

[Justices Won't Hear Uighur Case](#)

NYT, 2 March 2010

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday said it would not decide a case involving Chinese Muslims detained for eight years at Guantánamo Bay that had been set for argument this month. The prisoners, captured in Afghanistan or Pakistan after the Sept. 11 attacks, have been determined to pose no threat to the United States, but the government has opposed their request to be released in the United States. In October, the court agreed to decide whether a federal judge in Washington had the power to order the men released from the prison at the naval base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, into the United States. But other countries have recently said that they would accept the detainees, and on Monday the justices said that factual developments since it had agreed to hear the case might “affect the legal issues presented.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/02/us/politics/02detain.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

[India, Pak relations have direct effects on J&K, says Omar Abdullah](#)

The Hindu, 2 March 2010

Welcoming the resumption of talks between India and Pakistan, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said the relation between the neighbours has a direct bearing on the State. “The smooth relations between India and Pakistan have good effect on our State and bad relations create an adverse result. So we must welcome the dialogue process between the countries,” Mr. Abdullah told Legislative Council here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article125073.ece>

[India protests Pak ceasefire violation](#)

The Hindu, 2 March 2010

In yet another ceasefire violation, Pakistani troops fired rockets and used heavy machine guns on Indian posts along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. India has lodged a strong protest with Pakistan on Tuesday over the violation. Pakistan troops fired several rockets followed by firing by heavy machine guns on five Indian forward posts of Kranti, Kranti 1, Kirpan, Ghora and Deep along the LoC in Mendhar sub-sector of Poonch district on Monday night, Brigadier General Staff (BGS) Gurdeep Singh said on Tuesday.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article125046.ece>

[Manmohan asks Saudi Arabia to persuade Pakistan to stop terror](#)

The Hindu, 2 March 2010

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Monday said he had asked Saudi Arabia to use its “good offices” to persuade Pakistan to desist from the path of terror. Dr. Singh was asked by reporters on his way back home from Riyadh whether India would like to see Saudi Arabia as a credible interlocutor in dealing with some Indo-Pak issues, an apparent reference to remarks made by Minister of State for External Affairs Shashi Tharoor that created a flutter.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article124450.ece>

[Senior Taliban commander among five killed in Swat](#)

The News, 2 March 2010

PESHAWAR: A senior Taliban commander, who invaded and occupied the Buner district in early April last year, was killed, along with four other militants in what security forces' sources described as a clash with the troops in the Madyan area in Swat early Monday. Maulana Muhammad Alam, also known as Maulana Khalil and Binoray Mulla, was one of the 21 most wanted Taliban commanders in Swat. He had a head money of Rs 10 million. However, a militant with the same name was arrested in injured condition during a joint operation by security forces and the police in Malikabad village in the Gadoon area in Swabi district on February 15. A number of other militants were killed, injured and arrested in the raid. He was identified by official sources at the time as Alam Binoray. It was alleged that he worked as Qazi and the financial adviser to the TTP chief in Swat Maulana Fazlullah. It was also stated that he used to collect donation worth millions of rupees for the TTP and announced ifatwas or decrees in favour of the Taliban.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27563

[All agree that Zardari's powers should go](#)

The News, 2 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: It has now been finally and unanimously agreed by the Raza Rabbani constitutional reforms committee that all discretionary powers of the president of Pakistan will be transferred to the prime minister to make his office the real source of political power. These powers will include the authority to appoint services chiefs, chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and provincial governors. If these amendments are carried through in parliament, President Asif Zardari will be relegated to a figurehead, almost equal to Rafiq Tarar and Fazal Elahi while Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani will become a powerful person. But Zardari will still be the PPP co-chairman, a key position.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27565

[Who's going to be the new finance minister?](#)

The News, 2 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: The government is due to announce soon a new finance minister to replace Shaukat Tarin, who relinquished his charge on Monday. International donors will want to see a technocrat appointed to replace Tarin to ensure Pakistan keeps the reforms on track and follows the steps Tarin set with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a \$7.6 billion loan package agreed in November 2008.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27569

[Two abducted Sikhs recovered from Orakzai](#)

The News, 2 March 2010

BARA: Security forces recovered two kidnapped Sikhs, who had been in the captivity of the militants for the last 44 days, in a military operation in the Ferozkhel area of Orakzai Agency, an Army official said on Monday. Army Spokesman Major General

Athar Abbas told The News that one of the Sikhs was injured during the military action and was admitted to the Combined Military Hospital (CMC) in Peshawar. He did not disclose the nature of the military action but claimed that several militants had been killed in the operation.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27572

[Opinion: A crucial shift](#)

The News, 2 March 2010

There are significant and far-reaching shifts in the way in which the ruling establishment perceives and interacts with the Pakistani Taliban and the Afghan Taliban. Until very recently they were seen as discrete entities, separate but having complementarities and some shared interests. Today, there is a recognition – somewhat belated but no less welcome for all of that – that both the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the Quetta Shura Taliban (QST) are essentially one and the same; jihadi organisations which have the overthrow of the state of Pakistan as well as Afghanistan as their core objective. Over the last eight weeks we have seen nine of the eighteen key members of the Quetta Shura detained by our security forces in several parts of the country. Whilst it is not possible to second-guess what will come next, it may be reasonable to assume that other detentions will follow, and if so, this will weaken the QS and by extension the TTP – which is a very long way from the position long-held wherein a benign linkage was maintained with both groups as a hedge against the future withdrawal of coalition troops in Afghanistan.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=226771

[Manmohan, Advani spar over foreign policy](#)

The Hindu, 3 March 2010

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday witnessed an interesting passage of arms when Prime Minister Manmohan Singh intervened repeatedly and rejected BJP leader L.K. Advani's charge that U.S. pressure was behind India's decision to talk to Pakistan. In a sharp verbal duel during the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, Mr. Singh asserted that there is no change in the U.S. policy on India-Pak relations after President Barack Obama came to power.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article138850.ece>

[Holbrooke slams linking Kashmir to America's Afghan policy](#)

The Hindu, 3 March 2010

Careful not to mention Kashmir by name, Richard Holbrooke, the U.S. special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, on Wednesday rubbished Pakistan's attempt to link the Kashmir issue with the American approach to stabilise Afghanistan. Fresh from a trip to Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia, Mr. Holbrooke said he did not agree with people who have advocated the inclusion of Kashmir in the U.S. regional approach to end the war in Afghanistan.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article133211.ece>

[India upset with Holbrooke view on Kabul attack](#)

The Hindu, 3 March 2010

Indian officials have described as "absolutely incorrect" the statement by Washington's AfPak envoy, Richard Holbrooke, that India was not the target of last week's terrorist attack in Kabul. The officials expressed surprise and even consternation at this assertion, which, they said, ignored the fact that the terrorists' primary target was a building used by the Indian medical mission. The U.S. assessment, they said, also ran counter to what Afghanistan's intelligence agency, the National Directorate of Security, has established so far.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article139119.ece>

Nation paid for violation of Constitution: CJ

The News, 3 March 2010

Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry on Tuesday directed the district judiciary in the NWFP to decide cases on merit. Addressing members of the district judiciary and judges of the Peshawar High Court on Tuesday, he said the Constitution has mechanism for both the independence of judiciary and supremacy of law in the country.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27577

No deadline for president's nod

The News, 3 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: No timeframe has been fixed for the president to issue notification for formal appointment of a superior court judge, who would be finally cleared by the judicial commission and the parliamentary committee for nomination. This is evident from a press statement issued by Senator Raza Rabbani, chairman of the parliamentary committee on constitutional reforms, on Tuesday. It gives the whole proposed procedure for appointment of judges for which the Constitution would be duly amended as part of the forthcoming constitutional package.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27579

Asif, Altaf fail to meet; Malik shunned

The News, 3 March 2010

WASHINGTON: Despite the best efforts of President Asif Ali Zardari, he could not meet MQM chief Altaf Hussain in London nor was he able to talk to him on telephone, top MQM sources confirmed. And in an even more significant development, the MQM Secretariat in London stopped Interior Minister Rehman Malik from coming to London to meet Altaf Hussain on February 26. A top MQM leader I talked to in London tried to soften the impact of these developments but did not deny it.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27580

Forces regain control of Bajaur

The News, 3 March 2010

AMADOLA: The paramilitary Frontier Corps said on Tuesday that it had wrapped up its military operations in Bajaur Agency. Inspector General Frontier Corps (IGFC) Major General Tariq Khan said the latest offensive launched in late January meant

that militants in Bajaur were no longer able to cross over into Afghanistan to join the fight against the US and Nato forces and would find it more difficult to stage attacks inside Pakistan. "We think the Bajaur operations have now more or less ended as dedicated military operations. We will switch our posture to policing operations," the IGFC told reporters in Damadola area, a key Taliban and al-Qaeda base that the Army seized at the beginning of February.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27582

Editorial: Miles to go

The News, 3 March 2010

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has gone all the way to Saudi Arabia (the first time an Indian PM has visited Saudi Arabia for 28 years) to tell us what he could have just as easily told us if he had stayed at home. "If Pakistan cooperates with India, there is no problem that we cannot solve and we can walk the extra mile to open a new chapter in relations between our two countries", he said in Riyadh. He called on Saudi Arabia to use its good relationship with us to persuade us that harbouring terrorists and sending them across the border to commit all manner of skulduggery was no way to foster good international relations. Quite so, Mr Singh, but then neither is bolstering the corrupt and tottering Karzai regime in Afghanistan, is it? No matter – the Indian visit to Saudi Arabia is another marker along the road of an emerging regional superpower which needs to get the best from its relationships with other states in the region. The Saudis for their part see a harmonious relationship with India as both desirable and profitable, and for the time being are willing to live with the paradox of India restocking its arsenals by buying Israeli weaponry.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=226894

U.S. to Send Bomb Kits for Air Force of Pakistan

NYT, 3 March 2010

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The United States will deliver 1,000 laser-guided bomb kits to Pakistan this month and is considering additional arms sales to help the Pakistani Air Force combat insurgents in the Afghan border region. The Air Force secretary, Michael B. Donley, said Tuesday that the arms sales came in response to a request made by the air chief of the Pakistani Air Force in December. "There continues to be a dialogue back and forth," Mr. Donley said, noting that the government had already agreed to sell Pakistan munitions and night vision goggles, and was also stepping up training.

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

Pakistan refuses to hand over Taliban big guns to US

The News, 4 March 2010

PESHAWAR: Pakistan is unlikely to hand over Mulla Abdul Ghani Baradar and other recently detained Afghan Taliban leaders to Afghanistan despite the demand by President Hamid Karzai's government and requests by the US authorities. Highly informed sources told The News that the government had decided in principle not to deliver the Taliban leaders to the Afghan government. "This decision is final," a

senior government official said. According to sources, President Karzai had made the demand for Mulla Baradar's extradition to Afghanistan soon after his arrest in Pakistan. He then sent Afghan Interior Minister Muhammad Hanif Atmar to Islamabad on a quick visit to discuss the arrest of Mulla Baradar and other Afghan Taliban leaders with his Pakistani counterpart Rehman Malik and to look into the possibility of their early transfer to Afghanistan.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27592

No leniency in corruption cases: CJ

The News, 4 March 2010

RAWALPINDI: The Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, has said that the judiciary will give every sacrifice for the sake of the supremacy of the Constitution and rule of law, adding it is our utmost endeavour to give a system under which we are subordinate to law and the Constitution where the social and economic justice is upheld. He expressed these views while speaking at a reception given in his honour by the Peshawar High Court Bar Association on Wednesday in Peshawar. The judges of the Supreme Court Peshawar Bench, including Justice Ch Ijaz Ahmed, Justice Nasirul Mulk, Justice Raja Fayyaz Ahmed, Justice Jawwad S Khawaja and Justice Arif Hussain and PHC CJ Ijaz Afzal Khan and other judges former judges, NWFP advocate general and senior advocates attended the reception.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27593

'Asif's Swiss cases can't be reopened'

The News, 4 March 2010

WASHINGTON: Money-laundering cases against President Asif Zardari cannot be reopened in Swiss court because President Zardari, under international law, enjoys sovereign immunity, reported a New York-based weekly 'Pakistan Post' by quoting French William, spokesman of the Swiss Embassy in London. The paper reports that in a telephonic interview, French William said that all heads of state enjoy sovereign immunity; however, if any state lifts that immunity then there would not be any reason for Swiss authorities to apply that immunity.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27604

Two phases of Operation 'Spring Cleaning' completed

The News, 4 March 2010

PESHAWAR: Two phases of the Operation 'Spring Cleaning', which was launched in the Frontier Regions (FRs), Peshawar, and Kohat on February 24, were completed on Wednesday while the number of miscreants killed during the action rose to 38. An unannounced curfew was imposed in the union councils in southern part of Peshawar district on the 80th day of the operation. "The first two phases of the operation are over. Security forces first cleared and then took control of Pastawona, Bora and Walai towns. A total of 38 militants were killed during the operation while a soldier embraced martyrdom and four others sustained wounds," Safwat Ghayyur, commandant of the Frontier Constabulary (FC), told reporters at Spina Thana on Wednesday.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27606

[Paramilitary troops deployed in Damadola](#)

The News, 4 March 2010

KHAR: Security forces on Wednesday started deployment of the Bajaur Levies and the Frontier Corps (FC) on various positions in Damadola, the former stronghold of militants, in Mamond Tehsil, Bajaur Agency, official sources said. The sources said security forces strengthened their positions in the area after one month of intense fighting. The militants were entrenched in Damadola for the last several years. Security forces destroyed hideouts of the militants, including tunnels and caves, the sources said.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27609

[Former Pakistani Officer Embodies a Policy Puzzle](#)

NYT, 4 March 2010

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan — With his white turban, untrimmed beard and worn army jacket, the man known uniformly here by his nom de guerre, Col. Imam, is a particular Pakistani enigma. A United States-trained former colonel in Pakistan's spy agency, he spent 20 years running insurgents in and out of Afghanistan, first to fight the Soviet Army, and later to support the Taliban, as Pakistani allies, in their push to conquer Afghanistan in the 1990s. Today those Taliban forces are battling his onetime mentor, the United States, and Western officials say Colonel Imam has continued to train, recruit and finance the insurgents. Along with a number of other retired Pakistani intelligence officials, they say, he has helped the Taliban stage a remarkable comeback since 2006.

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

[India expresses surprise over Pak statement on Saeed](#)

The Hindu, 7 March 2010

Expressing "surprise" over Pakistan's claim that the issue of arrest of Hafiz Saeed, one of the masterminds of the Mumbai terror attacks, was not taken up during Foreign Secretary-level talks, India on Sunday said it has been demanding action against him since attacks and the matter was raised "strongly" during the parleys. "Saeed's activities including his recent vitriolic and venomous statements aimed at fomenting further acts of terrorism against India and the unhindered public space and freedom he enjoys in Pakistan was raised strongly by India during the Foreign Secretary-level talks," External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in a statement here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article202062.ece>

[Pak deploying US equipments along J&K borders: Antony](#)

Daily Excelsior, 7 March 2010

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Mar 6: Expressing serious concern over the US equipping Pakistan Army with modern weapons, Defence Minister, A K Antony today said that instead of using against terrorists, the Pakistan Army was deploying such equipment on Jammu and Kashmir borders. "United States decision to provide sophisticated

weapons to Pakistan is a matter of serious concern to India. The US should ensure that these weapons are not targeted against India", he said while talking to reporters here.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/10mar07/news.htm#1>

['Pakistan wants result-oriented talks with India' FM says New Delhi can't stop Islamabad's water und](#)

The News, 7 March 2010

MULTAN: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said on Saturday that Pakistan had suggested a roadmap for structured dialogue with India, stressing that the interaction should be meaningful and result-oriented. Addressing a press conference at the airport, he said India was facing some internal problems on the issue of resumption of dialogue. Some elements there were opposing it on the pretext of the Mumbai attacks, while the rest supported and considered it in favour of their country, he added.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27645

[903 FC men dismissed from service](#)

The News, 7 March 2010

BARA: The Frontier Constabulary (FC) dismissed as many as 903 personnel, who had conducted a successful operation in the Frontier Region (FR) Peshawar last week, for not fulfilling the order of their high-ups regarding their immediate return to FR Peshawar after they had been pulled out from the said area, reliable sources told The News on Saturday. The sources said that a notification of dismissal was issued on Saturday evening by the FC commandant, asking the dissident cops to surrender their rifles to the concerned district FC officer.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27646

[FO rejects Indian criticism of Pak mly doctrine](#)

The News, 7 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan continues to fight militancy and terrorism amidst sacrifices of its military and civilian population to make the world a safer place, India, instead of lending a helping hand, found fault with Pakistan's acquisition of modern weapons. It feared that these could be used against them. Pakistan on Saturday brushed aside this criticism, saying it is for the world to see that the country's military doctrine is purely defensive in nature.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27647

[US helped ISI create extremists: Petraeus](#)

The News, 7 March 2010

WASHINGTON: Noting that Pakistan has made significant progress in its fight against extremism that threatens its existence, a top US military general has refused the certificate of "American satisfaction" to Islamabad in its war against terrorism. "I wouldn't allow you to put words in my mouth," General David Petraeus, Commander of the US Central Command told Charlie Rose of the PBS in an interview when he

asked: "So the bottom line is you are satisfied with the Pakistani effort and the Pakistani cooperation and the Pakistani effort to wipe out the Taliban in Pakistan?"

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27658

[PPP, ANP form body to remove differences](#)

The News, 7 March 2010

PESHAWAR: The ruling Awami National Party and its coalition partner, the Pakistan People's Party, constituted a six-member committee Saturday to remove differences on various issues including the appointment of district administrators. NWFP Minister for Information Mian Iftikhar Hussain said that the six-member committee, comprising three members each from ANP and PPP, had been formed to discuss and resolve the issues including appointment of administrators, local government elections and other matters related to the provincial government.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27654

[U.S. Sees a Terror Threat: Pakistanis See a Heroine](#)

NYT, 7 March 2010

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Relations between the United States and Pakistan often have a through-the-looking-glass quality, where almost nothing appears quite the same from the other side. The latest example is the case of Aafia Siddiqui. In the United States, authorities say Ms. Siddiqui, a Pakistani neuroscientist who once studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is suspected of having links to Al Qaeda. She was convicted by a New York court in February of trying to kill American military officers while in custody in 2008 in Afghanistan. She faces life in prison when she is sentenced in May. In Pakistan, she has become a national symbol of honor and victimization so potent that politicians of all stripes, Islamists, the news media and an increasingly anti-American public have all lined up to champion her claim of innocence.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/06/world/asia/06wen.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

[SC asks Centre to deport Pakistani prisoners](#)

Daily Excelsior, 8 March 2010

NEW DELHI : The Supreme Court today directed the Centre to deport within two months all Pakistani prisoners who have completed their sentences after being arrested under the Public Safety Act of Jammu and Kashmir. A Bench comprising Justices Markandey Katju and R M Lodha, which passed the direction, disapproved of the submission of the Centre that these prisoners could be released only in return for an equal number of Indian prisoners languishing in jails in Pakistan.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/10mar08/newsupdate.htm#4>

[Al-Qaeda spokesman held in Karachi](#)

The News, 8 March 2010

KARACHI: The American-born spokesman for al-Qaeda has been arrested by Pakistani intelligence officers in Karachi, two officers and a government official said

on Sunday, the same day Adam Gadahn appeared in a video urging US Muslims to attack their own country. The arrest of Gadahn is a major victory in the U.S.-led battle against al-Qaida and will be taken as a sign that Pakistan, criticised in the past for being an untrustworthy ally, is cooperating more fully with Washington. It follows the recent detentions of several Afghan Taliban commanders in Karachi, including the movement's No 2 commander.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27661

[Protection being considered for bureaucrats](#)

The News, 8 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: In what would be a giant leap towards good governance in Pakistan, the Pay and Pension Commission has sought constitutional protection for key civilian bureaucrats, including federal secretaries, to save them from being removed, dismissed or demoted without any show cause. Interestingly, it was not the Pay and Pension Commission's own initiative rather the issue has been referred to the body by the federal cabinet. If successfully implemented, this would be a major initiative of the present Gilani regime towards the realisation of the dream of good governance because it would help depoliticise the civilian bureaucracy.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27663

[Senior Taliban commander shot dead](#)

The News, 8 March 2010

PESHAWAR: In a surprising move in the militancy-stricken North Waziristan Agency, unknown assailants shot dead a senior Taliban commander, Maulvi Noor Mohammad, near Miramshah. Official sources told The News by phone from Miramshah on Sunday that Maulvi Noor Mohammad was travelling in a car near Gora Qabrestan when he came under attack. According to sources, he died on the spot and the attackers managed to flee the area. Maulvi Noor Mohammad, 40, belonged to Saidgai town, located near the border with Afghanistan's restive Khost province.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27666

[India's 'water theft'](#)

The News, 8 March 2010

LAHORE/ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-ud-Dawaa (JuD) chief Hafiz Mohammad Saeed on Sunday declared that India had "imposed war on Pakistan" by constructing "illegal dams" and diverting water of Pakistani rivers and said the government must prepare the nation to counter this aggression. He made the remarks while launching a "nation-wide protest" against what he described as India's 'theft' of Pakistan's share of waters. A declaration adopted at the rally said, "If India continues with the water terrorism, Pakistan must keep open the option of using force." It alleged that India had "virtually declared war on Pakistan by unlawfully constructing dams and diverting Pakistani rivers".

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27670

[Pakistan, US to hold vital strategic talks by March-end](#)

The News, 8 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the United States have agreed to hold their most important strategic dialogue of the recent years with the elevated echelon in the last week of this month in Washington. Diplomatic sources told The News here on Sunday that the talks were taking place for the first time after the initiation of the new policy of the Obama administration for the region. The failure of India in its quest for a role in the region has turned the interaction into a conspicuously important event.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27672

Pakistan Government Site Is Attacked

NYT, 8 March 2010

LAHORE, Pakistan — A suicide bomber rammed an explosives-laden truck into the main gate of a safe house used by one of Pakistan's security agencies for the interrogation of suspects in Lahore early on Monday. The explosion killed at least 15 people, including guards, hospital officials said, and flattened the building. At least 83 people were wounded in the explosion, nine of them critically, according to doctors from a nearby hospital where the victims were taken. The blast left a crater 12 feet deep and was heard across the city, witnesses said. Rescue workers dug through the rubble of the destroyed building looking for people trapped in the debris. The police said Monday afternoon they had found the head of the bomber.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/09/world/asia/09pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

'Pak Army officers trained 26/11 terrorists'

The Hindu, 9 March 2010

Terming the 26/11 terror attack as Pakistan government sponsored one, the prosecution on Tuesday opened its final arguments in the case saying the neighbouring country's Army was also involved in the dastardly attack. "The conspiracy of the 26/11 attack was hatched on Pakistan soil and inevitable inference can be drawn that the attack was state-sponsored," Special Public Prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam argued.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article223063.ece>

Nine cops among 13 die in Lahore car bomb blast

The News, 9 March 2010

LAHORE: Thirteen people, including nine constables and two women, were killed and over 90 others sustained injuries when a suicide car bomb blast ripped through the rented offices of the Special Intelligence Agency (SIA) in the Model Town Society area here on Monday. The explosion completely destroyed the building and damaged scores of houses and dozens of cars and motorbikes in the neighbourhood. The incident occurred around 8:15am at House No 45-K, situated behind the Qur'aan Academy (Central Anjuman-e-Khuddamul Qur'aan), established and headed by Dr Israr Ahmad, a religious scholar.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27682

[Nawaz wants CJ's input in Rabbani panel's proposals](#)

The News, 9 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) Quaid Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has urged Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani to seek opinion and input of Supreme Court Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry on the Raza Rabbani committee's proposals on constitutional amendments relating to the appointment of judges to superior courts. "We should take the superior judiciary on board before introducing constitutional amendments about it because it is the major stakeholder as far as the judges' nominations are concerned," the PML-N Quaid told the prime minister when they met on a breakfast at Raiwind on Feb 22, according to a participant.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27685

[Punjabi Taliban avenge Qari Zafar's death](#)

The News, 9 March 2010

LAHORE: The March 8 suicide bombing in Lahore's Model Town is believed to have been carried out by the Punjab chapter of the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) to avenge the killing of Commander Qari Zafar, the acting Amir of the Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) in a US drone strike in North Waziristan on February 24, 2010. While confirming Qari Zafar's death in a statement faxed to local journalists on February 25, a Lashkar-e-Jhangvi spokesman had described him as a martyr and pledged to avenge his death. "The Mujahideen will soon take revenge from the Pakistani government for his killing by resorting to suicide bombings anywhere in the country," the LeJ spokesman added. Qari Zafar was killed, along with nine other Punjabi Taliban in the Peerano Killay area of Miramshah, when a drone struck his hideout.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27686

[NA session summoned with agenda yet not clear](#)

The News, 9 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has summoned the session of the National Assembly on Thursday but the question is still persisting that the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP), which has 124 members in the 342-member National Assembly, would agree to convert its president as a figurehead and superficial head of the state who has also managed to become head of the ruling party. The Parliament's Special Committee on Constitutional Reforms (PSCCR) under Senator Mian Raza Rabbani will have its crucial meeting here in the Parliament House today (Tuesday) and it is understood that it would finalise the recommendations on the thorny question of the provincial autonomy.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27688

[If 17th Amendment stays after March 23](#)

The News, 9 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: All options are being discussed between political players behind the scene, including an in-house change, if in the coming days and weeks the government fails to undo the 17th Amendment threatening the whole democratic system. Battlelines would be redrawn in the national political arena in the coming few weeks, political sources said, stressing that the repeal of the 17th Amendment, as

promised by Prime Minister Gilani before March 23rd, would be a major boost for the present political set-up.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27695

[India rubbishes charges of involvement in Lahore blast](#)

The Hindu, 10 March 2010

Dismissing Pakistan's allegation that India was involved in the Lahore blast, External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna on Wednesday said it was "most unthinkable" and a "falsehood" that was being spread. Asserting that these incidents were occurring due to the "selective" approach of Pakistan against terror, the minister said, "I think all these issues of blasts arise out of our attitude towards terror. When we take a firm stand against terror, not on a selective basis but across the board, then I am sure that Pakistan will be happier and India will be peaceful."

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article225060.ece>

[17th Amendment to be repealed by March-end: Zardari](#)

The News, 10 March 2010

Islamabad: President Asif Ali Zardari stunned the audience and unleashed a hushed round of whispers when addressing the awards presentation ceremony of All Pakistan Newspaper Society (APNS) here Tuesday, he promised that he would restore the Constitution to its 1973 complexion "by the last week of next month". Viewing his 'new April deadline' as a stark departure from repeated promises made by the prime minister to repeal the 17th Amendment before March 23, journalists, newspaper owners and others could be seen leaning over and whispering the obvious to one another. Mercifully however, the president cleared the misperception immediately afterwards as he mingled with the guests that he had actually meant the last week of March and not April and his earlier remark was just a slip of tongue.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27698

[Police clueless as Lahore blast toll climbs to 15](#)

The News, 10 March 2010

LAHORE: No breakthrough could be made in the investigation into the Special Intelligence Agency blast as the death toll rose to 15. Police investigators alleged that the SIA had not installed CCTV cameras at the building that could have helped to identify the vehicle used in the blast and the suicide bomber. On Tuesday, rescuers found another body from the debris and shifted it to morgue while another injured person died at the Jinnah Hospital. Some 86 injured people were shifted to the hospital and 58 of them were discharged on Tuesday. Joint investigation teams of the police and intelligence agencies visited the spot on Tuesday and collected evidence. Inspector General of Police, Punjab, Tariq Saleem Dogar, CCPO Muhammad Pervez Rathore and SSP Operations Chaudhry Shafiq Ahmad also visited the blast site.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27703

[Govt plans to build 32 dams to overcome power shortage](#)

The News, 10 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: The government has planned to construct 32 small and medium dams in all provinces with an estimated cost of Rs250 billion to bridge the supply and demand gap of electricity. The dams would be constructed under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for 2009-10, an official said here on Tuesday. Out of these 32 dams, 13 reservoirs will be built in first phase and work on some of them had already been started, he said.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27710

Parties demand provincial autonomy as per CoD

The News, 10 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: The nationalist parties from Balochistan have asked the two major parties in the Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Reforms to agree to the demand of provincial autonomy in line with the promises they had made in the Charter of Democracy (CoD) and to accept the demand for abolishing the Concurrent List from the Constitution and amendments to the federal legislative list. The committee met at the Parliament House here on Tuesday after a gap of three days and discussed the thorny issue of provincial autonomy. President Asif Ali Zardari has already summoned the National Assembly on March 11 amid speculation that the government intends to bring the 18th Constitutional Amendment to the upcoming NA session.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27711

Pakistan, US agree on new Afghan set-up

The News, 10 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: A strategic shift in Pakistan's three-decade old Afghan policy has taken a quiet but effective shape as Islamabad has successfully negotiated a peace plan with Mustafa Zahir Shah, the grandson of late King Zahir Shah, who would play a key role in future political dispensation comprising all ethnic groups. "It is a strategic coup by Pakistan against rising Indian influence in Afghanistan," an analyst tartly remarked commenting on the development. As Islamabad has agreed to untangle the complicated jihadist network fabricated by General Ziaul Haq in 1979, it has acquired 'iron-clad' guarantees from Washington and other world capitals to gain advantages not only in regional political and economic affairs but also to get peaceful nuclear technology related benefits, sources privy to the most significant development taking place in the region in more than quarter a century, claimed.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27714

ISI supports LeT, other terror outfits in Pak: Chidambaram

The Hindu, 12 March 2010

Trashing Pakistan's assertion that state actors were not involved in terror acts against India, Home Minister P. Chidambaram on Friday said Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and every other militant outfit of that country is supported by Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) and they have set up modules and sleeper cells in this country. "If it is the state policy to sponsor terrorism, if the state policy is to export terrorism to India, how will we deal with that state?," he said at the India Today conclave here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article243439.ece>

[Zardari, Gilani discuss 18th Amendment package](#)

The News, 12 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: As the government intends to present the 18th Amendment package to repeal the dictatorial amendments from the Constitution during the ongoing session of parliament, President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani on Thursday night held a meeting at the presidency to review the progress on this issue and hoped it would be completed and get passed from parliament in the third week of the current month. According to sources, the president and the prime minister also discussed the presidential speech to the joint sitting of parliament. Sources said the speech of President Zardari to the joint sitting of parliament would follow repealing of 17th Amendment from the Constitution to kick off the third parliamentary year.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27742

[Control over natural resources Provinces-Centre row settled](#)

The News, 12 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: In a major breakthrough on Thursday, the parliamentary committee on constitutional reforms resolved the issue of controlling mineral and natural resources between the provinces and the federal government as it recommended to have joint control of the Federation and the provinces on these resources with 50 per cent share in profit. The committee, which met here on Thursday at the Parliament House with Mian Raza Rabbani in the chair, resolved the issue regarding the control of mineral and natural resources between the federal government and provinces.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27738

[SC orders closure of all police torture cells](#)

The News, 12 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Thursday ordered closure of police torture cells in private houses in the jurisdiction of various police stations and ruled that strict action would be taken against senior police officials under whose authority suspects were subjected to torture. Brutal police torture became public recently in Chiniot when some suspects of a robbery case were mercilessly thrashed by the police. This sent a wave of anger and disgust throughout the country and sparked wide criticism. Various TV channels ran footage, showing policemen in Chiniot spanking in the open suspects with leather straps with all the might they possessed. Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry had taken suo motu notice of the shocking incident and had directed police authorities to submit report before the court.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27739

[Gilani summons crucial meeting on circular debt today](#)

The News, 12 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: Taking cognisance of the fast deteriorating energy outlook because of the crucial issue of debt, Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani has convened on Friday an important meeting of top men of the Ministries of Finance, Petroleum and Water and Power, Pepco and PSO to resolve the issue once and for all, a senior

official in the Water and Power ministry told The News. The prime minister will be holding the crucial meeting at 2.30 pm. Meanwhile, the finance ministry on Thursday released Rs 5 billion to PSO against its total outstanding dues of Rs105.624 billion. However, the OGDCL, the main and actual sufferer in the whole episode of circular debt, seems to continue to sustain loss that has actually increased to Rs 85 billion because of indifference of authorities concerned.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27746

[Pak-Afghan joint declaration](#)

The News, 12 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Afghanistan on Thursday reaffirmed to build enduring ties by consolidating neighbourly relations and respect each other's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. This was stated in a joint declaration signed by Foreign Minister Shah Mehmud Qureshi and his Afghan counterpart Zalmai Rassoul here on Wednesday at the end of state visit of Afghan President Hamid Karzai to Pakistan. The two sides emphasised that strong Pakistan-Afghanistan ties are important for regional peace, security and development.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27748

[Pakistan navy tests missiles in Arabian Sea](#)

Daily Star, 12 March 2010

Pakistan's navy successfully test-fired a series of missiles and torpedoes Friday in what it called a message to "nefarious" forces — an apparent reference to longtime rival India. While the two nuclear-armed neighbors have taken slow steps toward restarting peace talks, they also have a history of using weapons tests as a form of diplomatic saber-rattling. The missiles were launched from aircraft, submarines and ships in the Arabian Sea. It was not immediately clear if the weapons were capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=22661

[Twin Suicide Attacks Hit Military Sites in Pakistan](#)

NYT, 12 March 2010

LAHORE, Pakistan — Two suicide bomb attacks aimed at an army convoy patrolling a busy market ripped through this city in quick succession on Friday, killing at least 43 people in the second assault on Lahore in less than a week, officials said. Officials said that 10 to 12 of the dead were Pakistani soldiers, and that more than 100 people had been wounded in the two blasts. A Lahore police officer, Sohail Sukhera, said this city in the Pakistani heartland was "in a state of war" after the explosions, which came despite what he called tight security in the army-controlled cantonment area of the city.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/13/world/asia/13pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

[Lahore bombings: India denies involvement](#)

The Hindu, 13 March 2010

"Deeply disappointed" over the charges by Pakistan regarding its involvement in the suicide attack in Lahore on Friday night, India on Saturday said it was unfortunate that by repeating such "unfounded and unsubstantiated allegations" Pakistan puts a strain on the bilateral relationship. "Unequivocally" condemning the allegations, India rejected charges of any involvement in such acts or activities and said Pakistan should "concentrate on dismantling the infrastructure of terrorism directed against India and adversely impacting on Pakistan itself."

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article244159.ece>

Pakistan for steps to energise Indus Treaty

The Hindu, 13 March 2010

Affirming its commitment to the Indus Water Treaty (IWT), Pakistan has sought measures to make the mechanism more effective by outlining its concerns, as well as proposing measures that would reduce distrust between the two countries. In a non-paper submitted to India, Pakistan has said construction of projects on the three western rivers should be undertaken only after objections are amicably resolved. It also called upon India to submit full and timely information about new power plants and irrigation works on these rivers.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article243828.ece>

Nuclear cooperation will cover all areas: Putin

The Hindu, 13 March 2010

India-Russia cooperation in civil nuclear energy will be wide ranging and cover areas such as nuclear waste and safety of reactors as well, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said, during a video conference with businessmen from the country's main metros here. Mr. Putin also advised a section of Indian business and strategic community to be "realistic" in its attitude towards Pakistan and take into consideration the action taken by Islamabad against some militant organisations operating along its border with Afghanistan.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article243754.ece>

57 killed in Lahore suicide attacks

The News, 13 March 2010

LAHORE: Terrorists wreaked havoc in the city on Friday by striking in the Cantonment area, killing 57 people, including nine security personnel, and injuring 136 others. According to police, two suicide bombers blew themselves up near security forces' vehicles in RA Bazaar, South Cantt, claiming around 57 lives. The terrorists apparently changed their modus operandi in the South Cantonment incident, as two suicide bombers carried out the blasts. Five days back, an explosive-laden vehicle was rammed into the wall of the Special Investigation Agency building in Model Town area of Lahore.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27756

Nawaz still believes Zardari is biggest threat

The News, 13 March 2010

LONDON: PML-N Quaid Mian Nawaz Sharif on Friday repeated that he would continue to consider President Zardari as the biggest threat to democracy in Pakistan until he changed his ways, for which he would continue to step up pressure. He told a community meeting here that Asif Zardari was under pressure from all sections of the society and "he was on his knees". He told the community that the current rulers knew and understood no other language but popular pressure. He rubbished the charge of 'friendly opposition', and reminded the audience that the pressure tactics were the best weapon as it had worked miraculously with reference to the restoration of the judges and the repeal of the National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO).

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27759

Screening law affecting Pak-US ties, NA told

The News, 13 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Malik Ammad Khan Friday said that the US law regarding screening of Pakistani nationals at American airports was humiliating and it was affecting the Pak-US relations, as Pakistani citizens were being targeted and humiliated through this legislation. He was responding to a call attention notice regarding return of Fata MNAs delegation from America, who refused to pass through the scanner at the Reagan International Airport, Washington.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27763

Solid evidence of Indian involvement in Balochistan terror acts: Malik

The News, 13 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rehman Malik has said there is solid evidence of the Indian involvement in acts of terror in Balochistan and the government is taking up this matter diplomatically with the Indian government. Talking to media persons at the Parliament House here on Friday, he said: "We are not levelling mere allegations against India but have solid evidence of the Indian involvement in Balochistan." The weapons recovered from various areas were also Indian-made, he added. Rehman Malik said Afghanistan's soil was also being used for destabilisation of Balochistan and Afghan President Hamid Karzai had given a commitment that the Afghan soil would not be used against Pakistan.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27769

Govt to inject Rs 45 billion to erase circular debt

The News, 13 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, while expressing concern over the adverse impact of circular debt on economy, has asked the Ministry of Finance to immediately bail out Pakistan State Oil (PSO), which is on the verge of default. "The prime minister expressed concern over the re-emergence of circular debt, which was earlier tackled twice," said one top official who attended the meeting on Friday. Federal Minister for Petroleum Syed Naveed Qamar, Minister for Water and Power Raja Pervez Ashraf, Minister of State for Finance Ms Hina Rabbani Khar, secretaries of the concerned ministries, MD SNGPL, MD PSO, MD SSGC, CEO Pepco and other senior government officials attended the meeting.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27771

[Pakistan Army Digs In on Turf of the Taliban](#)

NYT, 13 March 2010

MAKEEN, Pakistan — From a forward base in the bare brown foothills of the soaring mountains of South Waziristan, Pakistani soldiers fired artillery at insurgents sheltering in scrub across the valley. Smoke blotted the sky as the soldiers set ablaze houses once used by the Taliban to hide caches of heavy weapons. In the Makeen bazaar, where the former leader of the Pakistani militants, Baitullah Mehsud, was once king, the army has flattened the jerry-built stores, including the ice cream parlor, scotching any idea of easy return.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/13/world/asia/13waziristan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

[Suicide Attack in Pakistan Kills 13](#)

NYT, 13 March 2010

SAIDU SHARIF, Pakistan (AP) -- A renewed wave of violence struck Saturday in small-town Pakistan when a suicide bomber on a motorized rickshaw killed 13 people at a security checkpoint, raising fears the nation is sliding back into a period of relentless bloodletting. The blast -- the second major attack in Pakistan in less than 24 hours -- occurred in the Swat Valley, where Taliban fighters battled government soldiers for months last year. The attack in Saidu Sharif, Swat's administrative capital, also wounded 52 people. A day earlier, two suicide bombers killed 55 people in coordinated explosions in the eastern city of Lahore.

http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2010/03/13/world/AP-AS-Pakistan.html?_r=1&ref=asia&pagewanted=print

[Two arrested for Pak-linked terror plot](#)

The Hindu, 14 March 2010

A weekend of successes, says Government after terrorists' arrests Gujarat ATS arrests terror suspects A month after blast, Pune yet to recover Pune blast probe on right track, says Chidambaram Pune blast probe may be handed over to NIA. Two terror suspects allegedly operating here for a terror outfit in Pakistan have been arrested for conducting recce of an ONGC installation and two markets for attacking them, a senior official from Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) said on Sunday. Acting on a tip off by Central Security Agencies, Abdul Latif alias Guddu (29) and Riyaz Ali (23) were arrested from near Matunga railway station in central Mumbai last night, ATS chief K.P. Raghuvanshi told reporters.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article244639.ece>

[14 die in Swat suicide bombing](#)

The News, 14 March 2010

MINGORA/PESHAWAR: Fourteen people, including two soldiers and two policemen, were killed and 53 others sustained injuries in a suicide attack targeting a security checkpoint near the Circuit House in Saidu Sharif on Saturday. The suicide blast was the second in 2010 in Swat, a district regained from the Maulana Fazlullah-led

militants in a military operation launched in May 2009. The blast occurred at a time when the militants have stepped up their attacks in the country, particularly in Lahore.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27777

[Pak-US strategic dialogue on 24th](#)

The News, 14 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Saturday said the objective of strategic dialogue with the US, scheduled for March 24 in Washington, is to enhance people-to-people strategic relationship which will bridge the trust deficit. The prime minister on Saturday chaired a high-level meeting at the PM House to develop a comprehensive, coherent and well-coordinated approach for the forthcoming Pakistan-US strategic dialogue. The meeting was also attended by Chief of the Army Staff General (COAS) Ashfaq Parvez Kayani.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27779

[India gives go-ahead to another dam on Chenab in IHK](#)

The News, 14 March 2010

LAHORE: In a series of water-sector projects over the Chenab River in Indian-held Kashmir (IHK), India has given a go-ahead to yet another mega project, which will be completed by 2016. According to information available with The News, GVK Power & Infrastructure Ltd bagged 690-MW Rattle Hydroelectric Power Project on March 10, 2010. Indian Rs5,000 crore worth of project will be constructed on the River Chenab, after its confluence with Marusudar River, in the Drabshalla area of Kishtwar district, Jammu & Kashmir. The contract is based on build, own, operate and transfer (BOOT) basis under a 40-year concession period. The Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation (JKDPC) had floated global tenders of the project in 2008.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27783

[Tribal elder, two guards gunned down in Peshawar](#)

The News, 14 March 2010

PESHAWAR: Another tribal chieftain and head of an anti-Taliban peace committee in Mohmand Agency was shot dead, along with his two bodyguards, outside his house in Bakshi Pul on Charsadda Road here on Saturday. Malik Lal Badshah, in his early 50s, had just come out of his house along with two gunmen, Noor Alam and Rafiq, both from the Levies force of Mohmand Agency, when unidentified assailants opened indiscriminate fire at them. The attackers, who were waiting for the tribal elder, fled the scene in a car after committing the crime.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27782

[Suicide Bomber Kills 13 at Checkpoint in Pakistan](#)

NYT, 14 March 2010

SAIDU SHARIF, Pakistan (AP) — A suicide bomber driving a motorized rickshaw blew himself up at a security checkpoint in northwestern Pakistan on Saturday, officials said, underscoring the nation's relentless security threat. At least 13 people were

killed and more than 50 were wounded in the blast here in the small town of Saidu Sharif in the Swat Valley. It was the second major attack in the country in less than 24 hours. Suicide bombers killed at least 55 people in near-simultaneous blasts on Friday in Lahore. No one has claimed responsibility for any of the attacks. But the surge in violence follows a Pakistani crackdown on the Taliban and Al Qaeda. Maj. Gen. Ashfaq Nadeem, a top official for the region, said Saturday's attack killed 13 people, including 2 soldiers and 2 policemen.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/14/world/asia/14pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

[Govt: Next Foreign Secretary-level talks in Islamabad](#)

The Hindu, 15 March 2010

Government on Monday indicated that the next round of Foreign Secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan will take place in Islamabad to take forward the dialogue process. "The Foreign Secretary of Pakistan came here for the talks. So, perhaps it is the turn of Indian Foreign Secretary to go to Pakistan. So, let us move step by step," External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna said on the sidelines of the India-Africa conclave here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article245373.ece>

[Shahbaz asks Taliban not to attack Punjab](#)

The News, 15 March 2010

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif on Sunday asked the Taliban not to target the Punjab as the provincial government would not take dictation from outsiders. The Punjab CM was speaking at the annual seminar in the memory of Maulana Mufti Muhammad Hussain Naeemi at Jamia Naeemia. He said that extremism and terrorism were the consequences of wrong policies of a dictator, General Pervez Musharraf, for which the country was paying a heavy price. He said the dictator enacted a bloodbath of innocent Muslims at the behest of others only to prolong his rule. He asked the Taliban not to target the Punjab as his government would not take dictation from outsiders.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27788

[Karzai seeks common Pak-Afghan strategy against terrorism](#)

The News, 15 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: Afghan President Hamid Karzai made a telephone call to Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Sunday evening, reiterating the demand to develop a common Pak-Afghan strategy to arrest the increasing incidents of terrorism in the larger interest of the people of the two countries besides the regional peace. The Afghan president expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of innocent lives in the recent acts of terrorism in Lahore and Mingora. He reminded the prime minister that during their talks in Islamabad recently, he had mentioned that the circumstances in both the brotherly countries were so similar that an act of violence in any of the two neighbourly countries was followed by a similar incident in the other.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27791

[Crime rate jumps up in two years](#)

The News, 15 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: Overall crime rate in the country is today higher than what it was two years ago. Official figures prove that the overall crime rate, both at the Centre and in all the provinces, has increased despite tall claims made by the present federal or provincial rulers. The ANP-led Frontier government had done considerably well as it did not let the crime go as high as had been seen at the Centre or in other provinces. In case of the NWFP, it is interesting to see that the cases of rape/Zina have decreased during the ANP government as against the MMA government of Akram Khan Durrani.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27792

[President retains power to name caretaker cabinet](#)

The News, 15 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: The parliamentary committee on constitutional reforms has unanimously left untouched a vital authority of the president i.e. to appoint a choice caretaker cabinet after the NA completes its tenure. The corresponding power vested in provincial governors by the Constitution also remains unaffected although they will exercise it only with the "previous approval of president" as provided in the unchanged provisions. "If we take away the president's power to appoint the caretaker cabinet, there will be no civilian authority left having power to introduce an interim setup in order to supervise elections. As a result, a vacuum will be created," said a member of the Rabbani committee, who is also a prominent constitutional expert. With this in view, the parliamentary body decided not to alter the relevant constitutional articles so that the president and his representatives in provinces might continue to have powers to appoint the caretaker cabinets.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27797

[I'm not afraid of death: Zardari](#)

The News, 16 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Zardari has said some people are still using religion as a weapon just for their benefit and we are facing the consequences at the country's borders. "We are harvesting the crop of militancy, which was sown in the name of religion," he said, while addressing the International Conference on Sufism and Peace arranged by the Pakistan Academy of Letters here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. Religious scholars from different parts of the world took part in the conference.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27802

[PPP MPs to quit NWFP govt if demands not met](#)

The News, 16 March 2010

PESHAWAR: The NWFP chapter of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) decided at a parliamentary party meeting on Monday to resign from the Awami National Party-led coalition government if their demands were not met by March 31. The meeting, chaired by the party's parliamentary leader, Abdul Akbar Khan, reviewed the situation that was witnessed in two lengthy meetings on the last day of the current

assembly session convened by the government.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27803

[Huge cache of explosives seized in Islamabad, Lahore](#)

The News, 16 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: The Capital City Police, evading a Lahore-like wave of terrorism in the twin-cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, on Monday recovered a huge consignment of explosive material being transported to Islamabad. Two persons, including a woman, were arrested. The explosive material packed in seven cartons was transported on a passenger van from Peshawar. The intelligence agencies have warned the law-enforcement agencies regarding that attempts from the terrorist outfits in Islamabad, the Interior Ministry sources said, adding the Ministry has sent letters to different foreign mission in Islamabad about the possible terrorist attacks.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27808

[Opinion: Danger level](#)

The News, 16 March 2010

The water problem is becoming acute, and impacting across every part of the country. It is a problem made up of many facets: the management of water resources transnationally and specifically the Indus river system, inadequate storage and a failure to create new storage for a decade, poor maintenance and leakage and now a failure of seasonal rains to replenish stocks. It is this last that has contributed to the emergency we face today as the water levels in two of the principal dams hit 'dead' level. It is unusual for both of these dams to reach dead level simultaneously, and it underscores the fragility of our water infrastructure. Comparison with levels of a year ago tells us how different things are today. On March 13, 2009, the water level at Tarbela Dam was 1,385 feet against March 14's dead level of 1,378 feet – those seven feet being the difference between having a dam that is working for us and a dam that is not. Then, water storage at the dam was recorded at 0.37 million acre-feet, whereas on March 14 it was zero. Mangla Dam on the Jhelum River has been at dead level for over a week. Hydel power generation is reduced to a trickle, loadshedding is again widespread and prolonged, and irrigation of crops threatened with the prospect of food shortages later in the year very much a reality.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=229254

[Opinion: Kashmir question](#)

The News, 16 March 2010

Pakistan has been wise in not dismissing the suggestion by All Parties Hurriyet Conference Chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq that Saudi Arabia could play a role in resolving the Kashmir dispute. The recent visit by the Indian prime minister to the desert kingdom and his warm reception there indicate that the relations between Riyadh and New Delhi could strike a stronger note. Though this is a development Pakistan would not necessarily welcome, this could also mean more potential for the Saudis to mediate on Kashmir. The Mirwaiz is right in saying that dialogue between India and Pakistan will remain meaningless unless the issue of Kashmir is put at its forefront. While there is indeed an argument for other matters to be talked over ahead of this to build the trust and confidence that vanished after the Mumbai

attacks, we know that eventually the matter of Kashmir has to be confronted head-on. The experience of the long, hostile decades since 1947 also suggests that this unfinished business from Partition is not something the two countries are likely to thrash out with much success.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=229256

[Don't expect miracles from Indo-Pak dialogue: Antony](#)
The Hindu, 17 March 2010

Defence Minister A.K. Antony on Wednesday said Pakistan "was not taking serious steps" to destroy 42 terror camps on its soil. Stating that India was "exploring all possibilities", Mr. Antony also said he did not expect any "miracles" from the dialogue with Pakistan. "All the terror camps in Pakistan are active. Pakistan has not taken any serious steps to destroy these camps," Antony told a press conference on the sidelines of the launch of Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) offshore patrol vessel (OPV) Vishwast at the port town of Vasco, 30 km from here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article253918.ece>

[Rao emphasises India's role in Afghanistan](#)
The Hindu, 17 March 2010

Indian Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao has concluded her visit to Washington, during which she impressed upon U.S. officials the importance of India's continued commitment to its developmental work in Afghanistan. Her trip also saw a sharp focus on high-tech trade and the Strategic Dialogue that was initiated last July when Secretary Clinton visited India. In a brief to U.S. interlocutors earlier this week Ms. Rao drew attention to several key regional issues according to Rahul Chhabra of the Indian Embassy, including her talks with the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan in February. She also touched upon the recent developments in Afghanistan and stressed "that Afghanistan presented the foremost security related challenge in the region," Mr. Chhabra said. In that context, Ms. Rao emphasised the need "for the international community to stay the present course in Afghanistan for as long as it is necessary." U.S. officials reportedly conveyed their appreciation of the important developmental work being done by India in Afghanistan.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article248418.ece>

[Omar for facilitating Center-Separatists talks](#)
Daily Excelsior, 17 March 2010

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today reiterated his Government's endeavour to facilitate talks between separatists and the Centre as also between India and Pakistan to help address all issues for amicable resolution. "While the Government is thoroughly engaged in carrying forward its agenda of all round development, it is also working to help political engagement for restoration of permanent peace and settlement of issues across the table," Mr Abdullah said while addressing a public rally in Rajouri district.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/10mar17/newsupdate.htm#4>

[Seven militants killed in NWA drone attack](#)

The News, 17 March 2010

PESHAWAR: Seven suspected militants were killed and three others sustained injuries in yet another attack by the US spy planes on Zhawa village near Dattakhel Tehsil in North Waziristan on Tuesday. However, some news agencies, while quoting Pakistani security officials, said 10 militants, including al-Qaeda-linked suspects, were killed in the drone strikes. Official and tribal sources said four US drones were seen flying over the border villages of Dattakhel and Mohammad Khel near the border with Afghanistan's Khost province during the attack.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27825

[President seeks US civilian N-cooperation](#)

The News, 17 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday called upon the United States to assist Pakistan in civilian nuclear technology to help the country overcome its energy crisis, on the one hand, and bridge the trust deficit between the two countries on the other. He said this during a meeting with Director of US National Intelligence Admiral Dennis C Blair, who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr on Tuesday. Briefing the media, spokesperson for the President Farhatullah Babar said the president said that provision of civilian nuclear technology would go a long way in addressing misperception about the US in Pakistan.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27829

[4.5 tonnes of explosives, suicide vests seized in Lahore](#)

The News, 17 March 2010

"The police raided different shops in the city today and yesterday and seized the explosives and weapons," police official Zulfiqar Hameed told AFP. "The police raided a shop in the Iqbal Town area on Tuesday and seized 170 bags, mainly containing ammonium nitrate and weighing 3,000 kilograms, two suicide vests, four rifles, three sub-machine guns and one light machine gun," Hameed said. He added that 10 suspects, including the shop owner, had been arrested. The police also seized 1,500 kilograms of explosives material, which included potassium used in manufacturing fire crackers, 600 rifle rounds and 16 hand grenades from another shop in Iqbal Town, he said. Another police official, Ali Nasir Rizvi, said: "Both the shops had been rented out to one Muhammad Omar and we are trying to get hold of this person."

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27834

[Pakistan Charges Americans With Terrorism](#)

NYT, 17 March 2010

LAHORE, Pakistan — Five young American Muslims detained in Pakistan last December on suspicion of seeking to join jihadists in Afghanistan were formally charged Wednesday, in a case that added to fears that Westerners might be increasingly be turning to Islamist-inspired terrorism. The five men, friends from the Washington suburbs in their late teens and early 20s, pleaded not guilty to the charges, which include plotting attacks in Afghanistan as well as raising funds to commit terrorism and planning attacks against Pakistani allies and targets within the country, according to Hassan Katchela, a defense lawyer for the men. Some of the

charges carry life sentences.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/18/world/asia/18pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

[Pakistan: Drone Strikes Reported](#)

NYT, 17 March 2010

Two suspected American missile strikes killed at least seven militants in northwestern Pakistan on Wednesday, Pakistani officials said. An intelligence official and an army official said some insurgents had also been wounded in the strikes, in two separate areas of the North Waziristan tribal region. They said the first strike was aimed at a vehicle near Miram Shah, which is the capital of North Waziristan. About 50 minutes later, three missiles hit a vehicle carrying insurgents in another town. The C.I.A. has repeatedly taken aim at militant positions in Pakistan's tribal regions since December, when a suicide bomber killed seven Americans at a C.I.A. base in Afghanistan. The intelligence officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the news media.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/17/world/asia/17briefs-dronebf.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

[India has pricing, security concerns over Iran pipeline: Krishna](#)

The Hindu, 18 March 2010

Following a deal between Iran and Pakistan for the construction of natural gas pipeline, India on Thursday said it was in consultation with the Iranian government to address "concerns about pricing and security" pertaining to the pact which originally involved India. "... As far as India is concerned, we are in consultation with the government of Iran. We have certain concerns. Concerns about pricing, concerns about security, which have been taken up with the government of Iran," External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna said here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article257235.ece>

[PM terms delay in re-instating judges biggest mistake](#)

The News, 18 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani said his biggest mistake was not reinstating the judges at the beginning of his term in office. "I should have restored the judiciary in the beginning," he said, adding, "That is my biggest mistake. Then we would not have wasted our energies on each other. It would have been better if we had concentrated on the people of Pakistan," Gilani made these comments in an interview to the Financial Times. —Online

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27836

[Rabbani panel close to consensus on 18th Amendment](#)

The News, 18 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: In a landmark development, the parliamentary committee on constitutional reforms, headed by Senator Mian Raza Rabbani, has finished its task of evolving a consensus on amendments to the Constitution and the homework for the 18th Amendment to the Constitution has been completed. Now the committee will start studying proposals from Thursday to give them a final shape before tabling

them in the National Assembly by Monday. The committee held a closed-door meeting at the Parliament House here on Wednesday. It has completed its task except for one issue, that of renaming the NWFP which is now between the PML-N and the ANP. According to sources, a meeting between Mian Nawaz Sharif and Asfandiyar Wali is expected by Thursday or Friday.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27837

[10 more killed in NWA drone attacks](#)

The News, 18 March 2010

PESHAWAR: Ten more militants were killed and two others sustained injuries in two separate US drone attacks on Hamzoni and Mezar villages in North Waziristan on Wednesday. Official and tribal sources said the CIA-operated drones first fired three missiles at a car reportedly carrying some militants from the Hamzoni village to the nearby Khattey Killay. The sources said there were, in fact, two cars on way to Khattey Killay village carrying militants but the driver of the first car sped away.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27838

[Nuclear needs](#)

The News, 18 March 2010

As the country is engulfed once again by a wave of power cuts that are leaving some parts bereft of electricity for up to eighteen hours a day, President Asif Ali Zardari has called for the US to help us with the development of civilian nuclear technologies. Of all the myriad crises that we face it is that in the power sector (which links to the problems with water) which is the greatest threat to our continued existence. If America truly wants to see Pakistan stable and productive as well as a shedding of some of the mistrust that has grown between us, then it could do little better than helping us to resolve our perennial power deficits. The president made his plea during a meeting on Tuesday with Admiral Dennis C Blair, the director of US National Intelligence. He also pointed out that there is a real and significant cost to our fighting the war on terror that has been going on since 9/11.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=229674

[Foreign official: China-Pakistan ties run deep](#)

People's Daily, 19 March 2010

Pakistan and China enjoy a profound traditional friendship and more efforts are needed to consolidate and deepen the friendship, said Masood Khan, ambassador of Pakistan to China at the seminar on Pakistan-China relations in the 21st century held in Beijing on March 18, 2010. "Pakistan-China relations are strong and resilient thanks to the wisdom and foresight of our leaders and skilful management of these relations over the decades", Khan added.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6925010.html>

[No decline in Pak support to terrorists: Kapoor](#)

The Hindu, 19 March 2010

There has been "no decline" in support from Pakistan to terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir and top militant leaders including Hafiz Saeed are operating with impunity from its territory despite international pressure after Mumbai terror attacks, Army Chief Deepak Kapoor has said. Pointing to ISI and Pakistan army officials aiding

terrorist camps and the functioning of top militant leaders including LeT chief Hafiz Saeed and Hizbul Mujahideen's Syed Salahuddin from Pakistani soil, General Kapoor said the terrorists "are probably more emboldened".

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article258168.ece>

[LeT now a threat beyond India: U.S. Congress](#)

The Hindu, 19 March 2010

In an unmistakable sign of rising concern in the United States over the expansive reach of the militant outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), a Congressional hearing on Thursday emphasised the urgent need to "crush" the group. The hearing, titled "Bad Company: Lashkar e-Tayyiba and the Growing Ambition of Islamist Militancy in Pakistan", Chairman Gary Ackerman said that in the wake of the Mumbai attacks in 2008 computer records and email accounts investigated yielded 320 locations worldwide deemed to be possible targets of LeT attacks. Only 20 of the targets were locations in India, Mr. Ackerman added.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/article243726.ece>

[No compromise on national issues: troika](#)

The News, 19 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: The top political and military leadership on Thursday resolved not to make any compromise on strategic national issues and decided the forthcoming Pak-US strategic dialogue needs to cover the full spectrum of relationship to establish the confidence of the people. The decision was taken at a meeting of the troika — President Asif Zardari, Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani and Chief of Army Staff Gen Ashfaq Parvez Kayani — along with Foreign Minister Shah Mehmud Qureshi here at the Presidency in which matters relating to strategic dialogue with the US and issues relating to the war against militants were discussed.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27857

[We have done a lot, it's time for US to deliver: Qureshi](#)

The News, 19 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi heads Pakistan's delegation to Washington for the strategic dialogue on March 24, in what is being seen as a "make" or "break" situation for the entire region in the year 2010. Amongst others in Qureshi's delegation will be Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir, COAS General Kayani and DG ISI General Pasha. The foreign minister, interacting for two hours with the media at the Foreign Office, declared: "We have done too much and no other nation has paid the human price that we in Pakistan have. Now you (US) deliver. Innocent Pakistanis have paid with their lives. We have delivered and now it is your turn." "I will engage with more confidence as all this (fight against terror and successful military operations) has given us more strength. We have delivered and parliament is behind my voice", said the minister.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27858

[New judicial crisis hits Islamabad](#)

The News, 19 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: A serious judicial crisis has hit Islamabad, as the chief justice of the Federal Shariat Court has refused to administer the oath to the judges newly appointed in the FSC by President Asif Ali Zardari against his recommendations. Federal Shariat Court Chief Justice Agha Rafique Ahmad has written a harsh note to the government for ignoring his recommendations. He said this was against the independence and freedom of the judiciary.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27860

[A Guilty Plea to 2 Terrorism Charges](#)

NYT, 19 March 2010

CHICAGO — A Chicago man pleaded guilty on Thursday to helping plan the terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India, that killed 163 people in 2008. The man, David C. Headley, also pleaded guilty to charges of plotting to attack a Danish newspaper that published cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad in 2005. In his plea agreement, Mr. Headley said Ilyas Kashmiri, an Islamic militant operating in Pakistan, had said the attackers should behead captives and throw their heads out of the newspaper building to heighten the response from Danish authorities.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/19/us/19cartoon.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

[76% of militants killed in Kashmir in 2 years are foreigners](#)

The Hindu, 20 March 2010

The composition of militancy in Kashmir continues to be dominated by foreigners — of the 398 militants killed 304 were foreigners, making it 76 per cent of total militants killed in the valley in 2008-09. The level of violence, which declined during this period, has increased in the past few months. Increase in this composition has also led to targeted attacks on security forces as these militants, who generally come from North-Western Frontier Province (NWFP), Punjab, Pakistan occupied Kashmir and other areas of Pakistan, are highly trained and well-equipped with latest arms. Top security officials refuse to confirm.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article257406.ece>

[Pak-US strategic dialogue to be complex: Holbrooke](#)

The News, 20 March 2010

WASHINGTON: US Special Representative for Pakistan and Afghanistan Richard Holbrooke has said the strategic dialogue between Pakistan and the United States of America had a broad and complex agenda. However, the focus will be to strengthen democratic institutions in Pakistan, eliminating terrorism, ending poverty and finding solutions for the power crisis, he told reporters at a briefing at the State Department here on Friday.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27877

[Capital's unrest has potential to engulf entire Punjab](#)

The News, 20 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: The sharp increase of Rs 7 in public transport fares has led to unrest in the federal capital, which has the potential to spread to Rawalpindi and other cities of

the Punjab. The agitators seemed to be increasing in number as people belonging to different walks of life have joined students in their protest against the hike in fares of public transport vehicles. When the director (administration) issued a notification — 5(12)-Law/2006-1163 — on March 16, 2010, hardly anybody would have assessed the violent reaction from students.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27878

[Rabbani panel completes its task on Monday](#)

The News, 20 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: The Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Reforms (PCCR) will complete its task on Monday by giving formal approval to the draft of the 18th Amendment package for smooth sailing in the National Assembly on Wednesday. The decision to finalise the report was taken during a meeting with Mian Raza Rabbani in the chair at the Parliament House. The meeting decided to hold a final meeting of the committee on Monday so that the draft bill could be presented in the National Assembly on Wednesday.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27880

[LBs dissolved in Balochistan](#)

The News, 20 March 2010

QUETTA: The Balochistan government on Friday dissolved with immediate effect all the district councils, town councils, Tehsil councils and union councils and appointed district coordination officers (DCOs) as administrators of the respective districts in the province. A notification issued by the Local Government and Rural Development Department said consequent upon dissolution of the councils, all Nazims, Naib Nazims and members of the local councils had ceased to hold their respective offices forthwith. The measure was taken by the provincial government in exercise of the powers conferred on it by the sub-section (1) of Section 179-B of the Balochistan Local Government Ordinance 2001.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27882

[Pakistan has proved anti-terror resolve: FM](#)

The News, 20 March 2010

WASHINGTON: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said Pakistan has proved its resolve to fight terrorism with a series of sustained actions as he stressed that the US commitment to the region is critical to long-term security and stability. He told a Washington newspaper that Pakistan has already demonstrated its anti-terror commitment with capture of many top terrorist leaders and elimination of more than 600 al-Qaeda fighters. The foreign minister, who leads Pakistan at March 24 strategic dialogue with the United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in Washington, also cited successful operations against the Taliban militants in the mountainous north-western and tribal regions. Pakistan continues to view the United States as a partner at war with a common enemy "despite past differences and distrust," he told The Washington Examiner.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27886

[Inside the constitutional package](#)

The News, 21 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari's sweeping powers to impose emergency in

the country will be clipped in the upcoming constitutional amendment package, which also envisages absolute powers to the Parliamentary Commission to reject, with two-thirds vote majority, any proposed judge of the Supreme Court/high court referred to it by the Judicial Commission of Pakistan headed by the Chief Justice of Pakistan. A draft copy of the proposed constitutional package to be laid down reveals that several powers of the President of Pakistan were being massively clipped, particularly his role in appointment of judges, chief election commissioner, imposition of emergency in the country, caretaker set-up, formation of federal government, etc.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27890

Pak-US mistrust still exists: CIA chief

The News, 21 March 2010

WASHINGTON: CIA Chief Leon Panetta has said that there was still mistrust between the US and Pakistan and would take time to go away. He also said that the arrest of Taliban leaders, including Mulla Baradar, has had an impact on the ongoing reconciliation process with the Taliban, but appeared unsure whether the impact was good or bad. Leon Panetta was talking to The News here at the Pakistan Embassy on Friday while attending the reception given in honour of Pak Navy chief Admiral Noman Bashir.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27891

23 militants killed in Kurram, Orakzai

The News, 21 March 2010

HANGU: Twenty-three militants and three members of the local armed Lashkar were killed in clashes and air strikes in Kurram and Orakzai Agencies on Saturday, tribal and official sources said. The sources said the clash erupted between the militants and armed members of the pro-government Qaumi Lashkar in the Baroozina area. The sources said both sides used heavy weapons in the hours' long fighting in which 14 militants and three members of the tribal Lashkar were killed. The dead included two commanders of militants affiliated with Noor Jamal alias Mulla Toofan group. The sources said 15 people, including nine militants and five Lashkar men, were injured in the clash.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27894

Pakistan will get fair hearing on civil nuclear deal request: US

The News, 21 March 2010

WASHINGTON: Though Pakistani and US officials are optimistic about the strategic dialogue being held here next week, some of them are warning about overblown expectations. "Pakistan will get a fair hearing of its requests, ranging from civil nuclear deal to simplification of the Coalition Support Fund delivery and market access. But all of these will require a process and will not happen overnight," said a US official.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=27903

Govt moves SC against NRO verdict

The News, 23 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: The government on Monday filed an amended review petition in the Supreme Court (SC), seeking review of its verdict of December 16, 2009, on the National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO). Barrister Kamal Azfar filed the petition on

behalf of the federal government, praying the court to set aside its verdict on the NRO in the interest of justice. The petition argued that the NRO enabled the leaders of the main political parties to return Pakistan and participate in free and fair elections and paved the way for the transition from the military dictatorship to democracy.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27926

[Army, judiciary grab PCB lands: Ijaz Butt](#)

The News, 23 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board Ijaz Butt made a shocking disclosure in the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) here on Monday that he was being threatened by a particular group in Karachi to hand over acres of PCB land worth Rs 5 billion. These disclosures were made during the course of scrutiny of the audit of a PCB report. The committee members were shocked when the chairman, without mincing his words, brought to their notice that he was now under serious pressure to hand over the PCB land worth billions of rupees to a particular group of Karachi.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27928

[Kayani, Petraeus agree to enhance defence ties](#)

The News, 23 March 2010

WASHINGTON: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani met with US Central Command Commander General David Petraeus at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla, to reaffirm the strategic partnership between Pakistan and the US. During the meeting, General Petraeus and General Kayani discussed ways to advance cooperation and collaboration in countering extremist violence in Afghanistan, as well as US support for Pakistan's own fight against violent extremists. They also discussed improvements in coordination between Pakistan's military and US forces in eastern Afghanistan.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27932

[Govt files fresh plea to investigate AQ Khan](#)

The News, 23 March 2010

LAHORE: The federal government has filed a fresh application with the Lahore High Court, seeking permission to probe claims made in two recently published reports in The Washington Post about transfer of nuclear secrets to Iraq and Iran, government lawyer Naveed Inayat Malik said on Monday. "We basically seek permission to see Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan and investigate into the matter as well as restrain him from making any statement and interacting with anybody," the lawyer said.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27933

[India behind Balochistan unrest, Malik tells Senate](#)

The News, 23 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rehman Malik on Monday categorically named India to be behind acts of terrorism and unrest in Balochistan. "I say India is involved in Balochistan, yes it is there behind what is happening in the province," Rehman Malik told the Senate in clear and strong words, while responding to a point of order on target killings in the province. He said he was also ready to share with the Senate, in an in-camera briefing, evidences of the foreign involvement, including recovered passports of the missing persons, who were getting training from outside the country

to carry out acts of terrorism and target killings in Balochistan.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27937

[Pakistan May Investigate Nuclear Scientist's Ties to Iran](#)
NYT, 23 March 2010

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — The Pakistani government has filed a petition in the nation's High Court seeking to investigate Abdul Qadeer Khan, the Pakistani scientist who has confessed to running the world's largest nuclear proliferation network, over recent reports about his ties to Iran's nuclear program, a government lawyer said Monday. The petition was filed on Monday, hours before a court in Lahore was to announce a verdict on Mr. Khan's petition to have his travel restrictions relaxed. The court is expected to issue its ruling Wednesday on both, according to lawyers for the government and Mr. Khan.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/23/world/asia/23pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

[Jihad only way to liberate Kashmir, say Lashkar and Jaish](#)
The Hindu, 24 March 2010

Pronouncing jihad as the only way to liberate Kashmir from "Indian occupation," the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), along with several other Kashmiri militant organisations, on Tuesday warned Pakistan of a greater tragedy than its 1971 dismemberment if the government lulled itself into considering India and the U.S. as friends. A declaration, rejecting India-Pakistan talks and calling for jihad instead, was adopted by leaders of these organisations at the 'Defence of Pakistan Conference,' organised in Kotli – a district along the Line of Control (LoC) in Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK). Among those party to the declaration were Hizb-ul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin and LeT commander Abdul Wahid Kashmiri.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article303663.ece>

[Pak seeks 'constructive' U.S. role on Kashmir](#)
The Hindu, 24 March 2010

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said on Wednesday that Pakistan still hopes the United States would play a "constructive role" in resolving the Kashmir dispute and providing it with "non-discriminatory" access to energy. "Pakistan seeks peaceful resolution to all issues in South Asia, including Kashmir. We hope the U.S. will maintain its constructive engagement to encourage this process," Mr. Qureshi said at a press conference here at the start of a Strategic Dialogue between the two countries.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article303582.ece>

[US to engage India, Pakistan to end water dispute Officials say potential for water conflict exists](#)

The News, 24 March 2010

WASHINGTON: A United States official has said that Washington will engage Pakistan and India to help improve their tension-brewing situation over water as Washington wants the two South Asian neighbours to avoid any conflict over the lingering

dispute. "I think we need to work on this and find ways to make sure that especially in the Pakistan-Indian case, we can help move that situation forward to an improved situation," US Under Secretary for Democracy and Global Affairs Maria Otero said at a State Department briefing on the occasion of the World Water Day on Monday.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27942

[Pakistan asks for US nuclear, mly. intelligence aid: WSJ](#)
The News, 24 March 2010

WASHINGTON: Pakistan has sent a 56-page document to the US ahead of strategic talks scheduled for Wednesday, seeking expanded military and economic aid in what some American officials believe is an implicit offer to crack down in return on the Afghan Taliban, reports the influential Wall Street Journal. In a report filed by Matthew Rosenberg and Peter Spiegel, the paper said this previously undisclosed document includes requests ranging from the US help to alleviate Pakistan's chronic water and power shortages to pleas for surveillance aircraft and support in developing the country's civilian nuclear program.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27943

[Qureshi wants strategic partnership with US](#)
The News, 24 March 2010

WASHINGTON: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said that members of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee had appreciated the working and institutional connect between different institutions of Pakistan. He was talking to journalists after conclusion of an hour-long meeting with the US Senate committee here at the Capitol Hill on Monday. Qureshi said now it was time to convert the friendship between the United States and Pakistan into a strategic partnership to achieve the objectives.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27952

[Buying \\$71m faulty scanners just because we got a loan?](#)
The News, 24 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: The government is all set to buy faulty Chinese scanners worth \$71 million though a team carrying out performance assessment also expressed serious apprehensions about the equipment posing health risks to unsuspecting general public. The machines are being bought from China against a Chinese government loan to Pakistan. The federal cabinet meeting today (Wednesday) is being asked to stamp its formal seal of approval for the signing of the multi-million dollar deal to purchase the equipment to detect weapons and explosives.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27953

[Every country under threat from Pak-based terror groups: Chidambaram](#)
The Hindu, 25 March 2010

India has warned western nations it would be "naive" for them to believe that only it faced a threat from Pakistan-based terrorist groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba which posed a danger to every country. "No country is truly safe....Don't think that India alone is under threat. Every country is under threat from these groups and the Lashkar-e-

Taiba(LeT) today is like the al-Qaeda, a multi-country group", Mr. Chidambaram said in an interview to BBC.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article304060.ece>

[Kasab made scapegoat by police: Defence lawyer](#)

The Hindu, 25 March 2010

He is an innocent village boy who became the scapegoat in the 26/11 terror attacks case as he is a Pakistani, this is how Ajmal Kasab's lawyer K.P. Pawar described the gunman in his final arguments in the trial on Thursday. "Kasab has no connection with the perpetrators of the 26/11 attacks. He has been arrested by police just because he is a Pakistani and according to the police the conspiracy of the attack was hatched in Pakistan," Mr. Pawar told a special court here.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article304438.ece>

[U.S. says no to Pak's request for mediation on Kashmir](#)

The Hindu, 25 March 2010

US on Thursday tossed out Pakistan's request to mediate in resolving bilateral issues like Kashmir with India as it said the country can't dictate the foreign policy of any of the two South Asian countries. Emerging out of the first Cabinet-level 'Strategic Dialogue' between the US and Pakistan here, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said America encourages dialogue between India and Pakistan.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article304024.ece>

[Two militants killed in failed infiltration bid](#)

Daily Excelsior, 25 March 2010

Srinagar, Mar 24: In the first infiltration bid of the year in Kashmir valley, Army today shot dead two militants near the Line of Control (LoC) in Keran sector of Kupwara district as they were trying to sneak into the Valley from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). A large group of heavily-armed militants tried to sneak into Kashmir from across the Line of Control (LoC) in Keran sector in the wee hours today, taking advantage of darkness, Defence sources said.

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/10mar25/news.htm#3>

[US to speed up arms supply](#)

The News, 25 March 2010

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Wednesday US pledged a \$125 million aid to boost the energy sector in Pakistan, besides allowing Pakistani products access to US markets and speeding up military equipment transfers, Geo News reported. In a joint press briefing with Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi here after holding the strategic dialogue with the Pakistani delegation, she termed the strategic sitting important not only for Pakistan but also for the US administration.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27958

[18th Amendment to be moved in parliament tomorrow](#)

The News, 25 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: As the Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Reforms (PCCR) is all set to sign the constitutional reforms package in the shape of the 18th

Amendment to the Constitution this evening (Thursday), the government has decided to present the report of the committee in both the houses separately on Friday and also summoned the joint sitting of both the houses of parliament the same evening for the address of President Asif Ali Zardari. In the last meeting of the PCCR, which was held here on Wednesday with Mian Raza Rabbani in the chair, the approval of the constitutional package in the shape of the 18th Amendment was given.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27959

[Govt to take nation into confidence over talks with US: PM](#) **The News, 25 March 2010**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Wednesday said the government would take the political leadership and the nation into confidence over the outcome of the strategic dialogue with the United States. "The strategic dialogue is beginning today and the government will hide nothing from the political leadership and the nation," Gilani said while responding to various points of order in the Senate.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27961

[PM blocks multi-million dollar scanners deal](#) **The News, 25 March 2010**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani blocked a multi-million-dollar deal to buy faulty scanners from China, after his ministers in the cabinet meeting here on Wednesday blasted the contract. It was also disclosed that the equipment was being purchased at 20 per cent higher rates than the market and would cause a possible loss of \$12 million in the first phase of their import and installation. The News had also exposed the shady deal in its issue of March 23. A sombre prime minister is said to have remarked that "something was wrong somewhere" in the whole deal and announced to form a committee of three federal ministers to probe the deal and submit a report to the cabinet. The committee, comprises Law Minister Dr Babar Awan, Commerce Minister Makhdoom Amin Fahim and Adviser for Finance Dr Hafeez Sheikh.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27963

[21 militants killed in Orakzai operation](#) **The News, 25 March 2010**

KALAYA/HANGU: Twenty-one militants were killed and 24 others sustained injuries during the two-day military offensive against insurgents in lower part of Orakzai Agency, official and tribal sources told The News. Also, security forces claimed to have arrested 15 militants in a search operation in various localities. The sources said security forces, backed by artillery, gunship helicopters and fighter jets, carried out the operation against the militants in Hashmat Killay, Qeematkhel, Merobak, Shanka Anjani and Ferozkhel areas in lower part of Orakzai tribal region.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27964

[Headley plea bargain shows al-Qaeda-LeT nexus'](#) **The Hindu, 26 March 2010**

Pakistani-American terrorist David Headley's plea bargain under which he confessed to plotting the Mumbai attacks throws light on close links between al-Qaeda and LeT, according to former CIA expert Bruce Riedel. The 49-year-old Headley's story showed

clear contours of the close relationship between al-Qaeda and the Pakistani militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba, Riedel, who led the review of the Obama Administration's AfPak strategy, was quoted as saying by The New York Times.

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

[Composite Dialogue only way to resolve issues with India: Pak](#)

The Hindu, 26 March 2010

The Pakistan government on Friday said it remains convinced that the Composite Dialogue is the only way forward to resolve all outstanding issues with India, including Kashmir, and to achieve peace and security in the region. The government conveyed its stand in a written reply by Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi during question hour in the National Assembly.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article306414.ece>

[Nawaz U-turn upsets govt plans](#)

The News, 26 March 2010

Islamabad: The tabling of the draft of the 18th constitutional amendment, hyped as the biggest political achievement since the consensus 1973 Constitution, was merely a few hours away when a stoic looking PML-N supremo, Mian Nawaz Sharif punctured national expectations by making a stunning declaration that his party would not sign the draft till the removal of certain objections pertaining to the process of appointing judges of the high courts and the superior court. Levelling a hitherto unheard charge that "our recommendations were thrown out by the committee", Sharif also tried downplaying the outstanding emotional issue of renaming the NWFP. But despite his dismissive nonchalant demeanour the issue continued to be perceived as the real stickler.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27978

[Everyone agrees on strategic direction of country: Kayani](#)

The News, 26 March 2010

washington: Pakistan Army chief Gen Kayani has said he has told US lawmakers that if the US helps correct Pakistan's economic and power issues, we would not require anything else and would be able to take care of ourselves. Speaking to the Pakistani community here at the Pakistan embassy on Thursday, Gen Kayani said: "Today Pakistan is being respected and listened to because the nation has fully backed the Pakistani armed forces".

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27982

[FO seeks to hide unease over nuclear snub](#)

The News, 26 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan put on a brave face on Thursday, refusing to publicly express its disappointment at being ignored by the US, which refused to give any indication that Pakistan was being considered for a civil nuclear energy deal. Maintaining a stiff upper lip, the spokesman at the Foreign Office, during a weekly media briefing, admitted that the issue was part of the "unprecedented" dialogue and when asked directly, replied: "I think it would be inappropriate to see this (strategic) dialogue process only in the context of a nuclear deal. This dialogue is, as I said earlier, all-encompassing and broad-based. It has many dimensions and energy is one of the areas that are under consideration."

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=27991

[Pak-US talks a good beginning](#)

The News, 26 March 2010

The optics after the first round of the strategic dialogue in Washington are better than the results announced. If ever a picture said a thousand words, it was that of a beaming Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Pakistan's foreign minister, and the American secretary of state, Hillary Clinton. No stiff body language here; much camaraderie, many words of friendship. The results at first glance appear meagre: a few energy projects, assistance for the Benazir Income Support Programme and a fast track to some military hardware. Also, an apparent firm no to nuclear power plants, and hands off on an American role in promoting India-Pakistan dialogue.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=230954

[5 Pakistani Security Officials Killed in Clash With Militants](#)

NYT, 26 March 2010

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Taliban militants battled Pakistani security forces for control of a security outpost in a tribal region near the Afghan border, leaving five Pakistani security officials and dozens of Taliban fighters dead, Pakistani authorities said Friday. The Taliban captured the outpost in the Orakzai tribal region on Thursday night after more than 100 militants bombarded it with mortars and automatic-rifle fire, said a Pakistani security official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the news media. A lieutenant colonel of the paramilitary Frontier Corps and four other security officials were killed, he said.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/27/world/asia/27pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

[U.S. and Pakistan Agree to Reinforce Strategic Ties](#)

NYT, 26 March 2010

WASHINGTON — Pakistan and the United States wrapped up two days of high-level talks on Thursday, with a raft of economic development initiatives, an agreement to hasten deliveries of military hardware and a promise to put their often mistrustful relationship on a new footing. In a communiqué issued after the talks, the countries said they would “redouble their efforts to deal effectively with terrorism” and would work together for “peace and stability in Afghanistan.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/26/world/asia/26policy.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

[26/11: Headley names four Pakistani Army officers](#)

The Hindu, 27 March 2010

Lashkar-e-Taiba operative David Headley has told a U.S. court that serving Pakistani Army officers were involved in the 26/11 terror mayhem in Mumbai, and one of them was “on the other side of the telephone line” with the terrorists during the 2008 attack, news reports said on Friday. According to Outlook Editor-in-Chief Vinod Mehta, the involvement of the Pakistani Army officers proves their “direct link” with the terror carnage in India's commercial and financial capital in 2008 that left 166 people dead, including foreigners.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article306624.ece>

[Which foreign player threw spanner in the works?'](#)

The News, 27 March 2010

ISLAMABAD: The foreign minister of a European country is said to have quietly played a role in delaying the tabling of the 18th Amendment in Parliament, fearing that the proposed "demolition" of the office of the president through these sweeping changes might not be good news for all the stakeholders of the state. One credible source has revealed that apart from this overseas intervention, which immediately halted the otherwise smooth proceeding, the military establishment too was not happy with the unprecedented autonomy being given to the provinces in the new constitutional package as it sent alarm bells ringing within the ranks of powerful establishment for some obvious reasons.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=28001

[Biden assures Pak team of long-term support](#)

The News, 27 March 2010

WASHINGTON: Praising the progress in fighting the war against terrorism during the last two years, US Vice President Joe Biden affirmed to Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Defence Minister Ahmed Mukhtar and Army chief General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani long-term US partnership, besides full support to Pakistan's economy and security. Biden was talking to Pakistani leaders at the White House on Thursday afternoon where they had gone to meet President Obama's National Security Adviser General (retd) James Jones and Biden joined the meeting without any earlier announced schedule. The meeting continued for over 80 minutes. Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Husain Haqqani, was also present on the occasion. According to a top official, Vice President Joe Biden also spoke with Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi separately.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=28005

[Spanner in the works](#)

The News, 27 March 2010

The repeal of Musharraf's controversial 17th Amendment is expected to usher in a new era of parliamentary democracy in Pakistan. All political parties in parliament deserve credit for reaching a consensus on a new constitutional accord, and President Zardari more so for giving away his powers. PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif's last-minute about-face over judicial appointments, throwing the spanner in the works, is rather unfortunate, to say the least. When the time came to walk the talk on the much-touted CoD (Charter of Democracy), Mian Sahib, true to his style, blinked.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=231128

[BJP: new composition, same stand](#)

The News, 27 March 2010

Is the Bharatiya Janata Party obsessed with proving itself the sectarian, confrontationist oddball of Indian politics? Last fortnight's developments suggest so. Take the shenanigans of Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi. A Special Investigation Team appointed by the Supreme Court to probe the 2002 Gujarat pogrom summoned him to question him about his role in the killings. Many questions had been raised about his role by former Gujarat Director General of Police RB Sreekumar, countless victims, independent inquiries, and sting-operation disclosures

by Tehelka magazine.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=231130

[Limited options](#)

The News, 27 March 2010

While opening the so-called, first of its kind 'strategic dialogue' with Pakistan, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton argued that the United States had started a 'new day' with Pakistan. Her speech had a tone of optimism about the future cooperation between the two countries. She emphasised that the US government recognised the need to build a long-term reliable relationship with Pakistan's masses as opposed to seeking strategic alliance with the government in power driven by short-term US interest. There was appreciation for the attempts made by Pakistan to combat militancy. There were also promises of continued economic and development assistance to Pakistan. All of this seems good in theory. No one would advise Pakistan to be at war with the US. However, the problem is that the Obama administration has failed to demonstrate that it actually is working on developing a long-term partnership with the people of Pakistan.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=231131

[US justifies drone strikes in Pakistan](#)

The News, 28 March 2010

WASHINGTON: The US government for the first time has offered a legal justification of its drone strikes against al-Qaeda and the Taliban militants, citing the right to "self-defence" under the international law. The CIA attacks by unmanned aircraft in Pakistan, Somalia and elsewhere have sharply increased under President Barack Obama's administration but have remained shrouded in secrecy, with some human rights groups charging the bombing raids amount to illegal assassinations.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=28024

[LeT expanding to other South Asian states: US](#)

The News, 28 March 2010

WASHINGTON: The Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), predominately a threat to India, is fast expanding its operations to other South Asian countries, including Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives, a top US military official told US lawmakers on Friday. The dangerously expanding influence of LeT, which was responsible for the Mumbai attack in 2008, is an issue of concern for the Obama Administration, said Admiral Robert Willard, Commander of the US Pacific Command, in his testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=28026

[Al-Qaeda, Taliban militants on the run: FM](#)

The News, 28 March 2010

WASHINGTON: The al-Qaeda and Taliban militants were on the run and fleeing the Afghan border regions for new destinations since Pakistan has no longer remained as their safe haven, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi declared on Saturday. "Our operations have curtailed the border crossings. Today, Taliban, al-Qaeda and their associates are on the run. They are running away from Pakistan because they're seeing the seriousness, the resolve of the people and the armed forces against militancy," he told the Charlie Rose Show for Public Broadcasting Service.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=28036

[NWFP's identity](#)

The News, 28 March 2010

It appears that the continued division in opinion between the ANP and the PML-N on a new name for NWFP may have been a key factor in the scuttling of the agreement on the 18th Amendment Bill. In some matters, emotion and irrationality still dominate decision-making by our politicians. The PML-N remains deeply displeased with the prospect of a name that reflects the Pakhtun identity of the province. This is, to put it mildly, strange given that each of the other three provinces is named on the basis of the majority ethnic group living there. The same pattern holds true in many other parts of the world.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=231251

[American Terror Suspect Traveled Unimpeded](#)

NYT, 28 March 2010

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — An American charged with helping plan the 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India, moved effortlessly between the United States, Pakistan and India for nearly seven years, training at a militant camp in Pakistan on five occasions, according to a plea agreement released by the Justice Department last week. The odyssey of David C. Headley, 49, included scouting targets in several cities in India and meeting with a senior operative of Al Qaeda in Pakistan's tribal areas. These and other new details of Mr. Headley's activities, contained in the plea agreement, raise troubling questions about how an American citizen could travel for so long undetected from his home base in Chicago to well-established terrorist training camps in Pakistan.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/26/world/asia/26pstan.html?ref=asia&pagewanted=print>

[2500 Pak-trained militants ready to infiltrate: Army](#)

The Hindu, 29 March 2010

The Army on Monday said nearly 2,500 armed militants are ready in Pakistan training camps to infiltrate into Jammu and Kashmir. "2,000 to 2,500 armed militants in Pakistan training camps are ready to infiltrate into Jammu and Kashmir," Brigadier General of Staff (BGS), 16 Corps, Gurdeep Singh told reporters at the Nagrota Corps headquarters here. He said there were approximately 42 training camps across the border out of which 34 are active.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article321099.ece>

[Water projects](#)

The News, 29 March 2010

LAHORE: Pakistan has asked India to install the telemetry system on water sector projects built on the western rivers in held Kashmir. The demand was raised during the first round of talks between the two countries here on Sunday, which are being held at the platform of the Permanent Indus Waters Commission. Pakistan stressed the need for installing the telemetry system for measuring the water flows towards Pakistan in a bid to get the real-time data. India used to provide inflow and outflow data of the western rivers to Pakistan after three to four months. Official sources said the demand had gained importance due to the fact that after construction of various

projects on the western rivers, especially on the Chenab, dwindling river flows had been witnessed. Under the Indus Waters Treaty, the water of three western rivers, including Indus, Jhelum and Chenab, has been given to Pakistan.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28045

[TTP, LJ may target Tahirul Qadri, Nadra, passport offices](#)

The News, 29 March 2010

LAHORE: Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), in connivance with the Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LJ), has planned suicide attacks on the main offices of the National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) and the passport issuing authority in Lahore and Islamabad to punish them for their role in identification of suicide bombers through DNA tests and fingerprints, says an official letter. The Lahore commissioner has issued the warning to the Capital City Police Officer, Lahore, and others. The letter, quoting the report of an intelligence agency, warned that Abu Bakar alias Abdullah Farooqi, a resident of Vehari, who is a TTP member, had entered Lahore, along with his two associates, for launching terrorist attacks in the city. The same group has also been tasked to target Maulana Tahirul Qadri for issuing a decree against the suicide bombings.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28047

[Indian firing incidents continue as border talks begin](#)

The News, 29 March 2010

SIALKOT: The Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) carried out unprovoked aerial firing from the Indian post, tent position, late on Saturday night at the Pasroor sector of Sialkot working boundary. Such incidents of firing by on the Sialkot working border have been continuing for the last many weeks. A flag meeting between the Pakistani Chenab Rangers authorities and the Indian BSF authorities was held Sunday in this regard, during which the Indian BSF authorities claimed to have killed some alleged border crosser in firing on Saturday.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=28054

[15 militant outfits active](#)

Daily Star, 29 March 2010

Country used mainly for transit to neighbouring countries till 2005, say detained foreign militants

At least 15 foreign militant organisations were active or are still operating in Bangladesh since 1991 using the country as a safe shelter or transit to infiltrate neighbouring countries. The organisations are Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Tehrik-e-Jihad-e-Islami-Kashmiri (TJI), Harkat-ul Mujahideen, Harkat-ul-Jehadul Islami, Hizb-ul Mujahideen (HuM), Hezbe Islami, Jamiatul Mujahideen, Harkatul Ansar, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), India-based Asif Reza Commando Force (ARCF), Myanmar-based militant groups Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO), Arakan Rohingya National Organization (ARNO) and National United Party of Arakan (NUPA).

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=132179>