran's western borders, while the entry of the U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan became a potential cross-border threat to Iran from the east.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/article389895.ece>

### [Omar asks Pak to stop infiltration](#)

### **Daily Excelsior, 7 April 2010**

JAMMU, Apr 6: Noting that better Indo-Pak ties are necessary in the larger interest of people in the State, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today asked Islamabad to take steps to stop infiltration from across the border. Omar said his Government will continue to work to improve relations between the two neighbours. "Conflicts never yield positive results but only add to human miseries and make the situation complex. The people in general and those living on borders have to bear the brunt of the conflicts," he told a gathering at Marh. The Chief Minister asked Pakistan to take measures to "stop infiltration from across the border and help in improvement of ties".

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/10apr07/news.htm#1>

### **'Power transfer was not possible sans Zardari's will' Gilani says PPP govt not to disappoint nation**

#### **The News, 7 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: The 18th Amendment Bill 2010 was introduced in the National Assembly on Tuesday as Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said it was not possible to create a balance of power between parliament and the President House, had President Asif Ali Zardari not wanted to do so. The 18th Amendment Bill containing 102 amendments was introduced by the adviser to the prime minister and chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Reforms, Mian Raza Rabbani.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28200](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28200)

### **UN staff moves out as Peshawar blast site cleared**

#### **The News, 7 April 2010**

PESHAWAR: Following a botched attack on the US Consulate in Peshawar on Monday, offices of the United Nations in the city were closed and the foreign staff moved to Islamabad as the site of the successive suicide blasts and gunfight was cleared after the overnight efforts on Tuesday. "The offices of the United Nations have been closed for two days for security reasons," said spokesperson for the world body, Ishrat Rizvi. It was learnt that the foreign staff in the UN offices were moved to Islamabad while the employees of foreign NGOs and the US Consulate were advised to restrict their movement.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28204](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28204)

### **AJK judicial crisis intensifies**

#### **The News, 7 April 2010**

MIRPUR: The judicial crisis in Azad Kashmir aggravated when the presidential order to restore Justice Riaz Akhter as the chief justice was struck down by the Supreme Judicial Council led by 'acting' Chief Justice Syed Manzoor Hussain Gillani on Monday. 'Reinstated' Chief Justice Riaz Akhter Chaudhry on Tuesday performed official duties in his chambers in the AJK Supreme Court Mirpur Circuit building on Tuesday for the second consecutive day along with the Justice Muhammad Azam Khan, who was also reinstated through the orders passed by AJK President Raja Zulqarnain Khan.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28210](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28210)

### **Australia blocks shipment to Pakistan over weapons fears**

#### **The News, 7 April 2010**

SYDNEY: Australia has blocked a shipment of scientific equipment to Pakistan over fears it could be used to help build weapons of mass destruction, a spokesman for Defence Minister John Faulkner said on Tuesday. The Australian government used the 1995 Weapons of Mass Destruction (Prevention of Proliferation) Act to stop an Australian company exporting instruments and accessories to a Pakistani firm, he said. "The minister forms the view, based on advice from the Department of Defence supported by other agencies, that there are unacceptable risks associated with the provision of these goods," the spokesman said.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28212](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28212)

### [Nuclear futures](#)

#### **The News, 7 April 2010**

Energy -- its production and transmission -- lies at the heart of our current difficulties as well as at the heart of future development both economic and social. Our energy needs are expanding year by year and will do so for decades to come as the population grows; and we need a diversity of energy sources to meet those needs. Water is going to get scarcer and we cannot rely on hydroelectric power in the long term if only because rivers are drying up and weather patterns changing. Coal is something we have in abundance and could do more to exploit, and alternative energy sources such as solar and wind are a very long way from making any significant contribution to the national power supply. Gas we have and need more of -- but the proposed pipeline from Iran is already raising American anxieties and is anyway fraught with tricky issues like transit fees and pipeline security. Which brings the nuclear option into sharp focus.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily\\_detail.asp?id=232871](http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=232871)

### [Pakistan Weighs Changes to Revise Constitution](#)

#### **NYT, 7 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan's Parliament opened debate on Tuesday on a set of amendments intended to refurbish the Constitution after decades of distortions inflicted by a series of military autocrats. The changes were widely heralded here as important step toward improving the long-term health of the country's beleaguered democracy. But they also threatened to open a new chapter of instability for the government of President Asif Ali Zardari, as they strip away his powers and leave him more vulnerable to challenges from the opposition. The changes, which are expected to pass this month, represent a rare moment of consensus in Pakistan's fractious politics. Representatives from 14 political parties, led by a member of Mr. Zardari's party, spent 10 months preparing 102 amendments.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/07/world/asia/07pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

### [Jihadist warnings from Moscow](#)

#### **The Hindu, 9 April 2010**

Chechen jihadists have provided inspiration to Islamists across the world. Threats to India could emanate from Russia's battlefields in future. "The Mujahid," wrote Chechen jihadist Shamil Salmanovich Basayev, "never asks anyone for permission to strike with his sword; he just takes the sword in his hand. He will never waste his time explaining his actions; he is faithful to what has been predetermined by God." Last month, a jihadist group founded by Basayev staged suicide bombings targeting Moscow's metropolitan train system, killing 39 people. Followed in quick

time by a suicide bombing in Dagestan, which claimed 12 lives, the attacks have again focussed attention on jihadist groups in Russia —groups responsible for attacks which match, even dwarf, the assaults on India by Pakistan-backed Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammad.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/article392054.ece>

### [Dhaka for restoration of all pre-1965 links with India](#)

**The Hindu, 9 April 2010**

Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Tariq Ahmed Karim on Wednesday underlined the need for restoration of all pre-1965 linkages by road, rail and rivers with India. Delivering a talk on "India-Bangladesh Relations: Beyond Barriers," organised by the Centre for Development and Peace Studies (CDPS) here, the envoy said Bangladesh was willing to reopen all its roads, railways and waterways to the northeast of India and which have remained closed since the 1965 India-Pakistan war.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article392930.ece>

### [Manmohan, Gilani may meet in Bhutan](#)

**The Hindu, 9 April 2010**

While the possibility of India and Pakistan holding substantial discussions in Washington next week is bleak, officials here said the two sides could hold Prime Minister-level discussions in Bhutan on the sidelines of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit towards the end of this month. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Pakistani counterpart Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani would be spending two days in Thimphu and despite the absence of any breakthrough during the Foreign Secretary-level talks on February 24, the chances of the two leaders holding discussions on reopening bilateral dialogue on a number of issues are high, highly placed officials said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article392258.ece>

### [NA passes 18th Amendment Bill](#)

**The News, 9 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: Sceptics had doubted if the Constitutional reforms committee would ever finish its work, pundits had claimed the amendment would never be tabled and doomsday prophets insisted all along that even if tabled the Bill would never be 'allowed' to pass. But it all happened on Thursday and the first step in a historic achievement was taken when the National Assembly unanimously passed the 18th Amendment Bill, restoring the Constitution to a near-1973 complexion by undoing various undemocratic amendments pushed through by military dictators who had illegally forced their way into the power corridors. From political cosmetics to fundamental righting of wrongs, the amendments had it all, including the removal of dictator General Ziaul Haq's name from the Constitution, declaring General Musharraf's coup of October 12, 1999 as illegal and unlawful, nullifying the Legal Framework Order 2002. In all, the amendment has amended 102 clauses.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28233](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28233)

### [They did it yesterday, they undid it today](#)

**The News, 9 April 2010**

LAHORE: Many sitting legislators, including PM Yousuf Raza Gilani, had not only

supported General Zia-ul-Haq's December 1984 referendum, but were also part of the parliament that approved the 8th Constitutional Amendment in November 1985, which gave him discretionary powers to dissolve the National Assembly under Article 58 (2) b of the Constitution. The 1985 assembly or the Majlis-e-Shoora, had earlier endorsed a Constitution Order on March 2, 1985 through which a large number of amendments were made to the country's Constitution. Though these legislators, hailing from all political parties, unanimously voted on Thursday to erase the name of the country's longest-serving ruler, General Zia-ul-Haq, from the Constitution for his unconstitutional acts during his tenure (1977-1988), a stroll past the 25-year old history archives reveals that the military ruler of yore was also supported wholeheartedly then by the PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif, the Chaudhrys of Gujrat and the Jamiat-e-Ulema Pakistan chief Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman, Jamaat-e-Islmai, Makhdoom Sajjad Hussain Qureshi, father of Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi. etc.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28236](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28236)

### **[UK to provide £665m aid in four years: Miliband](#)**

**The News, 9 April 2010**

LONDON: British Foreign Secretary David Miliband has said both his country and Pakistan enjoy a very positive and mutually supportive relationship, which would continue in future as well. Talking to the media during his visit to the Islamic Centre in Tooting, southwest London on Thursday to support the re-election of Labour MP Sadiq Khan, he said this relationship had burnished and nurtured under the Labour government. Responding to a question on Kashmir, he said that the UK's position on the issue had been absolutely clear. "We support strong and improved relations between Pakistan and India and it is up to them to decide the matter through bilateral dialogues."

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28238](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28238)

### **[Kayani to brief Kayani on intelligence matters](#)**

**The News, 9 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: Major General Naushad Ahmed Kayani was appointed Director General Military Intelligence (DGMI) on Thursday by Chief of the Army staff Gen Ashfaq Parvez Kayani. Naushad Kayani (Infantry) was promoted as Major General in March this year along with 29 other brigadiers by the selection board. With another Kayani taking centre-stage of the military hierarchy as DG MI, the present DG MI Maj Gen Mohammad Asif is all set to move to Lahore.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28246](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28246)

### **[Opinion: Sanitising the Constitution](#)**

**The News, 9 April 2010**

The 18th Amendment Bill is being widely hailed for the repeal of some of the distortions introduced in the Constitution under military rule and for returning the parliamentary form of democracy closer to its truer shade in Pakistan. A multi-partisan consultative process has enabled a consensus over a set of provisions amongst political actors, who came to the negotiating table with diverse ideologies and motivations. However, significant as it may be, the amendment is not a panacea for the country's ailing governance. Follow-up actions are critical for transformation of the style of governance. I have flagged six points in this regard.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily\\_detail.asp?id=233360](http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=233360)

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[http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily\\_detail.asp?id=233360](http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=233360)

### [Senate to debate 18th Amendment on Monday](#)

**The News, 10 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: The 18th Amendment Bill 2010, passed by the National Assembly, would be taken up by the Senate on Monday for passage by the Upper House of parliament. Senate Chairman Farooq H Naek told the House during the Friday's proceedings that the bill would be taken up by the House on Monday (April 12). Official sources told The News that President Asif Ali Zardari would sign the bill on the prime minister's return from the US following its passage by the Senate. Meanwhile, the Senate witnessed two walkouts by opposition members on issues of the ongoing protests in the Hazara region and worst loadshedding in Balochistan.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28250](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28250)

### [BoD assails PSO MD over Rs 10 bn deal](#)

**The News, 10 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: The seven-member board of directors (BoD) of the Pakistan State Oil on Friday expressed no-confidence in its Managing Director Irfan K Qurashi over Rs 10 billion contract with Petrosin, a Singapore-based company, for the sale of LPG as motor fuel through 400 outlets of PSO. The BoD meeting criticised the PSO managing director for hasty agreement with Petrosin, which is not only tax defaulter but is also involved in litigation with the Oil and Gas Development Company, preventing the government-owned exploration and production entity to inject gas into the system to cater to the energy needs.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28251](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28251)

### **Zardari hopes for long-term Pak-US partnership**

**The News, 10 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has expressed the hope that the recently concluded Pak-US strategic dialogue would help translate bilateral relationship between the two countries into a long-term partnership based on mutual respect and trust. This he said during a meeting with US delegation led by Senator Thomas Carper of the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, which called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr on Friday. Matters regarding Pak-US bilateral relations, Pakistan's role in the fight against militancy and terrorism, and regional situation were discussed during the meeting.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28252](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28252)

### **Democracy strengthened?**

**The News, 10 April 2010**

Indeed, history has been created! Not since the 1973 Constitution has there been a consensus on constitutional reforms. This is no less than a Magna Carta for the future of democracy in the country. Contrary to the cautious approach of his party bosses, even PML-N stalwart Ahsan Iqbal had to grudgingly admit that the constitutional accord was "a new social contract." President Asif Ali Zardari, in his address to the joint sitting of the Senate and the National Assembly, justifiably claimed his place in history for this achievement, as, despite the trust deficit, it is happening on his watch. Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani's plea to strengthen the institution rather than the chair is exceptionally significant in the context of Pakistan's chequered constitutional history. Every military strongman and even civilian leaders have mutilated the 1973 Constitution beyond recognition by bringing person-specific amendments, obsequiously endorsed by the apex court almost without exception.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily\\_detail.asp?id=233536](http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=233536)

### **Pakistan Begins Its Largest Military Exercises in 20 Years**

**NYT, 10 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — A month of military exercises began in Pakistan this weekend, the country's biggest drills in 20 years, in what analysts said was a show of military muscle meant mainly to impress a domestic audience. Pakistan conducts military exercises every year, an event that serves both as conventional warfare training for troops and as a display of force for India, Pakistan's longtime rival. India, for its part, conducts similar exercises across the border. But this year's round is Pakistan's largest since 1989, a military spokesman said, the year that the Soviet Union withdrew its troops from Afghanistan, and analysts say the timing is related to the military's confidence and sense of accomplishment.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/11/world/asia/11pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

### **Third Pakistani boat seized in four days**

**The Hindu, 11 April 2010**

The water wing of the Border Security Force seized another Pakistani boat with five fishermen at Sir Creek off the Kutch coast on Saturday. Official sources said the arrested fishermen were being brought to Koteshwar for questioning. This is the third incident of Pakistani fishermen infiltrating into Indian waters in the last four days. Earlier this week, two boats, each carrying six fishermen, were apprehended almost in the same region on two consecutive days. The sudden step-up in the intrusion of Pakistani trawlers is baffling the authorities. The vigil in the region has been intensified.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article394058.ece>

### **PM on US visit: India to seek Headley's extradition**

**Hindustan Times, 11 April 2010**

Determined to seek the extradition of Pakistani-American terrorist David Coleman Headley and access to him, India will raise the issue with US at the official-level during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's four-day visit to Washington. National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon, who is accompanying the Prime Minister, will raise the issue during his meeting with his counterpart Gen (Retd) James Jones. "We will keep pushing... This will be one of the issues... we will use every occasion to seek access (to David Headley)," sources said.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/PM-on-US-visit-India-to-seek-Headley-s-extradition/H1-Article1-529889.aspx>

### **Chidambaram blames Pak for hefty defence budget**

**Indian Express, 11 April 2010**

Home Minister P Chidambaram said on Saturday that earmarking Rs 1,47,000 crore for India's defence budget was 'absolutely necessary and inevitable' as neighbours like Pakistan did not have a friendly attitude towards the country. "Had the neighbouring countries been stable, peaceful and were oriented in a friendly manner towards India, our allocation of such a big fund for defence in the budget would not have arisen," he said at a meeting organised by Puducherry PCC as part of the 125th year celebrations of party formation.

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/chidambaram-blames-pak-for-hefty-defence-budget/604360/>

### **Indian firm camp attacked**

**Asian Age, 11 April 2010**

Kabul, April 10: Militants launched a pre-dawn attack on an Indian road construction camp in eastern Afghanistan on Saturday, burning vehicles and equipment and sending the crew fleeing, the authorities said. No deaths or injuries were reported in the attack in Khost province's Domanda district, the interior ministry said in a statement. Suspected Taliban, who are active in the mountainous eastern region bordering Pakistan, descended on the camp around 2 am. Such raids seek to discourage foreign involvement in Afghanistan and destabilise the central

government, which is struggling to bring development to the impoverished countryside and extend its mandate outside the capital, Kabul.

[http://www.asianage.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=8548:indian-firm-camp-attacked&catid=34:top-story&Itemid=59](http://www.asianage.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8548:indian-firm-camp-attacked&catid=34:top-story&Itemid=59)

### **[Singh-Gilani meeting not on the cards at NS Summit](#)**

**The News, 11 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: US diplomats shy away from commenting on a possible bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh except to say that, "There are some excellent meeting rooms at the venue in Washington where the Nuclear Security Summit will be held". They smile when asked if they would give Singh a roadmap to lead him into such a meeting room since Gilani would have no difficulty in finding it. There are no great expectations of such a meeting as the last thing that Singh would like is to have his opposition blame him for taking "American dictation" and meeting his Pakistani counterpart in the US. Pakistan, meanwhile, wants a result-oriented meeting between the two sides even at the foreign secretary level.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28270](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28270)

### **[Nuclear Security Summit](#)**

**The News, 11 April 2010**

LONDON: Pakistan will urge the US to provide it with civilian nuclear assistance because of the acute energy crisis in the country. The issue will be taken up during the meeting between the leadership of the two countries in Washington early this week. Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani has reached here en route to Washington to attend the summit. The prime minister, who will be the main speaker in the opening sitting of the conference at dinner today (Sunday) in the US capital, has said he would be putting across the position of his country in a candid and confident manner since he enjoys the confidence of the nation on the subject.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28267](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28267)

### **[Swiss AG receives SC order to reopen Swiss cases](#)**

**The News, 11 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari enjoys immunity under international law and, therefore, no case can be reopened against him in the courts of Switzerland, Attorney General of Geneva Daniel Zappelli said in an interview with a Pakistani TV channel on Saturday night. Asked when the case had been closed, can it be reopened if the state makes a request as in the case of President Asif Ali Zardari, the Swiss attorney general said it is a big problem because under international law, which is also applicable to Switzerland, the head of state, the prime minister and the foreign minister enjoy absolute immunity on the reopening of cases.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28264](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28264)

### **[60 civilians killed in Tirah bombing](#)**

**The News, 11 April 2010**

BARA/JAMRUD: Sixty civilians were killed and as many sustained injuries when fighter jets bombed Sra Vella in Jamrud Tehsil's Tirah Valley in Khyber Agency on

Saturday, local sources said. However, official sources claimed 35 militants were killed when jets hit their hideouts in the valley. The injured were shifted to hospitals in Jamrud and Peshawar through the difficult hilly areas and most of them succumbed to their injuries on the way, the sources said.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28263](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28263)

### **After the 18th Amendment**

#### **The News, 11 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: Unelected and sometimes even unpopular political party chiefs have been armed with the power through the 18th Amendment to get their elected federal and provincial lawmakers unseated if they vote according to their conscience and not on party lines. After the next parliamentary elections, even the prime minister, who is always the parliamentary leader of the ruling party in the National Assembly, could also be unseated by his party chief if he was found acting against the party direction and if he himself did not happen to be the party head.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28262](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28262)

### **Two Hizb militants killed**

#### **Daily Excelsior, 17 April 2010**

Srinagar, Apr 16: Two militants of Hizbul Mujahideen outfit were killed today in an encounter with security forces in Keller area of Shopian district in South Kashmir while an explosion took place inside a residential compound in Sopore town of Baramulla district in North Kashmir, injuring one boy, official sources said here. Acting on specific information about presence of militants at Thairna village in Keller area, troops of 44 Rashtriya Rifles and Special Operations Group (SOG) of local police launched a search operation, the sources said.

<http://dailyexcelsior.com/>

### **UN report has vindicated PPP: Zardari**

#### **Dawn, 17 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari said on Friday the UN inquiry commission's report had confirmed the apprehensions of the Pakistan People's Party about the assassination of Benazir Bhutto. He ordered that the ongoing criminal investigation be expedited. In an official statement, issued almost 20 hours after the release of the UN report, the president said the PPP had been claiming that the Musharraf government was responsible — first, for the criminal neglect in providing security to Ms Bhutto and, second, by hushing up available evidence to cover up the crime.

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/un-report-has-vindicated-ppp-zardari-740>

### **Lashkar-i-Jhangvi claim responsibility for Quetta blast**

#### **Dawn, 17 April 2010**

QUETTA: At least 11 people, a cameraman of a private TV channel and four police officers among them, were killed and over 40 others injured when a suicide bomber blew himself up inside a hospital here on Friday. A member of the National Assembly, Syed Nasir Ali Shah of the PPP, his son, five TV journalists, a driver of DawnNews and seven police personnel were among the injured.

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

library/dawn/news/pakistan/provinces/14-bomb-blast-in-quettas-civil-hospital-zj-07

### [Editorial: Dangerous games](#)

**Dawn, 17 April 2010**

Tempers in Hazara appear to be cooling after several days of violence. A general strike was called off recently, businesses are reopening and leading politicians have visited the area, ostensibly to bring matters under control. That said, the controversy surrounding the renaming of the NWFP is unlikely to go away any time soon. The ANP was originally adamant on Pakhtunkhwa but later agreed to the Khyber prefix in a compromise with the PML-N. Not surprisingly, it is strongly opposed to any division of the NWFP, whose new name was approved by the Senate yesterday. For its part, the PML-N is seemingly content with Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa but also partial to the creation of a Hazara province. The PML-Q, meanwhile, supports the creation of new provinces wherever they might be 'necessary', in particular Hazara and southern Punjab. There is talk too of a 19th Amendment bill calling for the creation of new federating units.

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/editorial/19-dangerous-games-640-hh-04>

### [12 die in Quetta suicide blast](#)

**News, 17 April 2010**

QUETTA: In a fresh wave of terrorism, 12 people, including a journalist and two DSPs, were killed and 27 others sustained injuries when a suicide bomber blew himself up inside the Civil Hospital here on Friday. Police said the blast took place around 10:20 am in the Civil Hospital where dozens of people, including MNA Nasir Shah of the PPP, had gathered to protest against the target killing of a private bank manager, Arshad Zaidi, who was shot dead by unidentified armed men at the Manan Chowk around 9:00 am.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28355](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28355)

### [26/11 attackers trained in Afghan Taliban camps?](#)

**Times of India, 18 April 2010**

ON BOARD PM'S AIRCRAFT: Did the 26/11 attackers get training in Afghan Taliban camps in the Pak-Af sector? Fresh information available with Indian authorities indicates that the group of attackers, all members of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, may have also been put through their paces by the Taliban. It was known that the attackers had been trained by Lashkar-e-Taiba and the ISI camps. But with the Afghan Taliban coming into the picture, it puts a whole new complexion on India's approach regarding the future of Afghanistan. This information, shared by the top levels in the Indian government, puts a whole new dimension on the Mumbai attacks, Pakistan's role in promoting terrorism in the region, particularly India, and the fact that despite avowals to the contrary, Pakistan's intelligence services continue to maintain close contact with the Afghan Taliban.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/5826880.cms?prtpage=1>

### [Govt's rehab policy hurting PaK refugees](#)

**Rising Kashmir, 18 April 2010**

Srinagar, April 17: With Chief Minister Omar Abdullah likely to announce, this May, the rehabilitation policy for youth willing to return from Pakistan administered

Kashmir, the move has slit afresh old wounds of Jammu-based PaK refugees: the pain of unsettlement even after 63 years of their migration. Sources said the much-hyped rehabilitation policy was likely to be announced in May as the State Government was waiting New Delhi's nod on it. "The government has already forwarded the proposal to New Delhi. The GoI is studying pros and cons of the rehab policy and may give a go-ahead to it after making some changes in May," sources said.

[http://www.risingkashmir.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=22566&Itemid=1](http://www.risingkashmir.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=22566&Itemid=1)

### **SC judge's retirement could trigger new crisis**

**News, 18 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: A major judicial crisis is brewing as top legal experts are divided on whether the Supreme Court should review the newly amended Constitution, especially as a Supreme Court judge is retiring within three weeks and it is unclear how his replacement will be named and by whom. According to the Supreme Court record, Justice Ch Ijaz Ahmad is retiring on May 5, 2010, or after 18 days. In case President Asif Ali Zardari signs the 18th Amendment bill, the vacant seat of the Supreme Court will have to be filled according to the new mechanism. If the Supreme Court stays the judicial commission in cases already filed in the court, a new crisis will emerge.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28369](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28369)

### **41 killed in twin Kohat suicide bombings**

**News, 18 April 2010**

KOHAT: Two back-to-back suicide bombings at a registration centre for the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Kacha Pakha area of Kohat district on Saturday killed at least 41 people, including a journalist, and injured 65 others. It was the first attack in Pakistan on the people uprooted by the fighting in the tribal areas who were seeking registration to qualify for relief items and accommodation. The blasts point to the vulnerability of any soft target, adding to the stark challenges the security agencies have been facing. The IDPs had fled fighting and military operations in Orakzai and Kurram tribal agencies.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28366](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28366)

### **'Musharraf is Benazir's killer'**

**News, 18 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: It took two years and four months for the Pakistan People's Party to hold General (retd) Pervez Musharraf responsible for the assassination of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto and recommended Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani to take legal action against the former dictator as well all those government officials mentioned adversely in the UN report. The decision was taken in a meeting of the core group of PPP held on Saturday night at the Presidency to discuss the report of the UN Inquiry Commission on the assassination of Benazir Bhutto and was presided over by co-chairman PPP and President Asif Ali Zardari. Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani was also present.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=28365](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28365)

### **EDITORIAL: The sectarian monster**

**Daily Times, 18 April 2010**

On Friday, we saw Quetta as the scene of a sectarian killing first and then a follow-up suicide bombing. Gunmen killed Arshad Zaidi, a banker, as he was coming out of his office. He was the son of the chief of the Shia Conference Balochistan. Mr Zaidi's body was taken to a hospital where hundreds of people, including a local parliamentarian and dozens of journalists, reached after hearing the news of this targeted killing. At least 11 people, including a journalist, were killed and dozens more were injured when a suicide bomber blew himself up inside the hospital. Lashkar-e-Jhangvi has claimed responsibility for the attack. We witnessed a similar modus operandi in Karachi after the attack on the Chehlum procession followed by an attack at the Jinnah Hospital where the injured were taken. It seems as if the sectarian monsters have found another way of inflicting maximum damage.

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010\04\18\story\\_18-4-2010\\_pg3\\_1](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010\04\18\story_18-4-2010_pg3_1)

### **Pakistan: trial of Mumbai attack accused is on fast track**

**Hindu, 20 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday assured that the trial against the accused in Mumbai attacks would conclude soon and expressed confidence that they would be convicted. "The trial is on fast track and the accused have exhausted all their rights to get bail and get the FIRs cancelled. We expect the trial will be concluded in the coming months. My friends from India must realise that once the battle goes to court, it no longer remains in the control of the prosecution, administration or the government. The kind of credible evidence we have put forward, we will get conviction and that is what we want," Interior Minister Rehman Malik told a delegation of visiting journalists here.

<http://www.hindu.com/2010/04/20/stories/2010042061551200.htm>

### **Not a single visitor on cross-LoC bus**

**Daily Excelsior, 20 April 2010**

JAMMU, Apr 19: There was no civilian from this part of the divided State on board cross-LoC Poonch-Rawlakote weekly bus today due to delay in mandatory clearance from Pakistan's Ministry of Home Affairs to issue permits to them. Nearly 2000 people in Jammu region, mostly hailing from twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri were waiting for their turn to get permits to travel to Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) to meet divided families and relatives. However, according to official sources, the Regional Passport Officer (RPO), J&K, was unable to issue permits to the applicants in the absence of mandatory clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Pakistan.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/10apr20/index.htm>

### **President signs 18th Amendment into law**

**News, 20 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday signed the 18th Constitutional Amendment Bill to make it part of the Constitution in what is billed as a smooth 'political transition' of power from the Presidency to the Prime Minister's House. The law ensures provincial autonomy and restores the 1973 Constitution by cleansing it of all the dictatorial amendments that stained it for decades.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/arc\\_default.asp?arc\\_date=4/20/2010](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/arc_default.asp?arc_date=4/20/2010)

### [24 die in two Peshawar blasts](#)

**News, 20 April 2010**

PESHAWAR: Twenty-four people were killed and around 50 others sustained injuries on Monday as the city was rocked by two explosions less than five hours apart, including a devastating suicide bombing soon after a Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) protest rally against electricity loadshedding in the historic Qissa Khwani bazaar. Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Gulfat Hussain and JI Peshawar deputy head Haji Dost Mohammad alias Haji Gul were among the 23 people killed and over 40 wounded in the suicide blast that took place at around 5:30pm. There were reports that the death toll later rose to 27.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/arc\\_default.asp?arc\\_date=4/20/2010](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/arc_default.asp?arc_date=4/20/2010)

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[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/arc\\_default.asp?arc\\_date=4/20/2010](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/arc_default.asp?arc_date=4/20/2010)

### [I am not powerless: Zardari](#)

**News, 20 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday said he is an elected and democratic president so he did not assume himself powerless as he gained strength from democracy. "I believe in democracy and seek my strength from democracy as I think democratically," he said in a brief talk with newsmen after the ceremony to accord assent to the 18th Constitutional Amendment. The president said he is a democrat and his strength lies in democracy. "Despite enjoying all the powers, I never thought of using these powers as I am not fond of keeping powers," he said and added the PPP always shared power.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/arc\\_default.asp?arc\\_date=4/20/2010](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/arc_default.asp?arc_date=4/20/2010)

### [Pakistan to get US guided-missile frigate on Aug 31](#)

**News, 21 April 2010**

WASHINGTON: Pakistan and United States signed a contract for the transfer of the guided-missile frigate USS McInerney here on Tuesday. The contract will enable Pakistan to take over the USS McInerney at the US Naval station Mayport, Florida on August 31 this year, after which it will be commissioned as PNS Alamgir. A comprehensive refurbishment of the ship will be undertaken under the supervision of US Navy, which will be completed by January 2011.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/arc\\_default.asp?arc\\_date=4/21/2010](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/arc_default.asp?arc_date=4/21/2010)

### [US hopes Pakistan will join fissile material talks](#)

**News, 21 April 2010**

GENEVA: The United States believes it will be possible to convince Pakistan to join negotiations on a treaty to ban production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons, a senior US diplomat said on Tuesday. The UN-backed Conference on Disarmament in Geneva has been considering such a ban. But Pakistan has blocked the start of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty, arguing this would put it at a permanent disadvantage to India.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/arc\\_default.asp?arc\\_date=4/21/2010](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/arc_default.asp?arc_date=4/21/2010)

### [Powerless president?](#)

**News, 21 April 2010**

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

The placing of his signature on the 18th Amendment Bill should mean President Asif Ali Zardari has effectively relinquished his powers and reverted to the status of a figurehead. This change of course restores the spirit of the 1973 Constitution, with power resting with the prime minister and parliament. As Zardari himself says, it will now be more difficult to subvert the Constitution or manipulate institutions. The move should be applauded. But are we genuinely looking at a powerless president? Is Mr Asif Ali Zardari really willing to give up his status as a man who most in the country believe makes almost every decision affecting national life with help from a few cronies who seem permanently housed in the presidency? What is democratic about this?.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/arc\\_news.asp?id=8&arc\\_date=4/21/2010](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/arc_news.asp?id=8&arc_date=4/21/2010)

### [AfPak: Will they, won't they?: Towards civilian supremacy in Islamabad by B.G. Verghese](#)

**Tribune, 22 April 2010**

THE passage of the 18th Amendment by Pakistan's National Assembly, rolling back the authoritarian constitutional provisions imposed by General Musharraf during military rule, has been hailed as a major democratic reform. All people of goodwill will wish Pakistan well. As of now, maybe, no more than two cheers are in order. In a formal sense, there is an appearance of civilian ascendancy. The President has been reduced to a figurehead, though saved from corruption hearings on account of his constitutional position. The military has, meanwhile, regained prestige at home as its Waziristan /Swat campaigns have enabled Pakistan to look the US in the eye and win greater recognition for its frontline AfPak posture.

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/2010/20100422/edit.htm#4>

### [President promulgates five ordinances](#)

**Dawn, 22 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari promulgated five ordinances on Wednesday about use of loudspeaker, international arbitration, promotion in top bureaucracy and women in distress. The Arbitration (International Investment Disputes) Ordinance, 2010, will implement the International Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of other States. The ordinance extends to the whole of Pakistan and will come into force at once and shall be

deemed to have taken effect on March 26 this year. The Civil Servants (Amendment) Ordinance, 2010, further amends the Civil Servants Act, 1973.

[http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/president-promulgates-five-ordinances-240?pagedesign=Dawn\\_PrintlyFriendlyPage](http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/president-promulgates-five-ordinances-240?pagedesign=Dawn_PrintlyFriendlyPage)

### [US not to mark out Pakistan, India for NPT](#)

**Dawn, 22 April 2010**

WASHINGTON: The Obama administration has refused to mark out India and Pakistan as countries that needed to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, saying instead that since they are "very special friends," Washington holds daily conversations with them on such issues. Ellen Tauscher, who as Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security is responsible for the administration's non-proliferation policies, however, indicated that the United States opposed other nations joining the nuclear club. "The countries that you mentioned are very special friends of the United States. We have conversations with them every day about many different things," said Secretary Tauscher when asked if Washington would also persuade India and Pakistan to join the NPT.

[http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/both-countries-very-special-friends-us-not-to-mark-out-pakistan%2C-india-for-npt-240?pagedesign=Dawn\\_PrintlyFriendlyPage](http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/both-countries-very-special-friends-us-not-to-mark-out-pakistan%2C-india-for-npt-240?pagedesign=Dawn_PrintlyFriendlyPage)

### [Why the UN report ignored conflict on autopsy](#)

**News, 22 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: The UN Commission on Benazir Bhutto's murder has not given much importance in its report to the statement of three senior officers, who had told the commission that Asif Zardari had declined to allow the police to conduct the autopsy of his slain wife on Dec 27, 2007. Sources said at least three officers, including the then Home Secretary Punjab, Khusro Pervez, Capital Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi and the then District Coordination Officer, Irfan Elahi, had told the UN Commission in their respective statements that Asif Ali Zardari had stopped the police from conducting the autopsy of Benazir Bhutto.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/arc\\_default.asp?arc\\_date=4/22/2010](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/arc_default.asp?arc_date=4/22/2010)

### [US getting useful information from Mulla Baradar](#)

**News, 22 April 2010**

WASHINGTON: Interrogations of the Afghan Taliban's No 2 leader have started producing useful intelligence on the group and its operations against the US forces across the Pakistani border, US officials said on Tuesday. Mulla Abdul Ghani Baradar was captured in Karachi in late January in a joint operation by the CIA and Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). Direct US access to Baradar, who is in Pakistani custody, was minimal at first. But US officials said the ISI has eased restrictions and American investigators have been participating regularly and directly in interrogation sessions for at least the past month.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/arc\\_default.asp?arc\\_date=4/22/2010](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/arc_default.asp?arc_date=4/22/2010)

### [Talks with IMF](#)

**News, 23 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: The possibility of a breakdown in the Pakistan-IMF talks on the

imposition of Value Added Tax (VAT) is quite serious and the government is already preparing for alternate tough measures, including an increase in duties and taxes on imported cars and tractors, a senior FBR executive has confirmed. "There would be little choice other than to go for such tough measures. We would have to go for alternate taxation in the budget in case the IMF respirator is removed from the country's economy," said Federal Board of Revenue Chairman Sohail Ahmed in reply to a query about the government's alternate taxation plan if the IMF talks failed.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?id=28451](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=28451)

### **Judiciary in evolution, wait and see: Zardari** **News, 23 April 2010**

BAHAWALPUR: President Asif Ali Zardari said that a special group had been investigating Benazir Bhutto's murder and 90 per cent accused had been arrested. He said that the judiciary was passing through an era of evolution and it was to be seen what would happen next. APP adds: Zardari said that Pakistan People's Party (PPP) government proved its critics wrong as he gave up presidential powers and preserved rights of the people. Addressing the inaugural ceremony of Benazir Smart Card here at Ashrafabad, the president said 35 years ago Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto took forward the idea to bring power to the people. "We want to rule hearts of the people," he said adding, "I did not stick to presidential powers and gave them back. Slogan of PPP is that people are the rulers."

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?id=28456](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=28456)

### **Judicial review -- why not?** **News, 23 April 2010**

This government is jinxed. It cannot do the simplest thing without shooting itself in the foot. Whether this is because of sheer incompetence, the consequence of acting on bad advice and misinformation provided by an army of sycophants, or simply malicious intent coming back to bite it, this government has stumbled from one self-induced crisis to another, with no respite. The problem is that they think that they are more clever than they really are, and that they can dupe the public. But each time they act on such misplaced optimism, they fall flat on their faces. The passage of the 18th Amendment, heralded as a cleansing of the 1973 Constitution of the mutilations it had been subjected to by military and civilian dictators, should have been a feather in the government's cap and cause for much national celebration. But instead, it promises to become yet another source of humiliation for Zardari and his administration.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/daily\\_detail.asp?id=235579](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=235579)

### **Security forces kill 16 Taliban in Orakzai Agency** **Daily Times, 24 April 2010**

HANGU: At least 16 Taliban were killed and several others injured in the ongoing security forces' operation in Orakzai Agency, sources said on Friday. The sources said one security personnel was also injured in the action in Ferozkhel area of Lower Orakzai. Local sources said the security forces were conducting search and clearance operations in the areas cleared of the terrorists. Meanwhile, Taliban blew up a girls' school in Mamozai area of Upper Orakzai Agency. The army has carried out several army operations in the Tribal Areas, where al Qaeda and various Taliban factions have long thrived. The offensives have mainly been aimed at terrorist groups

targeting public institutions. The rugged tribal belt has become a stronghold for hundreds of extremists who fled neighbouring Afghanistan after the US-led invasion in late 2001.

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010\04\24\story\\_24-4-2010\\_pg7\\_2](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010\04\24\story_24-4-2010_pg7_2)

### [Traders defy 8pm deadline countrywide](#)

**Daily Times, 24 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD/LAHORE/KARACHI: Traders across the country on Friday defied the government's decision to shutter markets at 8pm as part of plans to conserve energy in the country, as business activity continued late into the night in most places. Traders in Islamabad and Rawalpindi rejected the government's plan to shutter markets at 8pm, and said the deadline should be extended until 10pm. Traders – led by Ajmal Baloch, a senior office-bearer of the Traders Action Committee – called on Interior Minister Rehman Malik, and briefed him on their concerns over the early closure of markets.

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010\04\24\story\\_24-4-2010\\_pg1\\_1](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010\04\24\story_24-4-2010_pg1_1)

### [Editorial: Electrifying measures](#)

**Daily Times, 24 April 2010**

To begin fixing a problem, one must recognise that there is a problem in the first place. That is why the conclusion to the recent Energy Summit, which collected all the government stakeholders in the current energy crisis, should be considered a welcome first initiative to arrest the devastation caused by the electricity shortfall. Introducing a variety of short-term and mid- to long-term measures, the government has shown a heightened sense of awareness towards the misery of the masses and the cost to the country.

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010\04\24\story\\_24-4-2010\\_pg3\\_1](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010\04\24\story_24-4-2010_pg3_1)

### [Nuclear treaties](#)

**Dawn, 24 April 2010**

In its present form, there is simply no way Pakistan can sign the treaty. The NPT stipulates a cut-off year, 1968, after which no country can become a nuclear-weapons state. Since Pakistan joined the nuclear club subsequently, unless the present structure of the NPT is amended, Pakistan becoming a signatory is a non-starter. In some ways, the debate is not even that relevant anymore.

[http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/editorial/19-nuclear-treaties-340-hh-01?pagedesign=Dawn\\_PrintlyFriendlyPage](http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/editorial/19-nuclear-treaties-340-hh-01?pagedesign=Dawn_PrintlyFriendlyPage)

### [In Bajaur, Pakistan Army faults U.S. strategy](#)

**Hindu, 26 April 2010**

KHAAR (BAJAUR): After a bloody campaign that lasted six months, the Pakistan Army has restored control over this tribal agency that nearly fell last year to a rampaging Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). As the Army helicopter swept down

towards the fort, it was clear that the Army and the paramilitary Bajaur Scouts were putting their best foot forward to showcase an area that had gone out of state control to militias aligned with Behtullah Mehsud's TTP.

<http://www.hindu.com/2010/04/26/stories/2010042654311200.htm>

**[Maj-Gen Nadeem Ejaz: in the dock for many crimes](#)**  
**News, 26 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: For the first time in the history of Pakistan, political leaders from the Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have united against a serving Army officer. They want the government to start investigations against the said Army officer not only on one count but also on many others. The dubious role of former DG Military Intelligence Major General Nadeem Ejaz was an important unifying factor behind a large consensus between the PPP, the PML-N, the PML-Q and other parties on the 18th Amendment. Nadeem Ejaz was responsible of victimising not only the PPP and the PML-N but also abused his unlimited and unchecked powers against some important leaders of the PML-Q as the DG MI. At one stage in April 2008, he wanted Musharraf to replace General Kayani because Kayani was not ready to involve the Army in safeguarding the political interests of Musharraf but this effort failed.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/arc\\_default.asp?arc\\_date=4/26/2010](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/arc_default.asp?arc_date=4/26/2010)

**[PML-N also sniffs Army intervention](#)**  
**News, 26 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: After the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), now apprehensions are also being expressed by the PML-N about some alleged conspiracy being hatched by certain elements belonging to the Army and intelligence agencies. Though it is whispered and not publicly said in so many words, in their off-the-record discussions with media persons, some PML-N leaders express their fears that the third force is preparing the ground to do something extra-constitutional.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/arc\\_default.asp?arc\\_date=4/26/2010](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/arc_default.asp?arc_date=4/26/2010)

**[15 militants killed in Orakzai](#)**  
**News, 26 April 2010**

KALAYA: Fifteen militants were killed and nine others sustained injuries in clashes with security forces in Orakzai Agency on Sunday, official and tribal sources said. The sources said a group of militants opened fire on a patrolling unit of security forces in the Goen area in lower parts of Orakzai Agency early in the morning. The sources said security forces repulsed the attack, killing eight militants and injuring three others.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/arc\\_default.asp?arc\\_date=4/26/2010](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/arc_default.asp?arc_date=4/26/2010)

**[Establishment, PPP on the same page: Gilani](#)**  
**Daily Times, 27 April 2010**

ON BOARD PM'S AIRCRAFT: The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) government has the

support of the establishment, which is clear from the government's progress in the war on terror and at international level, Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani said on Monday. "For the first time, we are on the same page and headed in one direction," he said while addressing journalists on board his aircraft before reaching Kathmandu en route to Bhutan to attend the 16th SAARC summit. He said the current PPP government was pro-establishment.

[http://dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010\04\27\story\\_27-4-2010\\_pg1\\_1](http://dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010\04\27\story_27-4-2010_pg1_1)

### **Editorial: A foot in the Punjab door**

**Daily Times, 27 April 2010**

Vowing a political revolution in Punjab, the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) held its first ever simultaneous convention in Lahore, Rawalpindi and Multan, along with a recruitment drive. Party chief Altaf Hussain, true to his modus operandi, delivered a telephonic address in which he urged Punjabis to save their province, and in turn their country, from 'looters and thieves'.

[http://dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010\04\27\story\\_27-4-2010\\_pg3\\_1](http://dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010\04\27\story_27-4-2010_pg3_1)

### **Six key Swat Taliban commanders killed**

**Daily Times, 27 April 2010**

MINGORA: Six key Taliban commanders were killed in clashes with security forces in Swat, security officials said on Monday. The officials told Daily Times that the six Taliban commanders were killed in two separate clashes with the forces, adding that troops also recovered a large cache of arms from the Taliban hideouts. The first clash occurred at Kanju town of Kabal tehsil in which four wanted Taliban commanders were killed.