

Dawn, 1 April 2005

**Ballistic missile test-fired**

RAWALPINDI, March 31: Pakistan successfully test-fired a short-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile Hattaf-II/Abdali, says a press release of Inter Services Public Relations issued here on Thursday. The missile is capable of reaching targets up to 180 kilometres and can carry all types of war heads. All desired technical parameters were validated. As part of the usual confidence-building measures, prior notification of the test had been given to all concerned. -APP

The Frontier Post, 1 April 2005

**America asks for more information about Khan**

ISLAMABAD: The United States believes Pakistan has not yet made full disclosure about the activities of Dr A Q Khan's so-called underworld network-accused of proliferating nuclear technology to other states. US Ambassador to Pakistan Ryan C. Crocker told journalists here Thursday, Islamabad still needs to share vital information, which Washington is looking for dismantling the illicit network of Dr Khan. The US Envoy insisted there were certain elements existed in the Dr Khan's network that could not only undermine the nuclear non-proliferation efforts but also create problems for Pakistan and the region.

The Nation, 1 April 2005

**Trained Afghan group crosses into Pak: Ministry**

THE Interior Ministry has written to all four provincial governments and Islamabad administration instructing them to take extra steps for the security of Pakistan's nuclear installations, reported the BBC on Thursday. The government has issued this directive in the light of information revealing alleged joint Indo-Israeli plan prepared by the two countries' intelligence experts to spy on the nuclear programmes of Pakistan and Iran. According to the Interior Ministry, Israeli and Indian experts have trained 25 Afghans in Kabul for the sake of gathering information about the nuclear capability of Pakistan and Iran, adding they (Afghans) have been asked to cross into Pakistan and Iran for this purpose. The BBC has got a copy of the letter that was written by the Interior Ministry to the Home Secretaries of all four provinces and the Chief Commissioner of Islamabad on March 5.

The News, 1 April 2005

**Several vehicles torched in Karachi** (A H Khanzada)

KARACHI: Businesses and transport shut down in Balochistan, the rural areas of the NWFP and most parts of Sindh on Thursday in response to a strike call by the Pakistan Oppressed Nations Movement (PONM) to protest against Kalabagh dam, Thal canal, Army "operation" in Balochistan, price-hike and unemployment. Unidentified miscreants, who appeared all of a sudden in different areas of Karachi, torched at least nine vehicles and ransacked a Karachi Electricity Supply Corporation (KESC) customer service centre. Violence was reported from few areas of North Nazimabad, Lyari, Sohrab Goth and Malir.

The News, 2 April 2005

**Centrifuges to be sent to Vienna: Kasuri** (Farhan Bokhari)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has decided in principle to hand over components of its used nuclear centrifuges to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) — the Vienna based UN nuclear watchdog, in a significant measure to assist ongoing international investigations tied to Iran's nuclear programme, Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri said on Thursday. Kasuri's statement followed last month's remarks by President General Pervez Musharraf, publicly acknowledging for the first time that Pakistan was considering such a request from the IAEA. The announcement, which is likely to be criticised by opposition groups, promises to put an end to weeks of speculation over Pakistan's public acknowledgement of an agreement with the IAEA.

Dawn, 2 April 2005

**Pakistan, China to sign 10 accords** (Khaleeq Kiani)

ISLAMABAD, April 1: Pakistan and China will sign 10 agreements worth billions of dollars including Early Harvest Programme, cooperation in the field of defence, tourism, economic and trade cooperation, and road and air links when Prime Minister Wen Jiabao visits Islamabad early next week. A senior government official told Dawn on Friday that Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz approved on Friday the draft agreement on Early Harvest Programme. The objective is that instead of involving 500 items under the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in one go, exchange of free trade should start in the phases of 30-40 items and then convert into formal FTA.

Daily Times, 2 April 2005

**Pakistan denies entry to politicians**

NEW DELHI: Pakistan denied permission to a group of Indian politicians who wanted to travel with the maiden

bus to Muzaffarabad, reports said on Friday. The Press Trust of India quoted unnamed government sources, saying that the Indian request had been rejected. "Communication was received from Pakistan denying the permission to eight politicians from mainstream Indian political parties to travel," the news agency reported. "I can't understand the rationale behind Pakistan's decision," National Conference chief Omar Abdullah, said. Abdullah had hoped to travel on the bus along with party colleague Abdul Rahim Rather, People's Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti, Kashmir Deputy CM Mangat Ram Sharma and several others. afp

Dawn, 2 April 2005

#### **'Asian dialogue to boost Pakistan's role'**

ISLAMABAD, April 1: Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao and ministers from 25 countries will participate in the 4th Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) ministerial meeting here on April 6, Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri said at a press briefing on Friday. Part of a wider framework of the Strategic Vision East Asia, the meeting, to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, will be preceded by a seminar on April 5 on 'Economic cooperation in Asia'. Mr Kasuri said the dialogue provided a valuable window to forge closer economic linkages with the countries in the Association of South-East Asian Nations and beyond, which would strengthen Pakistan's economic role in the region.

Dawn, 2 April 2005

#### **Iranian team signs MoU with govt**

PESHAWAR, April 1: Iranian entrepreneurs expressing their interest in the auto mobile sector have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to boost trade and business activities between the NWFP and the Iranian province of Gilan. Chief Minister Akram Khan Durrani, while talking to a delegation of Iranian investors here at the Frontier's House on Friday morning, said that the NWFP offered ideal environment for investment, an official handout said. The chief minister invited the members of the delegation to invest in the exploration of NWFP's natural resources. He said that the government would encourage public-private partnership in areas that would suit the Iranian investors.

Dawn, 3 April 2005

#### **Deterrence strategy in place: Musharraf- 'Army not involved in politics'**

QUETTA, April 2: President General Pervez Musharraf has said that Pakistan's strategy of defensive deterrence is in place, adding that the country has achieved all goals in the unconventional field while efforts are afoot to address imbalances in the conventional field. The president was addressing a ceremony held here at the Command and Staff College to mark centenary celebrations of the institution. He unveiled the centenary tower as a monument of the celebrations. Himself a graduate of the collage, Gen Musharraf lauded the efforts put in by its founding fathers and all those who followed suit to make the institution an excellent seat of military education around the world.

The Daily Times, 3 April 2005

#### **Pakistan and Iran plan naval exercises**

NICOSIA: Iran and Pakistan plan to hold a joint naval exercise, MENL news agency reported on Saturday. Officials said that Iran and Pakistan were preparing to hold a joint naval exercise in the next few weeks. "The exercise would increase naval procedures and doctrines," a statement by the Pakistan Navy said. "Such naval exchanges based on goodwill will play an important role in strengthening relations and increased military cooperation between the two countries. "The Iranian navy plans to deploy at least two vessels — the Iris Bandar Abbas and the Iris Larak — to the joint naval exercise," the statement added. online

Dawn, 3 April 2005

#### **Musharraf visit to be discussed in Dubai: Back-channel diplomacy gains momentum (Qudssia Akhlaque)**

ISLAMABAD, April 2: With President General Pervez Musharraf's planned visit to New Delhi less than two weeks away, back-channel diplomacy is gaining momentum as an important meeting between aides of the top leadership of India and Pakistan is on the cards next week, it is learnt. While from Pakistan it will be National Security Council secretary-general and the president's confidant Tariq Aziz, it is not clear yet who will represent the Indian side. According to one report, it could be Satish Lambah, convener of the Indian National Security Advisory Board and a former high commissioner to Pakistan. The meeting, expected to take place in Dubai, is aimed at drawing up an agenda for President Musharraf's meeting with Indian

Dawn, 3 April 2005

### **80 US, Afghan soldiers enter Pakistani territory** (Pazeer Gul)

MIRAMSHAH, April 2: About 80 soldiers of the US and Afghan forces entered the Pakistani territory near Lawara Mandi border point and carried out patrolling up to two kilometres in the agency on Saturday. The allied troops returned to their area of operation across the border after they were requested by the paramilitary forces to go back. The American soldiers said "sorry" to the Pakistan security forces when they were reminded that they had entered the Waziristan tribal agency. Two helicopters were also witnessed to be providing air cover to the allied soldiers during their incursion into the Pakistan tribal territory.

Dawn, 3 April 2005

### **Iran constitutes fund to promote trade with Pakistan**

PESHAWAR, April 2: The government of Iran has established a special fund of \$200 million to assist its entrepreneurs willing to invest in Pakistan, members of an Iranian business delegation said here on Saturday. The three-member delegation, in a meeting with Governor Khalilur Rehman here on Saturday, said the Iranian government constituted the fund, following Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz's last visit to Iran. Talking to the governor, the Iranian businessmen said that the move was meant to promote business ties between the two countries.

The Nation, 4 April 2005

### **Pakistan sees no hurdle by Congress on F-16s sale** (Shaiq Hussain)

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan sees no hurdle in sale of F-16s by the US despite the intense Indian lobbying as the influential Congressmen support the Bush administration's decision on the vital issue, said diplomatic sources here on Sunday. "The influential US lawmakers are on board as far as the resumption of F-16s' supply to Pakistan is concerned and this has been conveyed to Islamabad," sources said. They said the Indian lobby in the US Congress will try to obstruct the sale of fighter jets to Pakistan, however, those who matter most in the US senate and the house of representatives have extended their support to the Bush administration's decision on F-16 aircraft.

The News, 4 April 2005

### **Pak-India tug of war on UN reforms** (Muhammad Saleh Zaafir)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and India are engaged in a tug of war on the question of United Nations reforms as both the countries have approached important world capitals to muster support for their respective standpoint about the issue. India has deputed more than five special envoys to approach the countries of their respective region assigned to them while Pakistan has dispatched its diplomats to a number of countries for the similar purpose. Diplomatic sources told The News here on Sunday that former Foreign Secretary Riaz Hussain Khokhar, who had gone to Moscow to explain Pakistan's position on reformation of the world body, has returned Islamabad and reported about his discussions in the Russian capital to President General Pervez Musharraf.

Dawn, 4 April 2005

### **Kashmir bus to roll out under heavy guard**

ISLAMABAD, April 3: Following threats of violence by Islamic militants, watertight security will surround the launch of the first buses after nearly six decades between the Indian and Pakistani zones of divided Kashmir this week. The landmark service, starting on April 7, is seen as a major boost to peace moves between the South Asia's nuclear neighbour powers, whose competing claims on the breathtaking Himalayan region sparked two of their three wars. Kashmiris are also looking forward to being reunited with their respective family members when the buses start running between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad. But guerrilla groups responsible for a bloody 15-year insurgency against Indian rule in Kashmir have threatened to turn the so-called friendship-buses into coffins.

The News, 4 April 2005

### **Aziz, Lambah keep back-channel diplomacy alive** (Mariana Baabar)

ISLAMABAD: The government says it has no idea if Secretary-General National Security Council Tariq Aziz and his Indian counterpart, former Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan SK Lambah are to meet in Dubai or not, ahead of President Pervez Muhsharraf's visit to India. "I really have no idea and am not aware of these media reports that we are seeing," says spokesman of the Foreign Office Jalil Abbas Jilani. Previously also, the Foreign Office including the foreign minister have declined to comment on this back-channel diplomacy which was moving forward between Tariq Aziz and the late JN Dixit.

The Frontier Post, 4 April 2005

### **Hundreds of Afghans languishing in Pakistani jails**

PESHAWAR (Pajhwok Afghan News): According to the Human Rights Commission Pakistan (HRCP), Punjab police have arrested over 500 Afghan refugees and imprisoned them illegally at the Adiyala jail ( at Raulpindi, close to Islamabad), but Afghan tribal elders claim that the number of Afghans imprisoned is more than 2,500. Correspondents in Peshawar say the action against these prisoners has been taken under Pakistan's constitutional provision that regulates the stay of foreigners in the country. Under the relevant clause, foreigners are not allowed into the country without a passport and correct documentation.

The Nation, 5 April 2005

#### **Pakistan to buy four warships from China**

ISLAMABAD - Chinese Naval Dockyard in Shanghai will build four F-22P frigates for Pakistan Navy under an agreement signed between the two on Monday in Rawalpindi. The two sides signed the agreement just days before the arrival of Chinese Premier on a state visit to Pakistan. Under the agreement Chinese Dockyard will not only build the frigates but also transfer technology. Transfer of technology clause of the agreement is important, as Pakistan Navy has entered into the endeavors of building ships and other sea crafts. Pakistan Navy will also receive organic helicopters used in anti-submarine warfare, and can carry surface-to-air and surface-to-surface missiles. Chinese Navy is operating some of the F-22 frigates. The F-22 frigates can be armed with surface-to-air and surface-to-surface missiles, and other systems for self-defence.

The Statesman, 5 April 2005

#### **Tripartite talks on gas pipeline on 12th**

ISLAMABAD: Secretary for Petroleum Dr Waqar Masood has said that 8th tripartite meeting on Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan gas pipeline will be held here on April 12-13. He was talking to media persons after the inaugural session of a seminar on petroleum at a local hotel on Monday. Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Aman Ullah Jadoon opened the two-day seminar. "In the 8th session of the tripartite gas pipeline, the feasibility report and audit report of Daulatabad-Turkmenistan gas fields would be discussed and reviewed," Waqar said. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has already completed the feasibility report of the gas pipeline and audit report on the gas reservoirs of Daulatabad gas field has been also completed for the perusal of the meeting.

The Nation, 5 April 2005

#### **Chinese PM due today** (Shaiq Hussain)

ISLAMABAD - Chinese Premier, Wen Jiabao will arrive here today (Tuesday) on an official visit to Pakistan to further promote friendly and time-tested relations between the two states. Apart from holding talks with top Pakistani leaders, the Chinese Premier is also likely to inaugurate the Chashma Nuclear Power Project Unit-2 (Chashnupp-ii) on Friday (8th April) at CHASHNUPP site, Mianwali, said the diplomatic sources.

The Statesman, 5 April 2005

#### **Several Mehsuds arrested over scout's killing in Makeen** (Javed Noor)

WANA: Dozens of tribesmen from Lalokhel, a sub-tribe of Mehsud were arrested in connection with the killing of Swat Scouts personal in Makeen area on Sunday. The Political Administration Monday arrested several Mehsud tribesmen during raids in Wana, Jandola and Tank. Fazl Wahab, a sepoy of Swat Scouts was shot dead on Sunday, when he was trying to disarm a tribal in Makeen Adda. Meanwhile General Commanding Officer Kohat has called a meeting of heads of all the departments at Ziari Noor wherein he would be briefed about the concerned departments.

Dawn, 6 April 2005

#### **New jet 'giant leap' towards self-reliance: President opens aircraft production**

KAMRA, April 5: President Gen Pervez Musharraf on Tuesday described the launching of JF-17 thunder aircraft production project as a giant leap towards indigenization and self-reliance, saying Pakistan will maintain minimum level of defensive deterrence in both conventional and unconventional fields as it wants peace with dignity and honour. Addressing the launching ceremony of the production project of the multi-role fighter plane, jointly developed by Pakistan and China, the president said it reflects the time-tested friendship between the two countries.

Daily Times, 6 April 2005

#### **Pakistan, China sign trade and anti-terror agreements** (Shahzad Raza)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China resolved on Tuesday to safeguard each other's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity. The resolve was made in a "Treaty of Friendship" signed by Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao after a detailed discussion on bilateral, regional and international issues. The two

countries signed 22 agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoUs) to enhance bilateral cooperation in defence, trade, development, diplomacy, education and research. China recognised Pakistan's role in the fight against terrorism. The two sides signed an agreement on combating terrorism, separatism and extremism.

Dawn, 6 April 2005

**Asian cooperation 'beyond economics' urged**

ISLAMABAD, April 5: Asian ministers on Tuesday called for cooperation that went beyond economics to achieve a genuine integration of the countries of their diverse region stretching from the Middle East to the Pacific. Singaporean Foreign Minister George Yeo told a seminar ahead of a meeting here of ministers from 26 Asian states that the future held great promise but also "huge problems and enormous challenges". "If the politics don't catch up with the economics, many things can go wrong. We need leadership, we need institutions, we need cooperation in many dimensions," he said. The Asian ministers will meet on Wednesday under the umbrella of the Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), a body set up in 2002 to promote pan-Asian cooperation unencumbered by the many thorny political issues that have restricted such efforts in the past.

The Nation, 6 April 2005

**Pakistan again moves WB for neutral expert** (Dilshad Azeem)

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan, while rejecting the Indian offer to resolve the Baglihar Dam issue through bilateral means, has once again approached the World Bank seeking appointment of a neutral expert within the shortest possible time, The Nation learnt reliably Tuesday. Islamabad also reminded the World Bank about expiry of the one-month period within which a neutral expert should have been appointed as the former had moved a formal request on New Dehli's refusal to stop work on the controversial dam, the official sources maintained. The Pakistan government, these sources elaborated, asked the World Bank not to further delay the appointment of a neutral expert since India is continuing with construction work on the Baglihar project in sheer violation of the Indus Waters Treaty 1960.

The News, 7 April 2005

**Asian states agree to share resources** (Mariana Baabar)

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Declaration, adopted at the conclusion of the fourth Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) meeting here on Wednesday, said the forum recognised that the destiny of the peoples of Asia, as of the world, was inextricably linked. The four-page document saw efforts of the ministers of foreign affairs and other heads of delegations from 26 member countries of the ACD. It says that Asia is a vast continent with immense resources and the ACD is determined to build upon its rich Asian civilisation and build utilise the economic complementarities in its common pursuit for ensuring a peaceful and prosperous future for Asia and the world. Later at a press briefing, Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri said that Saudi Arabia and the Russian Federation were accepted as members of the ACD at the meeting chaired by him. He said the meeting also agreed to adopt the Islamabad Initiative.

The News, 7 April 2005

**China offers more help for N-power generation** (Nadeem Malik)

ISLAMABAD: China has offered Pakistan further assistance in nuclear power generation and proposed five-10 year medium- and long-term development strategies to promote trade, investment and bilateral economic ties. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, announced some of the details of bilateral cooperation in their addresses at the Pakistan-China Business Cooperation Conference here on Wednesday. Aziz said the unique treaty of friendship and cooperation signed between the two countries provides extended cooperation in the fields of economy, defence and peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

The News, 7 April 2005

**AJK anxious about passengers security** (Rauf Klasra)

MUZAFFARABAD: A sense of disbelief and anxiety is visible among the general public in Muzaffarabad on the eve of the first bus journey across Kashmir. Every body is busy discussing the issue of threats to the lives of passengers from both parts of Kashmir. In the backdrop of increasing threats, the government of Pakistan offered the AJK government to provide all kinds of support to ensure the safety of bus passengers. However, the lives of 60 passengers are under threat within Indian Kashmir, an AJK official told The News. He said, 'we are worried over such reports.' The AJK government officials are claiming to have made full security arrangements for the bus departure to the Line of Control on Thursday.

The News, 7 April 2005

**Pakistan, China hold third round of defence and security talks**

BEIJING: Vice Chief of Army Staff Gen Ahsan Saleem Hayat and Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Xiong Guangki held third round of Sino-Pak Defence and Security Consultation here on Wednesday. The two sides exchanged views on international and regional security situation, national defence policies and other issues of common concern. Xiong also briefed Gen Hayat on the Anti-Secession Law, which China had recently adopted. Gen Hayat, who is leading a high-level military delegation observed that the Pakistan government would stick to one-China policy, and understood and supported China's adoption of the Anti-Secession Law.

Dawn, 7 April 2005

#### **Rehabilitation project for Balochistan planned: Areas facing problems because of refugees**

QUETTA, April 6: Federal Minister for States and Frontier Region (Safron) Sardar Yar Mohammad Rind has said a rehabilitation programme will soon be launched in areas which have faced problems because of Afghan refugees. He was talking to newsmen on Wednesday at the ceremony of handing over 200 tents by UNHCR Pakistan Chief Guenete Guebre Christos donated for flood affected people of Dhadar area of Balochistan. The minister said the government was making all out efforts for the early repatriation of Afghan refugees to their homeland. He said the influx of Afghan refugees had put a great burden on the economy and had increased the problems of local people.

The News, 8 April 2005

#### **Japan seeks information on Qadeer's N Korea links**

ISLAMABAD: Japan's foreign minister has asked officials in Islamabad for information about Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan's links to North Korea, a Japanese official said on Thursday. Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura made the request at a meeting with his Pakistani counterpart, Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri, Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hatsuhsa Takashima told reporters after talks between the two ministers. Japan has no diplomatic ties with North Korea and has been demanding the reclusive communist state return to international nuclear disarmament negotiations. At the meeting with Kasuri, Machimura promised that his country would resume annual development loans for Pakistan that were suspended after Pakistan carried out the nuclear tests, Takashima said.

The Nation, 8 April 2005

#### **US spy drones violate Pak airspace**

MOHMAND AGENCY - The US spy planes once again violated the Pakistan's airspace and remained in the air over Mohmand Agency for some time Wednesday night, local authorities informed to The Nation Thursday. The US spy planes were seen flying over Godakhel, Gursal and Aragai areas of the Baizai tehsil, Mohmand Agency. The frequent violations of the US planes had caused fear and unrest amongst the local tribesmen. They asked the government of Pakistan to raise the issue with the US authorities in Afghanistan. Meanwhile, exchange of fire between two rival groups Sheikh Baba Alizai and Sheikhan Salman Khel over a mountain dispute at Lakrhu tehsil still continues.

Dawn, 8 April 2005

#### **Pakistan criticizes UN reform report (Masood Haider)**

UNITED NATIONS, April 7: Pakistan on Wednesday criticized the UN secretary-general's reform report which, it said, "has not only endorsed, but further accentuated, a concept of collective security that is conceived as an instrument of coercion and intervention rather than of universal cooperation and harmonization - which is the underlying spirit of the UN Charter". "This concept would result in legitimizing and reinforcing the pervasive inequality - in security, power and wealth - which characterizes our times and which the UN must seek to rectify," Pakistan's Ambassador to the United Nations Munir Akram cautioned against divisive moves on the issue of Security Council expansion and called upon members to unite for a consensus solution that would work for all.

Dawn, 8 April 2005

#### **Tearful reunion as Kashmiris cross LoC**

PEACE BRIDGE, April 7: Showered with tears and rose petals from relatives thought long lost, two groups of Indian and Pakistani Kashmiris walked over the 'Peace Bridge' on Thursday, breaking through a military line that has divided them and their land for almost 60 years. Nineteen Kashmiris from the occupied Kashmir side, mostly elderly and wearing green commemorative caps, defied death threats and crossed the metal bridge - painted neutral white for the occasion -- hours after 31 passengers from Azad Kashmir walked into the occupied territory, raising hopes of a lasting peace between Pakistan and India.

Daily Times, 8 April 2005

#### **China, Pakistan want stronger defence ties**

RAWALPINDI: President General Pervez Musharraf met Chinese Defence Production Minister Shang Yunchuan on Thursday and hoped the minister's visit would further enhance defence ties between the two countries. During their meeting, the president recalled the extremely close and fraternal relations between China and Pakistan, particularly between their armies. He praised China's support in the production of JF-17 fighter aircraft and Al-Zarrar tanks, which were a major step towards Pakistan's self-reliance in defence production.

Dawn, 8 April 2005

#### **Musharraf's visit to enhance ties, says Philippines president**

ISLAMABAD, April 7: President Gen Pervez Musharraf's forthcoming visit to the Philippines will lend a new impetus to Pakistan-Philippine relations in many fields of mutual benefit, Franklin M. Dilon, president of the Philippine Senate, said in a meeting with Chairman Senate Mohammed Mian Soomro in Manila. Mr Dilon also informed the leader of Pakistan's parliamentary delegation that the Senate of the Philippines has adopted a resolution recently, inviting President Musharraf to address the Joint-Session of the Philippine Congress during his upcoming visit.

The Nation, 9 April 2005

#### **Kashmiris may meet at marked points at LoC (Shaiq Hussain)**

ISLAMABAD - After the commencement of bus service, Pakistan and India are likely to agree on another vital Kashmir specific CBM of allowing the Kashmiri people to meet at certain designated points along the Line of Control. Both the South Asian nuclear states have had very fruitful discussions on the meetings of Kashmiri people at five specified points on LoC through diplomatic channels, said diplomatic sources. They added the two sides could soon agree on this important CBM after their agreement on bus service across LoC. Last year, India proposed to Pakistan, five designated places along the LoC for interaction between divided families on both sides of Kashmir. These meeting points include Mendhar, Poonch, Suchetgarh, Uri and Tangdhar, the sources said.

Dawn, 9 April 2005

#### **Pakistan to build more N-power plants: Ground breaking of Chashma-2 (Sher Baz Khan)**

MIANWALI, April 8: Dr Ishfaq Ahmed, special adviser to the prime minister on strategic programme, said on Friday Pakistan would build more nuclear power plants after the Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit-2 (CHASNUPP-2) to achieve its target of generating 8,800mw by 2020. He was speaking at the ground breaking ceremony of the Chashma-2 project, which will be completed by 2011 at a cost of Rs51 billion. The project, with a gross production capacity of 340mw, will be jointly built by the China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) and the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) under the monitoring of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The plant using enriched uranium and light water will be the country's third nuclear power plant after the 137mw Karachi Nuclear Power Plant (Kanupp) and the 325mw Chashma Nuclear Power Plant (CHASNUPP), phase-I.

The News, 9 April 2005

#### **Pak helping on AQ network activities:US**

NEW YORK - The State Department said Thursday that Pakistan was cooperating with the United States in the effort to come to a full determination about the extent of AQ Khan's nuclear network's activities. "(W)e've had good cooperation with the Pakistani Govt in finding out about the AQ Khan network and the activities and the links and the other people that are associated as part of really a worldwide effort by us and others, other govts and the IAEA, to get at this whole network and rip it out root and branch," the department's spokesman, Richard Boucher, told a news briefing in Washington.

Daily Times, 9 April 2005

#### **Pakistan and Italy will counter UNSC expansion**

LAHORE: In an effort to counter the campaign launched by India and other members of the group of four (G-4) for expansion of the UN Security Council, Pakistan and Italy, opposed to the move, have called a meeting of "like-minded" countries in New York on Monday to identify "elements" for an alternative proposal, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported on Friday. PTI said both countries - Pakistan and Italy - aimed to initiate a process that could "help promote consensus on this vital issue". daily times monitor

Dawn, 9 April 2005

#### **Meeting called to discuss gas pipeline security (Khaleeq Kiani)**

ISLAMABAD, April 8: A three-nation ministerial steering committee on gas pipelines project will meet here on April 12-13 to discuss security situation in Afghanistan, underground gas storage capacity in Pakistan and certification of gas reserves in Turkmenistan's Daulatabad gas field. A petroleum ministry official told Dawn on Friday that the

meeting would be given four presentations relating to the construction of pipeline from Turkmenistan to Pakistan and India. The Turkmenistan government would give a presentation on the certification of Daulatabad gas field reserves. The steering committee involving Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan would then discuss the certification in detail.

Daily Times, 10 April 2005 (Shahzad Raza)

#### **Kashmir real motive behind India visit: Musharraf**

ISLAMABAD: President Pervez Musharraf on Saturday stressed the need to resolve the Kashmir dispute and said he would discuss the matter with the Indian leadership during his next week's visit to New Delhi. "The April 17 cricket match has no value compared to the talks to be held on Kashmir," he said while speaking at the Students' Convention 2005. The Indian government has invited President Musharraf to watch the last One Day International (ODI) between India and Pakistan in New Delhi. President Musharraf is likely to hold important talks with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on the sidelines of the match.

Daily Times, 10 April 2005

#### **Nuclear experts due today for talks**

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of experts working to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons will arrive in Pakistan today (Sunday) for talks, an official said. Experts from 44-member Nuclear Suppliers Group — a voluntary organisation that monitors sensitive dual-use equipment from industrialised countries that could be used for illicit weapons — will meet Foreign Ministry officials in Islamabad on Monday, the official said on Saturday. He said the experts had no plan to inspect any of Pakistan's nuclear facilities. ap

Dawn, 10 April 2005

#### **US indicts Pakistani trader**

WASHINGTON, April 9: The US government has formally charged a Pakistani businessman with illegally exporting devices from the United States that can also be used in developing nuclear weapons. Humayun A. Khan had arranged a shipment to Pakistan of equipment that could be used to test, develop and detonate nuclear weapons, a spokesman for the Homeland Security Department told reporters on Friday. Although Mr Khan's alleged accomplice, Israeli businessman Asher Karni who is now helping the US authorities investigate the case, had also admitted to making unlawful shipments to India, no charges were brought against any Indian.

Dawn, 10 April 2005

#### **300 seminaries seek registration (Zulfiqar Ali)**

PESHAWAR, April 9: The NWFP government has received about 300 applications for the registration of Madressahs in the province since lifting of ban in February, officials said. The registration, which was banned about ten years ago, was started on Feb 16 after the federal government allowed provinces to regularize seminaries. One senior government functionary said that the industry, commerce and labour department had registered 78 seminaries in the Frontier province. The federal government had banned the registration of seminaries in 1994 with a view to eliminating extremism and sectarianism from the society.

The Nation, 11 April 2005

#### **Pakistan consul abducted in Iraq**

Baghdad (AFP) - The Pakistani consul in Baghdad was kidnapped in Iraq on Sunday, becoming the latest victim of the spate of hostage-taking in the country's deadly insurgency, officials said. Police confirmed the consul had disappeared in the neighborhood, an area considered sympathetic to Iraq's deadly insurgency. Meanwhile, Pakistan appealed for the release of its embassy official who was kidnapped while going out for prayer. "We appeal to the kidnappers of Malik Muhammad Javed to release him immediately," said Pakistan's Information Minister Sheikh Rashid.

Daily Times, 11 April 2005

#### **Musharraf meeting Kashmiri leaders today**

ISLAMABAD: President Pervez Musharraf will hold an important meeting with Kashmiri leaders today (Monday) for consultations before his visit to India. Leaders from Azad Kashmir including the representatives of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) will call on him at President's House. The president will discuss at length

progress so far made by Pakistan and India in composite dialogue process in general and the Kashmir issue in particular.

Dawn, 11 April 2005

### **Nuclear group arrives in Islamabad**

ISLAMABAD: A Global Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG) delegation arrived here on Sunday for negotiations with Pakistan today (Monday) at the Foreign Office. The global nuclear supplier group will talk with Foreign Office additional secretary Tariq Usman. The delegation, headed by a Swedish nuclear expert, will exchange views with Tariq Usman on matters about the sale and export of nuclear equipment and other issues.

The Nation, 11 April 2005

### **Sabotage continues despite talks**

ISLAMABAD - Federal Information Minister Sh Rashid Ahmed has said two terrorists Abdul Karim Bugti and Wariyam Bugti have been arrested in Balochistan and a huge quantity of arms and ammunition has been recovered from them which they have concealed in a water tank in a village situated on western bypass of Quetta. Addressing a news conference here on Sunday, Sh Rashid said the arms and ammunition recovered included one hundred hand grenades, 204 explosive rods which can be used to prepare 800 bombs, 97 rocket fuses, 110 times detonators, 100 hand detonators and 102 electronic detonators.

The News, 12 April 2005

### **NSG briefed on Pak measures against N-proliferation**

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), which polices global exports of material and equipment that can be used in atomic weapons, held talks with senior Foreign Ministry officials here on Monday on preventing illicit exports of nuclear technology. The three-man delegation of the 44-nation anti-proliferation body was led by its Chairman Richard Ekwall of Sweden. Foreign Office spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani said the meeting had been "extremely fruitful" and had allowed the government to explain the steps it took last year to establish an export control regime on sensitive materials. Jilani said the first meeting had been "exploratory" in nature.

Dawn, 12 April 2005

### **Three-nation body meets today: Gas pipeline (Khaleeq Kiani)**

ISLAMABAD, April 11: The 8th meeting of the steering committee of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TAP) gas pipeline begins here on Tuesday to consider future course of action and signing a protocol to take the project forward. Mines and Industry Minister of Afghanistan Mir Mohammad Siddiq arrived here on Monday to attend the two-day meeting that is taking place after about a year. An official statement said Turkmen Oil Minister A.G. Pudakov will arrive in Islamabad on Tuesday morning. During the two-day deliberations, the steering committee will review the updated progress on TAP and discuss the agenda of the meeting. The Turkmenistan government will give a presentation on the certification of reserves in the Daulatabad gas field and feasibility study submitted by M/S Penspen.

Dawn, 12 April 2005

### **Embassy official abducted for ransom, says FO (Rana Qaisar)**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has decided to send a special envoy to Iraq to discuss the release of the abducted staff member of the Pakistani embassy in Baghdad with the Iraqi government. Mr Aziz met senior officials on Monday to discuss the abduction of Malik Muhammad Javed, a deputy councillor at the Pakistani Embassy in Baghdad, and appointed a special envoy to travel to Iraq to secure his release. "Roving Ambassador Ehsanullah Khan would leave for Baghdad shortly for the purpose," Foreign Office spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani said at the weekly briefing, adding that Pakistan's ambassador-designate to Iraq, Muhammad Younis Khan, would also be leaving for Iraq this week.

The Nation, 12 April 2005

### **Army to stay in Balochistan: Musharraf (Mubashir Hassan)**

LAHORE - Emphasising the need for a political solution to the Balochistan issue, President Pervez Musharraf Monday warned that saboteurs launching attacks on Sui fields would be eliminated forever. "Nobody would be allowed to attack Sui fields," the President said in categorical terms while addressing a mammoth public rally at Kasur. He also unveiled the plaque of Lahore-Gandasingh Road project that would be completed within a year at a cost of Rs. 2 billion. Musharraf said this route would be opened after resolution of all disputes with India.

Dawn, 12 April 2005

**Kashmiris' role in talks essential: Musharraf**

ISLAMABAD, April 11: President General Pervez Musharraf on Monday underscored the imperative need for a fair resolution of the long-standing Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. The president stated that Kashmiris will have to be part of the negotiating process at some stage and emphasized that no solution of Kashmir would be acceptable without consultation with the Kashmiri leadership on both sides of the Line of Control and taking into account the aspirations of the people of Kashmir. He said that there had been positive indications from the Indian side in this regard.

The Nation, 13 April 2005

**Nuclear ties with Pakistan for peaceful purposes: China**

NEW DELHI (Online) - China asserted Tuesday that its nuclear cooperation with Pakistan is entirely for peaceful purposes and under the safeguard of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). "Nuclear cooperation between China and Pakistan is completely for peaceful purposes," Premier Wen Jiabao told a Press conference here prior to leaving for home. "China-Pakistan cooperation is entirely compliant with the NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty)," he said and added that it was under IAEA safeguards. He was responding to a question whether China's military assistance to Pakistan, particularly for its nuclear and missile programme, would come in the way of realising the full potential of China-India relations.

The Nation, 13 April 2005

**US offers Pakistan F-16s upgradation (Umer Farooq)**

ISLAMABAD - United States has offered to include existing inventory of Pakistani F-16s in the Mid-Life Update (MLU) programme for upgradation of fighter aircraft in order to maintain operational capabilities and effectiveness over the next 10 to 20 years. The MLU programme is expected to commence in the middle of year 2006 and the United States defence department has offered to include Pakistani F-16s in the MLU, which will enhance the operational capabilities of the fighter aircraft and will also increase the life of the aircraft.

Dawn, 13 April 2005

**Pakistan, Italy move for consensus: UN reform process (Masood Haider)**

NEW YORK, April 12: Like-minded countries at a meeting attended by some 119 delegates of the United Nations here on Monday pledged to carry forward the UN reform process, saying they would not allow the expansion of the Security Council to overshadow other reforms such as steps to reduce poverty and debt relief to poor nations. As the Italy/Pakistan-led movement 'Uniting for Consensus' appeared to gain momentum, the organizers expressed belief that their movement would grow and counter the strong push by India, Brazil, Germany and Japan for permanent seats on an expanded Council. They called for consensus on the Security Council reforms without any 'artificial' deadlines.

Dawn, 13 April 2005

**Accord to boost political ties with Azerbaijan: Common stand on UNSC expansion**

ISLAMABAD, April 12: Pakistan and Azerbaijan on Tuesday voiced a common stand on the UN Security Council expansion while President Ilham Aliyev supported Islamabad's efforts aimed at resolving the Kashmir dispute with New Delhi for durable peace and security in the region. In formal talks, the two sides vowed to build on their 'excellent' political ties and develop sound bilateral trade and economic cooperation.. President Gen Pervez Musharraf and the visiting Azeri leader also renewed a call for peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Dawn, 13 April 2005

**Gas pipeline talks begin**

ISLAMABAD, April 12: Pakistani, Turkmen and Afghan ministers met on Tuesday to discuss a multi-billion gas pipeline, the size of Turkmen gas reserves and security in volatile Afghanistan. The long-delayed project envisages a \$3.3 billion 1,600-km pipeline running through Afghanistan to Pakistan, providing Kabul with transit revenue and Pakistan with much needed energy. Among reasons for the delay have been worry about security in Afghanistan and questions over the size of the reserves in Turkmenistan's Daulatabad gas field.

The Nation, 14 April 2005

**US to fulfill Pak defence needs (Shaiq Hussain)**

ISLAMABAD - US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Wednesday called on President General Pervez

Musharraf and discussed with him various global and regional issues with focus on terrorism and bilateral defence ties. President Musharraf and the visiting US official talked at length over bilateral efforts to eradicate the scourge of terror. According to official sources, both the sides resolved to continue with joint fight against terrorism. Both the sides also had a frank deliberations on bilateral defence ties, an official said, adding that the US Defence Secretary assured that Bush administration would take every possible step to fulfill the defence needs of Islamabad.

Daily times, 14 April 2005

#### **Pakistan and Azerbaijan offer support in territorial disputes**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Azerbaijan on Wednesday urged the United Nations to implement its resolutions on Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh and agreed that the proposed reforms in the world body should reflect wishes of the majority of its members. Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and Azeri President Ilham Aliyev witnessed the signing of six agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoUs) on increasing cooperation in culture, education, finance, communication, information technology and aeronautics. The two leaders held one-on-one meeting and later headed their delegations for talks on bilateral political and economic and regional and international issues.

Dawn, 14 April 2005

#### **Sui-Dera Bugti road opens** (Amanullah Kasi)

QUETTA, April 13: Frontier Corps personnel and Bugti tribesmen reopened on Wednesday the road between Sui and Dera Bugti after both sides removed pickets that had been set up following bloody clashes on March 17. "Yes, the Bugti tribesmen have removed the pickets from the road between Dera Bugti and Sui. The FC also has dismantled the trenches. This is the first positive step to resolve the issue," JWP's secretary-general Agha Shahid Hasan Bugti confirmed to Dawn.

Dawn, 14 April 2005

#### **ADB says three-nation gas pipeline viable** (Sher Baz Khan)

ISLAMABAD, April 13: The Asian Development Bank has termed the long-delayed multi-billion dollar Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan gas pipeline project 'viable and feasible'. This was announced by federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Amanullah Khan Jadoon at a press conference following the signing of a protocol on the TAP by the three countries at the end of the two-day steering committee meeting of the pipeline here on Wednesday. Turkmenistan Oil Minister Amangeldi Pudakov and Afghan Minister for Mines and Industry Mir Muhammad Siddique were present on the occasion. Replying to a question regarding security concerns, the Afghan minister said his country would make all possible efforts to protect the pipeline.

Dawn, 14 April 2005

#### **Petitions dismissed by Supreme Court: 17th Amendment, dual office** (Nasir Iqbal)

ISLAMABAD, April 13: The Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed all petitions challenging the 17th constitutional amendment and the dual office of President General Pervez Musharraf. However, a decision in a case relating to the retirement age of the superior court judges was withheld. "For reasons to be recorded later, all the petitions are dismissed, but petition No 12/2004 is being de-linked to be heard separately," Chief Justice Nazim Hussain Siddiqui announced in a unanimous short order.

The Nation, 15 April 2005

#### **Siachen row unlikely to be solved**

ISLAMABAD - Row between Pakistan and India over Siachen is unlikely to get settled in months to come owing to New Delhi's refusal to withdraw troops from the world highest battlefield despite Islamabad repeated demands through diplomatic channels. Islamabad has repeatedly asked for Indian troops withdrawal from Siachen in the recent past and has also conveyed its readiness to follow the suit few days back but New Delhi is adamant in its refusal to do so, said the diplomatic sources. Islamabad will once again raise this issue with New Delhi during the visit of President Musharraf to the Indian capital on April 16 to witness Pakistan-India cricket match on April 17, they said.

The News, 15 April 2005

#### **Peace process irreversible, says Musharraf**

RAWALPINDI: President Pervez Musharraf said on Thursday he was "fairly optimistic" the Kashmir dispute with India could be resolved and described their peace process as "fairly irreversible". Speaking in an interview with Reuters ahead of his first visit to India since a disastrous summit in Agra in July 2001, Musharraf was relaxed enough to joke about the prospects, starting by saying: "I hope it doesn't turn out like Agra!" Musharraf said the atmosphere for talks was now much better, but his weekend meetings with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan

Singh would have to concentrate on trying to get closer to a solution for Kashmir.

The Statesman, 15 April 2005

**Dirty bomb a fear, not N-terrorism**

RAWALPINDI: President Pervez Musharraf said Thursday fears that terrorists could get their hands on nuclear weapons were unfounded. But it is possible they could get hold of far less threatening "dirty bomb" using enriched uranium and conventional explosives to spread radioactivity, he said in an interview to Reuters. "My frank view is very different to all the concerns the world shows and my frank view is, no way, this cannot happen," Musharraf told the news agency when asked if he saw a risk of a terrorist obtaining a nuclear bomb.

Daily Times, 15 April 2005

**Pakistan seeks early delivery**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday asked the director of the US Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) to ensure that F-16s and other defence equipment being sold to Pakistan was delivered early. "Lt Gen (r) Ali Muhammad Jan Aurakzai, secretary defence production, during a meeting with a five-member delegation of the DSCA — headed by Lt Gen Jeffrey B Kohler — said that F-16 aircraft, C-130s, AIM-9-M TOW-11 missiles, 155-mm Howitzers and TPS-77 Radars needed to be delivered as soon as possible," a press release said. The DSCA director told the meeting that he would ask the authorities concerned to expedite the delivery of defence equipment ordered by Pakistan. The DSCA delegation said the prices of defence items needed to be rationalised and cost effective.

Dawn, 15 April 2005

**Musharraf willing to meet Benazir**

RAWALPINDI, April 14: President General Pervez Musharraf said on Thursday he would be willing to meet opposition leader Benazir Bhutto to advance rapprochement with liberal forces, but not yet. He said Pakistan People's Party was not helping reconciliation by planning rallies this Saturday to welcome back Asif Ali Zardari from a visit to Dubai. "Moderate forces need to unite to suppress the extremist forces.

Dawn, 16 April 2005

**Pakistan-India summit today** (Qudssia Akhlaque)

ISLAMABAD, April 15: President Gen Pervez Musharraf, scheduled to arrive in New Delhi on Saturday, will hold 'substantive' one-to-one talks with Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh in the evening during which the two leaders will take up important bilateral issues, including Jammu and Kashmir, official sources said. The talks will be followed by a dinner to be hosted in the president's honour by the Indian prime minister. Before the Musharraf-Singh meeting, Indian External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh will call on the president at his hotel. Another round of talks between Gen Musharraf and Dr Singh will be held on Sunday morning in which their key aides will also take part.

Daily Times, 16 April 2005

**More CBMs await Musharraf**

NEW DELHI: India will offer fresh initiatives during talks on Kashmir this weekend with President Pervez Musharraf, Indian officials said. The Indian proposals would include facilitating the reunion of families separated by the Line of Control dividing Kashmir between India and Pakistan and more bus services between the two zones, India's National Security Adviser MK Narayanan old television channel NDTV. Increasing people-to-people contact through tourism in Kashmir could also be discussed, he said.

Daily Times, 16 April 2005

**Work on TAP gas pipeline will start in December**

PESHAWAR: Work on the three-way gas pipeline project delayed for a long time because of security concerns, will start in December, an Afghan minister was quoted by a news agency as saying in Kabul after his return from Islamabad on Thursday. Construction work on the \$3.2 billion project carrying Turkmenistan's natural gas to Pakistan via Afghanistan would begin by the end of this year. Completion of the project would take almost three years, he said, adding the meeting in Islamabad that concluded on Wednesday discussed the security situation in Afghanistan, Pakistan's growing energy needs and Turkmenistan's willingness to export the gas.

Daily Times, 16 April 2005

**Second bus could start from Uri instead of Srinagar** (Iftikhar Gilani)

NEW DELHI: The authorities are considering running the second bus to Muzaffarabad from the border town of Uri instead of Srinagar citing security considerations as the reason, official sources said in Srinagar on Friday. The

idea to run the bus from Uri came up because the town is "much safer" being situated in a 'highly-sanitised' zone and having virtually zero militant presence, sources said. The security cost would also be minimal from Uri, they added. Militant groups Al Nasireen, Al Arifeen, Save Kashmir Movement and Farzandan-e-Millat, which claimed responsibility for the attack on the tourist reception centre, have reportedly threatened passengers of the second bus too.

The Nation, 16 April 2005

#### **US consulate reopens after 3-day closure**

KARACHI (AFP) - The US consulate in Karachi reopened on Friday after being closed for three days because of a security threat. The building had been closed since Tuesday after police received a telephone call warning that militants planned to attack the building. 'The consulate is open today with all the staff at work,' press attache in US embassy in Islamabad Gregory Crouch said. However, security had been stepped up around the building, he added.

The Statesman, 16 April 2005

#### **Zardari warns of street agitation**

LAHORE: Asif Ali Zardari on Friday vowed "street agitation" if the government tried to block a rally by supporters to welcome him. Asif Ali Zardari made the vow after PPPP complained that thousands of its activists had been detained to prevent them from going to the eastern city of Lahore on Saturday to mark his return from a visit to his wife in Dubai. "We don't want confrontation with the government," Zardari told reporters in Lahore by telephone from Dubai. "But they have created a situation under which we have no other option but to launch street agitation. "We will launch a movement to fill jails," he added.

The Nation, 17 April 2005

#### **India proposes more CBMs along LoC (FAIZUL HAQUE)**

NEW DELHI - As President Pervez Musharraf began his three-day visit to watch cricket and hold unstructured talks with the Indian leadership, New Delhi has used the opportunity to propose a series of new confidence-building measures along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir which include more communication and road links and meeting points for the divided families.

Daily Times, 17 April 2005

#### **Musharraf expects fruitful talks**

NEW DELHI: President Pervez Musharraf said on Saturday that he expected purposeful talks with Indian leaders on all outstanding issues including Kashmir and hoped that issues would not be swept under the carpet. "I look forward to substantive dialogue that will address all issues and disputes. The period of conflict management is over and we have entered an era of conflict resolution," President Musharraf said at a reception hosted in his honour by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the Taj Mahal Hotel.

The News, 17 April 2005

#### **Zardari taken into custody on arrival (Mubasher Bukhari and Khawaja Naseer)**

LAHORE: Asif Ali Zardari, the spouse of former prime minister and chairperson of the Pakistan People's Party Benazir Bhutto, was taken into "protective custody" soon after he landed at the Lahore airport on Saturday morning. Police held him at Bilawal House-II for several hours and he could not lead a rally. Police manhandled reporters and passengers, travelling with Zardari by the Aero Asia flight, snatching their cameras and cellphones. Police officials baton-charged female activists and relatives of passengers at the airport. As soon as Zardari's flight landed at 7.08am, dozens of police commandos stormed the plane.

The News, 17 April 2005

#### **Sialkot-Jammu road to be opened soon: Amir**

SIALKOT: Speaker National Assembly Chaudhry Amir Hussain on Saturday said the Sialkot-Jammu road would be opened in near future and necessary arrangements were being finalised in this regard. Addressing a public meeting at Shatabgarh here, Amir added that the opening of the road would enable the refugees settled in Sialkot and Narowal districts to see their dislocated relatives in held Kashmir. The speaker said the starting of Muzaffarabad-Srinagar bus was a good beginning of defusing tension and developing cordial relations between Pakistan and India.

The News, 18 April 2005

**Kashmiris won't be betrayed: president**

NEW DELHI: President Pervez Musharraf said Sunday that Pakistan would never betray the Kashmiri people and continue to provide moral, diplomatic and political support to their just cause. He was speaking to leaders of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) who called on him here at the Pakistan House. The president said Pakistan is for participation of Kashmiri leadership in the dialogue process at some stage. He said the decades-old Jammu and Kashmir dispute has to be resolved in accordance with the wishes of Kashmiri people and added, the Line of Control would never be accepted as a permanent border.

Daily Times, 18 April 2005

**PPP and government will continue talking: Zardari**

LAHORE: Pakistan Peoples Party's leader Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday admitted that the Pakistan People's Party and the establishment had been in contact for the last eight years and said that the PPP would carry on with talks aimed at restoring democracy. Zardari, accompanied by around three dozen PPP leaders, addressed a crowded press conference at Bilawal House. Zardari, who had threatened to launch agitation against the government, softened his stand at the press conference, saying: "We don't want to take to the streets, though we can do it and the government also knows about it. We will hold dialogue with the establishment and at the same time motivate people and intellectuals," said Mr Zardari.

The News, 18 April 2005

**Islamabad, Delhi sideline Iran pipeline issue in talks**

NEW DELHI, April 17: The much discussed Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline has given way to its reference now coming usually in the company of its rivals such as the Qatar and Turkmenistan alternatives, according to indications available from the India-Pakistan summit talks on Sunday. Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran told a news conference that the project was discussed in the context of India's quest for wider transit rights through Pakistan to boost business prospects with Central Asia and the Gulf. "In this context the pipeline was also mentioned. It was agreed that this was a worthwhile project to pursue," Mr Saran said. "In this context it was agreed that we would remain in touch with one another and engage in further discussions in order to realize this project."

Dawn, 18 April 2005

**US commander due today**

ISLAMABAD, April 17: The commander of the US-led troops in Afghanistan, Lt-Gen David Borno, will arrive here on Monday to hold talks with Pakistani officials. Lt-Gen Borno is expected to hold talks with his counterparts on a number of issues pertaining to security along the Afghan border. He has been coordinating efforts of the coalition forces to hunt Osama bin Laden, Taliban and Al Qaeda activists along the border and in Afghanistan.

Daily Times, 19 April 2005

**More trade and transport agreed across LoC**

NEW DELHI: The joint statement issued at the end of President Musharraf's three-day visit to India states that both countries have vowed to carry the peace process forward and have agreed to start trade between both Kashmiris and open more routes for divided families, pilgrimage and cultural interaction. Saying that the peace process "is now irreversible", Indian and Pakistani leaders on Monday decided to address the Kashmir issue in a forward looking manner for a final settlement. While Pakistan stepped down and did not insist on a time frame for Kashmir's settlement, India also toned down its insistence on seeking a commitment on ending terrorism, sources said.

Dawn, 19 April 2005

**Pakistan plans 12 entry points: Afghan border (Khaleeq Kiani)**

ISLAMABAD, April 18: The government plans to establish around 12 entry points on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border through a road network in a few years to boost trade activities with Afghanistan and Central Asian Republics (CARs), sources say. A senior official of the ministry of communications told this correspondent main objective of the initiative, backed by the Asian Development Bank, was to provide access to the CARs and Afghanistan to Gwadar port. According to the official, the forthcoming budget was expected to include allocations for establishing at least four entry points on the Afghan border.

The Nation, 19 April 2005

**Pakistan, US, Afghanistan to improve anti-terror ties**

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan, United States and Afghanistan on Monday agreed to improve coordination and information sharing to enhance the effectiveness of counter terrorist operations. The Tripartite Commission comprising senior military and diplomatic representatives from Pakistan, Afghanistan and the United States, held its 10th meeting in Rawalpindi, said an official statement issued here. The representatives of three states expressed satisfaction over the successes in 2004 and agreed to further improve coordination and information sharing to enhance the effectiveness of counter terrorist operations.

The News, 19 April 2005

**Musharraf's 3-phase formula on Kashmir**

NEW DELHI: Warning that Kashmir remained a flashpoint which could erupt in a future frame, President Pervez Musharraf advised opponents of the peace process to take into account the viewpoint of the other side while putting across their contentions. Musharraf gave a three-phase formula for the resolution of Kashmir dispute that envisages sincerity and initiative from the top to establish correct direction as the first phase while looking for a durable solution with consensus in the second phase and a firm decision with flexibility at the third stage.

Dawn 19 April 2005

**Musharraf in Manila for talks to curb terror**

MANILA, April 18: President Pervez Musharraf arrived in the Philippines on Monday for a visit expected to focus on cooperation against Muslim militancy and the US-led war against terrorism. He will meet President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo for the first time at a brief one-to-one session on Tuesday before addressing a joint session of parliament. The agenda is also likely to include ways to promote dialogue among religious faiths and the progress of peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the largest Muslim rebel group in the heavily Christian Philippines.

The Nation, 20 April 2005

**Islamabad, Manila to expand trade cooperation**

MANILA (APP) - President General Pervez Musharraf and his Filipino counterpart Gloria Macapagal Arroyo Tuesday agreed to develop a vibrant trade and economic relationship, with the visiting Pakistani leader also expressing Islamabad's desire to have free trade agreement with ASEAN member states. The two leaders, who met exclusively here at the Malacanang Palace, saw vast prospects for mutually beneficial economic and trade exchanges. Apprising the host leader about Pakistan's growing economy, President Musharraf sought Manila's support in securing an FTA with Association of South East Asian Nations, stating that it would provide better access to Pakistani products in many areas.

Dawn, 20 April 2005

**WB shortlists panel of experts for Baglihar dam (Qudssia Akhlaque)**

ISLAMABAD, April 19: The World Bank has short-listed a panel of experts for arbitration on the Baglihar dam dispute, Dawn learnt through Washington-based diplomatic sources on Tuesday. The move has come in response to Pakistan's request for appointment of a neutral expert to settle the lingering issue. The bank would soon dispatch the list of experts to the governments of Pakistan and India for their feedback, the sources said, adding the bank would ask the two countries to indicate their nominee within a reasonable timeframe, most likely a month.

The Nation, 20 April 2005

**Terrorists are among Wazir tribes, army tells elders (Haaji Mujtaba)**

MIRANSHAH - Brig. Sajid Naeem of the Armed Forces 7th Division, has urged tribesmen of North Waziristan Agency to fulfill their responsibilities regarding ousting of foreign militants hiding in the areas. "Recent incidents reveal that the foreign militants are still present in the area," Brig. Sajid Naeem said while addressing a well-attended tribal Jirga at Miranshah on Tuesday. Besides a number of elders from different clans of Utmanzai Wazir tribe, the Political Agent Dr. Fakhar Alam also addressed the Jirga.

Dawn, 20 April 2005

**US asked to check border violations: Miscreants from Afghanistan**

ISLAMABAD, April 19: Pakistan has asked the US-led coalition forces in Afghanistan to check the movement of miscreants into Pakistan which has increased recently. In a statement issued here on Tuesday, the Inter-Service Public Relations (ISPR) said Pakistan's concerns about border crossings by miscreants had been communicated to the US and Afghan officials during a meeting of the Tripartite Commission on Monday.

Dawn, 21 April 2005

**Musharraf rules out inspection by IAEA**

MANILA, April 20: President Pervez Musharraf said on Wednesday that he would never allow foreign inspectors into the country to examine Pakistan's nuclear facilities. "That is tantamount to admitting that we cannot be trusted in our own house," he told a breakfast meeting of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines. Asked whether he would allow inspectors from the UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect the country's nuclear facilities, President Musharraf said: "Why?" "Our nuclear programme is for the protection of the people of Pakistan," he said. "You have to understand that this is a very sensitive issue for us.

Dawn, 21 April 2005

**'No action planned in N. Waziristan': US general's remarks assailed (Ismail Khan)**

PESHAWAR, April 20: A senior military commander here on Wednesday described as 'highly irresponsible' remarks by a US general that Pakistan was planning an army operation against militants in North Waziristan. "It is a figment of his imagination. No operation is being launched in North Waziristan. This is highly irresponsible on his part. This is unwarranted and I condemn it," Peshawar Corps Commander Lt-Gen Safdar Hussain told reporters. Commander of US forces in Afghanistan Lt-Gen David Barno had told reporters in Islamabad on Monday that militants were infiltrating into Afghanistan from Pakistan and Islamabad was planning a military operation in the North Waziristan tribal region.

The Nation, 21 April 2005

**Pakistan asks India to pull out troops from Held Kashmir (Shaiq Hussain)**

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Wednesday asked India to withdraw its troops from Held Kashmir as it would have a very positive impact on the ongoing peace process and will alleviate the sufferings of Kashmiri people. Foreign Office Spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani made this demand here at his regular press briefing days after the summit level talks between President General Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi. Jilani said, "We feel that withdrawal of troops from the Occupied Kashmir would have a very, very positive impact as it would raise the comfort level of Kashmiris, alleviate many of their problems and they would also feel part of this peace process."

The News, 21 April 2005

**Benazir is captain of the ship: Zardari (Arslan Rafiq Bhatti)**

LAHORE: "From the PPPP Benazir Bhutto is the only candidate for the office of prime minister, as without her nothing is acceptable to us. If she is put behind bars on her return, it will not be possible for us to run the party," said Asif Ali Zardari. He said: "We are nobody without Benazir as she is the captain of the ship and without her we can't work as she is the only person who heads the party infrastructure. In the last general elections, the party, despite Benazir in exile, and I in prison, won the elections which signified that PPPP vote bank was in tact. I can't give a time frame for her return, but she will be with us soon," he said.

The News, 22 April 2005

**Indonesia backs Pak bid for full partnership with Asean**

JAKARTA: President Pervez Musharraf and his Indonesian counterpart Susillo Bambang Yothoyono agreed on Thursday on augmenting their economic and trade relations through a joint business council with the host leader also supporting Pakistan's bid for full dialogue partnership with the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean). The two leaders, meeting at the Indonesian President's House, also exchanged views on regional and international issues, including the situation in Afghanistan, developments in South Asia and the fight against terrorism.

Dawn, 22 April 2005

**Paramilitary troops hunt for militants (Pazir Gul)**

MIRANSHAH, April 21: Paramilitary forces looking for militants laid siege to homes of tribesmen in Mirali tehsil of the North Waziristan Agency on Thursday. Officials said paramilitary forces, backed by armed personnel carriers and light cannons, cordoned off Haiderkhel village in Mirali tehsil early on Thursday morning and searched nine houses. Sources said the security forces sealed off the entire area at about 5.30am and started house-to-house search, which continued for over three hours. However, no suspect was caught from the residential compounds of the remote area inhabited by the Ahmadzai Wazir tribe.

Dawn, 22 April 2005

### **10 more entry points opened on Afghan border**

ISLAMABAD, April 21: Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz announced on Thursday the opening of 10 more entry points on the Pak-Afghan border to promote people to people links and trade activities. He said Pakistan is now looking towards opening rail link from Chaman to the Afghan town of Spin Boldak. The prime minister was speaking on the occasion of handing over 35 buses to Afghanistan as part of its \$100million aid package for the reconstruction of that country. He expressed confidence that the completion of the Torkham-Jalalabad road would usher in a new era of progress and prosperity for the people of the two countries.

The News, 22 April 2005

### **Second Kashmir buses arrive safely**

CHAKOTHI: Dozens of passengers crossed the Line of Control on Thursday in the second running of the historic bus service across Kashmir, officials said. Three buses, two from held territory, one from Azad Kashmir, departed on Thursday morning in opposite directions from Srinagar and Muzaffarabad. Senior AJK Minister Mumtaz Gilani flagged off the bus from Muzaffarabad. Security forces took up positions along the route. "The security arrangements are watertight all along the route of the bus in our zone," an AJK security official, requesting anonymity, told AFP.

Dawn, 23 April 2005

### **Pakistan, Indonesia to boost trade**

JAKARTA, April 21: President Gen Pervez Musharraf and his Indonesian counterpart Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono agreed on Thursday to augment economic and trade relations through a joint business council. The two leaders, who met at the President's House here, also exchanged views on issues of common concern, including the situation in Afghanistan, developments in South Asia and the fight against terrorism. Responding to Pakistan's desire for full dialogue and summit-level partnership with Asean and participation in other forums, including the East Asia Summit, President Yudhoyono assured Gen Musharraf of Jakarta's full support in this regard.

The News, 23 April 2005

### **PML-N breaks contacts with ARD, PPPP (Muhammad Anis)**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) on Thursday announced to suspend its contacts with the Alliance for Restoration of Democracy (ARD) and the Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (PPPP), accusing the PPPP of violating a code of ethics, agreed between Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto. "We will not attend any meeting of the ARD or with the PPPP till a meeting of senior leaders of PML-N decides future line of action," acting PML-N parliamentary leader of Chaudhry Nisar Ali told a press conference at party's camp office here.

Dawn, 23 April 2005

### **Paramilitary troops hunt for militants (Pazir Gul)**

MIRANSHAH, April 21: Paramilitary forces looking for militants laid siege to homes of tribesmen in Mirali tehsil of the North Waziristan Agency on Thursday. Officials said paramilitary forces, backed by armed personnel carriers and light cannons, cordoned off Haiderkhel village in Mirali tehsil early on Thursday morning and searched nine houses. Sources said the security forces sealed off the entire area at about 5.30am and started house-to-house search, which continued for over three hours. However, no suspect was caught from the residential compounds of the remote area inhabited by the Ahmadzai Wazir tribe.

Dawn, 23 April 2005

### **Border officials meet today**

KARACHI, April 21: Border conflicts between Pakistan and India have declined due to confidence-building measures (CBMs) taken by both countries recently. This was stated by Director-General Pakistan Rangers Maj-Gen Javed Zia at a ceremony held to welcome a 17-member delegation of the Border Security Force (BSF) of India at the Rangers Headquarters here on Thursday. "These confidence-building measures have brought a great degree of normalcy at the borders," said Maj-Gen Zia. Border officials of the two countries meet twice a year and this time their meeting is being held on the Pakistani side with Pakistan Rangers (Sindh) as the host.

The News, 24 April 2005

### **PAEC refuses to give details to NA (Rauf Klasra)**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) has challenged the sweeping powers of the National

Assembly to seek information about its staff, their salaries, perks and privileges, saying such information was "classified" and therefore, could not be shared with public representatives. PAEC is the first government body whose bosses have frankly refused to provide the required information to the sovereign House, premising it on 'classified information.' The Auditor General of Pakistan has already been stopped from conducting the audit of the accounts of the PAEC, and as such, its accounts are not presented before the Public Accounts Committee unlike other dozens of federal ministries, divisions and departments.

The News, 24 April 2005

#### **Musharraf mantra is multilateral resolution**

JAKARTA: Emphasising the need for consistent focus on preferential treatment between Asian and African countries for their fast-paced development, President General Pervez Musharraf Friday called for powerful multilateral conflict resolution mechanisms as festering disputes cause instability in regions around the world. Addressing the Asian-African Summit 2005, the president also observed that while the international community "must optimise bilateral negotiations for conflict resolution, powerful multilateral conflict resolution mechanisms need to be institutionalised for the cause of regional and global peace."

The Nation, 24 April 2005

#### **Pakistan also preparing to move ICJ over Baglihar**

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan has formally started preparations also to move the International Court of Justice (ICJ) over Baglihar dam in case India does not redesign its project through neutral expert to be appointed by the World Bank, sources told The Nation here. According to initial assessment by Pakistan's officials, one million US dollars finances would be required for contesting the case in ICJ provided a settlement is not reached through the neutral expert. The ICJ is the next and final option for Pakistan to compel India to redesign the project.

The Nation, 24 April 2005

#### **Musharraf for troops exit from Kashmir** (Iftikhar Ali)

NEW YORK — India and Pakistan should identify regions in the disputed State of Kashmir and withdraw troops to achieve peace between the two countries, President Pervez Musharraf said in an interview with Cable News Network (CNN). "People are suffering at the hands of large amounts of forces that are deployed there," Gen. Musharraf said on CNN's Talk Asia programme, aired today. "All this can be resolved if there are no forces and there is no terrorism, or freedom struggle. We must demilitarize the area to give comfort to the people." Musharraf has suggested the division of the Himalayan territory into seven regions.

Dawn, 25 April 2005

#### **Commitment to Bandung principles reaffirmed**

BANDUNG, April 24: President Pervez Musharraf joined leaders of 106 Asian and African countries on Sunday to renew a shared commitment to carry forward the 1955's spirit of cooperation for the cause of collective development. Commemorating the golden jubilee of the landmark conference. Terming his visit as very successful and productive, President Gen Pervez Musharraf said on Sunday his discussions with the Asian-African leaders focussed on finding ways and means to enhance economic relations. He said Pakistan desired to increase cooperative and institutional linkages with East and South East Asia. President Musharraf also discussed bilateral relations, regional and international security issues and Security Council reforms at the Asian-African Summit.

Dawn, 25 April 2005

#### **Ministerial talks with EU as scheduled** (Shadaba Islam)

BRUSSELS, April 24: Pakistan and the European Union will hold ministerial talks in Luxembourg on April 27 despite recent tension over the European Parliament's decision to boycott talks with a Pakistani senate delegation which also included Maulana Samiul Haq. Sources in Brussels said Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri would be travelling to Luxembourg on Wednesday as scheduled for a meeting with Jean Asselborn, Both sides are eager not to allow the European Parliament's unexpected decision to call off talks with the Pakistani senate team to cast a pall over a relationship which has been improving rapidly in recent months.

The News, 25 April 2005

#### **WB to offer \$1.5bn per annum for infrastructure** (Nadeem Malik)

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank will offer Pakistan a three-year business plan (2006-08) for infrastructure financing, mainly in the energy, water and transport sectors, Vice President for South Asia of the Bank Parul Patel has said. In an interview here on Sunday, Patel said the programme would serve as a basic plan for three years, and would be followed by another major infrastructure financing programme. The World Bank is likely to offer \$1.5 billion per

annum for this programme (about \$4.5 billion during the programme period), half on concessional terms.

The Nation, 25 April 2005

**Musharraf plan a U-turn, says Qazi**

LAHORE - MMA president and Amir of Jamat-i-Islami Pakistan Qazi Hussain Ahmad has termed General Pervez Musharraf's division of Kashmir formula a U-turn from the Islamabad's principled stance on the issue and a conspiracy to weaken the freedom struggle of Kashmiris. He said here Sunday that Kashmiris had already rejected the division plan put forward by a military dictator and vowed to continue their indigenous struggle for their right to self-determination. "The unilateral CBMs by Pakistan cannot camouflage the Indian forces' atrocities against the innocent Kashmiris," he observed.

Dawn, 26 April 2005

**Kashmir solution key to Indo-Pak ties: Musharraf** (Shakil Shaikh)

RAWALPINDI: The resolution of the Kashmir problem is the key to Pakistan-India relations, declared President Pervez Musharraf here on Monday. He was addressing the inaugural session of 58th Formation Commanders Conference at the General Headquarters (GHQ). He said the confidence-building measures (CBMs) and the Kashmir resolution would have to move at tandem. "The era of conflict management is over and conflict resolution has to be done with sincerity," he said. Musharraf briefed the participants on his visit to India and South Asian countries and dwelt at length on the prevailing environment encompassing international, regional and national issues with particular reference to their impact on Pakistan.

Daily Times, 26 April 2005

**No secret deal with undemocratic government: Benazir, Nawaz Sharif** (Khalid Hasan)

WASHINGTON: The PPP and the PML-N have signed an agreement which binds them not to make secret deals with either an individual or a non-democratic government, it was claimed here on Sunday. This understanding was formalised during Benazir Bhutto's meeting with Nawaz Sharif in Saudi Arabia, PML-N leader Ahsan Iqbal told the Washington Policy Analysis group. In a speech to the group, he said that his party was not willing or ready to make a deal with Gen Pervez Musharraf. He said the PML-N remained a part of the ARD. His party's position was that the army must return to its constitutional duties.

The Nation, 26 April 2005

**Time ripe for Kashmir resolution, says FO** (SHAIQ HUSSAIN)

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Monday asked for early and just settlement of the Kashmir dispute and an end to the sufferings of Kashmiris, saying that the core issue could not be brushed under the carpet. Answering a question here at the weekly press briefing on possible timeframe to resolve the Kashmir issue, Foreign Office Spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani said, "Pakistan desires an early resolution and an end to the sufferings and miseries of Kashmiris." He said Pakistan has emphasized upon India that the Kashmir issue had to be resolved as soon as possible. He added that the core issue could not be brushed under the carpet.

Dawn, 26 April 2005

**PPPP, PML-N bury the hatchet** (Asim Yasin)

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz on Monday buried the hatchet, deciding it was best to sing sanguine songs from the ARD stage. The estranged parties succeeded in removing misunderstandings that had cropped up between them over ambiguity surrounding the PPP's talks with the government. On Sunday, they declared to continue work under the umbrella of the Alliance for Restoration of Democracy for the charter of democracy.

Daily times, 27 April 2005

**Balance of power best bet for peace**

ISLAMABAD: President Pervez Musharraf said on Tuesday that a balance of power was the best guarantee of peace in the region. "Pakistan will maintain a minimum defensive deterrence, both in conventional and unconventional areas," he told the 58th formation commanders' conference at General Headquarters (GHQ). The conference's participants were briefed on matters related to professional importance. "They (the participants) were briefed on the threat spectrum including the Cold Start Doctrine propagated by India last year, the newly raised South Western Command, Rapid Reaction Force, Special Forces Command, Indian Force Goals and the status of their development plans," the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

The News, 27 April 2005

**EU proposes four-fold aid increase to Pakistan**

LUXEMBOURG: The European Union head office called on Tuesday for a four-fold increase in aid to Pakistan, highlighting its desire for closer political and economic ties. EU's External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner said she wanted to increase the current annual allocation of euro15 million (US\$19.5 million) to euro60 million (US\$78 million) in aid between 2007-2013. The money would be used to develop Pakistan's infrastructure, bringing it up to Western standards, she said, adding the 25-nation bloc wanted to continue playing a "prominent role in supporting Pakistan through a challenging period".

The News, 27 April 2005

**Japan to resume Yen Loan Programme** (Nadeem Malik)

ISLAMABAD: Japan has announced the resumption of highly concessional Yen Loan Programme for infrastructure development in Pakistan, its Ambassador Nobuaka Tanaka said at the Pakistan Development Forum (PDF) here on Tuesday. Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi is arriving here on Saturday to formally announce the resumption of this facility, besides his political talks with President General Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz. Pakistan was one of the largest recipients of the Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) averaging about \$500 million per annum till its suspension in 1998 after imposition of nuclear-related sanctions.

Daily times, 27 April 2005

**Europe wants Hudood and blasphemy laws changed**

ISLAMABAD: Expressing concern about women's position in Pakistan, the European Union has asked the government to immediately repeal discriminatory provisions in the Hudood, Blasphemy, Qisas and Diyat laws. "The abolition of discriminatory laws will help improve women's situation in Pakistan," said an European Union Presidency statement released at the Pakistan Development Forum on Tuesday. However, the EU welcomed the Pakistani government's ongoing gender responsive budgeting pilot programme suggesting it become a standard planning principle in Pakistan's Medium Term Development Framework (MTDF).

Dawn, 28 April 2005

**World Bank suggests three names: Neutral expert on Baglihar** (Qudssia Akhlaque)

ISLAMABAD, April 27: Pakistan on Tuesday formally received from the World Bank names of three internationally renowned experts on water issues in the first step towards the appointment of a neutral expert for arbitration on the Baglihar dam dispute with India, foreign ministry officials confirmed on Wednesday. The list of experts was communicated simultaneously to Pakistan and India on Tuesday evening, it is learnt. The World Bank has already dispatched the procedure of appointing a neutral expert to the two governments.

The Nation, 28 April 2005

**Pakistan backs EU talks with Iran**

LUXEMBOURG: Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri said on Wednesday Islamabad backs European Union talks seeking to put an end to Iran's nuclear enrichment programme, which many fear could be used to make weapons. "We want a peaceful resolution of the nuclear issue and Pakistan gives all its support to the EU's efforts," Kasuri said after talks focused on bolstering political and economic ties between the EU and the Asian nation.

Dawn, 28 April 2005

**Japan to raise N-issue, says envoy**

ISLAMABAD, April 27: Japan said on Wednesday that it had serious reservations about alleged Pakistan-North Korea cooperation in nuclear technology and the issue would be raised by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi who is due here on April 30. "Japan wants more information, if there is any, about Dr A.Q. Khan and the alleged nuclear cooperation between Islamabad and Pyongyang," said Japanese Ambassador Nobuaki Tanaka at a news conference.

Dawn, 28 April 2005

**Pakistan, EU to strengthen ties** (Shadaba Islam)

LUXEMBOURG, April 27: Pakistan and the European Union on Wednesday pledged to forge a stronger partnership, saying relations were expanding to cover a range of political and economic questions. "We expect a more robust relationship with the EU to move our relationship to a more solid basis," Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri told reporters. Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn also welcomed improving ties with Pakistan, saying the EU attached great importance to its relations with Islamabad.

Dawn, 29 April 2005

**Baglihar must be settled on treaty basis: Aziz**

MANGLA, April 28: Failure to resolve the Baglihar dam issue in accordance with the Indus Basin Water Treaty would create immense problems for Pakistan, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said here on Thursday. He was responding to questions from newsmen after getting a briefing on the Mangla Dam raising project here. Pakistan had been very sensitive to water and power security of the country. Precisely for this reason, it was the first to invoke jurisdiction of the World Bank on the issue of Baglihar dam, he said. Two days back, the World Bank had proposed the name of three neutral experts on the dam, and both the governments have to respond to the bank's proposal by May 9. Pakistan, he said, would stick to the Indus Basin Water Treaty, come what may. Once the neutral experts decide the issue, Pakistan would accept it in true spirit, he added.

Daily Times, 29 April 2005

**Talks on Lahore-Amritsar bus on May 10**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and India will hold technical talks on May 10 and 11 in Islamabad for starting a bus service between Lahore and Amritsar, sources told Daily Times on Thursday. Sources said that Pakistan had proposed these dates to India and "New Delhi is expected to accept." They said the possibility of an early bus service between Lahore and Amritsar was positive because both sides wanted to increase people-to-people contact. In a joint statement on April 18, President Pervez Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh pledged to start a Lahore-Amritsar bus service, which would later be extended to Nankana Sahib to facilitate Sikh pilgrims.

Dawn, 29 April 2005

**Bugti tribesmen, FC trade fire again**

QUETTA: Bugti tribesmen and Frontier Corps have exchanged small and heavy arms fire in Bekar area near Dera Bugti. However, no casualty was reported. According to reports, Bugtis and FC troops traded fire in Bekar area, some 70 miles north-east of Dera Bugti town late on Wednesday night. When contacted Agha Shahid Bugti, general secretary of the Jamhoori Watan Party (JWP), told PPI here on Thursday that recently the paramilitary force established a check-post in Bekar area which was being provided reinforcement. The FC personnel harassed the locals, he alleged. He said that since there was no security concern in the area, there was no need for the check-post.

The News, 30 April 2005

**Japanese prime minister arrives today** (Mariana Baabar)

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Japan Junichiro Koizumi will be the first Japanese leader in five years to visit Pakistan today (Saturday). It also marks Koizumi's first-ever visit to Islamabad. Japanese Ambassador Nobuaka Tanaka, said earlier this week he was optimistic about future relations between Pakistan and Japan stressing the past was another country, when bilateral relations suffered after Islamabad tested a nuclear device. Tokyo, of course, is a declared opponent of anything nuclear. "We want to turn a new page in our relations and now that we have been able to take care of the problems, we want a smooth ride," he said.

The Nation, 30 April 2005

**Khan didn't give centrifuges to N Korea: FO**

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Friday denied the media reports Dr A.Q. Khan has confessed that he provided 13 centrifuges to North Korea. Foreign Office Spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani while commenting on a report of Japanese official television rejected the impression that Dr Khan had made confession that he provided North Korea with 13 centrifuges. He said it was a baseless and unfounded report aimed at harming the growing relations between Islamabad and Tokyo. He said Pakistan has conducted thorough probe into nuclear proliferation and Japan has been taken into confidence as far as the results of our investigations are concerned.

Daily Times, 30 April 2005

**Relations with Europe won't affect Pak-US ties: Kasuri**

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri has said that Pakistan's improving relations with the European Union will not affect ties with the United States. "I think its effect will be positive and our relations will improve with the European Union and United States," the minister told Voice of Germany. Kasuri said Pakistan was a sovereign country that would not yield to external pressure. Quoting an example, the foreign minister said that despite having good relations with the United States, Pakistan differed from the US stance in Iraq's case.

Daily Times, 30 April 2005

**Bilateral ceasefire in place after Thursday's clash, says Akbar Bugti**

KARACHI: Chief of the Jamhoori Watan Party (JWP) Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti on Friday said a two-way

ceasefire was being observed between the Bugti tribesmen and the Frontier Corps (FC) in Dera Bugti following clashes between the two sides on Thursday. "There has been a ceasefire since last Thursday after FC troops fired on Bugti tribes. They later disengaged after failing to intimidate the tribesmen," Bugti said, while addressing a programme at Karachi Press Club from Dera Bugti. Asked whether he would meet President General Pervez Musharraf if invited, he said, "Neither have I requested nor wished to meet Musharraf or any other general".