

**China: IAEA resolution aims at early resumption of dialogue, negotiation
People's Daily, 1 December 2009**

China said a recent resolution on the Iran nuclear issue was aimed at early resumption of dialogue and negotiation, and urged the international community to work for this aim. Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang made the remarks as commenting on the resolution passed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Nov. 27, which called for the "full cooperation" of Iran to clarify all outstanding issues involving its nuclear program in Vienna. China cast a "yes" vote on the resolution.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6829363.html>

**Speculation Abounds Over N.Korea's Return to 6-Party Talks
Chosun Ilbo, 1 December 2009**

North Korea may announce if and when it will return to the six-party nuclear talks during U.S. special envoy Stephen Bosworth's visit to Pyongyang next week. Japan's Sankei Shimbun cited several officials in Tokyo, who were informed by the U.S. government, as saying that Pyongyang might make an announcement over when it will return to the six-party talks.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/12/01/2009120100776.html

**Hatoyama to wait on Futenma move
Asahi Shimbun, 1 December 2009**

Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama on Monday said he would likely make his decision on the relocation of U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma after a Japan-U.S. working group made its recommendations. "I want to cope (with the Futenma issue) after the working group wraps up their examination (of alternative options)," Hatoyama said. During talks at the Prime Minister's Official Residence, Okinawa Governor Hirokazu Nakaima urged Hatoyama to "remove the risk" posed by the base "as early as possible."

<http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200912010145.html>

**China Pushes Back Against Calls for Yuan Rise
NYT, 1 December 2009**

NANJING, CHINA — China pushed back Monday against calls to let its currency rise, with Prime Minister Wen Jiabao warning that an appreciation in the yuan could hobble Chinese growth. Speaking to reporters after a summit meeting with the European Union, Mr. Wen said the demands being made of Beijing to let the yuan strengthen were not fair. He reaffirmed China's determination to take its own, gradual steps with regards to the currency but said that for now the yuan, also known as the renminbi, would be kept steady.

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

**US to share clean energy technology with India
The Hindu, 1 December 2009**

Washington: The US will share innovative technology in the clean energy sector with India under an MoU signed between the two countries to help it achieve a climate-friendly growth ahead of the crucial Copenhagen summit. "This represents a major step forward in US-India partnerships to strengthen economic growth and energy security, while also addressing the threat of global climate change," says the MoU, the text of which was released by the State Department today.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article58105.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

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

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

**Nepal, US inching towards trade pact
Kathmandu Post, 1 December 2009**

GENEVA, NOV 30 - Nepal has initiated the process for a bilateral trade treaty with the US. On Sunday, Minister for Commerce and Supplies Rajendra Mahato, who is leading the Nepali delegation to the ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva, met US trade representative Ron Kirk and requested for the pact. The two countries have already exchanged the draft of the proposed trade treaty. "We're giving back the draft to the US after making some changes," said Mahato, who hopes to finalise the pact when he travels to the US in February.

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2009/11/30/top-stories/Nepal-US-inching-towards-trade-pact/2559/>

**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&pagewanted=print

China hopes Copenhagen conference achieve "fair and feasible" results

People's Daily, 2 December 2009

China said Tuesday it hoped the upcoming Copenhagen Conference on climate change would achieve "fair and feasible" results. China has advocated the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Kyoto Protocol, and the Bali Road Map, and held the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang at a regular press conference.

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6829364.html>

Russian State Duma speaker hails co-op with China

People's Daily, 2 December 2009

Boris Gryzlov, chairman of the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, said Tuesday that Russia and China have carried out fruitful cooperation between their parliaments and parties in recent years. Gryzlov, at a meeting with Li Hui, the Chinese ambassador to Russia, said he is looking forward to visiting China in 2010. He said that during the trip he will co-chair with Wu Bangguo, China's top legislator, the fourth meeting of the cooperation committee between the State Duma and China's National People's Congress (NPC).

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6830540.html>

Seoul not to accept separate peace deal

JoongAng Daily, 2 December 2009

Seoul would not accept the peace treaty that North Korea is seeking solely with the United States, the top South Korean diplomat said yesterday. Speaking at the Northeast Asia Future Forum, hosted by the JoongAng Ilbo, Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan stressed that any discussion on a peace deal to replace the armistice that ended the Korean War in 1953 must involve South Korea and China, two countries that were part of the original deal.

<http://joongangdaily.joins.com/article/view.asp?aid=2913431>

Japan's Relationship With U.S. Gets a Closer Look

NYT, 2 December 2009

Two months after taking power, Japan's new leadership is still raising alarms in the United States with its continued scrutiny of the countries' more than half-century-old security alliance. But this reconsideration is not a pulling away from the United States so much as part of a broader, mostly domestic effort to outgrow Japan's failed postwar order, say political experts here. More important, the analysts say, these stirrings may also be the first signs of something that both Tokyo and Washington should have had years ago: a more open dialogue on a security relationship that has failed to keep up with the changing realities in Japan and, more broadly, in Asia.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/02/world/asia/02japan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=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>

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

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

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

**China, Russia to hold fourth round security talks in Beijing
People's Daily, 3 December 2009**

China and Russia will hold their fourth round of strategic security talks next week, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman announced on Thursday. "At the invitation of Chinese State Councilor Dai Bingguo, Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev will come to China to attend the fourth round of China-Russia strategic security talks from Dec. 7 to 8," said Qin Gang at a regular news briefing.

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6831729.html>

**North to be under UN rights review
JoongAng Daily, 3 December 2009**

Human rights issues in North Korea will come under the spotlight next week as the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva is set to conduct its review on the country's situation. The North will be part of the council's Universal Periodic Review next Monday. Under the program, all UN member states are subject to review of their human rights conditions every four years. This is the first time North Korea will be under the UPR microscope.

<http://joongangdaily.joins.com/article/view.asp?aid=2913482>

**Japan's New Leader to Face Inquiry
NYT, 3 December 2009**

Tokyo prosecutors will ask Japan's prime minister, Yukio Hatoyama, for a written explanation of his role in millions of dollars of improperly reported political donations, major Japanese newspapers reported on Wednesday, expanding an inquiry that has dogged his fledgling government. But the reported decision to ask for a written account, instead of summoning the prime minister for direct questioning, also suggests that the investigation may be nearing its close without significantly damaging Mr. Hatoyama's popularity, political commentators said.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/03/world/asia/03japan.html?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>

US deports client of Headley's immigration service to India

The Hindu, 3 December 2009

An Indian who used the services of Mumbai-based immigration offices of terror suspects David Headley and Tahawwur Rana has been deported by US authorities to India after his documents were allegedly found to be false. The person (name withheld) hailing from a Gujarat town arrived at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi well past midnight last night, airport sources said on Thursday.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article59502.ece>

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

**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

**China, Russia to hold fourth round security talks in
People's Daily, 4 December 2009**

China and Russia will hold their fourth round of strategic security talks next week, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman announced on Thursday. "At the invitation of Chinese State Councilor Dai Bingguo, Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev will come to China to attend the fourth round of China-Russia strategic security talks from Dec. 7 to 8," said Qin Gang at a regular news briefing.

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6831729.html>

**China, Canada sign green deal
People's Daily, 4 December 2009**

Canada and China signed a series of agreements on issues including climate change Thursday, during a visit by Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper aimed at jump-starting ties between the two countries. Harper held talks with Chinese leaders on the second day of his four-day visit, during which both sides called for an improvement in ties that have languished in recent years.

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6831784.html>

**U.S. Prepares for N.Korea Talks Next Week
Chosun Ilbo, 4 December 2009**

U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Kathleen Stephens unveiled two obligations that special envoy Stephen Bosworth will seek to achieve during his trip to Pyongyang next week. At a forum hosted by the Korea Institute for Defense Analyses, Ambassador Stephens announced that the rare visit will be aimed at facilitating an early resumption of the six-party talks and securing the North's commitment to the 2005 joint agreement that requires a complete and verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/12/04/2009120400778.html

U.S. Troops in Korea 'Will Not Be Rotated' to Afghanistan

Chosun Ilbo, 4 December 2009

The U.S. Defense Department has reportedly notified Korea that it will not transfer American troops stationed in Korea to Afghanistan. Citing an unnamed source at the Defense Ministry in Seoul, Yonhap News reported that the Pentagon's Wallace Gregson, assistant secretary for Asia and Pacific affairs, told his Korean counterpart that the size of U.S. forces in Korea will remain the same.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/12/04/2009120400777.html

**Iran 'Bought Masses of N.Korean Arms'
Chosun Ilbo, 4 December 2009**

Iran has imported piles of North Korean-made conventional weapons, the Washington Post reported Thursday, even though both countries are under UN sanctions over their nuclear programs. Weapons also went to two Palestinian militant organizations, the Iran-backed Hezbollah and the Islamist Hamas, the paper said. To avoid international pursuit, the North Korean weapons were "shipped halfway around the globe in sealed containers, labeled as oil-drilling supplies, that passed through a succession of freighters and ports," including China, Southeast Asia and the Dubai free trade zone, before reaching Iran, it said.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/12/04/2009120400315.html

**Hatoyama: Guam under consideration for Futenma move
Asahi Shimbun, 4 December 2009**

Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama said Friday that Guam is among possible relocation sites of the U.S. Futenma air station but said the plan to keep the base in Okinawa Prefecture is "still on." Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa told reporters the same day he plans to visit Guam as early as next week to see U.S. military facilities there.

<http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200912040294.html>

**India, U.S. in talks for Malabar joint services war game
The Hindu, 4 December 2009**

India and U.S. are in talks to convert their bilateral Malabar series of naval exercises into a joint services war game involving their navies, air forces and marine commandos. U.S. Pacific Command chief Admiral Robert F. Willard, who is on a two-day visit to India, said both nations' militaries had "joint capabilities" but that needed to be practised and hence the idea to involve both countries' air forces and marine commandos in the exercise.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article60053.ece>

**LeT real engine of terror in South Asia: India
DAily Excelsior, 4 December 2009**

India today said it has conveyed to the US that groups like Lashkar-e-Toiba were the "real engines" of terrorism in South Asia and hoped that America would be more proactive in containing these outfits. Speaking on Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh's visit to the US last week and its outcome, External Affairs Minister S M Krishna told both Houses of Parliament that the two countries have expressed commitment to

expeditious realisation of full potential of the Civil Nuclear Agreement.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/09dec04/news.htm#1>

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

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

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>

India Announces Plan to Slow Emissions

NYT, 4 December 2009

With international talks on climate change starting next week in Copenhagen, India

staked out its early position on Thursday by announcing that it would slow the growth of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, while also leaving open the possibility of taking bolder steps if an "equitable" deal can be reached during the negotiations. The Indian initiative, presented in Parliament by the country's top environmental official, means that India has now joined the United States, China, Brazil, Indonesia and South Africa in making a domestic emissions pledge before the Copenhagen talks. Like China, its approach is focused on improving energy efficiency rather than accepting mandatory limits on emissions.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/04/world/asia/04india.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

**U.S. Undersecretary of State Burns to visit China, Indonesia
People's Daily, 5 December 2009**

U.S. Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs William J. Burns will visit China and Indonesia next week, the State Department said on Friday. "At the invitation of his Chinese counterpart, Undersecretary Burns will travel to Beijing Dec. 8 and 9 to address key issues discussed during President Obama's recent visit," spokesman Ian Kelly told reporters at the daily press briefing.

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90777/90852/6833077.html>

**Canada to further economic ties with China: PM
People's Daily, 5 December 2009**

Canada would like to further economic ties with China, said visiting Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Shanghai on Friday. Harper announced the launch of four new trade offices in China by the Canadian government in cooperation with the Canadian Commercial Cooperation at a welcome banquet here Friday night.

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90783/91300/6833032.html>

**No decision on Futenma this year
Asahi Shimbun, 5 December 2009**

Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama's delayed decision on where to relocate a U.S. military base has become a dilemma over whether to anger Japan's most important ally or risk losing a key ruling coalition partner. For now, the Cabinet appears set to delay a decision on moving the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, now in

densely populated Ginowan, Okinawa Prefecture, until next year.

<http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200912040158.html>

Another Clue to How China Managed Obama's Visit

NYT, 5 December 2009

BEIJING — In case President Obama is curious, some students who went to his town hall meeting in Shanghai last month wonder how he gets along with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, given their bruising battle for the presidency. They didn't ask him. They weren't allowed. "This is a sensitive question," Ni Shixiong, one of the Chinese organizers of the event, said in an interview published in the new edition of Southern People Weekly. "It's better not to ask things related to U.S. politics."

<http://in.mc598.mail.yahoo.com/mc/login?ymv=0>

Manmohan to attend Copenhagen summit

The Hindu, 5 December 2009

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will attend the December 7-18 climate summit at Copenhagen on its last two days, a government spokesman said here Saturday. The Prime Minister will attend the "high-level segment" of the summit, where U.S. President Barack Obama, Chinese President Hu Jintao and a host of European heads of government are also scheduled to attend.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article60541.ece?homepage=true>

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

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

**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>

**U.S. Envoy in Seoul Before N.Korea Trip
Chosun Ilbo, 7 December 2009**

U.S. special representative for North Korea policy Stephen Bosworth, who visits Pyongyang on Dec. 8-10, arrived in Seoul on Sunday for talks before he heads for the North. Bosworth arrived at Incheon International Airport but dodged reporters waiting at the arrivals terminal by getting into a car on the apron and went to his quarters in downtown Seoul.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/12/07/2009120700240.html

**Okada: Futenma talks near limit
Asahi Shimbun, 7 December 2009**

Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada blasted the idea of prolonging negotiations over the U.S. Futenma air base, suggesting that the original plan to relocate the base to the northern part of the main island of Okinawa Prefecture has become the only option. "We have had an intensive discussion for two months," Okada said in a meeting with Masao Kishimoto, president of the Okinawa Times newspaper, and others in Naha on Saturday. "(The negotiations) are reaching the limit."

<http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200912070048.html>

**India, Russia sign nuclear deal
The Hindu, 7 December 2009**

India and Russia on Monday signed a path-breaking broad-based agreement in civil nuclear field that will ensure transfer of technology and uninterrupted uranium fuel supplies to its nuclear reactors and inked three pacts in the defence sector. The agreements were signed after talks between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev at the Kremlin here, during which they discussed a whole range of issues, including terrorism emanating from Afghanistan.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article61503.ece>

FBI team in India with Headley information

The Hindu, 7 December 2009

A Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) team arrived in India on a two-day visit with information on Pakistan-born suspected Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operatives David Coleman Headley and Tahawwur Rana presently in US custody. "Investigations are on in the matter. The FBI team is here and we have been assured of all cooperation from the US," External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna said on the sidelines of the India-Africa Hydrocarbon Conference here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article61224.ece>

India keen to play deal-maker at Copenhagen**The Hindu, 7 December 2009**

Pledging to reduce its emissions intensity by 20-25 per cent as done by China, India led by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is ready to play a leadership role at the global climate summit at Copenhagen. Mr. Singh will join U.S. President Barack Obama and over 100 world leaders at the summit with the likelihood increasing of a consensus on a new global deal to replace the Kyoto Protocol which expires in 2012.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article61080.ece>

Russia supports India's claim for permanent UNSC seat**The Hindu, 7 December 2009**

Terming India a "deserving candidate", Russia on Monday backed its claim for a permanent membership in an expanded United Nations Security Council reflecting present-day realities. "Russia views India as one of the deserving candidates for the seat of permanent member in the expanded UNSC," says a joint declaration signed here after summit talks between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article61516.ece>

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. Fakhharul 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>

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

**U.S. Report on Sri Lanka Urges New Approach
NYT, 7 December 2009**

NEW DELHI — A report on Sri Lanka to be released next week by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee urges a less confrontational approach to that nation, citing strategic American interests in the region. The report says that while the Sri Lankan government has been widely criticized for its handling of the war against the Tamil Tigers, who were fighting for a separate state for the ethnic Tamil minority in northern Sri Lanka, the government has also achieved a measure of progress in resettling the conflict's displaced and rebuilding the war-shattered east of the country.

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/07/world/asia/07lanka.html?_r=1&ref=asia

**China expects U.S.-DPRK dialogue to restart stalled Korean nuclear talks
People's Daily, 8 December 2009**

A Chinese Foreign Ministry official said Tuesday the government hoped dialogue between the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) will revive the stalled Korean nuclear talks. "We back the U.S.-DPRK engagement and dialogue. We expect the dialogue to help restart the six-party talks," spokeswoman Jiang Yu told the regular briefing on Tuesday.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6835891.html>

**U.S.: Agenda for N.Korea Talks 'Quite Narrow'
Chosun Ilbo, 8 December 2009**

A senior State Department official said Monday that the U.S. agenda for talks with North Korea will be limited to determining whether Pyongyang is willing to return to Chinese-sponsored talks on its nuclear program and to reaffirm its 2005 agreement in principle to disarm. U.S. envoy to North Korea Stephen Bosworth will arrive in Pyongyang on Tuesday for the highest-level bilateral meeting since President Barack Obama took office in January.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/12/08/2009120800756.html

**Korea, Canada Pledge to Work for Progress on FTA
Chosun Ilbo, 8 December 2009**

President Lee Myung-bak and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper on Monday agreed to work for progress in bilateral free trade negotiations. The two met at Cheong Wa Dae. Korea and Canada launched free trade talks in 2005, but 13 rounds of negotiations have failed to produce an accord due to differences on issues like the resumption of beef imports from Canada.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/12/08/2009120800550.html

**U.S. Envoy Makes Rare Visit to North Korea
NYT, 8 December 2009**

SEOUL, South Korea — President Obama's envoy to North Korea began a rare trip to Pyongyang on Tuesday, on a mission to halt the North's reactivated nuclear weapons program and persuade it to return to nuclear disarmament talks. The envoy, Stephen W. Bosworth, is the most senior American official to visit North Korea since October 2008, when Christopher R. Hill, who was then assistant secretary of state, met North Korean officials in Pyongyang. His trip marked a new phase in United States diplomacy toward North Korea. For months, the United States had focused on punishing North Korea, leading an international campaign to enforce sanctions imposed on it for testing a long-range rocket in April and detonating a nuclear device in May.

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

Years Later, Destruction of a Mosque Still Echoes NYT, 8 December 2009

AYODHYA, India — To reach the most hotly disputed religious site in India, a pilgrim must negotiate a maze of caged paths, designed so that worshipers can approach it only single file, pockets emptied of everything but lint. Only the monkeys are not frisked by its thorough phalanx of security guards. From 1528 until 1992, a squat, nondescript mosque sat on this spot. But 17 years ago this week, a mob of Hindu activists tore the building to pieces with little more than their bare hands. Their goal was to clear the ground for a grand temple to Ram on the patch of ground they claimed was his birthplace.

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/08/world/asia/08india.html?_r=1&ref=asia&pagewanted=print

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&pagewanted=print

Chinese President hails strategic security talks with Russia People's Daily, 9 December 2009

Chinese President Hu Jintao Tuesday spoke highly of the strategic security talks with Russia that helped to promote bilateral ties, pledging to further the bilateral strategic partnership of cooperation in the coming year. The security talks, initiated in February 2005, served as a platform for the two states to enhance political trust and cooperation in various fields, especially in law-enforcement and security aspects.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6836012.html>

Canadian PM's visit to China re-energizes bilateral ties
People's Daily, 9 December 2009

Observers here have rated the recent Canadian prime minister's visit to China as having re-energized stagnated ties with the Asian country. "I think the results (advanced) the relationship between the two countries," said Barbara MacDougall, former Canadian secretary of state for external affairs, in an interview with Xinhua.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6836842.html>

UN Human Rights Council Condemns N.Korea
Chosun Ilbo, 9 December 2009

The UN Human Rights Council has called on North Korea to reveal the realities of life there, pointing out the country's dismal human rights record. At the Universal Periodic Review in Geneva, the majority of the 47-nation council accused the communist state of widespread rights abuses such as forced child labor, public executions and torture and criticized the lack of transparency about human rights conditions.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/12/09/2009120900641.html

U.S., N.Korea Start Talks with 'Narrow Scope'
Chosun Ilbo, 9 December 2009

Stephen Bosworth, the special U.S. envoy for North Korea policy, arrived in Pyongyang Tuesday for official talks. Bosworth is the third American special envoy visiting North Korea after William Perry, who visited in 1999 under the Clinton administration, and James Kelly, who did the same in 2002 under the Bush administration. Bosworth is accompanied by Sung Kim, the special envoy for the North Korean nuclear talks, Michael Schiffer, deputy assistant secretary of Defense for East Asia, and Daniel Russel, a senior director for Asian affairs on the National Security Council.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/12/09/2009120900306.html

Japan-U.S. talks on Futenma transfer to be suspended
Asahi Shimbun, 9 December 2009

High-level Japan-U.S. talks aimed at settling the Futenma relocation issue once and for all will likely be shelved for a while due to concern the current stalemate could damage bilateral ties, Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada said Tuesday. Okada said U.S. officials at the previous meeting on Dec. 4 raised concerns that the standoff over the base transfer issue could jeopardize a dialogue process aimed at strengthening the bilateral relationship, agreed upon at Japan-U.S. summit talks in November.

<http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200912090302.html>

Japan to Give U.S. a Plan on Air Base

NYT, 9 December 2009

TOKYO — Japan's prime minister, Yukio Hatoyama, said Wednesday that he wants to present concrete proposals to President Obama next week in hopes of ending a growing rift between his new government and Washington over an American military air base in Okinawa. Mr. Hatoyama did not disclose the content of the proposals, which he and members of his cabinet appeared to be still working out at the prime minister's residence. Mr. Hatoyama said he may seek a meeting with Mr. Obama during the climate change conference in Copenhagen to relay the proposals directly to him.

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/10/world/asia/10japan.html?_r=1&ref=asia&page_wanted=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 resettlement program satisfactory - Robert Blake

Daily News, 9 December 2009

United States Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia and Central Asia and former US Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Robert Blake expressed satisfaction with the Government's resettlement program now under way and the new freedom of movement allowed. He said he was pleased with the mine risk education being given to students. Blake made these comments during his visit to the Menik Farm relief centre yesterday morning.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/12/09/news03.asp>

In India, Anxiety Over the Slow Pace of Innovation

NYT, 9 December 2009

In India, Anxiety Over the Slow Pace of Innovation Even as the rest of the world has come to admire, envy and fear India's outsourcing business and its technological prowess, many Indians are disappointed that the country has not quickly moved up to more ambitious and lucrative work from answering phones or writing software. Why, they worry, hasn't India produced a Google or an Apple? Innovation is hard to measure, but academics who study it say India has the potential to create trend-setting products but is not yet doing so. Indians are granted about half as many American patents for inventions as people and firms in Israel and China. The country's corporate and government spending on research and development significantly lags behind that of other nations. And venture capitalists finance far fewer companies here than they do elsewhere.

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/09/business/global/09innovate.html?_r=1&ref=asia&pagewanted=print

**China, India, Brazil agree to enhance cooperation against climate change
People's Daily, 10 December 2009**

Premier Wen Jiabao on Thursday held separate telephone conversations concerning climate change with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. The three leaders all expressed willingness to enhance coordination and cooperation to deal with climate change, as the U.N. Climate Change Conference, which opened Monday and will run through Dec. 18, continued in Copenhagen.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6838884.html>

**Bosworth to discuss DPRK visit with Chinese officials: Chinese FM
People's Daily, 10 December 2009**

U.S. special envoy on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Stephen Bosworth will discuss his visit to the DPRK with the Chinese officials when he arrives in China Friday, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said Thursday. Bosworth is scheduled to meet with Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi and Vice Minister Wu Dawei, Jiang Yu told a regular news briefing.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6838785.html>

**CIA Anticipated N.Korean Assault After 1979 Coup
Chosun Ilbo, 10 December 2009**

A recently released report indicates that the U.S. government prepared to declare a state of emergency and was ready to repel a North Korean assault following the South Korean military's coup d'état on Dec. 12, 1979. Titled "North Korean Reaction to Instability in the South," the report was written by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) about a week after the December coup. It projected a 50:50 chance of large-scale military action by the communist North and added that the main deterrent preventing Pyongyang from taking action was the presence of U.S. forces in the South.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/12/10/2009121000750.html

N.Korea in Fresh Attempt to Lure Foreign Investment Chosun Ilbo, 10 December 2009

Even as North Korea struggles under UN sanctions and is in the midst of a controversial currency reform aimed at breaking the back of a nascent free market, the reclusive country is apparently in the process of changing laws in order to attract more foreign investment, an expert said Wednesday. It is even offering foreign companies wages cheaper than those paid to North Korean workers at the joint-Korean Kaesong Industrial Complex, according to Jack Pritchard, president of the Korea Economic Institute in Washington D.C.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/12/10/2009121000857.html

U.S. Envoy Meets N.Korean Officials Chosun Ilbo, 10 December 2009

Visiting U.S. special representative for North Korea policy Stephen Bosworth is believed to have met with North Korea's Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-ju in Pyongyang on Wednesday to discuss the nuclear issue. In a press briefing on Tuesday, State Department Assistant Secretary Philip Crowley said, "Stephen Bosworth and the interagency team probably did have meetings in Pyongyang after they arrived from Seoul earlier today. They'll have meetings, we expect, tomorrow as well," adding, "We have been promised in our preparatory work with the North Koreans that there would be high-level authoritative interactions with North Korean officials."

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/12/10/2009121000655.html

China and Russia Lagging in Global Anti-Graft Effort NYT, 10 December 2009

PARIS — A sensitive question loomed this week over celebrations for the 10th anniversary of an international convention aimed at curbing bribery: Where were China and Russia? At events in Paris and Washington on Wednesday, officials and campaigners lauded the progress made under the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Anti-Bribery Convention, in terms of laws passed and convictions secured. At the same time, they conceded that the enforcement record was sometimes spotty, even for the 38 signatories, and announced steps to tighten its standards.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/11/business/global/11corrupt.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

China's Economic Power Unsettles the Neighbors NYT, 10 December 2009

China has long claimed to be just another developing nation, even as its economic power far outstripped that of any other emerging country. Now, it is finding it harder to cast itself as a friendly alternative to an imperious American superpower. For many in Asia, it is the new colossus. "China 10 years ago is totally different with China now," said Ansari Bukhari, who oversees metals, machinery and other crucial sectors for Indonesia's Ministry of Industry. "They are stronger and bigger than other countries. Why do we have to give them preference?"

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/10/world/asia/10jakarta.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

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>

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

Women's role in politics minimal in Lanka
Daily News, 10 December 2009

Sri Lanka displays positive aspects regarding its population, other than in one area: the number of women in politics. This disclosure was made at the joint commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the 40th Anniversary of the United Nations Population Fund held at Cinnamon Grand Tuesday. The ICPD report was released on the occasion. Sri Lanka displays just one negative trend out of the fourteen ICPD indicators, namely the number of seats in Parliament held by women.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/12/10/news44.asp>

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&pagewanted=print

Hunger Striker Tests India's Political Map NYT, 10 December 2009

HYDERABAD, India — Less than two weeks ago, K. Chandrasekhar Rao was a marginalized politician whose principles were questioned even by some of his supporters. His regional party was floundering, and his rivals snickered over his political comeuppance. Then a man staring at political oblivion reached out for a most unlikely source of inspiration: Gandhi. For the next 10 days, Mr. Rao waged a hunger strike that unexpectedly mutated into a national melodrama. He swore to starve to death if India did not reconfigure its political map by carving out a new state anchored by this city, a major technology hub and home to multinationals like Dell and Motorola. The sprawling size of the current state wrongly deprived local people, a minority known as the Telangana, of their share of prosperity, he argued.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/11/world/asia/11india.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

Nation rolls out steel tax on US People's Daily, 11 December 2009

China, the world's largest maker and consumer of steel products, fired back yesterday at the United States for its anti-dumping measures against Chinese steel exports, launching its own punitive taxes on steel from US as well as Russia. The Ministry of Commerce said yesterday on its website that US and Russian steelmakers must pay anti-dumping duties as high as 25 percent beginning today. The US steel industry must also tack on a 12 percent tax when it exports its products to China.

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6839940.html>

China wants population reflected in outcome of climate talks People's Daily, 11 December 2009

China has called for the impact of population to be factored into the final result of the UN climate change conference here. "A solution to climate change is closely related to population management. China's experiences show that long-term, balanced development can only be achieved through population management and other effective measures," Zhao Baige, vice minister of China's National Population and Family Planning Commission, told reporters on the sidelines of the UN conference Thursday.

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6840033.html>

U.S. Fails to Persuade N.Korea Back to 6-Way Talks Chosun Ilbo, 11 December 2009

A visit to North Korea by U.S. envoy Stephen Bosworth ended in failure Thursday to convince the North to return to multilateral nuclear disarmament talks. "We identified some common understandings on the need for and the role of the six-party talks and the importance of the implementation of the 2005 Joint Statement," Bosworth told reporters. "It remains to be seen when and how [North Korea] will return to the six-party talks." He added, "This is something that requires further consultations among all six of us." But Bosworth claimed he had "very useful" meetings with senior North Korean officials.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/12/11/2009121100362.html

**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

**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

**Chinese FM discusses bilateral ties, Copenhagen conference with counterparts
People's Daily, 12 December 2009**

Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi exchanged views with his counterparts from a number of other countries on the ongoing U.N. Climate Change Conference and bilateral relations during telephone conversations this week. The countries included Indonesia, Sudan, Australia, Russia, the United States, South Korea, and the United Arab Emirates.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6840093.html>

**Talks on for nuclear power plants: French envoy
The Hindu, 12 December 2009**

Negotiations were on between France and India to set up two nuclear power plants in southern Maharashtra, French Ambassador Jerome Bonnafont said here on Friday. Replying to questions at a press conference, he said the two 1,600 MWe European pressurised reactors (ECRs) would be set up by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India and French company Areva. This could be followed by four more power plants.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article64286.ece>

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

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

Dangerous conspiracy
Daily News, 12 December 2009

There is a very grave situation in the country with the most dangerous conspiracy afoot since independence. It was a Washington consensus nomination putting together the unholy JVP-UNP extreme Left extreme Right combination, Constitutional Affairs and National Integration Minister D.E.W. Gunasekera said yesterday. Addressing the UPFA press conference at the Mahaweli Centre, Colombo, the Minister said all reactionary national and international forces mysterious and unseen have come together.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/12/12/pol01.asp>

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>

**New Incidents Test Immunity to Terrorism on U.S. Soil
NYT, 12 December 2009**

WASHINGTON — As the years passed after Sept. 11, 2001, without another major attack on American soil and with no sign of hidden terrorist cells, many counterterrorism specialists reached a comforting conclusion: Muslims in the United States were not very vulnerable to radicalization. American Muslims, the reasoning went, were well assimilated in diverse communities with room for advancement. They showed little of the alienation often on display among their European counterparts, let alone attraction to extremist violence. But with a rash of recent cases in which Americans have been accused of being drawn into terrorist scheming, the rampage at Fort Hood, Tex., last month and now the alarming account of five young Virginia men who went to Pakistan and are suspected of seeking jihad, the notion that the United States has some immunity against homegrown terrorists is coming under new scrutiny.

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/12/us/12assess.html?_r=1&ref=asia&pagewanted=print

**N.Korean Assessment of U.S. Visit Seen as Positive in S.Korea
Chosun Ilbo, 13 December 2009**

North Korea is giving an upbeat assessment of a visit by a senior U.S. envoy. In Seoul, experts on Pyongyang see the reaction as a sliver of progress toward resuming talks aimed at ending the North's nuclear weapons programs. Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on Friday said the meeting with U.S. envoy Stephen Bosworth produced "a series of common understandings on the need to resume the six-party talks."

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/12/12/2009121200265.html

**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>

**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

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>

Maldives will receive Guantanamo prisoners, says President

Minivan, 13 December 2009

President Mohamed Nasheed has said the Maldives will take prisoners released from Guantanamo Bay, the controversial American prison in Cuba that houses terror suspects. In his weekly radio address on Friday, the president said the Obama administration came into power pledging to close down the prison and release a number of detainees.

<http://minivannews.com/politics/2009/12/13/maldives-will-receive-guantanamo-prisoners-says-president/>

What Hope for Progress in U.S.-N.Korea Talks?

Chosun Ilbo, 14 December 2009

The seizure in Bangkok on Sunday of a Georgian cargo aircraft carrying weapons from North Korea is giving rise to concerns that U.S.-North Korea dialogue could suffer as a result. North Korea is being as duplicitous by pursuing dialogue with the U.S. while continuing with its weapons exports. Some say the mood of detente between the United States and North Korea was always an illusion. U.S. envoy Stephen Bosworth's mission to North Korea last week produced upbeat assessments from both sides. "For a preliminary meeting it was quite positive," said Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman said, "Differences in mutual views were narrowed and a series of common understandings reached."

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/12/14/2009121400664.html

India-Russia ties back on track: Russian envoy

The Hindu, 14 December 2009

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's recent summit with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev in Moscow has injected "a new freshness" into India-Russia relations which are now "back on a very solid track," the Russian envoy said here Monday. A new freshness has been infused into the India-Russia relationship, Russian

Ambassador Alexander Kadakin told reporters here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article64827.ece>

CPI (M) member says India should get access to Headley

The Hindu, 14 December 2009

A CPI(M) member on Monday expressed serious concern over the US denying India access to David Coleman Headley, Pakistani-origin Lashkar-e-Taiba operative, for interrogation in connection with the 26/11 terror attacks and asked the Government to be "bold enough" to demand it. Raising the issue during Zero Hour, M B Rajesh said India has a right to interrogate Headley as he appears to be the prime conspirator behind the Mumbai attacks.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article64861.ece>

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>

New Gas Pipeline From Central Asia Feeds China

NYT, 15 December 2009

MOSCOW — With the turn of a ceremonial valve, China's president, Hu Jintao, opened a big natural gas pipeline from central Asia to China on Monday, significantly increasing China's access to the fuel and providing the first major alternative to exporting the region's gas through Russia. The ambitious project runs 1,140 miles across three Central Asian nations to the Chinese border, linking Turkmenistan to the Chinese region of Xinjiang. Once inside China, it connects with a pipeline that can carry the fuel even farther east.

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

Japan Delays Decision on Moving U.S. Marine Base

NYT, 15 December 2009

TOKYO — The Japanese prime minister, Yukio Hatoyama, said Tuesday that he will postpone a decision on relocating an American military base on Okinawa until next year, leaving unresolved an issue that has strained Washington's ties with its closest Asian ally. Mr. Hatoyama said members of his governing coalition will continue to discuss whether to change a 2006 agreement between Washington and Tokyo to relocate the base, known as Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, to a less populated part of Okinawa.

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

**Arms Sales to Taiwan Will Proceed, U.S. Says
NYT, 15 December 2009**

BEIJING — The Obama administration will proceed with arms sales to Taiwan despite recent protests by Chinese officials, an American official said Tuesday. The official, Raymond Burghardt, is chairman of the American Institute in Taipei, the de facto United States Embassy in Taiwan. Speaking in a telephone interview from Hawaii, where he lives, he said that sales of arms to Taiwan were consistent with what White House officials have been saying was President Obama's policy. "No one should be surprised when we move forward with them," he said.

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

**China to work with France to advance bilateral ties, says FM spokeswoman
People's Daily, 15 December 2009**

China on Tuesday said it hoped to work with France to promote the healthy and stable growth of bilateral ties. French Prime Minister Francois Fillon will pay an official visit to China from Dec. 20 to 22 as guest of Premier Wen Jiabao. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu briefed a regular press conference on Fillon's upcoming visit, saying that Chinese President Hu Jintao, top legislator Wu Bangguo and Premier Wen will meet with him separately.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6843199.html>

**Japan likely to further delay Futenma decision
Asahi Shimbun, 15 December 2009**

Despite pressure from Washington for an early decision, months may pass before the Hatoyama Cabinet decides where it wants to relocate the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma now in Okinawa Prefecture. Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama on Tuesday decided to set up a working group of representatives of the three ruling parties on the issue. But in a meeting to establish the working group, party leaders not only failed to agree on a proposed relocation site, they also bickered over when a decision should be made.

<http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200912150331.html>

**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>

India fears climate talks will collapse
The Hindu, 15 December 2009

With no signs of breakthrough in the tough negotiations in the climate change conference here, India fears that the talks could collapse. As negotiators raced against time to hammer out a deal, four developing countries - India, Brazil, South Africa and China - today issued a joint statement accusing the rich nations of trying to derail the talks.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article65657.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

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

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

Obama phones Hasina, says US to stand by Bangladesh
Daily Star, 15 December 2009

US President Barack Obama Monday night phoned Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and hoped that she would play an important role in the Copenhagen climate summit. Obama assured her that the US government would stand beside Bangladesh in its battle against climate change.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=117923>

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>

Korea, U.S. Draw Up Fresh Joint War Plan
Chosun Ilbo, 16 December 2009

The Korean and U.S. militaries have agreed to develop a single joint operational plan even after their Combined Forces Command (CFC) is disbanded and full operational control of Korean troops is handed back to Seoul in 2012. The two countries have already finished a fresh draft joint operational plan. The Korean military believes the plan will guarantee the immediate dispatch of U.S. reinforcements from Hawaii and other regions in case of war. Operational plans determine action down to which combat units would carry out what operations when and where.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/12/16/2009121600523.html

USFK Could Face Overseas Deployment from 2013
Chosun Ilbo, 16 December 2009

The U.S. Forces Korea may face action elsewhere under the concept of "strategic flexibility" once a scheme to keep personnel in the country for three years has been fully implemented, a diplomatic source in Washington said Tuesday. But the source added that this will not include Afghanistan, at least in the short term. Under pressure from the U.S. in 2006, Korea agreed to allow the USFK to be deployed abroad as part of the Bush administration's plan to cut military spending. The concept of "strategic flexibility" in Asia was modeled after the U.S. forces in Germany's dispatch to the Balkans during the war there in the 1990s.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/12/16/2009121600990.html

Obama Sends Letter to Kim Jong-il
Chosun Ilbo, 16 December 2009

U.S. officials say President Barack Obama has sent a letter to North Korean leader Kim Jong-il as international efforts to get Pyongyang to return to talks on its nuclear program intensify. Speaking on condition of anonymity, State Department officials said that the letter was delivered last week when the administration's special envoy on North Korea, Stephen Bosworth, traveled to Pyongyang. Officials declined, however, to comment on its contents.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/12/16/2009121602044.html

Futenma decision shelved until next year
Asahi Shimbun, 16 December 2009

Despite pressure from Washington for an early decision, it could be months before the Hatoyama Cabinet decides where it wants to relocate the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma now in Ginowan, Okinawa Prefecture. Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada on Tuesday notified U.S. Ambassador John Roos of Tokyo's policy to postpone deciding on the relocation site until next year.

<http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200912160143.html>

PM to leave for Copenhagen on Thursday
The Hindu, 16 December 2009

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will leave for Copenhagen on Thursday to renew India's pitch for "a balanced, equitable and ambitious outcome" at the U.N. climate summit there. The Prime Minister's Special Envoy on Climate Change Shyam Saran and Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao and Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh will accompany Singh during the visit to the Danish capital, said the report. India has announced that it will consider an emission intensity cut of 20 to 25 percent by 2020, but has made clear that it would not be forced into accepting binding cuts in greenhouse gas emissions.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article66072.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 handwritten 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

Govt. to mull over UPR proposals Kuensel, 16 December 2009

Co-leader of the Bhutanese delegation, former minister Kinzang Dorji, with Bhutan's permanent representative to Geneva, Yeshey Dorji, at the review 16 December, 2009 - Bhutan did not accept or reject any of the recommendations it received during its human rights (HR) universal periodic review (UPR) held on December 4, Geneva, Switzerland. Although the government could have accepted or rejected recommendations on an interim basis during the adoption process of its UPR outcome report, delegation leader and special envoy of the prime minister, Kinzang Dorji, said the government would provide decisions on the recommendations only during the 13th session of the HR council to be held in March, 2010.

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=14240>

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>

China urges six parties to seize opportunity to restart Korea talks
People's Daily, 17 December 2009

China on Thursday urged parties involved in the Korean nuclear talks to seize the favorable opportunity to restart the stalled talks following U.S. special envoy's Pyongyang visit. "We believe that all parties involved should grab favorable opportunities and make joint efforts to improve the situation on the Korean Peninsula," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Jiang Yu told a regular press briefing.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6845599.html>

U.S. 'Preparing for Renegotiation of Korea-U.S. FTA'
Chosun Ilbo, 17 December 2009

The U.S. is reportedly preparing to address issues it has regarding the auto industry which have held up ratification of the bilateral free trade agreement with Korea. U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk told reporters that officials are working through pending issues and plan to sit down with Korea's Trade Minister Kim Jong-hoon for talks.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/12/17/2009121700674.html

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>

Opposition questions Govt. over US cooperation into Headley probe
The Hindu, 17 December 2009

Seeking to corner the government, Opposition parties today asked it to spell out the kind of cooperation that the US had extended in the probe against David Coleman Headley and Tahawwur Rana as they noted that Indian investigators had not even been allowed access to them. The BJP, Samajwadi Party and Left parties questioned in the Rajya Sabha whether the US had passed on all information related to Headley and Rana, Lashkar-e-Taiba operatives held in Chicago in October and charged with conspiracy in Mumbai attacks.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article66382.ece?css=print>

Mamata, G8 ban cast shadow on Indo-Russian nuclear deal
The Hindu, 17 December 2009

Indian officials put on a brave face earlier this year when the G8 decided to ban the sale of enrichment and reprocessing (ENR) technology to countries that had not signed the NPT, insisting the resolution was not binding and that members of the rich nations club remained free to sell sensitive nuclear items to India. But when negotiations to finalise a broad-based nuclear compact were held in Delhi earlier this month, all attempts by the Indian side to include ENR items and technology in the areas of cooperation envisaged by the new agreement drew a firm nynet from the visiting delegation. "Russia's hands are tied because of the G8 decision," they told the Indian negotiators.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article66686.ece?css=print>

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

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>

Obama Presses China on Rules for Monitoring Emissions Cuts
NYT, 18 December 2009

COPENHAGEN — President Obama, speaking to world leaders gathered here at the frenzied end of two weeks of climate talks, urged them to come to an agreement — no matter how imperfect — to address global warming and monitor whether countries are in compliance with promised emissions cuts. His remarks appeared to be a pointed reference to China's resistance on the issue of monitoring, which has proved a stubborn obstacle at the talks and a source of tension between China and the United States, the two largest emitters of greenhouse gases. After delivering the speech to a plenary session of 119 world leaders, Mr. Obama met privately with China's prime minister, Wen Jiabao, in an hourlong session that a White House official described as "constructive."

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/19/science/earth/19climate.html?_r=1&ref=asia&pagewanted=print

**Bosworth Talked About Peace Treaty with N.Korea
Chosun Ilbo, 18 December 2009**

The U.S. special representative for North Korea policy Stephen Bosworth discussed prospects of a peace treaty with officials during his recent visit to Pyongyang. In a briefing at the State Department on Wednesday, Bosworth said, "We talked specifically about what kind of conditions would be necessary to move into a peace treaty negotiation."

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/12/18/2009121800344.html

**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>

**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>

**20 Uighurs Are Deported to China
NYT, 20 December 2009**

BANGKOK — Under pressure from China, and despite the objections of the United States and the United Nations, the Cambodian government on Saturday deported 20 members of the Uighur minority who had sought asylum after fleeing a government crackdown in China. "They are going back to China," said an Interior Ministry spokesman, Lt. Gen. Khieu Sopheak. He said the Uighurs had been put on a special plane sent from China that left the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh, on Saturday night.

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/20/world/asia/20uighur.html?_r=1&ref=asia&pagewanted=print

**Chinese premier meets Obama over climate change
People's Daily, 20 December 2009**

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao met with U.S. President Barack Obama in Copenhagen on Friday to discuss climate change. Wen said climate change is a global challenge and an important field for cooperation between China and the United States. The key to this issue is to stick to the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities," said Wen.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6846797.html>

**Report: U.S. Proposes Diplomatic Office in N.Korea
Chosun Ilbo, 20 December 2009**

South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported Friday that Washington has proposed setting up a liaison office in Pyongyang. If accurate, the offer would establish the first permanent and direct diplomatic interaction between the two countries. The offer was apparently part of a letter hand carried to Pyongyang earlier this month by U.S. envoy Stephen Bosworth. Bosworth refused to acknowledge the existence of such a letter while here in Seoul following his trip. The South Korean media report cites diplomatic sources in China.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/12/19/2009121900257.html

**N.Korea Confirms Obama Letter Received
Chosun Ilbo, 20 December 2009**

North Korea's state-run news agency, KCNA, said Friday that U.S. special envoy for North Korea Stephen Bosworth gave the letter to North Korea's First Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-ju on Dec. 9. The U.S. State Department said earlier this week that Bosworth had taken U.S. President Barack Obama's letter to Pyongyang. Neither side revealed the contents of the letter.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/12/19/2009121900277.html

**'Resist U.S. pressure to sign CTBT'
The Hindu, 20 December 2009**

Scientists who claim the 1998 test of a thermonuclear device by India was a failure have urged the government to resist American pressure to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). They want the government to set up a high-level, independent, broad-based panel of experts to "monitor the implementation, on a continuing basis, of an effective course of action in the realm of thermonuclear weapons." Pointing out that renewed pressure from U.S. President Barack Obama on India to sign the CTBT was causing the issue to be raised again, they urged the government to remain firm in its opposition.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article67529.ece>

Worst possible outcome at Copenhagen, says CSE
The Hindu, 20 December 2009

The US-brokered climate deal with India and three other emerging economies reached at the fag end of the Copenhagen summit is "disastrous" for the world as it will allow rich countries to increase emissions, the Centre for Science and Technology claimed today. "The accord eliminates the distinction between developed and developing countries, prevents effective action to curb global warming and fatally undermines efforts to renew the Kyoto Protocol," CSE spokesperson Souparno Banerjee said.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article67620.ece>

BARC, Bollywood studios on Headley's hitlist?
The Hindu, 20 December 2009

Piecing together the investigations on terror suspect David Headley, investigators have found that he had conducted a proper reconnaissance of not only Bhaba Atomic Research Centre but also of some Bollywood studios in north-eastern suburb of the city. The 49-year-old Headley, who has been under arrest in the U.S. since October 3, had travelled to Chembur and Trombay many times and filmed the exits and entries of the BARC besides the entry of employees, official sources said here on Sunday.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article67667.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

After Expelling Uighurs, Cambodia Approves Chinese Investments
NYT, 22 December 2009

BANGKOK — China signed 14 deals with Cambodia on Monday worth approximately \$1 billion, two days after Cambodia deported 20 ethnic Uighur asylum seekers under strong pressure from Beijing. The deportation, in defiance of protests by the United States, the United Nations and human rights groups, came on the day before a visit to Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital, by Vice President Xi Jinping of China. The package of grants and loans was signed at the end of Mr. Xi's visit. The Cambodian Foreign Ministry quoted Mr. Xi as saying: "It can be said that Sino-Cambodia relations are a model of friendly cooperation."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/22/world/asia/22cambodia.html?ref=asia&pagew>

anted=print

Beijing hits back at climate bickering
People's Daily, 22 December 2009

Wrangling between developed and developing countries over the disputed "Copenhagen Accord" continued Monday, despite the frantic two-week UN climate talks having ended over the weekend. While Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao insisted that China played an "important and constructive" role in pushing the conference to its results, Britain said the meeting turned into a farce, putting the blame on Beijing.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6848407.html>

China, France ink aviation, nuke deals
People's Daily, 22 December 2009

Beijing and Paris yesterday inked deals on nuclear energy and aviation, an indication of improved relations a year after the French president soured ties by publicly embracing the Dalai Lama. France's President Nicolas Sarkozy also confirmed through visiting French Prime Minister Francois Fillon that he will attend the inauguration of the Shanghai World Expo in May next year in another sign of mended relations.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6848468.html>

'US can't interfere in India's domestic climate actions': Pachauri
The Hindu, 22 December 2009

Dismissing the US claims that India's domestic climate actions can be challenged, top environmentalist R K Pachauri on Tuesday made it clear there was no power granted to America in the Copenhagen accord for such interference. The Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was reacting to White House senior advisor David Axelrod's remark that the climate accord allows US to not only unilaterally review India's progress but also challenge the country if it failed to meet its domestic climate targets.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article68686.ece>

Great betrayal
Daily News, 22 December 2009

The interview given by Sarath Fonseka to the Sunday Leader on December 13, 2009 wherein he alleges that three LTTE leaders who came to surrender with white flags during the final stages of the battle were shot dead by ground troops, has opened an UN probe into possible war crimes charges against the Heroic Forces. United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions Philip Alston in a letter to President Mahinda Rajapaksa has demanded an explanation regarding the allegations made by Fonseka that the Defence Secretary has instructed the Commander of the 58th Brigade of the Sri Lanka Army to shoot those surrendering.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/12/22/news01.asp>

Harsh Realities Stand in the Way of a Leader's Vision of a New Japan
NYT, 23 December 2009

TOKYO — A growing deficit, a spat with Washington, a campaign finance investigation and broken promises: Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama's first 100 days in office in Japan have been anything but smooth. Four months after a landslide election victory swept aside a half-century of virtual one-party rule, Mr. Hatoyama's agenda for a new Japan is under threat amid policy missteps and the harsh realities facing Japan, which has the world's second largest economy. Further complicating his work is a vocal fringe party in his coalition that is at odds with Mr. Hatoyama over government spending plans and debt.

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/23/world/asia/23japan.html?_r=1&ref=asia&page_wanted=print

**China calls for proper handling of sensitive issues amid French PM's visit
People's Daily, 23 December 2009**

China on Tuesday said the proper handling of sensitive issues was crucial to stronger Sino-French ties, and proposed deeper political trust and wider pragmatic cooperation. "Both countries should properly deal with sensitive issues, enhance political trust, expand pragmatic cooperation in an effort to bring bilateral relationship to a new high," Chinese President Hu Jintao told visiting French Prime Minister Francois Fillon Tuesday afternoon.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6849520.html>

**U.S. 'Concerned' Over Leak of Joint Defense Plan
Chosun Ilbo, 23 December 2009**

Top brass of the U.S. Forces Korea is seriously worried that a joint South Korea-U.S. defense plan has been hacked, apparently by North Koreans. But South Korea claims no great damage has been done. At a session of the National Assembly's Intelligence Committee on Monday, the National Intelligence Service said the hacked material would not cause much damage to security.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/12/23/2009122300428.html

**China, India, South Africa vital for climate deal
The Hindu, 23 December 2009**

The emergence of China, India, South Africa and Brazil as a grouping was the most significant outcome of the climate talks in Copenhagen, a U.N. official said on Wednesday. The Copenhagen Accord - which urges major polluters to make deeper emissions cuts but does not require it - emerged principally from President Barack Obama's meeting with the leaders of the four countries, a group referred to as BASIC.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article69518.ece>

**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

Lanka mired in UNP's debt trap - Minister Daily News, 26 December 2009

Sri Lanka is still mired in the debt trap set by the UNP Government of J.R. Jayewardene. Colossal sums obtained as foreign debt is still being paid. One clear example is the loan obtained for the accelerated Mahaweli River Diversion Scheme, Environment and Natural Resources Minister Patali Champika Ranawaka said at the UPFA press conference. "The Jayewardene Government borrowed US\$ 68 million for the Mahaweli scheme and we have already paid installments of the loan with interest accrued up to US\$ 314 million. But we still had to pay back \$ 548 million with the interest added," he said.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/12/26/pol01.asp>

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

China Executes Briton Despite Appeals for Mercy NYT, 29 December 2009

A British man convicted of drug smuggling was executed in China early Tuesday, despite appeals for clemency on the grounds of mental illness from his family, human rights groups and Prime Minister Gordon Brown of Britain. The man, Akmal Shaikh, 53, was executed by lethal injection in the far western region of Xinjiang, where he had been convicted in 2008 of entering the country carrying a suitcase stuffed with heroin, according to Xinhua, China's official news agency. In a statement, Mr. Brown said he condemned the execution "in the strongest terms" and that he was "appalled" that the court had not granted clemency to Mr. Shaikh, whom family members said had a history of mental illness.

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/30/world/asia/30china.html?_r=1&ref=asia&page_wanted=print

North Korea Detains American

NYT, 29 December 2009

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea said Tuesday that it had detained an American citizen who the government said had illegally entered the reclusive country from China. The brief dispatch by the North's official news agency, K.C.N.A., did not identify the person, who it said was under interrogation by the authorities. It said the intruder crossed the river border into North Korea on Thursday. An American missionary from Tucson entered North Korea from China on Friday. The missionary, Robert Park, 28, had said he intended to persuade the North's leader, Kim Jong-il, to release political prisoners and that he hoped to get arrested to bring attention to his cause, according to human rights activists in Seoul.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/29/world/asia/29korea.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

**Experts defend China's execution of British drug smuggler
People's Daily, 29 December 2009**

China has upheld the independence and integrity of its justice system, as would any other country, in the trial and execution of British drug smuggler Akmal Shaikh, say legal experts, refuting criticisms of China's human rights record and lack of clemency. Shaikh, a 53-year-old British man, was executed by lethal injection on Tuesday in Urumqi, capital of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. He had been convicted of carrying up to 4,030 grams of heroin at Urumqi International Airport from Dushanbe, capital of Tajikistan, on Sept. 12, 2007.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6855347.html>

**Seoul to Increase Humanitarian Aid to N.Korea
Chosun Ilbo, 29 December 2009**

The South Korean government plans to increase humanitarian aid to impoverished North Korea via international bodies and non-governmental organizations. Seoul's Unification Ministry announced that it will send some US\$13 million to the World Health Organization and nearly \$4 million to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to support malnourished children and improve public health care facilities in the North.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/12/29/2009122900634.html

**Guam no substitute for Futenma
Asahi Shimbun, 29 December 2009**

Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama said Saturday that relocating the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to Guam presents too many obstacles. "From the perspective of a deterrent force, moving all (base functions) from Futenma to Guam will probably be impossible," Hatoyama said. Hatoyama earlier said he hopes to make a decision on where to relocate Futenma by May and the process will now focus on choosing a site in Japan.

<http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200912280084.html>