

### [India triples budget for improving infrastructure in Indo-Pak border](#)

**The Hindu, 1 December 2009**

The Centre has increased the budget for road construction and fencing on Indo-Pak border by nearly 300 per cent, the Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday. "Along Indo-Pakistan border, the government has approved revision of cost estimates in fencing, floodlighting, roads and Border Outposts works from the earlier sanctioned Rs 380 crore to Rs 1,201 crore," Minister of State for Home Affairs Mullappally Ramachandran said in a written reply.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article58180.ece>

### [Qureshi urges US to stay in Afghanistan for 5 years](#)

**The News, 1 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi said the US should not leave Afghanistan for at least five years, Geo News reported Tuesday. Pakistan can cope well with extremism if provided with drone technology; therefore, the US should deliver this technology to the country, he said adding the US drone attacks pose a threat to security and sovereignty of Pakistan. He urged the US not to quit Afghanistan until the mission is completed.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/updates.asp?id=92560>

### [US fears Zardari's collapse](#)

**The News, 1 December 2009**

WASHINGTON: The Obama administration is seriously worried about the fast weakening grip of President Asif Zardari in Pakistan and on Monday two top US newspapers predicted, in powerful reports by seven leading writers and correspondents, that the Zardari regime seemed to be near collapse. The New York Times in a report filed by five correspondents said: "The problems in Afghanistan have only been compounded by the fragility of Mr Obama's partner in Pakistan, President Asif Ali Zardari, who is so weak that his government seems near collapse."

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=25843](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=25843)

### [What led to change of N-command?](#)

**The News, 1 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: The change of hands in controlling the National Command Authority (NCA) of Pakistan's vital strategic assets on the day when the notorious National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) operation ceased to exist for good will have far-reaching implications on the power structure of the country. It is a demonstration of complete mistrust in the hands from which the authority has been withdrawn and expression of confidence in the person who has assumed it. It is a first reshuffle in Pakistan's command and control authority of the strategic assets ever since its inception nine years ago.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=25846](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=25846)

### [Osama not in Pakistan: Gilani](#)

### **The News, 1 December 2009**

ON BOARD PM SPECIAL PLANE: Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani has rejected reports about presence of Osama bin Laden in Pakistan, saying Islamabad would act if the UK and the US share actionable intelligence information about his whereabouts. "So far the US and the UK had not shared any actionable intelligence regarding the top al-Qaeda leadership," he said while talking to newsmen on board his special plane from Islamabad to Berlin on Monday.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=25848](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=25848)

### **[LeT denies links to men held in US](#)**

#### **The News, 1 December 2009**

HELD SRINAGAR: Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) denied on Monday that the two men arrested in Chicago on terrorism charges were among its members. David Headley, a Pakistani-born American, and Tahawwur Rana, a Canadian citizen of Pakistani origin, were arrested in October on charges of plotting attacks in India and Denmark. India has accused both of links to the LeT, the banned group fighting to end Indian rule in Kashmir.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=25854](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=25854)

### **[Pakistani Journalist Critical of the Military Is Threatened](#)**

#### **NYT, 1 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — A gunman strafed the house of a liberal columnist over the weekend and an anonymous caller threatened to kill him, warnings the journalist said he believed had come from the fringes of Pakistan's security establishment. The columnist, Kamran Shafi, 63, said a gunman shot six bullets into his house outside Islamabad on Friday while he and his family were sleeping. No one was hurt. The next day, he received a call from a woman who said what had happened "was a trailer," and warned he would see the "whole movie if you don't behave." The woman added: "You don't spit into the plate you eat from."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/01/world/asia/01pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

### **[Provincial Politician Is Slain in Pakistan](#)**

#### **NYT, 1 December 2009**

A suicide bomber killed a provincial lawmaker in the northern Swat Valley on Tuesday, according to government officials. Swat, a picturesque valley 100 miles north of the capital Islamabad in North-West Frontier Province was the focus of heavy fighting earlier this year. While the military was able to wrest the region from the control of Taliban militants, most of the insurgent leadership managed to escape and sporadic violence has continued. Shamsheer Ali, 59, the slain legislator, was a member of the provincial assembly from the Awami National Party, a liberal, secular political party that heads the ruling coalition in the province. The party has taken a tough stand against Taliban militants and its members have been the targets of several assassinations and attacks.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/02/world/asia/02pstan.html?\\_r=1&ref=asia&page](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/02/world/asia/02pstan.html?_r=1&ref=asia&page)

wanted=print

### [Any formula arrived at quiet parleys not acceptable: Geelani](#)

**The Hindu, 2 December 2009**

Separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani, today said any formula arrived at during the on-going "quiet dialogue" on Kashmir would not be acceptable to people even it had the patronage of Pakistan or the United States.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article58950.ece>

### [Pakistan must 'do more' against militants: Clinton](#)

**The News, 2 December 2009**

Washington will press Pakistan to "do more" against all the militant groups threatening Pakistan, its neighbors and the United States, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Wednesday. "It will be our continuing effort to make the case that the Pakistanis have to do more against all of the insurgent terrorist groups that are threatening them, that are threatening us in Afghanistan and the Afghan people and are threatening other neighbors in the region," Clinton told senators.

<http://thenews.jang.com.pk/updates.asp?id=92636>

### [Most of Rs100bn loans written off in Musharraf era](#)

**The News, 2 December 2009**

Industrialists, military men and politicians have got loans of over Rs100 billion written off from banks since 1985, the National Assembly Secretariat record has revealed. A big chunk of loans was written off during the regime of former President Pervez Musharraf.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?id=25860](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=25860)

### [Germany tells Pakistan](#)

**The News, 2 December 2009**

BERLIN: Germany has advised Pakistan to improve its governance for the sake of boosting its economy. The restoration of the superior judiciary has been helping in strengthening institutions in Pakistan. The piece of advice came from the leading European nation here on Tuesday in a news conference jointly addressed by visiting Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani and German Chancellor Angela Merkel after their bilateral talks in the German Chancellery.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?id=25862](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=25862)

### [Move for stronger partnership with](#)

**The News, 2 December 2009**

NEW YORK: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Tuesday said an initiative would be launched this month to step up efforts for building a stronger partnership with the Pakistanis. "In about 10 days, we will be hosting the first-ever Pakistani-American diaspora community effort to create a non-profit, known as the American Pakistan Foundation, to collaborate on people-to-people exchanges, cultural diplomacy, and other advocacy to build a stronger partnership with the people of Pakistan," she

said.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?id=25872](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=25872)

### [Between the Lines, an Expansion in Pakistan](#)

**NYT, 2 December 2009**

President Obama focused his speech on Afghanistan. He left much unsaid about Pakistan, where the main terrorists he is targeting are located, but where he can send no troops. Mr. Obama could not be very specific about his Pakistan strategy, his advisers conceded on Monday evening. American operations there are classified, most run by the Central Intelligence Agency. Any overt American presence would only fuel anti-Americanism in a country that reacts sharply to every missile strike against extremists that kills civilians as well, and that fears the United States is plotting to run its government and seize its nuclear weapons.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/02/world/asia/02strategy.html?\\_r=1&ref=asia&pagewanted=print](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/02/world/asia/02strategy.html?_r=1&ref=asia&pagewanted=print)

### [Bin Laden Not in Pakistan, Prime Minister Says](#)

**NYT, 3 December 2009**

The Pakistani prime minister, countering demands to intensify the hunt for Osama bin Laden, said Thursday that he did not believe the fugitive leader of Al Qaeda was in Pakistan, as many Western governments and intelligence agencies assert. The Pakistani official, Yousaf Raza Gilani, spoke at joint news conference with Prime Minister Gordon Brown of Britain just days after Mr. Brown demanded that Afghanistan and Pakistan match plans for increased allied troop levels in Afghanistan by taking tough actions of their own, including a stepped-up effort in Pakistan to capture Mr. bin Laden.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/04/world/asia/04britain.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

### [Part of Afghan policy may have negative impact on Pak](#)

**The News, 3 December 2009**

Pakistan's Foreign Office spokesman Thursday said that some points of the United States new Afghan policy might have negative impact on Pakistan. The FO spokesman Abdul Basit said this at a weekly briefing here. He said the war cannot be won only through use of force, and that Pakistan does not want the situation in Afghanistan to aggravate. The spokesman said the predator attacks are creating problems in the ongoing war against terrorism.

<http://thenews.jang.com.pk/updates.asp?id=92698>

### [Kasuri for US role to improve Pak-India ties](#)

**The News, 3 December 2009**

Former foreign minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri said Thursday United States will have to play its role to improve relations between Pakistan and India. He made these comments while speaking to newsmen at a meeting of Muslim League-Q (Like Minded group). He said Pakistan's nuclear arsenals are fully secure. The former

minister also dismissed the impression that the present government would not complete its tenure. He, however, added that it depends on the performance of government.

<http://thenews.jang.com.pk/updates.asp?id=92708>

### [FO seeks US guarantees against fallout of troop surge](#)

**The News, 3 December 2009**

Pakistan while holding out a 'cautious' welcome to President Barack Obama's new strategy for Afghanistan, nevertheless asked Washington to ensure that there would be no fallout for Pakistan, as 30,000 more troops head into Pakistan's neighbourhood. While the broad points of the new Afghan strategy have been discussed with Islamabad, the government feels that now when the strategy is in place, there is need for Washington to 'clarify' and 'coordinate' before the implementation process starts.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?id=25878](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=25878)

### [Afghans and Pakistanis Concerned Over U.S. Plan](#)

**NYT, 3 December 2009**

Pakistan — President Obama's timetable for American forces in Afghanistan rattled nerves in that country and in Pakistan on Wednesday, as American diplomats worked to convince the two countries at the center of the president's war strategy that the United States would not cut and run. In Afghanistan, Foreign Minister Rangin Dadfar Spanta, the only minister who commented on the speech, said the announcement that American troops could begin leaving in 18 months served as a kind of shock therapy, but caused anxiety. "Can we do it?" he asked. "That is the main question. This is not done in a moment. It is a process." In Pakistan, Mr. Obama's declaration fed longstanding fears that America would abruptly withdraw, leaving Pakistan to fend for itself.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/03/world/asia/03pstan.html?\\_r=1&ref=asia&page\\_wanted=print](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/03/world/asia/03pstan.html?_r=1&ref=asia&page_wanted=print)

### [LeT men taken to Bangalore to probe 2005 blast](#)

**The Hindu, 4 December 2009**

The two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists who were handed over to India on Wednesday were taken to Bangalore on Friday as they had allegedly masterminded a blast in the Karnataka capital in 2005, officials here said. After being handed over by Bangladesh, T. Nazeer alias Nazeer Parvan and his relative Safiq alias Shafaz Samsuddin, were arrested by the Border Security Force (BSF) troopers from Umkrem near Dawki along the India-Bangladesh border in Meghalaya on Wednesday morning.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article60066.ece>

### [FO says India interfering in Balochistan](#)

**The News, 4 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan stands by its claims that India is interfering in Balochistan and Fata areas, Foreign Office Spokesman Abdul Basit told a private channel on

Thursday. He was commenting on a statement by Indian External Affairs Minister SK Krishna, denying Indian interference. "India cannot deny its involvement in Balochistan and Fata areas as Pakistan does have evidence," the spokesman said.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?id=25904](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=25904)

### [Will the govt make up its mind on NRO?](#)

**The News, 4 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: "I and my team will represent the federal government and defend the NRO in the apex court," Shah Khawar told The News. When asked he said that he has no idea about hiring of some prominent private lawyers by the government in this case. "It is my and my team's duty to speak for the government in courts." The attorney general said that he has so far received no instructions from President Asif Ali Zardari about the case. He would be meeting Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on his return from Britain to know how to go about in the anti-NRO petitions in the Supreme Court.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?id=25901](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=25901)

### [Pakistan, US differ on strikes in Fata: Hillary](#)

**The Hindu, 4 December 2009**

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has admitted that there were differences between Pakistan and the United States over the use of force against some of what she called pro-al-Qaeda militant organisations in the Pak-Afghan border areas known as Fata. In a testimony along with US Secretary of Defence Robert Gates and Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mullen, before the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee here on Thursday, Secretary Clinton said, "We are making the argument before our Pakistani civil and military counterparts that success in Swat and Waziristan is not enough to achieve the objective of completely destroying al-Qaeda, "But," she added, "the argument will take some time as Pakistan is a sovereign country, which believes that India is their real enemy."

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?id=25900](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=25900)

### [Guess who walked away with nation's 100 bn rupees?](#)

**The News, 4 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: In a country where over 40 per cent of the population is said to be languishing under the poverty line with families surviving on less than \$2 a day, the shameful revelation of the filthy rich getting loans worth over Rs100 billion written-off owing to their formidable clout is shocking the nation. And this shameful list carries some of the biggest names of our power elite.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?id=25898](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=25898)

### [35 martyr in Pindi mosque attack](#)

**The News, 4 December 2009**

Thirty-five persons have been martyred and several injured in a terror attack at Parade Lane mosque in Rawalpindi. DG ISPR has confirmed the killing of 26 people. Children are also among the martyrs. According to sources, security forces shot dead

three terrorists. A part of the mosque also damaged in the incident. Reports said at least six to seven gunmen entered into Parade Lanes mosque located near Qasim market. They threw hand grenades initially followed by indiscriminate firing. Security forces officials opened retaliatory fire.

<http://thenews.jang.com.pk/updates.asp?id=92746>

### **[Bin Laden Not in Pakistan, Prime Minister Says](#)** **NYT, 4 December 2009**

The Pakistani prime minister, countering demands to intensify the hunt for Osama bin Laden, said Thursday that he did not believe the fugitive leader of Al Qaeda was in Pakistan, as many Western governments and intelligence agencies assert. The Pakistani official, Yousaf Raza Gilani, spoke at joint news conference with Prime Minister Gordon Brown of Britain just days after Mr. Brown demanded that Afghanistan and Pakistan match plans for increased allied troop levels in Afghanistan by taking tough actions of their own, including a stepped-up effort in Pakistan to capture Mr. bin Laden.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/04/world/asia/04britain.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

### **[I.A. Authorized to Expand Use of Drones in Pakistan](#)** **NYT, 4 December 2009**

WASHINGTON — Two weeks ago in Pakistan, Central Intelligence Agency sharpshooters killed eight people suspected of being militants of the Taliban and Al Qaeda, and wounded two others in a compound that was said to be used for terrorist training. Then, the job in North Waziristan done, the C.I.A. officers could head home from the agency's Langley, Va., headquarters, facing only the hazards of the area's famously snarled suburban traffic.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/04/world/asia/04drones.html?\\_r=1&ref=asia&pagewanted=print](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/04/world/asia/04drones.html?_r=1&ref=asia&pagewanted=print)

### **[Karnataka police questioning two LeT men nabbed in Bangladesh](#)** **The Hindu, 5 December 2009**

Karnataka police on Saturday began interrogating the two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) men, handed over to India by Bangladesh on Wednesday, on their role in terror attacks in the tech hub in 2005 and 2008. Kerala police is expected to join their Karnataka counterparts to question T. Nazeer alias Nazeer Parvan and his relative Safique alias Shafaz Samsuddin as the two LeT men are wanted in various terror-related acts in the neighbouring State.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article60519.ece>

### **[3 LeT operatives arrested with AK rounds](#)** **Daily Excelsior, 5 December 2009**

Srinagar, Dec 4: Police has arrested three Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) operatives including a hawala operator and an arms courier in three separate operations in Kashmir valley, recovering large quantity of ammunition meant for top Lashkar commander

Abdullah Uni. In a major success, police apprehended a shopkeeper from Sangrama area of Sopore in Baramulla district who was on his way to deliver a consignment of 3590 AK ammunition rounds to Abdullah Uni, official sources said.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/>

### [Three die in Peshawar plaza blast](#)

**The News, 5 December 2009**

At least three people were killed and 14 others injured in a blast near a restaurant on University Road in Peshawar's area of Tehkal, Geo News quoted police sources as saying Saturday. Talking to Geo News, District Coordination Officer Peshawar Sahibzada Muhammad Anis confirmed at least two people were killed in the blast and that blast was a car bomb blast.

<http://thenews.jang.com.pk/updates.asp?id=92818>

### [NRO ministers to decide their own fate: Gilani](#)

**The News, 5 December 2009**

ON BOARD PM's PLANE: Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani put the NRO tainted federal ministers on the mat on Friday, asking them to decide whether they wanted to remain in the cabinet or get themselves cleared from the court after resigning from the cabinet. "The decision is upto them," said the prime minister when asked about the future of the NRO tainted federal ministers. He added: "This question should be asked from them." The prime minister was talking to a group of journalists from the print media on his way back to Pakistan from his official tour of Germany and the United Kingdom.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?id=25911](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=25911)

### [PM to dissolve federal cabinet next week](#)

**The News, 5 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani has decided to dissolve the federal cabinet next week and the new cabinet would be formed after consultations with respective leaders of the ruling alliance. The new cabinet will consist of about 15 members in the first phase while the expansion process will continue subsequently. All the ministers, ministers of state, special assistants and advisers will cease to stay in their offices immediately after the announcement regarding the dissolution of the cabinet.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?id=25912](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=25912)

### [Pakistan's anti-terror strides cannot be underestimated: Petraeus](#)

**The News, 5 December 2009**

WASHINGTON: Pakistan's key strides in fighting terrorism over the past one year cannot be underestimated, head of the US Central Command Gen David Petraeus has said, citing the country's sustained anti-militant campaigns in the northwestern areas at enormous sacrifices. He also said in an interview that intelligence on whereabouts of some top militants — thought to be hiding along the Pak-Afghan border — is sketchy and there has not been a confirmed location for al-Qaeda chief

Osama bin Laden for years.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?id=25914](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=25914)

### [President, PM phone COAS, resolve to fight terror](#)

**The News, 5 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Friday telephoned the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, and expressed grief and conveyed their condolences over the killing of innocent people, including children and Army personnel, in the suicide bomb blasts at the Parade Lane mosque in Rawalpindi. Talking to the COAS, President Zardari strongly condemned the heinous act of terrorism and reiterated the government's resolve to continue the fight against this menace till its logical conclusion. President Zardari appreciated the valour and sacrifices of the armed forces' personnel in the fight against terrorism and militancy. He also conveyed his condolences to the bereaved families.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?id=25917](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=25917)

### [Mosque Serving Pakistani Military Hit by Attackers](#)

**NYT, 5 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Attackers lobbed grenades and opened fire on worshipers, mostly active and retired military officials, at a mosque in the garrison city of Rawalpindi during Friday Prayer, striking a further blow against the military establishment as the army pursues militants in the lawless tribal regions along the border with Afghanistan. At least 36 people — including high-ranking military officials — were reported to have been killed and more than 45 wounded, the military said. At least one of the attackers was a suicide bomber, it said.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/05/world/asia/05pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

### [SC summons details of NRO beneficiaries](#)

**The News, 7 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has summoned details of NRO beneficiaries including the record of debate on the law in the Parliament, details of cases from the Sindh province besides those of NAB ordinance beneficiaries. The 17-judge full court, headed by the Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, began the hearing of petitions against NRO. Meanwhile, the Federation and Provinces have announced not to defend NRO.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/updates.asp?id=92981>

### [Evidence of Indian involvement at dialogue table: Malik](#)

**The News, 7 December 2009**

KARACHI: Interior Minister Rehman Malik said on Monday that evidence of Indian involvement in Pakistan has been handed over to the foreign ministry in Islamabad. Speaking to the media after meeting with clerics at the CM House here, Malik said the evidence of Indian involvement in Pakistan will be shared with New

Delhi during composite dialogue between the two countries.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/updates.asp?id=92990>

### [US, India not involved in terrorism: Taseer](#)

**The News, 7 December 2009**

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Salman Taseer on Monday said that the United States or India were not involved in acts of terrorism in Pakistan. Speaking to newsmen after condoling with the family of Col. Fakharul Hassan, martyr of Parade Line attack, he said the government and army were winning the war against militants.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/updates.asp?id=92992>

### [Govt plans to protect the corrupt](#)

**The News, 7 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: While the government may have leaked its intentions of not defending the infamous National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO), it clearly has no plans to abandon the NRO beneficiaries. An impotent and toothless new law has been hastily drafted to protect the NRO tainted, whose cases would reopen instantly if the Supreme Court strikes down the NRO, as widely expected, in the high-profile cases being taken up by the 17-member bench today (Monday).

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=25937](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=25937)

### [US will not pursue Taliban leaders in Pakistan: Gates](#)

**The News, 7 December 2009**

WASHINGTON: Defence Secretary Robert Gates said on Sunday that the United States would not pursue the Taliban leaders in Pakistan and that it was up to Islamabad to address the threat posed by the militants on its territory. His comments followed a report the White House had granted authority to the Central Intelligence Agency to expand a bombing campaign in Pakistan by unmanned aircraft to strike the Taliban and Al-Qaeda figures.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=25940](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=25940)

### [Terror spate continues: Bomb blasts kill 38 in Lahore market, 9 in Peshawar](#)

**Daily Times, 8 December 2009**

LAHORE/PESHAWAR: Bomb explosions tore through Lahore and Peshawar on Monday, killing at least 47 people and injuring around 150 in the two cities. Two blasts devastated the busy Moon Market in Lahore's Allama Iqbal Town and engulfed it in flames, killing at least 38 people, and injuring more than 100. In Peshawar, a suicide bomber killed nine people outside the city's sessions courts. The Moon Market transformed into a scene of flames and rubble when the two bombs exploded 30 seconds apart at 8:45pm. A suicide bomber had also targeted Moon Market in August last year in which nine people were killed.

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\12\08\story\\_8-12-2009\\_pg1\\_1](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\12\08\story_8-12-2009_pg1_1)

### **Terrorists planning to target Karachi hospitals, airport**

**Daily Times, 8 December 2009**

KARACHI: Al Qaeda and the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan are planning to carry out attacks at the city's hospitals and the airport to "avenge Operation Rah-e-Nijat", intelligence reports warned on Monday. The reports stated that the Taliban could strike in the guise of patients or haj pilgrims. A communiqué sent by the Interior Ministry's National Crisis Management Cell to provincial authorities warned that Taliban could also use improvised explosive devices and suicide attacks against foreigners in Karachi.

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\12\08\story\\_8-12-2009\\_pg7\\_4](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\12\08\story_8-12-2009_pg7_4)

### **'NRO discriminatory, violates basic rights'**

**Daily Times, 8 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: The National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) is a discriminatory law and against the fundamental rights of the people, Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry said on Monday. The CJP said no discriminatory ordinance could be made into a law in the country.

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\12\08\story\\_8-12-2009\\_pg7\\_1](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\12\08\story_8-12-2009_pg7_1)

### **PM calls critical meeting ahead of cabinet reshuffle**

**Daily Times, 8 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani has called a special meeting of his ministers today (Tuesday) to take them into confidence ahead of a cabinet reshuffle, it has been learnt. "The prime minister will take the ministers into confidence over proposed changes in the federal cabinet ahead of the reshuffle. He is likely to share his views with them before the final decision," sources told Daily Times.

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\12\08\story\\_8-12-2009\\_pg7\\_7](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\12\08\story_8-12-2009_pg7_7)

### **We have proof of Indian hand in terrorism: Malik**

**Daily Times, 8 December 2009**

KARACHI: The government has concrete evidence of India's involvement in terrorism across the country and the issue will be taken up during a round of talks with New Delhi soon, Interior Minister Rehman Malik said on Monday. Talking to reporters after meeting clerics in Karachi, Malik said terrorists and weapons were also coming in from Afghanistan, and Pakistan had taken up the issue with Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\12\08\story\\_8-12-2009\\_pg7\\_13](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\12\08\story_8-12-2009_pg7_13)

### **Pakistan Told to Ratchet Up Taliban Fight**

**NYT, 8 December 2009**

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration is turning up the pressure on Pakistan to fight the Taliban inside its borders, warning that if it does not act more aggressively the United States will use considerably more force on the Pakistani side of the border to shut down Taliban attacks on American forces in Afghanistan, American and Pakistani officials said. The blunt message was delivered in a tense encounter in Pakistan last month, before President Obama announced his new war strategy, when Gen. James L. Jones, Mr. Obama's national security adviser, and John O. Brennan, the White House counterterrorism chief, met with the heads of Pakistan's military and its intelligence service.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/08/world/asia/08policy.html?\\_r=1&ref=asia&page\\_wanted=print](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/08/world/asia/08policy.html?_r=1&ref=asia&page_wanted=print)

### **[Twin Attacks in Eastern Pakistan Kill Dozens](#)**

**NYT, 8 December 2009**

LAHORE, Pakistan — Continuing a string of attacks against civilians and government offices, militants set off two bombs in one of the busiest markets of this eastern Pakistani city, killing at least 54 people and wounding at least 150 others, Pakistani authorities said on Tuesday. A second attack struck at the offices of the Inter-Services Intelligence directorate, Pakistan's main security service, in the central city of Multan on Tuesday morning. At least 9 people were killed and 40 wounded, rescue authorities said. The attacks showed the wide reach of militant attacks in the Pakistani heartland, far from the troubled and lawless border region with Afghanistan.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/09/world/asia/09pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

### **[Time to "think the unthinkable" to deal with terrorists](#)**

**The Hindu, 9 December 2009**

The Government today said the case of Pakistani-American David Headley showed the time has come to "think the unthinkable" as terrorists were working on new strategies to break the country's security. "As we have seen from the David Headley case that one can still slip through the radar. Because we are not looking for them. This is one of the big problems. Because nobody would look for a US citizen, with a US passport and a business visa, you would not think that he is a terrorist," Union Home Secretary G.K. Pillai, said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article62572.ece>

### **[Headley planned synchronised attacks on Jewish centres](#)**

**The Hindu, 9 December 2009**

The last visit of American terror suspect David Headley, before being arrested by the FBI, to India in March this year was to finalise synchronised terror strikes on Jewish houses located in five cities at the instance of terror outfit Lashker-e-Taiba. Piecing together the travel trail of Headley during his visit to India in March this year, security agencies, who were briefed by FBI and the U.S. Department of Justice officials in New Delhi recently, are understood to have concluded that the U.S.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article62517.ece>

**[Govt ready to talk with exile Baloch leaders: PM](#)**

**The News, 9 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani has said that the government is ready to hold talks with all exile Baloch leaders and activists. Addressing the joint sitting of Parliament today (Wednesday), Prime Minister Gilani said the government has already started the implementation of Balochistan package. He underlined that the government would address the grievances of the people of Balochistan.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/updates.asp?id=93171>

**[12 die in attack on ISI offices in Multan 47 hurt in attack; Taliban claim responsibility](#)**

**The News, 9 December 2009**

MULTAN: A pick-up truck packed with explosives blew up near an office of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in the Cantonment area of Multan on Tuesday, killing 12 people in the third bloody militant strike in 24 hours. The commando-style gun and bomb attack in the prime minister's hometown was carried out by the terrorists in the Qasim Bela area of the city. Multan Commissioner Syed Mohammad Ali Gardezi said at least two militants armed with guns and rocket-launchers tried to attack the ISI offices.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=25975](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=25975)

**[Zardari has Rs 144 billion assets, SC told](#)**

**The News, 9 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Tuesday submitted in the Supreme Court the list of the NRO beneficiaries, which showed President Asif Ali Zardari possessing assets worth \$1.5 billion (Rs 120 billion) abroad and worth Rs 24.14 billion in the country. Deputy Prosecutor General Abdul Baseer Qureshi presented the list of 248 NRO beneficiaries before the full court, hearing the petitions challenging the infamous ordinance, promulgated in 2007 giving legal cover to the corruption of politicians and bureaucrats.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=25976](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=25976)

**[Zardari, Gilani for countering 'anti-PPP propaganda'](#)**

**The News, 9 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani on Tuesday approved a new strategy to galvanise the party to dispel the "negative propaganda" against it. In a meeting held at the Presidency here on Tuesday evening, the two leaders exchanged views on the overall political and law and order situation in the country besides the parliamentary debate on the Balochistan package.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=25978](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=25978)

**[Pakistani president praises China support for port project](#)**

**People's Daily, 10 December 2009**

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari has praised China's invaluable assistance and support for the Gwadar Port project in southwestern Pakistan's Balochistan. During a meeting on Thursday with Sun Ziyu, president of China Harbor Engineering Company, Zardari said China's support to the port project has contributed a lot towards socio-economic development of Balochistan and will stand as a living testimony of deep Pak-China friendship for generations to come.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6838811.html>

### [US appropriates \\$1.5 bn for Pakistan in 2010](#)

**The News, 10 December 2009**

WASHINGTON: US Congress has appropriated 1.5 billion dollars for Pakistan in its budget for financial year 2010. Pakistan will get 268 million dollars in military aid from US in 2010, sources said.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/updates.asp?id=93255>

### [Gilani invites self-exiled Baloch leaders for talks](#)

**The News, 10 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Reiterating the offer for dialogue to self-exiled Baloch leaders and activists, Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Wednesday announced the withdrawal of troops from Kohlu and Sui, replacing them with the Frontier Corps (FC) and removal of seven check-posts.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=25996](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=25996)

### [Pak Army has no desire to imperil civilian rule: Petraeus](#)

**The News, 10 December 2009**

WASHINGTON: Gen David Petraeus, US Commander of Central Command, has said he doesn't believe that Pakistan military has any desire to imperil the civilian rule. However, US Deputy Secretary of State Jack Lou said the tension between the Pakistani military and the civilian leadership is being publicly debated in Pakistan.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=25999](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=25999)

### [New Zardari strategy to face NRO charges](#)

**The News, 10 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: While not wholeheartedly defending the National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) inside the Supreme Court, President Asif Ali Zardari and his advisers have decided to forcefully fight their case outside the court. "The purpose of reacting to out of context points projected in the court debate by the anti-NRO lawyers is to put the record straight in light of the Constitution and law and rectify the misperceptions that may be created," a cabinet source told The News.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=25998](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=25998)

### [President Zardari, Aitzaz discuss politics](#)

**The News, 10 December 2009**

Presidential spokesman, confirming the meeting, said the President and Aitzaz Ahsan had an exchange of views on the overall situation of the country including politics. On the other hand, Chaudhry Aitzaz Ahsan said that he has been offered a number of government positions but 'I am not a candidate for any of these positions.' It may be mentioned here that President Asif Ali Zardari had invited Aitzaz Ahsan over to the Presidency for the meeting.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/updates.asp?id=93254>

**[5 U.S. Men Arrested in Pakistan Said to Plan Jihad Training](#)**  
**NYT, 10 December 2009**

SARGODHA, Pakistan — Five young Muslim American men arrested here Wednesday were on their way to the heart of the Taliban sanctuary in Pakistan's tribal areas with the intention of training to fight against American troops in Afghanistan, Pakistani police authorities said Thursday. The men, a tight circle of friends in their late teens and their 20s from the Washington suburbs, had been in contact through YouTube with a Pakistani militant with links to Al Qaeda before arriving in Pakistan on Nov. 30, said the Pakistani officials, who had firsthand knowledge of the case. After touching down in Karachi, Pakistan's biggest city, the men tried to join an extremist Islamic school near Karachi and approached another extremist organization, Jamaat-ud-Dawa, in the eastern city of Lahore, the officials said.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/11/world/asia/11inquire.html?\\_r=1&ref=asia&page=print](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/11/world/asia/11inquire.html?_r=1&ref=asia&page=print)

**[Talks will continue in J&K: G.K. Pillai](#)**  
**The Hindu, 11 December 2009**

Union Home Secretary G.K. Pillai said on Friday that the dialogue process in Jammu and Kashmir would continue. He said the situation had improved although Pakistan continued to support militancy. He also said Hyderabad would be Telangana's capital. After holding a series of meetings with State officials on security and other issues in Jammu, Mr. Pillai told journalists that Home Minister P. Chidambaram had already made it clear that the dialogue process would continue and he was ready to talk to everyone.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article63765.ece>

**[Pak infiltrating terrorists: Pillai](#)**  
**Daily Excelsior, 11 December 2009**

JAMMU : Blaming Pakistan for not changing its attitude on cross-border infiltration, Union Home Secretary G K Pillai today said that the neighbouring country continues to push-in terrorists from border into Jammu and Kashmir. "There has been no change in the attitude of Pakistan. They are infiltrating terrorists from the border. It is borne by the facts on the ground," Pillai told reporters soon after the high-level meeting to review the border situation and counter infiltration measures in Jammu and Kashmir.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09dec11/newsupdate.htm#2>

### [US says no to mediation on Kashmir](#)

**Daily Excelsior, 11 December 2009**

WASHINGTON : Rejecting Pakistan's latest plea for US mediation on the Kashmir problem, the Obama administration today said it understood the importance of the issue to both India and Pakistan but it has to be ultimately resolved bilaterally. "We understand the importance of the Kashmir issue to both Pakistan and India, and it is something that we do discuss with both countries," Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs, P J Crowley, said at a news briefing.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09dec11/newsupdate.htm#3>

### [US, UN informed about Indian interference: Malik](#)

**The News, 11 December 2009**

LAHORE: Interior Minister Rehman Malik on Thursday maintained that the government would not compromise on the security, solidarity and integrity of the country. He was talking to newsmen after inquiring about the health of the injured of the Moon Market blasts at the Jinnah Hospital here. He said that the government had categorically warned India to stop its interference in Balochistan and added the international community, including US and UN, had also been informed about the interference of India in the Pakistani territory. "A report has been sent to the foreign ministry about the involvement of India in terrorist incidents in Pakistan," he added.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26026](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26026)

### [Jakhrani loses, Shahab gains, Gilani neither here nor there](#)

**The News, 11 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Barely had his cabinet members heaved a sigh of relief after the latest assurance by the prime minister that he would not be making any cabinet reshuffle in the near future, the man from Multan stuck in his typical surprising manner on Thursday when two federal ministers got tossed around while one lucky minister saw himself being promoted to a prized ministry. The reshuffle wasn't confined to cabinet alone as some top bureaucrats also received their transfer and posting orders.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26019](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26019)

### [Giving up nuclear command not sign of weakness: Zardari](#)

**The News, 11 December 2009**

WASHINGTON: President Asif Zardari has said his decision to hand back the chairmanship of the National Command Authority (NCA) that controls over country's nuclear assets should not be seen as a sign of weakness; rather, it demonstrates the vitality of the Pakistani democracy.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26018](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26018)

### [No intention to derail present system: Iftikhar](#)

**The News, 11 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry on Thursday lauded the government for not accepting the 17th Amendment, passed during the previous regime, and not validating the National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO). The chief

justice was heading a 17-member larger bench of the apex court, hearing identical constitutional petitions, challenging the controversial National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO), promulgated by the former military dictator, Gen (ret'd) Pervez Musharraf, in 2007.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26015](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26015)

### [Agents grill held Americans](#)

**The News, 12 December 2009**

SARGODHA: US FBI agents and their Pakistani colleagues interrogated on Friday five young American Muslims who wanted to go to Afghanistan to fight US-led forces, Pakistani officials said. The case is bound to fan fears in Western countries that the sons of immigrants from Muslim countries are being drawn to Islamist militancy, a process made easier by the Internet. The five men, students in their 20s from northern Virginia, were detained this week in Sargodha in the Punjab province.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26041](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26041)

### [PP knows how to deal with plotters: Zardari](#)

**The News, 12 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has warned that the people would not tolerate any violation of their mandate and the party and its workers know how to deal with machinations against it. "The PPP has existed for the past over four decades not because of dictators, but in spite of dictators and it was this feature which distinguished the PPP from many other parties," Zardari said while addressing elected councillors, Nazims and Naib Nazims of the PPP belonging to the Rawalpindi Tehsil at the Presidency on Friday night.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26037](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26037)

### [Al-Qaeda fleeing SWA, says Gates](#)

**The News, 12 December 2009**

KIRKUK, Iraq: US intelligence shows militants linked to al-Qaeda and other groups have been fleeing South Waziristan in the face of a Pakistani military offensive, Defence Secretary Robert Gates said on Friday. "We see some evidence in the intelligence that Pakistani forces are forcing al-Qaeda and some of the other terrorists out of South Waziristan and they are fleeing, and some of them are talking about going back into Afghanistan," Gates told US troops during a visit to Kirkuk city.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26049](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26049)

### [PM censures Interior Ministry top guns for inefficiency](#)

**The News, 12 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Tuesday admonished the czars of the Interior Ministry for their inefficiency, expressing his dissatisfaction over the performance of the ministry and asked them to take appropriate steps to protect the lives of the people. "I want measures not rhetoric or speeches," said the prime minister, while chairing a briefing at the Interior Ministry. Those who attended the meeting told The News that the prime minister was dissatisfied with the performance

of the Interior Ministry and expressed his displeasure over its performance. He was unhappy over the relief and rehabilitation work of the IDPs of Waziristan, saying that he had visited an IDPs camp at DI Khan and the arrangements there were poor.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26047](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26047)

### [Mehdi Shah sworn in as first Gilgit-Baltistan CM](#)

**The News, 12 December 2009**

GILGIT: Syed Mehdi Shah on Friday became the first chief minister of Gilgit-Baltistan after Acting Governor Qamar Zaman Kaira administered oath to him during the first session of the newly-elected legislative assembly. Earlier, the outgoing Speaker Malik Miskeen administered oath to the incoming Speaker of the Assembly, Wazir Beg, who then administered oath to the Deputy Speaker, Jamil Ahmed, a PPP candidate who lost elections but was selected as technocrat in the special seats distribute among parties on proportionate basis. Amna Ansari of PML-Q from Skardu was the other candidate for the slot of Deputy Speaker but withdrew her candidature after finding no support to her.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26044](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26044)

### [F.B.I. Questions 5 Americans Detained in Pakistan](#)

**NYT, 12 December 2009**

This article was reported by Jane Perlez, Salman Masood and Waqar Gillani, and written by Ms. Perlez. ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — F.B.I. investigators on Friday were questioning five Muslim American men suspected of pursuing jihadist training in Pakistan, but it remained unclear whether the men would be deported to the United States. "It all depends on the investigations, and things will be clear in a day or two," said Rashid Mazari, a spokesman for the Interior Ministry.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/12/world/asia/12inquire.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

### [Headley was in room from where LeT men were guided in Mumbai](#)

**The Hindu, 13 December 2009**

American-born terror suspect David Headley, had not only actively played a role in conducting reconnaissance of targets in Mumbai but was also present in a control unit in Pakistan along with the masterminds of the attacks to guide 10 Lashker-e-Taiba terrorists to carry out strikes in the megapolis. Sources privy to the investigations of the terror suspect's trail in India said 48-year-old Headley was very much present in the room from where the 10 LeT terrorists were being guided to various locations during the 26/11 attacks.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article64607.ece>

### [Baloch leaders assure support to Zardari](#)

**The News, 13 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Baloch nationalist leaders on Saturday lent their support to President Asif Ali Zardari and the elected democratic government with the pledge that they would not allow any conspiracy against the president and the democratic

dispensation and would resist any attempt to destabilise the system. The support came in a meeting of a delegation of elders of Balochistan with President Zardari at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26064](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26064)

#### [Lack of coordination with Pakistan unfortunate: US general](#)

**The News, 13 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: A senior US military official Saturday termed lack of coordination with Pakistan army over "repositioning" of its troops along the Pak-Afghan border "unfortunate". Brig General Michael Linnington, the chief planner at the ISAF Joint Command (IJC) Headquarters, Kabul, did acknowledge that "three US border posts were re-positioned for more effective coordination" in the recent past.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26060](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26060)

#### [Operation in Orakzai on the cards: PM](#)

**The News, 13 December 2009**

LAHORE: Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani has said an operation in Orakzai Agency is under consideration as the military action in South Waziristan Agency (SWA) is almost over. Replying to a question by journalists after attending the 8th convocation of the Government College University (GCU), Lahore, on Saturday, he said: "The situation has improved in the Malakand Division after the military operation."

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26051](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26051)

#### [PM vows action, if govt writ is challenged: PM](#)

**The News, 13 December 2009**

MULTAN: Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani Sunday ruled out any possibility of talks with the extremists, saying the government will take action wherever there is militancy and writ of the government is challenged. Talking to journalists here, he said the uniformity of strategies adopted by the US and Pakistan is essential for the success in anti-terror war.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/updates.asp?id=93444>

#### [Why are cabinet changes being delayed?](#)

**The News, 14 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, who cherishes to show the door to the deadwood, non-performing and tainted ministers, has again been held back by President Asif Ali Zardari to do some badly needed cleansing of his team. "Had Gilani been a free agent, he would have thrown out some ministers and inducted new faces in their place many months ago," cabinet members and senior officials say. One of them believes that when the prime minister says that he would dispose of the ministers, soiled by the National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO), he obviously means to sack a couple of influential cabinet members who are considered very close to the president and toe Zardari's line instead of the prime minister.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26073](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26073)

**[Sufficient proof of Indian involvement in attacks: FM](#)**

**The News, 14 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has categorically said Pakistan is not involved in the Mumbai terror attacks. On the contrary, he said, Islamabad has substantial evidence to prove New Delhi's hand in terror activities in the country. In an interview with an Arab television, Qureshi said the international community also supported the stance that Pakistan was not involved in the Mumbai attacks. "Now, it has been admitted worldwide that Pakistan is above question with regard to the Mumbai terror incident," Qureshi said.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26069](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26069)

**[PM terms stable Afghanistan 'common Pak-US goal'](#)**

**The News, 14 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: The US Centcom Commander General David Petraeus called on Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani here at the PM House on Monday and briefed him about the contours of new Afghan policy announced by President Obama recently and took the government of Pakistan into confidence. During the meeting Chief of Army Staff, General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani assisted the Prime Minister.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/updates.asp?id=93540>

**[Zardari hopes for end to judicial murders](#)**

**The News, 14 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari hopes that there will be no more judicial murder of any prime minister or democracy in the future. Speaking at a book launch in the federal capital today (Monday), President Zardari said Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) have rendered a number of sacrifices from the start of its establishment till now.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/updates.asp?id=93539>

**[Editorial:Hard line diplomacy is not homeland security](#)**

**The Hindu, 15 December 2009**

As a victim of terrorism, much of which has emanated from across the border in Pakistan, it is hardly surprising that India should confuse diplomatic strategy with counter-terrorism strategy and believe that "toughness" on the external front hardens the country internally and insulates us from terrorist attacks. For the better part of a decade, India's politicians and pundits have bought into the fallacy that diplomacy and security policy are one and the same thing, effectively handing the terrorists who would harm us a double bonus. Our complacency-induced vulnerability allows them to strike fairly easily; and our predictable tendency to suspend diplomatic engagement with Pakistan and rattle our sabres every time there is a major incident gives them an added incentive to target us.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/article65228.ece>

### [Headley a double agent?](#)

**The Hindu, 15 December 2009**

Pakistani origin American citizen, David Coleman Headley, who is at the centre of a global terrorism investigation for his alleged role in 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, may well have been a "double agent" working for U.S. agencies as well as Pakistani terror organisations like Lashkar-e-Toiba. Headley had travelled to India in March 2009, four months after the 26/11 terror strikes but the U.S. agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) did not alert or inform their Indian counterparts because it could have led to his arrest here, top officials in the Union Home Ministry said on Tuesday. Investigations have also pointed towards the fact that Headley could have travelled to India with his wife in March this year.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article65676.ece>

### [Obama resists drone strikes in Pakistan](#)

**The News, 15 December 2009**

WASHINGTON: US media reports have revealed that President Barack Obama, during situation room meetings at the White House to review the US strategy on Pakistan and Afghanistan, did express concern over the idea of expanding drones attacks to Quetta and other urban centres of Pakistan. The White House has not confirmed or denied the report.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26089](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26089)

### [Pak, US generals meet PM](#)

**The News, 15 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: As counsel for the Federation Barrister Kamal Azfar made a stirring statement before the Supreme Court, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani met Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani twice on Monday. First the COAS met the prime minister in the company of the visiting US central command (CENTCOM) chief while the second was one-on-one meeting in which, besides important issues regarding the national security, Azfar's statement is believed to have come up for discussion.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26088](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26088)

### [Petraeus sees no threat to Zardari from Kayani](#)

**The News, 15 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: General David Petraeus, head of US Centcom, says that he is positive that the Pakistan military does not nurture any notion of destabilising President Asif Ali Zardari or the present government in Islamabad. "I have seen no indication that General Ashfaq Kayani is entertaining such a notion. Whenever we have talked to them they say they are committed to democratically elected civilian government. Whenever any such topic is touched upon they say they are supportive of the government. When I testified before the Congress I was also asked whether the Pakistan military would take over and I said, "No".

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26087](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26087)

### [Democracy under threat from GHQ, CIA, Azfar tells SC](#)

**The News, 15 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: The Federation on Monday expressed apprehensions before the Supreme Court that the democratic system was under threat from the CIA and the GHQ, while the court's decision might put democracy under threat as well. Kamal Azfar, counsel for the Federation, told a full court, headed by Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, that the democratic system was under threat from the CIA and the GHQ.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26085](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26085)

### [27 dead, 90 hurt in DG Khan blast](#)

**The News, 15 December 2009**

DERA GHAZI KHAN: At least 27 people were killed and many more wounded when a suicide bomber rammed his explosive-laden vehicle into the crowded Khosa market in Dera Ghazi Khan on Tuesday. The house of Sardar Zulfiqar Ali Khosa, senior adviser to Punjab's Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif, was also destroyed in the blast. However, luckily, no member of the family was present in the house at the time of blast.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/updates.asp?id=93623>

### [Rebuffing U.S., Pakistan balks at crackdown](#)

**NYT, 15 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Demands by the United States for Pakistan to crack down on the strongest Taliban warrior in Afghanistan, Siraj Haqqani, whose fighters pose the biggest threat to American forces, have been rebuffed by the Pakistani military, according to Pakistani military officials and diplomats. The Obama administration wants Pakistan to turn on Mr. Haqqani, a longtime asset of Pakistan's spy agency who uses the tribal area of North Waziristan as his sanctuary. But, the officials said, Pakistan views the entreaties as contrary to its interests in Afghanistan beyond the timetable of President Obama's surge, which envisions reducing American forces beginning in mid-2011.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/15/world/asia/15haqqani.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

### [Nature of Evidence Could Complicate Prosecution of 5 Americans in Pakistan](#)

**NYT, 15 December 2009**

WASHINGTON — Veteran terrorism prosecutors said Monday that if, as Pakistani officials have alleged, five Americans sought training from terrorist groups with the goal of fighting the United States, they almost certainly face aggressive prosecution at home. But the prosecutors said that trying the men would require clear evidence of their intentions and could be complicated by several factors seen in similar cases in recent years, including the availability of Pakistani witnesses and how any evidence was obtained from the men when they were arrested in Pakistan.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/15/world/asia/15pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

### [Deadly Bomb Hits Market in Pakistan](#)

**NYT, 15 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — At least 20 people, including 5 women, were killed Tuesday when a car bomb ripped through a marketplace in the central Pakistani town of Dera Ghazi Khan, damaging stores and the home of a senior regional official, the police said. At least 50 people were also wounded in the blast. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Police officials said a car packed with explosives detonated near the main gate of the residence of Sardar Zulfiqar Ali Khan Khosa, a prominent politician belonging to the opposition Pakistan Muslim League-N.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/16/world/asia/16pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

### [Prosecution winds up 26/11 case; Kasab statement on December 18](#)

**The Hindu, 16 December 2009**

Seven months into the trial of the 26/11 terror attacks, the prosecution today wound up its case before a special court which fixed December 18 to record the statement of lone surviving Pakistani gunman Ajmal Kasab. The prosecution wrapped up examination of evidences and a total of 610 witnesses against Kasab and two Indian accused - Faheem Ansari and Sabaudin Ahmed.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article66092.ece>

### [Dr Khan's letter: govt in a quandary](#)

**The News, 16 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Dr Abdul Qadir Khan's alleged four-page letter to a British journalist, encapsulating details about nuclear proliferation and his 'partners-in-crime', has become a great source of trouble for the government that wants him investigated to cross-examine the contents providing fodder to the foreign media. In the hand-written letter — a kind of charge-sheet in case "they might try to get rid of me to cover up all the things they got done by me" — Khan indicted a general (now retired) for receiving \$3 million from North Korea "through me ... and asked me to give some drawings and machines."

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26110](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26110)

### [GHQ's been a bad boy, but Kayani is a gentleman,](#)

**The News, 16 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Making a hasty retreat from his stunning Monday statement wherein he had tried to unnerve the Supreme Court with CIA-GHQ sponsored anti-democracy consequences, Kamal Azfar on Tuesday took refuge behind the blame-it-on-past doctrine and told the court that the General Headquarters (GHQ) had been destabilising the democratic process but gave the incumbent COAS a good behaviour pass.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26109](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26109)

### [Militant commander among 6 killed in SWA](#)

### **The News, 16 December 2009**

WANA: Security forces engaged and destroyed a vehicle at Miranshah during operation Rah-e-Nijat in South Waziristan, resultantly terrorists' commander Gulbadeen Mehsud was killed. As per ISPR details, 6 terrorists have been killed during last 24 hours, while 1 soldier embraced shahadat and 6 were injured. Terrorists fired with arms at security forces camp at Sararogha and Shuza Defile which was effectively responded, killing 2 terrorists.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/updates.asp?id=93727>

### **Supreme Court strikes down NRO**

#### **The News, 16 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has struck down the National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO), saying it is unconstitutional. A 17-member bench, headed by Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, in his short order, declared the ordinance as null and void. According to the judgment, the NRO is contrary to the equality guaranteed by the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan. Similarly, all the cases, disposed off because of the controversial ordinance, now stand revived as of Oct 5, 2007 position, said the judgment.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/updates.asp?id=93728>

### **Legal, democratic process to bring stability**

#### **The News, 16 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: A beleaguered President Asif Ali Zardari needs to look for the proverbial snakes in the grass, as he seems to be pushed towards his political fate by his own cronies, close advisers and legal minds and not by his political foes and others he treats as his enemies. Repeated U-turns on the National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) and the latest bid to provoke the Pakistan Army first and then the full court at this stage invites more tribulations for the man already in the middle of the storm.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26115](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26115)

### **Court Examines Pakistan Leader's Offshore Riches**

#### **NYT, 16 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Indignant Supreme Court judges on Tuesday demanded to know why \$60 million in the suspect gains of President Asif Ali Zardari had been given back to offshore companies in his name rather than returned to the national treasury, where they said it rightfully belonged. The barrage of questions directed at flustered anticorruption officials was the latest round of embarrassment for Mr. Zardari. He is fighting for his political life as the court hears arguments about the legality of an amnesty decree that was devised in 2007 with the help of the United States and Britain as part of a deal to engineer the comeback of Mr. Zardari's wife, former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, after years in exile.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/16/world/asia/16zardari.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

### **Pakistani Army's Victories Fail to Halt Taliban's Blows**

**NYT, 16 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — The Pakistani military has seized nearly all of the former Taliban stronghold of South Waziristan, but militant leaders who fled are still able to carry out deadly attacks deep inside Pakistan's heartland from new hide-outs, a United States Embassy official here said Tuesday. By striking repeatedly in recent weeks with seeming impunity, the Pakistani Taliban are winning an all-important propaganda war here, the official said, by conveying a reach and strength that may be greater than the group's real capacities, the official said.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/16/world/asia/16pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

**[A foreign policy for our times](#)**

**The Hindu, 17 December 2009**

Analogies are never one hundred per cent applicable to politics, but Turkey offers an example for policymakers, especially India, caught up in the imperative of adjusting to the phenomenal volatility in the international system. All the uncertainties and imponderables of our times are gnawing at Turkey's consciousness. Like India or Pakistan, Turkey has a strategic location that offers commanding heights over surrounding regions. Its policies leave footprints on a broad regional landscape. In social formation, Turkey outstripped India but developmental issues are not dissimilar. It has long been where Indian elites aspire to reach — a close partnership with the United States. What Turkey is doing about the U.S. decline is of special interest.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/article66657.ece?css=print>

**[Pak Army resorts to massive HR violations: Lt Gen Roy](#)**

**Daily Excelsior, 17 December 2009**

JAMMU, Dec 16: General Officer Commanding of 16 Corps, Lt Gen Rameshwar Roy, has said that Pakistan Army was resorting to massive Human Rights violations on their own people than any other country in the world while launching anti-terrorist operations and there has been no change in the attitude of that country in respect of supporting militant groups in Jammu and Kashmir. Talking to media-persons after laying wreath at 'Balidan Satambh' in connection with 'Vijay Divas' here today, Lt Gen Roy said the year 2009 has witnessed the lowest ever incidents of militancy, killings and HR violations as well. There has been a significant improvement in the overall security situation in the State.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09dec17/news.htm#1>

**[Pakistan rebuffs US plea for more military action, says report](#)**

**The News, 17 December 2009**

WASHINGTON: Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari has rebuffed an appeal from US President Barack Obama for a speedy expansion of military action in tribal areas, the Washington Post reported on Wednesday. Citing US and Pakistani officials, the Post said Zardari had written to Obama to pledge that his military would fight insurgents in Pakistan's lawless border region with Afghanistan, but on its own schedule.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26140](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26140)

### [Editorial:Moral renaissance begins](#)

**The News, 17 December 2009**

The author of the black NRO has already fled the country. The legions of its beneficiaries, including those prancing in the power corridors, were too covered by public sentiment to even dare defend it before the Justice Iftikhar Chaudry-led Supreme Court. The outcome, therefore, was given, with a historic verdict correcting a shameful historic wrong. But more important than the legal interpretations and ramifications of this verdict, and there shall be many, is the clarion message sent out by the court today: corruption shall no longer be tolerated, and if you commit a crime, you shall be made to pay your debt to society. The political monopoly game of Pakistan has just lost its free 'get out of jail' card. On the contrary, the time has come for many to start preparing for their jail yatras.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26132](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26132)

### [Zardari becomes an accused president](#)

**The News, 17 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court's landmark short order on the National Reconciliation Ordinance, (NRO) although not Asif Ali Zardari-specific, has reduced him into an accused president, whose assets stand frozen and all corruption cases involving \$1.7 billion revived to haunt him as the situation was before October 2007.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26129](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26129)

### [SC corrects historic wrong](#)

**The News, 17 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday threw the controversial National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) into the dustbin of history for being ultra vires of the Constitution because it ensured legal cover to corruption by the privileged class. In its landmark and the expected judgment, a 17-member bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry declared the NRO an instrument void ab initio, being ultra vires and violative of various constitutional provisions including Articles 4, 8, 25, 62(f), 63(i)(p), 89, 175 and 227 of the Constitution.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26126](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26126)

### [Ahmed Mukhtar stopped from leaving country](#)

**The News, 17 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Defence Chaudhry Ahmed Mukhtar, whose name is on ECL, has been stopped from leaving the country for China here at Islamabad airport on Thursday. The Federal Minister, along with his delegation, was scheduled to leave the country on PIA's flight no PK-852 for China on an official visit. He was intercepted by the FIA staff at the Islamabad airport just before getting on board the flight.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/updates.asp?id=93807>

### [Pakistan Strikes Down Amnesty for Politicians](#)

**NYT, 17 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — The Supreme Court struck down a controversial amnesty on Wednesday that had dismissed corruption allegations against thousands of Pakistan's politicians, including President Asif Ali Zardari, effectively restoring the cases against them. As president, Mr. Zardari is granted immunity from prosecution under the Constitution. But the Supreme Court order is expected to reverberate across Pakistan's rocky political landscape and to further weaken the standing of Mr. Zardari, whom the United States has tried to support as a partner in the fight against the Taliban and Al Qaeda.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/17/world/asia/17pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

### [Pakistan Reported to Be Harassing U.S. Diplomats](#)

**NYT, 17 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Parts of the Pakistani military and intelligence services are mounting what American officials here describe as a campaign to harass American diplomats, fraying relations at a critical moment when the Obama administration is demanding more help to fight the Taliban and Al Qaeda. The campaign includes the refusal to extend or approve visas for more than 100 American officials and the frequent searches of American diplomatic vehicles in major cities, said an American official briefed on the cases.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/17/world/asia/17visa.html?ref=asia>

### [Pakistani PM lauds China's contribution in Pakistan](#)

**People's Daily, 18 December 2009**

Pakistani Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani said on Friday that the Government of Pakistan recognizes the valuable contribution being made by the time-tested and all-weather friend China. The Prime Minister expressed these views in a meeting with a delegation of Huawei Technologies headed by its CEO, August Ye, which called on him prior to the signing of agreement between COMSATS Institute of IT and Huawei Technologies, a PM office statement said.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6846765.html>

### [Babar Awan elevated as law minister](#)

**The News, 18 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: A day after Pakistan witnessed one of the greatest day in its history towards checking corruption, we have one good piece of news and one bad. The good news is that President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday administered oath to one of the most respected retired judges Justice (R) Rana Baghwandas as Chairman Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC). The bad news is that the elevation of Babar Awan as Law Minister comes at a time when he is alleged to have taken Rs35 million as bribe from the owners of Haris Steel, and on the very day when the full court handed down its landmark verdict to curb the menace of corruption.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26149](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26149)

### [Defence minister barred from taking off for China](#)

**The News, 18 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: After the Supreme Court verdict on the NRO, Defence Minister Ch Ahmed Mukhtar had to shelve his important China visit due to the inclusion of his name on the Exit Control List (ECL). The defence minister was scheduled to go to China along with Naval chief Admiral Nauman Bashir to participate in a ceremony of taking over Frigate-22 from Chinese authorities. The visit had been finalised three months back but owing to the ECL restriction for the minister, the admiral had to leave without his political boss. He was seen off at the airport by China's ambassador to Pakistan Luo Zhaohui.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26145](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26145)

### [US drone strike kills 12 in NWA](#)

**The News, 18 December 2009**

MIRAMSHAH: Four missiles fired by a US unmanned aircraft killed 12 people, including foreign militants, in North Waziristan on Friday. According to sources, a US drone plane fired four missiles at a house in Paikhel village situated some 30 kilometers off Miramshah. Sources say that foreigners are also among the dead.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/updates.asp?id=93881>

### [PM suspends Interior Secretary, FIA officials](#)

**The News, 18 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani Friday suspended the Interior Secretary Qamar-uz-Zaman Chaudhry following Defence Minister Ahmed Mukhtar's barring from leaving for China. The Prime Minister's move came following yesterday's episode in which the Defence Minister Ahmed Mukhtar was prevented from boarding the plane en route to China by the FIA officials. The Minister was told that his name was on Exit Control List (ECL).

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/updates.asp?id=93877>

### [Accused Mumbai Gunman Recants](#)

**NYT, 18 December 2009**

MUMBAI, India — A Pakistani man standing trial for his accused role in the terrorist attack on Mumbai last year recanted his earlier confessions in court on Friday, saying he had been framed by the Indian police. It was the latest in a series of contradictory statements from the suspect, Ajmal Kasab, who had confessed in July to killing commuters at a busy Mumbai train station. Indian authorities say Mr. Kasab was one of 10 Pakistani men who attacked two five-star hotels, the train station and a Jewish center, killing more than 160 people over three days. All of Mr. Kasab's suspected accomplices were killed in battles with the police.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/19/world/asia/19mumbai.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

### [U.S. Missiles Kill 15 People Near Border in Pakistan](#)

**NYT, 18 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — In an exceptionally heavy barrage by American drones in Pakistan, five Predator aircraft fired 10 missiles at suspected militant compounds along the border with Afghanistan on Thursday. Along with an earlier attack, at least 15 people, including 7 foreigners, were killed, Pakistani security officials said. The stepped-up drone strikes came as the civilian government felt the repercussions of a Supreme Court decision on Wednesday that declared unconstitutional an amnesty for thousands of politicians accused of corruption. On Thursday, the National Accountability Bureau, acting with remarkable speed, prohibited 247 people, including some cabinet ministers, from leaving the country, as corruption cases could be revived against them.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/18/world/asia/18pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

### [India not fulfilling Sharm-el-Sheikh commitment: Pak](#)

**The Hindu, 20 December 2009**

Pushing for resumption of dialogue, Pakistan has suggested that India was not fulfilling its commitment made in the Sharm-el-Sheikh joint statement and relinking talks with action against terrorism. Pakistan's High Commissioner to India Shahid Malik said the "diplomatic vacuum" would not help the cause of peace and by not talking to each other, "we are strengthening the forces which don't want the two countries to make any progress".

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article67596.ece>

### [Expert says SC verdict enough to reopen Swiss cases](#)

**The News, 20 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Swiss law says any case referred to their courts should first be opened and decided in local courts of foreign countries, and the Supreme Court's NRO judgment fulfils this basic need to reopen the money laundering cases against President Zardari, an expert in Swiss law say. According to Swiss laws, for initiation of proceedings of a case in Switzerland, action on that case in Pakistan is mandatory, which has already been taken during the NRO case proceedings in the Supreme Court where the apex court formally issued a judgment to re-opening and revival of these cases, British Supreme Court lawyer Amjad Malik told The News. Besides this the relevant cases are also revived in Pakistan.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26186](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26186)

### [60 pc of NAB posts are vacant, rest with PPP](#)

**The News, 20 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Sixty per cent of the posts of NAB prosecutors are vacant and the rest 40 per cent are officers appointed by the PPP government, so there is no chance of any serious accountability process under the present NAB set-up, data shows. Except for the NAB chairman, the prosecutor general and his deputy, who could not be removed by the government because of legal protection to their tenures, all the special prosecutors, who are required to pursue NAB cases in accountability courts, were shown the door and replaced by the PPP nominees by Farooq H Naek when he

was the law minister, senior NAB officials say.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26185](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26185)

### [Govt bid to turn the tables on judiciary](#)

**The News, 20 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: A deliberate attempt is being made to turn the tide against corruption and criminality into a political tangle, as the 17 honourable judges of the apex court are exposed to the might of the administration. The ruling PPP is ignoring the emerging situation and giving up its policy of reconciliation with regard to constitutional institutions.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26184](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26184)

### [Zardari vows to fight back adversaries](#)

**The News, 20 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: PPP Co-chairman and President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday vowed to fight back, using democracy and constitutionalism as weapons to fight adversaries, and foil conspiracies against the party. He was addressing the concluding session of the party's Central Executive Committee (CEC) at the Presidency here on Saturday.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26182](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26182)

### [No one will succumb to pressure and resign: Taseer](#)

**The News, 20 December 2009**

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Salman Taseer Sunday reiterating Pakistan People's Party's stance said no one will succumb to pressure from any side and that no member of his party will resign despite allegations. Talking to media, Salman Taseer said the democracy will stop to function if people indulged in interfering in each others affairs.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/updates.asp?id=94021>

### [Another infiltration attempt in Poonch](#)

**Daily Excelsior, 20 December 2009**

JAMMU, Dec 19: A Border Security Force (BSF) jawan was killed and two others were injured as a group of militants opened firing on them after infiltrating into Indian territory from the Line of Control (LoC) in Krishna Ghati sector of Poonch district this morning even as security forces recovered a large quantity of ammunition from a hide-out of the militants in Mendhar sector. Official sources said a group of four to six infiltrators were pushed into this side of the LoC from Pakistan's forward Daku Post in Krishna Ghati sector of Poonch district early this morning.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09dec20/news.htm#1>

### [No talks till 'vigorous prosecution' in 26/11 case: India to Pak](#)

**The Hindu, 22 December 2009**

India on Tuesday said it is not in a position to resume the composite dialogue with

Pakistan till "vigorous prosecution" is mounted against the accused in the 26/11 case and the infrastructure of terror across the border, responsible for the numerous attacks, is dismantled. "Pakistan has to ensure that the infrastructure of terror from which so many attacks have taken been launched in our country should be dismantled. We have not seen so far sufficient progress on this.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article68581.ece>

### **Heavy firing on India-Pakistan border**

**The Hindu, 22 December 2009**

Indian and Pakistani border guards exchanged heavy firing at the international border between the two countries in Jammu and Kashmir Monday evening, an official said. According to the Border Security Force (BSF), the Pakistani border guards opened fire on the Indian positions in Ramgarh sector in a bid to infiltrate terrorists, provoking the Indian side to retaliate.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article68466.ece>

### **3rd infiltration bid in 4 days by ultras**

**Daily Excelsior, 22 December 2009**

Pakistan Army and Rangers resorted to heavy firing on Indian positions to facilitate infiltration by the militants from the International Border (IB) in Ramgarh sector of Samba district tonight. This was third intrusion bid on the Line of Control (LoC) and IB during last four days. Official sources said Pakistan Rangers targeted Indian posts of SM Pur, SM Pur-1 and Kangral besides surrounding areas in Ramgarh sector at 9 pm tonight with a view to push infiltrators into Indian territory.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09dec22/news.htm#4>

### **DG Military Ops calls Indian counterpart, rejects allegations**

**The News, 22 December 2009**

LAHORE: Director General of Military Operations at the Pakistan Army contacted his Indian counterpart on Tuesday and rejected the New Delhi's allegations about violations of ceasefire. According to sources, India alleged Pakistan has violated ceasefire five times during the last seven days and in this regard local commanders held flag meetings.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/updates.asp?id=94197>

### **Governor to hold by-polls if Punjab govt fails to: CJ**

**The News, 22 December 2009**

The Supreme Court on Monday issued notices to the Election Commission and the government of Punjab against a Lahore High Court verdict, delaying by-elections in four Punjab constituencies. A three-member bench of the apex court, comprising Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, Justice Anwar Zaheer Jamali and Justice Khilji Arif Hussain, was hearing a petition filed by Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, who is to contest by-election in NA-55 Rawalpindi-VI.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26217](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26217)

**[Gilani, Shahbaz pledge to strengthen democratic system](#)**

**The News, 22 December 2009**

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani has assured Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif that all parties will be taken into confidence over the new accountability law. The two leaders also agreed to continue efforts to strengthen the democratic system in the country and not to indulge in any tug-of-war. Any conflict could hamper efforts for reconciliation between the two mainstream political parties and harm the system, they agreed.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26218](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26218)

**[Kamran Khan, Shaheen Sehbai, Ansar Abbasi, Dr Shahid under fire in PPP meeting](#)**

**The News, 22 December 2009**

The PPP Punjab President Rana Aftab Ahmad Khan and senior provincial minister Raja Riaz Ahmad Khan have declared that enough is enough and from now on the party would adopt the course of confrontation instead of the traditional conciliatory policy so far adopted. They said Kamran Khan, Shaheen Sehbai, Ansar Abbasi and Dr Shahid Masood should not become movers and shakers in politics. The hands of those who are attempting to demolish the government would be amputated.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26219](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26219)

**[You cannot afford more mistakes, Mr Zardari](#)**

**The News, 22 December 2009**

President Asif Ali Zardari is definitely under a lot of pressure but he is in a fighting mood. He is waiting for the detailed verdict of the Supreme Court on the NRO and then he may come out openly not only against some judges but also against some elements within the armed forces. He is under lot of pressure to resign after the Supreme Court of Pakistan rejected the NRO on December 16 but he is loudly asking: "If the NRO was bad then why has nothing been done about the person who issued the NRO?" What Zardari forgets is that the same Supreme Court has already declared Musharraf a usurper on July 31, 2009 but it was Zardari who never tried Musharraf under Article 6 of the constitution for treason due to the fear of Pakistan Army.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26224](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26224)

**[Infiltration attempt was serious: BSF](#)**

**Daily Excelsior, 23 December 2009**

JAMMU, Dec 22: A serious infiltration attempt was made by a group of eight militants to infiltrate into this side from Kandra forward post in SM Pur area of Ramgarh sector in Samba district last night taking advantage of heavy firing by Pakistan Rangers on forward Indian posts. At least two militants were seriously injured as the BSF jawans pushed back the infiltrators about 10 hours of firing that stopped at 7 am today.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09dec23/news.htm#1>

### [SBP list submitted in court includes Nawaz period](#)

**The News, 23 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Tuesday gave a final warning to those who have managed to get their loans written off from financial institutions during the last 38 years and directed the State Bank to furnish a list of loan defaulters right from 1971 to date. "Only one chance will be given to defaulters to return the loans and strict action will be taken against them without any discrimination," Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry observed while heading a three-member bench of the apex court hearing a suo moto case of Rs 54 billion written-off loans.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26237](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26237)

### [Suicide bomber hits Peshawar Press Club](#)

**The News, 23 December 2009**

PESHAWAR: In the first-ever suicide attack on the media after several threats, a suicide bomber exploded himself at the entrance to the Peshawar Press Club (PPC) on Tuesday, killing three persons and injuring 18 others. The deceased included a cop, the accountant of the club and a passer-by woman while a young photographer of The News, Khurram Pervez, three employees of the PPC and three security officials are among the injured. Several passengers of a mini-bus and other vehicles passing through the site also sustained injuries.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26238](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26238)

### [No demand for Zardari's resignation](#)

**The News, 23 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) on Tuesday said it would not demand resignation from President Asif Ali Zardari if the government implemented the order of the Supreme Court against the National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) in letter and spirit. "The PML-N decision not to demand the resignation of President Zardari is totally based on a condition to implement the Supreme Court order against the NRO," Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan told a news conference at the Punjab House here.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26240](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26240)

### [AJK monitoring cell declared void](#)

**The News, 23 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: The senior most judge of the Supreme Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), in an unprecedented decision, has declared the 'monitoring cell' created by the AJK chief justice as unconstitutional. He held this while passing an order after hearing a case of collecting examination and registration fee from the students of the quake-hit areas. Explaining the difference between the monitoring cell ordered by the Supreme Court of Pakistan in its NRO verdict and that in AJK, one of the senior constitutional office-holders of AJK told The News that the monitoring cell proposed by the SC of Pakistan was a positive thing as it would monitor the functioning of the courts and not of the executive while the monitoring cell established in AJK was directly monitoring the executive, which by no means could

be allowed.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26241](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26241)

### [Non-state actors pushing countries to war: Zardari](#)

**The News, 23 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari said on Tuesday that non-state actors wanted to push sovereign countries to go for war and the international community needed to join hands to guard against it. He said this while talking to Chief of Defence Staff of the French Armed Forces Gen Jean-Louis Georgelin at the Presidency. The French general also called on Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani separately at the Prime Minister's house. President Zardari also conferred Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) on Gen Jean-Louis Georgelin. In the meeting, matters related to militancy and defence cooperation were discussed. President Zardari said the monster of militants and extremists was created by the international community in the past to fight the rival ideology.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26246](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26246)

### [Bomber Attacks Pakistani Press Club](#)

**NYT, 23 December 2009**

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — A suicide bomber blew himself up as he tried to enter the press club in this restive city in northwest Pakistan, killing three other people and wounding 17, the police and hospital officials said. Two of the dead were police officers who had been providing security for the Peshawar Press Club after threats from militants. An accountant for the press club was also killed. "We have been receiving threats, and we had taken all possible measures," said the president of the Peshawar Press Club, Shamim Shahid. "But there is no way you could stop a suicide bomber."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/23/world/asia/23pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

### [Special Cabinet meeting on Dec 30](#)

**The News, 26 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: A special meeting of the Federal Cabinet will be held on December 30 in Gwadar in which approval is expected for a number of uplift projects for Balochistan. According to sources, the meeting will discuss Aghaz-e-Huqooq Balochistan Package besides the overall law and order situation.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/updates.asp?id=94523>

### [Detailed judgment](#)

**The News, 26 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Criminal proceedings can be initiated against former president Pervez Musharraf on the basis of facts narrated in the Supreme Court judgment, which has given an exhaustive account of defiance of laws and rules by Musharraf, in its detailed judgment in petitions filed against the suspension of Chief Justice of Pakistan Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhary on November 3, 2007. It constitutes a

comprehensive charge-sheet against Pervez Musharraf for his separate trial.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26300](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26300)

### [No talks with Taliban now: Fazl](#)

**The News, 26 December 2009**

LAHORE: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said negotiations with the Taliban leadership were possible in the past but there was no appropriate time or circumstances for such an exercise now. He was talking to the media after his meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif at Raiwind on Friday. Fazlur Rehman said the process of preparing a constitutional package for repealing the 17th Amendment was in the final stages. He stressed upon strengthening parliament and implementing its resolutions in letter and spirit.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26301](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26301)

### [Time is running out for PM Gilani](#)

**The News, 26 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani is desperately trying to get out of a political crisis, bordering chaos, created by his own colleagues but, unfortunately, he is looking helpless. He invited more than three dozen TV anchorpersons and journalists from across the country to the Prime Minister's House on Thursday evening and tried to impress upon them that "I am the government and my government is strong, I am not threatened by any conspiracy. There is no conspiracy going on."

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26303](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26303)

### [17th Amendment to be repealed soon: PM](#)

**The News, 26 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Friday reiterated his commitment to PML-N Quaid Mian Nawaz Sharif for early repealing of the 17th Amendment from the Constitution and all the dictatorial amendments that were introduced during the tenure of dictators, including removing the ban on third-time prime ministership. The prime minister made a telephone call to Nawaz Sharif on Friday on his (Nawaz's) birthday. Both sides — the PM House and Raiwind — termed the telephonic conversation a courtesy call, saying "It's just to say a happy birthday."

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26304](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26304)

### [10 killed, scores injured in Muzaffarabad blast](#)

**The News, 27 December 2009**

MUZAFFARABAD: At least 10 people were killed and scores of people injured on Sunday after a suicide bomber blew himself up at the gate of the CMH in Muzaffarabad. Housing Minister of Azad Kashmir Murtaza Gilani confirmed that 12 people died in the blast. Besides, a noted religious scholar Mufti Kifayat Hussain said that at least five people were killed and 54 others injured in the blast.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/updates.asp?id=94598>

### [We support democracy, not the corrupt: Nawaz](#)

**The News, 27 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and PML-N Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Saturday said the PPP government should have sought resignations from NRO beneficiaries, who are in the government. "The government should have moved for getting resignations from NRO beneficiaries following the Supreme Court verdict declaring the NRO as unconstitutional," Nawaz Sharif said while talking to newsmen after chairing a party meeting here at the Punjab House.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26316](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26316)

### [PFUJ concerned over media, govt tussle](#)

**The News, 27 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) has urged the government, the media owners, the political parties and other democratic forces to shun their differences and unite to save the country from elements who have waged an open war on the country and wanted to push it to the stone age. Taking serious notice of the ongoing tussle between the government and the free media, the PFUJ has appealed to the government and the media giants to take into account the prevailing situation in the country where all state organs, including the press, are under attack by terrorists.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26318](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26318)

### [Six die in NWA drone attack](#)

**The News, 27 December 2009**

MIRAMSHAH/PESHAWAR: Six people were killed and seven others sustained injuries in a missile strike by a US drone in Saidgai village of the North Waziristan Agency on Saturday. Official and tribal sources said the US spy plane fired two missiles in the evening at a house where the militants used to come and stay with local villagers. The identity of the six people killed in the missile attack was not known.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26319](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26319)

### [All court decisions to be accepted, says Zardari](#)

**The News, 27 December 2009**

KARACHI: President Asif Ali Zardari said that he and his party respected the judiciary and all the decisions of the court would be accepted. He expressed these views during a meeting with an MQM delegation which called on him here at the Bilawal House on Saturday. He said that the government believed in the supremacy of the Constitution and parliament and that all decisions would be taken in parliament.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?Id=26320](http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=26320)

### [Pakistan Air Force gets first early warning aircraft](#)

**People's Daily, 29 December 2009**

Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Tuesday received its first airborne warning and control system (AWACS), officials said. The SAAB-2000 system was formally introduced into PAF at a ceremony held at the main air base in Kamra, some 40 kilometers northwest of the capital Islamabad. Pakistan will get three more such systems and the second one will be made available in 2011, said Pakistan Air Chief Marshal Rao Qamar Suleman at the ceremony.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90882/6855375.html>

### **[N.Korea 'Had Enriched Uranium in 2002'](#)**

**Chosun Ilbo, 29 December 2009**

North Korea had enriched small amounts of uranium by 2002 with some 3,000 centrifuges and a plant making uranium hexafluoride, a gas essential for the process, built there in the 1990s, the Washington Post reported on Sunday citing the renegade nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan. The paper based the claim on a previously unpublicized account by Khan (73), the "father" of Pakistan's nuclear bomb who has since been hawking nuclear technology around the world to all comers, including the North.

[http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html\\_dir/2009/12/29/2009122900357.html](http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/12/29/2009122900357.html)

### **[Opinion:South Asian agenda for Jammu & Kashm](#)**

**The Hindu, 29 December 2009**

The separatists' bullet that killed the moderate Hurriyat leader, Fazl Haque Qureshi, also wounded Home Minister Chidambaram's "quiet diplomacy" for settling the Kashmir problem by making the Line of Control between India and Pakistan "just lines on a map," as Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said in Srinagar on March 24, 2006. The doubts about the government's credibility aired by the Qureshi assassins was disproved by the withdrawal of two Army divisions (about 30,000 troops) from Jammu and Kashmir over the last year and there are plans to pull back more troops if the law and order situation continues to improve, according to a statement made by Defence Minister A.K. Antony on December 18, 2009 (The Hindu, December 19, 2009).

<http://beta.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/article72166.ece>

### **[Death Toll Climbs in Attack on Pakistani Shiites](#)**

**NYT, 29 December 2009**

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — The death toll from a suicide bomber's attack on a Shiite religious procession in Karachi was reported to have risen to 40 on Tuesday, as the city reeled from rioting overnight amid fears that extremist groups already waging a multifront war against the government were now trying to foment sectarian violence against the country's minority Shiite Muslims. The GEO television network, citing hospital sources, said at least 40 people had been killed and more than 100 had been injured in the attack, which struck the procession as it made its way along Muhammad Ali Jinnah Road on Monday afternoon. The attack, the third against Shiites in three days, appeared to deeply unsettle the Pakistani government, which ordered the director general of the Rangers, a paramilitary force under the control of the Interior Ministry, to take control of Karachi.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/30/world/asia/30pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>