

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

**The News, 1 April 2010**

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

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

### [WCFFC hands over evidence against 1,775 Sunday](#)

**Daily Star, 1 April 2010**

War Crime Facts Finding Committee, a research organization, will hand over evidence against 1,775 people including former Jamaat chief Golam Azam and incumbent chief Matiur Rahman Nizami to the war crime investigators on Sunday. Jamaat-e-Islami General Secretary Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed and some other top leaders of the party are also on the list, WCFFC convener MA Hasan said on Thursday. Hasan said, "We will give a list of those who were members of the peace committee and Al-Badar, and who committed war crimes."

[http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest\\_news.php?nid=23002](http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=23002)

### [Last bid to save govt](#)

**Kathmandu Post, 1 April 2010**

Pressure continues to mount on Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal from within his party—CPN-UML—to clear the deck for a national consensus government. While Prime Minister Nepal busied himself the entire day in meetings with the leaders of Madhesi Janadhikar Forum (Loktantrik), Tarai Madhes Lokatantrik Party (TMLP) and the Sadbhavana Party, Constituent Assembly (CA) members from the UML continued to collect signatures in a bid to make the prime minister create a conducive environment for a national consensus government.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/03/31/top-stories/Last-bid-to-save-govt/206722/>

### [Lacuna between bill and ballot](#)

**Kuensel, 1 April 2010**

Local Government Elections 1 April, 2010 - With His Majesty the King granting last week his assent to the local government bill, there is growing expectation that the long overdue local government elections will be held at the earliest. We've asked the chief election commissioner, Dasho Kunzang Wangdi, to see if elections could be held before the monsoon starts," said the speaker, Tshogpon Jigme Tshultim. The LG bill was endorsed by Parliament in December 2009. The speaker said that not conducting the elections was violating the provision of the constitution, which states that there should be a local government.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=15066>

### [Maintainability of Fonseka Habeas Corpus application:](#)

### **Daily News, 1 April 2010**

The Court of Appeal yesterday reserved the orders on the maintainability of a Certiorari and Habeas Corpus applications filed respectively by General Sarath Fonseka and his wife Anoma Fonseka, for May 3. The court also directed the parties to file written submissions on or before April 19. Attorney General Mohan Peiris PC for the Army Commander raised objections stating that both applications could not be maintained in the Court of Appeal. He argued that the Court Marshal could not be challenged in the court since it had been convened by the President who has immunity under the Article 35 of the Constitution.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2010/04/01/news03.asp>

### **[Donor Conference pledges now US\\$487 million, says Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#)**

#### **Minivan, 1 April 2010**

Aid commitments following the recent Maldives Donor Conference have reached US\$487 million, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Shaheed and State Minister Ahmed Naseem took to the stage this morning to dismiss claims made by the Dhivehi Rayyithunge Party (DRP) that the donor conference had raised less US\$20 million in pledges.

<http://minivannews.com/latest/2010/04/01/donor-conference-pledges-now-us487-million-says-ministry-of-foreign-affairs/>

### **[U.S. unchanged on one-China policy](#)**

#### **People's Daily, 1 April 2010**

US Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg has told a news briefing in Washington that the US position on the one-China policy remains unchanged. He said the one-China policy serves the US very well, and that throughout Democratic and Republican administrations, America has understood that principle to be the foundation of building an ever stronger relationship. Steinberg also reaffirmed that the United States considers Tibet to be a part of China and does not support Tibetan independence.

<http://chinatibet.people.com.cn/6937351.html>

### **[Tensions Easing, Obama Talks With Chinese Leader](#)**

#### **NYT, 2 April 2010**

BEIJING — Tensions between China and the United States have ebbed significantly in recent days, with an hour-long conversation between their two presidents Thursday night and the countries working together to deter Iran's nuclear ambitions as the Obama administration backs off a politically charged clash over China's currency. In the call Thursday night, President Obama spoke by phone with Mr. Hu for about an hour — so long that Air Force One had to be held for 10 minutes on the tarmac at Andrews Air Force Base after landing so that Mr. Obama could finish up the conversation. Chinese television reported that Mr. Hu expressed a desire for healthier ties while stressing Beijing's positions on Taiwan and Tibet, and the White House said Mr. Obama stressed for China press Iran on its nuclear ambitions to ensure the country "lives up to its international obligations."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/03/world/asia/03china.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

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

**The Hindu, 2 April 2010**

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

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

### [UN, Pakistan at odds over Benazir murder report](#)

**The News, 2 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations and the government were on completely different pages on Thursday, as the UN rejected Pakistan's request to reopen the independent probe into the killing of Benazir Bhutto, saying there was no need for including any further information as the report was "complete". Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi insisted that the statements from Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Afghanistan would provide valuable leads. "For example, if there is a puddle outside my office, and I tell you to be careful when you leave, how do I know? Similarly, it would give the report more credibility if the three important statements are also recorded. My sources tell me that three countries — Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Afghanistan — have important information. I believe only one country had been approached. What we are saying is simply, 'Please don't overlook the statements from these three countries, as these were the three countries that had important information and that is why they had warned Mohtarma (Benazir Bhutto). What we are saying is: please don't overlook these three warnings,'" Qureshi told The News.

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

### [Govt to shut 2,931 'dubious' NGOs](#)

**Daily Star, 2 April 2010**

The social welfare ministry will shut down activities of 2,931 NGOs in 16 districts for violating voluntary social agency rules. Anomalies in fund handling and mismanagement have been detected in most of these organisations while many have been found involved with militancy. Activities of a few NGOs were never reported to the authorities while others have remained inactive for several years, a high official at the ministry said.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=132755>

### [PLA spells golden handshake terms](#)

**Kathmandu Post, 2 April 2010**

Though the UCPN (Maoist) is yet to spell out what it wants included in the 'golden handshake' offer meant for its combatants, who agree to join politics instead of security agencies, PLA on Thursday demanded Rs. 2 million rupees for each combatant, who accepts the offer. PLA Spokesperson Prakash Khanal floated a proposal to this effect at Thursday's meeting of the Technical Committee (TC) for

Supervision, Integration and Rehabilitation of Maoist Combatants. The Special Committee had, on Sunday, asked the eight-member expert panel to prepare the rehabilitation package and fix the sum to be offered to the combatants, who accept the offer, within three days.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/04/01/top-stories/PLA-spells-golden-handshake-terms/206753/>

**All IDPs will be resettled soon - Minister**  
**Daily News, 2 April 2010**

Social Services and Social Welfare Minister Douglas Devananda yesterday said the time has dawned to regain what the people in Jaffna were deprived of, due to terrorism. The Minister was addressing an election rally at the Duraiappah Stadium in Jaffna yesterday. He stressed that all people displaced by terrorist atrocities in the north will be resettled in their original places soon.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2010/04/02/news04.asp>

**Ogata: Japan's plans in Kabul draw interest of donor nations**  
**Asahi Shimbun, 3 April 2010**

The United States and Germany have shown an interest in joining a Japanese development project to help expand the crowded Afghan capital of Kabul, Sadako Ogata, president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), said. The project, designed by JICA and the Afghan government, calls for Tokyo to invest 10 billion yen (\$106.8 million) over five years for the development of infrastructure in the urban center and northern outskirts of the city.

<http://www.asahi.com/english/TKY201004020415.html>

**7,000MW by 2013; PM also pledges electricity for all by 2020**  
**Daily Star, 3 April 2010**

Mentioning power as the driving force for the development, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina promised yesterday to ensure electricity for all within 2020 while unveiling the plaque of newly-built 51 megawatt rental power plant at Fenchuganj of Sylhet. Blaming the past governments for nagging power crisis in the country, she said her government inherited acute crises of power, gas, water and food as well as global economic recession while assuming power. She alleged that the last BNP-led four-party alliance government was engaged in plundering public money in the name of making of electric poles.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=132896>

**Ministry develops 237 villages**  
**Daily News, 3 April 2010**

The Nation Building Ministry has implemented a program to develop 237 villages affected by terrorist attacks in the north and east and has completed projects in 100 villages, Ministry sources told the Daily News. The development program Yali Pibidemu (Village reawakening) covering 12 districts was started in 2008. It has introduced new methods of micro paddy cultivation giving high yields and manufacturing goods with locally available raw material for the market, they said.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2010/04/03/news01.asp>

### [PG's office sends corruption cases back to Auditor General's office](#)

**Minivan, 4 April 2010**

The Prosecutor General's office has returned cases against former government ministers forwarded several weeks ago by former Auditor General Ibrahim Naeem. Naeem claimed that former President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, together with many of his cabinet ministers and several members of the current government, had failed to declare details of their financial assets as required by the Constitution.

<http://minivannews.com/politics/2010/04/04/pgs-office-sends-corruption-cases-back-to-auditor-generals-office/>

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

**The News, 4 April 2010**

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

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

### [Winter session of House begins today](#)

**Kathmandu Post, 4 April 2010**

With the winter session of the Legislature-Parliament beginning Sunday, the country awaits curiously the fate of some key bills that aim to address not only issues of impunity associated with the decade-long insurgency but also the disgruntlement of the ethnic community like Tharus. The bills on establishment of commission on truth and reconciliation, on conflict-related enforced disappearances and on inclusion are among them. Also known as the "bill session", the parliament beginning Sunday will have to deal with probably the heaviest bulk of bills, which have been prepared and amended several times either because of the stakeholders' protests or the call to make them at par with international standards.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/04/03/top-stories/Winter-session-of-House-begins-today/206819/>

### [Positive feedback from Indian companies](#)

**Kuensel, 4 April 2010**

Punatsangchu I 4 April, 2010 - "Exploratory" talks with the three Indian companies, involved in constructing the Punatsangchhu I hydro dam, to train and employ more Bhutanese is going in the right direction, says the labour ministry. Although nothing concrete has been agreed upon between the government and the companies, L&T, HCC, and Gammon, a recently returned delegation received "positive feedback" from the companies, according to labour minister, Lyonpo Dorji Wangdi.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=15093>

### [PG's office sends corruption cases back to Auditor General's office](#)

**Minivan News, 4 April 2010**

The Prosecutor General's office has returned cases against former government

ministers forwarded several weeks ago by former Auditor General Ibrahim Naeem. Naeem claimed that former President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, together with many of his cabinet ministers and several members of the current government, had failed to declare details of their financial assets as required by the Constitution.

<http://minivannews.com/politics/2010/04/04/pgs-office-sends-corruption-cases-back-to-auditor-generals-office/>

### [Lack of legislation and disrespect of law could sabotage infant democracy: HRCM](#)

**Minivan, 5 April 2010**

The Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM) has warned that "deliberate disrespect towards upholding the rule of law" in the Maldives risks the population losing respect for democracy as a system of governance. Making the claim in its draft contribution to UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review, now released to public review and comment, HRCM claimed that a continual failure to legislate and install regulatory frameworks concerning human rights would "inevitably" lead to violations in the future.

<http://minivannews.com/politics/2010/04/05/lack-of-legislation-and-disrespect-of-law-could-wreck-infant-democracy-hrcm/>

### [BNP out to destabilise country, oust govt](#)

**Daily Star, 5 April 2010**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in parliament yesterday accused the opposition BNP of trying to destabilise the country for protecting the people involved in crimes against humanity in 1971. "I think their aim is to oust the government so that they can save those criminals," she said while speaking at the concluding ceremony of the fourth session of this parliament.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=133159>

### [Steep drop in HRV](#)

**Daily News, 5 April 2010**

Complaints relating to human and fundamental rights violations received by the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka represent a steep drop in their number, Commission Secretary Chandra Ellawala told the Daily News yesterday. "We have observed that there is a significant drop in the number of human rights violation complaints received by us for the past two years up to the first quarter of this year," Ellawala said. "The average annual inflow of complaints have dropped by thousands during the last few years," she said. The Commission used to get 7,000 to 8,000 human rights violation complaints several years ago, but these numbers have dropped in thousands over the past few years.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2010/04/05/news01.asp>

### [Maoist chief ups the ante on Nepal](#)

**Kathmandu Post, 5 April 2010**

UCPN (Maoist) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal has upped the ante on Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, warning him to resign or face a no-confidence motion. The Maoist chief, speaking to journalists at his residence, said a majority of CPN-UML Constituent Assembly (CA) members might ask the prime minister to step down. "If that does not happen, we will table a no-confidence motion," said Dahal.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/04/04/top-stories/Maoist-chief-ups-the-ante-on-Nepal/206854/>

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

**Daily Star, 6 April 2010**

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

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

### ['MRP deal a nat'l security threat'](#)

**Kathmandu Post, 6 April 2010**

Public Accounts Committee (PAC) members on Monday said that the government had jeopardised national security by awarding the contract for the supply of Machine Readable Passport (MRP) to an Indian government undertaking. The PAC members, including those from the ruling Nepali Congress and the CPN-UML, came down heavily on Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, who was summoned at the PAC to give an explanation on the MRP issue, for insulting the parliamentary committee by not heeding to its directives on the issue. The PAC had directed the government to resume the MRP bidding process instead of awarding the contract to the Indian company. The prime minister said the government had awarded the contract, keeping in mind diplomatic and political ties with India, while PAC members blamed the prime minister for being unable to appreciate the gravity of the issue.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/04/05/top-stories/MRP-deal-a-natl-security--threat/206891/>

### [The goal is a bilingual society](#)

**Kuensel, 6 April 2010**

Dzongkha Conference 6 April, 2010 - In another move to promote the use of the national language, a three-day conference that began yesterday is studying measures to increase the usage of Dzongkha within the government. The measures being studied include, among others, converting various forms and written office communications into Dzongkha. Currently, most forms are available only in English. And, within the bureaucracy, only transfer, appointment, and office orders are communicated in Dzongkha.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=15109>

### [US \\$ 4,000 per capita income by 2016](#)

**Daily News, 6 April 2010**

President Mahinda Rajapaksa said yesterday that the country attained middle income status during the last five years which is a unique achievement. "During the past five years, the country gained a per capita income of US \$ 2,053, while becoming a middle-income State." "It was an excellent accomplishment of the country," the President said at the presentation of the 60th annual report of the Monetary Board to

him as Finance and Planning Minister by Central Bank Governor Ajith Nivard Cabraal at the Central Bank yesterday. The President said the achievement should be seen in the context that it took Sri Lanka more than 50 years to achieve a per capita income of US \$ 1,020. Reaching a per capita income of US \$ 4,000 by 2016 will be a feasible target with the encouraging economic environment.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2010/04/06/news01.asp>

### **EU donates EUR 6.5 million to Maldives Climate Change Trust Fund** **Minivan, 6 April 2010**

The European Union has contributed EU€6.5 million (US\$8.8 million) to the newly created Climate Change Trust Fund which aims to help the government of the Maldives in its bid to become carbon-neutral by 2020. Minister of Finance Ali Hashim signed the tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on behalf of the Maldivian government at a "little ceremony" held at the President's Office this morning.

<http://minivannews.com/politics/2010/04/06/eu-donates-eur-6-5-million-to-climate-change-adaptation/>

### **South-Asia China trade fair 2010 kicks off in Nepal** **People's Daily, 7 April 2010**

The four-day South-Asia China Trade Fair 2010 kicked off in Nepali capital Kathmandu on Wednesday to promote quality products of South Asian countries and China. The expo, the fourth of its kind, is organized by Nepal-China Executive Council and attended by businesspeople from seven countries.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90778/90861/6943512.html>

### **India and Iran's Afpak policy** **The Hindu, 7 April 2010**

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

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

### **Opinion:Govt in a fix over OHCHR** **Kathmandu Post, 7 April 2010**

The government has yet to take a call on the future of the United Nations' human rights body, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Nepal, whose term expires on June 9. Chief Secretary Madhav Ghimire had to convene a meeting to advise the Prime Minister. "However, the meeting has been put off thrice," said an official at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). After the PMO and OHCHR exchanged a draft mandate of the new agreement, the UN body was not

happy over its exit strategy as Nepal suggested a reduced mandate with only a six-month extension. The bureaucratic establishment has now left it to the political level to take a call on the future of OHCHR here.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/04/06/top-stories/Govt-in-a-fix-over-OHCHR/206929/>

### [All 29 Panchagarh jawans convicted in BDR trial](#)

**Daily Star, 7 April 2010**

A special court of Bangladesh Rifles on Wednesday sentenced all the 29 jawans of 25 Rifles Battalion to imprisonment for different terms. BDR Director General Maj Gen Mohammad Mainul Islam delivered the first verdict of BDR mutiny case in Panchagarh. Thirteen jawans were sentenced to seven years in jail, one sentenced to six years, six sentenced to three years, two to two years, one to four years and another jawan was sentenced to one year and one month in connection with the mutiny.

[http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest\\_news.php?nid=23108](http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=23108)

### [Getting into right colleges](#)

**Kuensel, 7 April 2010**

Government Recognised Institutes 7 April, 2010 - A civil servant this week contacted the adult and higher education department (DAHE) and the royal civil service commission (RCSC) with a list of three university names in India to see if they are recognised in the country. He returned home more confused. The 27-year old wanted the two offices to check and advise him on whether the three universities, which had accepted his admission, were of approved and recognised boards. DAHE identified only one of the three colleges as recognised, while RCSC picked a different university from the same list.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=15114>

### [Fraudulent party registrations force EC to issue fingerprint forms](#)

**Minivan, 7 April 2010**

The Elections Commission (EC) has released a new political party registration form to avoid a recurrent problem of people being registered for political parties without their knowledge. President of the EC Fuad Thaufeeq said the commission had uncovered an estimated 900-1100 people registered to political parties without their knowledge, "from all political parties."

<http://minivannews.com/politics/2010/04/07/fraudulent-party-registrations-force-ec-to-issue-fingerprint-forms/>

### [Emergency for national security](#)

**Daily News, 7 April 2010**

Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka said yesterday that the Emergency Regulations are of prime importance since as all are aware certain elements are depending on violence and feeding terrorism adding that foreign intelligence had warned that the octopus of terrorism was spreading its tentacles over the Asian region including Sri Lanka. He was addressing Parliament after presenting the motion to extend the Emergency by another one month.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2010/04/07/news03.asp>

### [China attaches great importance to Afghanistan's reconstruction: vice president](#)

**People's Daily, 9 April 2010**

Xi made the remarks while meeting with Afghan Second Vice President Mohammad Karim Khalili on the sidelines of the annual meeting of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) in Boao, a resort town in China's southernmost Hainan Province. Xi said China and Afghanistan have always abided by the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence since they forged diplomatic ties 55 years ago. "The Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Good-neighborly Relations between China and Afghanistan, signed in 2006, marked the start of a new phase in the development of bilateral relations," Xi said.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6946090.html>

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

**The Hindu, 9 April 2010**

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

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

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

**The Hindu, 9 April 2010**

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

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

### [Helvetas-GNH agreement](#)

**Kuensel, 9 April 2010**

The GNH commission and Helvetas signed an agreement yesterday to execute a project to preserve and leverage Bhutan's unique cultural diversity. The project in two parts will contribute towards preservation of traditional diversities through anthropological studies, documentation, and exchanges and by exploring ways to promote cultural diversity for income generation under the theme, "Investing in people – Access to local culture, protection and promotion of cultural diversity," according to a Helvetas press release. The European Union and Helvetas has committed Nu 39M for the project.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=15142>

### [UPFA creates history](#)

**Daily News, 9 April 2010**

The United Peoples' Freedom Alliance created history by winning a huge majority close to almost two-thirds in the 14th Parliament of Sri Lanka at the General election held Thursday. Under the proportional representation system combined with preferential voting and a system of bonus seats for the winner at district level the two-thirds barrier was conceived to be insurmountable by its crafty architect former President J R Jayewardene. In planting their imprint on the political map of Sri Lanka the people have in the process also relegated the Grand Old Party into oblivion and administered a death blow on the JVP dashing to the ground all its hopes of securing power by hanging on to the coat tail of a retired General.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2010/04/10/pol01.asp>

### [JS body suggests 10 lakh-strong 'reserve force'](#)

**Daily Star, 9 April 2010**

The parliamentary standing committee on defence ministry recommended forming a National Reserve Force (NRF) with trained civilians to ensure people's effective participation alongside armed forces in protecting Bangladesh's sovereignty from external aggression. Reviewing the draft of the country's first defence policy, it recommended inclusion of the provision for building NRF and sent it to the Armed Forces Division on April 4. The AFD is working to prepare the policy, sources in the committee said.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=133734>

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

**The Hindu, 9 April 2010**

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

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

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

**The Hindu, 9 April 2010**

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

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

### [Helvetas-GNH agreement](#)

### **Kuensel, 9 April 2010**

The GNH commission and Helvetas signed an agreement yesterday to execute a project to preserve and leverage Bhutan's unique cultural diversity. The project in two parts will contribute towards preservation of traditional diversities through anthropological studies, documentation, and exchanges and by exploring ways to promote cultural diversity for income generation under the theme, "Investing in people – Access to local culture, protection and promotion of cultural diversity," according to a Helvetas press release. The European Union and Helvetas has committed Nu 39M for the project.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=15142>

### **UPFA creates history**

#### **Daily News, 9 April 2010**

The United Peoples' Freedom Alliance created history by winning a huge majority close to almost two-thirds in the 14th Parliament of Sri Lanka at the General election held Thursday. Under the proportional representation system combined with preferential voting and a system of bonus seats for the winner at district level the two-thirds barrier was conceived to be insurmountable by its crafty architect former President J R Jayewardene. In planting their imprint on the political map of Sri Lanka the people have in the process also relegated the Grand Old Party into oblivion and administered a death blow on the JVP dashing to the ground all its hopes of securing power by hanging on to the coat tail of a retired General.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2010/04/10/pol01.asp>

### **JS body suggests 10 lakh-strong 'reserve force'**

#### **Daily Star, 9 April 2010**

The parliamentary standing committee on defence ministry recommended forming a National Reserve Force (NRF) with trained civilians to ensure people's effective participation alongside armed forces in protecting Bangladesh's sovereignty from external aggression. Reviewing the draft of the country's first defence policy, it recommended inclusion of the provision for building NRF and sent it to the Armed Forces Division on April 4. The AFD is working to prepare the policy, sources in the committee said.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=133734>

### **Two militants held on Bangladesh border**

#### **The Hindu, 10 April 2010**

Two militants of the banned Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council (HNLC) were apprehended by BSF along the Indo-Bangla border in Meghalaya on Friday night. Rishot Singh Lyndoh and Surdor Kharakor were held near Dawki on the way back from Bangladesh after attending a meeting of the rebel group, a BSF spokesman said. The duo told interrogators they were back from an HNLC meeting at Islapunji.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article393628.ece>

### **Obama, Manmohan to discuss upcoming Indo-U.S. Strategic Dialogue**

#### **The Hindu, 10 April 2010**

Looking forward to meeting Prime Minister Manmohan Singh here tomorrow, U.S. President Barack Obama would be discussing with the visiting Indian leader, among

other issues, the upcoming Strategic Dialogue between the two countries, nuclear security and Afghanistan. This would be the first meeting between Mr. Obama and Dr. Singh after the November 24 State Dinner last year at the White House hosted by the US President.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article393381.ece>

### [Govt won't go for legalizing illegal Rohingyas](#)

**Daily Star, 10 April 2010**

Foreign Secretary Mohamed Mijarul Quayes on Saturday said the government will not register the Myanmar nationals who had illegally entered Bangladesh and are staying outside the refugee camps. The UN refugee agency UNHCR had recently proposed the government to go for a fresh registration of the Myanmar citizens living in Cox's Bazaar. "We have informed him (the regional coordinator of UNHCR) that the government would not go for a fresh registration," Quayes told reporters at a press briefing at the foreign ministry. "We don't want to discuss with the UN agency about the undocumented Rohingyas living in Cox's Bazaar outside the camps."

[http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest\\_news.php?nid=23149](http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=23149)

### [NC hierarchy row settled for now](#)

**Kathmandu Post, 10 April 2010**

The Nepali Congress (NC), caught in hierarchy debates following the demise of party President Girija Prasad Koirala, can look beyond, finally. Friday's NC central working committee (CWC) meeting gave its verdict on the issue, saying that party leader Sher Bahadur Deuba ranks higher than NC Acting President Sushil Koirala in the leadership ladder. The hierarchy row also came to the fore when the party had to choose a leader to represent the party in the High-Level Political Mechanism (HLPM). Technically, the party's founding leader Krishna Prasad Bhattarai is still the seniormost leader, but he is not active in politics.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/04/09/top-stories/NC-hierarchy-row-settled-for-now/207038/>

### [Dice loaded against local contractors?](#)

**Kuensel, 10 April 2010**

Private Participation In Infrastructure 10 April, 2010 - Barely a week after the government released the private participation in infrastructure (PPI), some provisions within the framework have already sparked discussion among Bhutanese contractors. The framework applies to building airports, multi dwelling residential buildings, non residential buildings, elevated highways, tunnels, outdoor sport and recreational facilities, industrial estates, IT parks, knowledge cities, dry ports, special economic zones and other such facilities. In view of the nature of the projects, economic affairs ministry officials said that, while such capital-intensive projects would be more suitable for foreign companies to undertake, Bhutanese construction companies with the financial and technical capacities could also participate.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=15147>

### [Pakistan Begins Its Largest Military Exercises in 20 Years](#)

**NYT, 10 April 2010**

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — A month of military exercises began in Pakistan this weekend, the country's biggest drills in 20 years, in what analysts said was a show

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

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

### **Indian firm camp attacked**

**Asian Age, 11 April 2010**

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

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

### **UML lawmakers press PM to put in papers**

**Kathmandu Post, 11 April 2010**

Saturday's meeting of the CPN-UML saw a majority of speakers ask Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal to step down. Of 16 Constituent Assembly (CA) members, who addressed the meeting, 12 asked Nepal to step down for failing to expedite the peace and constitution-making processes. Prime Minister Nepal's 10-month stint with power has wreaked havoc on political, security and diplomatic fronts, the speakers opined, asking the prime minister to put in papers and pave the way for a national unity government. The meeting was a joint session of the UML's Standing Committee and Parliamentary Party (PP).

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/04/10/top-stories/UML-lawmakers-press-PM-to-put-in-papers/207067/>

### **Police to step up a gear home**

**Kuensel, 11 April 2010**

11 April, 2010 - In a major development for law enforcement in the country, plans are currently underway by the royal Bhutan police (RBP) to form a riot control squad, along with an elite counter terrorist tactical unit, by 2011. The two units will be part of the special reserve police force that will be formed once the police bill is approved by parliament, and only after the new financial year for the police begins in July. RBP is already in the process of identifying and training personnel that will make up the two units, said chief of police, brigadier Kipchu Namgyal. "We've already earmarked personnel in Tashigatshel," said the police chief. A police training centre is located in

Tashigatshel, Chukha.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=15155>

**["Hell will come" to parliament over provinces section: MP Mohamed Nasheed](#)**

**Minivan, 11 April 2010**

Parliament's decentralisation committee has removed the concept of 'provinces' from the contentious Decentralisation Bill, claiming that dividing the country into seven provinces and not keeping it divided into its current 21 administrative regions is unconstitutional. During the decentralisation bill's third innings at Parliament, the Dhivehi Rayyithunge Party (DRP)-led committee in charge of reviewing the bill voted in favour of removing the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) proposal of provincial division.

<http://minivannews.com/politics/2010/04/11/hell-will-come-to-parliament-over-provinces-section-mp-mohamed-nasheed/>

**[Korea Opens Hospital, Job Training Center in Afghanistan](#)**

**Chosun Ilbo, 13 April 2010**

Korea has opened a hospital and a job training center at the U.S. Air Base in Bagram in southern Afghanistan as part of an effort to help rebuild the war-torn nation. The hospital with two operating rooms and 30 offices will be run by around 50 medical staff while the neighboring vocational center will prepare 75 local job seekers for the labor market.

[http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html\\_dir/2010/04/13/2010041300818.html](http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2010/04/13/2010041300818.html)

**[Gateway to Bhutan gets company](#)**

**Kuensel, 17 April 2010**

16 April, 2010 - The much-awaited second entry gate at the Phuentsholing-Jaigaon border was open to pedestrians yesterday, although only on an interim basis. In a small gathering attended by the Chukha dzongda, the dungpa and officials from regional revenue and customs, police and trade, the gate was opened to pedestrians going towards the Indian border town, Jaigaon, since yesterday morning. According to the dungpa, Tenzin Thinley, the gate was opened as an interim measure to see how it works. "Owing to the shortage of immigration staff, we're not able to open the entry gate, but we'll be officially opening the entry gate soon," he said. With motor vehicles and pedestrians going and coming from Jaigaon having to pass through the main gate, two gates away from the main gates were constructed last year to ease congestion.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=15205>

**[Taliban targets U.S. contractors working on projects in Afghanistan](#)**

**Washington Post, 17 April 2010**

KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN -- The Taliban has begun regularly targeting U.S. government contractors in southern Afghanistan, stepping up use of a tactic that is rattling participating firms and could undermine development projects intended to stem the insurgency, according to U.S. officials. Within the past month, there have been at least five attacks in Helmand and Kandahar provinces against employees of U.S. Agency for International Development contractors who are running agricultural projects, building roads, maintaining power plants and working with local officials.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/16/AR2010041604521.html>

### [Maoists in wait and see mood](#)

**Kathmandu Post, 17 April 2010**

KATHMANDU, APR 13 - The Standing Committee (SC) meeting of the UCPN (Maoist) on Monday decided to withhold its plan of tabling a no-confidence motion against the government for some days in view of the intra-party rifts in the ruling Nepali Congress (NC) and CPN-UML. Speaking to the Post, Maoist Secretary CP Gajurel informed that the party would wait for UML Parliamentary Party meeting's decision before taking any steps regarding the government and current politics.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/2010/04/13/national/maoists-in-wait-and-see-mood/312256/>

### [Top Huji leader held in Sylhet](#)

**Daily Star, 17 April 2010**

The Detective Branch of police arrested the alleged UK unit chief of outlawed Islamist outfit Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami Bangladesh in Sylhet on Thursday 14 months after he came out of jail on a High Court bail. The DB yesterday took the Bangladesh-born British citizen, Golam Mostofa, 55, who is also an Afghan war veteran, on a four-day remand for interrogation. London police levelled charges of financing militant groups against Mostofa and have seized various documents relating to militancy in several drives, said Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque at a press briefing yesterday.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=134601>

### [New parliament warned of moves to revive separatist sentiments](#)

**Island, 17 April 2010**

Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa says the new SLFP-led UPFA government should be prepared to thwart a fresh attempt by separatists operating abroad to throw a lifeline to the LTTE. A section of the international community, he says, is bent on reviving the LTTE and giving it recognition. In an exclusive interview with The Island, Defence Secretary Rajapaksa discussed a range of issues, including the need to maintain political stability, strengthening the economy and the responsibility of the new government, which would be installed next week, to sustain a cohesive security policy. He also emphasised the pivotal importance of the judiciary, particularly the Attorney General's Department, in supporting the government's efforts to suppress terrorism.

<http://www.island.lk/2010/04/17/news9.html>

### [T.N.A. PERFORMS CREDITABLY IN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS](#)

**Daily Mirror, 17 April 2010**

The Tamil National Alliance (TNA) contesting under the House symbol of Ilankai Thamil Arasu Katchi (ITAK) has performed creditably in the recently concluded Parliamentary elections. By the dint of this performance the TNA has strengthened its claim to don the political leadership mantle of Sri Lankan Tamils. Though results of Trincomalee district are yet to be officially released due to the re-poll scheduled for Kumburupitty polling station, according to unofficial estimates the TNA leader Rajavarotheyam Sampanthan has won his seat there.

<http://www.dailymirror.lk/>

### ["Do we really need political parties?": Dr Mausoom](#)

**Minivan News, 17 April 2010**

A bill on political parties presented to the parliament by the government yesterday triggered debate over the merits of the political system in the Maldives. Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) MP Ahmed Abdulla presented the bill to the parliament on behalf of the government, with the stated aim of strengthen the democracy of the country and to provide a peaceful way to participate in political activities.

<http://minivannews.com/politics/2010/04/15/do-we-really-need-political-parties-dr-mausoom/>

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

**Times of India, 18 April 2010**

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

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

### [The Karzai Conundrum](#)

**Dawn, 18 April 2010**

First, Karzai conceded that last year's Afghan elections were plagued by fraud, but in a bizarre twist he publicly accused western governments and the United Nations for perpetrating the fraud (a charge that his own administration has been accused of). Next, he reportedly threatened to join the Taliban if the west continued to pressure him on issues such as corruption, transparent elections, and accountability. Sparring with Afghan parliamentarians over control of the election commission, Karzai reportedly said, "If you and the international community pressure me more, I swear that I am going to join the Taliban." According to the New York Times, Karzai has also warned that the US-led coalition in Afghanistan was increasingly being seen as a foreign occupation force. Finally, to add insult to injury, he invited Iran's Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, a staunch opponent of the West, to Kabul for an official visit.

[http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/news/world/03-the-karzai-conundrum-ss-08?pagedesign=Dawn\\_PrintlyFriendlyPage](http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/news/world/03-the-karzai-conundrum-ss-08?pagedesign=Dawn_PrintlyFriendlyPage)

### [Unity on UNMIN mandate, term](#)

**Kathmandu Post, 18 April 2010**

KATHMANDU, APR 17 -The three major political parties — the UCPN (Maoist), the Nepali Congress (NC) and the CPN-UML — have agreed to revise the current

mandate of the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) while also extending its tenure. The tenure of the UN body expires on May 15. "The three parties have agreed to revise UNMIN's mandate in the changed context," NC leader Ram Sharan Mahat said today. "However, our opinion differs from that of the Maoists on the issue of monitoring of Nepal Army," he added. The NC and the UML are in favour of withdrawing the monitoring of the army by UNMIN. However, the main opposition party, the Maoists want the army monitored until the peace process is completed. Such a move will require the revision of the peace agreements between the government and the Maoists as they contradict the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the Agreement on Monitoring and Management of Arms and Armies (AMMAA).

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/04/17/top-stories/Unity-on-UNMIN-mandate-term/207298/>

### [Bangladesh moves up economic liberty index](#)

**Daily Star, 18 April 2010**

Bangladesh has made significant strides in the Index of Economic Freedom world rankings, making its economy the 137th freest in the world. In the ranking, the country's overall score was 51.1, which is 3.6 points higher than that of the last year, according to the report jointly prepared by USA-based think tank Heritage Foundation and the Wall Street Journal. In the Asia-Pacific region Bangladesh has been ranked 29th out of 41 countries.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=134742>

### [TNA, SLMC agree for talks](#)

**Daily Mirror, 18 April 2010**

The Tamil National Alliance (TNA) has invited the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) for talks on working together in parliament in order to ensure the rights of the minorities are secured, SLMC Leader Rauff Hakeem told Daily Mirror online. The invitation for talks was extended by TNA Leader R. Sampanthan to the SLMC Leader last night. SLMC Leader Hakeem had accepted the invitation and assured the TNA Leader that he would meet his party for discussions soon after his return to Colombo after the re-poll in Nawalapitiya on April 20. Hakeem is currently in Kandy campaigning for the re-poll next week.

<http://www.dailymirror.lk/index.php/news/3132-tna-slmc-agree-for-talks.html>

### [Pressure piles up for timely statute](#)

**Kathmandu Post, 21 April 2010**

Nepal Government Employees' Organisation on Tuesday submitted a memorandum to the Chairman of the Constituent Assembly, Subas Chandra Nembang, demanding timely constitution and logical end to the peace process. "We have only 38 days in hand to promulgate the new constitution. As such, the political parties should be serious about drafting it and leading the peace process to a logical end," the memorandum reads. General secretary of the organisation Mohan Kumar Ghimire said they will close their offices and hit the streets if the constitution is not drafted within the stipulated timeframe.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/04/20/Nation/Pressure-piles-up-for-timely-statute/207416/>

### [Senior Chinese diplomat to attend SAARC summit](#)

**People's Daily, 22 April 2010**

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wang Guangya will lead a delegation to the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit next week, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said Thursday. The SAARC summit starting on April 28 in Bhutan will discuss climate change as a key issue. Other issues include energy, food crises and effective implementation of the SAARC Development Fund. China hoped the SAARC would contribute more to regional peace, stability and development, and China would continue dialogue and cooperation with the SAARC in this direction, Jiang said at a regular news briefing.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6960349.html>

### [Interview: Nepal-China relation growing to satisfaction of both sides: ambassador](#)

**People's Daily, 22 April 2010**

Nepal-China relation, based on the five principals of peaceful co-existence, has been growing to the satisfaction of both countries in the past 55 years, Nepali ambassador to China Tanka Karki said in a recent interview with Xinhua. Nepal-China relationship has not faced any sort of political problems since diplomatic relation between two countries was tied on Aug. 1, 1955, he noted. Though the relation between the two countries dated back to ancient period, yet it has never experienced any complication or any dispute has occurred, rather this friendly relation has fostered up with the due course of time, said Karki.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6960293.html>

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

**Tribune, 22 April 2010**

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

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

### [EC says it is ready for fresh elections](#)

**Nepal News, 22 April 2010**

Election Commission has on Wednesday expressed its readiness if it has to conduct fresh elections in the country. Talking at the discussion of the State Affairs Committee, acting chief of the commission Nilakantha Upreti said the commission has enough capacity in terms of resources to conduct general elections, local elections or referendum if it received government order.

<http://www.nepalnews.com/main/index.php/news-archive/2-political/5547-ec-says-it-is-ready-for-fresh-elections.html>

### [Big Three fail to zero in on wayout](#)

**Himalayan, 22 April 2010**

KATHMANDU: The meeting of the High-Level Political Mechanism of the three major parties - Unified CPN-Maoist, Nepali Congress and CPN-UML - ended today without any breakthrough. The leaders of the three parties, however, agreed to sit again on Saturday to dwell on the peace process, constitution-drafting process and power-sharing in the presence of Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, who is an invitee member of the HLPM. The parties have already set six agenda for HLPM, including the extension of the Constituent Assembly's tenure beyond May 28.

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/fullTodays.php?headline=Big+Three+fail+to+zero+in+on+wayout&NewsID=240445>

### [A coming of age summit: Opportunity to showcase Bhutan as an emerging nation](#)

**Kuensel, 23 April 2010**

23 April, 2010 - The main gate at Babesa that welcomes visitors into the capital city stands tall. First come the flags of SAARC member states affixed to the necks of street lamps along the 6.5-km expressway. This is followed by portraits of the heads of eight SAARC member nations also fastened to lamp-posts. An alternate succession of flags and pictures of leaders continues until the end of the expressway at Lungtenzampa.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=15268>

### [Country gets new land](#)

**Daily Star, 23 April 2010**

Study reveals 1,790sq km landmass emerges out of Bay for incredible rate of sedimentation

Even as many worry Bangladesh will shrink in size because of global warming, a new study shows that the country has actually grown in landmass equal to five times the size of Dhaka city. The new land has emerged in the Meghna estuary, where sediments flow down from the Himlayas and collect into charlands. The study found that the 8.5-magnitude 1950 Assam Earthquake increased the sediment flow and has added a net increase of 1,790 square kilometers to the country's land mass.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=135529>

### [Power Sharing: CC largesse to UML, NC has Maoists bristling](#)

**Kathmandu Post, 24 April 2010**

To the great chagrin of the main opposition Maoists, the Constitutional Council has ruled that top posts in key constitutional bodies, including Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority, Public Service Commission, Election Commission and Office of Auditor General be shared by the ruling parties. Most of these posts were lying vacant for the last three years. The parties did not take the UCPN-Maoist into confidence while recommending the names of heads and members of these bodies. The Maoists on Friday said it will not accept the CC decision. It slammed the decision to recommend the names without its consent. Maoist vice-chairman Babu Ram Bhattarai said the government should repeal the decision. "This decision is not acceptable to us and the government should roll it back," he said.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2010/04/23/top-stories/Power-Sharing-CC-largesse-to-UML-NC-has-Maoists-bristling/207520/>

### [Bhola-3 by-polls today amid high tension](#)

**Daily Star, 24 April 2010**

All eyes are on Bhola-3 constituency that goes to poll today amid high tension and tight security, generating much heat in the country's politics since the by-election appears to be a crucial test for the Election Commission as well as the Awami League and BNP. Over 2.34 lakh electorates in the constituency are entitled to exercise their franchise, in the duel between the AL and BNP again after December 29, 2008 parliamentary election. Both the camps are desperate to win the poll and bank on it the coming days' domestic politics, putting the EC on a tight rope to maintain its credibility by holding the election in a free and fair manner.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=135677>

### [Security forces kill 16 Taliban in Orakzai Agency](#)

**Daily Times, 24 April 2010**

HANGU: At least 16 Taliban were killed and several others injured in the ongoing security forces' operation in Orakzai Agency, sources said on Friday. The sources said one security personnel was also injured in the action in Ferozkhel area of Lower Orakzai. Local sources said the security forces were conducting search and clearance operations in the areas cleared of the terrorists. Meanwhile, Taliban blew up a girls' school in Mamozai area of Upper Orakzai Agency. The army has carried out several army operations in the Tribal Areas, where al Qaeda and various Taliban factions have long thrived. The offensives have mainly been aimed at terrorist groups targeting public institutions. The rugged tribal belt has become a stronghold for hundreds of extremists who fled neighbouring Afghanistan after the US-led invasion in late 2001.

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

### [Nato irons out plan for Afghan civilian, military handover](#)

**Dawn, 24 April 2010**

Nato foreign ministers sealed on Friday a plan for international troops and civilian staff in Afghanistan to hand over responsibility to the local military and government. In talks in Tallinn, capital of Estonia, the ministers endorsed guidelines for passing control to the Afghans as Nato and US-led forces drive Taliban and Al Qaeda fighters out of provinces across the insurgency-hit country. "We agreed the approach we will take to transition. We set out a process, the conditions that will have to be met, and what we will do to make those conditions happen," Nato Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said.

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/nato-irons-out-plan-for-afghan-civilian%2C-military-handover-440>

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

**Hindu, 26 April 2010**

KHAAR (BAJAUR): After a bloody campaign that lasted six months, the Pakistan Army has restored control over this tribal agency that nearly fell last year to a

rampaging Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). As the Army helicopter swept down towards the fort, it was clear that the Army and the paramilitary Bajaur Scouts were putting their best foot forward to showcase an area that had gone out of state control to militias aligned with Behtullah Mehsud's TTP.

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

**[Karzai, PM discuss terror, ties](#)**

**Indian Express, 27 April 2010**

New Delhi : On his first visit to India after his re-election, President Hamid Karzai on Monday discussed reintegration of some 'elements' of the Taliban into the mainstream in Afghanistan during his meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Karzai, who also invited Singh to visit Kabul, discussed the upcoming Afghanistan peace consultative Jirga where the Afghan government will seek advice on how to move ahead with the reconciliation effort with some elements of the Taliban. While India has been saying Taliban needs to be dealt with as a single entity and distinctions cannot be made between its various factions, Karzai made it clear during his meeting with Singh that the reconciliation process was on track.

<http://www.indianexpress.com/story-print/611818/>

**[Six key Swat Taliban commanders killed](#)**

**Daily Times, 27 April 2010**

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